



Jax Air News

TOUCHING BASE

Operation Support our Troops

Come show your support for our troops, their families and the Commander-in-Chief.



March 29 - Noon
Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Coliseum
In front of the Veteran's Memorial Wall
(Rain or shine)

Enjoy patriotic music, distinguished military speakers, and a whole lot of flag waving!

Bring your flag and your patriotism to honor our veterans and show support for our Armed Forces.

Fiber Optic workshop on base

A 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 preliminary 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.

Volunteers needed for Easter Egg Hunt

The NAS Jax MWR Department is hosting a Night Easter Egg hunt again this year at McCaffrey Field on April 18 at 7 p.m. Children up to age 12 will be allowed to participate in the free event. There will be 10,000 eggs hidden for the children to find.

Volunteers are essential to make this event a success. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Erica Hickey of MWR Youth Activities at 778-9772 or email dhickey@nasjax.navy.mil.

Operation Iraqi Freedom

Local squadrons participate in Iraq assault

By Miriam S. Gallet
Editor

Several key air strikes last week signaled the opening of the campaign to disarm the Iraqi regime of weapons of mass destruction and bring an end to the threatening rule of Saddam Hussein. "Operation Iraqi Freedom" is underway.

Among the assets utilized to carry out this mission are several Sea Control Squadrons (VS) and Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadrons (HS) based from NAS Jacksonville. Military members from VS-22, VS-24, HS-3 and HS-7, currently deployed to the region, provide support from the aircraft carriers USS Harry S. Truman and USS Theodore Roosevelt.

In addition, service members from Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department Jacksonville provide vital support to Carrier Air Wings Three and Eight aboard USS Harry S. Truman and USS Theodore Roosevelt.

"We did not choose this war," said Secretary of Defense Donald Rums-

See IRACQ, Page 10

Spousal Support

NAS Jax Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) is offering numerous programs for military spouses. The

FFSC Spouse Support Group meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at FFSC and Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. at the base chapel.



Photo by James McNeil

A S-3B Viking assigned to the "Scouts" of VS-24 prepares to launch from the flight deck aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71). Roosevelt and Carrier Air Wing Eight are on deployment conducting combat missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Operation Iraqi Freedom is a U.S.-led multi-national coalition effort to liberate the Iraqi people, eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and end the regime of Saddam Hussein.

Hundreds of Navy volunteers help make Special Olympics special

By Kaylee LaRocque
Staff Writer

It turned out to be a perfect, bright, sunny day as Special Olympians from seven local counties participated in the annual Special Olympics Area Five Summer Games. This year's event was co-sponsored by NAS Jacksonville and Edward H. White High School.

Nearly 1,000 Navy volunteers and their families from NAS Jax, NS Mayport, and NSB Kings Bay, Ga. spent the day helping out as "buddies" to the Special Olympians, registering participants and officiating the games.

"Everyone has been so very supportive. NAS Jax normally sponsors this event each year on the base, but this year due to security concerns, we had to move it. We were fortunate Ed White High

School agreed to let us use their facilities," said Dianne Parker, of the NAS Jax Fleet and Family Support Center and volunteer coordinator for the games.

"This year's logistics proved a little more challenging. We had to bring everything here from the base and we also had to obtain special medical insurance for our medical providers. The Florida Special Olympics organization was so thrilled we were providing dental screenings, they footed the bill for the medical insurance to cover our hospital corpsmen who volunteered. We also supplemented our base medical people with medical people in the community including a doctor from St. Vincent's Hospital, nurses from the American Red Cross,

See SPECIAL OLYMPICS, Page 8



Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

Bill Bonser, sports coordinator for the Area Five Special Olympics Summer Games gives a little guidance to Special Olympian Tim Thomas of Nassau County during the wheelchair race.



Photos by Miriam S. Gallet

Women's History Celebrated

"Women Pioneering the Future" was the theme of this year's Women's History Month Breakfast held at the base galley. The event was hosted by the NAS Jacksonville Multi-Cultural Committee and the NADEP EEOAC.

Ju'Coby Pittman, chief executive officer of the Clara White Mission (left), delivers the keynote address at this year's Women's History Month Breakfast.



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WEEKEND WEATHER

	FRIDAY 59/79 PARTLY CLOUDY
	SATURDAY 61/81 THUNDERSTORMS
	SUNDAY 60/65 THUNDERSTORMS

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

CNO sends special message to Sailors

From Navy News Service

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark recently released the following message:

Our nation has called upon you, the men and women of our Navy, to meet the next challenge in the war on terrorism.

When the president addressed the world March 17, he said, "The United States and other nations did nothing to deserve or invite this threat, but we will do everything to defeat it. Instead of drifting along toward this tragedy, we will set a course toward safety." Your efforts in leading the defense of the nation



Adm. Vern Clark

away from our own shores and our own homes is critically important to that safety. After all, we know about setting a proper course - and we are ready. This is the most ready

Navy I have ever seen in my career. Over half of our Navy, 167 ships, are forward-deployed and on station around the globe, taking sovereign power to the far corners of the earth.

Seven of 12 aircraft carriers, nine of 12 big deck amphibious ships and dozens of surface ships, submarines, aircraft, SEALs, Seabees and support commands are deployed. More than 130 sealift ships are supporting the joint force half-a-world away.

None of this would be possible without your energy, expertise and dedication. You are proving everyday the unique and lasting value of decisive, sovereign,

lethal forces projecting offensive and defensive powers from the vast maneuver area that is the sea.

When you raised your right hand, took the oath and donned the Sailor's uniform, you chose to make a difference in the service of this nation - and you are.

Rest assured, your service is unquestioned; you have the support of the citizens of the United States of America and your families. They care, and they believe in you.

You are part of the greatest joint and combined military force ever assembled. If our commander-in-chief gives the signal, fight and win.



Meet A Sailor...

AW3 ERNESTO BERNAL

Job title/command:
NAS Jax TPU

Hometown: Miami, Fla.

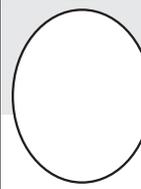
Family Life: Single

Past Duty Stations: HSL-40, NS Mayport

Career Plans: Looking into a career with the U.S. Marshalls.

Most Interesting Experience: Going through Search and Rescue School.

Words of Wisdom: Just say no.



Meet A Civilian...

JANICE FELLS

Job title/command:
Management Assistant,
NAS Jacksonville

Hometown: Orange Park

Family Life: Married with two sons and two granddaughters.

Career Plans: To retire as a civilian employee.

Most Interesting Experience: Helping customers at work every day.

Words of Wisdom: To remember there's new grace and mercy in every day.

New guidance regarding troop support mail

From the United States Department of Defense

To bolster force protection, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to service members forward-deployed unless you are a family member, loved one or personal friend.

On Oct. 30, 2002, the Department of Defense (DoD) suspended the "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Servicemember" mail programs due to force protection concerns. Although these programs provide an excellent means of support to friends and loved ones stationed overseas, they also provide an avenue to introduce hazardous substances or materials into the mail system from unknown sources.

Unsolicited mail, packages and donations from organizations and

individuals also compete for limited airlift space used to transport supplies, war-fighting material and mail from family and loved ones.

Recently, DoD has become aware of organizations and individuals who continue to support some form of the "Any Servicemember" program by using the names and addresses of individual service members and unit addresses. These programs are usually supported by well-intentioned, thoughtful and patriotic groups who are simply unaware of the new risks facing deployed military forces.

Some individuals and groups publicize the names and addresses of service members, ships or units on web sites, with good intentions. The result, however, is a potential danger to the troops they wish to support.

DoD cannot support creative and well-intentioned efforts that defeat force protection measures, but can

instead recommend alternatives to mail and donation programs. To show support to troops overseas, the following are recommended:

* Log on to the following web sites to show support, to include greeting cards, virtual thank-you cards and calling card donations to help troops stay in contact with loved ones:

http://www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html

<http://www.usocares.org/home.htm>

<http://www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq.html>

* Visit Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and nursing homes. Volunteer your services to honor veterans who served in past conflicts.

