



Jax Air News

TOUCHING BASE

Battle of Midway dinner set for May 31
By CNRSE Public Affairs

Tickets are now on sale for this year's Battle of Midway commemoration dinner, which will be held May 31, at the Radisson Riverwalk Hotel on Jacksonville's southbank.

Tickets may be purchased from the following installation locations: NAS Jacksonville, Office of the Command Master Chief, IT1 Guy Stelzenmuller at (904) 542-4545/2934; Naval Station Mayport, ITC (SW/AW) Victor Martin, 270-7354 extension 116; and Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Lt. Suzette Maffett at (912) 673-2617.

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. Battle of Midway veterans and their spouses pay \$20 each.

The Battle of Midway, which took place June 4 through 7, 1942, has been called the most important sea battle of the 20th century.

The guest speaker will be Lt. Cmdr. William Roy, whose still and motion picture photography from the USS Yorktown captured scenes from the Battle of Coral Sea including the sinking of USS Lexington, and the sinking of USS Hammann during the Battle of Midway.

In addition to Roy's address, 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.

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

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.

Southeast Region to change to summer uniforms

All ships and stations within Navy Region Southeast will shift to the summer uniform of the day at 0001 on Monday.

The prescribed uniform is: officer/CPO - summer white/khakis and E-6 and below - summer whites.
Ball caps are authorized with the working uniform only and may not be worn with the summer white uniform.

Pagers and cell phones may not be worn on the uniform except when required for official duties and provided by the member's command. Pagers and cell phones must be turned off or silenced while attending military ceremonies.

All hands are expected to maintain a sharp military appearance at all times.

HS-11 returns to Jax

'Dragonslayers' come home as Battle 'E' winners

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

The "World Famous" "Dragonslayers" of HS-11 completed their Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) deployment aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) and returned home to family and friends at NAS Jacksonville yesterday.

The proud men and women of this squadron performed flawlessly throughout their extended six-month deployment. The Dragonslayers were recently awarded the Commander, Naval Air Forces U.S. Atlantic Fleet, HS Squadron Battle Efficiency Award for 2001. HS-11's performance in support of Operation Enduring Freedom epitomized their commitment to combat readiness and truly embodies the spirit of the Battle "E" Award.

The year 2001 saw the HS-11 complete an extensive Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC) and deploy in direct support of the combat actions of Operation Enduring Freedom. HS-11, as a part of Carrier Air Wing One, concluded their rigorous IDTC aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) in August 2001 and was ready to answer the call for deployment after the Sept. 11 tragedy.

HS-11 accomplished both COMPTUEX and JTFEX in



Photo courtesy of HS-11

An HH-60H helicopter from HS-11 lifts off from USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) during their recent deployment. HS-11 returns home this week.

the Vieques/Puerto Rico operating area, reaching peak proficiency in all mission areas. Highlights of the squadron's IDTC included Hellfire missile shots in the Jacksonville, Fallon and Cherry Point ranges, more than a dozen exercise torpedo firings at St. Croix and AUTEAC, and

numerous Airwing Strike and Naval Special Warfare exercises.

Starting their deployment on Sept. 19, 2001 aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt, HS-11 was the first HS squadron to fly Armed Helicopter (FLIR/Hellfire system, GAU-16 & M240 machine

guns) Force Protection missions in support of the Roosevelt Battle Group. The HH-60H continued to provide this critical support throughout the deployment when the battle group conducted numerous strait transits.

At the onset of air strikes in Afghanistan, HS-11 was

on station in the North Arabian Sea providing 30-minute alert Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) coverage for coalition aircraft as they flew over Pakistan to their targets in Afghanistan.

In November, the squadron also provided essential

See HS-11, Page 16



Photo by JO2(SCW) Eric Clay

The hunt is on!

Isaiah Foister, grandson of SH1 (SW) Rick Foister, bends down to snatch an egg during the MWR Easter Egg Hunt last Friday night at the McCaffrey field on base. More than 700 children participated in the event. The candy-filled eggs were scattered throughout the field. Some lucky children found special eggs, rewarding them with full Easter baskets or a \$50 cash prize.

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'Maulers' back home

Record 159 days without port call

By Lt. Natalia Henriquez
VS-32 PAC

This week, the VS-32 "Maulers" are finally coming home. The squadron, based out of NAS Jacksonville, have spent more than six months at sea aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71). The majority of that time was spent in the North Arabian Sea in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the war on terrorism.

The Maulers fly the S-3B Viking, currently the only carrier-based aircraft capable of refueling other aircraft.

VS-32 is part of Carrier Air Wing One (CVW-1) and the Theodore Roosevelt Battle Group, which set sail eight days after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

Since the beginning of their deployment, VS-32 has achieved unprecedented records. They flew nearly 4,000 hours and logged almost 2,000 carrier arrestments. They passed 5.3 million pounds of fuel, enabling strike aircraft to complete their missions over Afghanistan. Additionally, the Maulers became a part of history

Lt. Cmdr. Zig Leszczynski hugs his daughters Megan and Cathleen upon his return home from deployment.



Photo by PH1(AW) Antonio Borges

WEEKEND WEATHER

	FRIDAY 50/79 PARTLY CLOUDY
	SATURDAY 55/81 PARTLY CLOUDY
	SUNDAY 61/81 PARTLY CLOUDY

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

CHAPEL'S CORNER

A Holy Week of celebration

By Cmdr. Simon Peter Ignacio
Command Chaplain

Come, celebrate Holy Week with us at our chapels.

Holy Thursday
For us, who profess Christianity, our long Lenten journey culminates in the Easter Triduum (three days), that is, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Solemn Easter Vigil and celebration of the Resurrection. These three days draw us into the mystery of our salvation.

On Holy Thursday, on the night before Jesus died, we gather to witness the re-enactment of the rite of foot washing which he did for his apostles.

"Do you understand what I have done for you? If I have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. You should love and serve each other as I love and serve you," said Jesus.

We also share in the Supper of the Lord, where in he took bread, blessed and broke it for his apostles, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body."

Giving them the cup of wine, he said, "Take and

drink of it. This is the cup of my blood shed for the forgiveness of sins."

He then commanded his followers to celebrate this supper as the new and eternal sacrifice in his memory.

In our prayer today, we let our Lord wash our feet - love us unconditionally - and we let Jesus be broken and given for us.

We pray that we might be faithful to the one commandment of Jesus - that we might love others in the same way that we have been loved.

Good Friday

Good Friday is a very special day of intimacy with our Lord crucified. It is a day to pray and to accompany Jesus as He carried his cross to Calvary.

For many of us, it's a day of fasting and abstinence. This we do, so that we may sharpen our awareness and openness to be forgiven and to forgive those who have wronged us, in as much as God has forgiven us in Jesus Christ.

It's a day to stand at the foot of the cross as a forgiven sinner—to stand there side-by-side with everyone else who is forgiven.

It is a day of profound gratitude as we gaze upon the wood of the cross, on which hung the Savior of the world.

Solemn Easter Vigil - Easter of the Resurrection

The Easter Vigil begins with darkness. The darkness itself is the first moment of the liturgical celebration.

Darkness represents all darkness, and all the meanings of darkness—devoid of light; evil thoughts, motivations, deeds; all that is hidden and secret, deceitful and dishonest, divisive and abusive, immoral and sinful. It's the darkness of our world, and the darkness in my heart.

If I come to the vigil and restlessly and impatiently fidget in the dark "until something happens," I miss the power of what is about to happen.

So, we prepare by readying ourselves to experience the darkness. Darkness is distasteful and reprehensible, embarrassing and humbling, fearful and despairing.

Then a light is struck. It breaks into the darkness. Light, the symbol of the

risen Lord, now shines on all those who are at one with him who died and rose from the dead.

All our preparations, all the power of this glorious night's rituals and sacraments, lead us to celebrate the Eucharist, to "give God thanks and praise." The solemn proclamation is intoned: "The Tomb is empty! The Lord is Risen, alleluia!"

As the sun breaks forth through the darkness of the night, the jubilation continues in an Easter Sunrise Service echoing the proclamation: "The tomb is empty. Indeed, he is risen as he said alleluia. There is light in the midst of our darkness."

At the Easter Sunday Mass and Worship Services, we celebrate our Christian faith.

Nourished by his word and given new life in the waters of baptism, we renew our baptismal promises and we feast at the table of the Lord receiving his life more abundantly.

May your hearts be filled with the peace of the risen Lord!

A blessed Easter to each and everyone.

HEY MONEY MAN!



Hey, MoneyMan!

I didn't expect to make a lot of money when I joined the Navy, but I thought my pay would be a lot higher than it is.

I know we all get this big pay raise this year, but I think I can do better on the outside. Why do civilians make so much more than we do but they don't seem to work as hard?

MoneyMan Sez:

Simply put, military personnel are not overpaid for what they do. It is hard to adequately compensate anyone for time spent away from families or for the risks involved in serving in the military, particularly during a time of war.

But military compensation does not always lag civilian pay. There are a number of advantages including tax-free BAH and BAS, free health insurance, affordable life insurance, and scheduled pay raises.

Also, remember your retirement plan has auto-

matic cost of living increases. You even have the option of retiring from the military, working in another field for 20 years or more, and still retire before you are 65.

There are lots of reasons for leaving military service, but low pay may not be one of them. Think about it.

Hey, MoneyMan!

I am retired and I spend a lot of money on medical care. I thought it was supposed to be free for retirees. What can you tell me about

TRICARE and this new program TRICARE for Life?

MoneyMan Sez:

Health care is expensive and getting more expensive everyday. TRICARE is the military's medical plan which offers three options:

Prime works like an HMO. It is the least expensive, but has the most restrictions. In general, you must only see doctors in the TRICARE network. If you live near a military hospital or anyplace where

the network is offered, check it out.

Standard is a "fee-for-service" plan where patients pay deductibles and a percentage of the fee TRICARE allows doctors to charge.

Extra is for patients who choose to use Standard, but they can get a cost break if they use network doctors.

TRICARE for Life is for retirees who have Medicare Part B and are at least 65 years old.

In most cases, you do not have any out-of-pocket expenses because TRICARE is your supplemental insurance.

As a military retiree, once you turn 65, your medical care is essentially free. TRICARE for Life is also available to dependents and survivors registered in DEERS.

Confused? Call the TRICARE regional contractor at 1-800-444-5445. They should be able to answer your questions.

Scam targets VISA cardholders

The Florida Office of the Comptroller released an alert warning holders of Visa credit cards of an identity theft scam.

Visa International's Visa USA Fraud Control division said the possible scam is designed to obtain cardholders' personal data and account information.

Visa credit cardholders may receive a letter stating that their card is cancelled until further notice. The

letter claims that the card is suspected of being involved in criminal activity, advising the cardholder to wait for an investigator to contact him by phone.

The letter would then advise the recipient to visit their web site, which state officials said is no longer active.

Visa advised customers should treat this as a scam since it did not issue such letter.



Sunday Services at the Base Chapel

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

- Saturday** 5 p.m. - Catholic Mass
- Sunday** 8:30 a.m. - Protestant Communion
- 9:30 a.m. - Catholic Mass
- 11 a.m. - Protestant Worship

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

Meet A Sailor ...

DCFN JAMES RADIGAN

Job title/command:
First Lieutenant Division

Hometown: Garden Grove, Calif.

Past Duty Stations: Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center

Family Life: Married for one year.

