



JaxAir News

TOUCHING BASE

Tax Center open for business

The NAS Jax Tax Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Building 590. All active-duty, retirees, recalled reservists and their families can use this free service. Qualified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance representatives will prepare and electronically file tax returns free of charge. For more information or to make an appointment, call 542-3395.



Military Spouse 101 information briefing slated

From FFSC

On March 27, NAS Jacksonville Fleet and Family Support Center and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department will team up to co-sponsor Military Spouse 101. This program is designed to make spouses who are new to the military or the local Jacksonville area better aware of Navy and community support programs and services.

The program will include a mini overview of available military services and get acquainted reception to meet the base commanding officer and other support personnel.

The event will kick-off at 6:30 p.m. at the NAS Jacksonville River Cove Conference Center. This program will be presented every three months during 2003. Childcare will be available and registration is required.

For additional information and registration, call 542-2766, Ext. 130.

NAS Jacksonville Tech Exposition planned

The NAS Jacksonville Technology Expo is March 25 at the River Cove Officers' Club, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All personnel are invited to attend.

Many exhibitors will be on-hand demonstrating the latest in computer hardware, software and services.

There is no fee to attend and complimentary refreshments will be served. Free giveaways will be available while supplies last.

For more information, contact Meredith Davis at davis@ncsievents.com.



Photo by PH2 Brian Slueber

Rear Adm. James Kelly, director, Warfare Programs and Readiness, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, presents TM1(SW/AW) Jose Santana (right) the Lone Sailor statue during a ceremony at the Commander, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (COMLANTFLT) Compound March 14 as his wife, Solange looks on. Santana was chosen as COMLANTFLT's Direct Reporter Shore Sailor of the Year.

Santana wins three in a row, Atlantic Fleet is next

By JO1 Mike Jones
Assistant Editor

NAS Jacksonville's TM1(SW/AW) Jose Santana was named Commander, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (COMLANTFLT) Direct Reporting Shore Sailor of the Year in a ceremony at the COMLANTFLT compound in Norfolk, Va. March 14. Santana was chosen from a group of 14 candidates of which only three were selected for final review.

He will next compete for COMLANTFLT Shore Sailor of the Year April 14-17.

This follows his selection as Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) Sailor of the Year in January and NAS Jacksonville Sailor of the Year in December 2002.

"This is truly an honor for me - one that would not have been possible without the support of my command, the base and the region," he said. "I've felt this enormous sense of unity going into this competition."

Santana also explained his family provided crucial support in the process. "My wife has supported this effort 100 percent," he noted. "My son, Xavier, has also been helping me to prepare with information and asking questions. Without my family, I couldn't have come this far."

A native of Paterson, N.J., Santana joined the Navy in 1984 after graduating from John F. Kennedy High School. After completing boot camp at Recruit Training

See SANTANA, Page 8

'Diamondcutters' anniversary VS-30 celebrates 50 years of flying

From VS-30

"Diamondcutters," past and present, gathered in Hangar 1000 aboard NAS Jacksonville to celebrate the squadron's 50th anniversary March 13.

VS-30's Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Michael Ginter gave the opening remarks followed

by a number of other distinguished guest speakers who shed light on what it was like to be a junior officer or a commanding officer during their "time."

The guest speakers re-lected on their time spent with the squadron and included retired Lt. Cmdr. Don Beattie, who served with VS-30 from August 1953 to January 1956; retired Capt. Russ Vollmer, who served as commanding officer from June 1965 to July 1966, while the squadron was the S-2 Tracker Replacement Air Group; retired

Capt. William Somerville, who commanded VS-30 from June 1973 to September 1974; former skipper and retired Capt. Phil Voss, and Capt. Ted Algire, who commanded VS-30 from October 1996 to January 1998 and will soon become commodore of Sea Control Wing, Atlantic.

During the ceremony Ginter proposed a solemn toast to missing and fallen comrades. The toast was especially dear to the children of one deceased Diamondcutter, Marvin Apple, Sr., who served with VS-801 (which later became VS-30) from 1942 until 1945.

In 1951, Apple Sr. reported to VS-30 for a second tour and died while flying a training mission in 1954. His children, Marvin Apple, Jr. and Gloria Apple-Dalton, ages four and 11 at the time of their father's death, attended the reunion in order to meet the men that knew and worked with their father.

NAS Jax MWR catered the



Photo courtesy of VS-30

From left, Retired Lt. Cmdr. Don Beatty, Capt. Ted Algire, retired Capt. Russ Vollmer, Cmdr. Michael Ginter, commanding officer of VS-30, retired Capt. William Somerville and retired Capt. Phil Voss proudly stand before the crowd during the 50th anniversary celebration of VS-30. The retirees (all former commanding officers and squadron members) were presented plaques for their participation in the event.

anniversary dinner and the Navy Band Southeast Jazz Ensemble provided the music.

The anniversary cake was cut by the oldest Diamondcutter present, J.H. Ray, (VS-801 1949-1951), and

Lt. j.g. Justin Drach, the youngest active duty officer in attendance. Each of the guests received a copy of the group photo and a specially designed coin to take home and cherish until the next reunion.



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

(Above) Barbara Millhollan, NAS Jax MWR Fitness Center director helps Marcus Hamrick put a food item into a food pyramid during a recent class at the Youth Activities Center as part of National Nutrition Month.

A group of children at the Youth Activities Center(right) learn about nutrition and the different food groups from NAS Jax MWR Fitness Center Director Barbara Millhollan.



Children learn nutritional values

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WEEKEND WEATHER

	FRIDAY 67/79 THUNDERSTORMS
	SATURDAY 61/76 PARTLY CLOUDY
	SUNDAY 60/76 PARTLY CLOUDY

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

CHAPEL'S CORNER

PREP offered to couples before marriage

From the Base Chapel

While passion can last a lifetime, at some point, love usually faces a "reality check." If you haven't already, you and your partner will likely change from vaguely seeing, but not caring about your partner's flaws, to seeing clearly and caring very much.

Some martial experts suggest that couples need to understand that once the euphoric state is over, it's over. The deep passion-the burning flame-has gone out, so get over it and learn to live without those feelings, or find a new partner and start over again.

We, the staff members of the base chapel, don't think this is the truth of love. We agree more with Henry David Thoreau who said, "If you have

built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them."

We believe that passion and deep love can last for a lifetime, but this is not always the case. Deep, lasting love is not common, but it is a treasure worth pursuing, protecting, even fighting for.

Thirty years of research have shown that having a great marriage is not just a matter of luck nor is an unhappy marriage a matter of mystery. Couples can learn the skills and principles of successful relationships.

The Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) approach offered through the base chapel is designed to teach couples how to keep their love castle in the

air where it should and can be.

PREP is one of the most comprehensive and well-respected divorce-prevention/marriage enhancing programs in the world. PREP is a skills and principles-building curriculum designed to help partners say what they need to say, get to the heart of the problem, and increase their connection with each other.

This program is required for all active duty members wishing to utilize the base chapel for weddings. It is highly recommended for all others. By taking this course, the traditional three-day waiting period upon application for a wedding license is waived and a special discount is also possible.

For more information, call the base chapel at 542-3051.



Meet A Sailor...

PR3 JOSEPH MCCARTHY

Job title/command:
TPU

Hometown: Newaygo, Mich.

Family Life: Wife, Kathleen and two children, Elizabeth and Joseph.

Past Duty Stations: VS-32, USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71)

Career Plans: To pursue a career in the U.S. Customs Agency.

Most Interesting Experience:

Participating in Operation Enduring Freedom aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt.

Words of Wisdom: Don't do drugs.



Meet A Civilian...

PAMELLA MCCARLEY

Job title/command:
Safety Specialist

Hometown: Jacksonville

Family Life: Married with three grown children.

Career Plans: To retire in 2004.

Most Interesting Experience: Fly fishing and traveling.

Words of Wisdom: Make each day count.

Religious Ministries Department
Holy Week Services 2003

Catholic	Protestant
Passion Play Monday, April 14, 7:00pm Wed. April 16, 7:00pm	Friday Service April 18, 7:00am-8:00am
Holy Thursday April 17, 7:00pm, 8:00pm	Holy Thursday April 17, 11:00am
Good Friday April 18, 7:00am, 8:00am	Good Friday April 18, 7:00am
Day of the Resurrection April 19, 7:00am	Easter Sunday April 20, 7:00am
Resurrection Vigil Celebrations Monday, April 21, 8:00pm	Easter Sunday April 20, 11:00am, 12:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm

For more information, please call 942-3863/3862

Volunteers needed for Special Olympics this Saturday

From Commander, Navy Region Southeast

Here is your chance to make a difference in the life of a very special athlete by volunteering to assist with the Area Five 2003 Special Olympics games this Saturday.

Volunteers are needed to help with approximately 800 Special Olympic athletes who will participate in the Area Five Special Olympic Spring Games at Edward H. White High School. The Special Olympics athletes, from children to adults, will compete in a variety of events including running, throwing and the long jump.

