



Navy accepts delivery of future USS Gravely



The Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Gravely (DDG 107) is surrounded by oil containment booms to prevent oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill from reaching its hull while pierside in Pascagoula, Miss. Deepwater Horizon was an ultra-deepwater oil rig that sank, April 22, causing a massive oil spill threatening the U.S. Gulf Coast.

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Team Ships Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Navy officially accepted delivery of the future USS Gravely from Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding during a ceremony, July 26, in Pascagoula, Miss. Designated DDG 107, Gravely is the 57th ship of the Arleigh Burke class.

The ship successfully completed acceptance trials, June 28. Due to the oil spill currently affecting the Gulf of Mexico, the trials were slightly modified, with the ship conducting pierside tests and inspections by the Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV), followed by a 36-hour underway period to assess the ship's main propulsion, auxiliary, steering, damage control equipment, navigation systems and deck equipment as well as overall completeness.

"Though the oil spill forced us to modify our normal trial schedule, we were still able to deliver Gravely as originally scheduled," said Capt. Pete Lyle, DDG 51 class program manager in the Navy's Program Executive Office (PEO) Ships. "That is really a testament to the maturity of the class and the program's successful history of delivering ships on time and on schedule."

Gravely is a multi-mission guided-missile destroyer designed to operate in multi-threat air, surface and subsurface environments. The

See GRAVELY, A11

Act locally to improve schools, education leader says

BY LISA DANIEL

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Progress is being made at the national and state levels for broad improvements in the public education of military children, but parents still should be involved at the local level to affect change the most, the head of the Military Child Education Coalition said.

"With great relationships, positive connections and enthusiasm for working in the local community, when parents are engaged and involved — then you're sure the voice of the military child is heard," Mary Keller said in an interview with American Forces Press Service.

Keller, who holds a doctorate in education, detailed initiatives outlined by James H. Shelton III, an assistant deputy secretary at the Education Department, who spoke at the coalition's 12th annual conference held July 23 in National Harbor, Md. Those initiatives include the department's push for all states to adopt common standards in core subjects and improving how states measure the education data of military children.

Shelton, who grew up with a Marine



Damage Controlman 1st Class Viron Smith, assigned to the multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), runs a 30-meter dash with students at W.T. Cooke Elementary School in Virginia Beach. Sailors from the Bataan teamed up with the faculty to hold an end-of-school field day.

Corps father, said military children especially would benefit from common standards so they know what is expected from year-to-year and so that all their credits are accepted when they move

into new school districts. So far, 35 states have signed onto the Common Core Standards compact, he said.

Improving data collection and tracking also is important, said Shelton, because

officials currently can track only the progress of military children at the district level, rather than by schools or

See SCHOOLS, A11

Chairman appalled by Wikileaks release

BY JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT — The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said he is "appalled" by the breach of security represented by the Wikileaks case, July 27.

Adm. Mike Mullen told reporters traveling with him that the leaks could put American service members at risk. Investigators are still sifting through some 90,000 classified documents to determine the exact harm that the release could bring, he said.

The chairman said the information is older — from 2004 to 2009 — and this may mitigate the situation to an extent. Many of the documents are field reports covering the situation in Pakistan.

"From the time I've been chairman I've been very clear about the need to improve the relationship with Pakistan, re-establish

the trust that was broken in the 1990s," he said. "In the Afghanistan-Pakistan strategy, none of us have been anything but very forthcoming on the criticality of Pakistan. We can't get at the safe havens that we know exist in Pakistan without their cooperation."

The chairman is very concerned about the release of these documents. "Releasing classified documents could put in jeopardy American lives," he said.

"We're going through a review to see in fact if that release has done that. But in my experience with troops from conventional to special forces, I think sometimes people don't appreciate what information could be out there that makes their jobs a lot more difficult and in fact, could jeopardize their lives."

"I feel very strongly to do all we can to make sure leaks like this

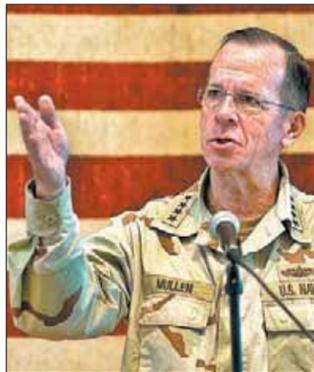


Photo by MC1 Chad J. McNeeley

Adm. Mike Mullen said that by releasing classified documents could put American lives in jeopardy.

don't occur in the future," he continued.

Mullen spoke to the reporters aboard an Air Force C-17 transport following a meeting in Kabul, Bagram and Kandahar, Afghanistan.

BUPERS uses new system for delivering messages

BY WM. CULLEN JAMES

Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. — The Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) and Navy Personnel Command (NPC) announced they will transition to a new message system beginning in August.

According to NAVADMIN 249/10, all unclassified message traffic from BUPERS and NPC, including permanent change of station orders, will be sent via command E-mail through the Official Information Exchange (OIX). This change is a result of Navy ending support for the Defense Messaging System (DMS).

"This process should be transparent for the Sailors in the Fleet," said Capt. Brian Wenger, NPC assistant commander for Business Operations and Comptroller. "The important thing is for commands to set up their command e-mail in the OIX system," as outlined in the NAVADMIN.

To create as transparent a change as possible, BUPERS is fielding a new system called Government Official Information Exchange System (GOES). The internal system will act as a router for all BUPERS official information into OIX. All commands that have set up command E-mail with OIX will receive message traffic from GOES.

"Our intent was to develop a solution that would have the least

See SYSTEM, A11

INSIDE:

NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE

A8

The Naval Special Warfare (NSW) community held its 41st Annual East Coast Underwater Demolition Team (UDT)/Sea, Air and Land (SEAL) reunion.



TIM ALLEN VISITS SAILORS

B1

Funny man Tim Allen came to Naval Station Norfolk and shook hands, signed autographs and yukked it up as he took tours on two ships.



PLAY IN THE DIRT AGAIN

C1

Join the Armed Services YMCA as they put on the 10th Annual 8K Mud Run. Sign up individually or as a team.



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Navy Safety Center offers tips to weather the heat wave

BY APRIL PHILLIPS

Naval Safety Center
Public Affairs

NORFOLK — No matter where Sailors and Marines are stationed, chances are they are experiencing the current heat wave that is gripping many locations across the globe.

Record high temperatures are still expected for much of the U.S., reports say roads are melting in Europe, and in Japan, five people died recently as a result of the skyrocketing temperatures.

Across the fleet, 43 Sailors and Marines have suffered reportable heat-related illnesses and injuries this fiscal year — both at work and during off-duty activities.