Career Plans: To be a retired millionaire by age 30.

Most Interesting Experience: Going through dive school.

Words of Wisdom: Don't let anyone steal your dreams.

Meet A Civilian...

WILLIAM CRUCE

Job title/command:
Construction Representative

Hometown: Lawley

Past Duty Stations: Retired Army

Family Life: Married

Career Plans: To retire from civil service.

Most Interesting Experience: Traveling overseas while in the service.

Words of Wisdom: Do the right thing and retire.

Religious Ministries Department	
Holy Week Services	
Catholic	Protestant
Holy Thursday 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Good Friday 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Solemn Easter Vigil Celebration 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Easter Sunday 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Good Friday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Charles P. "Pat" Dooling J02 (SW) Eric Clay J02 (SW) Shaq Blasko J03 Jackey Bratt

For more information, please call 3852-988

Jax Air News

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Keeping record of emergency information updated

All Sailors must update and verify their records of emergency data immediately, unless verification has been completed within the last six months and no changes have occurred.

We need to focus on the mission, and updating your emergency data is an essential part of that mission. There is not a more critical responsibility for our people than having the right data to contact family members should we need to reach them.

Sailors should ensure all copies of the record of emergency data contain the additional address and telephone numbers for each designated primary next-of-kin (PNOK) and secondary next-of-kin (SNOK) required by NavAdmin 098/01.

Verification of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) election will also be conducted with record of emergency data updates. Navy family care plan certificates and arrangements should also be updated.

In the event that information has changed since the last update, Personnel Support Detachments (PSD) or command administration offices need to send the updated, original record of emergency data to: NavPersCom (PERS-313C), 5720 Integrity Dr., Millington, TN 38055-3130, using regular mail. PSDs should also maintain a copy in their local offices.

CREDO

It's free! Give yourself the gift of a Navy CREDO Retreat. The next Marriage Enrichment Retreat is April 5-7. The next Personal Growth Retreat is April 18-21. For more information, or to register, call CREDO at 270-6958.

'Dusty Dogs' get new commander

By Lt. j.g. Kristopher Robinson
HS-7 Public Affairs Officer

In a Change of Command ceremony on board NAS Jacksonville on last Friday Cmdr. Kevin Kenney became Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Seven's (HS-7) 39th Commanding Officer as he relieved Cmdr. Andrew Macyko.

Kenney was born in Philadelphia, Penn. and grew up in San Diego, Calif. He attended the University of Southern California and received a bachelor of science degree in public administration (Cum Laude). After receiving his commission through the NROTC program, he entered flight school in June 1985 and was designated a Naval Aviator in July 1986.

His first assignment was to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Sixteen (HS-16) in San Diego, flying the Sikorsky SH-3H, as Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) officer. After the squadron's decommissioning, he reported to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Two (HS-2), completing deployments aboard USS Nimitz (CVN-68) and transitioning to the H-60F/H helicopter.

Following his initial sea tour, Kenney was selected to attend Naval Test Pilot School at Patuxent River, Md. After designation as a test pilot he reported



Cmdr. Kenney



Cmdr. Macyko

to the Rotary Wing Aircraft Test Directorate, where he served as model manager and project officer for developmental test and evaluation of the H-60F/H helicopter. In June of 1994 he received a master of science in aviation systems engineering from the University of Tennessee.

After this tour, Kenney reported to the staff of Carrier Air Wing Nine (CVW-9) as Assistant Operations, Combat Search and Rescue, and ASW officer. During this tour, he deployed to the Arabian Gulf and Taiwan Strait aboard USS Nimitz (CVN-68)

while flying the H-60 and S-3B aircraft. Subsequent to this tour, Kenney reported to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Fourteen (HS-14) in Atsugi, Japan, serving as Tactics and Operations officer. During this tour the squadron won the Battle E and deployed aboard USS Independence (CV-62) and USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63).

In 1998, Kenney reported to the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. where he received a masters degree in national security and strategic studies. He then completed Joint Professional Military

Education Phase II at the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Va. He reported to HS-7 as executive officer in December 2000, deploying aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75).

He has flown more than 4,200 hours in more than 40 different models of United States and foreign military aircraft, and is a member of both the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and the Naval Helicopter Association.

He is married to the former Susan Lynne Bentley of Youngstown, Ohio. They have two daughters, Kaitlyn and Kristen.

Macyko, a native of Garden City, N.Y., attended the United States Naval Academy and was commissioned in May, 1983. He reported to Pensacola, Fla. for flight training and was designated a Naval Aviator in February 1985.

Macyko has served tours in HS-1, HS-7, HS-11, and deployed aboard USS America (CVN-66), USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67), USS Guam (LPH-9), and USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75). As well, he is a graduate of the Navy's Test Pilot School and served as engineering test pilot and SH-60F model manager at the Rotary Wing Aircraft Test Directorate.

Macyko has additionally served as navigator on USS Guam (LPH-9), attended the College of Naval

Command and Staff at the Naval War College in Newport, RI, and been assigned to the Joint Staff, (J-5) Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate at the Pentagon.

He holds a bachelor of science degree in ocean engineering from the Naval Academy, a masters of science degree in aviation systems from the University of Tennessee, and a masters of arts degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College.

Macyko assumed command of HS-7 in December 2000 and commanded the squadron on Truman's maiden cruise to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf with Joint Task Group 01-1. He has accrued more than 4,000 flight hours in 26 models of military aircraft and is a member of the Society of Experimental Test pilots.

He and his wife, the former Susan McClenathan of Orchard Park, N.Y., have one son, Thomas.

Macyko will report to USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) as the navigator. So, while the Dusty's of HS-7 may bid fair winds and following seas to Skipper Macyko, we will not have to say goodbye for long. The Dusty Dogs will be deploying with Carrier Airwing Three (CVW-3) aboard Truman for our next deployment, later this year.

'Red Lions' prepare for deployment

By Lt. Ryan Hayes
HS-15 PAO

From the wintry desert of NAS Fallon, Nev., to the tropical beaches of the Bahamas, the "Red Lions" of HS-15 have been training around the clock to prepare for their upcoming cruise on board USS George Washington (CVN 73).

From mid-January through mid-February, HS-15 was detached to NAS Fallon for air wing training, which provided an opportunity for the Red Lions to hone their skills in Strike Warfare, Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR), and Naval Special Warfare (NSW) alongside the rest of Carrier Air Wing 17.

Most of the missions were flown at night in the mountainous terrain of Nevada, providing a demanding training opportunity only possible here. Pilots and aircrewman sharpened their skills using night vision goggles, aircraft survivability equipment and weapon systems including the M-60, M-240 and .50 caliber machine guns, as well as, live Hellfire missiles.

SEAL platoons from Norfolk, Va., were also on hand to integrate the Naval Special Warfare package with air wing operations. The SEALs are a vital part of the picture, providing support during CSAR and other mission areas.

Following a busy two weeks back in Jacksonville to shift gears and focus on Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), the squadron detached for the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTC) at Andros Island, Bahamas. This remote island provides an underwater range used to locate, track and attack submarine targets, as well as, range boats for surface warfare and NSW training missions. At AUTC, the Red Lions also worked with Naval Station Mayport based helicopter squadron detachments assigned to the George Washington Battle Group and again with the Navy SEALs.

During the week-long detachment, the squadron showed its proficiency in the area of ASW, executing 10 successful exercise torpedo attacks, while refining ASW tactics by getting two direct hits with Hellfire missiles on a moving target at sea. Navy SEALs were on hand once again to train in Helicopter Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (HBVSS), a tactic used to board ships at sea in both the littoral and open ocean environment.

From Fallon to AUTC, HS-15 pilots, aircrew and maintainers worked hard to prepare the squadron for deployment. The Red Lions are ready to do their part in the ongoing war on terrorism.

Thank you, hospital civil service workers!



Photo courtesy of Naval Hospital

Kathy Jones (right), of Out Patient Records, presents a fruit package to Admissions Clerk Cathy Colvin. All civil service employees working at the Naval Hospital will receive the packages in appreciation for their dedication and hard work.

ROTC/JROTC students visit base commands

By Lt. Robert Rosales
Sea Control Weapons School PAO

On Feb. 25, 47 high school students from the JROTC unit at Winter Park High School in Orlando and eight students in the ROTC Unit at Jacksonville University were treated to a day-long Navy career fair by instructors from the Sea Control Weapons School (SCWS) and the Helicopter Anti-Submarine Weapons Training Unit (HS WTU).

Lt. Cmdr. Doug Fitzgerald, SCWS operations officer, began the day by presenting an overview of life as a naval aviator and recounting his experiences throughout his 12 years in aviation. In order to accommodate greater opportunities for exposure to different aspects of the Navy, the students were divided into two groups after the initial introduction.

One group spent the morning at the Sea Control Weapons School and the

other at the HS WTU. The two groups then switched locations in the afternoon.

At the Sea Control Weapons School, students were entertained with a number of briefs given by representatives from different communities, including officers from the Civil Engineering Corps, submarine force, and of course, naval aviation. Students were also afforded opportunities to fly the S-3B flight simulator and to try their abilities at landing aboard an aircraft carrier.

The HS WTU presented a number of briefs about naval aviation and the roles and missions of helicopters. The students were then allowed the opportunity to fly the SH-60 Seahawk simulator. Additionally, the HS WTU provided some hands-on exposure to equipment employed by HS aircrew, including night vision devices (NVD's), which students were able to use in the HS WTU NVD lab.

The event provided the high school

students a tremendous opportunity to interact with the Jacksonville University ROTC students. The students asked questions and gained information regarding NROTC training in preparation for a career as a naval officer.

The day ended with a limited tour of the flight line and a photo opportunity in front of the T-34C aircraft operated by SCWS. Throughout the day, all of the students appeared highly energetic and very inquisitive, trying to learn all they could about life in the Navy. Many commented they were impressed with the briefs which were done by "real Navy people." All presenters were spirited in their briefs and the students responded accordingly, often cheering during some of the presentations. Students left NAS Jacksonville impressed and excited, and undoubtedly more enthused about a career in the U.S. Navy.

I found buried treasure in my basement.

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Check out the Savings Bonds Catalogue at www.savingsbonds.gov to discover their value. 1-800-455-BOND

VS-24 'Scouts' win Battle 'E'

By Lt. Jake Abrams
VS-24 PAO

The "Scouts" of VS-24 have been honored for a year of outstanding operational achievement with the 2001 CINCLANTFLT Battle Efficiency Award. The award recognizes VS-24 as the top Sea Control Squadron on the East Coast for the 2001 calendar year. The competition was fierce, but the Scouts proved their supremacy in a year filled with command accolades.

VS-24 spent most of 2001 aboard USS Enterprise (CVN-65), completing a challenging work-up period and extended overseas deployment. Their JTG 01-2 deployment included operations in the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean, Red, and Arabian Seas, and the Arabian Gulf.

Throughout their wide-ranging travels, the Scouts participated in multi-national exercises and flew crucial missions in support of Operations Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom. The squadron's S-3 Vikings were among the first aircraft over hostile territory during initial strikes on terrorist targets in Afghanistan, achieving a perfect sortie completion rate during its entire participation in the campaign.

The squadron also deployed with the Surveillance System



The Scouts of VS-24 return from a deployment filled with success.

Photo courtesy of VS-24

Upgrade (SSU) S-3, perfecting the art of time-critical targeting while exploring new Sea Control

mission areas with this innovative prototype aircraft. The strides made by VS-24 with the

SSU aircraft have benefited the S-3 Viking community and advanced the science of naval

real-time targeting.