Dianne Parker, NAS Jax Fleet and Family Support Center Special Olympics coordinator, has asked for individuals and groups who would like to serve as Special Olympics athlete "buddies," as well as volunteers who are able to assist with setting up and running the sports events for the day. Volunteers will be needed from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 3 p.m.

Athletes from an eight-county region will be participating in the Area Five games. About 1,000 volunteers are needed to be "buddy" or "event" volunteers. The minimum age requirement for volunteers is 12 years old, unless volunteering with an adult family member.

"Buddy" volunteers are

asked to report no later than 9 a.m. and can sign up or ask for more information by calling Parker at 542-2766, Ext. 130 or by sending an email message to oparker@nasjax.navy.mil.

Sports events volunteers are asked to report no later than 8:30 a.m. and can sign up by calling Bill Bonser at 542-2930/3239 or by emailing dbonser@nasjax.navy.mil. Sports events volunteers will be briefed before game day on duties and assignments.

Volunteers may also sign up through the NAS Jacksonville website at www.nasjax.navy.mil. Click on "Special Olympics". Special Olympics organ-

izers are also collecting trophies which will be refurbished and presented to each Special Olympian. If you have trophies in storage that you would like to donate to this cause, or know of an individual or corporation who does, please contact the NAS Jacksonville Gym at 542-3239. Trophies may be dropped off anytime during normal gym hours.

Volunteers participating in the Special Olympics event will receive beverages, lunch and recognition certificates. All volunteers are asked to pick up their certificates following the closing ceremonies. Volunteers will also receive a complimentary event T-shirt on a first-come, first-served basis.

Special Olympics history has Navy roots

By Dr. Fran Farrell
Flagler College, Special Olympics Coordinator

On Saturday, NAS Jacksonville is hosting, for the fifth time, the Special Olympics Area V Summer Games. This year our games will be at Ed White High School and there is still time to volunteer.

Here is a short history of Special Olympics...

One of the many casualties of World War II was a young Navy pilot, Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. His parents, brothers and sisters established, in Joe's memory, a foundation to study the causes of mental retardation.

The Kennedy Foundation has worked with other researchers in identifying more than 150 medical reasons why someone might have this disability and the foundation continues as a leading advocate in the prevention of mental retardation.

Following the assassination of her brother, President John F. Kennedy, Eunice Kennedy Shriver moved to Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., Foundation into new areas.

She established a summer sports camp which she called "Special Olympics." Here, she instructed people with mental disabilities how to run, jump, and swim.

In June 1968, her brother, Sen. Bobby Kennedy was assassinated and this tragedy seems to be the turning point in launching the Special Olympics.

Shriver rented Soldiers' Field in Chicago, and in July 1968 Special Olympics International was established with almost a thousand athletes from three nations with its first international games.

Today, Special Olympics is in more than 160 different nations, and has almost two million athletes competing in 15 Olympic sports. We are the true ammmeters! In Florida, Special

Olympics is organized into different seasons for competition.

This Saturday, we will have area games for the summer season (track and field, soccer, tennis, volleyball and cycling). For the 14th year, the Navy family has sponsored our games (nine years at NAS Cecil Field and the fifth year for NAS Jacksonville). Special Olympics has set the goal not on winning, even as wonderful as that is, but more importantly on the need to participate.

President Kennedy stated that, "A nation's greatness can be measured by the way the nation treats its weakest citizens." The men and women who call NAS Jacksonville home empower Special Olympic athletes on the First Coast to be able to celebrate and live with pride, the winning spirit of skill, courage, sharing and joy.

Please know you enrich us with your strength, comfort us with your resolve and enable us to shine. Thank You!

HEY MONEYMAN

Hey, MoneyMan!

I am interested in buying a car, but I hate the process. It seems you can never be sure if you are getting a good deal and prices seem to vary by thousands of dollars.

How can I negotiate a fair price for a new or used car when I do not what to look out for?

MoneyMan Sez:

Buying a car is expensive and the process is complicated. It would be nice if it were like shopping at the Navy Exchange where the price is posted and everyone pays the same amount; but it is not.

The April 2003 Consumer Reports issue gives you 10 "tricks of the trade" that car dealers use to get you to pay more than you should. Here are some of them:

The false credit score. The dealer checks your credit report but tells you that it is lower than it really is. This allows them to charge a higher interest rate than the advertised rate that got you to the dealer in the first place.

We'll pay off your loan. Even if the dealer pays off your old car, the debt does not disappear. If you owe \$8,000 on your trade-in and the new car is \$21,000, you now owe \$29,000 for the new car.

Dealers may spread out the payments for six or

more years to make it look like your payment is lower.

What can you afford to pay per month? Can you afford \$400 per month or \$300 per month? Well, it depends on how many months.

At \$400 per month for 36 months, the total is \$14,400, while \$300 per month for 60 months is \$18,000. The better deal is obvious.

Always negotiate the vehicle price first, as if you were paying cash. Then negotiate the best interest rate available. Pay the car off shortest time you can afford.

The mandatory extended warranty. You are ready to sign the papers when the finance manager says you must buy the \$3,000 extended warranty because the bank requires it.

Don't do it. Rarely, if ever, does a bank require an extended warranty. Consumer Reports does not recommend buying an extended warranty unless the car is particularly trouble-prone. But then, maybe you are buying the wrong car!

More of the Consumer Reports 10 "tricks of the trade" will appear in future MoneyMan articles. Stay tuned!

More questions? Call Hey MoneyMan at 778-0353.

Uniforms to change this month

The shift to the summer uniform of the day for all ships present and stations with in Commander, Navy Region Southeast's area of responsibility will take effect March 31 at 12:01 a.m.

At this time, the uniform of the day will be:

Male/Female Officer/CPO E6 and below	Prescribed Summer White Service Dress White	Alternate Service Khaki Summer White
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Weekend Services

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

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

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

Look for anchors in classified ads



Looking for your ad? Beginning this week, all Fleet Market Ads placed by military members, retirees or DoD civilians in the Jax Air News will be highlighted with an anchor. This will enable ad placers to better locate their ads in the classified section.

NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Mark S. Boensel
Public Affairs Officer Charles P. "Pat" Dooling
Deputy Public Affairs Officer Miriam A. Lareau
U.S. Naval Air Station Jacksonville Editorial Staff
Editor Miriam S. Gallet
Assistant Editor JO1 Mike Jones
Staff Writer JO2(SCW) Eric Clay

Civilian Staff
Manager Ellen S. Rykert
Staff Writer Kaylee LaRocque
Design/Layout George Atchley

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Deadline for all routine copy is close of business the Friday before publication. Deadline for Classified submission is noon Monday. Questions or comments can be directed to the editor. The **Jax Air News** can be reached at (904) 542-8053 or by fax at (904) 542-1534 or write the **Jax Air News**, Box 2, NAS Jacksonville, Fla., 32212-5000. All news releases should be sent to this address.

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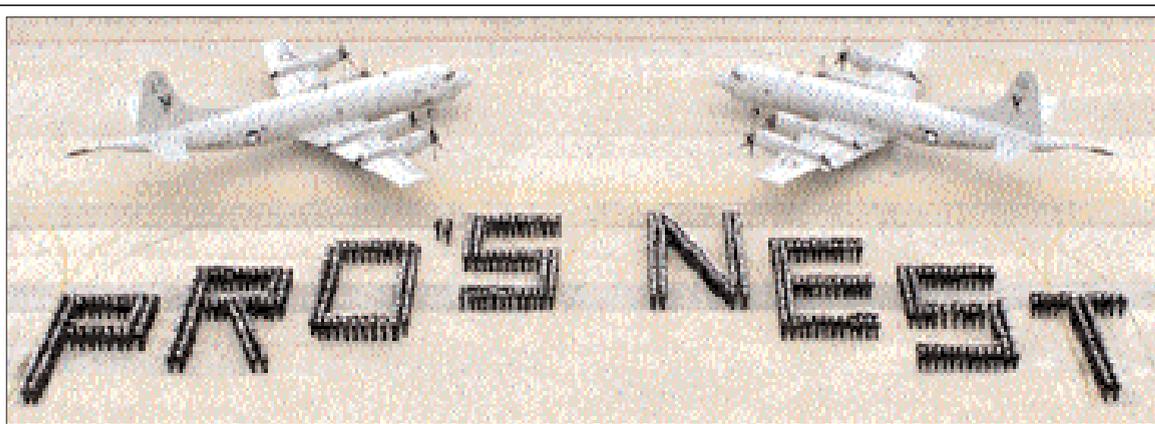


Photo by PH2 Lynn Friant

Quite a view

VP-30 squadron members line up in formation as crewmembers from HS-15 hover overhead in a SH-60 helicopter to capture this unique photo. Planning and preparation to achieve this shot required the coordination of more than 900 people, two P-3 aircraft, and a SH-60 helicopter.

VP-16 'War Eagles' hold change of command ceremony

By Lt. j.g. Brandon Griffiths
VP-16 PAO

Cmdr. James Sperry relieved Cmdr. William Radomski as commanding officer of VP-16, in a ceremony held at NAS Jacksonville March 14.

Rear Adm. (Sel) Kenneth Deutsch, deputy for Resources and Requirements in Space, Information Warfare, Command and Control was the guest speaker.

