



U.S. Navy photo

A seven man visit, board, search and seizure team from USS Elrod (FFG 55) conducts a consensual boarding on a ridged hull inflatable boat to verify the vessel's registration and country of origin, May 25. Elrod encountered the three suspected drug smugglers off the coast of Morocco in international waters in the Western Mediterranean Sea while conducting routine operations in the U.S. Sixth Fleet area of operations.

USS Elrod encounters suspected drug smugglers in Mediterranean

PRESS RELEASE

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa Public Affairs

NAPLES, Italy — USS Elrod (FFG 55) encountered three suspected drug smugglers off the coast of Morocco in international waters in the Western Mediterranean Sea, May 25, while conducting routine operations in the U.S. Sixth Fleet area of operations.

At approximately 8 p.m., while conducting a surface search mission, a SH-60B Seahawk helicopter assigned to Elrod spotted three

individuals discarding multiple packages into the sea from their ridged hull inflatable boat (RHIB).

The helicopter relayed the information to Elrod, which then altered course and attempted to establish radio communication with the unknown RHIB. Upon arrival, a search and rescue swimmer was deployed and recovered several packages, two of which tested positive for narcotics.

A seven man visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) team conducted a consensual boarding on the RHIB to verify the

vessel's registration and country of origin. Upon discovering the suspected smugglers were from Morocco, the ship notified Moroccan authorities and loitered nearby until a transfer of the suspected smugglers could be facilitated. Elrod has since coordinated with Moroccan authorities who apprehended the suspected drug smugglers.

Elrod, an Oliver Hazard Perry-class Frigate homeported out of Norfolk, is on a regularly scheduled deployment in the U.S. Sixth Fleet area of operations.

Gates addresses troops on 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' repeal

BY JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service



Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates told troops worldwide, May 28, that any repeal of the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law will be delayed until the ongoing Defense Department high-level review is completed and only after he, the president and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff all can certify that the department is ready to make the change without hurting unit cohesion, military readiness, military effectiveness and recruiting and retention.

Gates recorded a special message that will be broadcasted on the American Forces Radio and Television Service and the Pentagon Channel to speak directly to service members and their families about the moves toward repeal of the law that bars gay men and lesbians from serving openly in the military.

"There's been a lot of political posturing and maneuvering on this issue and the secretary wanted to communicate directly to the troops about what this all means to them," Pentagon Press said Secretary Geoff Morrell. "He wanted to make it clear that the department's review of how to smartly implement a change in the law is more important than ever and their participation in it is absolutely critical to its success."

The House of Representatives passed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Bill, May 27, that would allow gay men and lesbians to serve openly. The Senate Armed Services Committee passed a similar amendment.

President Barack Obama said he is pleased with the congressional actions. He has long favored repealing the law, in which has

been in effect since 1994.

"Key to successful repeal will be the ongoing Defense Department review, and as such, I am grateful that the amendments ... will ensure that the Department of Defense can complete that comprehensive review that will allow our military and their families the opportunity to inform and shape the implementation process," he said in a written statement released by the White House May 27.

Obama said being the commander in chief is his greatest honor. "This legislation will help make our armed forces even stronger and more inclusive by allowing gay and lesbian soldiers to serve honestly and with integrity," he said.

Any change in the law will take time, Gates said in his recorded message. "The legislative process is long and complex," he said. "While it appears likely that Congress will eventually change the 'don't ask, don't tell' law, we do not expect the legislation that would do this to be presented to the president for months — perhaps not until the end of the year."

The amendment is the result of a compromise worked out between the administration and Congress. It allows the military to revoke the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" provisions 60 days after a military study group chaired by Jeh C. Johnson, the Defense Department's general counsel, and Army Gen. Carter F. Ham, commander of U.S. Army Europe, presents its report in December.

The legislation is a deferred repeal, Gates stressed. "It would repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' but only after — I repeat, after — the ongoing Department of Defense high-level review is completed, and only after the president, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and I all can certify that we are ready to make this change

See REPEAL A11

MEMORIAL DAY 2010



Photo by Fred W. Baker III

Thousands of motorcyclists gather in the north parking lot of the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. for the annual Rolling Thunder Memorial Day weekend ride, May 30. The event aims to raise awareness for the needs of veterans, prisoners of war and those still missing in action.

See A4 for more coverage on this event.



Photo by MCSN Scott Pittman

Rear Adm. Mark S. Boensel, Commander Navy Region Mid Atlantic, speaks at a reenlistment ceremony at the World Trade Center site during the 23rd annual Fleet Week New York, May 27. Approximately 3,000 Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen are participated in the 23rd Fleet Week New York, which took place May 26 - June 2. Fleet Week has been New York City's celebration of the sea services since 1984. It is an unparalleled opportunity for citizens of New York and the surrounding tri-state area to meet Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, as well as see, firsthand, the latest capabilities of today's maritime services.

Sailors renew their commitment to country at World Trade Center site

BY MC1 (SW/AW) W. B. SWOBODA
Navy Public Affairs Support Element, East

NEW YORK — A promotion and reenlistment ceremony was held at the World Trade Center (WTC) site for Sailors of all ranks participating in Fleet Week New York 2010, May 27.

During the ceremony, six commissioned officers received a promotion and more than a dozen

Sailors from various commands participating in Fleet Week were reenlisted by Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, Rear Adm. Mark S. Boensel.

"It's a privilege to be here at the World Trade Center," said Boensel. "It is an honor to do this today and of all places this site which is now synonymous in America, to have Sailors agree to renew the commitment to the nation."

The 20 Sailors reenlisting and six officers receiving their promotion had family and friends on hand to witness this special time in their careers.

"Reenlisting for the first time; at this site, is a reaffirmation of my commitment to my country, family and friends," said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Lashaunda Guy, of Cleveland, stationed aboard USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7).

"Being a HM, I was touched to reenlist at the World Trade Center site."

Fleet Week New York is an annual celebration of the sea services that began in 1984. It provides an opportunity for the citizens of New York City and the surrounding tri-state area to meet Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, as well as see, firsthand, the latest capabilities of

today's maritime services.

Approximately 3,000 Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen are participated in the 23rd commemoration of Fleet Week New York.

For more news from Commander Navy Region Mid Atlantic, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnrma.

See A8 for more coverage from FLEET WEEK NEW YORK 2010

INSIDE:

FLEET WEEK NEW YORK A8

USO hosts 'A Swingin' Salute to Our Troops' Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen danced the night away with Paris Hilton.



FRONT AND CENTER B1

NCAA football coaches visit USS Eisenhower Four Division I football coaches visited Sailors as part of USO-sponsored 2010 Coaches Tour.



OFF DUTY C1

Scion hosts 'Battle of the Builds' customization Unique car customization challenge strictly for active duty military personnel.



Commander Navy Region
Mid-Atlantic is:
Rear Adm. Mark S. Boensel

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NNMC promotes safety during '101 Critical Days of Summer'

BY MCSN

ALEXANDRA SNOW

National Naval Medical Center
Public Affairs

BETHESDA, Md. — Memorial Day kicked off "101 Critical Days of Summer" and National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) is focused on decreasing the heightened risk of accidents, mishaps and fatalities during this season, which ends Labor Day.

The summer months are more dangerous in terms of safety hazards. One of the most common risk factors is alcohol, said Kevin Garcia, occupational safety and health specialist at the National Naval Medical Center. After a long winter, people tend to get out more often to enjoy the heat. The warm weather also becomes a factor in that it dehydrates people quicker; thus, increasing the odds of getting injured in an alcohol-related accident.

"People have been indoors for months. When the weather improves, they're taking long trips, they're engaging in recreational activities," said Garcia. "The numbers spike every year for mishaps."

Last year, 24 Sailors and 15 Marines died during the summer months.

"It's never one thing, it's usually a combination of factors," said Garcia, including alcohol, dehydration and fatigue. "The heat affects people differently."

Drinking and driving is another common danger this time of year, said Chief Master-at-Arms Robert Hebron, training and

assessment officer for NNMC's Security department. While people are out driving more, they are also having more outdoor cookouts and get-togethers.

"They start to unwind, summer's here, and one beer turns into 10 beers and then all of the sudden you're

many hours behind the wheel – the average distance for a summer trip is usually about 250 miles and people often try to cover as much distance as they can as quickly as possible.

"Supervisors can be proactive, finding out where their (staff members) are going, and making sure they're not trying to rush to their destination," said Garcia.

Hebron added that people are often in a hurry and forget to buckle up, and accident-related injuries are worse for those who aren't wearing a seat belt. Some of it is being careless ... a lot of people are rushing when they're going to family functions," said Hebron.

"If you aren't wearing a seat belt when the airbag deploys, you get beat up by the airbag itself."

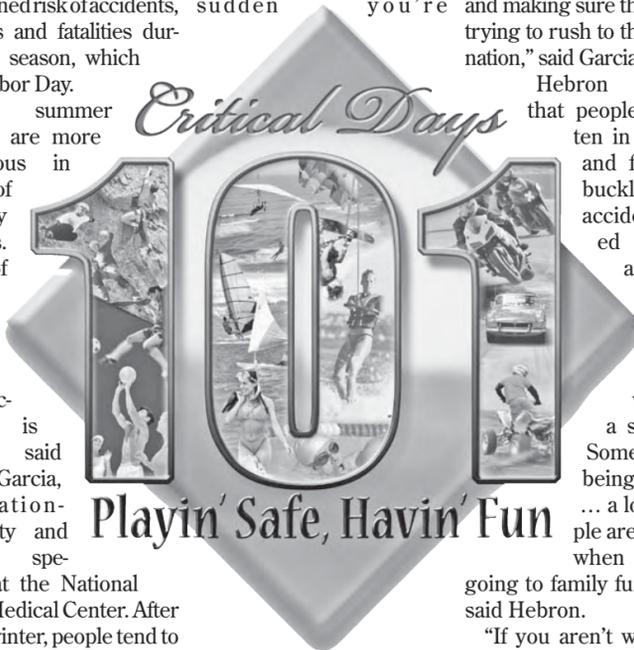
During this time of year, accidents also occur frequently as a result of playing outdoor sports, boating accidents and home repairs, said Garcia.

"Mishaps are preventable, accidents are not. We can never see accidents coming, but we can prevent mishaps," said Garcia.

For more information about summer safety tips, visit www.safetycenter.navy.mil.

There, travelers can find a link to a risk-assessment tool, the Travel Risk Planning System. Sailors and Marines can use this feature to help them recognize and avoid the hazards they could face on their trip, such as not wearing a seatbelt.

For more news from National Naval Medical Center, visit www.navy.mil/local/nnmc/.



THE FLAGSHIP'S LEEWARD SHOUT

What do you think is the importance of having Fleet Week New York?



Lance Cpl.
Keith Powers
Navy Public Affairs Support Element
East

"I think Fleet Week is important for all services because it brings a kind of fellowship and excitement that you don't normally get with being in the military."



Master At Arms 2nd Class
Vernard Harston
Naval Operational Support Center
Greensboro, North Carolina

"I love Fleet Week because I get to meet new people and interact with the residents and tourists and I am looking forward to many future Fleet Weeks."



Capt.
Dan Burque
Office of Naval Research,
Arlington

"Fleet Week is an excellent opportunity to get the Navy and other services in the public eye. It also allows them to interact with families and show our appreciation."



Marine Science Technician 2nd
Class Michael Lee
U.S. Coast Guard

"Fleet Week has been very positive. It gives us a view of the general public. It is chaotic, but it is very rewarding."

VIPIR PLANNING FORECAST

| THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|----------|--------|----------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|
| 86 | 84 | 83 | 88 | 85 | 85 | 85 |
| 71 | 69 | 67 | 70 | 67 | 68 | 63 |

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World War II SUBVETS memorial service held



Photos by MC1 Todd A. Schaffer

More than 100 submarine veterans, active duty Sailors, spouses and visitors attended the World War II Submarine Veterans Memorial Service held at the Submarine Learning Facility on Naval Station Norfolk.

BY KEVIN COPELAND

Commander, Submarine Forces/
Commander, Submarine Force,
Atlantic Public Affairs

NORFOLK — The annual Submarine Veterans of World War II Memorial Service was conducted, May 27, at the Submarine Learning Facility (SUBLRN/FAC), Naval Station Norfolk. Hosted by SUBLRN/FAC, the event is held each year prior to Memorial Day.

The service honored the 52 submarines and the gallant Sailors lost during World War II, and the losses of the USS Thresher (SSN 593), April 10, 1963, and the USS Scorpion (SSN 589), May 22, 1968.

Cmdr. Albert Onley, SUBLRN/FAC commanding officer, welcomed more than 100 veterans, active duty Sailors, spouses, and visitors.

“My favorite stanza in the Sailor’s Creed says ‘I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and those who have gone before me to defend freedom and democracy around the world,’” said Onley. “The veterans here

today and their families have personified that fighting spirit. You have shared your stories to help us, the submariners who follow in your footsteps, to understand the sacrifices required to defend freedom and democracy and to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. We can not thank you enough for your service and your continued contribution to our nation.”

The guest speaker was Master Chief Torpedoman’s Mate (submarines) Rich Corey, U.S. Navy (Ret.). In 1972, he was the first Sailor selected as the Commander, Submarine Force, Atlantic and Atlantic Fleet Sailor of the Year in 1972. Corey is also a former crew member of the USS George Washington (SSBN 598), which was chosen to be inducted into the Submarine Hall of Fame after the ceremony.