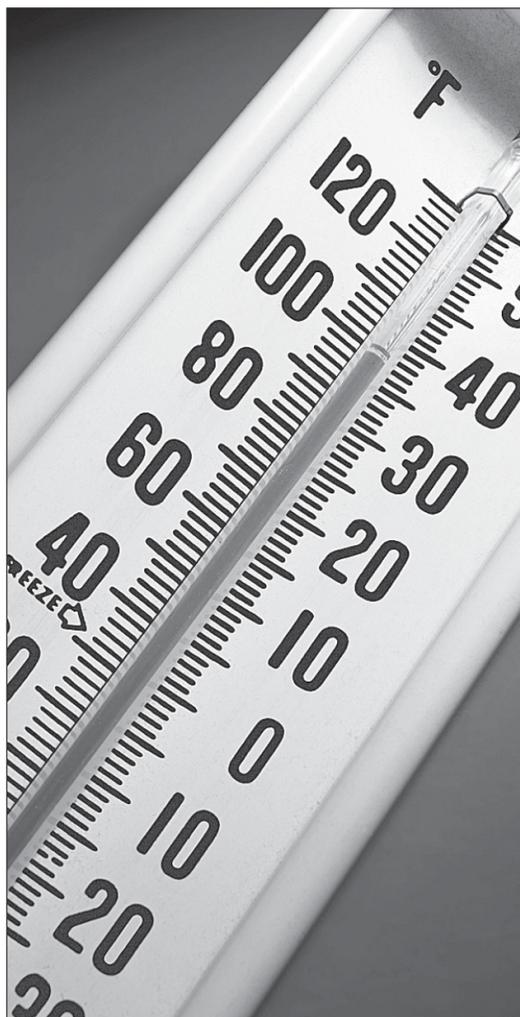
While there's nothing that can be done about the weather, there are measures Sailors and Marines can take to protect themselves from the heat, said Dan Dray, a recreation and off-duty safety specialist at the Naval Safety Center.

"Use the risk management skills you've been taught," he recommended. "If you've got to be outside, plan for breaks in sporting activities and recreation events. If you work outside, try to get as much done as possible in the early morning or late evening hours."

A big part of staying safe in a heat wave is staying hydrated, he said. Higher temperatures cause the body to lose water through sweating. Replace it by drinking water regularly. However, Dray warned that all liquids are not created equally.

"Definitely avoid excessive alcohol. It actually dehydrates you and allows fatigue to set in," he said.

He also recommended



Higher temperatures cause the body to lose water through sweating. Replace it by drinking water regularly.

avoiding caffeine, which also leads to dehydration.

Choosing the right clothing is also important during a heat wave. Dray suggested loose-fitting, light colored and lightweight apparel. Any exposed skin must also be protected.

"Make sure you wear sunscreen with an adequate SPF rating and make sure your kids use it as well," he said.

Failure to heed his advice could lead to heat-related illnesses. The most severe is heat stroke, which Dray said can be fatal. Symptoms of heat stroke include a body temperature as high

as 105 degrees, red, hot and dry skin and a weak pulse. Anyone suffering from heat stroke requires immediate medical attention. Call 911 and wrap the person in cool, damp sheets to lower their body temperature while waiting for help to arrive.

Heat exhaustion has similar symptoms, but body temperature is usually normal.

For more tips on beating the heat and recognizing the signs of heat illnesses, visit www.public.navy.mil/navsafecen/Documents/media/safetips/f-m/heat%20illnesses.doc.

For more news from Naval Safety Center, visit www.navy.mil/local/nsc/.

THE FLAGSHIP'S LEEWARD SHOUT

Do you think that using e-Leave will make taking leave easier? Why?



ABFAN
Dan Scanlon
USS George W. Bush (CVN 77)

"I've had a lot of problems with my paperwork getting lost in the past. So now that they've gone electronic, I think it won't be as much of a problem."



FCSN
Casey Blake
USS Ashland (LSD 48)

"I think that making the paperwork electronic will be easier and more efficient, because it won't require as much time trying to find the people who need to sign off on it."



MNSN
Jeremy Richardson
MCM Crew Swerve

"No, I don't think it matters if it is on the computer or on paper — it is still the same process. I think that it will still take the same amount of time as before, the only difference is that it will be on the computer."



RP1 (FMF)
Michael Willis
USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41)

"It will cut down on time and prevent paperwork getting lost or left on someone's desk for a long period of time. It will also cut down on the amount of paperwork."



A03 (AW)
Kendric Roberts
USS Enterprise (CVN 65)

"I think it will be easier, because people tend to lose paperwork a lot. Also, it will save trees."



OS2 (AW/SW)
Janelle Nelson
USS George W. Bush (CVN 77)

"I think it will be easier, because it will have the format available online in one source. Also, it will be easier to access and will include information from your LES."

Photos by MC3 Samantha L. Rivero

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CNO highlights partnership with French Navy during visit to France

PRESS RELEASE

Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

PARIS — Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead praised the naval forces of France and cited the shared interests and capabilities of the U.S. and French navies during a visit, July 17-21.

“The French Navy and the U.S. Navy have many common interests,” said Roughead. “We both exist to provide for the safety, security and prosperity of our countries.”

During his visit, CNO met with Sailors and senior military leadership of France in recognition of the strong maritime partnership between the two nations and to discuss the issues that navies with global interests have in common.

At the Toulon Naval Base, CNO met with the French Navy Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, Vice Adm. Yann Tainguy and visited the newest ship to the French Navy, the amphibious ship BPC Tonnerre, as well as the air defense frigate FDA Chevalier Paul and the aircraft carrier PA Charles de Gaulle.

“This is where the U.S. Navy and the French Navy share a very common capability and that is our capability to operate very advanced aircraft from aircraft carriers,” said Roughead, pointing out that U.S. and French navies are the only ones in the world to operate nuclear-powered aircraft carriers that use catapult assisted take-offs and arrested landings.

He noted that the French Navy recently announced that Charles de Gaulle will deploy later this year to support operations in Afghanistan, where U.S. Navy aircraft also provide air support to coalition forces on the ground.

“It’s important that we look at ways that our airpower complements one another and we look forward to being able to operate with Charles de Gaulle,” said Roughead.

“The capability and capacity that Charles de Gaulle brings is very appreciated.”

CNO was accompanied throughout the visit by his counterpart Adm. Pierre-Francois Forissier, chief of staff of the French Navy and Roughead said he valued the opportunity to discuss with Forissier areas of increased cooperation and support between the two navies.



Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead inspects troops with Adm. Pierre-Francois Forissier, chief of staff of the French Navy, during a welcoming ceremony at the French Navy headquarters.

Roughead also praised the French Navy’s role in countering piracy off the coast of the Horn of Africa and helping to guard the free flow of commerce at sea.

“France was a leader in bringing many navies into the fight against piracy in the Somali basin,” said Roughead. “The presence of the navies in that region have contributed to bringing down the number of (piracy) incidents and this is all part of why countries with global interests have global navies – to be present, to be able to influence and to ensure that the mechanisms of the world economy are uninterrupted.”

In Paris, Roughead also met with Adm. Edouard Guillaud, chief of staff French Armed Forces and other French officials and participated in a Ravivage Ceremony at the iconic Arc de Triomphe, where he and Forissier laid wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and met with French veterans of past wars.

For more news from Chief of Naval Operations, visit www.navy.mil/local/cno/.



Photos by MC1 Tiffini Jones Vanderwyst

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead (L) tours the French Navy amphibious assault ship BPC Tonnerre (L 9014) with Commanding Officer Capt. Phillipe Ebanga and other senior naval leadership.

Mullen attends Kandahar meeting, visits local police

BY JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

CAMP NATHAN SMITH, Afghanistan — “We have left (Afghanistan) before,” Navy Adm. Mike Mullen said to Kandahar community leaders here today. “It didn’t work.”

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff met with the four men at the Canadian-American camp in the city. It was the second time the chairman had met with the men. He held a similar shura, or meeting, with them last year.

The meeting gave the chairman an opportunity to hear from Afghans about what they believe are the problems confronting them. Mullen told the Afghans that he was pleased to meet with them again and urged them to be candid with him.

And they were. “Do you bring security or do you bring violence?” asked one of the Afghan leaders through a translator. The Afghans told Mullen they are concerned that Kandahar will become a battlefield and that this should be avoided. All men spoke with the understanding that their identities will be protected, lest the Taliban retaliate against them or their families.