Sperry, a native of Joplin, Mo., graduated from the University of Missouri in May, 1984. Upon completion of flight training in November 1985, Sperry was designated a naval flight officer.

Sperry then reported to VP-8 in Brunswick, Maine, serving as special projects officer and legal officer during three deployments to Iceland, Spain, and the Azores.

In December 1989, he reported to VP-30, where he served as a fleet replacement squadron instructor.

In July 1993, Sperry reported to USS Kitty Hawk as communications officer. Following refresher training, he reported to VP-10 in October 1995 for his department head tour, serving as training and operations officer.

In September 1995, Sperry was reassigned to Commander, Task Force 84 for duty as the force operations officer. He then



Cmdr. James Sperry

attended Old Dominion University and earned a Masters of Science in Education Administration.

In January 2001, he reported to Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance



Cmdr. William Radomski

Force Atlantic as the multi-mission aircraft projects officer. Sperry reported as the executive officer of VP-16 in March 2002.

Sperry is married and has three children.

Under Radomski's command, VP-16 received numerous awards including the Commander, Atlantic Fleet Retention Award and surpassed 37 years and 253,000 hours of Class 'A' mishap-free flying.

Assuming the duties of executive officer of VP-16 is Cmdr. Charles Hollingsworth.

His tours include VP-45; VP-30; Commander, Carrier Group Four; VP-16; Patrol Wing Eleven; and Commander, Task Force 57/72.

A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Hollingsworth is a naval aviator and native of Commerce, Texas. He is married and has four children.

USO sponsors golf tourney

The 2003 USO Charity Golf Tournament will be held April 3 at the NAS Jacksonville Golf Course.

Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

The event will be Captain's Choice. The cost is \$50 for military members and retirees and \$75 for all other players.

Following the event, lunch will be provided and prizes will be awarded.

For more information, contact Bob Coonan at 778-2821.



Photos by Kevin Gartland

AM1(AW) Billie Brownfield and his daughter, Jasmine spent last Saturday morning participating in the annual St. John's River Clean-Up.

NAS Jax Environmental participates in annual clean-up

By Kori Morrow
Base Environmental

Last Saturday, several members from the NAS Jacksonville Environmental Division with the support of the Northeast Environmental Compliance Partnering Team and the Holy Family Catholic Church participated in the annual City of Jacksonville's St. John's River Celebration and Clean-up.

"Our division was extremely active in getting this site cleaned up and provided boats for the clean-up effort. We had a total of 22 people, working nearly 22 hours to accomplish this task," said Kori Morrow, an intern with the division and the site captain for the Hood Landing area.

During the morning, the division collected approximately 1,025 pounds of garbage, comprised of mostly beer bottles and cans. "Among the trash, we recovered a few unique objects such as a tire, old television set, a lounge chair, two tarps and lots of paper products," added Morrow.

Following the clean-up, a special celebration was held for all participants in both Duval and Clay Counties at Metropolitan Park and the Clay County Fairgrounds. All participants received free T-shirts and refreshments.



Members of the NAS Jacksonville Environmental Division help clean-up the St. John's River.

Navy Legal Services Office provides numerous services

From NLSO Southeast

NLSO Southeast attorneys provide advice and some document preparation in the areas of wills, estate planning, powers of attorney, real property, landlord-tenant, family law (divorce, separation, adoption, custody and support), consumer law, immigration, military rights and benefits (SSCRA & USERRA), taxation and notary for active duty, recalled reservists, retirees and eligible family

members.

Attorney consultations are by appointment only, with the following exceptions:

Walk-ins: Mondays, 830-11 a.m. (Clients must have all documents with them)

Powers of Attorney and Notaries: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 1-3:30 p.m. Certain emergency situations will be seen on a walk-in basis.

For appointments call: NAS Jacksonville - 542-3481; NS Mayoport 270-5445; NSB Kings Bay: 912-673-2001, Ext 3935.

JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY; 3c; 10.75"; Black Only; PU R001261 3-6

NAS JAX HOSP NEWS

Former Sailors get hospital civilian employees of the year

By STG1(SW) Luis Rosa
Naval Hospital Jacksonville Public Affairs

Two civilian employees were recently honored as Naval Hospital Jacksonville's Senior and Junior Employees of the Year for 2002.

Billy Perdue of the Inpatient Pharmacy Department is the Senior Employee of the Year and Caroline Lopez of the Human Resource Management Department was the Junior Employee honoree. Both have displayed the sort of above and beyond attitude that keeps this hospital delivering highest quality service and care.

Perdue is a Jacksonville native and a former hospital corpsman that worked in the Naval Hospital Jacksonville Pharmacy as a second class petty officer from 1990-1995. Later, as a civilian he worked at Orange Park Hospital for a year before returning to the Naval Hospital as a civilian in June of 1996. He is pursuing a degree in pharmacy in his off-duty time.

Perdue works in the sixth floor Inpatient Pharmacy Department. Perdue's commitment and capabilities were quickly recognized as he accomplished the most difficult and challenging tasks assigned. He is responsible for supervising four technicians, and processing more than 12,000 inpatient medication orders including intravenous admixture, unit dosage, and ward issue.

He also coordinated pharmacy and nursing staffs from six inpatient care areas to successfully



Photo by HM2 John Veres

Naval Hospital Jacksonville Senior Employee of the Year Billy Perdue inventories drugs in a crash cart. Perdue works in the hospital's in-patient Pharmacy Department.

employ a 60-bed unit dose cart exchange system. This included research and the subsequent procurement of \$17,000 in essential equipment. The system improved patient safety by ensuring prospective pharmacist review of medication orders before administering it to the patients.

Perdue ensured 300 critical medications were available and maintained in stock. And he guided the emergent procurement of life-saving medications by seeking alternate supply sources and coordinating with local community hospitals. His attention to detail in an unforgiving environment enabled the patient pharmacy to maintain an error rate of less than one percent.

While attending Florida Community College of Jacksonville, Perdue also coaches Little League basketball and football, and is an active member of his church.

Perdue resides in Jacksonville with his wife, Kisele, and their 12-year-old twin boys, Javon and Dejaun, and daughter, Khyala, 5.

Caroline Lopez, a Navy retiree with 23 years of U.S. naval service, has been with Naval Hospital Jacksonville more than 12 years. Lopez is the Human Resource Management Department Evaluation/ Fitrep preparation coordinator assistant.

Lopez is recognized as a professional who goes far beyond the scope of her job title. Her superi-



Photo by HM2 Michael Morgan

Capt. Ralph Lockhart, Naval Hospital Jacksonville commanding officer honors the hospital's Junior Employee of the Year Caroline Lopez of the Human Resource Management Department.

or technical skills and ability to respond quickly and efficiently myriad tasks, reports and ever-changing deadlines have made her an asset to department.

Although she is continually busy, she is never too busy to take time to explain evaluation procedures. Her dedication to her work resulted in the completion of 586 Fitrep reports, 937 enlisted evaluations and 10 ranking boards (officer and enlisted).

Additionally, Lopez has held Eval/Fitrep training at Branch Medical Clinic (BMC) Albany, Ga.; BMC Atlanta; BMC Athens,

Ga. and BMC Key West, Fla. She has mastered all aspects of the evaluation process, and her knowledge and opinion are highly respected throughout the command.

Lopez routinely volunteers herself in her community and assists in neighborhood and local church projects. She believes in living life to the fullest and being able to reflect smiles on everyone she meets.

Lopez resides in Jacksonville with her husband, Edward. They have two children, Leigh and Carrie, and three grandchildren.

NavHosp Jax needs volunteers

From NavHosp Jacksonville

Would you like to support our Sailors and their families and do something that really makes a difference? Well, here's your opportunity!

Naval Hospital Jacksonville Red Cross Community Volunteer Services has identified nearly 100 positions in the hospital that need Red Cross volunteers to fill them. These positions are located in virtually every department. Volunteers should be able to work at least four hours per week (single shift), be friendly and caring.

Here are a couple of examples of job descriptions from our lists.

Family Practice - Volunteer needed to provide clinical and clerical duties on a part-time basis. The volunteers duties would include greeting patients and check-

ing them into the clinic; taking vital signs; escorting patients to exam rooms, preparing exam table with fresh paper; transporting and escorting patients to other clinics, laboratory and radiology; collating charts; filing and general office clerical work such as photocopying and answering phones.

Emergency Medicine Department - Volunteer needed to photocopy ER forms, assist with transportation of patients to and from radiology and to assist the triage officer in notifying patients of waiting times. The volunteer would also provide other customer service to patients.

Multiple positions are available for volunteers in several departments. We would love to welcome you to our hospital team.

To volunteer, contact Red Cross Co-Chairperson Helen Donahoe at 542-7525.

HSO bids farewell to shipmate

By JOC Bill Austin
HSO PAO

On March 15, Naval Healthcare Support Office (HSO) said goodbye to their shipmate HM1(SS/FMF) Stephen Art during a retirement ceremony flanked by family and shipmates.

The ceremony was held at the scenic BOQ Pavilion and all the pomp and circumstance was in place such as the Navy Band, and a sharp and crisp color guard that posted their flags with pride and true professionalism.