“This year marks the 110th anniversary of our submarine force, so it’s a great honor and pleasure to stand before you today and pay tribute to all sub-

marine veterans of the United States both past and present,” said Corey. “This ceremony shows all of them how we feel about the contributions they have made to this great country and that they will always be remembered as part of the greatest generation of Americans to serve.”

Fire Control Technician (submarines) Justin McElwee, coordinator of the 2010 event, echoed Corey’s sentiments.

“It is a great honor and a privilege to be the coordinator for the Submarine Veterans of World War II Memorial Service this year. Honoring those who have gone before us is extremely important, so that we never forget the ultimate sacrifice made by the brave submariners who died defending our freedom. From talking to some of the submarine veterans, this ceremony holds great meaning not only to them but also to the families of our fallen brethren.”

Following the service, George Washington became the 12th



Vice Adm. Jay Donnelly, Commander, Submarine Forces, greets Pete Sococo prior to the start of the World War II Submarine Veterans Memorial Service. Sococo is a 31-year submarine service veteran who conducted 16 different submarine patrols during World War II and is currently the oldest qualified submariner in the Hampton Roads area.



Submarine veterans salute as the colors are paraded during the World War II Submarine Veterans Memorial Service held at the Submarine Learning Facility on Naval Station Norfolk.

submarine to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Selection is merited by the submarine’s contribution to national security and selection is conducted by the Hampton Roads Chapter of the U.S. Submarine Veterans organization.

“George Washington was commissioned December 30, 1959, as the world’s first nuclear-powered Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine,” said Corey. “Arguably, it can be considered the submarine that had the greatest influence on world events in the 20th Century. With its entry into service, the United

States instantly gained the most powerful deterrent force imaginable – a stealth platform with enormous nuclear firepower.”

The ship was decommissioned on January 24, 1985, but prior to disposal the ship’s sail was removed and is currently memorialized in New London, Conn.

Distinguished visitors included Vice Adm. John J. Donnelly, Commander, Submarine Forces, and John Panneton, Military Liaison for Congressman Glenn Nye (D-VA-2nd) and former national president of the Navy League of the United States.

'Ride For Freedom' concludes Rolling Thunder 2010

PRESS RELEASE

From Defense Media Activity-Anacostia

WASHINGTON — An estimated 80,000 motorcycle enthusiasts affiliated with Rolling Thunder, Inc., completed the annual Memorial Day weekend "Ride For Freedom" from the Pentagon to the Washington Monument May 30, an event designed to recognize service members past and present.

Rolling Thunder, Inc., is a nonprofit nationwide organization dedicated to increasing awareness for United States Prisoner of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) concerns,

"Ride For Freedom" participants, many of whom ventured thousands of miles — coming from as far away as Montreal and San Francisco — to participate in the event, included former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff United States Air Force Gen. (Ret.) Richard B. Myers; former commanding officer of USS Cole (DDG 67) during the Oct. 12, 2000 Al-Qaeda attack on the ship Cmdr. (Ret.) Kirk Lippold; and singer and entertainer Nancy Sinatra, a guest of honor at the event.

While the "Ride For Freedom" remains the event's centerpiece, numerous other activities — including dance presentations and speeches from Rolling Thunder, Inc. leadership punctuated the activities, providing alternating somber and festive moments for both participants and on-lookers.

Rolling Thunder, Inc. president and Navy veteran, Gary Scheffmeyer, said the event, the 23rd annual outing for the organization, holds significance not only for veterans of previous conflicts but for Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and



Photo by MC1 Bruce Cummins

Lt. Cmdr. Pete Zaleski (Ret.) renders a salute during colors at the Rolling Thunder wreath-laying ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial. This event and the May 30 Rolling Thunder motorcycle procession from the Pentagon to the Washington Monument is designed to honor service members classified as Prisoners of War or Missing in Action, as well as recognizing American veterans from all wars.

Marines actively engaged in military operations around the world today.

"The men and women on active duty who are doing what they do — whether in Afghanistan or Iraq, whether stationed in DC or wherever — they're putting their lives on the line on a daily basis and protecting our freedom and way of life and we're going to do whatever we can to protect them," he said. "We want to make sure the troops now serving get treated better than the way we were when we came home."

The Rolling Thunder, Inc. "Ride For Freedom" came a day before Memorial Day, an American holiday designated to remember service members killed while on duty, as well as those incarcerated during conflicts and others who have served in the U.S. military. The nearly 3.5 mile ride crosses the



Photo by MC3 Timothy Wilson

Capt. Daniel Zinder, deputy commander of National Naval Medical Center, welcomes Rolling Thunder participants to National Naval Medical Center to ride through hospital grounds in honor of recovering veterans. Zinder also wished Bob Griffith, center, a happy birthday. Griffith was born at the hospital 60 years ago to the day.

historic Memorial Bridge and encompasses legs on Constitution and Independence avenues, coming to a stop at the Reflecting Pool and Washington Monument. The scenic route includes several national landmarks,

including both the Vietnam Veterans' and Korean Veterans' Memorials.

The event initially began in 1987 and boasted more than 350,000 riders during the 2008 outing and according to Vietnam-era veteran and Rolling Thunder, Inc. co-founder



Photo by MC3 Timothy Wilson

A Scottish drummer from the Rolling Thunder motorcycle organization watches as riders enter the National Naval Medical Center during a Memorial Day tribute to wounded warriors recovering at the hospital.

and Executive Director former Army Sgt. Artie Muller said the event serves to bring members together, as well as demonstrate that the organization ensures their cause is recognized.

"These people are like my family — the bond between all of us is unbelievable," he said. "There's a lot of veterans out here — WWII vets, Korean vets, Vietnam vets and veterans of other conflicts and there are a lot of Afghanistan and Iraq veterans as well. It's great for all of us to be together as one — we're united and when we start going over the Memorial Bridge together it brings a tear to your eye. To see hundreds of thousands of people on the bridge and all over town — they're there to see us ride for their troops and for our POWs and MIAs — they want to give us their support."

The emotional ride, evidenced through tears streaming down the faces of participants during the National Anthem before the motorcycle procession departed the Pentagon and during a May 28, candle-light vigil at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, as well as a May 29 wreath-laying ceremony at the Navy Memorial, served to bolster participants' appreciation for both the job they previously held as well as the continued service of others.

"Service members are people who make a unique commitment," said Lippold. "When they raise their right hand, they're choosing a life of consequence in service to their nation, and this ride today we celebrate with Rolling Thunder, Inc., is just one

small way we can contribute to those who have made the ultimate commitment to their nation and in some cases pay the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country."

Myers, the United States highest ranking uniformed officer from October 2001 through September 2005, said although the "Ride For Freedom" serves as an annual reminder for veterans of previous U.S. military engagements, deployed service members today are actively engaged in preserving the ideals and values for which previously serving Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines struggled, noting that their commitment will always be remembered.

"About this time it's nightfall in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the folks that serve over there, they're not off-duty right now," he said. "The fight goes on at night and it's very intense. A lot of folks have been deployed an awful lot, and I thank them for their service and pray for them every day."

Myers added that the efforts of these deployed service members and those preceding them continue to be the forefront and strength of the United States and future generations will prosper through their sacrifice.

"As I look at my grandchildren growing up, I know that they will be safe and secure because of the sacrifices these men and women make over there day in and day out, hour by hour," he said. "We all appreciate what they're doing."

For more news from the fleet visit www.navy.mil.

Naval Special Warfare personnel train with elite Brazilian unit

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
MCC (SW/AW) KATHRYN
WHITTENBERGER

Naval Special Warfare Group 4
Public Affairs

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Seven operators from Naval Special Warfare (NSW) worked with the Brazilian Marine Corps Special Operations Battalion (Tonelero), April 19 - May 13. This was the first time the United States has engaged with this unit in more than 25 years.

“We requested this training to exchange tactics with special operations troops who have combat experience. The SEAL operators are the best choice to provide that training,” said Brazilian Lt. Cmdr. Carlos Tunala, the Marine Corps Special Operations Battalion operations and logistics officer. “We focused on urban operations. My Marines are more prepared to conduct these operations now. Our only experience is in Haiti, which is not as complicated as Iraq or Afghanistan. With this training, we can improve our operations in Haiti as well as be more prepared to host the World Cup and the Olympics.”

This Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) is part of a series requested by the Brazilian government. Topics covered included land warfare, close quarters combat, trauma medicine, over-the-beach missions, and movement through urban and rural environments. The course was taught by the U.S. Navy’s amphibious assault expert SEALs, as well as the maritime mobility experts known as Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC).

“Brazil is one of U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) priority countries and we are privileged to be strengthening our relationship here,” said Special Operations Liaison Officer U.S. Air Force Col. John Poast, who facilitates communication directly between SOCOM and the Brazilian military. “Exercises like this one provide an opportunity for tactics exchange and partner nation capacity building that is vital to maintaining security and stability on a global scale.”

NSW operators who traveled to Brazil for the training enjoyed the chance to work with the Tonelero.

“When we teach our guys, it’s from scratch. For these guys, they already have their base tactics, so we could focus on the smaller things, like the



Members of the Brazilian Marine Corps Special Operations Battalion (Tonelero) practice close quarters combat skills facilitated by U.S. Navy SEALs during a Joint Combined Exchange Training exercise. The course was facilitated by the U.S. Navy’s amphibious assault expert SEALs, as well as the maritime mobility experts known as Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC). This bi-lateral training was the first time the U.S. had engaged with this unit in more than 25 years, and strengthens ties between the two nations.

differences and why do things a certain way,” said a SWCC facilitator. “This was not as much ‘this is the only way’, but more, ‘this is why we do it this way and this is how.’ If they did it a better way, we took that on board as well. I was impressed that they were so keen to take our tactics on board because they are combat proven.”

This exercise was one of many planned to focus on capacity building. This exercise fell under the Theater Security Cooperation Program, which is a partnership between the U.S. Department of State and Department of Defense to build rapport between the United States and partner nations.

As part of that effort, NSW Seabees, or combat constructionmen, built a new 25-yard marksmanship range and upgraded the shoot house with an additional 6,800 sq. ft. area to allow for more viewing areas for safety observers and more realistic training scenarios.

“Naval Special Warfare wants to continue training alongside the Brazilian special forces and we consider working alongside the Brazilians to improve their training facilities an investment in our partnership.”

Although all the men, both Brazilian and American, put in long hours, it was well worth the effort to see what they accomplished.

“I found these guys particularly motivated and

U.S. Navy SEALs train members of the Brazilian Marine Corps Special Operations Battalion (Tonelero) in close quarters combat during a Joint Combined Exchange Training exercise. The course was facilitated by the U.S. Navy’s amphibious assault expert SEALs, as well as the maritime mobility experts known as Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC)

locked on to learning what we are putting out here,” said a SEAL instructor. “I think our biggest success is that we’ve really exchanged some good skills, and it really surprised me how quickly we formed a sense of camaraderie and mutual respect.”

This training was also a learning experience for U.S. participants.

“The main challenge was the language barrier and learning how to train through an interpreter, but we worked through that,” said another SWCC. “This was not a one-sided conversation. Their tactics definitely have their application and I think if I had to fight in a jungle, this is the unit I would want to work with.”



Summer programs expand for military children

BY ELAINE WILSON
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — From camps to golf clinics to acclaimed museums, military children have an abundance of free summer programs to choose from in 2010, a Defense Department official said. The activities not

animals, cooking, photography and art.

These camps can be particularly beneficial for guard and

to help military children ages 7 to 17 cope with the stress of having a parent deployed, explained Michelle Joyner, the association's communications director.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to bring kids together so they can learn some coping skills to get through difficult times," said Joyner.

The children also are encouraged to form their own support networks, she added.

The association, through a grant from the

reserve children who may not have a community of support around them, said Thompson.

"It shows that they're not alone, that there are other children facing the same worries and anxieties as they deal with the issues of the military lifestyle," she said.

The Defense Department will deploy more than 100 of its child and youth behavioral specialists to 99 of these camps, Thompson noted. They'll support the camp staff, she said, and also will conduct focus groups and other support activities for children.

The department will send hundreds of other child and youth specialists to Operation Purple Camps and to camps sponsored by the services, said Thompson.

In total, "we are going to be sending over 500 child and youth specialists across the world to take care of children in summer activities," said Thompson.

Operation Purple Camps, sponsored by the National Military Family Association, are designed

only offer a respite from day-to-day routines, but also foster camaraderie among children dealing with similar military challenges, said Barbara Thompson, director of the Pentagon's office of family policy, children and youth.

"Peer-to-peer is wonderful way for children to learn how to deal and cope with separations and parents' absence," said Thompson. "Each person copes differently, but my personal belief is that when you're busy ... it takes some of the burden off of your shoulders, takes away some of your anxiety and concern."

Thompson suggested military families start by looking into the plethora of day and residential summer camps.

Operation Military Kids, for instance, will sponsor 250 summer camps across the nation for school-age military children, both active and reserve, through a partnership with the Army, the Defense and Agriculture departments and 4-H. The camps cover a wide range of interests, including robotics, technology, high adventure,



Taylor Richmond, 13, (L) and camp instructor Will Morgan stand ready as Matt Ingalls, 13, prepares to climb back into a second canoe after retrieving a fallen paddle. Ingalls' canoe mates, Nick Hunkin, 13, (L) and Ryan Sullivan, 12, prepare to help. The young men were participating in an "Operation Purple" canoeing class held at the Millstone 4-H camp in Ellerbe, N.C.

to explore cultural opportunities through the Blue Star Museums program.

This initiative, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, offers service members and up to five of their immediate family members free admission to participating museums from Memorial Day through Labor Day. More than 600 museums in 50 states and the District of Columbia have signed up so far.

