

JAX AIR NEWS

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Sea Control Weapons School hosts CAGWARCOM

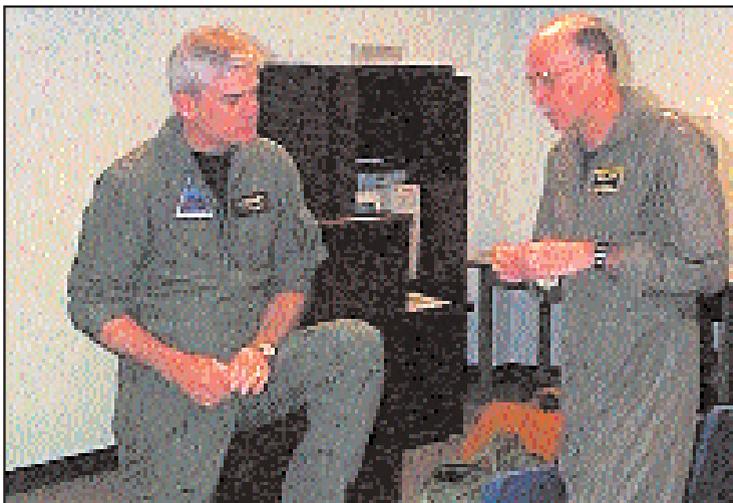
By Lt.j.g. Mark Hughes

Sea Control Weapons School PAO

Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville and Sea Control Weapons School, U.S. Atlantic (SCWSL) hosted the Carrier Air Group War Conference (CAGWARCOM) Winter 2001 Symposium held Jan. 9 and 10, at SCWSL.

The symposium was attended by naval aviation's top leaders. These included: Commander Naval Air Forces, Atlantic (CNAL) Vice Adm. Joseph Mobley; Commander Naval Air Forces, Pacific (CNAP) Vice Adm. John Natham; Vice Adm. Mike McCabe, N-78; Commander Carrier Group (CCG) 4 Rear Adm. Bryan Calhoun; and Rear Adm. Michael Malone, CCG-8.

Also in attendance was every non-deployed carrier air wing commander, carrier commanding officer and community commodore. Some traveled from as far away as Atsugi, Japan to attend the conference. The major topics



Photos by ISI (AW) Chris Crosson

Commander Naval Air Forces, Atlantic (CNAL) Vice Adm. Joseph Mobley discusses tactics with Commander Naval Air Forces, Pacific (CNAP) Vice Adm. John Natham during the Carrier Air Group War Conference (CAGWARCOM) Winter 2001 Symposium hosted by Sea Control Weapons School.

discussed were: Aviator Nuclear Power Career Path, Aviator Officer Retention, EA-6B Weapons School Fleet Support, Landing Safety Officer and Master Strike Plan issues.

Most important for local squadrons and wings were the proposed changes to the Training and Readiness Matrix (T&R) and Air Combat Training Continuum (ACTC) Program. The ACTC Program is vitally important as it provides a vehicle for all post fleet replacement squadron (FRS) aviators on the latest training, weapons and tactics. Maintaining affordability, ensuring standardization, maximizing optimum training techniques and minimizing redundancy are also ACTC goals. NAS Jacksonville is not only home to SCWSL, but helicopter antisubmarine squadron (HS) and patrol squadron (VP) weapons schools as well. The schools provide a cadre of formally trained instructors tasked to

See SCWSL, page 19

Cobb selected CPRW-11 Sea Component SOY

By Staff

IT1(AW) Craig Antonio Cobb was recently selected as Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing (CPRW)11's Sea Component Sailor of the Year. Cobb, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., grew up in West Brunswick, N.C. He graduated from West Brunswick High School and on Jan. 14, 1985 entered the Navy. Cobb has served as the leading petty officer (LPO) at Fleet Maritime Patrol Mobile Operations Control Center, Atlantic (FMP MOCC Lant) as Leading Petty Officer (LPO) since January of last year.

In nominating Cobb for this honor, his superiors described him as "a true professional whose outstanding performance has been an inspiration to each member of this unit and as a highly respected leader." They say he is "someone who actively seeks to promote a more positive working environment through personal involvement and an unwavering commitment to excellence." They further describe him as, "A command cornerstone, whose exceptional efforts have

made a lasting impact on FMP MOCC Lant operations and readiness."

As MOCC Leading Petty Officer, Cobb directs the daily operational and administrative efforts of eight personnel maintaining the unit's \$4.3 million C4I equipment and \$32,000 OPTAR account.

Displaying outstanding management and organizational skills, Cobb coordinated communications and operational requirements for four successful deployments in support of UNITAS 41-00, KEFTACEX 2000, MEUEX 00-2, and Fleet Battle Experiment Hotel. His outstanding leadership proved key to the resounding success of all unit operations.

Cobb is a recognized Classified Material Systems (CMS) expert. During his tour, he is credited with flawlessly accounting for more than 84 pieces of controlled cryptographic keymat, 25 CMS publications and the attendant accounting paperwork.

As a MOCC operations expert, he spearheaded a Pioneer/Electro-Optic system detachment in support of the

26th Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard USS Saipan (LHA-2) during MEUEX 00-2. In that role, he provided exceptional real-time video imagery of the amphibious landing area for the embarked Marine Force Commander. His efforts significantly contributed to the successful landing of more than 1,000 Marines during this extremely important Second Fleet exercise.

Beyond his regular duties, Cobb instituted a model Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) program for 11 enlisted and two officer personnel, which significantly increased the physical fitness readiness of the entire unit.

Cobb currently resides in Orange Park, Fla. with his daughter Delesia, 10, and son Craig, 5.



IT1(AW) Craig Antonio Cobb

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Meet a Sailor... YN3 Luis A. Torres



Job title/ command: Sponsor Program Coordinator, Award Yeoman, and Officer Record Custodian, AIMD NAS Jacksonville

Hometown: Ponce, Puerto Rico

Past Duty Stations: None.

Hobbies: Running and lifting weights.

Family Life: Wife; Schadaq Torres

Career Plans: Become a YNC, from there apply for the officer's commissioning program.

Most interesting experience: Going on a cruise and visiting different countries.

Words of Wisdom: "Have faith in the Lord, for he will provide you with the right path to follow."

Meet a Civilian... Allyn Mamalakis



Job title/command: Medical Clerk, OB/GYN Clinic, NAS Jacksonville

Hometown: Woodside, Calif.

Past duty stations: Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Boone Clinic, Silas B Hays, Army Community Hospital

Hobbies: Aviculture, my church ministry.

Career Plans: "I plan to retire right here in this job. I love it!"

Most interesting experience: Feeding a baby camel with a bottle.

Words of Wisdom: "Treat people as you would want to be treated."



Many Sailors strive for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's dream to become a reality one day as they sing, "Lift Every Voice And Sing," at the celebration.

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration centers on 'keeping the dream alive'

By JO3 Jackey Bratt

Staff Writer

If you did not attend the Dr. Martin Luther King Day commemoration on Jan. 11 at the All Saint's Chapel aboard NAS Jacksonville, you lost. No, there were no prizes given away, there was no cash rewards. The reward was learning about the man who paved the way for many Americans to love and live freely, without laws to keep us from one another based on race. You also missed out on feeling a sense of self-motivation and determination. Motivation to make a change in your daily lives. Determined to make those positive changes to better America.

After an opening prayer by Lt. Larry Wilks, attached to NAS Base Chapel, TM2 (SW) Felicia Far, attached to the NAS Jacksonville Weapons Department, delivered a heart-felt acupella version of the national anthem. Lt. Cmdr. Troy Johnson, attached to Light Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (HSL) 46, Naval Station, Mayport, silenced the audience as he recanted excerpts from Dr. King's memorable speeches. If one were to close their eyes, they'd vow that it was the Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Dr. King delivering the words himself, for Lt. Cmdr. Troy Johnson's voice was very close to that of Dr. King.

Johnson lifted his arms into the air and exclaimed just as the late Dr. King had once said, "I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the con-



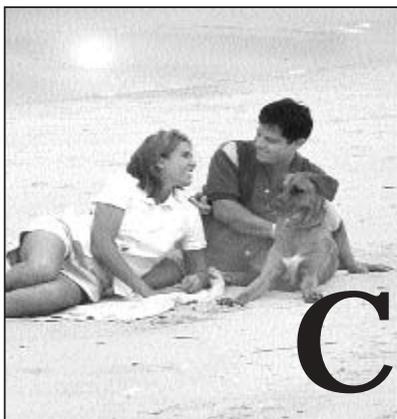
Cmdr. Anthony Barnes speaks about the great accomplishments Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. achieved in his short life.

tent of their character," sending dozens of heads into simultaneous agreement and for some, shouts of, "yes!" He ended his excerpts with the famous words from the "March on Washington" speech: "From every mountain-side, let freedom ring and when we allow freedom to ring - when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up the day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: 'Free at last, free at last. Thank God almighty we are free at last.'"

Guest speaker, Cmdr. Anthony Barnes, Commanding Officer of Patrol Squadron (VP) 16, then addressed the audience.

"I am somewhat disappointed that this

See King, page 3



It's free!

It's free! Give yourself the gift of a Navy CREDO Retreat. Personal growth retreats are offered Jan. 25 through 28 and Feb. 24 through 27. A Marriage Enrichment Retreat is set Feb. 9 through 11. For more information, or to register, call CREDO at 270-6958.

CREDO

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King: NAS Jax Sailors reminded of 'the dream'

Continued from page 2

church is not filled from end to end," he said. "The dream is slipping somewhere."

Cmdr. Anthony Barnes was referring to the fact that although noted guests were in attendance, there are more than 24,800 personnel on NAS Jacksonville and there were only approximately 70 guests in the Chapel to hear about the slain civil rights leader.

Barnes explained how as a society, we view our role models and icons and their abilities.

"We label greatness far too often because of one's great physical abilities or physical appearance," said Barnes. "He couldn't hit a ball very far, he couldn't run very fast, and although Martin was a handsome man, he probably wasn't the most photogenic man, but he is a true hero."

Martin Luther King Jr. acted with a great deal of character and displayed bravery beyond what many can imagine. He was a peacekeeper when many wanted to ignite riots and fight back. He gave black and poor people a sense of hope and dignity. He never threw his hands in the air or walked away saying, "this race hating problem is too big for me." He was often beaten and arrested but he never stopped his mission. He was committed to making democracy work for all Americans, not just black Americans.

Barnes then spoke of how in December of 1955, Rosa Parks, a black seamstress in Alabama, refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, causing her arrest. Dr. King then organized a boycott of bus transportation. The boycott proved a success, which set the stage for the Civil Rights Movement. Within six months of the boycott, courts had set state and local laws forcing the segregation of public trans-

portation as unconstitutional.

On August 28, 1963, Dr. King delivered his "I Have A Dream" speech in front of 25,000 supporters on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. This march succeeded far beyond his greatest expectations. It succeeded because it embraced the most dear American value, "Freedom and Justice for All."

In 1964, at the age of 35, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

On April 4, 1968 while standing outside his motel room in Memphis, Tenn. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot and killed.

"Martin Luther King Jr. spoke of a day when his children would not be judged by the color of their skin, but rather the content of their character," said Barnes, "That phrase has become the rallying cry for opponents of affirmative action."

Barnes asked the audience, "Why is it that in 2001, on average African Americans and women only earn 60 percent of what an equivalently educated and equivalently talented white male in America makes?" "Until we see changes in economic equality, we're probably not going to see total race equality," he said.

Barnes concluded his speech with this, "We must keep the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King alive so someday Americans will truly be colorblind."

To end the celebration, PN2 Mable Jones, attached to Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) NAS Jacksonville, led the audience in the traditional spiritual, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

The celebration was a time to think about how you can support and live Dr. King's dream. Every command has a duty to recognize and appreciate our Sailor's diversity. Diversity should not be rendered unwanted in our working community and everyday



TM2 Felicia Fair, attached to NAS Jacksonville's Weapons Department, sings the National Anthem to begin the commemoration.

lives, but rather a chance to learn from different aspects and become a better human to mankind.

Think of how boring life would be if we all looked, acted, thought, dressed, and talked the same. Think of one of your shipmates who are a different skin color than you. Start by recognizing your similarities. You both have the desire to serve your country. You both either went to boot camp or obtained a degree at an accredited college. You both are in the United States Navy. From there, think of what makes you different. Understand that although you both may have grown up in entirely different areas of the country or entirely different time zones, you both are human beings, worthy of dignity and respect.