The success of the event was largely due to the hard work and expert organization of Art's shipmate, HM1 Eddie Fitzpatrick, who spent many hours of his own time to insure the ceremony, was a memorable one.

Art served as a credentials technician for the command's Centralized

Credentialing and Privileging (CCPD) Department.

Art's tours included: USS John Adams (blue crew); Naval Regional Submarine Medical Center Groton, Conn.; Field Medical Service School; 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, 3rd Marine Division Okinawa, Japan; USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70); 1-1 Staff 4th Light Armored Infantry Battalion, 4th Marine Division; Naval Reserve Center, Augusta, Maine; Naval & Marine Corps Reserve Center Worcester, Mass.; Naval Air Reserve Brunswick, Maine and HSO Jacksonville.

At the ceremony, Officer-In-Charge of HSO, Capt. Larry Walters, welcomed Art's family and friends, and spoke of the importance of recognizing dedicated service. "You have served the United States Navy with pride, and your

dedication to this great nation is appreciated," said Walters.

Once the floor opened for his last remarks, the emotions of the moment and the true end of a career left Art nearly speechless. He managed to thank his shipmates however for the chance of serving with them, and then turned to face Walters. "I'm ready to retire sir," he said with a solemn look.

The event ended with the traditional passing of the flag ceremony.

A long line of Art's shipmates was formed from junior to senior, and a neatly folded American flag was passed and saluted from Sailor to Sailor until it ended in Art's hands.

He then gave a final salute, then returned to the stage for the ringing of two bells, which signified that he was "properly relieved" and bound for shore.



Photo by JOC Bill Austin

HM1 Stephen Art is piped ashore during his retirement ceremony held at the BOQ Pavilion on March 15.

A taste of the workplace



Photo by HM2 Michael Morgan

Middleburg High School eleventh-grader Krystal Magruder (left) assists HM2 Kutistia Ragland in reviewing a screening mammogram. Magruder was one of 35 students from various Clay County Schools participating in The Clay County Career Shadow Program at Naval Hospital Jacksonville Feb. 25-27. This program sponsored by the Clay District School Board and Clay County Chamber of Commerce, places students in different workplace settings where they have a specific career interest to experience life on the job. Students were assigned to several different clinic areas at the hospital.

Support to the fleet

Reserve unit mobilized to Naval Hospital Jacksonville

By Loren Barnes
Naval Hospital Jacksonville
Public Affairs

Fifty-four Selected Reservists have mobilized to help deliver care at Naval Hospital Jacksonville. The partial mobilization of Naval Reserve Naval Hospital Jacksonville helps alleviate deployment related manning shortages in various hospital clinics. More Reservists could be called up if additional hospital personnel deploy.

Activated for up to 365 days, these Reserve medical professionals will fill billets throughout the hospital as well as at its seven branch medical clinics (BMC) located throughout Florida and Georgia.

According to Naval Hospital Executive Officer Capt. Patricia Underdahl, the Reserve unit includes 22 detachments comprised of 800 Selected Reservists drilling at medical treatment facilities throughout the Southeastern United States.

Activated personnel include 22 physicians, 24 nurses, and seven-hospital corpsmen. They will work side-by-side with their active duty peers throughout the hospital.

The unit's contribution promises to go well beyond their stated mission of "continuation of services" said Underdahl. "We're bringing in new ideas, new ways to do things that might help improve care. But for the most part we're allowing the hospital to not shut doors in specialty areas, so they can continue care, especially for the Navy family members of those who have deployed. Those who have deployed can know that their families are being well taken care of."

Underdahl, who hails from Albany, Ga., is serving as Assistant Officer in Charge at Branch Medical Clinic Jacksonville.

During this call up, she not only is dealing with important clinic duties and separation from her husband and a 16-year-old son back in Albany but is also concerned about a 19-year-old son who is a Marine Lance Corporal "toe-gunner" deploying to the Middle East.

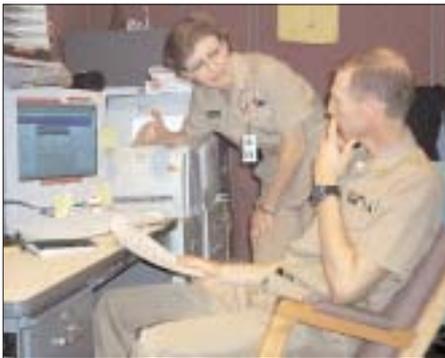
"Like most Reservists," Underdahl said, "I do this from a sense of duty and patriotism, certainly not for the money... I enjoy mentoring junior personnel. You find you have a lot to pass on to them, to start grooming them to become senior officers," she said. "It's kind of a neat thing to know you're leaving a legacy behind."

Lt. Cmdr. Victor Thesenitz of Naval Hospital Jacksonville's Reserve Liaison Office explained that matching the hospital's billeting needs and the available Reserve medical assets involved using a new state-of-the-art database system called the Medical Reserve Utilization Program Management Information System (MEDRUP-MIS).



Photo by HM2 John Veres

Reserve surgeons Capt. Raleigh Thompson, Capt. Juan Baralt, and Capt. Christopher Soika bring their valuable skills to Naval Hospital Jacksonville's General Surgery Department.



Capt. Patricia Underdahl, Naval Reserve Naval Hospital Jacksonville executive officer, confers with Naval Reserve Capt. (Dr.) Frank Reynolds, MC USNR, at Branch Medical Clinic (BMC).

This tool brought online Navy-wide in 2001 allows Navy Medicine to implement the Navy's "Total Force" policy.

This web-based system gives the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery an overview of the specialties and demographics of more than 8,000 Reserve medical personnel and matches this human inventory to the needs of treatment facilities throughout the Department of Defense.

Fresh skills, expertise, ideas

The skills and specialties that the Reservists bring to the Naval Hospital are as diverse as their backgrounds.

For instance, Capt. Vicky Moon, a Public Health Nurse from Lawton, Okla., said that within nine hours of receiving her orders she had checked out of her job and was on the road with her husband Bob, a retired civil servant.

Twenty-four hours and 1,300 miles later she reported to the Naval Hospital. Here, she will be doing clinical nursing in the Family Practice Clinic.

She is also cross training in the Case Management Office, along with fellow Reservist and Naval Hospital Jacksonville civil service employee Lt. Cmdr. Linda Cachioli.

Moon said this has been a good experience for her. "I'm working with some wonderful people here all of whom have been very welcoming."

While some of the Reservists are new here, others have strong ties not only to the Naval Hospital but also to the local medical community.

For instance, Capt. Marcia Funderburk gradu-

ated from Naval Hospital Jacksonville's Family Practice Residency Program back in 1985. Today, she is an esteemed member of the teaching staff at Shands Jacksonville Family Practice Center.

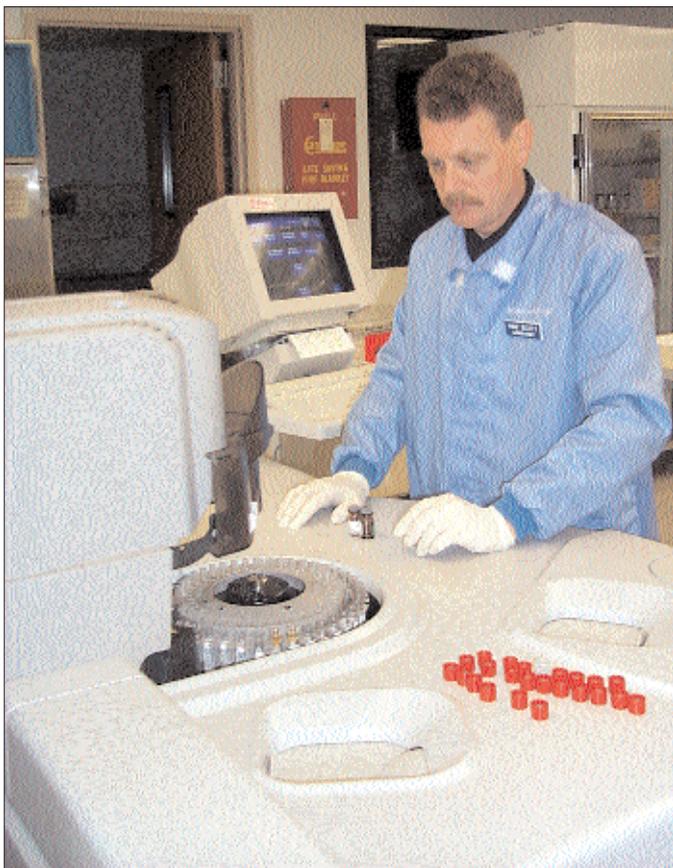
Funderburk said, "This is like closing the circle. She said that while she regrets having to leave her work at Shands to others, she looks forward to helping with the residency program here. They have good folks here, she said. It's really a good program."

Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey Quinlan, program director for the Family Medicine Residency Program, said, "Our department is very fortunate in that these reservists have medical school or residency school experience. That makes the transition relatively seamless. We have three faculty deployed. That had required us to give some of our in-patient services to the Internal Medicine Department. With the reservists here we are able to recapture those services."