"What a cultural opportunity," said Thompson. "It's just a wonderful way to spend summer days so it's not all fun and games, but there's some learning going on and cultural activities. We're very excited about this initiative."

For budding golfers, the First Tee Military Affiliate Program offers free golf instruction to children from Guard and Reserve families geographically separated from a military base, Thompson noted.

The instruction is available at First Tee's 200 chapters located across the nation. School-age children at all skill levels, from beginner to advanced, are invited to hone their golf game with the help of trained coaches.

The program not only sharpens their skills on the green, but also equips children with life skills. Along with basic golf instruction, First Tee coaches teach children interpersonal communication, managing emotions, goal-setting and overcoming obstacles.

For parents looking to keep their kids' learning skills honed throughout the summer, Thompson suggested they visit Tutor.com, a free, online tutoring service for service members and their families. Children can access round-the-clock professional tutors who can assist with school

work.

"When children are out of school we want their time to be fun, but productive as well," said Thompson.

Also aimed at education, the Department of Defense Education Activity will offer a four-week summer enrichment program that emphasizes math and language arts skills. In 2010, the program will be offered at 62 sites worldwide to about 10 percent of the activity's students from kindergarten through 8th grade.

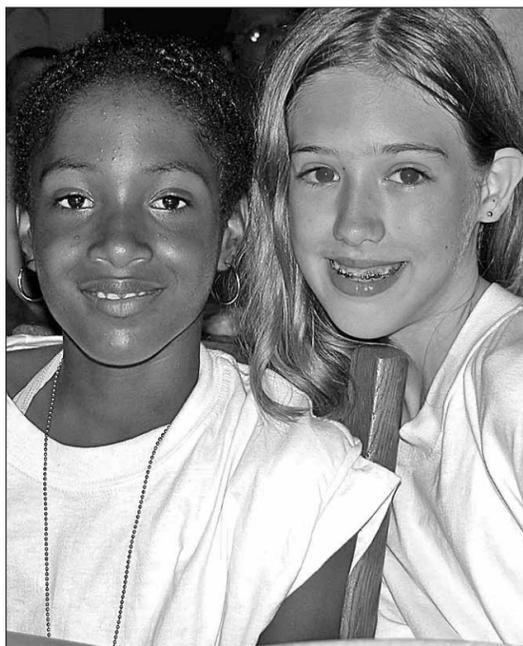
The activity also offers a summeronlinehighschool program for students who are at risk of not meeting graduation requirements. These students can enroll in coursework to replace a failing grade or to fulfill a course requirement.

"Our summer school program helps our students meet their educational requirements through a virtual program," said Patricia Riley, chief of the activity's Virtual School Program. "This is particularly helpful for our students overseas, since many (do) travel back to the U.S. to see family in the summer, which would be difficult if they were attending a traditional brick-and-mortar summer school."

From outdoor activities to educational opportunities, the department's summer programs are just another way of taking care of military families, Thompson noted.

"Children also serve," she said. "For them, it may be a little harder than (for) the adults in their life, because they can't always figure out what's going to happen next, especially depending on the age of the child. To have these opportunities for excitement and fun is just the best thing that we can do."

For more news, visit www.navy.mil.



Photos by Gerry J. Gilmore

Kimberly Gray, (L), 10, and Jade Williams, 12, pose for a picture after lunch the "Operation Purple" closing ceremony at Millstone 4-H camp in Ellerbe, N.C.

Sierra Club Foundation, expects to send more than 9,500 children to camp this summer. Camps are located in 37 states and in

is open for Operation Purple family retreats, available to all members of a military family. The next retreat will be held July 4 at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. It includes a travel stipend to defray the cost, said Joyner. People can visit militaryfamily.org to sign up or to learn about the association's other family programs.

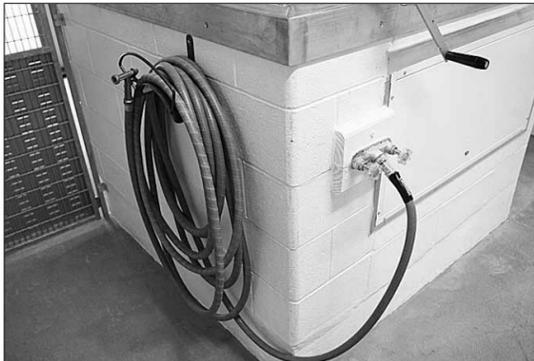
Military children also can seek camp and other summer activity opportunities through their installation libraries and child and youth services programs, said Thompson. Additionally, each installation has a pool and some have pool lifts for swimmers with special needs. The department also has been revamping some of its playgrounds with special-needs children in mind, she added.

Off installation, Thompson encourages parents



These Provost Marshal's Office dog kennels were one of five installed during the construction of the \$10 million Military Police Company Interim Facilities Project in early May, as part of the \$56 million USMC Grow the Force Construction Program at Camp Lejeune. The secluded location of the energy efficient dog kennel complex keeps the dogs in a tranquil mood while the size of the facilities provides more living and training space. The construction also includes the capacity to house more than 100 dogs, two storage buildings, a central kitchen and 1.5 acres of fenced obedience courses.

Camp Lejeune military working dogs get energy efficient home



The new layout and design for the military working dog kennels includes drainage ditches inside the kennels to reduce the use of water waste.

PRESS RELEASE

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — The Officer In Charge of Construction Marine Corps Installations East (OICC MCI East) completed the construction of the \$10 million Military Police Company Interim Facilities Project in

early May, as part of the \$56 million USMC Grow the Force Construction Program at Camp Lejeune.

This project, completed by Blue Rock Structures, Inc., of Pollocksville, N.C. was one of 20 contracts awarded to implement a directive from the commandant of the Marine Corps to provide interim facilities for Marine



U.S. Marine Corps photos by Lance Cpl. Damany S. Coleman

Military working dog handler, Cpl. Austin French with the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune Provost Marshal's Office, walks the grounds of PMO's new energy efficient dog kennels, May 22, after taking his canine companion out for some play time.

units affected by the 202k initiative to incrementally increase overall Marine Corps end strength to approximately 202,000 Marines by fiscal year 2011.

The interim facility project consisted of erecting pre-engineered buildings and installing modular units; with the exception of the permanent kennels constructed for the military police working dogs. The contract provided for construction of five work-

ing dog kennels that can hold more than 100 dogs, two storage buildings, a central kitchen and 1.5 acres of fenced obedience courses to support military working dog operations for Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and II Marine Expeditionary Force.

Additionally, three modular classrooms and 12 modular administrative buildings were installed to house kennel master, handler and

trainer activities.

"This project provides rather stately kennel facilities for II MEF and Marine Corps Base working dogs with energy conservation in mind. The kennels maximize creature comfort by utilizing in-slab radiant floor heat systems fed by a farm of geothermal well points," said Cmdr. Cheryl Hansen, commanding officer, OICC MCI East, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-

Atlantic.

The structure was also built with selected heating system, which is projected to realize more than 30 percent efficiency over conventional gas or oil-fueled heat systems.

Lt. Gen. Dennis J. Hejlik, commanding general, II Marine Expeditionary Force, attended the ribbon cutting ceremony earlier this month, signifying the official opening of the complex.

Also in attendance were the ranks of police dogs and their handlers who say they are delighted with their new facilities.

"The new kennels are a significant improvement from our former home," said John Salvetti, Camp Lejeune kennel master.

He added that the secluded location of the kennel complex keeps the dogs in a tranquil mood and the size of the facilities provides more living and training space.

A future military construction project slated for next year provides 14,500 sq. ft. of permanent administration space to replace the interim modular units.

For more news from Naval Facilities Engineering Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/navfacha/.

Winners of ONR's Energy Challenge help Navy reduce its carbon footprint

ARLINGTON, Va. — In an effort to motivate researchers to help the U.S. Navy decrease its reliance on fossil fuels, the Office of Naval Research (ONR) announced May 26 nine winners of an "Energy Challenge" issued at its recent Naval Energy Forum.

The recipients, whose projects range from microbial to solar power, will receive up to \$100,000 to apply toward their research area, said Dr. Rich Carlin, who heads ONR's Sea Warfare and Weapons department.

"We selected nine very promising energy ideas from nearly 100 white papers," said Carlin. "There were many good ideas, and the winners were chosen after a comprehensive competitive review."

The Naval Energy Forum, held in October 2009, provided a platform for Navy and Marine Corps leaders and their science and technology partners to discuss energy challenges facing Naval forces.

One winner, Dr. Theodore Bloomstein of MIT Lincoln Laboratory, said the Navy's investment in his solar cell research is vital.

"While the research funding is essential, the Navy's involvement in alternative technologies for meeting the power-generating needs of the individual Soldier and humanitarian relief personnel make it the perfect partner for this research."

Dr. Kam Ng, ONR's deputy director of research, hailed the winners, saying their projects hold promise for a more energy-efficient Navy.

"The success of these projects will translate to helping the Navy decrease its reliance on petroleum and reduce its carbon footprint in support of the Secretary of the Navy's strategy for a greener force," said Ng.

The recipients and their energy research initiatives are:

- Dr. Pyoungcho Choi of the University of Central Florida-Florida Solar Energy Center - "Simultaneous Extraction of Lithium and Hydrogen from Seawater"

- Dr. Nazim Muradov, University of Central Florida-Florida Solar Energy Center - "High Power Density Generators for Unmanned Undersea Vehicle Applications"

- Dr. Bruce Rittman, Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University - "Advanced Photobioreactors for Biodiesel and Jet Fuel Production with Minimal Water and Nutrient Consumption" and "Development of an Acetate or Sugar Fed Microbial Power Generator for Military Bases"

- Dr. Rahul Bidkar, GE Global - "Textured Hydrophobic Surfaces for Energy Efficient Naval Vessels"

- Dr. Barrett Potter, University of Arizona - "Optoelectronic Nanocomposite Materials for Thin Film Photovoltaics"

- Dr. Alan Huston, Naval Research Lab - "Engineered Core/Shell/Shell Quantum Dots for Photovoltaics";

- Dr. Theodore Bloomstein, MIT/Lincoln Labs - "High Power-Per-Weight Organic Solar Cell" and

- Dr. Jason Ren, University of Colorado - "Low-Energy Desalination and Electricity Generation in Bioelectrochemical Systems."

The Department of the Navy's ONR provides the science and technology necessary to maintain the Navy and Marine Corps' technological advantage. Through its affiliates, ONR is a leader in science and technology with engagement in 50 states, 70 countries, 1,035 institutions of higher learning and 914 industry partners. ONR employs approximately 1,400 people, comprising uniformed, civilian and contract personnel.



Photo by MCSN Richard J. Stevens

Rear Adm. Mark S. Boensel, commander Navy Region Mid-Atlantic along with Sailors and Marines at the NASDAQ Stock Exchange close out the month of May in Times Square as part of the Fleet Week celebration.

Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic closes NASDAQ Stock Exchange

BY MCSN ERIC LOCKWOOD
Navy Public Affairs Support
Element East

NEW YORK — Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen join Rear Adm. Mark S. Boensel, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic in closing out the NASDAQ Stock Exchange for the month, May 28.

Boensel officiated ringing the closing bell, signaling the close of the month, during one of the many Fleet Week New York activities.

"We're so excited that you could join us right here, at the cross-roads of the world in Times Square, as we get officially set to ring the NASDAQ closing bell in celebration of Fleet Week in New York City," said Gregg Hernandez, managing director of NASDAQ.

The Stock Exchange represents the economic foundation of the country and Boensel was honored to be asked to close it out this month.

"Our country is built on a capitalist system and NASDAQ, of course, is part of that," said Boensel. "It's really a part of the engine that makes our country work. To be able to do this is a great honor."

Approximately 3,000 Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen are participated in the 23rd Fleet Week New York, which took place May 26 - June 2. Fleet Week has been New York City's celebration of the sea services since 1984.

For more news from *Commander, Navy Region Mid Atlantic*, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnrma/.



Photo by MCSN Richard J. Stevens

Members of the Navy Band, of Newport, R.I., provide entertainment during New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's welcome reception at Gracie Mansion during Fleet Week New York.

Navy Band rocks Times Square during Fleet Week

BY MC3 DOMINIQUE WATTS
USS Theodore Roosevelt Public Affairs

NEW YORK — Road Island Sound, a division of Navy Band Northeast, based out of Newport, R.I., performed a live rock concert in Times Square, May 28, during the celebration of Fleet Week New York 2010.

"This is my second time performing in Times Square during Fleet Week and each year has been amazing," said Musician 3rd Class Rebecca Gonzalez, vocalist for Road Island Sound.

As thousands of New Yorkers and vacationers descended upon Times Square for the event, they were met with a variety of pop and rock hits.

"The show was amazing," said Maria Cranston, who was visiting the city with her family. "I had no idea that Sailors performed concerts like this."

The variety of songs appealed to every demographic of the audience.

"Every part of the show was really great," said Tina Grohowski, who was helping her mother celebrate her birthday during Fleet Week. "They played a little bit of everything and that made it really good."

The impact of performing in New York was not lost on the band.

"To have the opportunity to play in New York is phenomenal," said Gonzalez. "This city, with all it has been through, has embraced our troops and been an inspiration to all of us."