Lt. Paul Nix, attached to Air Antisubmarine Squadron (VS) 31, NAS Jacksonville, takes a moment to reflect on Dr. Martin Luther King's dream.



Lt. Cmdr. Troy Johnson, attached to Light Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (HSL) 46, NS Mayport, gives a message of hope at the celebration through Dr. King's speeches.

Summary of Year 2000 Weather Stats

The Naval Atlantic Meteorology and Oceanography Facility at NAS Jacksonville provides the following weather summary for the Year 2000:

<u>Actual</u>	<u>Climatology</u>
Avg. maximum temperature	
77	79 2 Deg Cooler
Avg. minimum temperature	
60	61 1 Deg Cooler
Rainfall	
* 40.8 inches	47.5 Inches (6.7 In short)

* 10 of 12 months in year 2000 were below average.

January Weather Facts

- The probability of snow in Jacksonville during the month of January is 16 percent.
- Record low temperature in January is 9F - January 1985.
- The average temperatures and precipitation for January are:

Maximum Temperature = 65F
Minimum Temperature = 46F
Rainfall = 2.70 inches
Happy 2001!



Volunteers needed to 'Paint the Town'

For the past seven years, Jacksonville's Navy community has joined with the corporate community through the Jacksonville Housing Partnership and USO's Shipmates with Heart program on a project that provides renovation, repair and painting to the homes of some needy senior citizens. The homes are located in a community designated as intensive care neighborhoods.

As part of Jacksonville's annual "Paint the Town" project, the corporate community will be painting renovated homes April 21 - 28.

Prior to these dates, it is necessary to complete repairs and renovations to the homes. Navy volunteers, through USO's Shipmates with Heart, have demonstrated reliability in completing these preparations properly. The Jacksonville Housing Partnership has requested the Navy's support again

this year in preparing these homes for the "Paint the Town" phase of this worthy endeavor.



teers are needed Feb. 12 to April 20. Commands are encouraged to participate in this project.

Free "Paint the Town 2001" t-shirts and lunch will be provided to each volunteer as well as letters and certificates of appreciation. Any size group is welcome to participate, and individuals will be assigned to groups. Volunteers will be partnered with skilled tradesmen, and all materials and tools will be provided. Navy personnel may

apply these volunteer hours towards the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

For volunteer information, call USO Program Coordinator Joann Dilling at (904) 778 - 2821. Please provide the following information:

- * Name of command project coordinator with phone/fax number
- * Dates available to work
- * Number of volunteers wishing to participate on each date.



Well done, welcome home — Rear Adm. Jan C. Gaudio, Commander Navy Region Southeast, presents a plaque to Representative Tillie Fowler during the "Welcome Home Tillie Fowler Appreciation Day" Jan. 13. The free celebration for Fowler, hosted by Jacksonville business and community leaders, also featured entertainment by the Navy Band Jacksonville, a joint color guard and the Land Marine Corps Team.



Photo by PH2 Leigh Anne Francisco

Tootsie Austin, budget assistant, Commander Navy Region Southeast Resource Management Department (left) and Rear Admiral Jan C. Gaudio, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, officially sign the Commander Navy Region Southeast Resources Management Operations Center Partnership Council Charter Jan. 11. Based on Executive Order 12871 of October 1993, the council is designed to establish a more cooperative labor-management relationship, and is responsible for creating a meaningful forum to identify and resolve labor management issues. According to the charter, "the partnership council is a forum for union and management to work together, communicate and jointly share responsibility and commitment for the benefit of the command and its employees." The charter is reviewed annually.

Hey, Money Man!



Hey, MoneyMan!

My wife and I made a New Year's resolution to get our finances in order but we are not sure where to start. Any ideas?

MoneyMan Sez:

Congratulations! You have already started by making a commitment to get your financial act together. Now you must stick to it! According to Personal Finance for Dummies it is as simple as this: "In order to accomplish your financial goals, you must live within your means." There are only three steps:

1. Spend less than you earn.
2. Save what you do not spend.
3. Invest what you save.

Sounds easy, but it is not. America is a spending disaster. Most influences in our society are encouraging us to spend and credit is readily available. Credit cards make it easy for us to spend money that we do not have. I recommend that you and your wife first look at your spending habits, identify areas where you can cut back, and invest the difference in an IRA (preferably a Roth IRA). Write again in five years and let me know how it is going. If you stick to this plan, it will be going great!



Hey, MoneyMan!

I just bought a new car and the salesman told me that I should get credit life insurance. He says he sells a lot of cars to military personnel and almost all of them buy it in order to protect their families. He said he could offer it to me for only \$10 to \$15 per month. Should I buy this insurance?

MoneyMan Sez:

Probably not. Most credit life insurance plans cover only the declining balance, so if you finance your car for 48 months, the value of the insurance goes down each month with the value of your car. In the end, your car is paid off and you have no remaining insurance. Plus, \$10 to \$15 per month is expensive. If you need additional insurance to cover your new liability (unlikely since you should already have SGLI) you could consider buying additional term insurance. A 30-year-old male can purchase \$20,000 in insurance for around \$10 to \$15 per month. When the car is paid in full, you would still have \$20,000 in insurance and you could renew or cancel the policy depending on your needs at that time.

Hey, MoneyMan!

I am glad I did not invest in stocks or mutual funds last year. A lot of my buddies did and lost their shirts. I don't understand why people will risk their hard-earned dollars on risky schemes. Would you please warn people that they could lose a lot of money in the stock market?

MoneyMan Sez:

Yes you could lose money in investments and a lot of people did in 2000. On paper. Up and down movements in the stock market really do not equate to profits and losses unless you buy or sell. Depending on their investment goals, your buddies may not be as bad off as it appears. In his book, Smart Women Finish Rich, David Bach lists the following 9 Biggest Mistakes Investors Make:

1. Becoming an investor before you are organized and have specific goals in mind.
2. Buying an investment you don't understand.
3. Trying to time the market.
4. Putting off saving for retirement.
5. Speculating with your investment money.
6. Paying too much in taxes.
7. Buying an investment that you cannot sell quickly.
8. Having a 30-year mortgage.
9. Giving up.

He points out that often people make a mistake or get bad advice and then give up on their dreams. He says to be careful, learn from the mistakes of others but remember that "the biggest mistake you can make is not to become an investor." MoneyMan agrees!



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

FCCJ to get \$855,000 grant says Stearns

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5, 2001 - Rep Cliff Stearns (R-Ocala) recently announced that the Florida Community College at Jacksonville (FCCJ) is receiving \$855,000 for its Aviation/Aerospace Center of Excellence. "this grant will help support the school's technical preparation program in Aircraft Maintenance Technology," said Stearns. "this technical training prepares area students for high-paying jobs in the aviation field.

Last year, Stearns worked with other members of Congress from the Jacksonville area in obtaining \$1 million to establish FCCJ's Aviation/Aerospace Center of Excellence. This year, Stearns and his colleagues succeeded in earmarking \$855,000 for the program. This instructional program prepares students to take the appropriate certification exams required by the FAA for employment in aircraft maintenance. Training in this area is important to filling jobs being created at Cecil Commerce Center.

Navy changes status of Cmdr. Speicher

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig has changed the status of Cmdr. Michael Scott Speicher from Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered (KIA/BNR) to Missing in Action (MIA).

Speicher's F/A-18 aircraft was shot down by enemy fire in the first day of the air war over Iraq on Jan. 17, 1991. He was placed in an MIA status the next day. On May 22, 1991, following a Secretary of the Navy status review board that found "no credible evidence" to suggest he had survived the shootdown, his status was changed to KIA/BNR.

In December 1995, working through the International Committee of the Red Cross, investigators from the Navy and Army's Central Identification Laboratory entered Iraq and conducted a thorough excavation of the crash site.

In September 1996, based on a comprehensive review of evidence accumulated since the initial KIA/BNR determination, the Secretary of the Navy reaffirmed the presumptive finding of death. Over the years since that determination was made, the Navy and the U.S. government have consistently sought new information and continued to analyze all available information to resolve Speicher's fate.

This additional information and analysis, when added to the information considered in 1996, underscored the need for a new review. Based on the review, Danzig has concluded that Speicher's status should be "Missing in Action."

‘Topcats’ Ramirez retiring, will focus on restaurant business

By staff

AMHC (AW/SW) Pedro Antonio Ramirez will end nearly 22 years of naval service Feb. 8, in a 10 a.m. ceremony in VS-31’s Hangar 1000 spaces. Ramirez, plans to stay in the Jacksonville area, and devote more time to his and his brother’s business, Ramirez Restaurant located at 2177 Kingsley Ave. in Orange Park. The restaurant specializes in Cuban cuisine. He also recently opened the Dominican Tobacco Village on Blanding Blvd. across the street from the Jax Navy Credit Union headquarters. He said he looks forward to devoting more time to his family and business, to traveling, and to having more control over his own life. He also plans to spend some leisure time on the golf course.

Looking back, Ramirez said, “I can’t say I won’t miss the Navy. You meet so many great people who you’ll never forget and you learn a lot of unique things, such as leadership and dealing with people. I think you become a more rounded person than people who have not been in the military by having to deal with different aspects of life.”

Ramirez has experienced much in his life. Born and raised in the little town of Bejucar in the Dominican Republic. He immigrated to the United States in 1973, to live in Copiague, Long Island, N.Y., where he attended Junior High and High School. Upon graduation, he furthered his education by attending two years of college at Brendwood Community College, Long Island, N.Y. After school, he held several jobs in the restaurant business ranging from dishwasher to coffee boy, busboy and waiter. His hobbies were playing softball and soccer and flying a small Cherokee 150 Piper Cub aircraft.

He enlisted in the Navy on Sept. 27, 1979, and attended Boot Camp at Great Lakes, Ill. This was followed by FRAMP course at Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VAQ) 33, NAS Key West Fla., where he trained on the EA-3B Skywarrior. Upon completion, he was transferred to Fleet Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 2 at NAS Rota Spain as an airman working on EA-3B



AMHC (AW/SW) Pedro Antonio Ramirez

and P-3 aircraft as an Aviation Structure Mechanic until September 1985. With VQ-2, he made two Mediterranean deployments onboard USS Saratoga and USS John F. Kennedy. There, he was promoted to third class petty officer and advanced to second class through the command acceleration advancement program.

In October 1985, he attended intermediate level training on the Hydraulic Component Test Bench (HCT) 10 at Fighter Squadron (VF) 101, NAS Oceana, Va. Upon completion of the school, he returned back to Rota, Spain for another tour at AIMD. There, he was assigned to the hydraulic shop as a workcenter supervisor. He also served as Quality Assurance Representative.

In February 1989, he returned back to the United States to attend C-130 FRAMP in El Toro, Calif. Upon completion of the school, he received orders to VQ-4, Patuxent River, Md. There, he was assigned as the airframes night shift supervisor and later was handpicked to

be the workcenter leading petty officer (LPO). He advanced to first class petty officer, qualified as an Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist and certified for a Federal Aviation A&P mechanic license. He was selected as VQ-4 Sailor of the Month and Sailor of Quarter. Later, he was assigned to the Quality Assurance office as a full systems quality assurance representative (QAR). In October 1992, Ramirez transferred to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 136 “Knighthawks” at NAS Cecil Field, Fla., assigned as the LPO for the Line Division. He made a Mediterranean/Persian Gulf deployment onboard USS George Washington and qualified as a Surface Warfare Specialist. In 1994, he transferred to the VQ-6 “Black Ravens” at NAS Cecil Field for shore duty. There, he was assigned as an airframe Supervisor and QAR. In 1995, he was recognized as VQ-6 Sailor of the Quarter and Sea Control Atlantic Fleet Sailor of the Year and in September 1996 he was promoted to chief petty officer and served as aircraft division chief and quality assurance supervisor.

In February 1999, Ramirez reported to the VS-31 “Topcats” for sea duty, where served as the Aircraft Division Branch Chief and QA Supervisor. With VS-31, he made his last and final deployment onboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Ramirez’ awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (four awards), the Good Conduct Metal (six awards) and various theater deployment and service medals and ribbons.

Ramirez is married to the former Mercedes Garcia de Veas of Jerez, Spain. They have two children: Pedro Antonio Jr., and Vanessa Maria.

KUDO CORNER

The following individuals on the Commander, Navy Region Southeast Staff were recently honored for outstanding accomplishments.

- Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal*
Lt. Thomas Baldwin
Good Conduct Medal
YN2 Duwayne Williams
30 year pin
Milton Wetherington
20 year pin
Sandra R. Beck
15 year pin
Iris J. Falcon
Carmen D. Johnson
10 year pin
Kenneth E. Conley

Honored at Fleet Aviation Specialized Operational Training Group Atlantic Det Jax Quarters were:

- Reenlisted*
AO2 Jack McCrary
Instructor of the Quarter
AZ1(AW) Jacqueline Parks
Sailor of the Quarter
AW1 (AW/SW) Eric Johnson
Instructor of the Year
AZ1 (AW) David Blackburn
Sailor of the Year
AD1 (AW) Richard Bucek

Honored at Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility Jacksonville were:

- Lt. Eric R. Johnson
Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
Lt. Dale W. Bopp
Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
AC1(AW) Timothy D. Altman
Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
AC3 Shawna M. McDonell
Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
ET3 Gregory D. Finn
Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
AC3 Fred Malpica
Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Pincastle Range Draft Environmental Impact Statement released

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Pincastle Range was released for public review on January 5, 2001. This document analyzes the potential impacts of

renewing the special use permit for the Department of Navy to continue operating the bombing range on U.S. Forest Service land within the Ocala National Forest.

The DEIS is available online at: www.nasiac.navy.mil or [\[south.navfac.navy.mil\]\(http://south.navfac.navy.mil\). Hard copies are available upon request by calling Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, \(843\) 8205796.](http://www.efd-</p></div>
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A public comment period continues through Feb. 20. Public meetings are

scheduled for 5-9 p.m., Jan. 29, at the Ocala Civic Auditorium, Ocala, Fla., and Jan. 30, at the Eustis National Guard Armory, Eustis, Fla. A final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is schedule for release July 2001.



U.S. Navy photo

With wife, Sandra and children, Anthony and Malena, NCTS's IT1 Mark R. Ah-Low is piped ashore for the final time during his retirement ceremony Dec. 29.

NCTS's Ah-Low bids farewell to naval service

By IT2 Pat King
NCTS Public Affairs

IT1 Mark R. Ah-Low, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Jacksonville Technical Control leading petty officer, bid farewell to naval service after 20 years when he retired Dec. 29 in a ceremony at the Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Ah-Low will continue to reside in Jacksonville with his wife, Sandra and their two children, Anthony Mark, 11, and Malena Arleen, 6.

Ah-Low was born in Newark, N.J. on Dec. 4, 1962. After graduating from high school in Newark, he joined the U.S. Navy in September 1980 under the Delayed Entry Program and went active duty in February 1981. He attended Boot Camp in Great Lakes, Ill., from February 1981 through April 1981. After basic training, Ah-low was ordered to Radioman Class "A" school in San Diego, Calif. From there he was selected for onward duty to RM "C" School.

In February 1982 he received orders to USS Blakely, homeported in Charleston, S.C. Three years later, while stationed there, he met his wife Sandra A. Rice

and was married in January 1985. In February 1985 he received shore duty orders to Military Sealift Command, Bayonne, N.J.

After a successful tour in New Jersey, he received orders to his second ship, USNS John Lenthall, homeported in Norfolk, Va. He requested follow-on orders in July 1988 to USS Santa Barbara, homeported at Charleston Naval Weapons Station, S.C. He was then called to duty in August 1990 to NCTAMS Med Det Rota Spain, where he was instrumental in the crossover of all military commands from paper to multi-media.

Ah-Low took orders to USS Leyte Gulf, homeported in Mayport, Fla. in October 1994. There he emerged as the "Communicator of Choice." With orders for a homeport shift to Norfolk, Va. in late 1997, and desiring to remain in the Southeast, he accepted a duty swap to the USS Philippine Sea forward deployed to the Mediterranean Sea and Persian Gulf.

After completing his last sea tour, he received his last duty assignment to Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Jacksonville.

Naval Reserve test markets aggressive recruitment program

The Naval Reserve has implemented a first-of-its-kind program designed to bring more naval personnel into its ranks. Naval Reserve recruiters now contact every Sailor who is scheduled to leave active duty.

Four geographic areas - centering on Norfolk; Jacksonville, Fla.; San Diego; and Seattle, are serving as "test markets" for the program. This initiative is designed for eligible personnel who leave the Navy before retirement.

Each year, approximately 18,500 individuals eligible to join the Naval Reserve leave the Navy. With annual recruiting goals of 18,000 enlisted personnel and more than 2,100 officers, the Naval Reserve is aggressively seeking these Sailors.

Studies have shown that Navy personnel who join the Naval Reserve typically do so within 90 days of separation. The new program is designed to ensure that contact is made within 30 days before separation occurs or separation leave commences.

Recruiters explain the benefits of joining the Naval Reserve during face-to-face or telephone interviews. These benefits include extra monthly income and enlistment bonuses, retirement benefits, training in management and leadership, travel, health care, low-cost life insurance, funds for education and a home loan guarantee program.

For more information, call 1-800-872-8767 or go to <http://www.navy-reserve-jobs.com>.



VS-24's Kindig retires after 20 years service



AT1 (AW) David A. Kindig is piped ashore at his retirement ceremony Jan. 5.

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

The Sea Control Squadron (VS) 24 "Scouts" recently gathered to honor the retirement of a squadronmate who spent the last 20 years serving his country. He has set a standard that is an example to the rest of us. His dedication and commitment have earned him our thanks for these years of faithful service.

On Jan. 5, the "Scouts" held a retirement ceremony for AT1 (AW) David A. Kindig. Kindig began his naval career in March of 1981 at basic training in Great Lakes, Ill. In April 1981, he reported to Naval Aviation Technical Training Command, Millington, Tenn. for Aviation Fire Control (AQ) AV "A" School. Kindig then reported to Attack Squadron (VA) 128 at Whidbey Island, Wash. for follow-on training where he attended A-6E aircraft systems organizational FRAMP training. Upon com-

pletion of this training he reported to VA-145 as an Aviation Fire Control Technician on the A-6E Intruder. While he was attached to VA-145, he completed one deployment and was promoted to petty officer third class.

In May of 1985, Kindig reported to Navy Supply Corps School Detachment at Fort McClellan, Ala. for Navy corrections specialist training. Following this training, he reported to Naval Station Brig Subic Bay, Philippines, as a corrections specialist where he was promoted to petty officer second class. In October of 1988, Kindig reported to VA-196 as a trouble shooter, final checker, and aviation fire control technician on the E-6A/TRAM Intruder. While attached to VA-196, he was promoted to petty officer first class, laterally converted to aviation electronics technician and completed two deployments.

In October of 1992, he reported to Enlisted Navy Recruiting Orientation

Kindig began his tour with the "Scouts." While part of the "Scouts," Kindig deployed aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) in Operation Allied Force.

Kindig received several awards during his career including the Navy Achievement Medal with one gold star, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal with three bronze stars, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with one bronze star, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with three bronze stars, Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon with two bronze

stars, Navy Recruiting Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal, NATO Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, and Marksmanship Ribbon.

During the retirement ceremony, he received the Navy Achievement Medal, a Certificate of Appreciation from the Commander in Chief, a letter of appreciation from the Governor of Ohio, and a letter of appreciation from the Governor of Florida. He also received his Fleet Reserve Certificate and Lapel Pin. Kindig was presented with a shadow box containing the national ensign and all the medals he has earned throughout his years of service.

Additionally, the "Scouts" had the opportunity to re-enlist another squadronmate. On the Jan. 9, AZ2 Jeremy M. Slater decided to extend his naval career by re-enlisting for two more years. The "Scouts" would like to congratulate Slater on his choice.

The "Scouts" commend Kindig for his 20 years of service in the United States Navy. His professionalism, dedication, and knowledge will be missed. This "Scout" has done his duty and completed his watch. Slater has shown that he is ready to assume the greater responsibilities of those that have gone before showing, once again, that "Scouts" Rule!



Lt. James Wojtowicz presents AZ2 Jeremy M. Slater with his reenlistment certificate.

ADVENTURE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Marine, naval, army cadets accepting new recruits

CAMP BLANDING, FLORIDA - The American Cadet Alliance is sponsoring the formation of a new unit of the U.S. Military Cadet Corps. The American Cadet Alliance includes training programs for U.S. Marine Cadets, U.S. Naval Cadets and U.S. Army Cadets, depending on a young person's area of interest.

Openings are available for a limited number of young people ages 12-17 to join the North Florida unit. Exceptional 11-year olds, who are in sixth grade, may also apply. Interviews will be held at Camp Blanding in Building 2004, across from the Parade Field, on Saturday, Jan.

13 beginning at 1 p.m. Appointments are necessary, and only 35 prospective Cadets will be interviewed.

Formed in 1909, the American Cadet Alliance is the oldest and longest-serving cadet program in the United States. The American Cadet Alliance is open to young people who have an interest in a military or other sea-going career. Cadet applicants must be crime-free, drug-free, physically fit and approved by their school.

The Marine, Naval and Army Cadets of North Florida will train aboard Camp Blanding monthly, normally on the first weekend of the month. The program is

managed by volunteers dedicated to instilling the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Training scheduled for the upcoming year includes orienteering, small boat handling, SCUBA certification and recruit training at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena, Mich.

Members of the American Cadet Alliance wear specially-modified uniforms of the Marine Corps, Navy and Army, and can participate in a multitude of advanced training programs, including: seamanship, ground survival, search and rescue, and marksmanship. Cadets from North Florida will attend two weeks

of recruit training at Alpena, Mich. this summer, learning about military customs and traditions, rappelling, fire-fighting, marksmanship and military drill.

Adult volunteers, with or without military experience, are needed to allow the American Cadet Alliance to grow. Those with military, administrative and fund-raising skills are especially needed. Interested adults are encouraged to visit on Jan. 13.

To set an appointment, contact the unit's recruiting hotline at: (352) 463-3688. For further information on the American Cadet Alliance, go to < www.marinecadets.org >.

Navy Region Europe launches 'Duty In Europe' web site

By JO1(SW) Tim Oleary
Navy Region Europe Public Affairs

NAPLES, ITALY — Navy Region Europe, headquartered in Naples, Italy launched a new, multi-media "Duty In Europe" web site on Jan. 16. The site, www.dutyEurope.navy.mil, offers a comprehensive look at the bases that comprise Navy Region Europe, and serves as a portal to the facilities and services they provide.

The purpose of the site is to be a complete source of information about what to expect from a tour of duty in the European theater for Sailors, family members and civilian employees. It is also a call to exceptional Sailors who wish to accept the challenges and rewards that come with a tour in Navy Region Europe. The "Duty In

Europe" web site will serve as a tool for information throughout someone's tour in the region.

The "Life" section of the site provides essential information on housing, education, adult and youth activities and many more quality of life issues. On the site's "Travel" pages, you'll learn about great tour destinations near each of the bases. These pages will provide video tours and printable directions to each spot. Another feature is the "Duty" section, which provides information on career-enhancing opportunities.

By clicking on www.dutyEurope.navy.mil, the Old World becomes your world. Take a trip through the site and see why duty in Europe means duty with the best - the best people, the best quality of life and the best opportunities.



Gaeta, Italy



Seville, Spain



NAVY NEWS

USS San Jacinto responds to Yemeni vessel's distress call

GULF OF OMAN (NNS) — The Norfolk-based cruiser USS San Jacinto (CG 56) recently responded to the distress call of a small Yemeni boat 60 miles off the coast of Yemen. The boat experienced engine problems, stranding its 11 Yemeni passengers at sea for 10 days.

At 2:02 p.m. local time, a Navy SH-60B Seahawk helicopter attached to the warship discovered the dhow with people on deck waving their arms wildly. The helicopter, permanently assigned to Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron 42 Detachment 8, based out of Mayport, Fla., was on a routine

patrol and relayed the information to San Jacinto, which then changed course to render assistance.

"The passengers appeared physically drained and they had exhausted their supply of food and water," said Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Abdulkarim Mohamed, San Jacinto's Yemen-born interpreter. "We used our small boat to provide them with enough food and water to make it back to shore."

"The crew had rigged a makeshift sail, but it was clear that the rig was not working out too well," said Ensign Brian Maynard, one of San Jacinto's boarding officers assisting in the replenishment effort. "I'm glad we were in the right spot at the right time."

San Jacinto towed the boat to the Yemeni port of Ghubbat Al Mukalla where the boat and crew were turned over to a Yemeni pilot vessel for the final tow in to the pier.

"San Jac Sailors were anxious to help out the crew of the stricken vessel," said Capt. Craig Langman, San Jacinto's commanding officer. "They were fellow sailors who needed a little help, and we were happy to oblige. There are no nationalities out here when it comes to someone in need."