The Afghans told Mullen that not enough development money is reaching average Afghans and that men are working for the Taliban as a way to feed their families.

And they want concrete steps taken. “The first thing is that nothing has changed,” said one of the community leaders via a transla-



Photo by MC1 Chad J. McNeeley

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff arrives at Camp Nathan Smith in Kandahar, Afghanistan, July 26. Mullen is visiting Afghanistan in midst of a ten-day, around the world trip to meet with counterparts and troops engaged in the war on terrorism.

tor. The men had complaints about security, about the mayor and provincial leaders. The Afghans also told Mullen that they were worried about kidnappings and terrorist attacks from Pakistan.

“We hear that you are leaving,” one of the elders said to Mullen. “Who will help us then?”

The chairman assured the men that the United States is not leaving Afghanistan. Mullen was referring to the end of the Soviet era in Afghanistan, when he’d told the

Afghan men at the meeting that the United States had left Afghanistan before and the result was 3,000 American dead in the wake of terrorist attacks in New York and Washington and the thwarted attack that ended in Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001.

“The operations piece is to focus on security,” Mullen told the Afghan men. This, he explained, will allow civilian agencies – both international and Afghan – to focus on bringing good governance to Kanda-

har, the second-largest city in Afghanistan. The coalition and Afghan forces, he added, must “reduce the malign presence” the Taliban, crime families and narcotraffickers impose.

The military option in Kandahar City is limited, said Mullen.

“We are not going to be able to kill our way to success,” Mullen explained.

Creating jobs is a key to ridding Kandahar of the Taliban, said Mullen. He agreed with one of the elders that if they could produce 20 jobs for every 10 jobs lost, the Taliban would be gone.

Mullen also told the Afghan leaders that much progress has been made against the Taliban.

“We have learned and adjusted,” Mullen said. “The next seven to nine months will be absolutely critical.”

Mullen left the shura and travelled in a mine-resistant, ambush-protected Cougar vehicle to visit an Afghan police station. Some of the streets he travelled through were filled with trash and derelict buildings. Others were clean and the shops filled with produce, electronic gear and storefront car and motorcycle repair shops.

The convoy crossed a canal where some Afghan children were swimming. Some of the children waved to the convoy. Others threw rocks.

At the station, Mullen praised the Afghan police for their dedication and their willingness to step forward to defend their nation and the Afghan people.

Mullen stresses commitment to Afghanistan, Pakistan

BY JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Navy Adm. Mike Mullen stressed America’s commitment to Afghanistan and the region during interviews with Pakistani TV and print reporters recently.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told reporters that the July 2011 date President Barack Obama has set as the start of drawing down the plus-up of troops he ordered in November does not mean the United States will run for the doors.

Mullen spoke directly to those Pakistanis who doubt America’s

commitment in Afghanistan. “America’s military mission there will not end in July 2011,” Mullen said slowly and deliberately.

A year from now, the United States and its International Security Assistance Force partners will begin the process of handing over security responsibility to Afghan security forces.

“We will do so only as fast and as far as conditions permit,” he said. “No one is looking for the door out of Afghanistan or out of this region.”

Mullen said that while the U.S. military presence will diminish, American friendship and strategic

partnership will endure. “The United States military is as committed to our relationship with Pakistan as it is to our mission in Afghanistan,” he said.

The regional approach is the only way to defeat extremist groups that ignore borders and prey on helpless people wherever they find them, the admiral said.

“No one nation, and no one military can accomplish our shared goal of a stable and secure Afghanistan,” he said. “We need Pakistan’s continued help and, frankly, we still believe we have much to offer you in return.”

Mullen emphasized that there are

no American combat troops in Pakistan, nor will there be. There are about 120 American trainers who work with the Pakistani military at the Pakistani government’s request and they will remain, he said.

“This is not America’s war. It’s a regional war, and, in some ways, a global war,” he said.

The chairman appreciates the sacrifices of the Pakistani people against common foes in what is an uncommon and treacherous fight. The Pakistani military has conducted 16 months of ceaseless battle against extremists who are an existential threat to the Pakistani government, its people and their way of life.

Mullen also addressed what he sees as a growing problem in the interconnectedness among terrorist groups. Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) is an example of a group that had limited goals at first – the “liberation” of Muslims in Kashmir – that has morphed into a general purpose terror group with regional and even global aspirations. LeT is affiliated with Al-Qaeda and other terror groups, he said.

LeT launched the attacks in Mumbai, India, in 2008 that killed 166 people and brought relations between India and Pakistan – both nuclear-armed countries – closer to war, said Mullen.

New office aims to reduce military's fuel usage

BY LISA DANIEL

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON

When Sharon E. Burke was sworn in earlier this month as the Pentagon's first director of operational energy plans and programs, her mission was clear – reduce the amount of energy needed in war zones and decrease the risk to troops that transport and guard the military's fuel.

Burke isn't asking troops to do without the fuel, generators and batteries needed for wartime operations or even for creature comforts, she said in an interview with American Forces Press Service. Instead, she hopes to find energy alternatives and efficiencies to meet the military's needs.

"The job of this office is to make sure the troops get the energy they need to do their jobs," she said. "Our top priority is to give our deployed forces more options, more mission effectiveness."

Maintaining current energy levels in environments like Iraq and Afghanistan is unsustainable, Burke and other Pentagon leaders say. Besides the obvious environmental impact, the current levels come with tremendous financial and security costs, they say.

The Department of Defense uses some 300,000 barrels of oil each day, 70 percent of which goes to overseas operations and 30 percent to state-side bases, said Burke. The department's energy consumption accounts for 80 percent of the federal government's usage, officials have said.

The Defense Logistics Agency delivers more than 170,000 barrels of oil each day to the war theaters, at a cost of \$9.6 billion last year, said Burke. The department, overall, spent \$13.4 billion on energy last year, she said.

President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates have said that America's demand for oil is a national security issue by making the United States dependent on imports from foreign nations that are not allies. Gates identified energy as one of the department's top 25 transformational priorities and this year's Quadrennial Defense Review addresses energy for the first time as a strategic issue. Congress approved the creation of Burke's position last year as part of the Defense budget in what she said is another example of the administration's efforts on environmental issues.

The fact that energy is a

wartime operational and strategic issue isn't new, said Burke, but it has become more so as more and more fuel is needed and transports must travel through open areas at high risk of insurgent attacks.

A tremendous amount of military manpower is used to protect such convoys, said Burke. As one military police officer told her in Iraq, she said, "You only have to watch a fuel truck blow up once to see the irony of the job you're doing here."

Burke said getting enough energy in theater has become a challenge. "We've assumed we'll always be able to get what we need," she said. "But we

can't assume that anymore. We need to plan for it."

Of the financial cost, said Burke, "We're using a tremendous amount of money that we could be spending on our troops and their equipment." She added that the price of fuel in a war zone – when transportation and security are added in – is significantly higher than what regular consumers pay at the gas pump. When the average American is paying \$3 per gallon of gas, she said, the price can soar to more than \$20 per gallon in places like Helmand province, Afghanistan, when support costs are added in.

Burke said she will initiate a "consistent dia-

logue" with the services about their energy needs.

Some services already are working on alternative energy sources and fuel efficiencies. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said earlier this year that Marines in Afghanistan are using solar-powered water purification systems to reduce the use of fossil fuels and the need to haul water. The Marines also are using spray-on insulation to keep tents warm in winter and cool in summer.