VS-24 acted as Carrier Air Wing Eight's (CVW-8) only organic airborne refueling asset during work-ups and deployment and at critical times served as the only source of airborne fuel in the entire theatre of war. VS-24 delivered more than five million pounds of fuel to air wing assets while flying more than 3,117 hours and making 1,627 carrier-arrested landings during a tempestuous deployment. For outstanding reliability throughout Operation Enduring Freedom, they won the CVW-8 Golden Wrench Award for maintenance excellence.

In addition to operational achievements, the squadron was recognized for superlative personnel and safety programs that help all Scouts sustain unmatched performance. VS-24 received multiple CINCLANTFLT Retention Honor Roll appointments for efforts in promoting and developing outstanding sailors, and both ground and aviation safety programs have been recognized for excellence.

Skipper Brian Luther accepted the Battle 'E' award on behalf of the hardworking personnel of VS-24.

NAVHOSP NEWS

'Shipmates With Heart'

Naval Hospital volunteers bettering lives in Jacksonville

By Loren Barnes

Naval Hospital Jacksonville Public Affairs

Swapping needles and stethoscopes for hammers and saws, eight Naval Hospital Jacksonville Sailors volunteered for a "Shipmates With Heart" project March 21 at a home on Jacksonville's northside.

"Shipmates With Heart" is a volunteer community outreach program coordinated aboard NAS Jacksonville by the USO. The USO works with the Jacksonville Housing Partnership, a non-profit organization, to marshal the resources of local government, civic and business organizations to bring better living conditions to lower income families throughout Jacksonville.

Through the USO's efforts, NAS Jacksonville volunteers, including many from Naval Hospital Jacksonville, have contributed thousands of man-hours to the program. The volunteers lend their building skills for badly needed home repairs and construct wheelchair ramps to provide greater mobility for wheelchair-bound residents.

The Naval Hospital volunteers were working on a wheelchair ramp project at a residence off Martin Luther King Parkway. Involved in the project were: HM1 Joseph Tarver, coordinating the hospital volunteers, DT3 David Flores, HM2 Andray Williams, HN Elbert Hawkins, SH2 Juan Natal, HM3 Merv Rollinson, HM1 Irmo Sanchez and HM3 Christopher Lunsford. The on-site coordinator from the Jacksonville Housing Partnership was Doug Davis.

DT3 David Flores braces a board as HN Elbert Hawkins uses a nail gun to secure it in place.

Hospital volunteers regularly work with the program. Tarver said that each volunteer brings to the project their own prior skills and everyone learns new skills. He said that anyone can volunteer regardless of their prior carpenter experience. "We take anyone that wants to help out. The Housing Partnership pros will teach you the carpentry skills," he said.

Williams, a first time "Shipmates With Heart" volunteer, said this was an exciting opportunity. "It was just a great chance to represent the U.S. Navy and the Naval Hospital and to help some people who need it," he said. "It is definitely something I'd do again."

The program's coordinators are



HM1 Irmo Sanchez (above) cuts planks for the wheelchair ramp.

HM3 Christopher Lunsford, HM3 Merv Rollinson, HM1 Joseph Tarver and HM2 Andray Williams (below) dig a trench where the ramp will run.



HM3 Merv Rollinson, HM3 Christopher Lunsford and HM2 Andray Williams use a level to make sure the grade is correct for the ramp.



Photos by Loren Barnes

HM3 Merv Rollinson, HM3 Christopher Lunsford and HM2 Andray Williams use a level to make sure the grade is correct for the ramp.

over recent months."

And the work is very rewarding for everyone involved. "The most special moment comes when they've complete a ramp and the owners come out and try them," he said. "Sometimes the person in the wheelchair has rarely been out of the house for months and when they come out and try the

ramp they start running up and down the street. It's like they're fifth graders again. Sometimes they even get tears in their eyes," he said.

The generous volunteerism of Sailors, like that demonstrated by these personnel from Naval Hospital Jacksonville, makes a difference in people's lives everyday.

Duba gets Engineer of the Year

By CNRSE Public Affairs

Capt. Stephen Duba has been named the Northeast Florida Engineer of the Year for 2001.

Duba serves as Commanding Officer Navy Public Works Center, Jacksonville and Engineering Field Activity Southeast, and Regional Engineer and Environmental Program Manager for Navy Region Southeast. This is the first time the award has been presented to a naval officer.

The Engineer of the Year was established in 1973 as an annual award presented by engineering societies and support organizations throughout Northeast Florida in conjunction with National Engineer's Week activities. Awardees are selected based on their efforts in continuing education, service to the community, active participation in engineering societies, and work experience.

As Commanding Officer of the Navy Public Works Center Jacksonville and Engineering Field Activity Southeast, Duba leads a 600-person government team and a 700-person contractor workforce. He provides \$290 million per year in facility engineering, construction, transportation, utilities and environmental services to customers in Northeast Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

As Regional Engineer and Environmental Program Manager for Navy Region Southeast, Duba directs a \$550 million program of facility planning, acquisition, maintenance and repair, and environmental compliance for Navy installations in eight southeastern states and the Caribbean.

A native of St. Louis, Mo., Duba graduated from the United States Naval Academy with the class of 1975. He holds masters degree in ocean engineering and business administration and is a graduate of the Executive Management Program at the University of Michigan. He is a registered professional engineer, a member of the Acquisition Professional Community, and is an active member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME). He has served as Director of the SAME Kings Bay, Ga., and Jacksonville, Fla. posts and is currently serving as president of the Jacksonville Post.

Duba is qualified as both a Navy Seabee Combat Warfare Officer and a Deep Sea (mixed gas) Diving Officer.

Sheriff and skipper walk Yellow Water neighborhood



Photo by J02(SCW) Eric Clay

Jacksonville Sheriff Nat Glover and NAS Jax Commanding Officer, Mark Boensel walk through Yellow Water Navy Housing Area to meet residents and talk about security in their neighborhood last Saturday. After going door-to-door meeting residents, a question-and-answer session was held at the recreation center. The main goal of the visit was to inform residents of the working partnership between the Base Security Department and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO). More than 30 officers from JSO and NAS Jax were on hand for the visit. "Direct communication is really good between JSO and Base security," said Lt. J.T. Oswald of Yellow Water Security. For more information about Yellow Water security, call Bill Curnutte at 542-3223.

New Era Begins in Navy Education With STA-21

NEWPORT, R.I. (NNS) — On Feb. 25, a new era in Navy education began for Sailors who want to become commissioned officers. On that date, the first class of the Navy's newest fleet accession program, Seaman To Admiral-21 (STA-21), checked aboard Naval Education and Training Center (NETC), Newport, R.I., for five months of instruction.

STA-21 is the latest evolution in the enlisted commissioning vehicle, combining the previous STA program with several other programs. The original STA program was created by the late Adm. Jeremy Boorda while he was Chief of Naval Operations.

The STA-21 program is designed to meet the officer accession goals of the Navy in the 21st century, while at the same time creating a fair and equitable system for outstanding active-duty Sailors to receive a top-notch college education and become commissioned officers in the Unrestricted



U.S. Navy photo

Naval Education Training Center (NETC) Customer Service Representative Jennifer Buitron helps Quartermaster 1st Class Gerald Weers complete his Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) check-in procedures.

Line, Nurse Corps, Supply Corps or Civil Engineer Corps.

STA-21 combines the original Seaman To Admiral program; Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP); Aviation Enlisted Commissioning Program (AACP); Nuclear Enlisted Commissioning Program (NECP); Civil Engineer Corps Enlisted Commissioning Program (CEC ECP); Fleet Accession to Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC)

— including the Nurse Corps option — and the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) program.

STA-21 selectees will spend eight weeks in Newport as students at the Naval Science Institute (NSI), collocated at NETC, and some will spend three to six months of academic preparation as BOOST students prior to NSI training.

NSI's first STA-21 class reported on March 4, one

week after the first NSI BOOST class. NSI will provide instruction in six classes offered at NROTC units including naval science, sea power, engineering, weapons systems and navigation. BOOST will prepare other fleet Sailors for the rigors of academia.

The NSI program allows Sailors to concentrate on their other collegiate courses once they get to college, particularly important now that the Sailors must complete their degree plans in a 36-month timeframe.

The STA-21 program makes college extremely cost effective for Sailors. The program allots up to \$10,000 per year to the Sailors, to be used for tuition, books and fees incurred by students attending college full time for the entire year.

This sum will cover the total costs of many of the colleges that STA-21 students are authorized to attend; however, the school must have an NROTC unit for Sailors to attend.

In addition to the \$10,000

annual voucher, Sailors receive their base pay and Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), are eligible for advancement, and many will be eligible for fleet housing units as well.

Although Sailors are not eligible for tuition assistance or GI Bill benefits as STA-21 undergraduate students, they can use these benefits later for graduate school, if desired.

In short, students can attend school for free — in most cases — and enjoy their active-duty pay and benefits; the Navy gets new officers faster than ever, and the streamlined process saves money across the board. Approximately 505 Sailors will study in Newport each year before going to their prospective schools.

For more information on the STA-21 program, go to <http://www.sta-21.navy.mil>; see NAVADMIN 128/01; call DSN 922-9451/9447, (850) 452-9451/9447, or 1-800-NAV-ROTC; or send an e-mail to <mailto:sta21@cnet.navy.mil>.

Naval Hospital provides designated smoking areas



Photo by HM3 Christina Helms

Naval Hospital Jacksonville highly encourages smokers to quit smoking, but if you just can't seem to kick the habit, the hospital provides a cozy little spot to get your fix. A gazebo located behind the main hospital provides a clean dry spot to relax and have a smoke. For guests of the hospital, any staff member should be able to direct them to our smoking gazebo. Smoking is prohibited at any and all other locations at the hospital. Please do your best to adhere to this policy. The staff at Naval Hospital Jacksonville is committed to making our building a cleaner, more attractive environment for patients and staff. For anyone interested in breaking the smoking habit, the Wellness Center offers several different methods of quitting. The Wellness Center can be reached at 542-5292.

Have your older U.S. Savings Bonds stopped earning interest?

Older U.S. Savings Bonds (issued before 1975) have stopped earning interest. If you have these bonds, you may be able to cash them in for their full face value. For more information, call 1-800-451-4517.

Naval Hospital Jacksonville provides a clean, dry spot to relax and have a smoke.

For guests of the hospital, any staff member should be able to direct them to our smoking gazebo. Smoking is prohibited at any and all other locations at the hospital. Please do your best to adhere to this policy. The staff at Naval Hospital Jacksonville is committed to making our building a cleaner, more attractive environment for patients and staff. For anyone interested in breaking the smoking habit, the Wellness Center offers several different methods of quitting. The Wellness Center can be reached at 542-5292.

NAS Jacksonville hosting Technology Exposition 2002

A free Technology Exposition will be held here on April 15 in the Navy-Marine Corps Reserve Center, Bldg. 938 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All personnel are invited to attend.

More than 20 exhibitors will be on hand demonstrating the latest computer hardware, software and services.

Some featured technologies are: Modular Workstations, Computer Training, IT, Web, and Management Services, e-Business Solutions, Office Furniture, Document Management Solutions, Docu-

ment Imaging and Scanning Solutions, Storage Solutions, Knowledge Management, Data Warehousing, Network Operations Services, Web/Enterprise Content Management, Information Assurance/Security, Mobile Computing Solutions, Wireless Networking/Computing, Collaboration Tools, Software, Hardware and much more.