The Yemeni passengers were indeed very grateful to the San Jacinto crew, thanking them over and over again as the cruiser rendered assistance. One passenger, an elderly gentleman, expressed his gratitude with tears of joy. "God bless you," a passenger said as San Jacinto turned the stranded dhow over to the pilot vessel.

"We were fortunate to be in a position to be able to lend a helping hand," said Rear Adm. Jim McArthur, commander of the Harry S. Truman Battle Group. "It is common for our forward-deployed naval forces to assist those in distress on the high seas. It is satisfying to be able to extend a helping hand to friends in peril and be able to make

a difference."

San Jacinto deployed Nov. 28 with the USS Harry S. Truman Battle Group and will return to its homeport of Norfolk, Va., in late May.

More information about USS San Jacinto can be found at <http://www.navy.mil> under the "fact file."

For more information about USS Harry S. Truman and other carriers of the Atlantic Fleet, go to <http://www.airlant.navy.mil/Carriersbar.htm>.

Homeward bound: USS Abraham Lincoln departs the Arabian Gulf

USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN, At Sea (NNS) - Following approximately 90 days in the Arabian Gulf enforcing the no-fly zone over Iraq, the warriors of USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) are heading home.

With a challenging deployment drawing near its end, just 45 days remain until "Abe" arrives pierside in Everett, Wash. As for the recent port visit in the 5th Fleet region, most Sailors initially preferred to remain at sea rather than to break up the daily rhythm by pulling into Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates — that is, until they got there.

Vendors were set up in trailers, selling a variety of goods including electronics, music, jewelry and exotic rugs. Activities including softball, basketball, go-kart racing and camel rides were some of the more popular events. The short break, coinciding with the Christmas holiday, provided Sailors the opportunity to not only let off some steam but to also shop for gifts, exercise, eat a variety of foods and, in general, just relax.

According to Capt. Douglas K. Dupouy, Abraham Lincoln's commanding officer, the Jebel Ali port visit was a great way to spend the holidays.

"It gave our Sailors a well-deserved break in the daily routine and provided a means of getting off the ship to stretch their legs and enjoy some camaraderie with their shipmates in a more relaxed setting," Dupouy said. "They performed superbly, and I want to commend all of the people who helped to make it an outstanding port visit."

Many milestones were reached while the carrier was on station in the Arabian Gulf. When they weren't busy taking care of approximately 5,000 aircraft launches and recoveries or ensuring the safe transfer of nearly 8 million gallons of jet fuel, Abe Sailors placed a high priority on attending to their professional growth. In just three months, Abe qualified/requalified 132 Sailors as Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists (ESWS) and

another 95 Sailors as Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialists (EAWS). This achievement was the result of tremendous dedication on behalf of the men and women who sacrificed personal time outside of long workdays to achieve this career-enhancing designation.

The last day of flight operations in the Arabian Gulf was Dec. 29 as the ship entered the transit phase, departing the region on its way to Australia.

Abraham Lincoln Sailors will have another chance to relax "Down Under" in Perth, Australia. A multitude of activities and tours will be available to those wishing to take advantage of what is reputed to be one of the best liberty ports in the world.

Following the visit to Perth, Sailors will get a chance to spend some quality time in the equally beautiful city of Hobart, Australia. The final transit across the Pacific will take the ship to San Diego where the air wing will detach. The ship will later head north to its homeport of Everett, Wash.

More information about USS Abraham Lincoln can be found at <http://www.lincoln.navy.mil>.

Montel Williams reunites Sailor and wife on show

NEW YORK (NWS) — When the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) deployed for an Arabian Gulf cruise in August of last year, Navy wife Patti Stokes-Elam didn't expect to see her husband, HM1 Michael Elam, until mid-February when Lincoln returned to its homeport in Everett, Washington.

As it turned out, Mrs. Elam didn't have to wait until February. She was selected by the producers of "The Montel Williams Show" to talk to her husband via a satellite video teleconference. What she didn't know was, her husband had been flown in from the Arabian Gulf to appear in person on the show. So, as she was talking to her husband "via satellite" (while he was actually in the next studio), Naval Academy graduate and former Navy cryptological officer-turned talk show host Montel Williams invited Petty Officer Elam on stage. What followed was a very emotional reunion, as both Patti and Michael embraced and their eyes filled with tears. The hardship that every Navy couple endures when faced with deployment was compounded by a medical diagnosis made just days before the ship sailed.

Two days before Abraham Lincoln departed its homeport, Patti discovered a lump in her breast. She immediately went to the hospital. A biopsy revealed that the disease had spread, infecting 20 of 28 lymph nodes. Because of this, she had surgery. Patti's oncologist recommended that she go for radiation treatment and chemotherapy.

Meanwhile, Petty Officer Elam's ship was getting ready to depart for the Arabian Gulf. Petty Officer Elam's chief,

HMCS Bob Spottswood, and Abraham Lincoln's command master chief, YNCM(SS/SW/AW) William Nissen, suggested that Petty Officer Elam should not deploy with the ship and instead get TAD orders to remain with his wife. But, together, Patti and Michael made the decision that he should go with Abraham Lincoln. "It was in his best interests for his family and his career path," recalled Patti.

"I definitely wanted to stay," said Michael, "But it was most important to me to do what Patti wanted." So, when word went out that "The Montel Williams Show" was looking for a Navy couple to reunite for their Christmas Special, "We were to nominate deserving people," said Nissen, who felt that Petty Officer Elam was the best choice.

"We were sending him home — regardless," added Spottswood. "But Patti was the motivating factor. We know she was looking out after her husband and her kids." But little did Patti know that she would be reunited face-to-face with her husband while she was at "The Montel Williams Show". According to Tracy Frissora, senior associate producer, "Our greatest joy was seeing Patti's face when HM1 Elam came walking out of the door to surprise her. Bringing Patti and Michael together for the holidays is one of Montel's greatest accomplishments to date. "Montel Williams and the show's corporate sponsors presented the Elam family with a variety of gifts, including video games, bicycles and toys for their kids.

"I can't thank the Navy enough for always being there for us and assisting us in every way possible to make our shows better — and to make someone happy for the holidays," said Frissora. "If I had my wish, we'd bring a Sailor home every week!"

New kiosks help Sailors make good career decisions

MILLINGTON (NNS) — Navy Personnel Command's Center for Career Development (CCD) in Millington, Tenn., is installing career information kiosks in Navy Exchanges throughout the continental U.S. to assist Sailors and their families in making informed career decisions.

The first kiosk was placed at the Norfolk Navy Exchange in December 2000, while the second will be installed at NAS Pensacola's Navy Exchange in late January. Additional kiosks will be installed at Jacksonville, Fla., San Diego and Whidbey Island, Wash., commands in February.

"The kiosks will provide Sailors and their families information on the value of their pay and compensation, as well as information on numerous other benefits, such as TRICARE, housing, MWR, local educational opportunities, local facilities and essential points of contact," explained Cmdr. David Alexander, CCD's Information Technology depart-

- A compensation calculator, which will compare a Sailor's pay and compensation to the civilian sector. It also provides explanations of pays and benefits, as well as retirement calculations; - REDUX vs. High-3 retirement comparison, so that members can determine which retirement option is in their best interest;- Quality of Life information, such as:

- MWR,
- Local Housing,
- Local Family Services,
- Local TRICARE information,
- Local Navy College information,
- Local Community Information,
- Portal Navy Exchange web site.

Alexander said each kiosk will also have an Internet connection to allow it to be routinely updated and remotely maintained. Additionally, it will allow the user to access information over the Internet through designated military links.

"Through our partnership with NEX-COM, Sailors, their spouses and family members will have access to information that has not been previously readily available," added CCD Director, Capt.

Jake Ross.

Ross said the information provided by the kiosk will be gradually tailored through feedback from the fleet and their families, with future plans to tie to the StayNavy web site (currently under development).

"We are proud to support the fleet and its commitment to the professional and personal needs of Sailors and their families," said Ross.

USS Harry S. Truman makes first port call of deployment

USS Harry S. Truman(CVN 75) recently completed the first port visit of their maiden deployment, pulling into Souda Bay, Crete, for liberty Dec. 20-24, 2000. While in Crete, the crew took advantage of a number of excellent tours organized by the ship's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division and visited nearby Chania, the second largest city on the island.

Airman Jerry Cosca of Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 130 enjoyed his time in Chania.

"It was a good chance for everyone to walk around and get off the ship for a

while," said Cosca, a Redding, Calif., native. "I got to see a lot of great sights. It was a little wet, but a little water never hurt anyone."

Postal Clerk 3rd Class Oliver Jones agreed. "I had fun and got a lot of shopping done," said Jones, a Rocky Mount, N.C., native. "I liked trying the different food, like gyros."

Truman's Command Religious Ministries department also organized a community relations project in which more than 30 crewmembers visited a Chania senior citizens home and the National Institute for Persons with Special Needs. The Sailors brought holiday cheer to the homes' residents, singing Christmas carols during the visit.

"Community relations is a really positive signature, whether it is in a foreign port or in our country," said Lt. Cmdr. Robert Coyle, Truman's assistant command chaplain. "The director of the Institute said he could see that Truman is here to help others and be peacemakers."

"The language barrier was not a problem; the people were happy to hear the music and get handshakes and hugs,"

said Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Dudley, IM-3 assistant division officer. Dudley led the group of Sailors in song; he provided the sheet music and also played guitar.

Truman, with a complement of nearly 5,000 Sailors and Marines, left Norfolk, Va., Nov. 28, 2000 for a scheduled six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf. It is the first deployment for the Truman, the U.S. Navy's newest aircraft carrier. The eight squadrons of Carrier Air Wing 3 are embarked aboard the carrier.

Truman is the centerpiece of the Harry S. Truman Battle Group, commanded by Rear Adm. Jim McArthur. Truman's commanding officer is Capt. David L. Logsdon. Carrier Air Wing 3 is commanded by Capt. Joe Kilkenny.

More information about USS Harry S. Truman and other carriers of the Atlantic Fleet can be found at <http://www.airlant.navy.mil/carriers-bar.htm>.

More information about Souda Bay, Crete, can be found at <http://www.souda.navy.mil>.

Jax Tales

By Mike Jones - mikejones43@hotmail.com



AIMD Jax excellence nets AirLant nomination for DoD 'Phoenix' Award

By Lt. Dan Candelaria
AIMD Material Officer

Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Detachment (AIMD) onboard NAS Jacksonville has recently been selected by Commander, Naval Air Forces, U.S. Atlantic Forces (ComNavAirLant) as their nominee for the prestigious Department of Defense Maintenance Organization of the Year or "Phoenix" Award.

This year's nomination includes an endorsement by Vice Adm. J.S. Mobley Commander, Naval Air Forces, Atlantic commending AIMD Jacksonville for outstanding performance as they begin competition against other maintenance activities in the Atlantic Fleet, U.S. Navy and the Department Of Defense. The endorsement by ComNavAirLant recognizes the high level of professionalism and team effort demonstrated by AIMD Sailors as well as the administrative and technical expertise of all assigned personnel. AIMD Jax won the nomination to represent ComNavAirLant in "category two" based on organizational size criteria established by DoD. As they progress through the nomination process, AIMD hopes to become the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) nominee to DoD.

The Phoenix Award is bestowed annually to recognize the military unit that displays the ability to sustain a quality maintenance program while

maximizing equipment readiness and customer service. As noted in Mobley's endorsement. "AIMD's compulsively eager Sailors are dedicated to being resourceful in their jobs. AIMD Jacksonville's dedication, professionalism, and focus on complete fleet support rings clear." He further stated, "AIMD Jax is the unanimous choice in all categories: mission accomplishment, effective use of resources, innovation and quality of life programs."

The AIMD Jax mission is to provide intermediate level maintenance to support eight squadrons in the P-3, S-3, H-60 and H-3 communities, keeping more than 149 aircraft and essential systems safe for flight. "We have been extremely diligent at work this recent year and our efforts have been recognized by everyone on the East Coast. I'm very proud of everyone's exceptional performance," said Cmdr. Cathy Eberhart, NAS Jacksonville AIMD Officer-in-Charge. Noting the efforts of her personnel she stated, "AIMD has had their hands full this past year and nothing has deterred the men and women in the detachment, who have spent numerous hours increasing repair capabilities and directly enhancing combat readiness. In addition to superb local fleet support of three type wings, AIMD Jacksonville provides services to every Atlantic Fleet Aircraft Carrier and 12 other Department of Defense and Department of the Treasury activities."