Cmdr. Anne White, who serves as the unit's training officer, was called up as a clinical nurse specialist. She's a professor at Kennesaw State University in Georgia, and brought along some textbooks and lectures to donate to the hospital medical library.

White celebrated her 50th birthday away from her family but says she's excited to be here. She said she looks forward to using her teaching skills to benefit junior nurses and hospital corpsmen at the hospital. White will be working on the surgical floor.

HM2 Jeffrey Scott joins the staff from Palm Coast,



Photos by Loren Barnes

HM2 Jeffrey Scott places some samples into a chemistry analyzer in the hospital laboratory.



Cmdr. Anne White checks a patient's IV on the surgical floor.

Fla. In his civilian job he works as a midnight shift laboratory supervisor with Memorial Health Systems in Palm Coast. Here, he puts his 20 years experience as a medical technologist to work in the hospital lab as a chemical analyst.

He said that he was prepared for the call up and has received great support from his employer as well as from the laboratory staff here.

Three Reserve Captains are lending their skills in the hospital's Operating

Rooms - Capt. Juan Baralt, a surgical oncologist from Gainesville, Fla.; Capt. Christopher Soika, a general surgeon from Ohio and Capt. Raleigh Thompson, pediatric surgeon from Miami. Baralt, who works

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CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



A group of infants play together in one of the infant rooms.

A secure, structured environment for children

By Kaylee LaRocque
Staff Writer

Knowing your child is safe and well taken care of while you're hard at work plays a tremendous role in every parent's state of mind.

For many of us, finding quality childcare is sometimes more difficult than we realized. Especially for those in the military who work odd hours, stand duty or deploy on a ship, leaving a single spouse to cope with family issues and also possibly a job of their own.

At NAS Jacksonville, there are several options to help families looking for a secure, caring environment where their children can grow both physically and emotionally. At the base Child Development Center (CDC), families are offered full-time weekly care or hourly drop-in care depending on their needs, for infants through preschoolers.

"We can house 252 children at our center, including 40 infants (six weeks and older), 30 pre-toddlers, 42 toddlers and 140 preschool age children up to age five. Our goals are to provide a safe, clean, reliable and caring environment for these children. We base our daily curriculum on learning through play. Our providers work on the children's physical growth development, fine motor skills, self-help skills, teach them how to build self-esteem and problem solving. We work on the skills needed to help the children become successful to move onto the next level. We prepare them



Three-year-old Nathan Hickey works on a puzzle at the center.

for kindergarten," explained Deridre Odom, CDC program supervisor.

Each childcare provider at the center is specifically trained to work with children and carefully screened. "We do thorough background checks, fingerprinting and require our providers to complete a series of 13 modules on childcare and tests that are required by the Navy, before they are hired. Every provider is CPR qualified. Several of our staff members have college degrees in early childhood education. We also have a couple who have taught kindergarten in the public school systems," continued Odom, enthusiastically.

Once hired, each provider is required to complete four hours of training each month at the center and train to learn every position within the center. "All our employees are very flexible. They are trained to work everywhere from the front desk to the kitchen and with all the different ages groups. Several also help out with our special monthly events - they come up with some pretty unique ideas," she said.

Providers are required to submit an age-appropriate lesson plan each month. "We send out a calendar to the parents so they know what their children will be doing each day. Occasionally, this will include a special field trip at low or no cost to the parents such as to the base commissary or the zoo. We use a bus provided by MWR and use our own bus driver," Odom stated.

Each classroom is broken down to a specific ratio. "There are eight infants per classroom with two providers in each room, 10 pretoddlers with two providers,



Child Development Home Monitor Michaela Tarter, teaches a training class to new Home Care Providers at the center. Prospective providers must complete 20 hours of orientation training and meet numerous requirements before caring for children.



Childcare Provider Mickey Ayala leads a group of children in the Circle Dance.



Kandice Martin and John Charbonnet exercise their motor skills on the monkey bars during an outdoor play session.



Babe Eugenio feeds seven-week-old Jaslyn Frierson as four-month-old Katelyn Lacy patiently waits for her turn.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



Gil-Scott Jackson and Ashley Cornell spend their outside time digging in the giant sandbox.

Photos by
Kaylee LaRocque



Gloria Almazan (left) and Hertha Phillips, child care providers in the Pre-toddler One class feed their group a nutritious lunch.



Nine-month-old Asia Warren enjoys her lunch as she feeds herself at the Child Development Center.

CDC: Childcare providers all screened, trained and qualified

From Page 6

14 toddlers in each room with two providers and 24 preschoolers with two providers," said Odom.

The center also offers programs for children with speech or developmental problems through a partnership with Venetia Elementary School. A special bus picks up the children at front door and returns each day after classes.

Parents are allowed to stop in at any time to visit their children. "We have an open door policy. They can come in anytime during the day to see their children. Many will come in and have lunch. A lot of mom's stop in to feed their infants. We also have cameras set up in each classroom so parents can come in and view their children's behavior in the classroom. Conferences are set up whenever needed," Odom explained. "We also send home daily reports on the children's behavior, if the took a nap, eating habits and anything special they accomplished that day. We want our parents to be informed."

The center provides care to children of active duty military members, retirees and DoD civilian employees. It is open Monday through Friday from 6:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. The center is closed weekends and holidays. Fees are based on total family income and ranges from \$53 to \$110 for one child on a weekly basis. Drop-in fees



Jared Smith (front) and Austin Cole take a ride on one of the many tricycles available to the children.

are based on the rank of the parent and ranges from \$3 to \$3.50 per hour. All meals are included.

Unfortunately, there is a waiting list to enroll children at the center. There are currently 111 children on the list. For the older children (three, four and five-year-olds) it is estimated the wait is about one to two months. For the smaller children, the wait is approximately six months to one year.

Another childcare solution parents may

be interested in looking into is the base Child Development Home Program. "We currently have 27 certified home providers both on and off the base. Some parents may be leery about putting their children into a homecare environment, but our providers are very well-trained, they work really hard and spend about three months just to get certified by the Navy. Their homes are inspected monthly and they are extremely supportive to the families they care for," said Michaela Tarter, Child Development Home (CDH) monitor. The program offers care for infants through preschoolers. "We have several infant only homes. These providers are allowed to care for three infants including their own child. We also have multi-age group homes for six children at a time, with two under the age of two. This includes their own children," she added.

Home providers offer full-time care, hourly drop-ins, evenings and 24-hour special needs. Fees are also based on total family income.

"I was a provider for four years before I took over this job nine months ago. It's the most rewarding thing I've ever done, but also the hardest job I've ever had. The whole family has to be involved when someone decides to become a home provider. There are many requirements - no smoking, alcohol, corporal punishment and all family members over the age of 12

must be screened by numerous agencies. This includes anyone coming to visit the home for an extended stay," Tarter stated.

All home providers are certified by the base commanding officer and if off-base, licensed by the Florida Department of Children and Families. "The first step to becoming a home provider is to call us to set up an interview. We will give a complete overview of the program and explain what is required of them," said Tarter. "This is definitely not a job for everyone. It's very demanding and we require a lot from our providers."

According to Tarter, there is currently a huge need for home providers in the Yellow Water Housing Area. "We really need some help out there. There are lots of children who need childcare out there," she said.

If anyone is interested on becoming a home provider, please contact Tarter at 542-5381. For more information on the base Child Development Center, call 542-5434/5529.

Note: In the event, NAS Jacksonville upgrades security measures to Delta Condition, the Child Development Center will close. For those families, especially dual military or single parents, special arrangements may be made with a home provider, providing they have the availability. The CDC urges all families to have a backup plan in place in case this occurs.

HELPING HANDS

Very Special Arts Festival

This event is an international organization founded by Jean Kennedy Smith that provides experiences in the arts for people with disabilities. Join The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens April 2-4 in making this event a success. Volunteers are needed to assist students with disabilities complete art projects. No experience is necessary. The minimum age is 16 years. For more information, contact Hope McMath at 355-0630, Ext. 246.

MS Society Walk for a Cure

Lots of special event volunteers are needed April 5 for these walks through Jacksonville (starting at the Friendship Fountain) and in Orange Park (starting at the Kennel Club). Duties include walker registration, assisting participants and event set-up and break down. The minimum age is 18 years old or 16 years with a parent. Sign up to help out by calling 725-6800 or 1-800-FIGHT-MS.

Jacksonville Jazz Festival

The City of Jacksonville has taken over sponsorship of this Jacksonville tradition. The Jacksonville Jazz Festival will be held April 11-13 at Metropolitan Park and The Jacksonville Landing. Admission to the festival will be free of charge in all locations, making it even more accessible to jazz aficionados and families alike.

If you would like to be a Jacksonville Jazz Festival volunteer and help out with concessions, hospitality, marketing or logistics - fax the following information to the City of Jacksonville Office of Special Events at 630-3693 - your name,

address, e-mail and phone number. For more information about the Jacksonville Jazz Festival, call 630-3690, the Special Events hotline at (904) 630-3686, or online e-mail events@coj.net or visit the webpage at www.jaxjazzfest.com.