Mail from family members and loved ones has always been encouraged and the military mail system will continue to work hard to get that mail to service members overseas.

HEY MONEYMAN

Hey, MoneyMan!

I just noticed in that paper that there are some places I can go to get my credit fixed. I have bad credit and can not get a loan for a car which I desperately need. Do you know anything about these "credit repair" places?

MoneyMan Sez:

Yes, and none of it is good! The vast majority of credit repair firms promise what they can not deliver, "to erase your bad credit."

These for profit companies charge fees and produce little. Some of them claim they can "fix" your bad credit ratings, even if they are current and accurate; of course, all for a fee.

The Fair Credit Reporting Act of 1971 gives consumers the right to challenge the accuracy, validity and verifiability of their credit reports - the files compiled by credit bureaus - free of charge.

The bottom line is do it

yourself for free. By law, credit repair companies must provide a written contract in advance that spells out your rights and cannot charge you until they have completed their promised services.

For more information, go to www.ftc.gov or call (877) 382-4357.

Hey, MoneyMan!

My wife and I are going to have our first baby next month and I heard that there is a program on base where you can get free nurse services. Do you know anything about this?

MoneyMan Sez:

Congratulations on your new addition. I hope you

are ready for all the excitement and changes in your life.

I am not aware of any long-term "free nurse services" but the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society offers a Visiting Nurse Program that you should check out.

NAS Jacksonville has two registered nurses who will visit you at home if you invite them. They provide postpartum care, post-surgical follow-up care, health education and a variety of other services. These services are free and you can contact Sandra or Arlette at 542-3515/3191.

More questions, call Hey MoneyMan at 778-0353.

New hours at local base Personal Property Offices

From the NAS Jax Personal Property Office

The Personal Property Offices (PPO) at NAS Jacksonville, NS Mayport and NSB Kings Bay, Ga. now have new office hours. They are as follows:

NAS Jacksonville - Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Phone - 1-800-762-4221, Ext. 105.

NS Mayport - Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Phone 270-5636.

NSB Kings Bay, Ga. - Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Phone - (912) 673-3945.

All incoming personnel should call the Jacksonville PPO immediately upon their arrival to give their contact information, determine the status of their inbound shipment, and

arrange delivery services.

Pagers are available, upon request, for inbound personnel who desire a direct delivery. When shipments arrive the PPO will call the service member for delivery instructions.

If contact cannot be made between the service member and the PPO, the shipment will be placed in temporary storage.

All storage costs after the first 90 days will be at the member's expense unless the PPO has approved additional storage, in writing.

For inbound operations in Jacksonville please call 542-1000 Ext. 121, 122, or 123.

All outbound personnel should call the nearest PPO for counseling, pack out, and permanent storage services. However, in most

cases, members may preclude a visit to the PPO by arranging their move online. The SMARTWEBMOVE is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, at: www.smartwebmove.navsup.navy.mil.

This website is a user-friendly program developed to help the service members and their families plan and arrange personal property moves online.

SMARTWEBMOVE makes your move a lot easier, saves time, provides online entitlement counseling and provides a printout of your move information.

To use SMARTWEBMOVE you will need Internet access, official orders, information about any dependents, and a Power of Attorney (if you are acting on behalf of the service member).



Sunday Services

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

Saturday	5 p.m. - Catholic Mass
Sunday	8:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Episcopal
	9:30 a.m. - Catholic Mass
	11 a.m. - Protestant Worship
	6:30 p.m. - Contemporary Service "The Leading Edge"

Hangar 749 at the Base Chapel Center.

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

Religious Ministries Department	
Holy Week Services 2003	
Catholic	Protestant
Pastor Palm Sunday Sun. Apr. 20, 8am Sun. Apr. 20, 11am	Palm Sunday Sun. Apr. 20, 8:15am Sun. Apr. 20, 11am
Holy Thursday Wed. Apr. 23, 7:00pm	Holy Thursday Wed. Apr. 23, 7pm
Good Friday Thu. Apr. 24, 8:00am	Good Friday Thu. Apr. 24, 7am
Sabbath Easter Vigil Celebration Mon. Apr. 28, 7pm	Easter Sunday Sun. Apr. 27, 8:15am Sun. Apr. 27, 11am Sun. Apr. 27, 1:15pm Sun. Apr. 27, 6:30pm
Easter Sunday Sun. Apr. 27, 8:00am	

For more information, please call 542-3881/3882

Jax Air News

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Lynch takes charge of COMHSWINGLANT

By Lt. Eric Young
AOPS

Capt. Kevin Lynch relieves Capt. James Pendley as Commander, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet in a Change of Command Ceremony today at 10 a.m. in Hangar 123.

Lynch, a native of Bordentown, N.J., graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1980 before attending flight training that culminated with his designation as a naval aviator in 1982.

Upon receiving his wings, Lynch was assigned as a search and rescue pilot flying the SH-3G at NAS Oceana, Va. Following his stateside stint, Lynch then headed overseas and became a member of the forward-deployed HS-12 "Wyers" in Atsugi, Japan. This proved to be just the first of multiple postings abroad, and allowed him to make several WESTPAC cruises aboard USS Midway.

In 1987, he returned stateside, and reported to NAS Jacksonville as an



Capt. Kevin Lynch



Capt. James Pendley

instructor pilot with HS-1. Upon completion of this tour, Lynch took his second posting abroad as the air officer aboard USS Lasalle in Manama, Bahrain. True to form, he then continued what would be a pattern of moving abroad and returning to Jacksonville. After his year on USS Lasalle, Lynch once again returned to the seawall to serve as maintenance officer and executive officer of the HS-9 "Sea Griffins," making deployments aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt and the USS Saratoga. During

this period, he supported Operations Desert Storm, Comfort, and Provide Promise.

His next series of assignments him out of the operational loop as he furthered his education and tactical acumen by graduating from the Naval War College and completing an OPNAV Fellowship at the Center for Naval Analysis in Washington, D.C.

He then reported to the OPNAV staff as a political-military analyst for the Director of Navy Roles and Missions Working Group

and the Director Navy Staff.

With the lessons of a staff tour under his belt, Lynch once again returned to NAS Jax and the operational side of the house with his appointment as commanding officer of HS-15. This command tour would culminate with the squadron winning the 1998 Battle "E," the Safety "S," and the Arleigh Burke Trophy.

Following his command tour, Lynch headed back to Japan to assume duty as executive officer aboard USS Kitty Hawk.

This was followed by another tour in Florida with the Readiness Remediation Division of the U.S. Special Operations Command in Tampa, Fla.

Lynch has accumulated 4,300 flight hours in both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. He and his wife, Betty Jane, have three sons, Justin, Bryan and Kyle.

Pendley's next duty assignment will be as operations officer at Commander, Naval Air Force/Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet in San Diego, Calif.

Pendley takes last flight with HS-11 'Dragonslayers'



Photo by Lt.j.g. Matt Wright

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

Commodore James Pendley, commander, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Wing, Atlantic Fleet was joined by Cmdr. John Schoeck, commanding officer of HS-11, as he flew his last flight in the SH-60F Seahawk recently. Pendley was behind the controls of "Dragonslayer 610" during a local area flight with AWCS Larry Favours and AW3 Eileen Gherung as the aircrew.

As the aircraft landed, Pendley was greeted by a fire truck and a two-person hose team for the customary last flight "wet down."

Pendley was commissioned in May 1979, and during his 24 years he has flown more than 4,300 flight hours in the H-3 and H-60 helicopters. He has served in various billets within the HS community including squadron tours with HS-7, HS-1, HS-5, HS-9, and command of HS-5

Following his change of command today, Pendley will take over as operations officer at Commander, Naval Air Force U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Commodore James Pendley, commander, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Wing, Atlantic Fleet gets "wetted down" after his last flight in a HS-11 SH-60F Seahawk.