Burke said she'll also discuss with the services other alternatives to lighten transport loads or buy goods locally to reduce the number of transports.



Sharon E. Burke, sworn in earlier this month as the Pentagon's first director of operational energy plans and programs, aims to reduce the amount of energy needed in war zones and decrease the risk to troops that transport and guard the military's fuel.

The Peruvian submarine BAP Angamos (SS-31) arrived at Naval Station Norfolk for a scheduled port visit, July 22. Angamos is currently participating in a Diesel-Electric Submarine Initiative deployment and will partner with the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group for participation in a Composite Unit Training Exercise off the East Coast of the United States.

Peruvian submarine arrives in Norfolk



Photos by MC1 Todd A. Schaffer

BY KEVIN COPELAND

Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic Public Affairs

NORFOLK — The Peruvian submarine BAP Angamos (SS 31) arrived at Naval Station Norfolk for a scheduled port visit, July 22. Commanded by Capitán de Fragata Luis Del Carpio Azalgara, Angamos is currently participating in a Diesel-Electric Submarine Initiative (DESI) deployment.

The submarine arrived in Norfolk because it will partner with the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group (KSG ARG) and participate in a Composite Unit Training Exercise (COMPTUEX), which is occurring off the East Coast of the United States. COMPTUEX provides realistic training environments for participating naval forces, which closely replicates operational challenges routinely encountered during military operations around the world.

“This is an excellent opportunity for the Angamos to receive some realistic training with the U.S. Navy,” said Azalgara. “It not only benefits the Peruvian submarine force in receiving valuable Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) training with a nuclear force, it also benefits the U.S. Navy in combating the capabilities of a diesel-electric submarine.”



Capitán de Fragata Luis Del Carpio Azalgara, commanding officer of the Peruvian submarine BAP Angamos (SS-31) formally greets the combined staff of Submarine Squadrons 6 and 8 upon his arrival.

In partnering with South American navies to employ diesel-electric submarines in support of fleet readiness events off the East and West Coasts, the DESI program was established in 2001 by U.S. Fleet Forces Command. DESI is executed by Commander, Submarine Forces

and serves to enhance the ability of the Navy’s fleet to counter the growing diesel-electric submarine threat.

During a typical DESI deployment, U.S. and South American units work together to engage in various ASW training scenarios. The participation of South

American submarines in fleet training and certification events adds an additional degree of difficulty and reality to fleet ASW training exercises, as diesel submarines have proven to be elusive and difficult to track.

BAP Angamos will partner with KSG ARG, which is

comprised of Commander, Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 4, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (26 MEU), amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), amphibious dock landing ship USS Carter Hall (LSD 50), and amphibious platform dock ship USS Ponce (LPD 15).



Photo by MCC (EXW/NAC) Robert J. Fluegel

A U.S. Navy SEAL sniper shoots at a target at the annual capabilities exercise.

Naval Special Warfare celebrates 41st Annual UDT/SEAL East Coast Reunion

BY MC2 TREVOR ANDERSEN
Naval Special Warfare Group TWO Public Affairs

VIRGINIA BEACH — The Naval Special Warfare (NSW) community held its 41st Annual East Coast Underwater Demolition Team (UDT)/ Sea, Air and Land (SEAL) reunion, July 16-18.

The event reunites active and retired Navy SEALs for a weekend focused on NSW history, heritage and family support.

“It keeps the team spirit going,” said retired Senior Chief Machinist Mate (River Division 533 and 572) Bill Furguson. “I consider these guys to be my brothers.”

The annual reunion started in 1969 and has expanded into a weekend of events, contests and a SEAL capabilities exercise.

“The original ones were smaller,” said Bobby Cox, executive director of the UDT/SEAL Association and reunion chairman for the past five years. “They were done at the Chiefs’ Club picnic area and other spots on base. The reunion continued to morph as membership grew,” he said.

“We had about 100 volunteers this year,” said Cox. “These guys are here year-in-year-out. We couldn’t do it without them,” he said.

This year’s reunion began with a golf tournament and a skeet shoot competition, followed by a tennis tournament. Competitive sports are a mainstay at the reunions because they reinforce the mentality of working together towards a common goal common throughout the many generations of the community.

The crowning event of the weekend was the capabilities demonstration, which showcased UDT/SEAL tactics and equipment, while providing a brief history of their origins.

Six thousand active duty and retired SEALs, along with their friends and families, gathered at “E” beach where the Leap Frogs kicked things off by landing with a wreath and an American flag as the national anthem played.

“It’s amazing to see what this community has become since I was around,” said William Dawson, 85-year-old Naval Combat Demolition Unit (NCDU) Two veteran and member of NCDU class one. “I’m very proud to be part of this outfit,” he said. “I sometimes wonder; if I were still young, could I do what these guys do? I bet I could.”

The weekend celebration ended with events including several races, a swimming competition and an evening picnic.

For more information on Naval Special Warfare Group Two, visit www.navy.mil/local/nswgtwo/. To volunteer for a UDT/SEAL reunion on either the East or West coast, visit www.utdseal.org.



Photo by MC2 (EXW/SW/AW) Gary L. Johnson III

U.S. Navy SEALs drop into the ocean from an HH-60H Seahawk helicopter of Helicopter Sea Combat (HSC) Squadron 84 “The Red Wolves” during a capabilities exercise (CAPEX).



Photo by MC2 Trevor Andersen

A Navy SEAL leaps from a helicopter as part of a capabilities exercise, July 17, during the annual UDT/SEAL reunion.

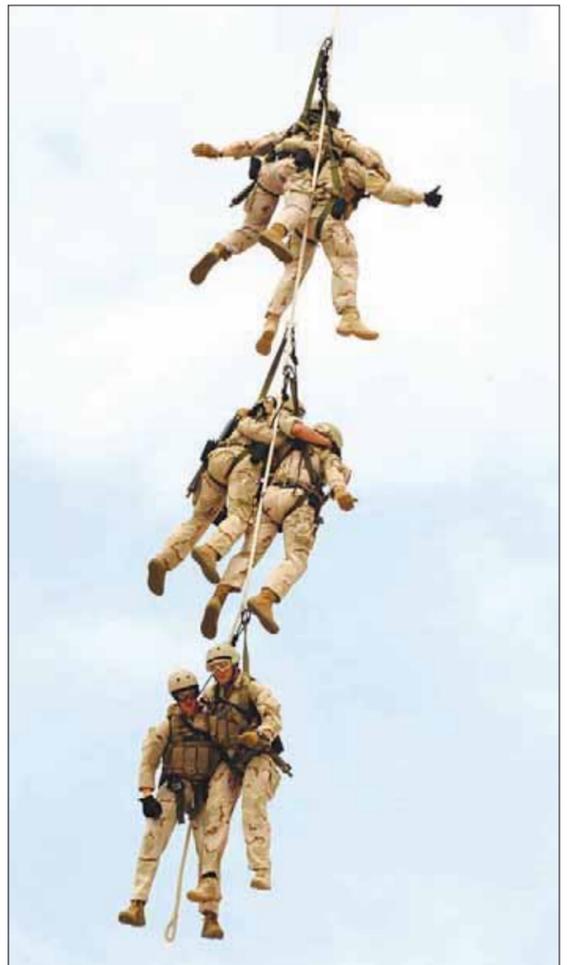


Photo by MC2 (EXW) Matt Daniels

A Navy SEAL platoon hangs beneath an HH-60H Seahawk of Helicopter Sea Combat (HSC) Squadron 84, “The Red Wolves,” as they perform a Special Patrol Insertion/Extraction (SPIE) exercise during a demonstration at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek - Fort Story.