The event is sponsored by NavComTelSta Puget Sound. For more information call 1-888-603-8899, Ext. 231.



It's Your Base Too! Help Keep It Clean! Do Your Part!

The Wellness Camp

We all long for a lean, healthy body and lifestyle. Some of us think that the devotion to wellness takes a lot of time and pain.

The Wellness Camp is devoted to breaking some of those myths and replacing them with facts supported by research. This program offers practical guidance on nutrition, exercise, and injury prevention.

We do not stop there! This program also looks at the effects of stress on health and teaches you methods to minimize stress reactions through the use of relaxation techniques.

Snacks, handouts, lunches, a water bottle, and a tee shirt will be provided to each participant.

April 17 - 19

sponsored by

The Wellness Center and MWR Fitness Source

Building 867

Enterprise Avenue

NAS Jacksonville

(904) 542-5292, ext. 10



YOUTH ACTIVITIES CENTER



Spring Break is here!

Kids gravitate to youth center

By JO3 Jackey Bratt
Staff Writer

Although it's a weekday, math, science, and English classes are not part of the agenda for the week! Spring Break has arrived and children at the NAS Jacksonville Youth Activities Center (YAC) are full of excitement as they spend a week full of fun in the sun.

Indoor games, swimming, bowling, and participating in arts and crafts are the agenda this week while the students are breaking from classes.

Kindergarten through eighth-graders laughed and played together as their parents worked.

"It's nice for parents to know that their children are enjoying their days and being safe while they are at work," said Erica Hickey, youth director.

"Most of the students involved with Spring Break week are also involved in the before and after school program as well," added Hickey.

Youth activities programs consist of varied camps and after-school activities for youth ages kindergarten to 13 years. The YAC has experienced staff that foster the social and environmental interaction, education and creative talents of dependent youth at NAS Jax. Youth activities services are open to all active-duty, reserve, retiree, and Department of Defense (DoD) children. There are different programs available:

The School-Age Care and Camp programs are available for children ages kindergarten through 13. Activities include indoor and outdoor recreational activities, arts and crafts, nature, multi-cultural activities, video games and computers. Camps are offered during the Duval County School System

Christmas, spring and summer breaks. Additional activities offered during camps include bowling, swimming, and field trips.

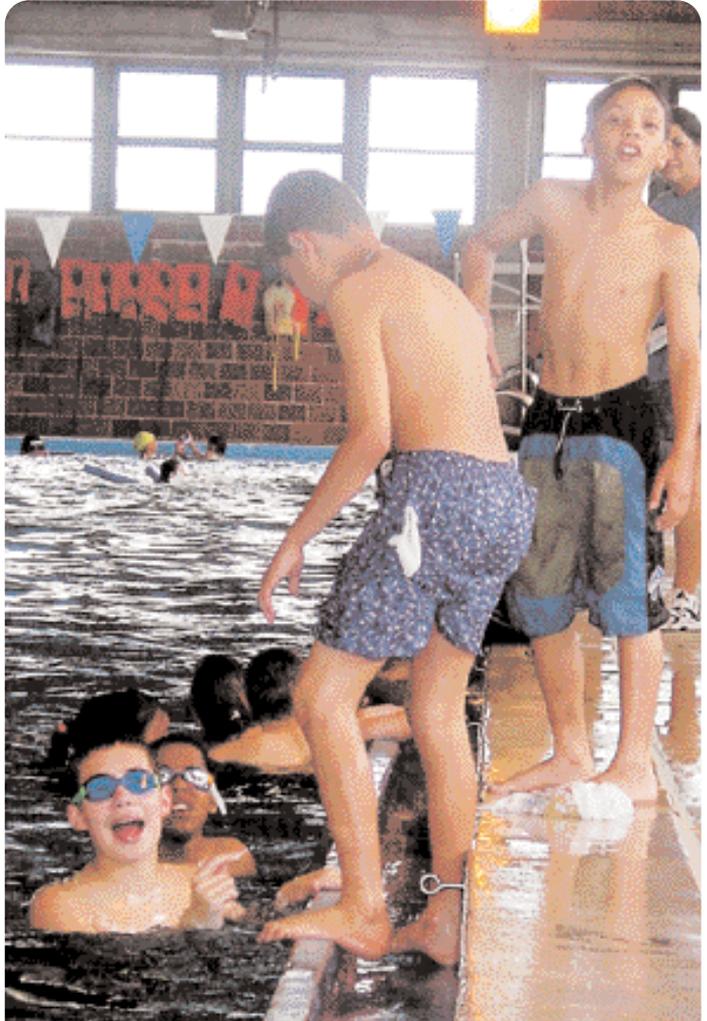
To utilize the School-Age Care or Camp program, children must be completely registered to include registration form, parent agreement, copy of child's current shot record, copy of sponsor's identification card, voluntary wage deduction form, notarized special power of attorney, and dependent care certificate. Fees are based on total annual household income as regulated by the DoD. Patrons must provide the most recent LES and paycheck stub to determine fees.

Open recreation is offered in the youth gym, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Open recreation is also available in the youth center Tuesday and Thursday. Open recreation provides the opportunity for children to socialize with peers in a safe and friendly environment.

Activities include pool, bumper pool, basketball, board games, video games, computers, and other recreational activities. Friday night activities are also offered. Children must have a completed youth membership form on file and must present a membership card for admittance to all activities.

The Teen Center is open Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Teens are able to play pool, ping-pong, surf the Internet, watch movies and socialize with peers. Teens must have a completed membership form and a copy of their dependent ID card. Membership cards must be presented for admittance to all activities. Teens participate in special events and field trips throughout the year.

For more information on YAC services, call 778-9772 or e-mail: dtracy@nasjax.navy.mil.



For more pictures, see Page 9



Children participate in swimming activities at the base gym (above) during Spring Break Week, sponsored by Morale Welfare and Recreation's Youth Activities Services.



Alexandra Dietrich (left) enjoys a day of swimming at the base indoor swimming pool. Dietrich is one of the 75 youth enjoying Spring Break at the youth activities center.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES CENTER



The older youth mentor youngsters and help with activities throughout the Spring Break Week.



Children enjoy a day of bowling.

Photos by
J03 Jackey Bratt

Bowling takes
up an afternoon
during Spring
Break Week.



Pinball is the name of the game. The kids enjoyed many activities through the week.

Former POW Dick Stratton speaks at Semper Fi meeting

By JO3 Jackey Bratt
Staff Writer

This was anything of any Great War movie you'd seen on television. There was no John Wayne. There was no "cut" or "break" being called. This was real. Young men in their late teens and early 20s.

Sailors and Marines with holes dug in trenches, rockets, and grenades being thrown their way. Seeing their comrade's arm shot off, leg blown away, or worse, sudden strike of death.

Jungle canopy's three layers filled with enemy tanks, and firing. Fear stood you in the eye, but there was no time to acknowledge it, feeling outnumbered by the cold eyes of the enemy.

It was about survival; physical, mental, and spiritual. Welcome to Vietnam.

"There's a whole generation out there that does not understand what led you to serve and continue to serve as you do today," said Capt. Richard Stratton, USN (ret.)

Stratton enlisted in the Navy as an aviation cadet and was commissioned an Ensign as a Naval Aviator in 1957.

He flew 22 combat missions and spent six years and two months as a prisoner of the North Vietnamese communist in jails around the District of Hanoi. He retired as a captain after serving 30 years.

Stratton's remarks came during a recent talk at the Jacksonville Semper Fidelis Society meeting. Speaking to a room full of Navy

and Marine Corp. veterans on heroism, courage, ingenuity, faith, endurance, and brotherhood, Stratton matter-of-factly described his comrades.

"Let me talk about James Stockdale, the senior Naval officer and the youngest person there, Seaman Apprentice Douglas Hegdall III, who fell off the back of the USS Canberra (CA-70) and ended up in jail with us, to give you an idea of what drives people to do things because it's the right thing to do," said Stratton.

"If you wanted to award a purple heart for each time the enemy inflicted a wound on him, in different engagements, also known as "torture sessions," Stockdale should have been given 36 purple hearts," remembered Stratton.

"To lead was to be tortured in that prison system, to stand up and be counted, -you are going to be tortured" he added. "Ninety-five percent of us were tortured and 95 percent of us were made to give more than name, rank, and serial number and date of birth, something which we are not proud of, but it happened," told Stratton.

"Only our friends keep rules and we don't fight our friends," said Stratton.

As a leader, Stockdale made the rule, which was, finding out what it is the enemy wanted and deny it to them.

"It was very simple, you take torture until you reach the point of being broken, and once you were broken, you lie like a rug

and remember what you said," recalled Stratton, "and every time the enemy bends you, you would have to bounce back; for some it took a day, others it took six months, and for some it took two years, but you had to be ready to help them get back so they could stand up and be counted day after day."

Rich with survival humor, Stratton recalled Hegdall.

"He must have come into the Navy weighing about 280 pounds!" he said.

"He had 14-inch totally flat triangular feet!" he added, "but he knew when your country needs you, you don't go running to the bus station, you went to the recruiter."

Hegdall was blown overboard the USS Canberra (CA-70) around 4:30 a.m. in the middle of the South China Sea. A man of faith, Hegdall stayed afloat for two days until a fishing boat picked him up, tortured and captured him.

"How many people do you know that you grew up with, that you went to school with, that you work with, who would quit when faced with that situation?" asked Stratton.

"We need to be out there letting the youngsters know what the values of duty are so they can spread them and know what it means to do something because it's the right thing to do," concluded Stratton.

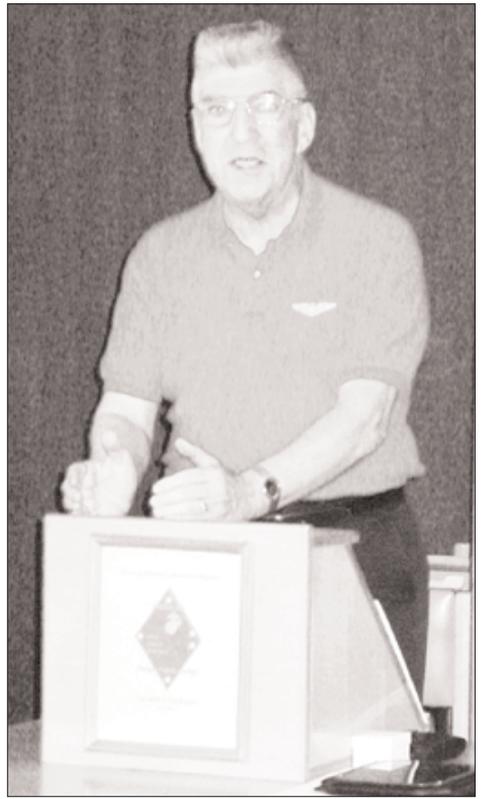


Photo by JO3 Jackey Bratt

Richard Stratton speaks to Jacksonville Semper Fidelis Society veterans about the importance of Americans understanding why servicemembers serve our country.

CNO Adm. Clark's vision for future of greatest Navy

Editor's Note: Calling our Navy "the greatest in the world," Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark recently published his vision for the future. The following is the second installment of the CNO's Guidance for 2002.