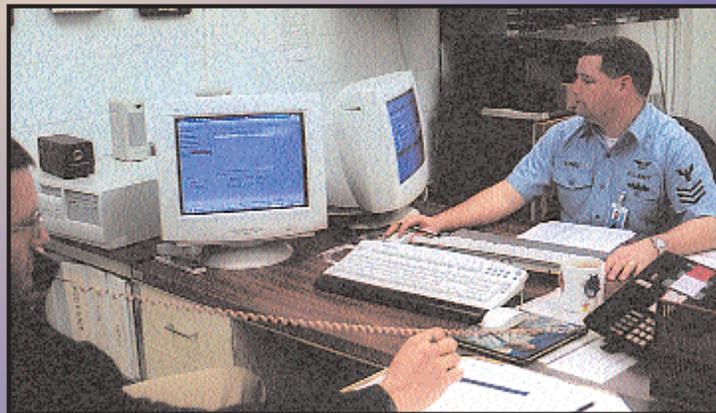
"AIMD saved over two million dollars in Aviation Depot Level Repairable (AVDLR) costs, expedited component repair and attained increased aircraft readiness while supported a robust repair and return program for every aircraft carrier on the East Coast," said LCDR Tim Pfannenstain, NAS Jacksonville AIMD Maintenance Material Control Officer (MMCO). As further noted in their nomination package, "AIMD personnel met every task and challenge "head-on" and continued its renowned customer service and superb support to fleet squadrons. There have been significant achievements as AIMD increased Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing (CPRW) 11 mission capability by 18 percent and Commander, Sea Control Wing Atlantic (CSCWL) mission capability by 38 percent over FY-99 levels. An example of the exemplary performance of AIMD's maintainers came last summer. During an Atlantic Fleet Composite Training Unit Exercise (C2X) in August 2000, USS Harry S. Truman was unable to return its Inertial Measuring Unit Test Set to "Ready for Use" condition. With no "work around" in place, 14 inertial systems were sent from the ship to NAS Jacksonville for repair. In every case, components were repaired in less than 12 hours and returned to the ship within 72 hours of arriving at Jax.

AIMD Jacksonville technicians pro-

vide quality workmanship, extend mean time between failure (MTBF) for components inducted for repair and aggressively pursue cost avoidance in every endeavor. Without question increasing efficiency and production govern the daily activity at NAS Jax AIMD. According to CNAL officials, mission accomplishments, along with the department's quality of life programs were the deciding factors that gave AIMD the edge over other claimant competitors for the award. The command's retention efforts resulted in more than 84 re-enlistment's in FY-2000 and more than 1,900 career counseling interviews. The FY-00 performance statistics for personnel in AIMD show that the detachment was awarded one Meritorious Service Medal, 22 Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals and 88 Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Personnel in AIMD have also actively participated in community service and promoted worthy causes. For instance, AIMD provided more than 50 personnel to Funeral and Honor Support Teams serving both Northern Florida and Southern Georgia. And AIMD personnel have collectively donated more than 9,000 hours to various community organizations throughout the Jacksonville region.

Without question AIMD Jacksonville has demonstrated why it is among the finest maintenance units in the United States Navy today and we

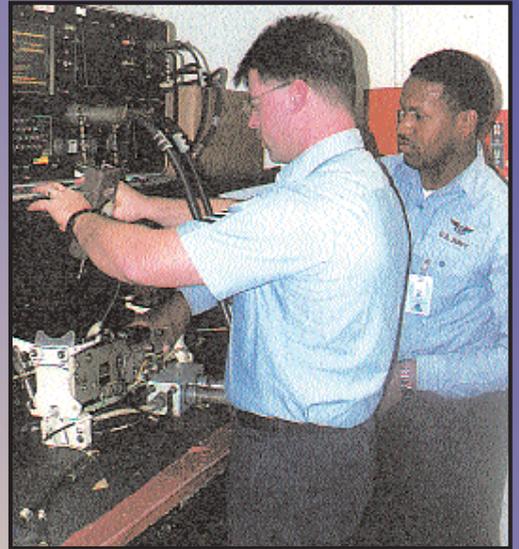


(Above) AT1(AW/SW) Jay Schmidt sets production priorities and approves repair material priorities using the Naval Air Logistics Command Management Information System (NALCOMIS) in AIMD's Main Production Control 020, the nerve center of AIMD. The division controls all maintenance priorities and production efforts for the detachment.

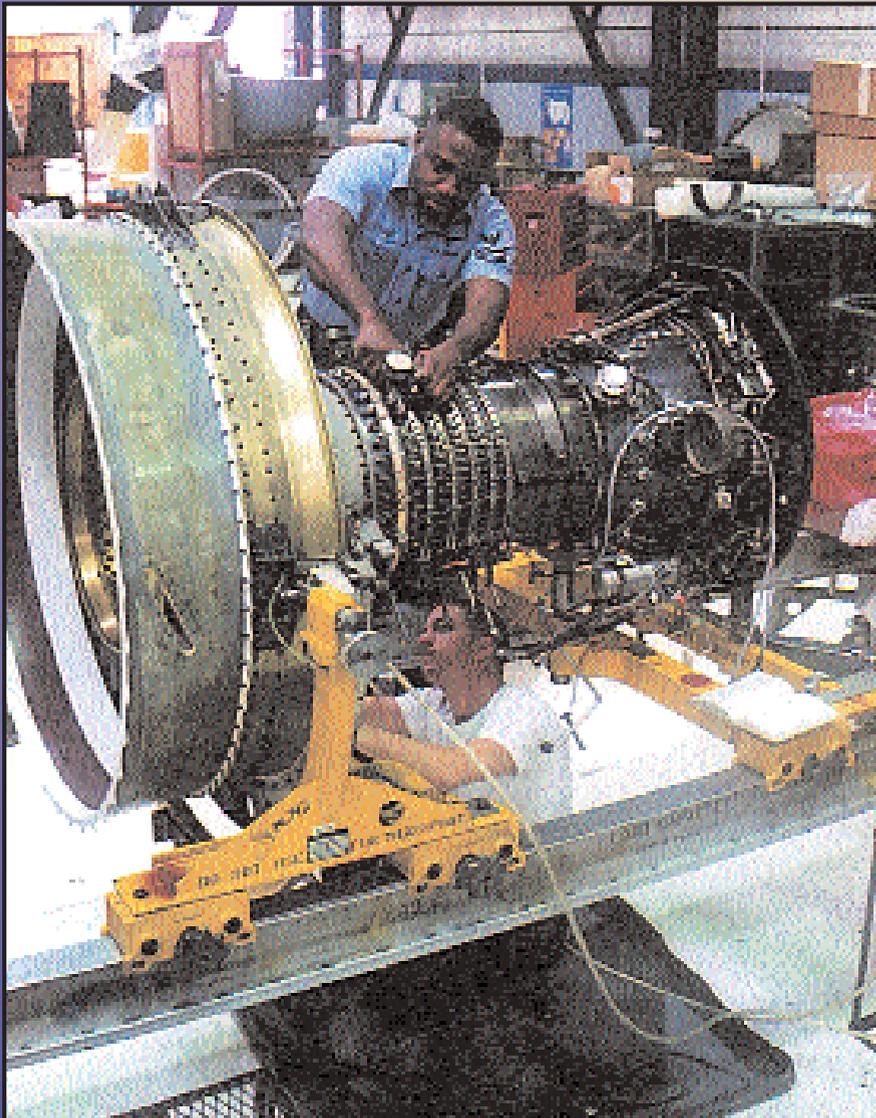
(Left) AT3(AW/SW) Matthew Mitchell troubleshoots and repairs a copilot's scope in AIMD's 600 Division. The division maintains, troubleshoots and repairs avionics systems for the S-3 Viking, P-3 Orion, and H-60 Seahawk aircrafts.



AD1(AW) Eddie Knight installs the front fan section on a TF-34 engine in the 400 Division.



AO1(AW) Patrick Zawchenuk and AO3(AW) Chris Burton perform functional tests on a BRU-14 bomb rack in the 700 Division. The division performs maintenance, functional testing and inspections on aviation armament equipment.



AD1(AW) Eddie Knight and AD3 Brian Sipkovsky perform adjustments to the variable actuators on a TF-34 GE 400B S-3 Viking engine in the 400 Division. The division performs scheduled and unscheduled maintenance of TF-34 and T-56 engines, propellers, and on aerial refueling (buddy stores) systems.



PR2 Shannon Vance and PR2 Charles Gotto assemble a P-3 manifold in the 800 Division, Work center 81C. The division performs maintenance on all aircrew survival gear while the work center focuses on maintenance of oxygen system and related gear.

Sailors should consider implications when seeking non-emergency civilian medical and dental care

By Don Graham

Naval Hospital Customer Service Department

Here is a scenario some active duty people find themselves in. They are assigned to a local command and their spouse is employed with a civilian company that provides medical coverage for their family. Under the terms of that civilian health insurance policy, the active duty member is covered for care in the civilian community. What are the implications if that active duty service member seeks care off base? All active duty people should understand those implications, whether they are covered under a civilian health insurance policy or are paying for the care

themselves.

There have been recent instances where active duty service members have sought non-emergency civilian medical or dental care without prior approval and were unpleasantly surprised with the consequences.

Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery regulations state that prior to seeking care from a non-federal source, the member must be counseled by or in the presence of a medical department representative and sign a statement indicating their understanding of the consequences of seeking unauthorized care. Before seeking non-emergency civilian medical care, active duty members should consider the following ramifications:

- The possibility of compromising

any disability benefits should a therapeutic misadventure occur.

- All expenses incurred for inpatient/outpatient treatment by a civilian provider, in a civilian medical/dental facility will be the member's responsibility.

- All expenses incurred as a result of any major complications resulting from treatment will be the responsibility of the service member.

- Lost time arising from hospitalization, should that become necessary, or other time lost from the members place of duty may be chargeable as ordinary leave.

- The Government cannot be responsible for out-of-pocket expenses which may be required by any insurance carrier (spouse's insur-

ance, for example).

- After completion of treatment, the member must be examined by a uniformed services medical officer (preferably Navy) for determination of the member's fitness for continued service.

- The member must obtain copies of the civilian health care treatment records for inclusion in the military health record.

Contact your medical department representative (the holder of your medical record) to ensure proper counseling is obtained and to answer any questions you may have.

Honey, I shrunk the nurse

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Navy is looking at the use of tiny devices to do what a human nurse would normally do, only from within the human body.

Similar to Star Trek: Voyager's "Borg Nano-probes," (but more benign) these virus-sized devices are made from biomolecules and tiny nickel propellers. So far, the Navy has been able to successfully assemble these devices inside test-tubes. Eventually, the Navy wants to use them in ultraminiaturized sensors and power sources.

Funded by the Office of Naval Research in Arlington, Va., this biotechnological achievement may well usher in a generation of microscopic robotic medical devices that would be assembled within living cells. These could then move about the human body, minister to its needs, or detect chemical signals from body cells and calculate and precisely dispense drugs and other treatments.

Powered by the enzyme ATP (adenosine triphosphate), the so-called "energy of life," these hybrid nanodevices can be assembled, maintained, and repaired using the physiology of life itself.

"With this demonstration, we believe we are defining a whole new technology," said Carlo Montemagno, lead scientist for this program being conducted at Cornell University in New York.

However, researchers caution that before the nanodevices can actually carry out their intended role as "nanonurses" inside living organisms, a higher operational success rate needs to be achieved.

Nanobiotechnology is a relatively new field of science that merges living

s y s t e m s with fabricated non-living materials, such as silicon, at the "n a n o" s c a l e , where a nanometer equals one billionth of a meter. Eventually, researchers would like to engineer biomolecular motors powered by photons — light energy — instead of ATP. They also plan to add computational and sensing capabilities to the nanodevices, which ideally would be able to self-assemble inside human cells.



Like something out of a Captain Marvel story, the diminutive propellers were fabricated using electron gun evaporation, isotropic etching and electron beam lithography. Thin coatings of attachment chemicals encouraged the propellers to self-assemble. In initial tests, some of the biomolecular motors spun their propellers for more than two hours, at eight revolutions per second.

"This is all new for us ... and for everyone else in this line of work," said Montemagno, who noted that only five of the first 400 motors worked. "These machines are as small as virus particles — it's hard to keep them from clumping together."

More information about the Office of Naval Research can be found at <http://www.onr.navy.mil>.

Young artists sought for military families art contest

SPRINGFIELD, Va. (NNS) — Elementary school artists could win a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond in the sixth annual Armed Services YMCA Art Contest — but time is running out!

Children in kindergarten through sixth grade who are dependents of military members may submit drawings of their military families no later than Jan. 27.