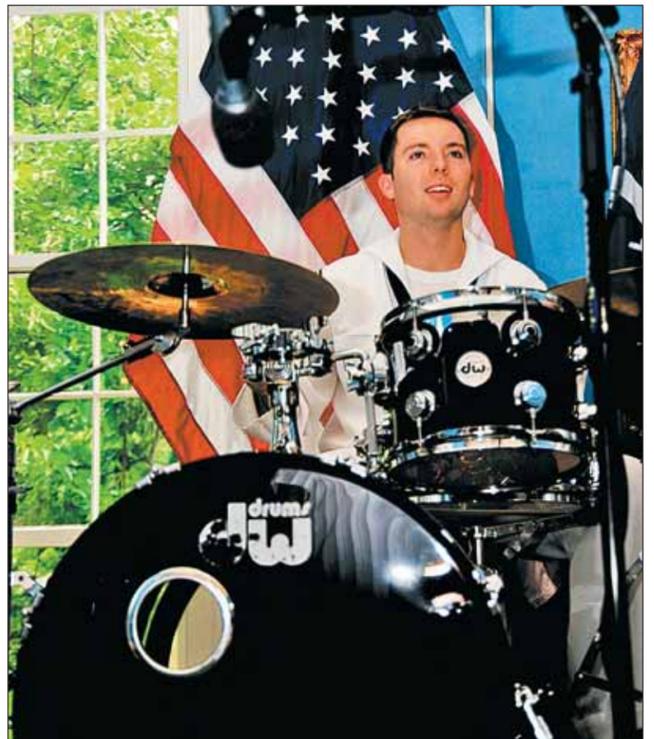


Photo by MCSN Eric Lockwood

Musician 3rd Class Tim Leonard, drummer for Navy Band Northeast, plays the drums during a welcome reception at Gracie Mansion which was held by Mayor Michael Bloomberg for the opening of Fleet Week New York 2010.

Approximately 3,000 Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen participated in the 23rd Fleet Week New York.

"The crown was amazing," explained Musician 3rd Class Tommy Stanley, guitarist and vocalist for Road Island Sound. "They had so much energy. It was inspiring to play for such an amazing crowd."

Months of dedication and preparation was put into coordinating such a high energy

show. "All of Navy Band Northeast has been preparing for this week for a long time," said Stanley. "We had a lot of meetings to decide what would be performed and a lot of rehearsals followed that."

In addition to performing in various events during Fleet Week, the band serves to entertain the general public and educates the public on the diversity of the Navy.



Rear Adm. Mark S. Boensel, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, attends the closing of the NASDAQ Stock Exchange, May 28, for Fleet Week New York 2010.

Photo by MCSN Eric Lockwood

USO hosts annual 'A Swingin Salute to Our Troops' event

BY MC1 (AW/SW) MONIQUE K. HILLEY
Navy Public Affairs Support Element East

NEW YORK — Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen danced the night away with Paris Hilton at the United Service Organization's (USO) annual "A Swingin Salute to Our Troops" event in the Union Square Ballroom, May 26.

"Tonight's event is really a kickoff for Fleet Week and to recognize a couple hundred Sailors, Coast Guardsmen and Marines that are here and say thanks for your service and the incredible sacrifices that you and your families make," said Brian Whiting, president and CEO, USO of Metropolitan New York. "That's what tonight is all about and it just happens to be that this party is being brought to them by BAE Systems, a worldwide strategic partner of USO and also our partner in Songs for Soldiers so we'll hand out some MP3 players to some of the Sailors here tonight."

Paris Hilton was in attendance as Celebrity Ambassador for the new Songs for Soldiers program to raise awareness for the cause, which offers a new way for Americans to express their gratitude to U.S. troops serving overseas.

"I am so honored to be the Celebrity Ambassador for Songs for Soldiers," said Paris Hilton. "I think it's an amazing initiative and I love that I can bring music, hope and fun



Photo by MC3 Kristin Grover

Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen dance the night away at the United Service Organization Fleet Week kickoff event, "A Swingin Salute to Our Troops," which was held at the Union Square Ballroom, May 26.

to the Soldiers who are fighting overseas for us. I think there's nothing more patriotic, or more worthwhile, than doing something for our troops."

The Songs for Soldiers initiative wants to provide a portable combat-ready MP3 player to every one of the more than 180,000 troops deployed throughout the world through the support of Americans. The program was created after a City University of New York research study found that U.S. service members significantly rely on music to help them cope with the stress of combat.

"With troops shouldering the burden of heavy deployments, morale-boosting initiatives like Songs for Soldiers become even more important," said Whiting.

The MP3 players, which can withstand heat, freezing, shock and being dropped, will contain dozens of songs from 'To The Fallen Records', music written and performed by veteran and active duty service members, as well as celebrity videos thanking the recipient for their service. Several other artists are in discussion with Songs for Soldiers to donate their music.

"We are excited to have partnered with

both the USO and Paris Hilton on this important program," said Tom Wiggan, founder of the Songs for Soldiers program. "For close to 70 years the USO has been supporting our troops and we are proud to have Songs for Soldiers associated with this legacy."

Yeoman 2nd Class Rachel Martis, from the multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7), has been a ballroom dancer for almost fourteen years. She said that when she heard she was going to get to attend a kickoff party at the Union Square Ballroom, she was thrilled about the opportunity.

"I am extremely ecstatic and happy to be here. I normally do American-style ballroom dancing and I've sort of branched out into international-style," said Martis. "I already started dancing and found out it's over 90 degrees in the building, but I can dance, so that's all that matters."

Whiting, Wiggan and Paris Hilton took the stage during the event to thank the service members in attendance for their service and highlight the new Songs for Soldiers initiative. The speeches were followed by hours of ballroom dancing, where local New Yorkers could mingle with the Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.

See A10 for more coverage from FLEET WEEK NEW YORK 2010



Sailors (R) pull Marines across a boundary line for a win during a tug-of-war contest being broadcasted live for the morning news and talk show, Today (The Today Show) outside Studio 1A in Rockefeller Plaza.

Photo by MC2 (SW/AW) John Stratton

Sailors, Marines tug it out on the 'Today Show'

BY MC1 KAYLA L. THOMPSON
USS Theodore Roosevelt
Public Affairs

NEW YORK — Sailors and Marines gathered outside Studio 1A Rockefeller Plaza, also known as the set of the Today Show, for their annual tug of war match during Fleet Week 2010, May 29.

Hosts of the show, Amy Robach and Lester Holt, along with Lt. Gen. Dennis J. Hejlik, Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force and Rear Adm. Mark S. Boensel, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, were on hand to kick off the two-round match.

The first round featured the Navy versus the Marine Corps, in which the Navy came out victorious. The second round featured the Navy against the Today Show hosts, along with their weatherman, Scott Williams, and news desk correspondent, Peter Alexander. With the help of the Marine Corps, the Today crew won.

"I love our annual tug of war because we always win," said Robach. "No matter who's the winner or who's the loser, we always end up on top. Obviously we get one of the teams to help us out so we get a little extra muscle behind it," she said.

Holt added that their win wasn't exactly a fair one.

"If you want to go strictly by the rules, one might argue that we embellished a little bit or skirted the rules, but it was fun," he said. "The showdown between the Navy and Marine Corps is one of the better ones we've had and it was a really tough one. As for the Today Show performance, we cheated. We needed a little help from the Marine Corps, but we pulled it off."

According to Lt. Gen. Hejlik, the tug of war was really a collective effort.

"The Navy and Marine Corps team pulled together to have something like this, he said. "The Navy won and next year maybe the Marines will win, but we're really all winners," he added.

Boensel added that it was a great match.

"It was a rubber match, said Rear Adm. Boensel. "It was one to one before today. We got a great win today so it was on our side. The Marines will come back hard next year though," he said.

Robach said it makes her feel good that the Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen come to New

York every year to celebrate Fleet Week.

"It's fantastic to see the military here, in New York City of all places, on Memorial Day weekend said Robach. "Fleet Week is a fantastic way for us to show our thanks to the men and women who put their lives on the line every day for us. So to see them walking around New York, I think we all feel a little safer, but also feel very proud and very thankful," she said.

Holt added that it makes him feel good as a New Yorker to see the military here and having a good time.

"I love seeing the Sailors and Marines around town enjoying the sites," Holt said. "You can tell that the city embraces them because people are out helping them with directions and giving them tips on places to go. It's fun for us. It's festive. Everyone loves when the ships pull into town. It's a blast for us to have them on the show every Memorial Day weekend and the crowd really eats it up. It's fun to meet Sailors and Marines and their families who have come along."

Holt also said that he once rode on USS Iwo Jima a couple of years ago, so it's good to see the ship back this year for Fleet Week.

Lt. Gen. Hejlik added that he is impressed with the way the service members are handling themselves during the visit.

"I was telling some of the officers the other night that when you drive around the city you see the Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen and they're all in proper uniform and they look good," he said. They look sharp and they're representing their country well in New York City. New York is treating them with the dignity and respect and fun that they've earned. It's great to be here in New York. I'm proud to be a part of the Navy and Marine Corps Team. It doesn't get any better than this," said Hejlik.

Boensel echoed Hejlik's praise.

"I haven't run into a Sailor, Marine or Coast Guardsmen that hasn't had a great time so far, said Boensel. "The city really embraces us when we come here and it's a wonderful experience for all of us. I think it's a great opportunity for the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard to show them what their sea services do here in New York."

Far East CPOs conduct 117 hour treadmill marathon for Millington flood victims

BY MC3 ANDREW RYAN SMITH

Navy Public Affairs Support
Element West, Det Japan

YOKOSUKA, Japan — At the stroke of Noon, May 26, Senior Chief Navy Counselor (SW/AW) Johannes Gonzalez took the first steps in a 117 consecutive hour treadmill marathon aimed at raising money for the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society.

“This benefits both promoting a culture of fitness as well as raising money for the Navy Marine Corps relief society to help the victims of the Millington flood,” said Chief Personnel Specialist (AW) Louis Saldana, an organizer of the event.

Johannes is not doing this by himself either. He and over 100 other members of the Far East Chief Petty Officer’s (CPO) association at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) are sharing in the aches, pains, blisters and sweat that accompany this marathon, which will continue over the Memorial Day weekend. The marathon is being conducted on two treadmills, and each hour as one chief completes his or her race against the clock, another “relieves the watch” for the next hour. The 117 time-frame of the event represents the number of years U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officers have been walking the deckplates and leading Sailors.

Holding this event over the Memorial Day weekend was by design. Besides showcasing ideals such as the Culture of Fitness, CPO Pride and charity, the run is also a way to honor those who served and gave their lives in defense of the Unit-

ed States

“It starts with us. It’s good for the junior Sailors to see their Chief Petty Officers leading the way and promoting the Navy’s culture of fitness,” said Gonzalez. “I have gotten E-mails from chief’s currently underway saying they will run and wishing they were here to join us.”

The fundraising event is being held at CFAY’s main taxi stand near the base gates. Gonzales says this location allows the entire community so see the pride of the Far East CPOA in action from dusk to dawn.

Proceeds are based on “per mile” pledges, but passers by can also support the runners by donating on the spot. Area commands were encouraged to pledge based on the assumption that runners will average of five miles an hour.

“Every Chief’s Mess in the Yokosuka area was involved. If you look at our list of participants, we have representatives from every command on base from shore commands to ships in port,” said Saldana. “The response to this event was quick; as soon as we announced this event a number of chiefs came forward and volunteered to fill slots.”

Once the run is complete at 10 a.m. on Memorial Day, participants will assemble and run in formation to the site of CFAY’s Memorial Day services. The Far East CPOA will present NMCRS with the donation in a presentation ceremony on June 2.

For more news from Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, visit www.navy.mil/local/cfay/.



Photo by MC1 Chad J. McNeeley

Deborah Mullen is presented the Gold Star Wives of America Appreciation Award by Ruth Miller, board chair, and Kit Frazer, president, Gold Star Wives of America at the organizations annual Congressional Reception at the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, Washington, D.C., May 27.

Mullens honored for support of families of fallen service members

BY ELAINE WILSON

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The nation’s top military officer and his wife were singled out for their ongoing commitment to families of fallen service members at the U.S. Capitol building, May 27.

The Gold Star Wives of America presented Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his wife, Deborah, with an appreciation award for their efforts on behalf of survivors and their families during the organization’s annual congressional reception.

The Gold Star Wives is an organization of military widows and widowers whose spouses died while on active duty or from service-connected disabilities.

The ceremony came at a fitting time with Memorial Day so close at hand, Mullen noted.

“I’m reminded today ... coming into this very important weekend of remembrance that we should never forget the sacrifice,” he said.

The chairman pledged his ongoing support of families of the fallen and vowed to continue his efforts to find more ways to remember and honor their sacrifice.

“Sometimes it’s easier in the beginning to do that because of the currency of the event,” he acknowledged. “What’s really important is that we sustain that love, devotion, passion and remembrance for as long as we live.”

Mullen said one of his priorities is to ensure all military families – whether they include veterans, wounded service members, active or reserve members or survivors – are em-

braced by their communities to meet their immediate and long-term needs.

The chairman stressed the need for a “seamless joining” of the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs and communities across the nation to “welcome these heroes back to communities.”

All must “join hands together to make sure we maximize the opportunities in meeting the needs of our young veterans as they return home after these very difficult wars,” he said. “And not lose one family who has lost someone.”

Mullen reiterated his ongoing commitment to families of the fallen.

“We really are honored to serve, to try and make a difference, and we’ll continue to do that,” he said. “Your loss, your sacrifice is the most significant, the ultimate, and the one we need to ensure we are focused on and never, ever forget.”

The chairman’s wife also acknowledged the immense sacrifice made by military families, and praised the Gold Star Wives for their work on their behalf.