American Cancer Society's Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society's needs volunteers April 11 and 26 to support their 'Relay for Life' events. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, team registration, lunaria ceremony and event break down on April 11 at the FCCJ Northside campus and on April 26 at the Twin Lakes Academy Middle School. For more information or to sign up, call 398-0537.

Naval Hospital Red Cross seeks shuttle volunteers

Red Cross volunteers operate the Naval Hospital's visitor's parking lot shuttle cart service. The service will soon expand to include a second shuttle cart and will also begin operating both mornings and afternoons.

The Red Cross is currently taking applications for additional volunteers to serve as drivers for the shuttle carts. The only requirements for shuttle cart drivers are that the person be outgoing, eager to help and possess a current Florida driver's license.

Volunteers are also needed to work other areas in the hospital such as at reception desks greeting and providing information for hospital guests. For information and applications for any of the Naval Hospital Red Cross volunteer opportunities call 542-7525.

NAS Jax Relational Supply celebrates one year



Photo by Norma Perlmutter

(From left) NAS Jax Deputy Supply Officer Terri Brooks, NAS Jacksonville Executive Officer Capt. Charles King, Deputy ASD Officer Peggy Mehan, and NAS Jax Supply Control Division Officer Stephen Silver cut the cake at the NAS Jax Relational Supply One Year Anniversary March 12.

Helmets to Hardhats

A one-stop shop for construction jobs

By Monica Worth
Special Contributor

Looking for a career with great pay and benefits that puts a market value on your military skills? Want an active lifestyle that puts you in command of iron, stone, timber, energy, and earth? If you have building and construction skills - or want to learn them - a new federally-funded program is waiting to hear from you.

The not-for-profit program, "Helmets to Hardhats," opens a pipeline between military service and America's best building and construction industry jobs. Employers, contractors and trades use the service to find, among the nation's separating service members or Guard and Reserve forces, the mature, stable, drug free and dependable workers they need.

In return, they list civilian job opportunities that pay well above the prevailing wage - or post training programs in which candidates can earn good pay and benefits while they learn a new skill and collect veterans benefits, like the GI Bill, to supplement training pay. There is no charge for either applicants or employers to use the program, which was funded through the 2003 DoD budget.

"Transition is a stressful time for service members and their families," says retired Marine Maj. Gen. Matt Caulfield, director of the web-based program. "If you've served our country, you've earned the right to a smooth transition into a great civilian job. Helmets to Hardhats puts a dollar value on your military skills, allows your family to choose where they'd like to settle after military service, provides free access to the best job opportunities and apprenticeships in the construction industry, and gives deployed members an easy way to job-hunt from overseas. While you're looking out for us, we're looking out for you."

Helmets to Hardhats was launched in January 2003. To date, it is supported by all 15 unions in the AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades Department (BCTD), and eight major contracting associations. The Center for Military

Recruitment, Assessment and Veterans Employment, which administers Helmets to Hardhats, was set up by Congress to serve as a one-stop shop for the best construction industry jobs nationwide. The U.S. Army administers the Center's funding.

In the two months since it began, several hundred candidates have registered for job opportunities on the program's website, www.helmetstohardhats.org. Some 10,000 opportunities are currently listed, including positions for bricklayers, carpenters, cement masons, electricians, operating engineers, painters, plumber/pipfitters, ironworkers, insulators, roofers, and the entire range of construction skills. The web site has already received more than 11,000 visitors.

Helmets to Hardhats expects to recruit 23,000 veterans into the construction industry this year, and has set a goal of recruiting 200,000 veterans annually by its fifth anniversary. Transferring the training and talents of U.S. Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines into good jobs not only helps military members, but also bolsters the construction industry workforce. The industry needs 1.6 million skilled workers in the next five years.

How does the program work? Helmets to Hardhats screens job opportunities, assesses candidates' military training and experience, locates job openings that are a good fit, and connects applicants with hiring managers.

Candidates can register and access information about jobs and apprenticeships via the Internet from any location in the world. Employers and trades benefit from an effective, free channel through which they can advertise job openings and make direct contact with a large, well-qualified pool of potential employees, many with specialized skill sets.

For more information, visit Cliff Mashburn at the Tri-Base Job Fair Tuesday at the Morocco Shrine Auditorium in Jacksonville or call (866) 741-6210 or cmashburn@eaglegroupinc.com. Candidates can also visit www.helmetstohardhats.org.

KUDO KORNER

The following personnel were recognized during a ceremony at NAVAIR on Feb. 20:

Letters of Appreciation

Capt. Steve Clarke
AFCM John Bandor
AMCS Jeff Abbey
AK2 Malcolm Jeffcoat
YN2 Onre Houston

Expert Pistol Medal

Lt. Cmdr. Donald Simmons

ADC Duane Graham

AOC Brian Flinn

AM1 John Jensvold

PR1 Robert Colgan

YN2 Quentin Martin

Sharpshooter Ribbons

Cmdr. Timothy Matthews

Cmdr. Joseph Bartley

Lt. Cmdr. Brent George

Lt. Cmdr. Terry Hart

Lt. Paul Casey

ETC David Fujioka

AK1 Travice Anderson

SK2 Marvin Polk

Marksman Ribbons

SK1 Raymond Murray

SK1 Carolyn Hodges

SK1 Joel Therlonge

SK1 Raymond Murray

SK2 Latessa Roby

AK2 Malcolm Jeffcoat

SK2 Oscar Vargas

Welcome Aboard

SK1 Raymond Murray

A ceremony was also held at the Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility Jacksonville March 4. The following personnel were recognized:

Navy and Marine Corps

Commendation Medal

ACC(AW) Kimberli Oehlrich

Flag Letter of Commendation

AC1(AW) Shannon Johnson

Tri-Base Job Fair slated for Tuesday

From the NAS Jax FFSC

A Tri-Base Job Fair, sponsored by the NAS Jacksonville, NS Mayport and NSB Kings Bay, Ga. Fleet and Family Support Centers will be held Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Morocco Shrine Auditorium, 3800 St. Johns Bluff.

Job seekers should bring updated resumes and arrive dressed for success. For more information or to obtain an advanced list of employers attending the job fair, call Pat McDonald at 542-2766, Ext. 148 or email omcdonal@nasjax.navy.mil.



SANTANA: Local Sailor best in Atlantic fleet

From Page 1

Center, Great Lakes, Ill. and Torpedoman's Mate "A" School in Orlando, Santana reported aboard USS Virginia (CGN 38) where he was advanced to third class petty officer.

In 1986, he transferred to USS Coral Sea (CV 43) where he was able to use his linguistic skills when the ship visited numerous countries. Santana is fluent in Spanish, French and Italian and continues to learn Arabic and Hebrew.

In 1988, Santana reported aboard USS Bowen (FF 1079), where he qualified as an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) and was advanced to second class petty officer.

His next tour was at the Intermediate Maintenance Facility, Naval Weapons Station (NWS), Yorktown, Va., where he managed the base ceremonial color guard and was selected as the NWS Yorktown 1993 Sailor of the Year.

After leaving Virginia, Santana checked aboard USS Essex (LHD 2), where

he requalified as an ESWS and qualified as an Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist. This tour was followed by a tour aboard USS Simon Lake (AS 33) in La Madalena, Sardinia, Italy.

In May 1999, Santana cross-decked to USS Emory S. Land (AS 39). Seven months later, he attended MK 46 Test Equipment School at the Trident Training Facility in Keyport, Wash., where he

also earned an associates degree from Vincennes University.

In February 2001, Santana transferred to NAS Jacksonville. As LPO of the Weapons Department, Santana is responsible for all ammunition component transactions. This includes the daily tracking, inventory and ordering of all components.

His second full-time job is to manage 60 members of

the station's Honor Support Team and Color Guard. This entails mustering personnel, training new members, uniform maintenance, scheduling events and handling all logistics to ensure members reach their commitments on time.

He also has four teams working on a weekly rotation for the funeral detail or color guard, coordinating members of the team through their departments.

Maintaining a well-rounded career is key to

achieving this goal, Santana explained. "Balance is key," he said. "Remaining aware of current events, continuing off-duty education, volunteering and staying informed of Navy initiatives and programs helps to ensure a balanced career."

However, Santana emphasized, the most important aspect to his success has been preparation. "If you fail to prepare, you prepare to fail. Preparation is key."

MWR NOTES

Veterinary Treatment Facility

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

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

Mulberry Cove Marina news

Learn the rules of the waterways and enjoy a safe boating experience. Take the Florida Safe Boating Course. "How to Boat Smart." The class is free and open to all hands.

Visit to the Mulberry Cove Marina and get your free spring stock-up coupon book. The books are stocked with more than \$175 in savings on the biggest brand names in fishing. The coupons offer great savings and will not be around long. This offer expires April 30. The marina offers free kayak and canoe rentals for active duty Sailors on Thursdays. It's a great way to get acquainted with some of the equipment on hand and have some fun too. For more information on marina events, call 542-3260.

Auto Skills Center

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

The Auto Skills Center offers a shop orientation class on the third Thursday and Friday of each month. Reservations are required for the orientation. Call 542-3227 for information.