Healthcare entitlements for activated Reservists, National Guard members and families outlined

From NavHospJax and Humana Military Healthcare Services

Reserve component personnel on military duty are entitled to military medical or dental care for any injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty. This includes travel to and from assignments.

Reservists who feel they have become ill due to deployment can ask for an evaluation and treatment of that medical condition.

The reservist will then be tested to ensure the injury, illness or disease happened while on active duty.

Reserve component personnel on active duty and their families may be eligible for healthcare coverage under TRICARE.

Program eligibility guidelines vary. For more information, visit <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/default.htm>.

Following their release from active duty, reserve personnel and their family

members are entitled to 60 to 120 days of transitional medical and dental care within the military health care system, depending on the length of their active duty service.

Healthcare may be provided in military treatment facilities and by civilian healthcare providers. For more information, visit <http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/mobil/pdl/benefits.pdf>

Upon their release from active duty, reservists will automatically be disenrolled from TRICARE Prime. Those who wish to continue the TRICARE Prime benefit during their

DIVERS DEN; 2c; 2"; Black Only;

transitional period must verify their eligibility by calling DEERS or visiting a local Real-Time Automated Personnel ID System (RAPIDS) site at a military installation.

Once eligibility is verified, they must re-enroll themselves and/or family members.

To initiate re-enrollment, visit a local TRICARE Service Center, access a TRICARE Prime Enrollment Form from the "Beneficiary Resources/Online Member Services/Download Forms" at www.humana-military.com or call (800) 444-5445.

TMP WORLDWIDE-NEW YORK; 3c; 5"; Black Only;

Battle of Midway dinner set for June

By Staff

The Battle of Midway commemoration dinner will be held June 6 at the Radisson Riverwalk Hotel on Jacksonville's Southbank.

The guest speaker will be James H. Cunningham, Jr., a Battle of Midway veteran and retired chief boatswain's mate. Recipient of the Purple Heart and five Battle Stars, he was serving aboard the USS Hammann when it was sunk at Midway.

Tickets go on sale March 31 and may be purchased from the following installation locations: NAS Jacksonville, office of the command master chief, IT1 Guy Stelzenmuller at 542-4545/2934; Naval Station Mayport, AECS(AW) Elizabeth Speer, 270-6101 and ITC(SW/AW) Victor Martin, 270-7354, Ext.116; and Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, MSC Eric Johnson, at (912) 673-2064.

Ticket costs for active duty personnel are as follows: E-6 and below, \$20; E-7 to O-4, \$30; and O5 and above, including civilians and retirees, \$40. There is no cost to Battle of Midway veterans and their spouses.

The Battle of Midway, which took place June 4 through 7, 1942, has been called the most important sea battle of the 20th century. It has been described by military leaders and historians as the turning point of World War II in the Pacific. The defeat of the much larger Japanese fleet at Midway by a numerically smaller U.S. force was a blow from which the Japanese Navy never recovered.

The purpose of the Midway celebration is to ensure that these acts of courage and spirit are not forgotten, and offer all hands the unique opportunity to meet and talk with true heroes of this historic battle.

Other plans include a historical program and displays, music by Navy Band Southeast, dining and dancing. Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m.

This celebration marks the 61st anniversary of the Battle of Midway as well as the 100th anniversary of flight. The evening will offer all attendees time to pause and reflect upon this important event in naval history, as well as a unique chance to talk to some of the actual participants.

To further commemorate the occasion, a commercial photographer will be on site to take 8x10 color portraits of couples, processed on site, for \$20 each.

The uniform will be:

O4 and above - Dinner Dress White Jacket
O3 and below - Dinner Dress White/Dinner Dress White Jacket Optional

Covers not required

Civilian: Black tie or business attire

More information on the actual Battle of Midway and the Memorial Dinner can be found at the Commander, Navy Region Southeast web site, <http://www.cnrse.navy.mil/>, by clicking on "Special Events."

TIRE KINGDOM; 3c; 11"; Black Only;

VP-62 'Broadarrows' embrace role of ESGR

By Lt. Cmdr. David Wood, Jr.
VP-62

"We were pleasantly surprised to say the least," explained Bill Partlow after learning that his employee Robert Pyles was planning to present his employer with a "My Boss is a Patriot" (MBIAP) award sponsored by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

When he is not working as a systems administrator in Tampa office of the Chicago Title Insurance Company, Pyles, a selected reservist with VP-62, serves as a Navy anti-submarine warfare specialist.

Partlow currently serves

as a district manager with the title company and is charged with operations in 16 West Coast Florida counties. "As an ex-military person myself, I have the utmost respect for folks like Robert who not only split their time between their primary job and the Reserves, but who also provide an unmatched level of value and productivity in the workplace," he noted.

Apparently, the respect is mutual. "I was looking for some tangible way to thank my firm for being so flexible and understanding due to some recent scheduling issues between work and the Navy, and the MBIAP Award was just the ticket," said Pyles.

Applying for, and receiving

permission for the MBIAP award online, Pyles went one step further and requested assistance from his squadron to present the award with a bit of fanfare.

Led by VP-62 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Bryan Quigley, the "Broadarrows" flew a P-3C to Tampa and presented the award to the Chicago Title Insurance Company executive. Representing the ESGR organization was retired Rear Adm. Leroy Collins.

After the ceremony, attendees were treated to a comprehensive static display of the P3C Orion aircraft. "The day was quite special for all involved," explained Pyles.

The MBIAP Award is one of four ESGR honors that a

Reservist can bestow upon its place of work. These awards are designed to recognize an employer for specific actions, and they serve as gestures of goodwill between civilian employers and military service members.

Partlow acknowledged that this is the award presented to the Chicago Title Insurance Company by the Reserves. "We're planning to showcase the award and presentation in our firm's national newspaper. We brought the award back to the office and proudly hung it in our conference room for all to see," said a jubilant Partlow.

To learn more about the MBIAP award, visit <https://www.esgr.org>.



Photo courtesy of VP-62

VP-62 presents a "My Boss is a Patriot" award to the Chicago Title Insurance Company in Tampa, Fla.

Recognizing Women's History Month

From Chief of Naval Personnel
Public Affairs

Women have come full circle in 227 years of serving in the Navy, from working in ships during the War of 1812 to being an integral part of today's sea services and continuing their pioneering spirit into the 21st century.

The first official record of women at sea is from a U.S. warship log showing women serving as contract nurses for the War of 1812.

Nearly a century and a half later in 1978, women began serving aboard support and non-support ships, putting the Women in Ships program into force.

However, women had been serving on ships long before Congress approved the change to the combat exclusion law. Today, women serve at sea in virtually every capacity.

Lt. Alyse Ambrose, a surface warfare officer (SWO) and operations officer aboard USS Spruance (DDG 963), said this is an interesting time for women. "The number of duty assignments in which women cannot serve is decreasing all the time, but then that raises all new questions and decisions for women about where we do and do not want to serve. This in turn can affect decisions on retention."

The eight-year veteran says it's fine to recognize the contributions women have made but hopes someday there will no longer be a need for a women's history month. "I feel that by specifically calling out women, or any minority group for that matter, we continue to highlight the differences in people rather than being thought of as equals in the Navy." Shortly after demobilization in 1918, the

passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution gave women the right to vote, but it still did not establish them as equals in the military services. Women were still assigned traditional roles.

"When I joined the Navy in 1983, most of the women that I knew were in the administrative and supply communities. Sea duty opportunities were limited, meaning that most of us were assigned overseas for our sea duty," remembered 19-year veteran SKCM Kelly Williams, assistant head, Navy uniform matters.

Williams served on her first ship as a chief petty officer after 10 years of duty. "It was a big adjustment. I didn't grow up at sea in the 'real Navy.'" She had forgotten shipboard knowledge - damage control settings, ship access, and it was the first time in 10 years that she'd had to share a small living space with other women. Nevertheless, she adapted well and remains grateful for the experience.