In addition to \$500 savings bonds for each service winner, the top artists have their artwork printed

and distributed to military family support centers on the Military Family Week poster. Military Family Week is recognized every year during Thanksgiving week. Second place winners receive a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

Students of military families in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Guard are eligible to enter. Students of Reservists' families will be judged with their affiliated service. Depart-

ment of Defense civilians' children may enter in an honorary category for a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

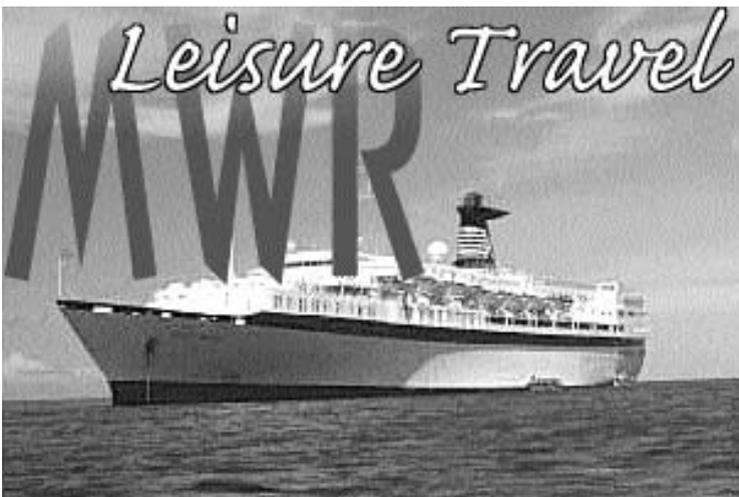
Artwork should be in color, on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper. Black and white drawings may be entered but are less likely to be selected as top winners. Entries should depict the student's military family.

The following information should be included on the back of each entry: student's name, grade and age; address; phone number or e-

mail where a parent may be reached; parents' names; service affiliation (if Reserve, please also indicate); rank of military member; military installation; and school or youth program, if entered contest this way.

Mail entries to:

Armed Services YMCA
Attn: Art Contest
6225 Brandon Ave., Suite 215
Springfield, VA 22150.



The Morale Welfare and Recreation Department's Leisure Travel Office is a great place to find the best prices on some of the most exciting travel destinations in the world. Listed below are just a few of the hot travel bargains now available. For rates, schedules and booking information visit www.mwreisuretravel.com. For more information, call MWR Information, Ticket and Tours at 542 - 3318.

Alaska
Norwegian Cruise Line - Sail to

Alaska (Glacier Bay) from Seattle - Bonus 2 Category Upgrade! From \$999. Available: 05/06/01, 05/13/01, 06/03/01, 06/17/01, 07/01/01, 07/15/01, 07/29/01, 08/12/01, 09/02/01, 09/09/01

Holland America Line - Alaska Flat Rates - MS Statendam From \$799. Available: 05/06/01, 05/13/01
Australia

Contiki - Vacations for 18-35 year olds — Great deals down under from \$885. Available: 01/05/01

Contiki - Vacations for 18-35 year olds

— Great deals to the Land Down Under from \$1125

Bahamas

Sandals and Beaches Resorts - Sandals 'Select' /Champagne Express From \$1906. Available: 01/20/00

Caribbean Southern

Holland America Line — 2001 Caribbean Flat Rate - MS Zaandam (Wayfarer)from \$1449. Available: 02/25/01, 03/17/01

Royal Caribbean - Cruise Only Special From \$599. Available: 02/03/01

Celebrity Cruise Line - Balcony Cabin Special From \$1349. Available: 03/03/01

Caribbean Western

Norwegian Cruise Line - Let The Wind Take You Away! Hot March Deals from \$799. Available: 03/03/01, 03/10/01, 03/17/01, 03/24/01, 03/31/01

Norwegian Cruise Line - \$400 Onboard Credit Free This February on the Sky From \$1149. Available: 02/25/01

Holland America Line - 2001 Caribbean Flat Rate - MS Maasdam From \$799. Available: 01/28/01

Carnival Cruise Line - A week of "Sublime Sensations" from \$699. Available: 03/04/01

Carnival Cruise Line - Just south of the border... from \$449. Available: 02/12/01

Central America

Caravan Tours - Belize Tropical Adventure—8 Days—Caravan Tours From \$1495. Available: 01/26/01, 02/02/01, 02/23/01, 03/08/01

Costa Rica

Caravan Tours - Costa Rica Natural Paradise, 10 Days, Caravan Tours from \$1795. Available: 01/19/01, 01/21/01, 01/26/01, 01/28/01, 02/02/01, 02/04/01, 02/09/01, 02/11/01, 02/16/01, 02/18/01, 02/23/01, 02/25/01, 03/02/01, 03/04/01, 03/09/01, 03/16/01, 03/23/01, 03/30/01, 04/06/01, 04/13/01, 04/20/01, 04/27/01, 05/04/01, 05/18/01, 06/15/01, 07/20/01, 07/27/01, 08/03/01, 09/07/01

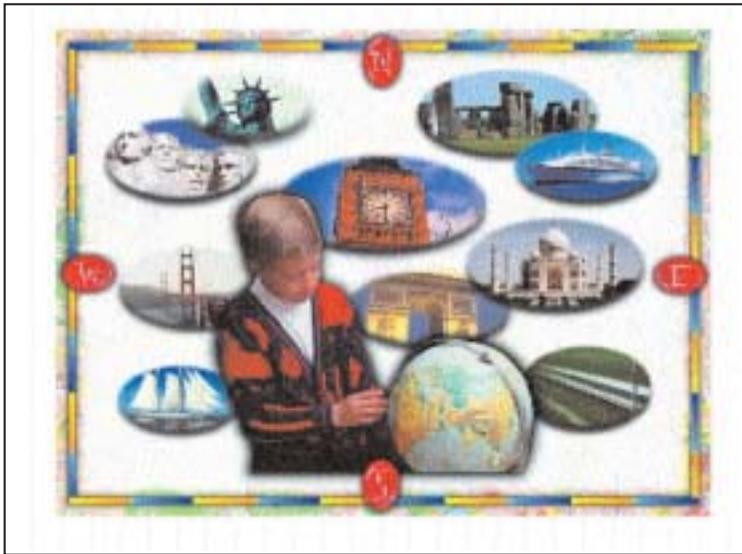
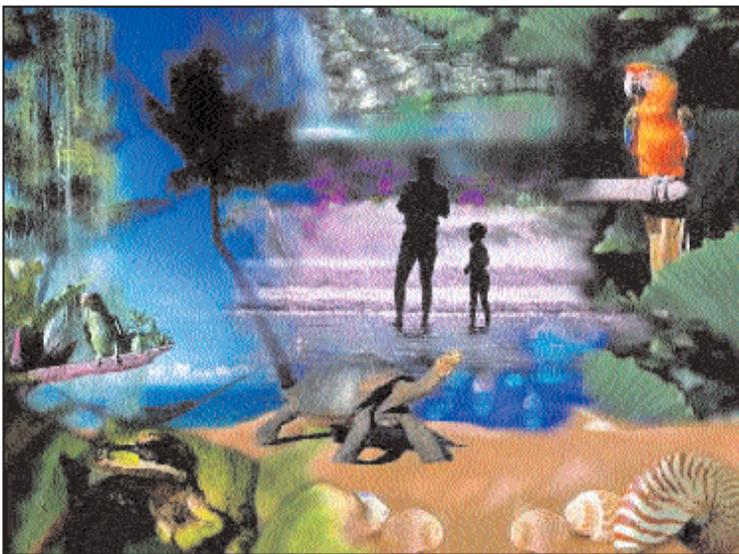
Europe

Celebrity Cruise Line - 14 night Europe Promotion from \$1399. Available: 05/19/01

India

Silversea Cruises - Specially priced India Splendors Land Program until 3/15/01 from \$6475. Available:

See Leisure Travel, page 19



Transition to new TRICARE Dental Program set for Feb. 1

On Feb. 1, United Concordia Companies, Inc. (UCCI), the Navy's dental contract administrator will enact a new dental care program. The current program, the TRICARE Active Duty Family Member Dental Plan (TFMDP) will change its name to the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP). A major change of this new program is the method active duty members apply for dental coverage.

Members currently enrolled in the TFMDP will automatically be enrolled in the new TDP without disruption of benefits. All active duty members will soon receive a TDP application in the mail. If you are currently enrolled in

TFMDP and do not wish make any changes to your enrollment, you may disregard this application.

New/changed enrollments, i.e. members who desire dental coverage for new dependents must apply directly to UCCI. PSDs are no longer permitted to process dental enrollment applications. Members can obtain an application form either from their dental treatment facility or they may access the UCCI web site at www.ucci.com or call 1-888-622-2256 to speak to a company representative.

Members must submit a check or money order for the first month's premium (\$7.63 for an individual and \$19.08

for a family) with their application.

UCCI will check member's DEERS enrollment to ensure eligibility and if all is correct, they will request that DFAS Cleveland start an allotment from the member's pay to cover subsequent monthly premiums.

Applications must be received by UCCI prior to the 20th of the month for the entitlements to be effective on the first of the following month. If problems exist with the member's DEERS enrollment, UCCI will send a rejection letter to the member. At this point, rejected members must report to their PSD/Personnel Office to resolve the problem and then re-apply to UCCI.

Under TFMDP, members who had less than 24 months remaining to EAOS were not eligible to apply for coverage. TDP allows members with 12 months remaining to EAOS to attain coverage.

For general information on the TRICARE Dental Program, please call UCCI at 1-800-866-8499, or visit UCCI's web site at www.ucci.com. For enrollment information, please call 1-888-622-2256.

Any questions concerning the TRICARE Dental Program, please contact Bobby Hudnall at (901) 874-3365 or DSN 882-3365, Navy Personnel Command (PERS-312DL).

Leisure Travel: Great deals offered

Continued from page 17

05/06/01, 05/17/01

Mexico

Caravan Tours - Mexico's Copper Canyon, 8 Days, Caravan Tours from \$1595. Available: 02/18/01, 02/25/01, 03/04/01, 03/11/01, 03/18/01, 03/25/01, 04/01/01, 04/08/01, 04/15/01, 04/22/01, 04/29/01, 05/06/01, 09/09/01, 09/23/01, 10/07/01, 11/04/01

Regal Cruises - Kid's sail free to Mexico from \$429. Available:

01/18/01, 04/12/01, 04/26/01

Regal Cruises - 5-Night Mayan Adventure, kid's sail free! From \$509. Available: 04/07/01

Royal Caribbean - Cruise Only Special from \$539. Available: 01/21/01

Carnival Cruise Line - Enjoy margaritas in the warm Mexican sun! From \$199. Available: 01/22/01

US Las Vegas

Adventure Tours USA - Las Vegas package from DFW from \$229. Available: 01/14/01

SCWSL: CAGWARCOM at NAS

Continued from page 1

implement and administer the ACTC program for their respective Jacksonville-based squadrons. Graduates of the program serve as instructors in a weapons school, FRS billet or in a squadron as the manager of the squadron's ACTC program.

All participants in the symposium were impressed by the hard work displayed by their Jacksonville hosts. Base Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR) personnel provided outstanding service throughout the two-day conference. The next symposium is tentatively scheduled for the spring in Fallon, Nev.



Sea Control Weapons School Officer in Charge Cmdr. Ryman Shoaf; Vice Adm. Joseph Mobley, CNAL; and Capt. William H. Carey, Sea Control Wing Atlantic at the CAGWARCOM Symposium.



About 50 Flag officers and Carrier Air Group (CAG) commanders from various carriers and air wings from throughout the Navy.

MWR NOTES

Aquatics Department

The aquatics department began taking reservations for private parties at the outdoor pool "Allegheny Family Recreation Area" on Jan. 1. The dates available for the pool facility rental are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights from May 1 through Sept. 30, 2001. The cost is \$75 for the first two hours, \$25 each additional hour. This price includes certified lifeguards. For information or to make reservations call 542-2930.

Information, Tickets, and Tours

Take advantage of the free movies offered at the base theater located at the corner of Jason St. and Saratoga Blvd. There are no concessions but food and drinks are allowed to be brought in with the exception of alcoholic beverages. No children under the age of 18 allowed without adult supervision. For more information call 542-3577, or look on the web at www.nasjax.navy.mil/mwr.