“We believe that none of us does this alone,” she said. “It has to be one large team of people working in concert to take care of the families who have lost people, to the families who have wounded members, to those who come back with the unseen and the seen wounds of war.”

“This is not just about the military or the VA. It is about all of us in our country,” she continued. “And you represent an important part of that. We will never forget your service, but most importantly, we’ll never forget the heart you have, the caring heart, for those people like you who have lost a loved one.”

REPEAL: Gates addresses troops on ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ repeal

Continued from page A1

without hurting unit cohesion, military readiness, military effectiveness, and recruiting and retention,” said Gates.

As the legislative process continues, nothing will change in current policies and practices, the secretary said. “Current law, policies and regulations remain in place and we are obligated to abide by them as before,” he said.

The vote in the House and at the Senate committee makes the results of

the Defense Department study even more important, said Gates. The panel will conduct a thorough and fact-based assessment of the impact of the potential law change and will develop “an implementation plan that minimizes any possible disruption to the department’s mission and ongoing operations,” he added.

Gates urged service members to participate in the review. “We need to hear from you and your families, so that we can make these judgments in the most informed and

effective manner,” the secretary said. “So please let us know how to do this right.”

He asked all service members to stay informed on this issue, but to not let it distract them from the “critical mission to defend our country and our duty to uphold the values represented by the uniform you wear,” he said.

The message will play on AFRTS broadcast outlets overseas and on the Pentagon Channel in the United States.

For more news, visit www.navy.mil.



CHANGE OF COMMAND

ARCD, REGION 3 WELCOMES
NEW BATTALION COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Teresa M. Williams relinquishing command of Region 3 to Lt. Col. Stephen R. Keck, May 26, at JEB-Fort Story parade field. **B3**

FRONT & CENTER

SECTION B

FLAGSHIPNEWS.COM

June 3, 2010

NCAA football coaches visit USS Eisenhower

BY MC1 (SW) AMY KIRK
USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Public Affairs

USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, At Sea — Four Division I football coaches visited Sailors aboard Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) as part of the Morale Entertainment and USO-sponsored 2010 Coaches Tour.

University of Oregon's Chip Kelly, the U.S. Military Academy head coach Rich Ellerson, Tim Murphy of Harvard and University of Illinois' Ron Zook toured the ship and greeted Sailors, taking time to sign autographs and pose for pictures.

"It took about 10 seconds for me to decide to be a part of the tour," said Murphy, who has two recent graduates heading to Afghanistan soon. "I had great respect for the men and women in uniform before, but seeing you folks in action is impressive. Few people could do what you do everyday. We owe you all a debt that will be difficult to repay."



Photo by MC2 (AW/SW) Gina K. Wollman
Chief Aviation Ordnanceman Joseph Bailey shows distinguished visitors around the weapons magazine during the Morale Entertainment and USO-sponsored 2010 Coaches Tour aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69).

For Ellerson, being a part of the trip was twofold. He wanted to pay his respect to the men and women defending our freedoms and well as get a firsthand

look at different environments and working conditions so he could go back and report to his Army athletes, giving them perspective on what they may one

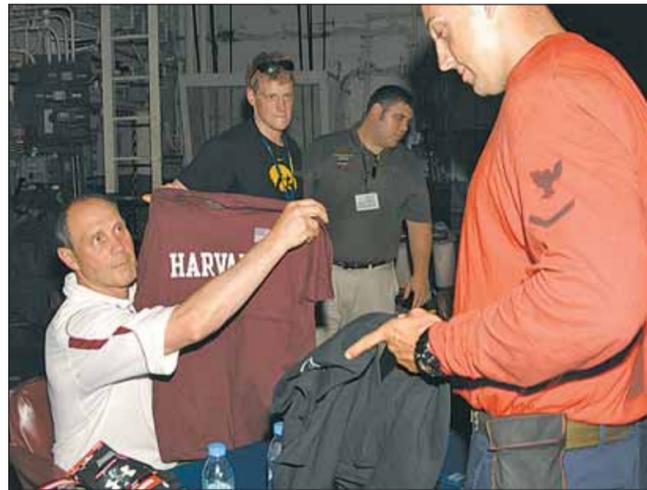


Photo by MC3 Christopher A. Baker
Harvard football coach Tim Murphy, meets Sailors and signs autographs aboard aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) as part of the Morale Entertainment and USO-sponsored 2010 Coaches Tour. Head football coaches from the University of Illinois, the University of Oregon and the U.S. Military Academy joined Murphy on the tour to boost the morale of service members overseas.

day face. "I have a profound respect for every person who serves," said Ellerson. "Being able to see the Air Force and the Navy in action,

I appreciate them even more. It has been a humbling experience watching these men and women

See NCAA, B7



Photo by MCSN Austin Rooney

Aviation Maintenance Administrationman Airman Jackie Wilson prepares for a 100-meter sprint on the Huntington Hall running track in Newport News recently. Wilson is a member of the Armed Forces Track and Field team, which is made up of service members from all branches of the military and competes against various militaries from around the world.

TR Airman, Wilson, sets standard for sprinters

BY MCSA AUSTIN M. ROONEY
USS Theodore Roosevelt
(CVN 71) Public Affairs

There are hundreds of thousands of United States military personnel stationed in approximately 60 bases in this country's mid-east region. Out of those service men and women, more than 400 participate in their respective branches' sports teams.

Aviation Maintenance Administrationman Airman Jackie Wilson, stationed on USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) can sprint 100 meters faster than all of them.

A member of the Armed Forces Track and Field Team, Wilson said he has been involved in track and field since high school and decided to run for the Navy when an A-School instructor saw him running and told him of the recourses available.

"It was definitely a good idea to try out for a team," said Wilson. "There are try-out dates every year, so there's always a chance to make the team."

Wilson said he started running for the All Navy Track

See SPRINTER, B7

Kearsarge receive nearly 1,000 hand-made cards from Girl Scouts

STORY AND PHOTO BY MCSN
MARIA RACHEL D. MELCHOR
USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)
Public Affairs

NORFOLK — Sailors on board the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) received nearly 1,000 hand made greeting cards from Girl Scout Megan Welch as her project to receive the Golden Award, the Girls Scouts' highest award. The cards were presented during a ceremony held in the ship's Hangar Bay, May 19.

Welch, a Girl Scout from Troop 916, is the daughter of Lt. Cmdr. James Welch who is attached to Tactical Air Control Squadron (TACRON) 21.

Kearsarge's Senior Sailor of the Year Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class Gentle J. Clark, Junior Sailor of the Year Damage Controlman 2nd Class Brayand I. Osorio, and Blue Jacket of the Year Machinist's Mate Donald J. Kingsford each received a box of various greeting cards from Welch during her presentation on behalf of the crew.



Junior Sailor of the Year Damage Controlman 2nd Class Brayand I. Osorio receives a box of various greeting cards hand-made by Girl Scout Megan Welch at the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge hangar bay. Welch delivered greeting cards to Sailors as part of her project to achieve the Ambassador status in Girl Scouts this June.

Welch, together with the help of her mother, Mrs. Wendy Welch and Troop Leader Kathy Winter, started making the cards by hand in January.

"We spent many hours working on the greeting cards, making sure they were finished and delivered before deployment," said Welch.

She started making cards for her father when she was nine years old. Her father was constantly on deployment and sending him greetings cards and packages was her way of communicating. She remembers how hard it was when her father was away from home.

"I made the cards because my dad is also in the service and I know how important it is to let him know that I think of him," said Welch.

She realizes how important it is for Sailors to keep in touch with family members and friends, so when it was time for her to create a project for Girl Scouts she immediately thought of making cards for Sailors in her pursuit of the Golden Award. This project was a part of Welch's few final steps until she receives her Ambassador status in the Girl Scout this June.

The boxes of greeting cards were delivered to the Sailors to use throughout the upcoming deployment. The cards may be used and sent to family and friends for special occasions.

Individual Augmentee Sailor returns to CSFTL

BY LN1 DIEDRA S. CHERRY
Commander, Strike Force Training Atlantic

NORFOLK — Yeoman Second Class Denisse Gallardo returned to Strike Force Training Atlantic (CSFTL) following a nine month Individual Augmentee (IA) tour. "I was actually gone for 12 months because I had to go through about three months of training before I actually deployed," said Gallardo.

Originally from North Hollywood,



A photo of Yeoman Second Class Denisse Gallardo taken at Al Faw Palace in Camp Victory, Iraq while on Individual Augmentation.

Photo courtesy of YN2 Denisse Gallardo

See GALLARDO, B7

SPOUSE SPEAK!

Staying focused

BY MICHELLE GALVEZ
Navy spouse, journalist

The school year is winding down and my kids and I are having trouble staying motivated for homework while visions of summer excursions and beach outings dance in our heads. Even though school is almost out, education and military families continues to be a top priority in Hampton Roads.

The past two Tuesdays I've attended meetings about the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children at local bases. The Compact, signed into Virginia law last year and accepted by 31 states at press time, is designed to address the educational issues that military families face such as graduation requirements, access to special services and other transitional concerns. It was drafted by the Council of State Governments in cooperation with the Department of Defense.

I'd gotten a call from the Patty Gajan, the school liaison officer at Joint Expeditionary Base-Little Creek about a May 18 Family Focus Meeting with Dr. James Merrill, Virginia Beach City Public Schools Superintendent. He was recently appointed by the Governor to serve on the Virginia Council on Interstate Compact for Military Children which was created to coordinate the Compact's implementation in the state. He wanted to hear first-hand from military families about the most frequent and difficult problems typically encountered when PCSing with kids across state lines.

I figured I might have an experience or two to share since my 6th grader has had seven different schools and our fam-

ily has moved 11 times in the last dozen years. I had to juggle my children's soccer and ballet schedules and get a sitter, but with three kids enrolled in the city's schools for the 2010-11 school year, I also wanted to go and hear the superintendent's perspective on military families' concerns.

I was in good company. There were about 30 other people at the Brashear Conference Center on a school night. Gajan welcomed us saying, "This is a chance for you to speak out and tell us what your needs are" and no one was shy as most seemed to be anxious to share both their positive experiences and their challenges. Merrill asked the group to be open and share our experiences with him – and we did, for the duration of the scheduled meeting and about a half hour past closing time.

Of the almost 70,000 students in the Virginia Beach City Public Schools alone, approximately 40 percent are affected by the military in a direct way, according to Merrill. "That has a huge impact on everything we do in Virginia Beach schools," he said.

Parents shared stories of transitioning and when the discussion veered too far into the territory of an individual story or got too general in its criticism of education, Merrill was quick to bring it back into focus. In order to help him help us, he needed us to stick to military family-specific issues, he explained.

The most frequently echoed issues from many of the attendees dealt with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for special needs children, classes and credits being transferred, vary-

ing standards by state, counselor and teacher awareness and sensitivity to military kids' needs, gifted testing and the need to accommodate children ahead or behind in curriculum as well as installing a peer mentor program in all grades similar to the sponsorship program the active duty member receives when moving.

On May 18, I saw the next level of that information gathering. The newly created Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children met at Langley Air Force Base to discuss the background and overview of the Compact, get a local perspective on the successes and challenges military children and their receiving school districts face and hear discussion by council members.

Chaired by Virginia State Senator John C. Miller (D-District 1), the council also includes educators and an active-duty reservist. The council will coordinate Virginia's efforts to remove roadblocks for military children in enrollment, placement and graduation in the commonwealth's public schools – and for military students moving from Virginia to other states and territories, according to a Virginia Department of Education press release.

Out of the nearly 2 million

military-connected children worldwide, half of them have seen a parent deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, according to the Military Child Education Coalition. Virginia has the largest number of military children in the nation, with more than 79,000 students from military families.

"The council's goal is to ensure that the children of the men and women of our armed forces experience a seamless transition when they enter the commonwealth's public schools," said Miller. "The council will seek to ensure that students from military families are quickly enrolled, properly placed and have the resources they need to be successful."

Attendees heard an overview of Virginia's Compact which includes 18 articles and addresses such needs as receipt of records (unofficial education records can be given to parents to hand-carry to the new school hastening the registration process), being placed in the appropriate grade despite state disparity of age requirements such as kindergarten deadlines, initial placement in programs such as gifted and talented with assessments being completed later, and enrollment eligibility when a child has to live with someone else due to a deployment.

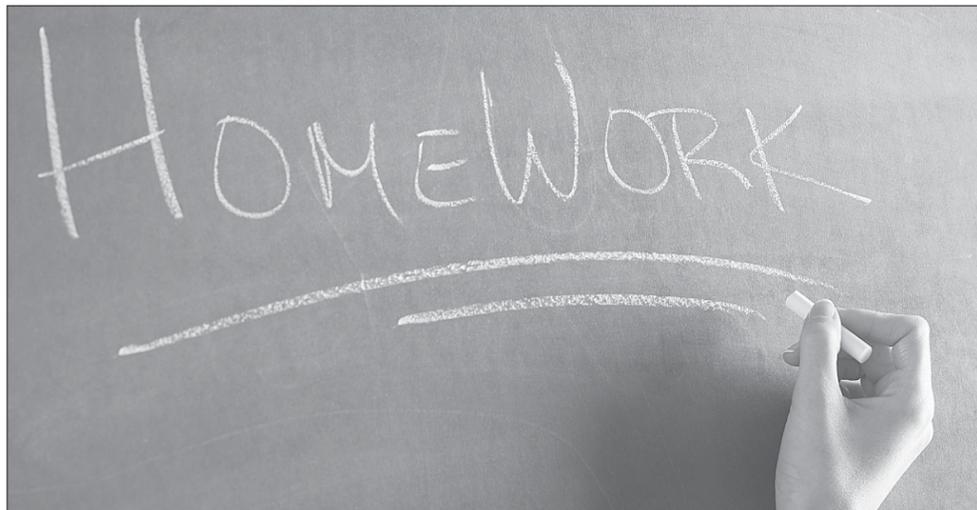
The role of the many school

liaison officers (SLOs) was strongly praised and highlighted. Not only do the SLOs work with military families to learn about an area's educational offerings when moving, but the SLOs also work with schools to help them understand the complexities of military families, identify challenges and connect to families who are critical stakeholders, said Ann Bane of Hampton City Public Schools.