The Texarkana, Texas, native believes there have never been more opportunities for women to enjoy a diverse and challenging career in 'today's Navy.'

It's all very different from the days when women in the Navy were called 'WAVES,' which stood for Women Accepted For Volunteer Emergency Service during World War II.

Soon after the war, legislation approving the women's Reserves followed. The women's Reserves marked the first time women were 'in' the Navy, and not just 'with' the Navy.

Today, Navy women are more a part of the team than ever before, directly contributing to mission success - everyday - in the global war on terror.

Re-enlisting in the springs



Photo by PH3 Cyntilya Bell

Lt. Cmdr. Wes Naylor, officer-in-charge of Patrol Squadron Keflavik, performs a recent re-enlistment ceremony for YN3 Angelika Davenport of VP-5 at Iceland's famed hot springs, The Blue Lagoon. VP-5 is currently on detachment to Iceland.

The Navy hits the ice for charity

From the Jacksonville Barracudas

Last Friday, members of the United States Navy stationed at NAS Jacksonville and NS Mayport traded in their blue uniforms for ice skates and hockey jerseys.

The Jacksonville Barracudas took on the local U.S. Navy hockey team in a charity game to score funds for the U.S. Navy Relief Fund and Hockey 4 Kids.

Founded in 1904, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is a private non-profit charitable organization. It is sponsored by the Department of the Navy and operates nearly 250 offices ashore and afloat at Navy and Marine Corps bases throughout the world.

The mission of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational, and other assistance to members of the Naval Services of the United States, eligible family members, and survivors when in need; and to receive and manage funds to



The Barracudas goalie prevents the Navy team from tying up the score by freezing the puck during a Navy power play.

administer these programs.

Hockey 4 Kids, also a non-profit organization, was established in 1997 by Barracudas majority owner David Waronker. The organization allows less privi-

leged or disadvantaged kids to experience the thrills of hockey.

The two teams faced off at 7:30 p.m. at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The Barracuda's jumped out to an



The crowd cheers as the Navy team scores one of their 10 goals during the game Friday night against the Jacksonville Barracudas.

early 4-1 lead in the first period of play, but the Navy team managed to keep the score close during the game. The Barracudas defeated the Navy team with a score of 11 goals - 10.

In this game, no one lost, there were only winners with the two charities coming out on top. Barracudas Director of Public

Relations, Jill Sterling said, "We really had a good turn out for the game and we would like to thank all of those that purchased tickets and attended this game. Working with the Navy was a great experience and we at the Barracudas are looking forward to doing it again."

Fair helps with educational endeavors



Photo by JO2(SCW) Eric Clay

The Navy College Office recently held a Distant Learning Fair with 20 colleges participating. Approximately 200 naval personnel, retirees and their families attended the college fair. "I attended the college fair so that I could further my education and I have been undecided with which path to travel. The fair really helped in my making my decision," said ABH2(AW) Ricardo Zaldivar. ABH3(AW) Benard Mainor went to the college fair to pinpoint what degree he would be most interested in achieving. "The fair gave me a lot of insight to many degrees that I already have credits for because of my Navy experience," said Mainer. Navy College Office will hold another fair April 10. For more information about the Navy College Office, call 542-2477.

SIU programs help save money in college tuition

From the Navy College Office

An article in Navy Times on March 10, 2003, stated that the average year cost for tuition and fees alone at a four-year degree was \$4,081 at a public institution. So for four years, this works out to be \$16,324 for tuition and fees. Southern Illinois University can save you money and you can earn a bachelor's degree in half the time.

Southern Illinois University's (SIU) Workforce Education and Development Program saves you money in two ways. The first way to save tuition is the major coursework is usually finished in 12 months and only cost \$180 per credit hour. This is only \$6,480 for an entire year of school. You can save \$9,844 in tuition costs alone, since you don't have pay for four years of school tuition.

The second way to achieve savings is that more than one-third of your degree is awarded for four years of documented work and training experience. This 44 semester hours of credit is awarded free of charge - no tuition, no fees. If you had to pay for this 44 semester hours as elective course work, this would cost you an additional \$7,920. Some schools charge extra fees for this evaluation service.

These two methods equal \$17,764 in tuition and fee savings.

The program is delivered in an accelerated, flexible, alternate weekend format designed for working adults. SIU accepts military tuition assistance (TA), VA educational benefits, as well as other financial aid programs. SIU is licensed by the State of Florida and accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and

Schools.

Transfer credit is accepted from other accredited colleges and universities, as well as, CLEP and DANTES test results. The program is open to active, reserve, and retired military along with their adult family members. Civil service employees and their adult family members are also welcome, as are prior service military personnel. Veterans with G.I. Bill benefits can enroll at either site. Civilians are welcome at Naval Station Mayport only.

Classes are offered onbase at both NAS Jacksonville and Naval Station Mayport. Semesters start each January, May, and August, but you can enroll as early as you want for any semester. The next semester starts on May 17.

Call 542-5414 for more information.

USO to sponsor 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.

NAVAIR Depot Jax recognized for supporting blood drives

By Frank Taormina
NAVAIR Depot Jacksonville Public Affairs Specialist

The NAVAIR Depot was recently honored by the Florida-Georgia Blood Alliance (FGBA) for the "Highest Number of Lifesaving Blood Donations in the military category for Calendar Year 2002."

The award was presented at the FGBA 35th annual appreciation luncheon at the Radisson Riverwalk in downtown Jacksonville.

During calendar year 2002, covering three blood

drives, Depot civilian and military personnel donated 949 units of whole blood.

The Depot donated more blood than any other military command in the Northeast Florida/Southeast Georgia region. This is the third consecutive year NAVAIR Depot Jacksonville has won this prestigious award.

In addition, the Depot was presented with a certificate of appreciation for "dedicated service and commitment to the community by hosting blood drives in support of the 2002 blood supply."

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS 1943-PRESENT

FROM THEN . . .



Fleet Vet At Helm Of NAS, Jax



Captain Stanley J. Michael, USN

New Commandant Welcomes Station Paper's First Issue

Captain Michael, Sea Veteran With Many Honors, Calls On Naval Personnel To Support JAX AIR NEWS And Make It Best In Country

Captain Stanley J. Michael, USN, only recently relieved from duty as commandant of NAS, Jacksonville, in succession to Rear Admiral John Hays Hyde, today formally welcomed the JAX AIR NEWS as a worthy and "important" and called on all Naval personnel in this vicinity to help make it "the best service publication of its kind in the country."

The commandant said: "I take pleasure in reviewing the first issue of JAX AIR NEWS, which I believe will fill an important need of the Jacksonville Naval Air Station and all military Naval activities."

"As a non-commercial service publication, devoted to the Navy's best interests, this paper is being prepared for their chief purpose:

"1. To provide a medium of expression for the spirit and talents of personnel on this station. Capt and Lee Parks and the Naval Air Gunnery School.

"2. To afford these stations and related activities a central source of general information.

"3. To stimulate the already high morale of our personnel with reading matter, pictures and cartoons designed for their amusement and enjoyment.

"Naturally, the success of JAX AIR NEWS will depend in a large degree on the cooperation of the editorial staff and departmental reporters by the readers. Suggestions for improvements will be welcomed at all times and it is my wish that everyone do his or her part to make JAX AIR NEWS the best service publication of its kind in the country."

Captain Michael, although but 45 years old, is a veteran of 23 years service in the Navy and in naval aviation, with much first duty behind him. He has won the Victory medal, Atlantic Fleet Clasp and the American Defense Service Medal Fleet Clasp.

Since relieving the highly popular Captain Price, who was assigned to sea duty at the same time he was recommended for promotion from captain to rear admiral by President Roosevelt, the new Jacksonville Air Station commandant has won general admiration for the efficiency and professional knowledge he brought to his assignment and the speed with which he has moved up where Captain Price left off.