Photo by MCC (SCW/AW) Stan Travioli

U.S. Navy SEALs lay down cover fire during their extract demonstration at their capabilities exercise.



Photo by MC2 (EXW/SW/AW) Gary L. Johnson III

U.S. Navy SEALs fast rope from an HH-60H Seahawk helicopter of Helicopter Sea Combat (HSC) Squadron 84 “The Red Wolves” during a capabilities exercise (CAPEX).

EOD leadership discuss counter-IED efforts

BY MC2 (SW) MICHAEL R. HINCHCLIFFE

Navy Expeditionary Combat Command
Public Affairs

VIRGINIA BEACH — The commodores from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Groups (EODGRU) 1 and 2 participated in a phone interview with Pentagon and trade press media, July 22, to discuss EOD's support to the Maritime Strategy.

Capt. Ted Lucas, commodore of EODGRU 1, based in San Diego and Capt. Dale Fleck, commodore of EODGRU 2, based in Virginia Beach, answered questions regarding an array of subjects including the training of EOD forces; updating training for

EOD technicians to best counter enemy tactics, techniques and procedures; current equipment used; and different types of missions.

Each EOD Group is responsible for EOD Mobile Units that are trained and proficient in the use of various small arms and tactics to disarming bombs, and neutralizing improvised explosive devices (IED), landmines and weapons of mass destruction, often while under the fire of enemy forces.

"Members of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 are providing Command and Control for counter-IED forces in southern Afghanistan," said Lucas.

Both Lucas and Fleck explained that the

proactive approach EOD Sailors have with identifying new enemy tactics enables their training to be up to date and the technicians to be ahead of the threats.

"We respond to an incident, then we analyze the scene and the materials that were involved," said Fleck. "Reports are generated and quickly passed through the operational force channels in case something new is identified."

"I can tell you that when my troops go to Iraq and Afghanistan, they're the best trained, best qualified EOD technicians that the U.S. Navy has to offer," Lucas added.

When asked about the retention of EOD technicians, Fleck said the retention rate among his Sailors has been

good due to the training EOD Sailors receive and also the missions EOD Sailors are able to undertake.

"I think it's the quality of the people we get — they really want to do this type of work," said Fleck. "It is very important to keep our EOD technicians in the community, to gain the experience so we can continue to keep our team strong."

"Our Sailors believe what they're doing is important and they continue to be the foundation of our strength," said Lucas. "They are some of the brightest and best Americans in our Navy service."

For more news from Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/necc/.

Pentagon leaders honor Navy scientists and engineers

PRESS RELEASE

Assistant Secretary of the Navy
(RD&A) Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Pentagon leaders honored eighteen of the Navy's top contributors to basic and applied science and engineering from around the country, July 23.

In a Pentagon ceremony, Zachary Lemnios, the Director for Defense Research and Engineering, and Sean Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, recognized individuals and teams whose work saved lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, provided cost savings for current operations, and delivered new technology to the fleet.

"This is a very prestigious award. The awardees are technical leaders that made substantial contributions — from counter IED, to insensitive munitions technologies, to aircraft diagnostic systems, to submarine periscope systems, to directed energy weapons ... the list goes on. Each has displayed innovative leadership in identifying solutions to a remarkable set of naval challenges," said Lemnios.

The science and engineering achievements of these recognized individuals and teams are changing current operations of the Navy and Marine Corps.

"From the employment of unmanned vehicles, persistent surveillance, and communications on the move, to prompt strike, precision weapons, improved body armor and the mine resistant ambush protected vehicle — we are changing the way we fight during the fight in order to win the fight," said Stackley.

"It's important we don't take this technological edge for granted, which is why we are here today — to recognize the select few scientists and engineers who have distinguished themselves this past year in ensuring that our Navy and Marine Corps is the most capable fighting force in the world," he said.

Among the projects recognized were development and fielding of new counter-IED technologies, a laser-based air defense for ships which successfully downed a threat representative drone and development of the Ion Tiger, a fuel-cell powered unmanned aircraft vehicle to provide persistent and stealthy intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.

Technical leaders also advanced the Navy's role as environmental steward with projects to better understand the impact of sonar on marine mammals, development of personnel and environmentally-friendly compounds for aircraft coating and cleaning, as well as the first global day



Photo by MC2 Sharay Bennett

Dr. Karen Swider-Lyons, of Naval Research Laboratory, receives a Dr. Delores M. Etter Top Scientist and Engineer of the Year award from Sean J. Stackley, assistant secretary of the Navy (ASN) for Research Development and Acquisition (RD&A) and Dr. Delores M. Etter, director of the Caruth Institute for Engineering Education, during the 2009 Dr. Delores M. Etter Top Scientists and Engineers of the Year awards ceremony at the Pentagon. Swider-Lyons received the award for her research in developing fuel cell technology for unmanned aerial vehicles.

and nighttime measurements of the ionosphere for better weather prediction abilities.

Innovations recognized today dovetailed with

overall Defense goals in research and engineering.

"Innovation, speed and agility are crucial to transforming how the Department examines

processes, addresses capability gaps, provides solutions and providing

capabilities to our warfighters," said Lemnios.

Department innovations

also advanced the ability for Marines and Sailors on the ground to gain better situational awareness and interoperability, with development of protocols for mobile wireless devices and systems, and development and quick fielding of a wireless mobile command and control system prototype in Afghanistan.

Two recognized projects pave the way for future capabilities.

Scientists created pathways toward new sensors for space flight and toward new ultra-low power gallium antimonide semiconductors for high-performance digital computing systems.

The annual science and engineering awards, named for Dr. Delores M. Etter, the former Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Research, Development and Acquisition, recognize those who have made significant contributions in their fields, to the Department and to Sailors, Marines and the future Fleet.

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



The 2009 Chief of Naval Operations Shore Sailor of the Year, Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 1st Class Cassandra Foote, is meritoriously promoted to chief petty officer at an advancement ceremony at the Navy Memorial. Foote is one of four Sailors selected for Sailor of the Year and this marks the first time in history all Sailors of the Year are women.

2009 Sailors of the Year winners promoted to chief, make history

STORY AND PHOTO BY
MC1 (EXW) JENNIFER A.
VILLALOVOS

Master Chief Petty Officer
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The 2009 Sailor of the Year winners, who for the first time in history are all women, were meritoriously advanced to chief petty officer during a ceremony held at the Navy Memorial, July 22.

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead was the guest speaker at the pinning ceremony hosted by the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Ingrid Cortez, U.S. Fleet Forces Sea Sailor of the Year; Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Shalanda Brewer, Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year; Operations Specialist 1st Class Samira McBride, U.S. Pacific Fleet Sea Sailor of the Year and Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 1st Class Cassandra Foote, Chief of Naval Operations Shore Sailor of the Year were each presented their chief petty officer appointment letter from the CNO prior to having their anchors pinned to their collars and combination covers placed on their heads.

“What I like most about this program is that these four Sailors know the Navy appreciates their dedication and performance and expects even more of them in the future,” said Roughead. “Their advancement today is an affirmation of the potential the Navy sees in them as future chief petty officers and senior enlisted leaders at their next commands.”

Before the anchors were pinned on the Sailors of the Year, West spoke about the great honor of earning the title of “chief” and the privilege of leading Sailors while wearing the chief anchors on their collars.