NAS Jax Base Auditorium Movie Schedule - January

Jan. 19, 7 p.m. - *Wag the Dog*
Jan. 26, 7 p.m. - *I Know What You Did Last Summer*
Jan. 27, 5 p.m. - *Entrapment*
7 p.m. - *I Still Know What You Did Last Summer*

Liberty Cove Rec Center

The Liberty Cove Recreation Center is now open in its new location! The center is located on the corner of Jason St. and Yorktown Ave. in Bldg. 816. Active duty Sailors can enjoy free Internet access on any one of 15 computers available. Compete in free Pool, Ping-Pong, Darts, Sony Playstations, Dream Cast or Nintendo 64 or kick back in a comfy recliner and watch movies on the big screen! The Liberty program offers tons of fun, adventures galore and so much more. Our hours are 1100-2400, Sunday - Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. Call 542-3491 for more activities schedule or information.

Yellow Water Youth Center

Birthday Parties- Come celebrate your Birthday at the Youth Center. Our center can accommodate 75 of your favorite friends. The cost is \$25 for two hours or pick up a theme and let us plan your party for \$50 for two hours. Leave all the fun up to us. All you need is the cake

Open Recreation - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:15 to 8 p.m. Pre-registration required by parent. Open Recreation is free and open to ages K-17. Teen Night is on Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. Surf the net and enjoy a variety of games and activities!

Take the hassle out of your travel planning! The Yellow Water Housing Area has newly located ITT housed in the Youth

Activities Center. Convenient vacation and travel plans can be made virtually at your front door! Come in and make your travel plans for all the fun Florida vacation attractions and theme parks. The Yellow Water ITT staff will be providing the same friendly and courteous service as the main ITT Office at NAS Jax. Yellow Water Information Tickets and Tours Office hours of operation is Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, noon to 8 p.m. and Wednesday and Friday, noon to 6 p.m. For more information call 542-8247

Technology Exposition 2001

All Jacksonville NAS, Military and DoD Personnel are invited to attend The Technology Exposition 2001 on Friday, Jan. 26. The event takes place at the River Cove Officers' Club on Manatee Street (Bldg. 10), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Budweiser Brew House

The Budweiser Brew House located in "The Zone" Bldg. 798, corner of Jason Street and Saratoga Ave. is now open. The Brew House opens daily at 11 a.m. and will be NAS Jacksonville's football headquarters with NFL's Sunday ticket (this includes Mon Night Football). Enjoy lunch or dinner from a variety of menu items. Starting in February, The Brew House will be having Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. For more information call 542-3521. Other happenings at the Brew House: Happy Hour - Wednesdays and Fridays - 4 to 6 p.m.
Jan. 26 - JB playing - 8 p.m. to midnight
Saturday - \$2.50 pitchers
Jan. 18 - "Feeding Frenzy" - from 5:30 to 8 p.m. - Taco Bar for \$3.50
Superbowl Sunday Giveaways and Food/Beverage Discounts All Day!

Yesterday's Café

Step back in time to the great service and food you deserve! Sit back and listen to the Jukebox, and enjoy the weekly specials! It's a great place for lunch with all your friends! January's Super Special on Thursday's is the Chicken Salad for \$3.

CPO Lounge

Come join us for the Superbowl Party on Sunday, Jan. 28. Enjoy the game and our food and beverage specials! For reservations or information, call 542-3461.

Captain's Cup Racquetball Tournament

The Captain's Cup Racquetball Tournament is set for Jan. 22 through 26 at 4 p.m. It is open to all NAS Jax active duty personnel. For more information, contact the gym at 542-2930/3239.

Visit MWR online at www.nasjax.navy.mil/mwr or call the Marketing Office for general information at 542-3577.

HEALTHWATCH:

Prostate cancer awareness saves lives

From the Naval Media Center

Prostate cancer is the most common non-skin related malignancy in American men.

The American Cancer Society predicts that there will be about 180,400 new cases of prostate cancer in the United States this year, and about 31,900 men will die of this disease. This form of cancer is more common in men over the age of 50, but it has been found in younger men as well. More than eight out of 10 men with prostate cancer are over the age of 65.

Prostate cancer is more than twice as common among African-American men than it is among Caucasian men. It is also much more common in men with a family history of prostate cancer than in those without.

The good news is that we do have tools for early detection of prostate cancer. These tools include a rectal exam of the prostate and a simple blood test.

Using the blood test and exam, we have been able to detect prostate cancer at an earlier stage than in the past.

If caught early, prostate cancer is much more treatable, and the chances of a cure are very high with the use of modern therapy.



Project A-OK helps students make the grade

From Navy Exchange Service Command

Don't forget, it's time to take your child's recent report card to the nearest Navy Exchange to register for the Project A-OK program. Your child could win \$5,000, \$3,000 or \$2,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds, denominations at maturity. The next drawing will be at the end of February 2001.

"For four years now, Project A-OK has been rewarding children for getting good grades," said Rear Adm.

Steven W. Maas, commander, Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM). "I hope Project A-OK inspires children to do well in school so they can sign up to win a savings bond. This program is just another way the Navy Exchange supports Navy families."

Any eligible, full-time student who has a B grade point average equivalent or better, as determined by their school system, may enter the drawing. Eligible students include dependent children of active duty military members, reservists and military retirees, including those employed by or whose spouse is employed by the Navy Exchange System.

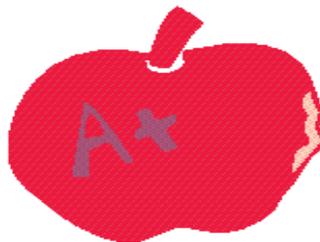
Children must be enrolled in first grade through undergraduate school. Dependent children without an individual Dependent Identification Card must be accompanied by their sponsor to submit their entry. Each stu-



once each grading period and must re-enter with each qualifying report card.

Drawings are held each quarter for a total of \$40,000 for the 2000/2001 school year.

To enter, stop by your Navy Exchange with your current report card and have a Navy Exchange associate verify your minimum grade average. Then fill out your entry card and obtain your A-OK ID, which entitles you to discount coupons for purchases at the Navy Exchange. The A-OK ID card is valid



Navy Exchange expands spaces, services

By **JO2 Mike Jones**
Assistant Editor

Patrons of the Navy Exchange aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville can look forward to a lot more room to shop. Since January 2000, the NEX and the commissary have undergone an extensive renovation. The NEX has also implemented several changes in its service.

The most noticeable change is the expansion of the NEX main store's floor area to include an extra 35,000 square feet. "When it's done, the total store facility will have over 120,000 square feet of floor space," said NEX General Manager Marsha Brooks.

The furniture department, previously located in the complex's courtyard, will occupy a majority

of this additional space, Brooks said. "The largest impact will be in the furniture area," she said. "The new furniture location is expanding to almost 10,000 square feet which is a majority of the expansion."

As other portions of the main store relocate to the new area, other NEX services on base will also operate under the main store roof, Brooks said. "One of the concepts

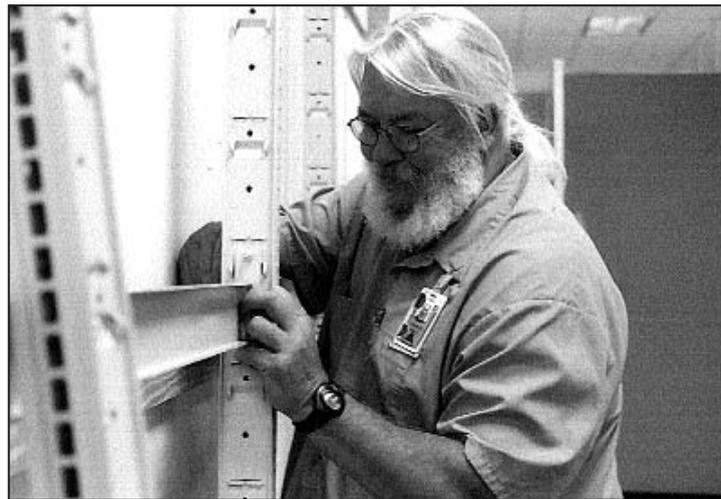
behind this is to make this like a one-stop shopping area," she said. "For example, the uniform department is going to

expand and the tailor shop is going to become part of the uniform shop. The laundry facility has also moved up to the main Exchange now. The barber and beauty shop have moved here. It's all combined in one area. This (renovation) has made things much more convenient.

"We've now opened the optical shop, for example. We did not have a doctor of optometry. Now we have a doctor on site so customers can get an eye appointment, fitted for glasses or contact lenses ... so that service expanded."

The courtyard at the store's main entrance will remain, Brooks said. "The layout itself will be similar. The courtyard area will remain," she said. "We'll be offering five food concepts in the courtyard." Food services to appear in the courtyard include Taco Bell, Burger King and KFC, she added.

The NEX Mini Mart, located at the front of the store, will also benefit from the expansion, she said. "The convenience area will have a larger selection of items. More items can be brought out



NEX Maintenance Worker Bryon Crowder fastens a support frame that will be part of a display wall in the expanded section of the store.

from the stockroom with more floor space."

Once an area is completed, it will be open to the customers, Brooks said. "They'll see walls going up in the main store over the next eight months. New lighting and fixtures will be added. It'll be like walking into a brand new store," she said. "While (the construction process) may seem a little inconvenient, the customers should see some exciting new changes at the same time."

"We're looking to offer our Sailors and their families more goods and services," Brooks said. "It's a definite improvement to the quality of life."



NEX Maintenance workers Gary Pirner (right) and Dennis Bodle assemble display shelves in the store's expanded area.



Harold Brauch, NEX facilities maintenance worker, adjusts the wiring of the new store section.



As part of the NEX renovation, approximately 10,000 square feet of floor-space was added to the main store.

Education at top of commissary shopping list

By **Bonnie Powell**

Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. — The focus is on education this fall at the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA). A new program offers a scholarship of \$1,500 or more to a college-bound military child at installations served by a commissary. More than one scholarship may be awarded at larger stores. DeCA operates nearly 290 commissaries worldwide.

The Defense Commissary Agency/Fisher House Foundation Scholarships For Military Children is a high priority with DeCA Director Maj. Gen. Robert J. Coulter, Jr.

“The program will enhance our local commissaries as important quality of life benefactors for military families,” Coulter said. “Our stores will be able to increase their impact by providing educational opportunities for the children of our military communities.

“The commissary system has long supported promotions with a focus on education,” he continued. “This program complements, and should not impact, existing local or regional scholarship programs that are awarded through installation activities, organizations affiliated with the military community, or scholarships funded by a particular vendor at a particular commissary.”

Many of the manufacturers and distributors who sell products through the commissary system are enthusiastically supporting the new scholarship program with their donations.

Students who are interested in applying for the scholarships can stop by their local commissary to pick up an application. Completed applications must be returned to the commissary prior to Feb. 15, where a store official will validate it by checking the

dependent’s ID. Applications will also be available for download from the DeCA website at: www.commissaries.com.

The scholarships are open to qualified sons and daughters of U. S. military ID card holders to include active duty, retirees, and guard/reserves. Students must have a 3.0 grade point average to qualify and write a short essay on “What Being a Military Dependent Means to Me.” Students currently attending college may also be eligible to apply. Scholarships offered for 2001 will be at least \$1,500 per commissary. Recipients will be notified by April 30.

Fisher House Foundation will administer the scholarship program and accept all industry donations earmarked for “Defense Commissary Agency/Fisher House Foundation Scholarships for Military Children.” The foundation also has retained an independent contractor to

screen the scholarship applications. Well known for building and operating 26 comfort houses near military medical facilities, Fisher Houses offer a “home away from home” to military families who want to stay near loved ones during a medical crisis.

“Fisher House Foundation is delighted to join DeCA and its suppliers in providing scholarships for military family members,” said Arnold Fisher, Chairman of Fisher House Foundation and nephew of its founder, Zachary Fisher. “The scholarship program is a natural extension to our ever-growing network of Fisher Houses at major military medical centers. It’s the type of endeavor my uncle had in mind when he set up a charitable foundation to help meet the needs of servicemen and women and their families.”

Commissaries have a long tradition of supporting the military community through good will programs such as vendor-sponsored educational and charitable promotions, cooperative efforts with community quality of life programs, and employee involvement in a wide range of installation activities. Ongoing programs supported include scholarships, military cooking schools, a touring theatrical production, and canine assistants for the disabled.



You can make a positive difference in a child's life

By JO3 Jackey Bratt
Staff writer

The Department of Juvenile Justice believes that mentoring is an important part of the department's efforts to achieve its vision of reducing juvenile crimes in Florida.

Mentoring is a close personal relationship in which a person with specific abilities and talents helps another person to develop their own abilities and talents. Mentoring also provides a juvenile with a direct and positive influences in their life. Being there to listen to them, offer advice

when needed, and help guide them through the difficult pre-teen and teenage years. Mentoring also reduces the incidence of juvenile delinquency and helps the department fulfill its mission to increase public safety and guide Florida youth toward becoming responsible citizens.