All in all it's comforting to know that even though school is about to let out, there are many people continuing to work for the benefit of our military kids' education. Parent involvement and awareness of the latest issues and programs is imperative to help alleviate the concerns of our children as we move from place to place. Public comment is invited at all of these meetings so you are also encouraged to attend and speak out.

According to the April/May 2010 Navy Region Mid-Atlantic School Liaison newsletter "Education Connection," there are 10 SLOs in this region, to find out the contact information for the SLO nearest you call 322-2679.

Michelle Galvez is a Navy spouse, journalist, ombudsman and mother who lives in Virginia Beach with her husband and children. Contact her at michellegalvez@hotmail.com.



The fear of the unknown



BY BIANCA MARTINEZ

Deployment. If you are reading my blog or this article on a weekly basis, it is likely that you know it well. Tell me the anticipation, the days leading up

to zero hour, aren't worse than the actual goodbye. I am in the midst of it right now.

The fear of the unknown ...

Can I actually make it months without losing my mind? How am I going to balance work, the kids, the stress of it all? How am I going to make sure I find time to take care of myself, so I don't go nuts? How am I going to do this without whining about it to my husband? He needs to do his job not worry about home. How on Earth am I going to manage to do this with my sidekick, my best friend on the other side of the world?

The fear of the unknown ...

What is going on over there? How dangerous is it really? You read reports in magazines. Heck, I even read them on air.

Reach out to NewsChannel 3's Bianca Martinez at bianca.martinez@wtkr.com. Be sure to check out "Do My Military Job" every Wednesday at 11 p.m. on NewsChannel 3!

But, I have no clue what it is really like over there. What is he going to face everyday? Do I even want to know? How do I not worry? If I do, if I think about it too hard, then everyday will be a bigger challenge than it has to be.

The fear of the unknown ...

The one you don't want to talk about... not even write about ... but you can't help but think about. It's the one you only pray about. I pray that I don't have to live without my best friend like way too many of my friends have had to do. The fear, that this is the last hug. The fear that this is the last kiss.

Is it weird to want to get to the goodbye? Am I the only the one that feels this way? Nope. I know that because you send your amazing E-mails to me everyday saying it's nice to know someone else feels what you feel. We are a force of our own, spouses.

I am ready for the hug that I don't want to end and the watching in the rear view mirror as he walks with his bags. If he hurries up and goes, then he can move onto hurrying up to get home.



Saying thanks with a 'Cup of Joe'

Mmmmm... coffee. I couldn't start my day, shoot, get through the middle of the day without it. I know. I have an addiction to coffee, but when you live the life of a single working mom most of the year, well, you need it. We all do.

It's not just us spouses though. My hubby is the one I have to thank for my coffee dependency! So imagine heading overseas without the possibility of a good "Cup of Joe." Well, thank goodness they don't have to. Speaking of thanks, anyone can say it to our troops with that cup of warm energy! You don't even have to be in a coffee shop in Afghanistan or Iraq to do it.

Under the Cup of Joe program – or COJ as the troops call it – anyone with two dollars to spare can buy a cup of super premium coffee for a GI deployed on or near a U.S. Military base in support of Operation Endur-



ing Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). What makes this program especially rewarding is the ability for the purchaser to

send a personal note of thanks with the gift of a coffee drink. As a result, troops taking their breaks at the nearest Green Beans Café get a cup of fresh-brewed coffee, but they also get a note of gratitude for their service and sacrifice from caring supporters. Many express their appreciation in return E-mails.

What seems like something simple for many of us here at home can be a huge morale booster for our men and women protecting our freedoms. To read some of the thank you notes and to find out how to give a COJ, head to www.greenbeanscoffee.com



You can catch Bianca Martinez anchoring the 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. newscasts with Kurt Williams during the work week. You can also follow her laughter, stress and tears as a military wife in her blog, "Married to the Military," weekly in the Flagship.



Photo courtesy of JEB Little Creek-Fort Story PAO

The Soldiers of Army Reserve Career Division, Region 3 participate in the May 26 change of command ceremony in which Lt. Col. Teresa Williams relinquished command to Lt. Col. Stephen Keck. The ceremony took place aboard Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek - Fort Story.

ARCD, Region 3 welcomes new battalion commander

PRESS RELEASE

JEB Little Creek-Fort Story PAO

VIRGINIA BEACH — Col. John “Rob” Ligon, Army Reserve Careers Division commander, hosted a change of command ceremony for the Army Reserve Careers Division (ARCD), Region 3, stationed at Joint Expedition-

ary Base Little Creek - Fort Story, May 26, at the JEB-Fort Story parade field with Lt. Col. Teresa M. Williams relinquishing command of Region 3 to Lt. Col. Stephen R. Keck.

“I’m extremely proud of the soldiers and families who serve as ‘Career Counselors’ for active and reserve soldiers in the states

of Virginia, West Virginia, the District of Columbia and Maryland. Not only for their hard work and professional conduct during the preparation of this ceremony, but also for their exceptional performance over the course of the last three years,” said Lt. Col. Williams.

Lt. Col. Williams leaves Re-

gion 3, to assume new duties at the Pentagon, in Alexandria, Va. Lt. Col. Keck is coming to Region 3, JEB-Fort Story, Virginia from his last assignment as the Executive Officer and Senior Observer Trainer for the 7306th Medical Exercise Support Battalion at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Lt. Col. Keck looks forward to

his new assignment, “I’m excited to serve as the commander of Region 3 with these soldiers during this critical time in our Country and I look forward to commanding this outstanding organization. Mission success and taking care of our great soldiers and their families will be my top priorities as Commander.”

Riverine Group 1 changes command aboard JEB Little Creek-Fort Story

BY MC2 (SW) MICHAEL R. HINCHCLIFFE

Navy Expeditionary Combat Command

VIRGINIA BEACH — Riverine Group (RIVGRU) 1 held a change of command and retirement ceremony aboard Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, May 21.

Capt. Christopher Halton assumed command of RIVGRU 1, which was followed by the retirement ceremony of Capt. Anthony Krueger, who celebrated the culmination of 25 years of Naval service.

During Krueger’s command, Riverine squadrons completed four deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. These deployments allowed Riverine forces to conduct maritime security and combat operations against tactical, waterborne and unconventional warfare units in a riparian environment.

“This tour, without a doubt, is the highlight of my career,” said Krueger. “I can think of no higher honor or privilege than the one I’ve been given to lead men who

are going forward and into harms’ way.”

RIVGRU serves as a ready force for the Joint Force Maritime Component Commander and Joint Force Land Component Commander.

Krueger said the job everyday at the Group is to do everything to ensure those who go forward are as safe and effective as they can be. Because of that daily focus, all 800 plus men who made the four deployments all came home safely and in one piece.

“I am profoundly thankful for the extraordinary efforts and dedications of the men of the three Riverine squadrons and their families,” said Krueger. “It is they who ultimately pay the price and make the biggest sacrifices to make this organization the success story that it is.”

Prior to assuming command of RIVGRU, Halton served as director of operations and test, training, readiness and exercises branch chief at U.S. Strategic Command’s Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense.



Photo by MC3 Devin Brown

Capt. Christopher Halton, incoming commodore of Riverine Group (RIVGRU) 1, renders a salute while being piped aboard during a change of command ceremony May 21. Halton relieved Capt. Anthony Krueger as commodore of RIVGRU 1 during the ceremony held aboard Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story.

Part II: Reflections from the Naval Mine Depot, Kirkpatrick Park



U.S. NavyPhotos

Capt. Kirkpatrick was commanding officer of Naval Mine Depot Yorktown, from Nov. 2, 1942 to Mar. 5, 1946.

BY LEO C. FORREST, JR.

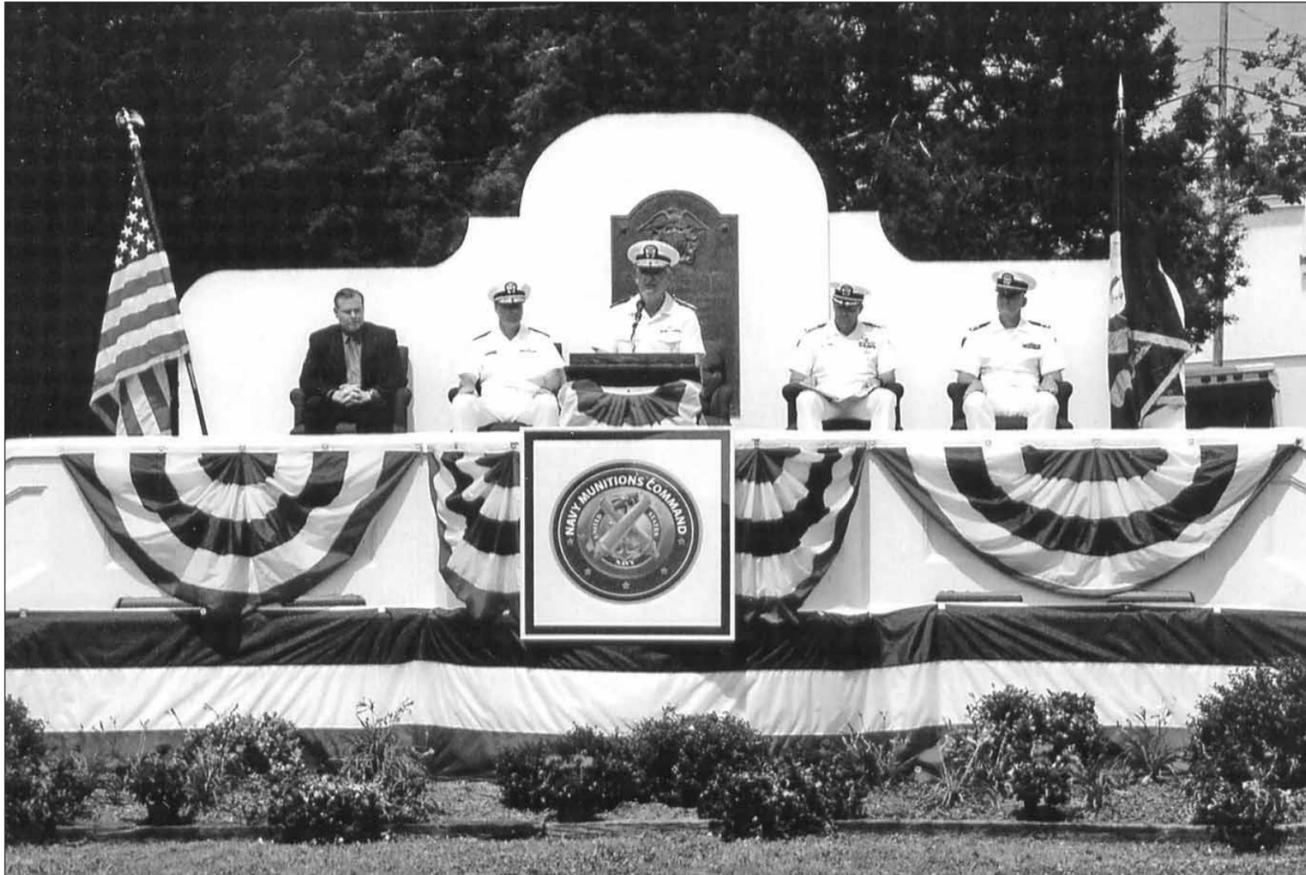
Navy Munitions Command, Yorktown

On Nov. 2, 1942 a remarkable individual took command of Naval Mine Depot Yorktown and later that day he presented a master plan to the civilian workers that helped them to win WWII.

As we learned in part-one of this series, Kirkpatrick had often asked the civilian workers to report to the parade grounds to provide the latest developments of the war.

However, on Sept. 3, 1945, it was the civilian workers who asked Kirkpatrick to report to the parade ground for a special presentation. The war had been won and Kirkpatrick was scheduled to retire as Commanding Officer of the Mine Depot and move to California soon.

Kirkpatrick stood on a platform that had an excellent view of the parade ground. Moments before, the assembly was called to order as they unveiled a plaque mounted on the back wall of the podium which read:



Kirkpatrick Park is a lasting tribute to this individual whose bold vision, leadership and accomplishments are still reflected at a place known today as Naval Weapons Station Yorktown. In 1945, the civilian workers of the Mine Depot presented Capt. Kirkpatrick with a concrete and brick reviewing stand that overlooks the parade ground.

“This plaque is the gift of the civilian employees as a token of respect and admiration for Capt. Kirkpatrick, whose wise planning, bold vision and persistent effort during the war years wrought lasting benefit to the Depot and under whose inspiring leadership it was a privilege and honor to have served.”

The era was named the “Kirkpatrick years”—a period in time that marked some of the most

important moments of a journey like no other.

Even today, Kirkpatrick’s influence is felt in the Weapons Station. For example, the stop light Kirkpatrick has installed at the main gate to help minimize traffic.