“This is a great day for

our Navy and today we are making history with all four Sailors of the Year being women. These Sailors have proven themselves as professional Sailors, experts in their rates, role models to our junior Sailors and youth, and most importantly, true leaders,” said West.

Families, friends and shipmates traveled from around the world to attend the ceremony to share the highlights of their accomplishments and achievement on making chief petty officer.

“A lot is expected of us and it’s a greater responsibility, but we are going to lead our Sailors and keep doing what we’ve been doing,” said Cortez after the advancement ceremony. “This was such an awesome experience. I feel like I’m on top of the world and it’s just incredible.”

The Sailors of the Year and their families toured the White House, visited historical sites around D.C., meet with residents at the Armed Forces Retirement Home and attended special events held in their honor throughout the week before their advancement ceremony.

The Sailor of the Year program was established in 1972 by the Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo Zumwalt and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy John Whittet to recognize an individual Sailor who best represented the ever-growing group of dedicated professional Sailors at each command and ultimately the Navy. When the program began, only the Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors were recognized. Within ten years, the Sailor of the Year program was expanded to include the shore establishment and Navy Reserve Sailors.

Did You Know?

Remembering Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society in your will (or living trust) is one of the easiest and best ways to ensure that the Society’s crucial work will continue for generations to come?

Including the Society as a beneficiary of your will can be as simple as adding an amendment (or codicil) to your existing document. NMCRS can provide sample bequest wording and a codicil form.

Please contact the Society for further information! Let them know how they can be of assistance.

Contact your local NMCRS Office today!
NMCRS: Your First Resource
www.nmcrs.org

SCHOOLS: Interest in kid's schools, education important factor in success

Continued from page A1

individuals.

The coalition has endorsed both initiatives, said Keller, noting that more than 80 percent of military children attend public schools in the United States. The initiatives are part of the Education Department's annual reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (known as No Child Left Behind in the Bush administration), but also are included in the Common Core Standards compact, she said.

Defense Department Education Activity schools do a good job of tracking students, but this accounts for fewer than 8 percent of military children, mostly at the elementary level, said Keller. Under new tracking initiatives, states are being asked to include military as a data-point area on school questionnaires, she said, along with gender, age, race, spe-



Photo by William M. Couch

Mark Schultz, environmental director for Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Midwest, explains to students at North Chicago Community High School about electric vehicles and other environmentally friendly means of transportation used by the Navy.

cial education, gifted and other areas.

While the federal initiatives and state responses are encouraging, said Keller, the public education system has become increasingly complex with layers of approvals needed before change trickles

down to students.

"Signing onto the compact is just the start," she said. "We've crossed a huge hurdle. But a gazillion other things need to happen. People have to be a little patient on this."

Meanwhile, said Keller, the

best thing parents can do to improve their children's education is to be active in their local schools. "It makes a difference going to school board meetings, it makes a difference to go to PTA meetings," she said. "You don't have to wait around for dramatic actions

to make a difference at the local level."

Like others who spoke at last week's conference, Keller highlighted what may be the most-important factor for educating military children – and all children for that matter – is for parents to take an interest in their children's schools and education. And that, she said, is an area where military children come out ahead.

Seeing their parents volunteer and developing an understanding for how goals are met through collaboration set the stage for future success, she added.

"We know that military children are from families who care deeply about education," said Keller. The first predictor of a person's future readiness for work or college, she noted, is having a parent communicate that vision.

"The military community, overall, is wildly ahead on those core values," said Keller.

GRAVELY: New destroyer honors first African American Admiral

Continued from page A1

ship is equipped with the Navy's Aegis Combat System, the world's foremost integrated naval weapon system. The class provides outstanding combat capability and survivability characteristics while minimizing procurement and lifetime support costs due to the program's maturity. The DDG 51 program continues to reinforce affordability and efficiency, with a commitment to deliver ships at the highest possible quality.

The new destroyer honors the late Vice Adm. Samuel L. Gravely Jr., the first African American commissioned as an officer from the Navy Reserve Officer Training Course. He was the first African American to command a warship

(USS Theodore E. Chandler); to command a major warship (USS Jouett); to achieve flag rank and eventually vice admiral; and to command a numbered fleet (Third).

As one of the Defense Department's largest acquisition organizations, PEO Ships is responsible for executing the development and procurement of all major surface combatants, amphibious ships, special mission and support ships, and special warfare craft. Currently, the majority of shipbuilding programs managed by PEO Ships are benefiting from serial production efficiencies, which are critical to delivering ships on cost and schedule.

For more news from Naval Sea Systems Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/navsea/.

SYSTEM: GOES, OIX minimize impact on commands

Continued from page A1

impact on the business rules for both those generating messages and the commands receiving them," said Wenger.

GOES also supports Sailors stationed in non-Navy billets such as those in Individual Augmentee assignments.

As the Navy transitions to OIX, assistance is available to commands to minimize impact to their receipt of message traffic.

"If for any reason a command cannot access OIX, we can set them up on GOES and they can retrieve their orders and messages that way," said William Davis, Jr., BUPERS/NPC Messaging program manager.

GOES will continue to deliver information to BUPERS On-Line so users will still be able to access messages posted there.

For more information about OIX or to set up a command E-mail, visit <https://www.portal.navy.mil/oix/default.aspx>.

For more information about GOES or to activate command accounts, visit <https://goes.persnet.navy.mil> after Aug. 1



U.S. Navy photo

Information Systems Technician Seaman Ryan Nies troubleshoots the exchange which sends and receives messages aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72).

MyCAA program to resume Oct. 25, defense official says

BY ELAINE WILSON

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) program will resume Oct. 25, but with some significant changes to the popular spouse employment program, a defense official said.

Changes include a reduction in the amount of financial aid, a change in the population eligible to receive that aid – from all military spouses to spouses of junior service members – and more robust counseling services.

These changes bring the program, commonly known as MyCAA, back to its original intent of equipping military spouses of junior service members with portable careers, such as in real estate or health care, said Clifford Stanley, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. The program was launched in November 2007 for spouses of junior service members and was expanded to all pay grades and programs of study in March 2009.

“We’re trying to empower, to give spouses in particular, an opportunity to be immediately impactful as soon as they get into a community,” Stanley said. “We want to make sure they have opportunities to work when they get to a new duty sta-

tion.”

Officials temporarily halted the program Feb. 16, pending a top-to-bottom review, after an enrollment surge overwhelmed the system and caused the program to nearly reach its budget threshold. In March, with the review still under way, officials resumed the program for the more than 136,000 spouses who already had established an account.

The review took time, but officials wanted to ensure they could sustain the program for the long-term, particularly in light of fiscal realities the government is facing, said Stanley.

“We want to help people be employed, but at the same time we have to be cost conscious,” he said.

The aim is to sustain the program, he said. “We don’t want to start it and stop it. This is something we want to continue, because it’s important to take care of our families and our spouses.”

The previous program offered all spouses of active duty service members a lifetime benefit of \$6,000 to be used for education purposes.

Under the new parameters, spouses of junior service members can apply for a maximum financial benefit of \$4,000 for up to three years from the start date of the first class, with a \$2,000

annual cap, Stanley explained. Spouses pursuing licenses or certifications requiring an upfront fee of greater than \$2,000 may apply for a waiver of the annual cap up to the maximum benefit of \$4,000, he added.