Leadership Guidance for 2002

We are at war against terrorism — a war we will win! In that fight, I am counting on each of you to lead. I expect initiative, innovation, and careful investment in our plans and our people.

We all have a role to play. But even the best leaders need guidance to help shape their efforts. Therefore, the following guidance is provided to enhance our dedication to mission accomplishment and the growth and development of our Sailors.

Manpower. We are win-

ning the battle for people but important challenges remain. Officer retention in all line communities is below required levels and recruiting shortfalls exist in officer specialty areas and critical enlisted ratings.

Attrition is our number one manpower challenge. No one joins the Navy to fail, yet too many Sailors do not complete their first enlistment. Concerned, involved leadership is the key to minimizing attrition without sacrificing standards. Leaders must take every measure to help their people prosper and succeed.

We must create an environment that offers opportunities, encourages participation, and is conducive to personal and professional growth.

We must expand our efforts to improve Sailor and civilian quality of service by ensuring work is tied directly to combat readiness and professional development.

Now more than ever, we must recruit and retain the

best and the brightest, despite the reality and strains of increased OPTEMPO. This is the first time in history that our Navy has faced a prolonged conflict with an all-volunteer force, and we must protect the integrity of our Fleet.

Guidance for Leaders:

• We must mentor our Sailors.

• Officers/Chief Petty Officers/ Leading Petty Officers will create a professional development plan for every Sailor. (All)

• Provide meaningful performance appraisals for every Sailor. In concert with the individual professional development plans, provide a plan to correct deficiencies. (All)

• Maximize utilization of Center for Career Development expertise in every command. (NI)

• We must recruit and retain the right people.

• Sustain the record-setting pace in retention. The following goals apply for 2002: 57 percent (Zone A), 70 percent (Zone B),

and 90 percent (Zone C).
• Reduce attrition by 25 percent from the FY00 level.

• Increase High School graduate accessions to 92 percent.

• Recruit 2,500 new accessions from junior colleges.

• We must man the Fleet for battle.

• Validate all manpower requirements by the end of CY02.

• Reduce at-sea gaps below FY01 levels and achieve C-2 manning status for all deploying units at least six months prior to deployment.

• Develop a plan to optimally employ Naval Reserve forces in the war against terrorism, striving to achieve steady-state support for active units.

• We will invest in our Sailors.

• Proceed with the Sailor Career Management Initiative to provide enhanced career flexibility, incentivization, and interaction between the Sailor, gaining command,

and Bureau of Naval Personnel.

• Increase the number of E-4 to E-9 Sailors in the Navy from 70.3 percent to 71.5 percent, working toward 75.5 percent by FY07.

• Expand the Detailer Outreach Program to contact 100 percent of Sailors within 10 months of their PRDEAOS.

• Maximize the availability of web-based tools to enhance the flexibility and responsiveness of the detailing process. This includes, to the greatest extent possible, providing updates on pending billet availability to give Sailors greater opportunity to bid on jobs.

• Provide qualified General Detailing (GENDET) Sailors with A-school assignments after 18-24 months satisfactory performance in the Fleet, with service members returning to their units after A-school whenever possible.

Current Readiness

Our Navy starts with the

Fleet. Everything we do must keep the Fleet ready and make it even better. We must accurately define and continuously validate our requirements, then move aggressively to fully fund those requirements.

In so doing, we will ensure the Fleet remains ready to fight and win.

The Secretary of the Navy has made improving combat capability his number one priority. This is important because current readiness needs are escalating.

Greater usage rates of ships, aircraft, and weapons, and the increasing average age of our aircraft, are driving up readiness costs.

This situation makes it more challenging to stay ready and undermines our ability to procure new ships and aircraft.

The entire text can be viewed online at: <http://www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/cno/clark-guidance2002.html>

VS-32: Home at last after long deployment

From Page 1

when Roosevelt set a new record for the most consecutive days (159) spent at sea without a port call.

Roosevelt made two port visits, one to Bahrain at the end of February and one to Marseille, France in March.

"I've never been outside the United States," said AT3 Curt Metzger, of his first deployment. "Finally getting off the boat and setting foot on land was great. It kind of made me forget about the fact that I saw the same thing every day for 159 days straight."

Above and beyond the impressive numbers, the Maulers are proud to have played their part in the war on terrorism.

"I want to thank everyone for doing such a great job," said Cmdr. Ron Carlson, the commanding officer of VS-32, at a recent awards ceremony. "You've worked hard and conducted yourselves with pride and dignity. You are all heroes."

Now that the deployment is ending, many people are happy to be returning home to their loved ones.

This is the fourth cruise

for AD1 (AW) Rodney Norman, who has been with VS-32 for a year and a half. "This has probably been the hardest cruise to get through, but it has been the most rewarding. Now, I'm looking forward to spending time with my wife and kids and getting some sleep."

Traditionally, the air wing will fly off the carrier the day before it pulls into their homeport in Norfolk, Va.

"I can't wait to finally meet my daughter. I've only seen pictures over the email," said Lt. Tom Cronley, a S-3B pilot, whose wife Andrea had a baby in February.

The "World Famous Maulers" now look forward to returning home and enjoying the freedoms they have worked so hard to defend.

Lt. Brian Morgan, his wife Christine and new baby Olivia are interviewed by Channel 4 during the VS-32 homecoming.



Photo by PH1(AW) Antonia Barges

Jax Air News
Your Base! Your News!

'Trawl' on over to the base marina

By Kaylee LaRocque
Staff Writer

With spring arriving and the weather getting nicer, many people are spending a lot more time outdoors enjoying nature, family outings and sporting events.

Need some equipment to do a little camping? Or how about a couple coolers or a barbecue for a picnic?

These are the types of activities the Mulberry Cove Marina at NAS Jacksonville caters to. The marina features a large selection of gear and watercraft available for rent. And, their prices are probably the cheapest in town.

"Most of the people who visit us are interested in renting a powerboat. We have a pretty good selection of boats to choose from depending on what they plan to do. We have a couple ski boats for those who want to play on the water, pontoon boats for parties, sailboats, fishing boats, canoes, kayaks and several jet skis," said Marty Wagner, assistant manager of the marina.

All active-duty, family members, retirees, reservists and DoD civilians can use the marina's services. Active duty can reserve boats 60 days in advance and everyone else can reserve 45 days prior to the date of use. A \$25 fee is required when reservations are made, which goes towards the cost of the rental. All boats must be picked up by 9 a.m. on the reserved day.

On the powerboat side of the house, the marina's current inventory includes two 21-foot ski boats with new engines, a 24-foot pontoon and 21-foot pontoon boat, four Boston Whalers featuring bimini tops, fish and depth finders, two fully-outfitted bass boats, several Jon boats and three Yamaha Waverunners. All gas is provided by the marina except for the ski boats.

"Some of our boats, like the ski boats and pontoons can be taken off base for use elsewhere. All others are launched here from our dock. Once we write a contract for someone, we'll put it in the water and they can go out and have fun. They just have to make sure to bring the boat back one hour before we close," explained Wagner.



The Mulberry Cove Marina offers a large selection of boats for rent, boat slips, camping gear, barbecue grills, and much more to active duty members, DoD civilian employees and retirees.



Recreation Aide Gary McGinnis puts a Panther deckboat into the water for a customer to rent for the day.

There are a couple restrictions for those launching from the base. "Our customers are only allowed to go as far north as The Jacksonville Landing. They can also head down the Ortega River as far as the Timuquana Bridge, go to Doctor's Lake (where waterskiing is allowed) to Whitey's Fish Camp and head down Julington Creek. That's about 20 miles of water to cover and should be more than enough area to fish and play," Wagner added.

Another stipulation before a contract can be written to rent a powerboat is that the renter must possess either a MWR Safe Boating Card and/or a Jet Ski Safety Card or a Florida State Boating Safety Card. The state card is required for anyone born after Sept. 30, 1980 or any driver

of a boat who plans to pull skiers.

"Our test is comprised of the basic study questions in the How to Boat Smart book. If people are going to do our test, they might as well complete the state test also and send it in. They will send the card within 10 days. In the meantime if they pass our test, we will rent to them," said Wagner.

Cards can also be obtained by completing the test online at www.boat.ed.com/fl. The marina will also rent boats with a print out of a passing test from the website. For those who have never been on the water, it is recommended you go through a safe boating course.

To rent a jet ski, you not only have to obtain the Safe Boating Card, but you will also watch a

video, take another test and then go through a slalom course and demonstrate stopping and rolling skills.

On the sailing side of the house, the marina's inventory includes Laser's for one person, the 14-foot Flying Junior for one to three people, the 19-foot Flying Scot which holds one to five people and a couple 24-foot Hunters.

"We have a really nice selection of sailboats. The Flying Scots are our most popular boats. All sailboats launching from our docks are allowed to go across the river and down to the Buckman Bridge. This way we can see them in case they have problems because these boats don't have motors on them," stated Wagner.

Before the marina will rent out a sailboat, customers must prove they have completed a class and earned the Skipper "B" Centerboard Qualification. Classes are offered through the marina on weekends and in the evenings. "The Yacht Club on base provides the instructors and we provide the equipment for the class. They do a wonderful job teaching students. They set up boats on land and teach by "dry" sailing," Wagner added "And once students complete the beginner class, they can take an advanced class to rent our bigger boats."

The marina also rents out canoes and kayaks although they are no longer allowed to launch on base due to security measures.

"I rented a kayak to a couple the other day who took it to Fort Clinch in Fernandina Beach and kayaked to Cumberland Island. They had a great time," said Wagner.

For those who own their own watercraft and need a place to store it, the marina has several options. There is slip berthing complete with 30 amp electric and water hookup, although there is a waiting list, mooring on a buoy and dry storage in a secure, fenced area with 24-hour access.

For those camping enthusiasts who need some extra gear, the marina has just about everything you need to head out into the great outdoors. "We have tents, coolers, stoves, lanterns, bicycles, sporting packages, fishing poles and just about everything you need to camp. We also rent the huge barbecue grills on trailers for parties," Wagner stated.

The marina also maintains three waterfront parks and picnic areas that are available for family or command functions. Reservations must be made.

With eight people working at the marina, the staff stays quite busy. "We rent equipment, sell gas and fishing licenses, do dock walks periodically and spend a lot of time keeping our areas clean. Trash seems to be an increasing problem, so we'd like to ask people using our facilities to please clean up after themselves," said Wagner.

Currently, the marina is operating on winter hours until April 15. They are Mondays from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., closed on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday through Sunday and holidays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. During summer hours, the marina is open seven days a week.

If you haven't checked out the marina, stop by and take your lunch. There are lots of quiet picnic areas to just sit and enjoy the scenery. And you can always stop in and see what they have to offer. For more information on the services the marina provides call 542-3260.

20th Annual Bass Tournament
Presented By Mulberry Cove Marina

Saturday, April 13, 2002 at
Safe Light

360-Entry Fee Per Boat (prior to April 1)

375-Entry Fee Per Boat (after April 1)

Texas Format: 3 Anglers Per Boat

1/8 Big Bass Per Entry (Optional)

542-3260

Open to Authorized Base Personnel

Navy working to improve aviation non-deployed readiness

By Lt.j.g. Anne Cossitt
AIRPAC Public Affairs

In order to increase non-deployed readiness of aviation squadrons throughout the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC), the Navy has implemented the Naval Aviation Readiness Integrated Improvement Program (NAVRIIP).