When the United States went to war Captain Michael was in command of the USS Matagorda. In 1942, he was placed in

Continued on page three

Graduating Class Of Naval Academy Is Coming Here

750 Ensigns And Marine Lieutenants To Get Air Induction At Jax

The Jacksonville Naval Air Station will also host in the graduation class of the U. S. Naval Academy this summer when 750 new aviators in the Navy and second lieutenants in the Marine Corps come here for a ten weeks aviation indoctrination course.

Members of the graduating class at Annapolis will arrive at Jacksonville in two groups. The Navy Department has announced. The first of these groups, numbering 375 newly commissioned aviators and second lieutenants, will report for indoctrination on June 15. Upon completion of their training they will receive two weeks leave before reporting for duty with the fleet in the Marine Corps. The second group of 375 reporting two weeks later will receive similar training.

The purpose of the aviation indoctrination school, as announced by the Navy, will be to provide the newly commissioned officers with a thorough knowledge of the employment of aviation in naval warfare.

These aviators receive instruction in aviation practice as a part of their curriculum at the Naval Academy. The Navy Department pointed out, they have little opportunity to test the practical application of their training. It was also stated that the aviation indoctrination course will afford the new aviators their first opportunity to exercise their skills in a variety of situations.

The purpose of the aviation indoctrination school, as announced by the Navy, will be to provide the newly commissioned officers with a thorough knowledge of the employment of aviation in naval warfare.

The Navy Department emphasized, however, that the new aviators will not be trained at naval aviation schools, but will be indoctrinated at the Naval Academy, together with hundreds of other projects under the Naval Air Operations Training Command, have been assigned by the Navy Department to receive the first Army-Navy "X" award to be made for construction work in the state of Florida.

Contractors Get 'E' Award April 17

Firms That Built Jax Air Station, Other Projects Win Coveted Honor

The three contracting companies responsible for building the Jacksonville Naval Air Station, together with hundreds of other projects under the Naval Air Operations Training Command, have been assigned by the Navy Department to receive the first Army-Navy "X" award to be made for construction work in the state of Florida.

Officials in charge of the presentation announced today that the three companies (Contracting Company and George D. Ashford Company, both of Jacksonville, and the Station-Cook Company of West Point, Ga.—would receive the production award at an appropriate ceremony here on April 17. The ceremony will be held in the hall at the front of the indoctrination building.

Rear Admiral Ben Stovall, chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics, is slated to make the presentation of the Army-Navy "E" flag, if that is the case, and the flag will be accepted for the companies by Major Alexander West, secretary-treasurer of the Naval Engineering and Contracting Company.

Major West is now on active duty with the U. S. Army. Other high officials, both of the Navy and the Army, will be in attendance.

Continued on page three

Four Point Recreation Program Moves Ahead With Smokers, Dances



Capt. Litch

Gunnery Notable Is NAOTC's New Chief Of Staff

Aerial Marksman Succeeds Capt. Cassidy As Aide To Admiral A. B. Cook

Captain Ernest Wheeler, USN, new chief of staff of the NAOTC, Operational Training Command at NAS, Jacksonville, today announced his arrival at the station. A letter of commendation for an aerial gunnery record in 1941 of 26 hits out of 31 shots on a towed aircraft target.

The captain, recently commanding officer of the Detroit, Mich., Naval Air Station, has succeeded the late Capt. J. H. Cassidy, who is currently on detached duty as chief of staff to Admiral A. B. Cook of the NAOTC and assigned to the Bureau of Aeronautics at Washington as director of training.

Safety records commended. Besides the letter from the secretary of the navy lauding his marksmanship feat achieved in a marksmanship target achieved in a marksmanship target.

FLASH: Ensign (Yes, Ensign) Reported New Commandant

Ensign John Hays Hyde, USN, reported to have succeeded Capt. Michael as commandant of the Jacksonville Naval Air Station.

The new Commandant then was reported to have announced departmental changes in the station. His suggestion about what they could do to the Senior BOQ left some of the high officers wincing in their chairs. It was said, changed in other buildings also recommended were described as nothing about revolutionary.

Ensign Johnson also stated that effective immediately, officers could date enlisted WAVES.

As the chatty story relating broke up, Commander Mollard reportedly arose and paid a tribute to the new Commandant, saying, "You can't imagine what it means to me to be serving under you Ensign Johnson. You simply can't imagine."

And now the staff of the JAX AIR NEWS just is saying "Happy April Fool's Day." Wow!

The first American Indian to fly for the Navy was trained at the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida.

WAVES And Jax Girls Partners For Sailors At Dance Saturday Night

The third of a weekly series of "Victory dances" will be held tonight at Mason Field at 1900 when another 2000 or more WAVES and Jax girls will be seen in a big way.

Only one phase of the four point recreational program inaugurated on the station three weeks ago, the post two "smokers" have been enthusiastically received by more than 1,000 people who attended.

On Saturday night, April 3, more than 100 Jacksonville girls will be seen in a big way at a dance at Mason Field at 1900 in the main station auditorium.

Those who wish to bring their dates to the Saturday night dance, provision that the Jacksonville girls provided an outstanding partner last Saturday will definitely be in attendance this Saturday. A set-up in the main hall by the champagne downstairs was responsible for their absence last week. All girls who would like to attend this dance should contact Miss M. D. Dural and Jacksonville Defense Council.

The program scheduled for tonight's dance, which is subject to last minute changes, follows:

1. Dancing
2. Community Singing
3. MATTC Dance Band
4. Showgirl Jubilee Quartet—colored quartet
5. Four Best "Harmateurs"
6. Guard Corps—Dramatic Baritone

1. First dance—(probably from a downtown night club)

2. Final—featuring the WAVES and Bluejacket chorus.

(Captain Jack Lewis will act as master-of-ceremonies)

To encourage the participation of all Naval personnel in athletics in the United part of the four point

NAS Broadcasts Begin Friday Night

First Of Series Of Radio Programs To Be Heard Over Station WJAX

With the first of a weekly series of four radio programs slated to be broadcast Friday night, the Jacksonville Naval Air Station will be on the air in a big way.

Officials in charge of the program announced today that all plans had been completed for the presentation of the first half-hour broadcast over station WJAX at 11:00 P.M. The first will be heard over station WJAX on Saturday, April 3, at 11:00 P.M. The third comes over WJAX at 11:00 P.M. on Sunday, April 4; and the fourth will be heard over WJAX at 11:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 6.

Other programs have been scheduled to follow at the same time over the same stations each week.

The broadcasts were expected to incorporate entertainment services from among thousands of young men in training for the Navy at the Air Station.

The announcement concerning

www.jaxairnews.com THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2003 www.jaxairnews.com

Jax Air News

A CHIEF OF AVIATION—MILITARY REPORTER

Vol. 31, No. 12, 12th Year

. . . To Now

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS 1943-PRESENT

HAPPY 60TH JAX AIR NEWS

By Miriam S. Gallet
Editor

On April 1, the Jax Air News will commemorate 60 years of Navy print journalism.

When the first issue hit the street 60 years ago, American and allied forces were battling the enemy overseas engaged in World War II.

Interestingly, as we reach this milestone, the U.S. military once again finds itself answering the call to

defend the principles of freedom and democracy.

For six decades, the Jax Air News has responsibly delivered the news to the Jacksonville military community, with newsworthy information and feature articles.

As we enter a new era of naval operations, our staff is proud to continue this long-standing commitment to provide an informative, high quality military newspaper.

As a recent Chief of Information first place winner for the best broadsheet format within the Navy, we strive each day to maintain this prestigious honor.

The success of the Jax Air News has depended on the contribution and readership of military service members, their families, the local community and advertisers. Today, we thank you for your support and continued loyalty.



21 March 2003

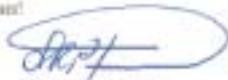
Congratulations to the staff of the Jax Air News as you celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the first edition of this outstanding publication!

Sixty years ago Captain Stanley J. Michael, Commandant of the Air Station heralded your inaugural edition, which gave prominent coverage to the indoctrination training for 750 recruits. Since then you have covered all aspects of Navy life in Jacksonville - naval deployments, joyous homecomings, Presidential visits, changes in Navy policy, and heart breaking accidents which regrettably are sometimes part of the dangerous business that our Sailors do for their country.