Financial aid will be limited

“We’re trying to empower, to give spouses in particular, an opportunity to be immediately impactful as soon as they get into a community ... We want to make sure they have opportunities to work when they get to a new duty station.”

— Clifford Stanley

to spouses of active duty service members in pay grades E-1 to E-5, W1 to W-2 and O-1 to O-2, said Stanley, as well as the spouses of activated guard and reserve members within those ranks. Spouses of guard and reserve members must be able to start and complete their cours-

es while their sponsor is on Title 10 orders, he added.

Those spouses eligible to receive aid can use the money to fund associate’s degrees, licenses and certification programs, not higher degrees. The program wasn’t intended to support Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees, said Stanley. However, he added, spouses pursuing higher degrees can explore a plethora of other education opportunities – such as scholarships, federal grants and the G.I. Bill – with help from Military OneSource consultants.

“The counseling piece is probably the most important, and pivotal, part of this program,” he said in a roundtable discussion with reporters, July 20.

Spouses currently enrolled in the program can continue their participation through Oct. 21, when MyCAA will ramp down and prepare for the Oct. 25 launch. As of Oct. 25, those spouses who fall within the eligible pay grades can continue their program participation. Spouses who no longer are eligible for financial aid still can participate by accessing career and education counseling services, said Stanley.

“There are still opportunities,” he said. “This one program is just one small part of the overall equation of taking care of our family members.

It’s an important part, but it’s a small part.”

To fund the program, officials have budgeted about \$210 million for 2010 with an increase to \$250 million for 2011 due to an expected spike in enrollments, said Stanley. For future years, officials are estimating a budget of about \$190 million per year.

To ensure the vitality of the program, Military OneSource counselors will encourage spouses to explore other funding resources, including federal benefits. And staffing levels have been increased to handle the anticipated call volume and enable more one-on-one counseling with spouses, said Stanley. Officials also will monitor the program much closer now to ensure they can maintain it, he added.

The program became “wildly popular” before, mainly through word of mouth, said Stanley. People heard about the program and immediately recognized it was a good deal.

And “It’s still a good deal,” he said. “We always tend to look at the glass as half empty. We are doing the best we can with what we have – I wish we had a lot more money, but we don’t – but this glass is still half full.”

Spouses can learn more about MyCAA on Military OneSource at (800) 342-9647 or www.militaryonesource.com.

COMPACFLT speaks with student interns about education and the future

BY MALIA SCHILLING

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR — The commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet met with students from the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP), July 20, to talk about the importance of higher education and work experience.

STEP was first established in December 1994 along with the Student Career Experience Program, as part of the Student Educational Employment Program. The program provides Federal

employment opportunities to students who are enrolled in an accredited high school, technical, vocational, college or university, and who are at least 16 years of age at the time of employment.

U.S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters has used the STEP over the last five years and this year hired 14 students for 2010 summer employment at the GS-3 level. The group included four students returning for their second summer.

Adm. Patrick Walsh began the meeting by asking the students about

their experience working for U.S. Pacific Fleet and shared his personal thoughts from his experience regarding career outlook when he was a student.

“You have the biggest challenge in front of you,” said Walsh. “You’re starting to look at the world in front of you and starting to figure out what works best for you.

“If you really want to have an impact, you have to ask yourself if you’re capable enough. Being enthusiastic and energetic is important, but being able to act on an idea and get it

across the goal line takes a strong skill set.”

Walsh also made clear his hope that students would be able to take their experiences working at U.S. Pacific Fleet and apply them to their education and future careers.

“Take the experiences you get while here and apply them to the rest of your life. This will help you become more valuable to future employers,” said Walsh. “As you graduate and move on, be flexible and grow a wide array of skills. Make sure you think about not just the breadth of your

knowledge, but the depth as well.”

The students offered their impressions of the discussion and internship.

“It was comforting to know that the admiral had been in my shoes and that he’s faced the decisions I’m dealing with,” said Leilani Aguon, 18, a student at Leeward Community College who worked for the U.S. Pacific Fleet Comptroller Staff. “It was an honor to speak with him.”

“Talking with the admiral was an amazing opportunity,” said Cait-

lin Shannon, 20, a student at the University of Central Florida who worked in U.S. Pacific Fleet Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence directorate. “This internship has shown me that I can apply my degree toward a government job, which I didn’t think about before.”

Duties for the STEP summer hires at U.S. Pacific Fleet encompassed a variety of office automation work such as word processing, filing, scanning, spreadsheets, desktop publishing, etc. Students applied through an announcement posted early in the year for employment during the summer months and throughout the year.

Malia Schilling, a student from the University of Southern California, is a current STEP summer hire working in U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs with social media, public and community relations.

For more news from Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, visit www.navy.mil/local/cpf/.

Pacific Partnership 2010 departs Ternate, Indonesia

BY MC1 (SW/AW)

BILL LARNED

Pacific Partnership 2010

Public Affairs

TERNATE, Indonesia — Pacific Partnership 2010 departed Ternate, July 24, after completing seven days of operations alongside the people of Indonesia, providing humanitarian and civic assistance programs ashore and surgical treatment aboard USNS Mercy (T-AH 19).

Upon completion of the closing ceremony held at Ternate's City Hall, Mission Commander, Pacific Partnership 2010, Capt. Lisa M. Franchetti immediately headed back to Mercy in order to get underway to Maluku province to continue Pacific Partnership 2010's participation in Sail Banda 2010.

"During our time in Ternate, we worked hard to reach out across the region, visiting sites on Ternate Island, Halmahera Island, Tidore Island and even the two villages located on opposite sides of the rugged Mare Island," said Franchetti. "This visit, as well as our previous stop in Tobelo and Morotai, gave us a great opportunity to learn more about the way of life in a province made up of 805 islands. Everywhere we went, we were welcomed with open arms and we are all looking forward to the warm reception our advance team personnel have already been enjoying in Ambon – our third and final stop in Indonesia."

In fact, the mutual sentiment of appreciation and support goes both ways for Pacific Partnership 2010.

At the opening ceremony in Ternate, days earlier, the Governor of North Maluku Province, Dr. H. Thaib Armaiyn, expressed his feelings about Pacific Partnership's visit.

"I think this mission is such an honorable mission, because this mission doesn't care about the borders, doesn't care about the race, ethnicity, religion or anything," said Armaiyn. "We have heard so many good things about this mission. We heard that a lot of people were treated well and that this is such an honorable mission."

While in Ternate, more than 10,800 patients were treated at nine different primary medical and dental health care clinics and 81 surgeries were conducted aboard Mercy. Medical professionals distributed 6,200 pairs of glasses and sunglasses. Subject matter expert exchanges engaged participants in forums concerning veterinary care, preventive medicine, nursing, cardiology, pediatrics, orthopedics, dental care, and women's health. Veterinarians were also able to evaluate and treat more than 200 animals during

Mercy's visit. The Biomedical Equipment Repair team was able to conduct over \$170,000 worth of repairs to broken or malfunctioning equipment.

U.S. Navy Seabees and Australian Combat Engineers completed two construction projects, including one at Sulamadaha Malaria Clinic and the second at Puskesmas Kalumpang.

While medical civic action programs throughout the region offered medical care opportunities for locals, the

events were equally beneficial for Pacific Partnership 2010 medical professionals, such as U.S. Army Spc. Maria Alia Ponciano, a reservist from Blackfoot, Idaho. Ponciano said she never imagined her first deployment in the Army taking place on a hospital ship.