NAS Freedom Lanes offers great deals

The NAS Freedom Lanes is a state-of-the-art bowling facility, with 24 lanes, a game room with pool tables and arcade gaming machines. The Gutterball Grill snack bar provides delicious food and beverage service. The facility has a fully supplied Pro Shop staffed by members of the Professional Bowling Association.

The center is open seven days a week. The center offers Cosmic Xtreme bowling on Saturday afternoon from 4-6 p.m. and again from 8 p.m.-midnights. The NAS Freedom Lane is open to all active duty, authorized civilians, retirees and their family members.

Active-duty free bowling: Wednesdays from open to close.

Rent a lane special Tuesdays starting at 5 p.m. The cost is \$12 per lane per hour or \$32 per lane for three-hour rental. Shoe rental is \$1.65 per pair. Extreme Bowling - Saturday nights. The cost is \$15 per person. Check in begins at 7 p.m. and bowling starts at 8 p.m.

Call the center for event schedules at 542-3493.

What's happening for kids?

The Youth Center is going to be filled with shamrock of fun and fancy this month. The following are upcoming events:

Tomorrow, 6-8 p.m. - Game Night for ages K-17. The cost is just \$1.

March 28, 6-8 p.m. - Pizza and Movie Night for \$2.

Dance classes and Tae Kwon Do classes are available at NAS Jax Youth Gym and Yellow Water Youth Activities. If you are interested in registering your child stop by either center or give us a call at 778-9772 (NAS Jax) or 777-8247 (Yellow Water).

Let Delivery Zone bring the meals to you

Can't get away from the office? Live on base? Having an office party? Call the Delivery Zone and let us bring the food to you. We deliver free anywhere on base and have a wide variety of pizzas, subs, salads, sandwiches, wings, appetizers and more on our menu. To place an order, call 542-3900.

Golf tournament this weekend

The NAS Jax Golf Club is sponsoring a tournament Saturday and Sunday. This will be the first opportunity for double points and to make up some ground on the points race leaders. Players will use their full USGA handicap and will be flighted according to that handicap. The entry fee is \$55 per player and includes golf both days, lunch, tee gift, prize purse, and range balls.

In addition, a coupon for a complimentary round of golf will be issued in appreciation for playing. The coupon can be used anytime. Entry forms are available in the golf shop. Tee times begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. on Sunday.

Club champions, senior and super senior champions crowned. Check the point standings in the Pro Shop to see where you fall. The top 19

active duty, 19 retired/DoD, and 18 ladies will be selected to participate in the final in October for big money. Points are awarded for participation, on course prize wins, individual and team finishes in club events. Call the Pro Shop at 542-3249 for more details.

ITT - Sleuth's Mystery Dinner Show

The MWR Information, Ticketing and Travel office and the River Cove Catering Center are hosting the popular Orlando-based Sleuth's Mystery Dinner Show on March 28. Watch for clues and be kept on the edge of your seats as you try to solve an exciting who-dunnit. Price per person is \$30. Call I.T.T. for more information at 542-3318.

Free movies offered

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

Tomorrow, 7 p.m. - Punch Drunk Love

March 28, 7 p.m. - Abandon

March 29, 5 p.m. - Spirited Away

March 29, 7 p.m. - The Man from Elysian Fields

Upcoming Liberty events

The following are upcoming events:

Tomorrow - We're kicking off our March Madness Tournament. Come into Liberty and fill out your 2003 NCAA Division 1 Championship bracket. For every game predicted correctly you'll earn a prize. Final Four and championship game parties will be provided in April.

Saturday - Come with us to Daytona Beach for the day. It is free for active duty. The Liberty van leaves at 9 a.m. and returns the same day at 11 p.m.

March 25 - Have a few laughs with us at Gi Gi's Comedy Zone. It is free for active duty but you must be 21. The Liberty van leaves at 7:30 p.m. and sign-up starts at 3 p.m. the day of the event.

March 26 - Come bowling with us at the NAS

Jax Freedom Lanes and bowl three games for free. Winners of games will receive a \$25 gift certificate to the NEX. This is for active duty only. Food is provided at 6 p.m. at the Recreation Center and the games begin at 7 p.m.

March 28 - The Liberty program is going to the movies. We give you the ticket and you choose the movie. Pizza is served at 6 p.m. and the Liberty van leaves at 6:30 p.m. Sign-ups begin at 3 p.m. the day of the event.

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

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

Here are some of the upcoming events I.T.T. has tickets for:

March 22 - April 6 - Renaissance Festival, adults are \$9.75 and children (5-12) are \$4.75.

March 25 - Stars on Ice, \$38

March 27-30 - The Players Championship, practice rounds are \$26.50

One-day tickets are \$46.50 and Stadium Club tickets for all week are \$139.05.

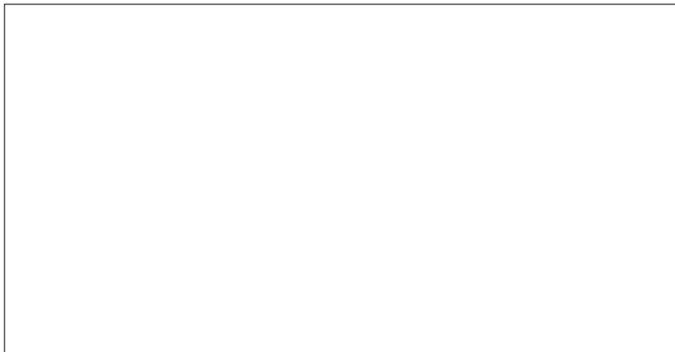
I.T.T. is sponsoring the following trips:

Saturday - Braves vs. Mets. Take me out to the ballgame. The Braves battle the Mets at the Disney Sports Complex. After the game it's Downtown Disney. Check out the Lego Center or shop until you drop. Dinner is not included but there are lots of great restaurants to choose from. Transportation and a ticket to the game is \$31.50. We leave at 9 a.m. and return at 9:30 p.m.

April 6 - Renaissance Festival - Let I.T.T. take you back to the 16th Century. Transportation and ticket costs are \$20.75 for adults and \$15 for children under 12.

April 11-13 - Charleston Getaway: See all the best - Patriots Point, Fort Sumter, Magnolia and Middleton Plantation, and a city tour. Included are all entrance fees, hotel, tour, breakfast, a lunch and dinner all for \$194.25 per person.

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



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

Kirstine Schimpf, sales manager with the Sleuth's Mystery Dinner Shows informs YN1(AW) Timothy Smalley of NAS Jax Admin Department about the upcoming dinner and mystery show at NAS Jax on March 28 at the River Cove Conference Center.

I.T.T. sponsors annual travel fair

By Kaylee LaRocque
Staff Writer

Hundreds of visitors to the Navy Exchange complex stopped in to check out what was inside a huge white tent in the middle of the parking lot last Thursday.

They found a variety of booths manned by representatives from area hotels, attractions and base recreational departments all offering information and military discounts on their establishments.

The NAS Jacksonville Information, Tickets and Tours (I.T.T.) Office sponsors the Spring Travel Fair annually.

"This travel fair allows our MWR patrons the opportunity to meet the military representatives for attractions, hotels and services in the Florida and Georgia areas. It also allows them to learn about all the wonderful services the base I.T.T. Office provides them, such as discount attraction tickets, hotel discounts and cruises," said Dawn Smith, who coordinated the travel fair.

"We had 48 vendors from area attractions such as Disney World, Universal Studios, Sea World, several dinner shows, Florida State Parks and numerous hotels. We also had representation from the base Liberty Program, Mulberry Cove Marina, the golf course and Aquatics Department," she added.



SH3 Caroline Montero of the NAS Jax Brig talks with Amy Rabon, a representative with the Jekyll Inn in Jekyll Island, Ga. at the I.T.T. Travel Fair.



Tim Hooks, NAS Jax Golf Course manager helps PC3 Kelly Thomas with her technique as she tries her best in a putting contest during the I.T.T. Travel Fair.

Bass tournament approaching

By Phil Collins
NAS Jax Mulberry Cove Marina Manager

NAS Jax Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department would like to invite all active duty and retired military and civilian contractors to participate in the 21st annual NAS Jacksonville Bass Tournament. The one-day tournament will begin at first light on April 12 at the Mulberry Cove Marina.

Over the years, this tournament has gained respect and it remains a popular mainstay in the coastal Georgia/Florida military/civilian support community. Due to enhanced security, this year's tournament is open only to those who have access to the base.

Access to the base is the responsibility of each angler. Last year, the event hosted 166 anglers and awarded more than \$5,000 in cash and prizes at the weigh-in ceremony, which was attended by more than 230 people. Excitement over the tournament has been evident since November. Thanks to the generosity of our local Jacksonville businesses, valuable door prizes are awarded each year. We anticipate a great

turnout.

The tournament follows a team format of two anglers per boat. The early entry fee is \$60 per team and \$75 after April 1. There is an optional Big Bass pot fee of \$10. The cash prize payout is 80 percent, with 100 percent of the Big Bass Pot awarded.