The recent success of Navy aircrews deployed and operating on the tip of the spear as part of Operation Enduring Freedom demonstrates a high level of readiness among deployed forces. However, over a period of years, the Navy sacrificed in the area of non-deployed aviation readiness to keep deployed forces at the highest levels of readiness. Subsequently, the readiness of those non-deployed units suffered.

The Thomas Group, a consulting company with expertise in process management, is assisting the Navy in addressing the fundamental change needed in Naval aviation business processes to improve non-deployed readiness. The Thomas Group will work with the Navy throughout the NAVRIIP process.

"NAVRIIP is driving a fundamental change in the way we determine, manage, coordinate and prioritize naval aviation resource requirements during the IDTC," explained Cmdr. Bob Gilbec, CNAP Supply Readiness

officer. "It is the enabler which will allow us to do better with our existing resources with the objective of immediate and long term improvement of non-deployed readiness."

The program, led by flag officers from 17 commands including CincPacFlt, CincLantFlt, AirPac, AirLant, NavAir, CNET, NavSupp, NAVICP, and DLA aims to set, reach and sustain non-deployed aviation readiness goals. "We are focusing on streamlining and improving the readiness process, so that non-deployed squadrons get the right parts, at the right time, for the right sortie," said Capt. Doug Henry, AirPac Force Aircraft Material Officer.

"Before NAVRIIP, the many commands associated with the myriad logistical elements that define readiness played in their own lane," said Capt. Mark Clemente, commander, Fighter Wing Atlantic. "There was no formal cross-functional coordination. NAVRIIP will get everyone speaking the same language and then working together to fix real problems."

A critical part of NAVRIIP is Boots on the Ground (BOG). BOG teams, comprised of maintainers and suppliers from the TYCOMs, NAVAIR, Program offices, NAVICP, DLA, and the Thomas Group, will visit air stations to enable face-to-face interaction with the troops maintain-

ing and supporting the aircraft. This will enable them to identify barriers to readiness improvements. Recent BOG visits at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash. and NAS Oceana, Va. enabled fleet aviators and maintainers to provide input to flag officers on readiness issues. These visits have already resulted in improvements.

"When we did the BOG at NAS Oceana, we found some real long hanging fruit...the easy fixes," stated Clemente. "For example, we repair aircraft 24 hours a day, in three shifts. The pre-expanded bin, which is where all of the consumables like nuts and bolts are, was open for only two shifts. The third repair shift would have to wait until the bin opened the next day. There was an easy fix to that...keep the bin open during the third shift. That's an example of an easy process fix. There will be more difficult ones."

As problems are brought to leadership's attention through the BOGs, steps will be taken immediately to change the process, working towards solving those problems consistently over time and ultimately eliminating barriers that make the process less efficient. In changing the process, aviators are implementing a long term, lasting solution; not merely using a temporary fix, such as asking for more money. "The solution is not to buy more parts or to throw more money at the problem, added Henry. "The

key is to improve the process."

A key element in the streamlining process will be balancing and aligning efforts between different supporting commands, such as the fleet, Naval Inventory Control Point (NAVICP), Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and the maintenance depots. Three cross-functional teams within the NAVRIIP address the more difficult challenges.

Cross-Functional Team One (CFT 1), headed by Rear Adm. Mike Malone, commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, defines appropriate, acceptable levels of readiness throughout the IDTC and then builds a training and readiness matrix tailored for each airframe. The team works with type-wings to schedule squadron training requirements and conduct the right training at the right time.

For optimal readiness to become a reality, Cross-Functional Team Two (CFT 2), headed by Rear Adms. Mike Finley, commander, NAVICP and Steve Heilman, assistant commander for Industrial Operations, NavAir, is called the Providers. With a sub team from BuPers headed by Rear Adm. Jake Shuford, they are responsible for providing parts, people, aircraft and support equipment to squadrons through the Naval Supply Systems Command (NavSup), DLA, BuPers and NavAir at the right time, with the

right quality so aviators can continue to meet critical training milestones on time.

A crucial piece of this effort is determining and attaining an appropriate level of funding. Cross-Functional Team Three (CFT 3), headed by Rear Adm. Ken Heimgartner, director of Fleet Readiness on the CNO's staff, is in charge of planning and programming to ensure that funding requirements are met.

Underpinning each CFT's efforts and a cornerstone of the NAVRIIP is the concept of getting more out of existing resources through a focus on process improvement vice the traditional approach of throwing money at a problem.

"The key to success in this program is the coordination of effort between the CFTs," explained Dave Moulton of the Thomas Group. "NAVRIIP will create a seamless process from one end of the IDTC to the other, with the end result being increased readiness."

"This program is very exciting, it's something that I've never seen in all my time in naval aviation," said Clemente. "It empowers the operational chain, the guys who care about flying, to dive into the issues and fix them."

More information on NAVRIIP can be found on the AirPac web site at www.airpac.navy.mil.

Reenlisting Hawaiian style!



PH2 Chuck Withrow (right) of the Visual Information Information Support Center is reenlisted by his Officer-in-Charge Lt. Dan Doolittle on March 15 at a local restaurant. Wearing Hawaiian shirts, Withrow re-enlisted for another four years.

Photo by JO2(SCW) Eric Clay

Pledging to 'Stay Navy'



NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Boensel delivers the oath of enlistment to MA2 Josh Weemhoff of the Security Department during a recent ceremony at the Lone Sailor statue in downtown Jacksonville. Weemhoff reenlisted for six years.

Photo by DCC(SW) Gary Coles

HELPING HANDS

Landscapers needed

The Jacksonville Baptist Home for Children needs volunteers to help plant flowers, rake lawns and help with minor clean-up of their horse barn. Shifts are available during the week from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays from 9-11:30 a.m. Refreshments and tools are provided. Call Sherri Albertson at 542-5380 to sign up.

Very Special Arts Festival

This international organization provides experiences in the arts for people with disabilities. Join the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens April 3,4,5 to help make this event a success. Help is needed to assist students with disabilities complete art projects during this event. Call Hope McMath at 355-0630, Ext. 246 for details.

It's Showtime at the Apollo

This kids talent search is being held at the Avenues Mall April 4 and 6. Volunteers are needed to assist with various behind the scenes activities. Call Cassandra Ramirez at 802-5704 for more information.

Help the Girls Scouts

Volunteers are needed to assist the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council with their 90th anniversary "The Beat Goes On Parade" on April 13. Call Mona Wootsen at 693-9308 or email bpaulson@girlscouts-gateway.org for details.

Earth Day events

Volunteers are wanted to assist with children's crafts at this year's Earth Day Ecology Fair at the Jacksonville Landing. One, two-hour shifts are available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Sherri Albertson at 542-5380 for info.

Help build a home

Another HabJax event is planned for April 22 through May 11. Volunteers are needed to do roofing, painting, framing and landscaping. Help is also needed at the framing plant and new, non-profit HomeStore. Minimum age is 16. For more information call Karen Pruitt at 798-4529, Ext. 240.

World of Nations Celebration

Join the City of Jacksonville April 26-28 from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. in Metro Park to celebrate the World of Nations. Various volunteer opportunities are available. Call Sue Bibesi at 630-1020 for information.



I found buried treasure in my basement.

More than 40 years ago, your aunt gave you some Series E Savings Bonds. And you forgot about them...until now. You were cleaning out the basement when you found a treasure...those old Series E Savings Bonds. Even though they're no longer earning interest, they could still be worth more than 5 times their face value. So why not redeem those old bonds at your local financial institution?

Check out the Savings Bond Calculator at www.savingsbonds.gov to discover their value. 1-800-4US BOND

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Frequently asked questions about heart attacks

From Naval Hospital Jacksonville Public Affairs

How would I know if I were having a heart attack?

Often, it is not easy to tell. But there are symptoms people may have. These are: an uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness, or pain in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or goes away and comes back; discomfort in other areas of the upper body, which may be felt in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach; shortness of breath, which often occurs with or before chest discomfort; and other symptoms such as breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, or light-headedness. When in doubt, check it out! Call 9-1-1. Don't wait more than a few minutes - five at most. Call right away!

What is angina and

how is it different from a heart attack?

An episode of angina is not a heart attack. However, people with angina report having a hard time telling the difference between angina symptoms and heart attack symptoms. Angina is a recurring pain or discomfort in the chest that happens when some part of the heart does not receive enough blood temporarily. A person may notice it during exertion (such as in climbing stairs). It is usually relieved within a few minutes by resting or by taking prescribed angina medicine. People who have been diagnosed with angina have a greater risk of a heart attack than do other people.

I'd rather wait until I'm sure something's really wrong. What's the rush anyway?

Clot-busting drugs and other artery-opening treat-



ments work best when given within the first hour after a heart attack starts. The first hour also is the most risky time during a heart attack—it's when your heart might stop suddenly. Responding fast to your symptoms really increases your chance of surviving.

So how quickly should I act?

If you have any heart attack symptoms, call 9-1-1

immediately. Don't wait for more than a few minutes - five at most to call 9-1-1.

Why should I bother? If I'm going to die, there's not much I can do about it anyway, is there?

That's not true. There is something that can be done about a heart attack. Doctors have clot-busting drugs and other artery-opening procedures that can stop or reverse a heart attack, if given quickly. These drugs can limit the damage to the heart muscle by removing the blockage and restoring blood flow. Less heart damage means a better quality of life after a heart attack.

Given that these new therapies are available, it's very sad to know that so many people cannot receive these treatments because they delay too long before seeking care. The greatest

benefits of these therapies are gained when patients come in early (preferably within the first hour of the start of their symptoms).

Emergency medical personnel cause such a commotion. Can't I just have my wife/husband/friend/co-worker take me to the hospital?

Emergency medical personnel—also called EMS, for emergency medical services—bring medical care to you. For example, they bring oxygen and medications. And they can actually restart someone's heart if it stops after they arrive. Your wife/husband/friend/co-worker can't do that, or help you at all if they are driving. In the ambulance, there are enough people to give you the help you need and get you to the hospital right away.

I'm not sure I can remember all this. What can I do to make it easier for me?

You can make a plan and discuss it in advance with your family, your friends, your coworkers and, of course, your doctor. Then you can rehearse this plan, just like a fire drill. Keep it simple. Know the warning signs. Keep information—such as what medications you're taking—in one place. If you have any symptoms

of a heart attack for a few minutes (no more than 5), call the EMS by dialing 9-1-1 right away.

I carry nitroglycerin pills all the time for my heart condition. If I have heart attack symptoms, shouldn't I try them first?

Yes, if your doctor has prescribed nitroglycerin pills, you should follow your doctor's orders. If you are not sure about how to take your nitroglycerin when you get chest pain, check with your doctor.

What about taking an aspirin like we see on television?

You should not delay calling 9-1-1 to take an aspirin. Studies have shown that people sometimes delay seeking help if they take an aspirin (or other medicine). Emergency department personnel will give people experiencing a heart attack an aspirin as soon as they arrive. So, the best thing to do is to call 9-1-1 immediately and let the professionals give the aspirin.

This information is from the National Institute of Health website <http://rover.nhlbi.nih.gov/actintime>. Information is also available from Naval Hospital Jacksonville's Health Education Office. Call Sharon Gladden or HME Greg Eberhardt at 542-7300 or 7431.