Kirkpatrick expected all operations at the Mine Depot to be run as efficiently as possible. To ensure max productivity, he had a state-of-the-art roundhouse built from which new railroad tracks originated and stretched across the Mine Depot. These rails ensured the efficient moving of ordnance and other materials for over 60 years.

Buildings such as Shed 7 and Shed 10 (now known as Building 476) would be built and used for some of the most sensitive ordnance work ever conducted at the Mine Depot.

For Kirkpatrick, no detail was too small. Many times the lights could still be seen in the CO’s office long after working hours as he studied ways to improve operations at the Mine Depot.

For the next 60 years, much of the stockpile quality of Navy ordnance materials would be calculated at this site based on the results of hundreds of on-site engineering evaluations.

Kirkpatrick approved the designs and personally supervised the construction and installation of the equipment throughout the Mine Depot.

Kirkpatrick could often be found in the vast network of buildings that made up the ordnance plants.

Kirkpatrick could often be found walking the vast network of the ordnance plants. Between the three plants there were miles and miles of tunnels and corridors where he would find

ordinance mixing kettles and associate machinery being used to produce large volumes of explosive materials.

Just below the kettle decks, he would watch as hand-operated valves were opened and closed to fill a continuous line of steel cases. Other processes followed as the explosive material cooled and the ordnance was prepared and shipped to the front lines of the war.

The motors that turned the rotating blades of the ordnance kettles ran nonstop and the hand-operated valves were opened and closed hundreds of times a day. For decades, only a select group of men stood on the aluminum platforms and mastered the operation of these valves.

In the fall of 1945, it was the civilian worker’s turn to call Kirkpatrick to the place where he had so often addressed them. The area was dedicated and is still known as Kirkpatrick Park.

On Mar. 5, 1946, after a career of 37 years in the Navy, Kirkpatrick retired to Coronado, Calif. In addition to spending time with his wife Lucille and their son Robert Jr., he enjoyed years of gardening and was even able to lend his leadership skills as president of the Coronado Floral Association.

Kirkpatrick died on June 20, 1961 and was buried in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. His wife noted at the ceremony how proud Kirkpatrick was to have been the Commanding Officer of the Mine Depot during WW II.

“Kirk was an adventuresome person, always ready to try the untried and to face the unknown.”

Today, many of the buildings and long concrete corridors that

Kirkpatrick often walked are shrouded in darkness, damp and cold to walk. The walls of the great concert halls of the plants he used to walk so often are now covered in layers of peeling paint.

The same ordnance production instruments that Kirkpatrick saw and heard during his visits are still sitting in-place. Many have not been tuned and played since the 1980s. But at the control panels of these machines, the motors and the chain-link drive systems that ran long ago can still be heard. The musical notes are faint and from another era. And just glancing at the sheet music, one realizes that long passages of this material could never again be performed—especially, now that the original members of the orchestra are no longer available to perform these complicated musical compositions that took years to perfect.

But each day, at a place known as Kirkpatrick Park, a reflection from a brass plaque is still cast across the Weapons Station. In a few lines the plaque makes reference to the landmark accomplishments that occurred at a place once known as the Mine Depot.

The words on this page of music, however, are too few. The notes too distant. The tune too muted—barely audible. Only one voice is heard—the voice of Kirkpatrick talking to his musicians. The voice is strong and comforting, almost fatherly—a voice that is timeless, and still echoes today at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown.

Leo Forrest is a mechanical engineer at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, and can be contacted at 887-4780.



At Kirkpatrick Park, a brass plaque still reflects an important moment in the history of Naval Mine Depot Yorktown (present day Naval Weapons Station Yorktown).

Local service times

LDS PROGRAMS

JEB Little Creek Chapel Worship Schedule:
Noon — Sun. Worship (Chapel Annex Classroom 4)
8 p.m. — Wed. Bible Study
(Chapel Annex Classroom 4)

NAVAL STATION NORFOLK

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>ROMAN CATHOLIC <i>Our Lady of Victory Chapel</i> Mass Schedule: 5 p.m. — Sat. (fulfills Sunday obligation) 10 a.m. — Sun. 11:45 a.m. — Mon.- Fri. (except holidays) Confessions: 4:15 p.m. Sat.</p> | <p>PROTESTANT <i>David Adams Memorial Chapel</i> Worship Services: 10:30 a.m. — Sun. Worship Wednesday Services: 8:30 - 10:15 a.m. — Bible Study Noon "Lunch with the Lord"</p> |
|---|--|

**For more information call
Naval Station Norfolk Chapel 444-7361**

JEWISH PROGRAMS

Commodore Uraih P. Levy Chapel: Jewish services are at Norfolk chapel in Building C7 on the Second Floor every Friday at 7:30 p.m. Building C7 is located at 1630 Morris St. on Naval Base Norfolk. For more information call 444-7361 or 7363.

MUSLIM PROGRAMS

Masjid al Da'wah
2nd Floor (Bldg. C-7): Muslim services are at Norfolk chapel every Friday at 1:30 p.m.

JEB LITTLE CREEK CHAPEL

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>ROMAN CATHOLIC Mass Schedule: 5 p.m. — Sat. (fulfills Sunday obligation) 9 a.m. & 12:15 p.m. — Sun. 11:30 a.m. — Tues. - Fri. (except holidays)</p> | <p>Confessions: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. — Sat. PROTESTANT 9 a.m. — Sun. School (4 years-Adult) 10:30 a.m. — Sun. Divine Worship, Children's Church (Ages 4-10)</p> |
|---|--|

PWOC: Bible Study at the Chapel Annex Every Wed.
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study: 10 a.m. - noon
PWOC: Evening Bible Study Every Mon.: 7 p.m.
Latter Day Saints Coffeehouse
11:30 a.m. — Sun. 6 p.m. — Sun.

**For more information call JEB
Little Creek Chapel 462-7427**

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

God is in control, God always has a plan

BY LT. J.G.
CHRISTOPHER JORDAN
Headquarters and Service Battalion chaplain, Quantico, Va.

For many years scholars and theologians have tried to give an answer to the questions of why evil exists in our world, why bad things happen, why is there pain, why is there suffering, etc. There are no easy answers to these questions that arise when we face dark times. I will not attempt to give reasons for why these things happen because often times we can never fully

understand why God allows evil and suffering. However, the Bible is very clear on three principles that can help our understanding; God always has a plan, God's plan is beyond our ability to grasp, and our best response is to humble ourselves and rest in his will.

God always has a plan. Period. Even when it seems as though things do not make sense. God has a plan. This is hard for many of us to accept because we have forgotten who God is. God is the creator and sustainer of the universe. "For by him all things were created: Things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." Colossians 1:16-17.

Since God is the creator and we are the created, God's plan is beyond our ability to

grasp. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:7-9. It is absurd to believe that we could ever fully understand the ways of God. In fact, if we could, what would make us different than God?

Our best response is to humble ourselves and rest in his will. This is the conclusion Job reached. Job was a good man who suffered immense loss and physical pain. He pleaded with God for an explanation for his suffering. After being reminded who God is, he replied, "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted ... Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know." Job 42:2-3. Job then repented, was humble before God and was blessed with

more than was initially taken from him.

When we suffer loss, when bad things happen, we must remember who God is, that he has a plan. We cannot expect to understand his plan, but we can know that he understands our suffering. We know this because he became a man, was punished, suffered and died for our mistakes, sound fair? Isaiah says, "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised and we esteemed him not." But he did not stay dead; he rose again and offers salvation from our suffering, "Come to me all who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

PSALM 23

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" - the crowd would listen attentively. And then, at the conclusion of the psalm, they would rise in thunderous applause in appreciation of the actor's incredible ability to bring the verse to life.

But one night, just before the actor was to offer his customary recital of Psalm 23, a young man from the audience spoke up. "Sir do you mind if tonight I recite Psalm 23?"

The actor was quite taken back by this unusual request, but he allowed the young man to come forward and stand front and center on the stage to recite the psalm, knowing that the ability of this unskilled youth would be no match for his own talent.

With a soft voice, the young man began to recite the words of the psalm. When he was finished, there was no applause. There was no standing ovation as on other nights. All that could be heard was the sound of weeping. The audience had been so moved by the young man's recitation that every eye was full of tears.

Amazed by what he had heard, the actor said to the youth, "I don't understand. I have been performing Psalm 23 for years. I have a lifetime of experience and training - but I have never been able to move an audience as you have tonight. Tell me, what is your secret?"

The young man humbly replied, "Well sir, you know the psalm, but I know the shepherd."

Correction: It has come to our attention that in last week's paper, Chaplain Stallard was misidentified. Stallard is a Commander, not a Lt. Commander. We apologize for this error.

Religious mass aboard USS Ronald Reagan

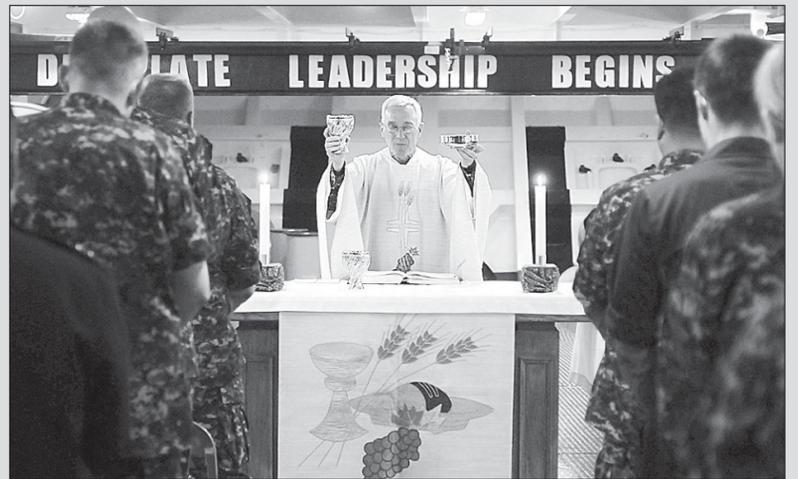


Photo by MCSN Benjamin C. Jernigan

Lt. William Dorwart, a chaplain assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), leads a congregation during Roman Catholic religious mass.

Secrets of the Post 9-11 GI Bill



Part 2: Understanding how it all works and how to make the most of your Post 9-11 GI Bill

BY MC1 (AW) TIM COMERFORD
The Flagship Staff Writer

If you want to make the most of your Post 9-11 GI Bill, then the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) has some valuable information to share. There are secrets that will help you maximize what you get out of your benefit. This is the final of a two part series on transferring the benefit and getting information on the GI Bill.

Don't wait to make family eligible for GI Bill benefits transfer

"When the program first rolled out, some people got bad information on this," said Phillip A. Dyer, deputy director, financial education at MOAA. "You must have been in a currently serving status on August 1, 2009 or after to affect a transfer of the benefit and – this is the key – you must have transferred at least one month of benefits to eligible beneficiaries prior to separating from or retiring from the service. This is what caught people, because they didn't transfer benefits prior to separating from the service."

The benefit is then the service member's and theirs alone.

"Right now there is no do over," said Dyer.

In order to transfer the benefit it may take some time.

The Post 9-11 GI Bill will pay eligible individuals:

- Tuition & fees directly to the school not to exceed the maximum in-state tuition & fees at a public Institution of Higher Learning. See chart listing maximum in-state tuition rates.

- For more expensive tuition, a program exists which may help to reimburse the difference. This program is called the "Yellow Ribbon Program."

- A monthly housing allowance based on the Basic Allowance for Housing for an E-5 with dependents at the location of the school.

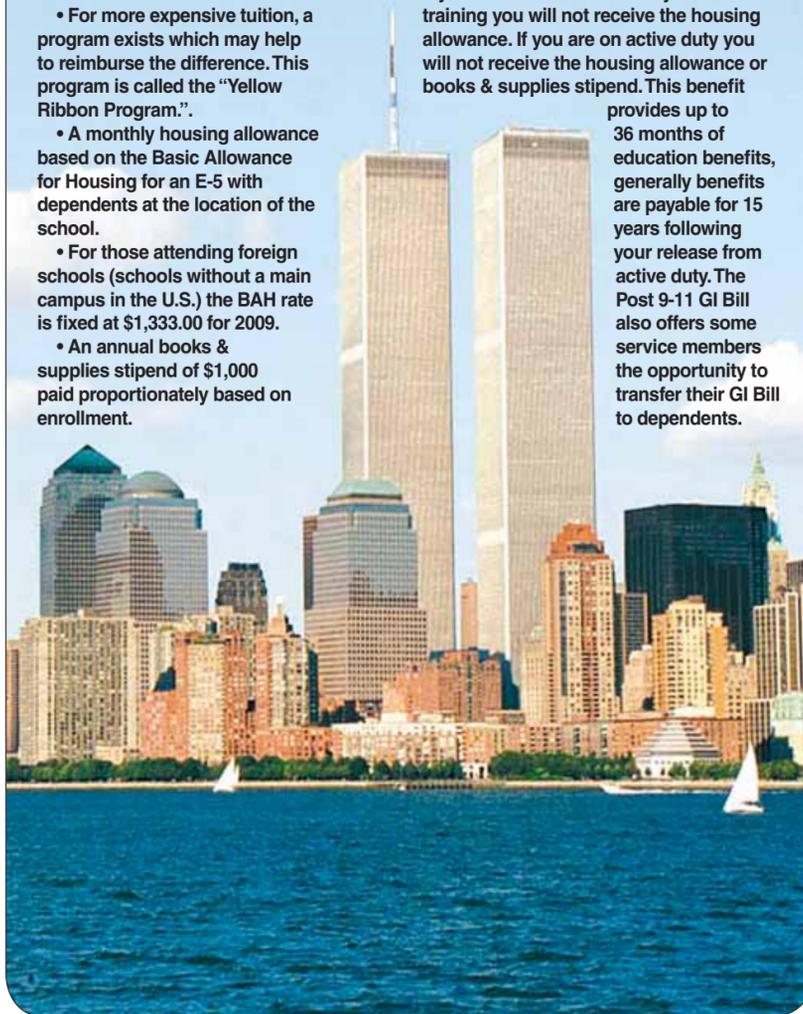
- For those attending foreign schools (schools without a main campus in the U.S.) the BAH rate is fixed at \$1,333.00 for 2009.