This superb example of the Navy's internal media program continues to be one of the best publications in the fleet as demonstrated by numerous honorees, most recently the 2001 Chief of Information Merit Award for Civilian Enterprise Newspaper.

As we enter a new era of naval operations, it's publications like the Jax Air News that will assure our Sailors and their families receive the most concise, and timely information, delivered in the most professional manner.

Congratulations on 60 great years!


S. R. PIEROPOLU
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy



March 24, 2003

Dear Editor,

I am delighted to add my most sincere congratulations to the Jax Air News for 60 years of outstanding Navy journalism.

Since my arrival in Jacksonville, it is my observation that this publication is second to none in regards to command information and morale enhancement. Superb articles, skilled writing and outstanding photography all contributed to the paper's selection as the winner of the 2001 Chief of Information Merit Award for Civilian Enterprise Newspaper.

The Jax Air News enjoys a proud legacy of approximately 3,000 superb editions, and the hard work of past and current staffs have and will ensure this level of high quality continues.

Congratulations on a job well done.


Sincerely,
R. C. BROWN
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy

Jax Air News
Box 2, Naval Air Station
Jacksonville, Florida 32212-5000



COMMANDING OFFICER
NAVAL AIR STATION
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32212-5000

24 March 2003

As the thirty-fifth Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Jacksonville, it is my pleasure to extend hearty congratulations to the Jax Air News for celebrating 60 years of top quality journalism, the finest in the U.S. Navy.

On April 1, 1943, NAS Jacksonville's third Commandant, Captain Stanley J. Michael, formally welcomed the first issue of the fledgling Jax Air News - the only non-commercial service publication, by cited on all naval personnel in the vicinity to make it "the best service publication of its kind in the country." I am confident that the many fine professional's assigned to the Jax Air News staff throughout the ensuing 60 years have more than accomplished that vision and continue to do so.

From this humble origin, the Jax Air News spread its wings and has earned a well deserved reputation as one of the most respected commercial enterprise publications Navy-wide. The Jax Air News' recent selection as winner of the coveted 2001 Chief of Information Merit Awards Program and the myriad individual writing awards given to personnel assigned to the paper clearly indicate that respective legacy will continue well into the future.

I'm extremely proud to be associated with this fine publication. Keep up the great work!

Sincerely,

P. S. BUCKLE
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

Special Olympians, family members and their "buddies" from Clay County participate in the opening ceremonies of the Area Five Special Olympics Summer Games.

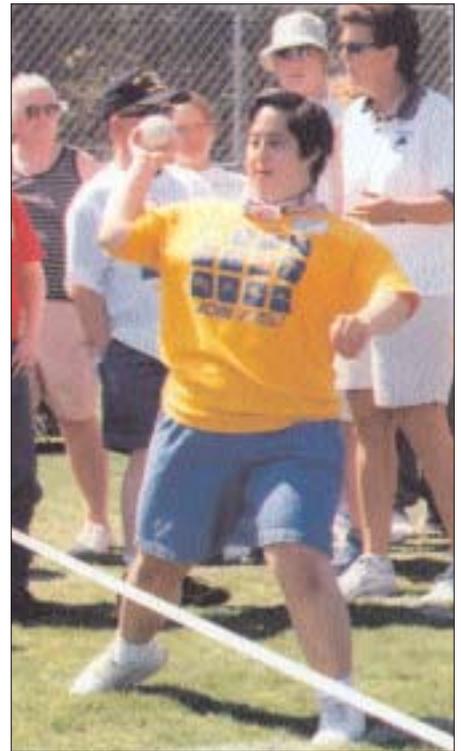


Above: Special Olympians, family members and their "buddies" from Clay County participate in the opening ceremonies of the Area Five Special Olympics Summer Games.



Navy Dentist Jim Antus of NAS Jax Dental Clinic examines Special Olympian Doug Fisher's teeth as part of the "Smiles Program."

Left: Special Olympian Dawn Dibec of St. Johns County participates in the softball throw.



A Special Olympian participates in the cycling event.



"Buddy" Tim Martin of NADEP helps Lorenzo Nash of Nassau County proudly show off his trophy earned for participating in an event at the Special Olympics Village.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS: *Volunteers help make event happen*

From Page 1

Shands Hospital and my sorority the Gamma Rho Omega Chapter or Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.," Parker added.

"We are so thankful for all the people at NAS Jax for helping out with this event. They've done so much for us for the past six years. They've really been a godsend to this area. We have a lot of small communities here that just don't have the resources to put on an event like this one. If we hadn't been able to bring everything from the base to the high school, we wouldn't have had these games today," said Nancy Sawyer, senior vice-president of programs for Florida Special Olympics.

"This event really means so much to these athletes. The communication and camaraderie they find with the people from the Navy bases provides such a thrill for them," continued Sawyer.

As the opening ceremonies began, hundreds of Special Olympians, their families, buddies and friends waved their flags, cheering, as they were led by members of the NAS Jax Color Guard around the track to the infield.

Following the American Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Special Olympian Mark Duffy of

Duval County, Capt. Scott Albertson of Commander, Navy Region Southeast administered the officials and Special Olympian's pledge.

He then declared the Special Olympics Area Five Summer Games officially open and "let the games begin!"

Special Olympians participated in numerous events throughout the day including track events, softball throwing, soccer, volleyball, cycling, tennis and wheelchair races.

Numerous Navy volunteers acted as timers, scorekeepers and officials during the competitions.

"I've been involved with Special Olympics for about eight years now. I sign up about 150 Navy volunteers to help out with the sport-

ing events. In the morning, I assign each person to a specific event. Each event has a coordinator who explains what the job entails. Once we get things going, everything tends to flow pretty well," stated Bill Bonser, NAS Jax sports coordinator and volunteer sports coordinator for the games.

When they weren't participating in the events Special Olympians spent their time playing games in the Special Olympic Village sponsored by the NAS Jax Navy Wives Club and lunching on food provided by the NAS Jax Galley and just having fun.

"I'm here to help the Special Olympians have a good time while competing in the events and throughout the day. It's really a lot

of fun," exclaimed AM2 Keith Hudson of HS-75 who teamed up with his "buddy" Special Olympian Ricky Turner from Nassau County.

Special Olympians were also provided free dental screenings by members of Naval Dental Center Southeast as part of the "Special Olympics Special Smile Program."

"We're here today to give dental screenings to the

athletes, oral hygiene instructions and access to care instructions. We can provide them with some information about their oral conditions and where they can go for help if needed. We have three clinics represented here today from NAS Jax, NS Mayport and NSB Kings Bay, Ga. with about 50 dentists and technicians," explained Lt. Cmdr. Rick Freedman, director of Advanced

Education and General Dentistry at Branch Dental Clinic, Jacksonville.

As the games came to a close in the late afternoon, each participant was presented with a trophy for their accomplishments.

As they boarded their buses for the trip home, the Special Olympians happily smiled and hugged their "buddies" and new Navy friends, vowing to come back again next year.

Taking a break from school

By Kaylee LaRocque
Staff Writer

With school out last week, 60 children spent their days enjoying the numerous activities organized by staff members of the NAS Jax Youth Activities Center (YAC). This year's Spring Break Camp featured such events as swimming at the base indoor pool, bowling at Freedom Lanes and a trip to Chuck E. Cheese.

"This year's camp was a lot of fun. It gives the kids a nice little break from classes. We took them on several outings. When they had time at the Youth Center, we had them playing recreational games and doing arts and crafts," said Erica Hickey, NAS Jax YAC director.

"This has been a really fun week. We got to go to the gym and on field trips. I've been coming to this camp for the past three years and have lots of friends here," said nine-year-old Bobby Dye.

"I really love this camp because we are out of school and I don't have any homework. I enjoy coming here and working on the computers, doing the arts and crafts and especially swimming because I really love the water," stated Dez Gillai Jackson.