TRICARE offers travel reimbursement

TRICARE Prime beneficiaries referred more than 100 miles from their primary care manager for specialty care may be eligible to have their actual travel expenses reimbursed by TRICARE.

Under provisions of the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), travel reimbursement is retroactive to Oct. 30, 2000, for Prime enrollees who are referred more than 100 miles from their primary care manager's office for medically necessary specialty care.

To qualify for reimbursement, beneficiaries must have travel orders for past referred specialty care prepared by a TRICARE representative at the military treatment facility (MTF) where enrolled, or from a regional lead agent representative, if their primary care manager (PCM) is a civilian provider.

The MTF or regional lead agent representative is responsible for ensuring that a valid referral exists before issuing travel orders. To file a travel reimbursement claim, beneficiaries should submit the appropriate original receipt(s) (keeping copies for themselves), a completed reimbursement form, and the original copy of their orders issued by the MTF or lead agent. Beneficiaries may receive reimbursement after completing and submitting these items.

The new Prime enrollee travel entitlement does not apply to travel expenses incurred by active duty uniformed service members, active duty family members residing with their sponsors overseas, or to travel costs of beneficiaries referred under DoD specialized treatment programs, which are reimbursed by other travel entitlements; nor does it apply to transportation expenses resulting from emergency care covered under the basic TRICARE Standard benefit.

TRICARE Prime beneficiaries seeking reimbursement for travel expenses incurred for obtaining referred specialty care may contact their local MTF or lead agent beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator for help. Telephone numbers and addresses are available on the TRICARE website at www.tricare.osd.mil.

The 2002 NDAA, signed into law by President Bush on Dec. 28, 2001, authorizes travel orders and reimbursement for one non-medical attendant, under certain conditions. TRICARE Prime enrollees who travel with a non-medical attendant should save travel and lodging receipts for themselves and the non-medical attendant. The new non-medical attendant travel benefit will be implemented in the next several weeks and will be retroactive to Dec. 28, 2001.

KUDO KORNER

The following Naval Hospital Jacksonville Sailors were recently presented awards at Naval Hospital Jacksonville by Commanding Officer Capt. Ralph Lockhart.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Lt.j.g. Carrie Dreyer
HN Davidallan Doan
ITSN Rachelle Loxterman

"We Care Award"

Lt. Roger Akins

Length of Service Award

Anna Grasmick

FROM THE GALLEY

Meal hours

Monday through Friday
 Breakfast: 6 to 7:30 a.m.
 Lunch: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Dinner: 4:30 to 6 p.m.
 Saturday, Sunday
 and holidays
 Breakfast: 6:30 to 8:30 a.m.
 Brunch: 10:30 a.m. to
 12:30 p.m.
 Dinner: 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Meal costs

Breakfast: \$1.60
 Brunch/Lunch: \$3.25
 Dinner: \$3.25

Thursday

Breakfast
 Corned beef hash
 Home fried potatoes
 Boiled eggs
 Grits
 Grilled ham slices
 Waffles
 Omelets and eggs to
 order
 Lunch - Fiesta Special

Mexican chicken
 Mixed vegetables
 O'Brien potatoes
 Beef tacos
 Beef fajitas
 Refried beans
 Mexican rice
 Beef noodle soup
 Blueberry crisp
 Dinner
 Swiss steak
 Rice pilaf
 Whole kernel corn
 Fresh pork ham
 Egg noodles
 Green peas w/mushrooms
 Tomato rice soup

Friday

Breakfast
 Minced beef w/toast
 Hashed brown potatoes
 Oatmeal
 Boiled eggs
 Grilled sausage links
 Pancakes
 Omelets and eggs to
 order
 Lunch

Parmesan fish
 Lyonnaise potatoes
 Steamed asparagus
 Corn chowder
 Ginger pot roast
 Steamed rice
 Lima beans
 Peanut butter cookies
 Dinner
 Salisbury steak
 Rice pilaf
 Green beans
 Chicken chow mein
 Scalloped potatoes
 Stewed tomatoes
 Chicken noodle soup

Saturday

Breakfast
 Baked sausage links
 Hashed brown potatoes
 French toast
 Omelets and eggs to
 order
 Corned beef hash
 Grits
 Boiled eggs
 Brunch
 Baked sausage links
 French fries
 Mixed vegetables
 Chili macaroni
 Coleslaw
 Old fashioned soup
 Eggs to order
 Dinner
 Barbecue beef cubes
 Steamed noodles



Steamed carrots
 Chicken mushroom soup
 Grilled ham steaks
 Parsley boiled potatoes
 Southern style green
 beans
 Pineapple sauce
 Coleslaw
Sunday
 Breakfast
 Oven fried bacon
 Cottage fried potatoes
 Pancakes
 Eggs and omelets to order
 Grilled ham slices
 Oatmeal
 Brunch
 Eggs to order
 French fried onion rings
 Mulligatawny soup
 Steak and Cheese Subs
 Steamed broccoli
 Dinner
 Roast Pork Loin
 Duchess potatoes
 Green peas
 Baked chicken w/rice
 Buttered egg noodles
 Savory summer squash
 Beef noodle soup

Monday

Breakfast
 McMuffin sandwiches
 Hash brown potatoes
 Grits
 Omelets and eggs to
 order
 Creamed beef w/biscuits
 French toast puffs
 Boiled eggs
 Lunch
 Baked tuna, noodles
 Franconia potatoes
 Harvard beets
 Vegetable soup
 Salisbury steak
 Tossed green rice
 Glazed carrots
 Dinner

Liver w/onions
 Rice pilaf
 Steamed succotash
 Zesty bean soup
 Creole chicken
 Baked potatoes
 Steamed broccoli

Tuesday

Breakfast
 Cottage fried potatoes

Texas hash
 Rolled oats
 Grilled bacon
 Boiled eggs
 Pancakes
 Eggs, omelets to order
 Lunch
 Braised pork chops
 Buttered noodles
 Green beans Parisienne
 Swedish meatballs
 Steamed rice
 Corn O'Brien
 Beef barley soup
 Dinner
 Oven fried fish
 Lyonnaise rice
 Vegetable supreme soup
 Macaroni/cheese
 Cantonese ribs
 Steamed carrots
 Herbed broccoli

Wednesday

Breakfast
 Home fried potatoes
 Farina
 Boiled eggs
 Eggs and omelets to order
 Grilled ham slices
 Blueberry pancakes
 Grilled bacon
 Lunch
 Stuffed fish fillets
 Steamed broccoli
 Minestrone soup
 Spaghetti noodles
 Spaghetti w/meat sauce
 Club spinach
 Garlic bread
 Orange rice
 Dinner

Szechwan chicken
 Pork fried rice
 Vegetable stir fry
 Stuffed peppers
 Simmered egg noodles
 Beef tomato soup
 Southern fried okra

Note: The food service officer is authorized to make changes to the general mess menu to provide substitutions for food items not in stock or to permit timely use of perishable stocks.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Minstrels add to the sights and sounds at the Florida Renaissance Fair.

The Navy Wives Club of America, NWCA Jax No. 86, meets the first Wednesday of every month. Meetings are held in Building 612 on Jason Street at NAS Jacksonville at 7:30 p.m. The Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays and Thursdays and every other Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 772-0242 or President Barbara Howard at 471-1444.

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

Submarine Sailors - If you have qualified on a United States Navy submarine in the past or present you are invited to join the newly inclusive established organization, called "First Coast Sub Vets". If you have qualified on a submarine from a foreign country, you are invited to join as an associate member. For more information call Ron Robertson at 241-6222 or email rjrfax@mediaone.net.

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 at the Lil' Angels room 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. Contemporary music, refreshments and bible study featuring a video study of Philip Yancey's "The Jesus I never knew" will be apart of the activities. For more information call 542-3051.

The third annual **Florida Renaissance Festival**, brings to life the sights, sounds, tastes and beauty of the 16th Century at the Spirit of Suwannee Music Park, Live Oak, Fla., every weekend through April 7. The event features knights in full armor, jousting and fighting; artisans selling their wares, food fit for royalty, a merchant's marketplace and a "Kid's Kingdom." For information and admission prices contact the Florida Renaissance Festival Office at 800-3-RENFEST or visit www.ren-fest.com.

The U.S. Air Force will host the 47th Annual **Joint Electronic Warfare Conference** at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas on May 6-9. An EW Intelligence session will be held on May 6. The conference is for U.S. Government personnel only. This conference is unique in that it is the only Electronic Warfare (EW) conference where the barriers to complete communication are removed by limiting attendance to active duty military and civilian representatives of U.S. Government agencies with a need-to-know. For more information visit <https://jewc.mgu.navy.mil> on the web.

Sailors pack with ease thanks to SmartWeb

From FISC

Ease and convenience has been extended to Navy service members and their families as they can now arrange their household goods move over the Internet.

SmartWeb Move, a user-friendly, web-based program sponsored by the Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) is available to Sailors 24-hours a day, seven days a week, from the comfort of their home, work or anywhere they have Internet access. It is the first interactive program in the Department of Defense (DoD) to provide tailored entitlements counseling and household goods move applications online.

SmartWeb Move is designed to service routine moves and simple entitlements based on Permanent Change of Station

(PCS) orders. Currently it serves Sailors and their families who have PCS orders to a new duty station, homeport, home of selection or home of record within the Continental United States.

The new program is easy to use. Users simply fill out an on-line questionnaire to receive a report of entitlements available to them. The system also allows members to fill out all necessary forms, arrange their household goods move, choose pack and move dates, and submit the forms to their Personal Property Office via the Internet.

SmartWeb Move eligibility is based on member's orders and the types of property they will be moving.

For more information on using SmartWeb Move, contact the Jacksonville Personal Property Office by calling 542-1000, Extensions 102, 103, and 105.

**Help Keep The Base Clean!
 Recycle This Newspaper!**

NAVY NEWS



U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Amy Dela Torres
 The now famous world trade center "Ground Zero" national ensign, along with a New York City Police Department flag and New York City Fire Department flag are flown to commemorate the last day of flight operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, as she begins her journey home. Roosevelt and her embarked carrier air wing (CVW) are scheduled to be relieved by USS John F. Kennedy's carrier battle group.

'Ground Zero' flag returns to New York aboard USS Roosevelt

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — The Navy returned the "Ground Zero" flag that was made famous by Bergen County (N.J.) Record photographer Tom Franklin to a delegation from New York City in a ceremony at sea on board USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) March 26.

The flag was raised Sept. 11 at the site of the World Trade Center in the aftermath of the attack. According to many media, Franklin's photo was reminiscent of the flag raising on Iwo Jima during World War II.

Presented to Adm. Robert J. Natter, commander in chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, by New York officials on Sept. 23, 2001, the flag has since flown on ships of the Theodore Roosevelt Battle Group and other units deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"This flag has served as both a remembrance and as a motivator for our forward-deployed naval

forces," said Natter. "We're privileged to have served as custodians of this national treasure."

The New York delegation, which was on board the ship for the ceremony, included the three firefighters who first raised the flag over "Ground Zero." Also present will be a New York City Port Authority officer and a New York City Police Department policeman. The delegation was led by Mike Handy of the New York City mayor's office.

More than 7,000 Sailors and Marines of the Theodore Roosevelt Battle Group, commanded by Rear Adm. Mark P. Fitzgerald, departed Norfolk Sept. 19, 2001. Their deployment included extensive operations in the Mediterranean Sea, Arabian Gulf and primarily the Indian Ocean in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

For more information on the Atlantic Fleet, go to <http://www.atlanticfleet.navy.mil>.