- An annual books & supplies stipend of \$1,000 paid proportionately based on enrollment.

- A one-time rural benefit payment for eligible individuals.

This benefit is payable only for training at an Institution of Higher Learning (IHL). If you are enrolled exclusively in online training you will not receive the housing allowance. If you are on active duty you will not receive the housing allowance or books & supplies stipend. This benefit

provides up to 36 months of education benefits, generally benefits are payable for 15 years following your release from active duty. The Post 9-11 GI Bill also offers some service members the opportunity to transfer their GI Bill to dependents.



TIPS:

- Get your school to submit enrollment certifications early (VA Form 22-1999). Remind your school they do not need to wait for your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to submit enrollment certifications.

- To qualify for the housing benefit, you must be enrolled in at least one on-campus class and be registered for at least 51% of full-time credit hours. For example, if full-time at your school is 12 hours, you must take 7 hours or more to get the housing benefit.

- Use the GI Bill website to explore answers to questions (www.gibill.va.gov); most are there.

- Be sure to inform VA if you change your direct deposit information.

Reminders:

- Remember that the Post 9-11 GI Bill housing and books and supplies stipends are paid "in arrears."

- Get to know your VA School Certifying Official (hint: check with the Financial Aid Department or Registrar). They certify your actual enrollment (that's what triggers your payments). Some schools wait until the drop/add period is over to certify your enrollment, so check out the policy for your school.

"You can get transfers approved prior to separation," Dyer explained. "Fortunately when you hit the submit button on the transfer site it gives you a date, time stamp. So, even if it takes a couple of weeks for it to go through, that is considered the date it went through."

There may also be extra steps to finish the transfer.

"To close the transfer loop some of the services, particularly the sea services, are requiring additional paperwork from the service members command," Dyer explained. "The command may have to sign off on it. So, if have gone through and submitted on the transfer site and it has been more than about 10-14 working days – if you have not gotten and approved status – you are probably missing a piece of paper work that is required."

To qualify to be able to transfer the benefit, a service member must have at least six years of service.

"That service may be a combination of active duty and drilling guard and Reserve," said Dyer. "Once you have that six years of service, you can transfer it to your spouse or your kids. But the kids cannot use it until you have 10

years of service. If you have more than 10 years of service currently, you could transfer benefits today and the kids or the spouse could immediately start using it."

Make sure that any children you want to transfer the benefit to are eligible.

"The kids must be in DEERS (Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System) and even though the benefit is good up until age 26, they will age out of DEERS at 23," explained Dyer. "The benefit must be transferred while they still show up in DEERS."

Once eligibility has been established, a service member can then move around however many months of benefits he/she has to use between his/her beneficiaries, even after the service member has separated. Multiple beneficiaries may take advantage of the GI Bill at the same time.

A n -

other aspect to think on, where transferability is concerned, is the service obligation it is caused.

"If you do transfer, you will incur an additional service obligation of up to four years," said Dyer. "There are a couple of exceptions. If you are prevented from serving that additional obligation due to up and out rules, service longevity rules or anything that would prevent from completing the additional term of service. So, if you sitting around waiting to transfer, all you are doing is pushing your service obligation further and further into the future. It doesn't matter how old the kids are or if the spouse is going to use it in ten years, your additional service time starts the second you hit the transfer button."

According to Dyer, service members that were retirement eligible on or before August 1, 2009 or have a retirement date before June 30 of this year, they do not have any extended service obligation.

"Children of parents that died in the line of duty, retroactive back to Sept. 11, 2001. Every one of those children will get a modified GI Bill. If they had six kids every single kid would have their own modified GI Bill through the Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry scholarship. It doesn't have to be a combat death, it doesn't have to be a support death," explained Dyer. "The rules are little different. First they must be at least 18 to apply for the program and the benefit is good for 15 years. It can be used at any point between ages 18 to 33."

You know enough to be dangerous

Just because you know enough, doesn't mean you know everything. Dyer suggests that service members go to the Post 9-11 GI Bill benefits website.

"They just revamped it and made it pretty user friendly," he said. "They have a very nice step by step decision process to take you through and make you aware of the best benefit for you."

The GI Bill website offers side by side comparisons of the bills, a calculator for estimating benefits, online applications to apply for benefits, a road map for success and chance for service members to chat online with experts about questions they may have about their benefits.

To look at your benefit and compare visit www.gibill.va.gov

To make a plan for college, visit your local Navy College to set up an appointment, for Hampton Roads, call 492-6183.

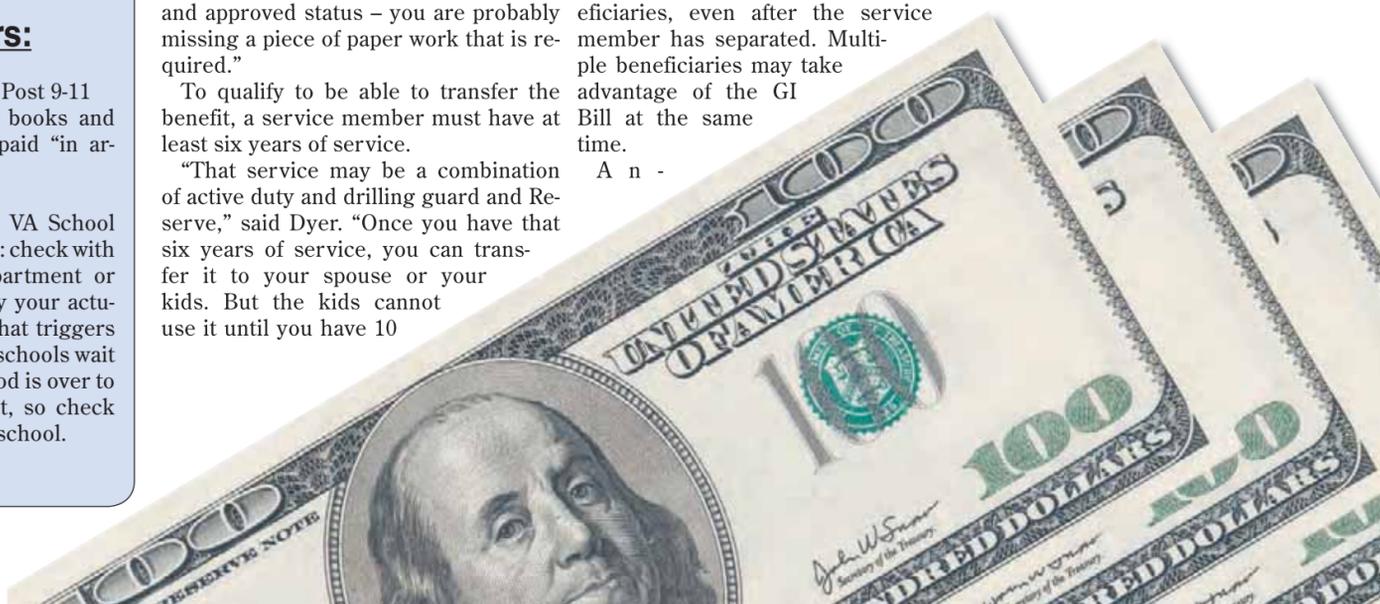




Photo courtesy of YN2 Denise Gallardo

GALLARDO: Sailor returns from IA assignment with positive experience

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CA, Gallardo checked on board CSFTL in 2007. Her name was submitted for consideration as an IA in early 2009. "I always knew that there was a possibility that I would have to go so I just made up my mind to make the best of it."

During Gallardo's IA, she spent time at both Camp Bucca in Southern Iraq and at Camp Proper in Baghdad. "When I first arrived, I was involved in detainee operations. Once I moved on to Camp Cropper, I had the opportunity to become the Leading Petty Officer of the Administrative Department," said Gallardo.

Gallardo was recognized for all her hard work and dedication when she was selected as Camp Cropper Junior Sailor of the Quarter for 1st Quarter 2010. She was also awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

When asked what the best thing was that came out of her time as an IA, Gallardo said that it was a big personal accomplishment. "I did things that I did not know I was capable of." The worst thing, she said, was missing her son's 4th birthday.

Her advice to Sailors who may be apprehensive about going on an IA, "You just have to roll with it. Having a positive attitude will only make it better and just do your best."

NCAA: Four Division I football coaches visit Sailors aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower as part of USO-sponsored 2010 Coaches Tour

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in action. With everything going on and the potential for bad things to happen, no one seems stressed – everyone is on point."

Kelly commented on the crew's ability to work seamlessly together, much like a successful football team, to get the job done.

"What we do on the field is just a game, but what you are doing here is life," said Kelly. "Every few seconds, I was taken aback by the seeming ease and efficiency with which everyone did their job – to watch that coordination was amazing."

The coaches were not the only ones to notice the similarities between a successful military operation and a successful football team.

"I am very excited they are here," said Interior Communications Electrician 1st Class Priscilla Horner, who won a raffle to dine with the coaches. "They have a great perspective of what we do out here – how they lead a team and how we lead out here are pretty much the

same."

In addition to signing autographs, the coaches also conducted a question and answer panel discussion in the ship's hangar bay, fielding questions about the upcoming college football season and how, like within a military organization, teamwork is the key to success.

"You just keep seeing the teamwork and the amazing attitudes," said Zook. "One of the underlying things you see is that every job out here is important, from taking care of the aircraft to preparing the food, everyone pulls together with pride and professionalism. Every smile and attitude toward the job has been impressive."

The coaches said they look forward to returning home and sharing their experience with family, friends and their football teams.

"I think it is important for everyone to know that we are able to live the life they way we do because of men and women like you," said Zook. "We can't say thank you enough."

Sponsored by Moral Entertain-

ment, the USO (United Service Organizations) and Under Armour in conjunction with Armed Forces Entertainment, the Coaches Tours is in its third year of providing entertainment, relief from the rigors of active duty and an expression of gratitude and support for military troops serving overseas.

According to the USO website, the tours have put NCAA coaches in touch with more than 40,000 troops to date, and officials estimate that this year coaches will meet and interact with 15,000 to 20,000 service members through the tour.

Eisenhower is underway as part of a regularly scheduled deployment to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR). Operations in the 5th Fleet AOR are focused on reassuring regional partners of the coalition's commitment to help set conditions for security and stability. U.S. forces maintain a naval and air presence in the region that deters destabilizing activities while safeguarding the region's vital links to the global economy.

SPRINTER: Airman sets the standard

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and Field Team, which competes against other branches of the military, in March 2008. He was accepted by the Armed Forces Track and Field Team later, which includes service members from all branches of the military and competes against other military teams from sometimes up to 100 countries around the world.

"You have to be the best of the best to make it (on the Armed Forces team)," said Wilson. "The coaches are really tough and they have very high standards."

The Armed Forces Track and Field Team competes less-often than All Navy teams, but the competitions they take part in are much larger-scale, often run by the International Council for Military Sports (CISM). CISM hosts the Military World Games, which takes place every four years and is considered to be the military's equivalent to the Olympics.

"It's a great experience, I get to meet people from all walks of life from all over the world," said Wilson. "CISM is really important; you definitely have to have talent."

As well as being considered as an equivalent to the Olympics, Wilson said the service members who finish first and second in the races usually get to go to the Olympic trials. Getting to that point takes a lot of practice, and Wilson said the practices are very challenging.

"The official practices (for the Armed Forces team) are held in Mississippi, but people in our region practice about three times a week at Christopher Newport University," said Wilson. "Some of our coaches used to be drill instructors, so our practices are tough."

Wilson said one of the most important parts of being on the team is being able to maintain a good performance at work as well as

on the track. Currently on temporary orders to security, Wilson said balancing the long working hours with practices and events is hard, but his chain of command works with him.

"You have to be really squared away," said Wilson. "If you have a bad eval or any NJPs you probably won't be accepted."

Wilson said his time running for the team has paid off and he's become a better runner because of it. He currently holds the record for running the fastest 100 meter sprint in the mid-east region (which includes Va., W. Va., N.J., Md., and N.C.), which he runs in 10.19 seconds (with legal wind). Wilson's coach, Marine Master Sgt. Jeremy Mitchell, said he is one of his best sprinters and has improved since joining the team.

"He's one of my star athletes," said Mitchell. "What makes him such a good runner is that he's coachable. If I tell him he needs to do something different, he listens."

Mitchell, who has been coaching the Armed Forces Track and Field Team for around two years, said Wilson qualified for the United States Military World Team this year, but still has to qualify for running in next year's CISM World Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Mitchell welcomes other Sailors from TR to try out for the team, but recommends that they try out for the All Navy Track and Field team first.

"A lot of people come out here just to test the waters and see if they can make it and it turns out they can't even run," said Mitchell. "We're hard on you. If you aren't ready, we'll send you back."

"I'm getting better with the help of my coaches and all the training," said Wilson. "I can do nothing but get better as long as I take advantage of all the opportunities the team gives me."