The camp was open each day from 6:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. "We used our own staff members and brought them in based on need. We are required to have one adult per 15 children," explained Hickey.

With school only in session a couple more months, the staff at the base YAC is already planning for Summer Camp. "We are holding registration for our



Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

(From left) Allie Plante, Bria Earnest and Britney Howard build pyramids during the carpet session of Spring Break Camp at the Youth Activities Center.



Dominique Mathis gets a little reassurance from Gretchen Searles, a Youth Activities Center staff member before heading to the pool.

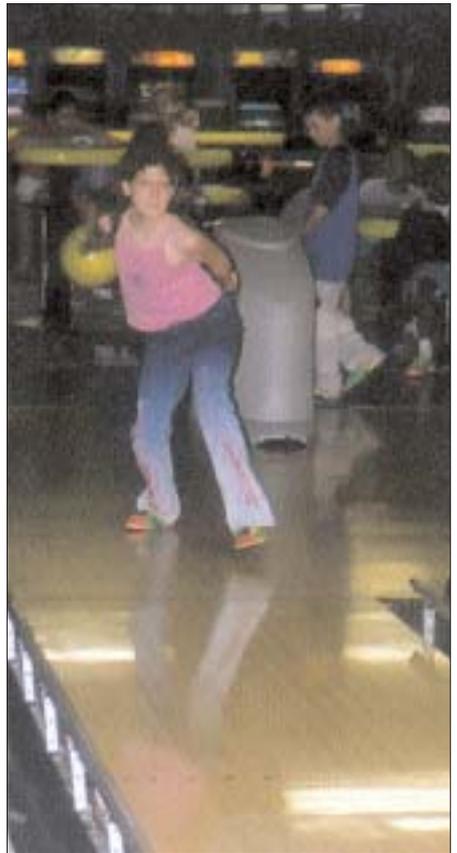


Photos by JO2(SCW) Eric Clay

A group of children participating in the NAS Jax Youth Activities Center Spring Break Camp 2003 enjoy some time at the base pool under close supervision.

Packets will be available for pick-up April 1," Hickey added.

For more information, contact the NAS Jax YAC at 778-9772.



Ten-year-old Caitlyn Cruse participates in some team bowling during a recent outing during the Youth Activities Center Spring Break Camp.

NAS Jax to host Navy Run

By Staff

The NAS Jacksonville will host the 25th Navy 10K Run/5K Walk on April 5 at 7:30 a.m.

Due to security measures, participation is limited to those authorized to enter the base (valid ID card and Department of Defense vehicle decal). Others can participate with an authorized sponsor who will arrive with them and stay with them during the event.

Pre-registration will be held at the Holiday Inn, Route 17, in Orange Park on April 4, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The race is free to all active duty personnel. The cost to all others is \$15 prior to April 5. The cost for military and civilians who register 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 a.m. to 7 a.m. Packets may also be picked up on race day at the registration area.

The race starts at 7:30 a.m. with an

awards ceremony following in the Navy Exchange parking lot.

Following the 10K race, 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 also receive awards. The 5K walk is non-competitive this year.

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

For additional information call 542-2930 or 542-3518.

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IRAQ: NAS Jax squadrons a part of the effort

From Page 1

feld. "Saddam Hussein was given a choice by the international community: give up your weapons of mass murder or lose power. He chose unwisely and now he will lose both."

"We have a huge commitment and play a big role to this operation," remarked VS-24's AMCS(AW/SW) Arthur Robertson. "In the 'Scouts,' as in the other squadrons, teamwork is key, and that teamwork translates to a very high morale."

As events unfold on televisions across the country, family members back home with loved ones currently deployed undoubtedly have many concerns.

In answer to this need, the NAS Jax Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) is offering numerous programs for military spouses. The FFSC Spouse Support Group takes place Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at FFSC and Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. at the base chapel. "These meetings cover a number of topics related to deployment issues faced by family members," said FFSC Program Specialist Dianne Parker.

The FFSC's Military Spouse 101 Resource Fair takes place tonight at 6:30 at the NAS Jax River Cove Officer's Club. "The focus of this fair is to help spouses understand what's available for them here," Parker explained. "A number of military services, including Housing, Legal, Personnel Support Detachment, Tricare and USO to name a few, will be represented with information booths."

The event is open to military spouses of all services, including



By PHAN Nichole Wozny

A HH-60H Sea Hawk assigned to the NAS Jacksonville "Dusty Dogs" of HS-7 lifts Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel off USS Harry Truman's (CVN 75) flight deck. Truman and Carrier Air Wing Three are currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

reservists. "This fair takes place four times a year and provides important information for the family members," she added.

Free refreshments and childcare will be provided at the event. Registration is required for those in need of childcare. For more information about FFSC programs or to register for the Military Spouse 101 Resource Fair, call 542-2766.

"Now that conflict has come, the only way to limit its duration is to apply decisive force," said



By PHC Eric Clement

AE3 Rockford Vansach repairs electrical systems in the wing of a S-3B Viking aircraft assigned to the "Scouts" of VS-24 embarked on USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71). Roosevelt and Carrier Air Wing Eight are operating out of the Arabian Sea in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

President George W. Bush. "And I assure you, this will not be a campaign of half measures and we will accept no outcome but victory. The dangers to our country and the world will be overcome. We will pass through this time of peril and carry on the work of peace. We will defend our freedom. We will bring freedom to others. And we will prevail."

Continuing coverage of Operation Iraqi Freedom may be found at the Navy News Stand at: www.news.navy.mil.



Embedded Media aboard the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) document a U.S. naval aviator assigned to the "Checkmates" of VS-22 donning his flight gear during preparations for a combat mission over Iraq.

Photo by PH2 Andrea Decanini

Indoor cycling increases your endurance

By Miriam S. Gallet
Editor

The NAS Jacksonville Gym Reebok cycling class does not have many requirements. It is one of the safest activities for people of all ages, sizes and abilities to become fit and healthy. The workout uses sound fitness principles to help you attain your fitness goal.

It is a relatively stress-free activity which doesn't jar your bones and joints and burns a high number of calories.

Barbara Millhollan, NAS Jacksonville Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Fitness director and certified Reebok cycling instructor, with more than 15 years of experience, explained the benefits of this indoor craze that began building all over the country a few years ago.

"About 15 years ago, ultra-endurance athlete Johnny G. originally created the indoor "Spinning" phenomenon. Cycling brings health and fitness to people of all ages, sizes and abilities," she explained.

Indoor cycling gives you all the benefits of an outdoor bike ride without leaving the air-conditioned comfort of a workout room. "It is very different from a stationary bicycle," said Millhollan. "For starters, you can vary your mode, going from steep hill climb to a downhill coast. Cycling works the entire body providing cardiovascular, lower and upper body conditioning. It is a wonderful activity for those wanting to cross-train."

Indoor cycling takes place in a group environment led by an instructor who has developed a routine set to music. Additionally, some instructors teach visualization techniques such as imagining riding on a secluded beach or a country road.

Millhollan recommends taking an introductory class before going on to a more advanced indoor cycling workout. "Although classes can be easily adapted with a simple change in the resistance level, you need to learn how to set up the bike for your height and body mechanics to ensure a safe ride," she said.

To ease the ride, the base gym provides gel seat covers and a heart monitor. The heart rate monitor will gauge your exercise intensity and prevent over-training. Participants are asked to bring a water bottle with



Photos by Miriam S. Gallet

Participants pedal to the sound of music during a recent Reebok cycling class at the NAS Jax Gym.

a minimum of 16 ounces of cool water, wear breathable clothing for maximum cooling efficiency and stiff shoes for effective pedaling force.

However, like any other physical activity, aches and pains will crop up. Millhollan recommends some basic solutions to deal effectively with minor complaints including a sore butt, neck and shoulder aches and knee pains.