MWR NOTES

Information, Tickets and Travel has lots to offer

You deserve a vacation, stop by I.T.T. and sign up for one of the many trips on the calendar. For more information stop in our office located across from the Post Office or give us a call at 542-3318. Trips are open to all base personnel and their guests.

Arena football action is back
 The I.T.T. office has Jacksonville Tomcats tickets on sale now for all home games; ticket prices are \$10.50 and \$15.50. You won't want to miss out on the season opener when the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon will be performing at halftime. If you haven't seen the Marines perform it's worth your ticket to the game. The first 2,000 fans in attendance get a free magnet. Stop by I.T.T. to purchase your tickets.

Set sail Thanksgiving weekend 2002
 Now's the time to get a great deal on a weekend cruise over Thanksgiving weekend. Set sail to the Bahamas on a three-day cruise Nov. 28. Call for more details.

Okefenokee Swamp tour
 Take a guided boat tour of the swamp, scenic nature drive, and time to see the Chesser Homestead. The cost is \$18.75 for adults and \$14.95 for children.

Kennedy Space Center
 Pay one price that includes transportation, the Kennedy bus tour, plenty of time to explore and even watch an IMAX film. Adults - \$35.75 and children (3-11) are \$27.75.

Aquatics holding scuba classes

Did you miss the scuba diving course last month? It's never too late to learn to scuba dive, and we have just the class for you. The April/May course runs April 23 through May 25. The course cost is \$118 and includes a mask, snorkel, fins and foot protection. To hold a seat in the class, a deposit of \$50 is needed by April 22. Payments can be made at the MWR gym sign in office. For more info, call 542-2930.

Freedom Lanes offers birthday packages

The Bowling Center is a great place to celebrate birthdays or any occasion. We have a variety of birthday packages to choose from, let us do the work and save you time and money. The center offers \$5 all you can bowl on Tuesdays and free bowling on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call 542-3493 for additional information.

Mulberry Cove Marina

The Mulberry Cove Marina is hosting basic centerboard sailing classes. The classes are held on Saturday and Sunday or Tuesdays and Thursdays. Open to all authorized base personnel. Call 542-3260 for the next class date.

Spring is here, Gear up for springtime camping at Mulberry Cove Marina. Rent a 3 or 4-person tent and get two items of

Golf course holding ladies golf clinic

Ladies, it's your time to tee off. The NAS Jax golf club hosts a ladies golf clinic for only \$10 each Friday at 4:30 p.m. This is a great way to usher in spring and learn to swing... a golf club that is. You can learn new skills or improve your present style of play or just enjoy the Florida sunshine. Call for more details at 542-3249.

RV Park has lots of sites available

Are you looking for that perfect spot to commune with nature and enjoy the great outdoors? The RV Park is a great way to get away from it all and take advantage of the first coast from a camper's point of view. Why not invite some friends for a fun outdoor adventure. There are 28 full hook-up sites, nine partial hook-up sites and seven primitive sites. Reservations are taken 60 days in advance. Fourteen days is the maximum length of stay. Call 542-3227 to make reservation.

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.

JAX TALES

By Mike Jones - mikejones43@hotmail.com



Law increased veterans' burial benefits

By Jennifer Carroll
 Executive Director, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Under a new law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will increase reimbursement for funeral expenses and cemetery plots for service-disabled veterans and provide government markers for veterans' graves even if families already have installed private markers.

"The modest increases in payments to veterans' families, and the additional monuments to our heroes' service, are steps toward better acknowledging this nation's appreciation of its veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi.

The Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001 increases the burial and funeral expense allowance for veterans who die as a result of a service-

connected disability from \$1,500 to \$2,000 and the cemetery plot allowance, for certain other disabled veterans, from \$150 to \$300.

The law also directs VA to honor requests for government markers for veterans buried in private cemeteries even if their graves have headstones or markers furnished at private expense.

About 9,800 families receive funeral expense reimbursement for service-connected deaths each year. The \$500 increase in the funeral reimbursement, the first since 1988, is expected to increase the government's cost by about \$5 million a year. This change applies to deaths on or after Dec. 1, 2001.

About 90,000 families become eligible for the plot allowance annually. The cost of increasing the amount, which had been \$150 since 1973, will be

about \$13 million a year. The higher allowance will be paid for deaths on or after Dec. 1, 2001.

The plot allowance is paid when a veteran is buried in a non-government cemetery. Also the veteran must meet one of the following three criteria: The veteran was eligible to receive VA disability compensation or a VA pension, was discharged from military service due to disability or died in a VA hospital.

In the past, people who submitted VA applications to receive a government marker had to certify that the veteran's grave was unmarked. Some families complained of unfairness because they could not obtain the government's

free marker to commemorate the veteran's service if they had purchased a marker.

Under the new law, the applicant must certify that the marker will be placed only in a cemetery. VA will send the marker only to a designated cemetery.

The new provision for markers applies to veterans' deaths on or after Dec. 27, 2001.

If you would like more information, please call our department, toll-free at: 1-800-827-1000, Ext. 7400. You can also email us at millsc@fdva.state.fl.us or write to: FDVA, 11351 Ulmerton Rd, Suite 311-K, Largo, FL 33778. Or visit our website at www.floridavets.org.

Jax Air News

Don't Let An Issue Fly By!

JAX SPORTS

Men's tennis tournament slated

A men's competitive and recreational singles tennis tournament will be held April 29 for all NAS Jax active duty men. The tournament will be played at the Birmingham Tennis Courts at 5 p.m. Individuals playing in the tournament will earn Captain's Cup points for their respective command.

Women's tennis tournament coming up

A women's open singles tennis tournament is scheduled for April 29. The event is open to active duty, dependents over 18, retirees, and DoD/NAF civilian women. The tournament will be played at the Birmingham Tennis Courts at 5 p.m. Active Duty women playing in the tournament will earn Captain's Cup points for their respective command.

Intramural volleyball league forming

The league is open to all NAS Jax active duty personnel. Games will be played on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 11:15 a.m. and noon. The season is scheduled to begin April 1. All interested personnel should stop by the base gym to get the required paperwork to join the league.

Sports officials and scorekeepers needed

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

Liberty Mutual Legends offers free admission

From PGA Tour Headquarters

Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf has announced that complimentary admission to both tournaments will be offered to area active duty and retired military and reservists recalled to active duty. Official military identification cards will be required at the gate.

The 25th Anniversary Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf will be held April 1-7 on the King and Bear Golf Course at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine.

Tickets purchased for the PLAYERS Championship are valid for this event.

Area active duty and retired military, as well as reservists recalled to active duty will receive complimentary daily admission for themselves and one guest when presenting their military I.D. cards at the gate; additional guests must pay the applicable

daily admission rate. On a first come, first served basis, and while supplies last, each service person admitted free will receive a voucher at the gate for a complimentary

golf hat featuring the words "United We Stand" and the Liberty Legends of Golf logo. The voucher may be redeemed at the PGA Tour Stop only during the week of the tournament.

Women's softball league forming

The women's league is open to all NAS Jax active duty, dependents over 18, retirees, and DOD civilians. All interested personnel should stop by the athletic department to get the required paperwork to join the league.

Navy Southeast Regional Running and Triathlon Team

Competitive runners are wanted to represent U.S. Navy in 5K, 10K, marathons, and/or triathlons? U.S. Navy will showcase elite active duty men and women in regional races. Uniforms will be provided as well as transportation, entry fees, and lodging costs.

Interested runners must compete in sanctioned (USA Track and Field, USA Triathlon Association, or Roadrunners Clubs of America) race and your time must be one of top ten regional qualifying times. If you have run in sanctioned race and your time meets regional qualifying time, contact your base athletic director.

Southeast Regional Qualifying Times

5K	Men 19:00	Women 24:00
10K	Men 34:00	Women 46:00
Marathon	Men 3H 30M	Women 4H
Triathlon	Men 2H 30 M	Women 3H

Triathlon time based on 1.5K swim, 10K run, 40K bike

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

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

HS-11: Dragonslayers come home with Battle 'E' Status

From Page 1

CSAR coverage for joint and coalition forces in Afghanistan and Pakistan from a forward-deployed base in the OEF Theater. This joint detachment, along with the "Indians" of HS-6, proved the absolute viability of organic CSAR and combat logistics in a major theater war. Additionally, this forward deployment allowed other coalition assets the flexibility to conduct more than 50 missions that they would have otherwise been unable to fly.

Throughout the remainder of the deployment, HS-11 flew Leadership/Maritime Interdiction Operation (LIO/MIO) combat sorties from numerous coalition warships, including USS Shreveport (LPD 12) and HMS Illustrious. The Dragonslayers gained international media recognition for their direct action in the successful takedown of two suspected smuggling vessels, the M/V Kota Sejarah and M/V El Obeid.

Last year, HS-11 flew more than 4,100 flight hours, a third of those hours at night and three-quarters while embarked on numerous Roosevelt Battle Group and coalition warships. Additionally, the squadron completed more than 1,600 Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQ's).

While on deployment alone, the Dragonslayers flew more than 1,200 sorties, totaling more than 3,200 flight hours in support of OEF and proudly achieved a 99.9 percent mission sortie completion rate, the best in Carrier Air Wing One. This unprecedented deployment also included a record breaking 158 consecutive days at sea without a port visit and only seven helicopter no-fly days while participating in OEF actions.

"As the Dragonslayers return home, they would like to thank all those who supported them on their record-breaking deployment of more than six months. With the help of family and friends back home, HS-11 has proudly served their country and has truly demonstrated to all why they are the Battle "E" winners.

HS-11 Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Brent Canady, attributes the great success during its deployment and the subsequent awarding of the Battle "E" to the hard work and dedication of all 185 members of the Dragonslayer team.

JU Baseball to hold 'Military Day'

From JU Athletics Marketing

Jacksonville University Baseball takes on Mercer in a double-header conference match-up on April 6 at 1 p.m. at Alexander Brest Field on the JU Campus.

The day is designated as "Military Day," in which all military personnel can show their ID to receive free admission for the whole family. Prizes will be given away throughout the day.

Coach Terry Alexander has the team in high gear for a spectacular 2002 season. The Dolphins have made it to the NCAA Tournament twice in the past three years, and have been selected in the preseason to win the Atlantic Sun Conference this year.

The JU Campus is located at the intersection of Merrill Road and University Blvd. To get to the baseball field, follow the entrance road down the hill to the large parking lot.

Have your older U.S. Savings Bonds stopped earning interest?

Older Savings Bonds issued prior to 2014 have earned and matured and are no longer earning interest. To verify, visit www.savingsbonds.gov for our new eBonds and the Savings Bond Calculator—a 100% program that helps you determine the value of your bonds, when they mature or when they stop earning interest.

• Savings Bonds purchased prior to December 1985 stop earning interest 90 years from the issue date.

• Savings Bonds and Notes purchased after December 1985 stop earning interest 30 years from the issue date.

• Your Savings Bonds are no longer earning interest. You should redeem them at your local Savings Office. It's free and easy. See the Savings Bond Calculator to see your potential maturity and continue to earn the interest earned to date. Please see our website for details on our programs.

Go online to www.savingsbonds.gov and get your savings back to work.



Check out the Savings Bond Calculator at www.savingsbonds.gov for information on older bonds. 1-800-455-6269

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