Every angler will receive a tournament hat and/or T-shirt, sponsor bag with promotional items, and complimentary food and drinks during the

weigh-in ceremony.

The tournament results will be certified by the St. John's Bass Anglers Club. This club was established in 1970, and is the oldest federated bass club in Florida and the fifth oldest in the country.

For more information and to obtain an entry form, contact the Mulberry Cove Marina at 542-3260 for an entry form or e-mail collinsph@nasjax.navy.mil.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

The Navy Wives Club's DID No. 300 meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Oak Crest United Methodist Church Education Building at 5900 Ricker Road. For more information call 387-4332 or 272-9489.

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

MOMS Club of Northeast Florida meets the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon. The meeting is free and open to all at-home mothers and children who live in the zip code areas of 32206, 32218 and 32226. MOMS Club is a support group for moms wanting a variety of activities for you and your children. The chapter offers monthly meetings, newsletters, activity calendars, playgroups, field trips and service projects.

For meeting location or more information, contact Debbie at 751-0671 (debbiekjg@yahoo.com) or Kathi at 751-3400 (katdj28@aol.com).

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

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

Girl Scout Troop 333 meets every Wednesday from 7-8:30 p.m. at NAS Jacksonville Chapel Annex. All girls grade 4-6 are invited,

adults are also needed. If interested contact Lynne Sebring at 317-2363 or come to the meetings.

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

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

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

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

The National Naval Officers Association will be holding its monthly meeting tonight at 5:30 p.m. at the Jacksonville Urban League at 903 West Union Street. All members of the sea services are cordially invited.

The 60th Anniversary Jolly Roger Reunion (1943-2003) will be held May 15-17, 2003 at NAS Oceania, Va. For more information, e-mail reunion@vf103.navy.mil or call (757) 433-5833.

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

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

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

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

Military discounts offered for women's tennis tourney

Special discount tickets are being offered to military personnel and their families to the 2003 Bausch & Lomb Championships April 14-20 at Amelia Island Plantation.

Military personnel and their families will receive \$10 off the price of a standard stadium seat ticket for the night sessions Monday through Friday. Night sessions begin at 7 p.m. Tickets may be ordered by calling 800-486-8366 and advising the tournament of military status. The offer is valid through April 10.

"Given today's uncertainties both home and abroad, it is important to recognize the importance of those individuals who

have dedicated themselves to protecting our nation's values. We have created this special offer as our small way of saying thanks," said John Arrix, Tournament Director. "Perhaps an evening of watching spectacular tennis may provide some sort of escape from the everyday challenges."

The Bausch & Lomb Championships is a premier WTA Tour event, part of the worldwide tour consisting of 1,000 players representing 76 nations at 60 events in 31 countries over an 11-month schedule.

For daily ticket and package information call 800-486-8366 or visit the tournament web site at www.blchamps.com.

Parenting seminars planned

From FFCS

The Navy Region SE Fleet and Family Support Program, in partnership with MWR and the Duval and Clay County School Districts, is sponsoring parenting seminars for military parents, school officials, childcare providers and mental health professionals in April.

The guest speaker will be renowned Family Psychologist John Rosemond, Director of the Center for Affirmative Parenting in North Carolina. Rosemond is author of nine best-sell-

ing books on parenting skills. He also has an acclaimed parenting column syndicated in approximately 200 newspapers nationwide.

The seminars will take place on:

April 29 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Chimney Lakes Elementary School (focused for military parents).

April 30 from 9:30 - 11 a.m. at the Orange Park Holiday Inn (focused for school officials, childcare providers and mental health professionals).

For more information, call 542-5380.

NavAir to hold fiber optic workshop

Fiber Optics Workshop, sponsored by the NAVAIR Fiber Optics Working Group (NFOWG) will be held here April 8 - 10.

The goal of the workshop is to provide Naval Air System managers the information necessary to make informed decisions while integrating fiber optics into naval aviation programs.

This workshop is the third in a series to provide information, define common approaches and build a knowledge base. Previous workshops have resulted in a labeling standard for fiber optics equipment, and the formation of a prelimi-

nary training track for fiber optic maintenance.

The focus of the upcoming workshop is fiber optic support in the Fleet and training those that maintain fiber optic systems. Presentations on new fiber optics technology and lessons learned will also be addressed.

For more information about the upcoming Fiber Optics Workshop III - Jacksonville and/or to register, go to the website at <http://www.semcor.com/nfowg> or call 240-895-7549/7555.

JAX TALES

By Mike Jones

WWW.RICKYSTOUR.COM



Navy volunteers needed for TPC

From CNRSE

The 30th annual The Players Championship (TPC) will be held in Ponte Vedra Beach from March 24-30. This message is to notify military personnel of opportunities to volunteer at TPC.

Volunteers will be needed for all daily shifts from March 21 through April 1. All volunteers must serve in their personal capacity and must be on leave or liberty.

Volunteers are being solicited for all committees. Non-paying volunteers are assigned to specific committees, while paying volunteers are eligible to serve on any tournament committee with a vacancy.

Additionally, signing up this year places you on the committee priority placement list for subsequent years. The distinction between non-paying and paying volunteers is as follows:

- Non-paying volunteers are normally assigned to committees in the facilities division, such as course ecology, general parking, course prep/construction and admissions.

A TPC T-shirt will be provided at no charge. In addition, any non-paying volunteer who completes 32-hours of service is eligible to play the stadium or valley course for cart fees only.

Volunteer party tickets are not available to non-paying volunteers. Also, non-paying volunteers are not eligible to participate in the volunteer play day tournament.

- Regular paying volunteers will be required to purchase a uniform consisting of a volunteer shirt (\$35), windbreaker (\$35), and the volunteer badge (\$35), which is also a pass to the tournament for the entire week (total cost of paying volunteers is \$105).

Paying volunteers may choose their committees from committees that have not already been filled by

previously registered volunteers. Additionally, paying volunteers are entitled to a free round of golf at TPC, as well as a volunteer party March 22 at the University of North Florida.

To sign up to serve as either a paying or non-paying volunteer at this year's tournament, contact at Rusty Pritchett, TPC Navy liaison, at 270-1900 or 616-7852.

Be prepared to provide your full name, home phone number, work phone number, and email address for volunteer category selection.

Additional info will be required of paying volunteers, specifically related to ordering uniform size and arranging for payment of the uniform.

Committee assignment is accomplished on a first come/first served basis.

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to give back to the community that serves as our home, as well as the chance to see firsthand some of the world's best golfers playing on one of the most picturesque and challenging courses in America.

JAX SPORTS NEWS

Sports officials and scorekeepers needed

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

Greybeard Softball League forming

The Greybeard League is open to all NAS Jax active duty commands and personnel ages 32 and above. This is a Captain's Cup event. The season is scheduled to begin March 25 and games will be played on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

Intramural Softball League beginning

The Intramural Softball League is open to all NAS Jax active duty commands and personnel. This is a Captain's Cup event. The season is scheduled to begin March 25 and games will be played on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

Women's Softball League coming up

The Women's Softball League is open to all NAS Jax active duty, dependents over 18, retirees, and DoD civilians. The season begins this month.

Open Softball League forming

The Open League is open to all NAS Jax active duty, dependents over 18, retirees, and DoD civilians. The season is scheduled to begin March 25 and games will be played on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:30 p.m.

Men and women's tennis tourney slated

The tournament is scheduled for March 30 at 5 p.m. The event is free and open to all NAS Jax active duty men and women. The matches will be played at the Birmingham Tennis Courts. Individuals playing in the tournament will earn Captain's Cup points for their respective command. Call the NAS Jax Gym to sign up by March 26.

Navy Southeast Regional Running and Triathlon Team

Represent the United States Navy in 5K, 10K, marathons, and/or triathlons. The Navy will showcase elite active-duty men

and women in regional races. Uniforms are provided as well as transportation, entry fees, and lodging costs. Interested runners must compete in sanctioned (USA Track and Field, USA Triathlon Association, or Roadrunners Clubs of America) races and your time must be one of top 10 regional qualifying times. If you have run in sanctioned race and your time meets regional qualifying time, contact your base athletic director.

Southeast Regional qualifying times:

5K -	Men 19:00	Women 24:00
10K -	Men 34:00	Women 46:00
Marathon -	Men 3 Hrs. 30 Min.	Women 4 Hrs.
Triathlon -	Men 2 Hrs. 30 Min.	Women 3 Hrs.
Triathlon time based on 1.5k swim, 10k run, 40k bike		

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

SPORTS STANDINGS

Intramural Bowling Standings as of March 6

Team	Points
VS-32	130
AIMD - DB	121
AIMD - BB	107
SERCC - GRUS	98
VR-58	90
VR-58 - BB	85.5
SERCC - B&T	72.5
CV-TSC	71

Reebok Cycling at the base gym

Spin the wheels at the base gym in one of the Reebok Cycling classes being offered. The classes are suitable for all fitness levels. The following classes are being offered:

Tues. & Thurs.

5:30 a.m. - 6 a.m.

11:15 a.m. - noon

Wed.

4:15 p.m.

For further information, call Barbara at 542-3518.



The Navy Agrees...

Tobacco and Readiness Don't Mix!