"I recommend buying a pair of padded bike shorts. It will give you more padding until your legs get stronger and keep you from sinking. In order to avoid an aching neck and sore

shoulders, I encourage my students to take periodic breaks. You can sit up in the saddle and keep the arms down the sides of the your torso. Also, do shoulder and neck rolls to keep the muscle loose," she said.

If you are presently cycling or thinking about joining one of the classes being offered at the gym, remember to eat healthy, energy-packed foods. According to Millhollan the more "fuel" you have in your body the better your cycling experience will be.

Millhollan also recommends you don't worry about keeping up with

class. Cycle at your own fitness level, even if it means sitting down when everyone is climbing hills.

The cycling classes are a fun way to improve your health and fitness. "If you haven't tried it yet, get started today. It is the ultimate ride for your body," concluded Millhollan.

The cycling classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:45 to 6:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. to noon. Participants are asked to arrive 15 minutes early.

For more information, call Millhollan at 542-3518.



EM2 Michelle Betton of Southeast Regional Calibration Center spins the wheels of a Reebok bicycle during a recent cycling class at the NAS Jax Gym. Betton, who lost 10 pounds over the past two months, says she enjoys cycling "Cause it is fun and a great way to lose weight."

MWR NOTES

NAS Jax Golf Club offers deals

The NAS Jax Golf Club is offering some great golfing challenges in April. The Men's Blitz is each Saturday at 11 a.m. On April 13, the Men's Golf Association will hold their monthly event, hosting 60 players at 9 a.m. Beginning April 16, a Men's 9-Hole Scramble begins and will be featured every Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

Aquatics Department taking reservations

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

The Aquatics staff is eager to help you get you fit. Join them for an aqua aerobics class, Monday - Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon, or Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. and again from 5:30-6 p.m. There is still time to enroll in May swimming classes. Registration is open for all levels. Please contact the Aquatics Department at 542-2930.

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 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

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.

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)

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 tomorrow night. 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

We're starting a T-shirt design contest. Come by the Liberty Recreation Center to get more details.

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.

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. This is for active duty only. Sign-ups begin at 3 p.m. the day of the event.

April 7 - NCAA Men's Basketball Division I Championship Game Party.

April 11-13 - White Water Rafting at Long Creek in South Carolina. Join us for this challenge.

April 19 - Sky Diving Trip

April 23 - Join us for our monthly Indoc BBQ at 11 a.m.

For more information, call 542-1335.

River Cove Officers' Club

Catering & Conference Center

Join us for an all-hands Easter Brunch, April 20 at the River Cove Officers' Club. Brunch will be served from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., with a special visit from the

Easter Bunny at 11 a.m. The cost is \$10.95 for adults, \$5.50 for children ages 6-12 and free for children under 6. Call today and make your reservations, 542-3041. Walk-ins will not be accepted.

2003 Navy Teen Camp Scholarship Program

The Navy Teen Camp Scholarship Program is sending 135 Navy teens ages 12-17 to camp this summer. Get the word out to your youth regarding these exciting camps. The deadline to apply is April 1. Contact Youth Activities at 778-9772 for more information.

Night Easter Egg Hunt

Kids get ready for the annual night Easter Egg Hunt at the Macaffrey Softball Complex on April 18 at dusk. There will be thousands of eggs, hiding (glowing) for you to find. Don't miss the chance to fill your baskets with delicious treats and find the golden egg with a big surprise inside.

April is Month of the Military Child

Help celebrate our youths during this year's Month Of the Military Child celebration. The staff of the NAS Jax Youth Activities Center is putting together an exciting event with carnival rides, pool games, prizes and just plain old fun on April 26 from noon to 4 p.m. at the outdoor pool. This event is free for all.

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.

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. 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.

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 (debbiejkg@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 rjrjax@atbi.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 7:30-8:30 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 AOC Erick Parmley at 542-8589.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (Flotilla 14-8) is sponsoring three one-day Boating Safely 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 Children's Home Society of Florida will host its 14th annual **Run for the Roses** celebration presented by MPS Group May 3 at the Outpost in Ponte Vedra Beach. The event kicks off at 4 p.m. and includes a big-screen broadcast of the Kentucky Derby as well as a traditional "Derby dinner," and a silent auction. Proceeds from the celebration will benefit CHS, which provides adoption, foster care and other social services for local children and families.

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 djdestin@cox.net.

JAX TALES BY MIKE JONES

WWW.RICKYSTOUR.COM



VP-30 captures their fourth consecutive Captain's Cup

By Bill Bonser
Sports Coordinator

The MWR Sports Captain's Cup events run through the calendar year and is awarded annually to the command that has demonstrated the highest level of participation and achievement in the NAS Jacksonville MWR Sports Captain's Cup Program.

On March 19, NAS Jacksonville's Commanding Officer, Capt. Mark Boensel, presented the 2002 MWR Sports Captain's Cup to VP-30's Commanding Officer, Capt. Brian Prindle.

The presentation has become a routine for VP-30 as they have won four consecutive MWR Sports Captain's Cups.

The Captain's Cup programs are for active duty and selective reserve military individuals and teams representing activities

2002 Captain's Cup Events and Winners

4-on-4 Flag Football – VP-30
Basketball – AIMD
Soccer – VP-30
Greybeard Basketball – 2BN351
Camp Blanding
Softball – VP-16
Greybeard Softball – VP-30
Indoor Volleyball – VP-30

Tennis – 2BN351 Camp
Blanding
Sand Volleyball – VP-30
Golf – VP-30
Fall Volleyball – CPRW-11
Fall Softball – VP-5
Fall Greybeard Softball – VS-32
Fall Racquetball – Air Ops,

CHSWL
Fall Tennis – HS-75
Turkey Trot – CNRSE, CHSWL
Jingle Bell Jog – CNRSE, CHSWL
Flag Football – VS-31
3-on-3 Basketball – VP-5
Bowling – CSCWL

attached to NAS Jacksonville. The program has an entry point divisor assigned to each activity/unit based on manpower authorized allowances to ensure equity for all types and sizes of commands. Since VP-30 has the largest command at NAS Jax, they receive only five entry points out of a maximum of 30 points for each team sport to allow smaller commands to capitalize on the 30 entry points.

There are two types of events: team and individual sports. Commands may

enter as many teams or individuals in the events.

Commands receive 30 entry points for each team completing the respective sport season. Command entry points are then divided by the command divisor to get the total entry points for the respective sport.

Commands lose 10 captain's cup points for every no show forfeiture. Additional points for team sports are awarded for league champion – 25 points; league runner-up – 15; playoff champion – 35; playoff runner-up – 25; and playoff third place – 15.

Commands receive five entry points for each command participant up to a maximum of 30 points with the total entry points divided by the command divisor to get the total entry points for the respective individual sport.

Additional points for individual sports are awarded for first place – 20; second place – 15; and third place – 10.

VP-30 compiled 530 points defeating second place AIMD by 166 points. Even though VP-30 is at a disadvantage for the entry points, the secret is that



Photo by Glenn Mebane

Capt. Brian Prindle, VP-30 commanding officer (right) graciously accepts the 2002 MWR Sports Captain's Cup from Capt. Mark Boensel, NAS Jax commanding officer as Mike Gorman, NAS Jax athletic director, (left) Mike McCool, MWR deputy director and Bill Bonser, NAS Jax sports coordinator look on.

they competed in 15 out of the 21 MWR Sports Captain's Cup events and were base champions in soccer, golf, volleyball, sand volleyball, and 4-on-4 flag football. VP-30 has also dominated the intramural volleyball and soccer

leagues by winning four consecutive base championships.

The NAS Jax MWR Sports Captain's Cup was reinstated in 1998 and VP-45 has been the only other command that has won the award.

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.

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 20

Team	Points
VS-32	158
AIMD – DB	139
SERCC – GRUS	129
AIMD – BB	113
VR-58 – BB	106.5
VR-58	104
SERCC – B&T	94.5
CV-TSC	71

Mulberry Cove Marina to sponsor bass tourney

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.