Youth need the physical presence and the emotional support of a social network of parents, family members, and local community to protect and guide them. Unfortunately, today the traditional family, community and civic life has weakened. Fewer people know their neighbors and single parents head many

households. The pressures on working families limit the time they dedicate to their children. Many youth grow up in families that are under tremendous pressure due to poverty, divorce, teen pregnancy, drug abuse, violence, and unemployment. Mentoring is one of the ways to meet the challenges of our changing society. Through mentoring you can help provide youth with the care and guidance they need.

In mentoring, the benefits work both ways. The mentor and community benefit, as well as the youth. The mentor gains a sense of satisfaction and purpose, and the community is able to reach out

and attend to the needs of its at-risk youth. The mission of the department's mentoring and volunteer program enables the department to increase both the quality and quantity of juvenile justice services and programs throughout the system.

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice is ready to help you become a mentor. If you feel that you can offer the guidance and support a young person needs, contact Valerie Carlson at 726-0003 or email her at: ValerieCarlson@djj.state.fl.us. "We have to help our kids one at a time." - General Colin L. Powell

February volunteer opportunities available

American Cancer Society

'Making Strides Against Cancer' Walk-a-Thon - Feb. 3

The American Cancer Society is looking for volunteers to help out with set-up and tear-down activities, as well as handing out refreshments along the route. If you're interested call Ms. Therese Yanochik at (904) 398-0537 to sign up.

beautifying Jacksonville. Urban Tree

Rangers will be pruning trees near the Acosta Bridge that were planted several years ago by former Urban Tree Rangers. For more information contact Bonnie Hilton or Ms. Anna Dooley at 389-5757.

The Alliance for World Class Education

'Much Ado About Books' - Feb. 17

The Alliance for World Class Education is looking for Navy volunteers to participate in the second annual 'Much Ado About Books' event at the Prime Osborn Convention Center to benefit the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation. Volunteers will be needed during one or two hour shifts from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to assist with various functions of the event including reading to children. For complete information, or to sign up for a shift, contact Leslie Kirkwood at 246-7075.

JaxPride Week 2001

Feb. 24 - March 3

The JaxPride Coalition is looking for volunteers to help out with a number of

tree/flower plantings and beautification projects throughout Jacksonville. Watch for more information on specific projects to be made available in the next few weeks or contact Ms. Shirley Dasher at 398-4646. Make sure to tell her that you are calling from the Navy!

On-Going Opportunities

Ronald McDonald House Family

Room volunteers - Families away from home due to a child in the hospital need a place they can call home and feel comforted. Chat with visiting families in the hospital waiting room and make sure the room is stocked with furnished snacks, drinks, games and videos. For more information contact Ms. Lisa McCarthy or Ms. Manya Stone at 798-2950.

Love to Help Kids? - Become a Recreational Assistant with a nonprofit agency serving children and their families. Volunteers are needed to assist in supervising and coaching recreational activities and sporting events. Help provide a safe and orderly environment for recreational activities. To sign up contact Jo McIntel or Diane St. Laurent at Community Connec-

tions, 727-6460.

Help sort food at the Second Harvest

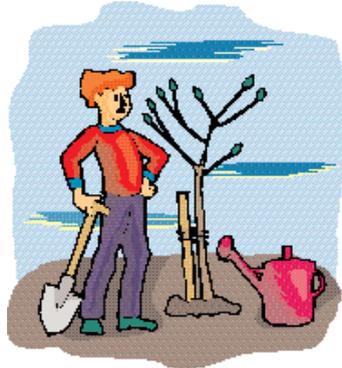
Food Bank. - For the past 20 years, the LSS Second Harvest Food Bank has served as our community's dependable, cost-effective source for local non-profit agencies serving hungry children, seniors, ill and the needy. Help them by sorting donated food and restocking their shelves. Contact Joy Spaulding at 353-3663.

Outdoor gardening and carpentry

work. - Tree Hill, Jacksonville's Nature Center, is looking for volunteers to assist with maintaining the gardens and nature trails; mulching; and minor carpentry repairs. If you can help out call Lucille Cortese at 724-4646 or Mr. Mark Mum-maw at 724-9132.

Duval County School Teacher's

Supply Depot. - Volunteers are needed to help organize and restock school materials. This is a great way to show support of community schools! The Depot's new location is in the John Gorrie Middle School on College Street in downtown Jacksonville. Directions will be provided. If anyone is interested, please leave a message for Chris Buckley at 390-2960.



Greenscape of Jacksonville

Urban Tree Rangers - Feb. 10

Join Greenscape of Jacksonville in

NAS Jacksonville to host annual Navy Run

The Naval Air Station Jacksonville will host their 23rd annual Navy 10K Run/5K Walk Saturday, April 7, at 8 a.m.

Registration forms are available at the Fitness Source (Bldg. 867,) and the base gym (Bldg. 614.)

Pre-registration will be held at the Holiday Inn, Route 17, in Orange Park on Friday, April 16, from 11:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.

The race is free to all active duty personnel. The cost to all others is \$15 prior to April 7. The cost for the non-military members registering the day of the race is \$20.

Late registration will take place in the Navy Exchange parking lot the day of the race from 6 to 7:45 a.m. Packets may

also be picked up on race day at the registration area.

The course for the race will start on Child St. in front of the Navy Exchange Convenience Store, and finish on Enterprise Avenue at the Child Street intersection.

There will be an awards ceremony following the run in the Navy Exchange parking lot.

Following the 10K run, awards will be presented for the top three male and female finishers, top Masters and Grand Masters, plus three males and females in each age group. The top male and female in the Wheelchairs Category will receive awards as well.

Following the 5K walk, the top 10

male and female finishers will receive awards (no age group), as will the top three military teams. There is a maximum of five members per team.

There will be a shoe fair outside the Navy Exchange the morning of the race.

The Navy 10K race is part of the Jacksonville Grand Prix circuit. For additional information call 542-2930 or 542-3518.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The regular monthly meeting of the Branch 126, Fleet Reserve Association will be held tonight at 8 p.m. at the Branch Home, 7673 Blanding Blvd. at 8 p.m. All active duty and/or retired enlisted personnel of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard; and enlisted Reserve Personnel are invited to join Branch 126 and attend the meetings.

February is American Heart Month. In conjunction with Healthy Heart Month, the Wellness Center will be conducting blood pressure checks at the NEX and the Commissary between 1000 and 1400 on the following dates:

Thursday, Feb. 1
Wednesday, Feb. 7
Wednesday, Feb. 14
Wednesday, Feb. 21
Tuesday, Feb. 27

The Oakleaf Spouses Club of Jacksonville is hosting its Time and Talent Charity Auction Friday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m., at the NAS Jacksonville Officer's Club. A \$5 fee includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and bid number. Items to be auctioned include weekend timeshares, sailing, dinners, tennis lessons, salons, and more. The Club is made up of officer's spouses from the Naval Hospital and Dental Clinic at NAS Jax. Money raised will go to the club's charities fund which benefits their commands.

The First coast Chapter of the Navy Mustang Association will meet today at 5 p.m. at the Spindrift Restaurant/Hotel on US-17 and I-295. The agenda will include induction of new Officers and Board of Directors. Special

Committee Officers will provide updates on the Association's Scholarship progress, fund raisers, and social activities. A brief "Greet and Meet" social will follow. All active duty, reserve and retired Navy and Marine Corps Mustang Officers from Kingsbay, Jacksonville and Mayport are welcome and encouraged to attend. Applications to join will be available. For more information please contact Lt. Bernie Williams-McGuire at 270-5001 or 270-5306.

You're invited to join the Chapter FL1-X motor cycle club at their regular Friday night get together at the Dairy Queen on Kingsley Ave. in Orange Park at 7 p.m. The club is made up of active duty and retired military members

who share a love of bike riding making new friends. Don't be shy, come and have some fun. If you have questions, call JoAnn Dilling at 778-2821 or 291-3354.

The Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 "Skinny Dragons," based in Kaneohe, Hawaii, are having a reunion for all its former members on May 17 through 20 at Pensacola, Fla. For information on the reunion write to: Steve Andruszkewicz, 13115 Le Par #35, Chino Hills, CA 91709. To reach him by phone call (909) 591-2329, email address: stevevaz@bigfoot.com. The reunion hotline number is (405) 321-0287 and the website is www.vp4association.com.

The Florida Georgia Blood Alliance is seeking volunteers. Have you ever wanted to make a difference? You can by volunteering the gift of time at one of our donor center locations throughout Jacksonville. All positions are open. These include greeting donors, assisting in drawing areas and the laboratory, contacting eligible donors, clerical assistance and more. Hours are flexible and training is gladly provided. For more information contact Diane Strickland, 353-8263, ext. 333.

Olympics arrive in Jacksonville. The City of Jacksonville Department of Parks, Recreation and Entertainment urges you to cheer for your favorite athletes at the 2001 Duval County Special Olympics Spring Ganges scheduled for Saturday Feb. 3 at The Bolles School, 7400 San Jose Boulevard. Events run from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Volunteers can register at 7:30 a.m., and opening ceremonies begin at 9:30 a.m. At 11 a.m., featured entertainers "Strum Daddy's Generation Squared" will perform. Volunteers are needed to assist as an Athlete Buddy, Event Assistants and Medical Support. Lunch and t-shirts are provided to all volunteers. To work with our special athletes, please call 630-3598.



Anyone up for Ping-Pong?

Proctor & Gamble Retail Representative Linda Stone puts the finishing touches on one of several athletic displays at the NAS Jacksonville Commissary Jan. 11. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of items used in the display will be donated to the Special Olympics.



JAX SPORTS

Sports officials and scorekeepers needed

The North Florida Military Officials Association is looking for individuals to officiate soccer, softball, football, and volleyball at NAS Jax. Scorekeepers are also needed for basketball and softball leagues. Experience is not required. If you are interested in officiating and scorekeeping contact George Phillips at 387-2047.



Greybeard Basketball League forming

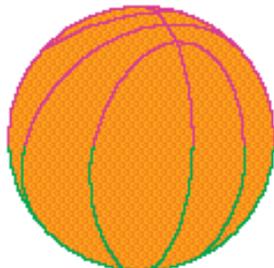
If you are active duty and 33 years of age or older, you are eligible to participate in the Greybeard Basketball League. The games are played on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:15 a.m. and noon. To join the league, call the NAS Jax Athletics Department.

Women's basketball league forming

The NAS Jax Athletics would like to form a women's basketball league to begin in January. If you are a female active duty, military dependent over 18, or DoD civilian then you are eligible to participate. Teams and individual players are needed. Call the NAS Jax Gymnasium for more information.

Men's and women's varsity basketball and softball coaches needed

The NAS Jax Athletic Department is looking for experienced individuals who would be interested in coaching varsity



basketball and softball teams. The varsity teams are comprised of the top NAS Jax active duty athletes and represent NAS Jax in community, regional, and national level tournaments. Military and civilian personnel are eligible to coach the varsity teams. Interested personnel should contact Bill Bonser.

Captain's Cup and Regional Qualifier men's and women's singles racquetball tournament Jan. 22-26

Would you like to earn Captain's Cup points for your command? Active Duty personnel earn points for their command just by participating in this event. The tournament is free and for active duty members only. There are four divisions: men's open - ages 34 & under; men's seniors - 35-39; men's masters - 40 & up; and women's open - all ages. Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each division. Winners will also represent NAS Jax in the South Atlantic Regional Racquetball Tournament at Kings Bay Feb. 9 - 10. Call the base gym for more information.

Intramural soccer meeting Feb. 2

The Intramural Soccer league is open to all NAS Jax active duty personnel and is a Captain's Cup event. The meeting will be held at the conference room in "The Zone" at 11:30 a.m. All interested personnel should attend the meeting to discuss the rules and to get the required paperwork to join the league.

Softball meetings Feb. 15

The Intramural League is open to all NAS Jax active duty personnel and is a Captain's Cup event. The Greybeard League is open to all NAS Jax active duty personnel 33 years of age and older and is a Captain's Cup event. The Women's League is open to active duty, dependents over 18, retirees, DOD and NAF civilian employees. The meetings will be held at the conference room in "The Zone" at 11:30am - Intramural; 12 noon - Greybeard; and Women - 12:30pm. The Open League is open to active duty, dependents over 18, retirees, DOD and NAF civilian employees. The meeting will be held at 4pm at Mulligans. All interested personnel should attend the meeting to discuss the 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.