"Being part of Pacific Partnership 2010 has been a completely different experience, but in a good way. Pacific Partnership is the first time I've ever been involved in any sort of disaster

relief exercise. Regardless of what organization we belong to, or what country we represent, it is a real honor to take part in this exercise," said Ponciano.

Community service (COMSERV) projects included a soccer game with the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI), which the Pacific Partnership 2010 team lost, and basketball games with fellow sports enthusiasts. For Yeoman 2nd Class Ceromomo Bragg, the basketball games he played in deliv-

ered a realization.

"I looked forward to playing basketball in a foreign country to see what people from another part of the world knew about the sport. The game was about having fun and coming together, but even more importantly, it was fulfilling for us to realize this was not about winning a game, but building relationships," said Bragg.

Having completed medical, dental, surgical, engineering and community service events in the Tobe-

lo and Morotai areas and now the Ternate area, the hospital ship is transiting to Ambon for the final phase of the Indonesian visit. Mercy will continue participating in the exercise in Ambon through Aug. 4.

Pacific Partnership 2010 is the fifth in a series of annual U.S. Pacific Fleet endeavors conducted in Indonesia as a disaster relief exercise aimed at strengthening regional relationships with host and partner nations in Southeast Asia and Oceania.

159TH RETURNS HOME

The 159th Seaport Operations Company, 10th Transportation Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade returned from a 12-month rotation to Iraq during a ceremony at the Joint Base Expeditionary Little Creek-Fort Story gym, July 20. **B5**

FRONT & CENTER

SECTION B

FLAGSHIPNEWS.COM

July 29, 2010

Tim Allen visits Naval Station Norfolk Sailors

STORY AND PHOTO BY
MC1 (AW) TIM COMERFORD

The Flagship staff writer

NORFOLK — Comedian, actor, voice-over artist and entertainer, Tim Allen, known for his role as Timothy “Tim the Tool Man” Taylor in the sitcom Home Improvement and the voice of Buzz Lightyear in the animated Toy Story series, took a tour of two ships with family and friends, July 22.

Allen admits that he likes visiting Sailors. “I’m nuts for this sort of thing,” said Allen. “The family wasn’t so sure that they wanted to go, but I told them they would have a great time.”

Allen was met first by the commanding officer of Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer USS Stout (DDG 55), Cmdr. Mark J. Oberley. Oberley showed off the Stout’s weapons and capabilities to the entertainer. Allen, owner of a 54-foot Italian made vessel, is an avid sailor and had many questions about the ship’s engines and how it operated.

As Allen made his way around the ship, he stopped and shook hands with the crew, signed autographs, posed for photos and, of course, made people laugh.

“The good thing about me being – not in the Navy – is that the ships might be fast-



Photo by MC1 (AW) Tim Comerford

Tim Allen, known for his role in the sitcom Home Improvement, takes time out to speak with Master Chief Machinist’s Mate (SS) Stephen Nordman (L), the Chief of the Boat and Cmdr. Paul A. Whitescarver, commanding officer of the USS Scranton (SSN 756) before touring the vessel.

See COMEDIAN, B7

NAVSTA Norfolk NEX wins Bingham Award

BY MC2 NIKKI SMITH
Navy Public Affairs Support
Element East

NORFOLK — Naval Station Norfolk Navy Exchange brought home the 2009 Bingham Award during a ceremony at the station’s movie theater, July 20.

“Bingham recognizes Navy Exchanges (NEX) who do great work every day throughout the year, and that’s the key. This award is presented to the best-of-the-best. Only nine out of 103 Navy Exchanges are selected ... you are part of an elite group and you should be congratulated,” said Rear Adm. Steven J. Romano, commander of

Navy Service Command.

Norfolk’s NEX won the award by boosting sales to over \$150 million dollars and ensuring top-notch customer service skills were in place. According to Romano, this feat was accomplished despite a rough winter full of storms and daily construction at the NEX.

Romano emphasized the importance of the associates who truly earned the award and said without them and their hard work the award wouldn’t have been possible. More than 200 “Team Norfolk” NEX associates came out to the ceremony to congratulate each other.

Wanda Sturt, Administrative Assistant to the General Manager of NEX Norfolk said “This is the hardest thing you can achieve and they (the associates) made it look easy. I’m as proud as I can be, I go around telling everyone ‘We won the Bingham.’ I’m very proud of everybody.”

The Bingham Award was established in 1979 as a way to recognize outstanding performance in customer service and exchange operations. Navy Exchange Service Operations (NEX-COM) presents the awards annually to the exchanges that demonstrate superior performance throughout the year.



Photo by BM2 (SW) Marisa Y. Almada

(L) Captain Kelly M. Johnson, commanding officer, Naval Station Norfolk and (R) Rear Admiral Steven J. Romano, commander, Navy Exchange Service Command present the 2009 Bingham Award (Super Store) to (Center) Lynne C.S. Williams, general manager, Navy Exchange Norfolk, July 20.



Caroline Cozza, a chemotherapy patient in the Pediatric Ward, smiles along with her mother, Chief Petty Officer Karen Cozza, as she receives a gift from Santa Rick, July 18. Santa Rick and members of the local motorcycle riding group Rolling Thunder and American Legion came to Naval Medical Center Portsmouth to deliver toys and visit with sick children at the medical center.

Christmas in July at NMCP

STORY AND PHOTO BY
MC2 RIZA CAPARROS
Naval Medical Center Portsmouth
Public Affairs

NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER PORTSMOUTH — A loud rumble shook the ground as a group of motorcycle riders drove through the front gate of Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, July 18. Santa Rick and 35 leather-clad and tattooed men and women, representing motorcycle riding groups Rolling Thunder (chapter 5) and American Legion (posts 284, 146, 5 and 83) showed their soft side when they arrived with toys for the young patients of the medical facility for Christmas in July.

Christmas in July has been a collaborative tradition between NMCP’s Pediatric Ward Child Life Specialist Chris Brogan, NMCP’s American Red Cross and Rolling Thunder for about 10 years.

“This is such a great event for the hospital staff, the children and their families,” said Brogan, “because what would be a long day at the hospital turns into a fun and happy one with Santa and other special visitors coming with gifts and wishing them well.”

Rear Adm. Alton L. Stocks, NMCP’s commander, met the group as they arrived and thanked them for their kind gestures.

“I can’t thank Rolling Thunder and the American Legion enough for their tireless efforts throughout the year to provide toys to our veteran’s children who are being treated here,” said Stocks. “What a great way to teach our children the value of helping our own and other kind gestures to others.”

The group made its way to the Pediatric Ward, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and the Emergency Room and met with quite a few young patients and even some parents. Chief Petty Officer Karen Cozza was with her daughter, Caroline, when the group stopped by Caroline’s room with a surprise armful of toys for her and her sisters at home.

“I am with Caroline as she undergoes her chemotherapy treatments and the days tend to be very long and tiresome because we can’t leave the room,” said

See ROLLING THUNDER, B7

SPOUSE SPEAK!

Military spouse education: An important factor that ultimately affects retention

BY CASEY SPURR
Military spouse contributing writer

Last week the Department of Defense announced that it will resume the popular MyCAA program but with significant changes that are being widely frowned upon by military spouses. MyCAA (My Career Advancement Account) is a program that, prior to being abruptly halted in February, provided up to \$6,000 in financial assistance to spouses of active duty service members for college coursework and professional licensure. The program was open to spouses of all ranks and could be used for coursework on any level of post-secondary education, as long as it would ultimately lead to a career field considered portable and conducive to the military lifestyle.

When the announcement came last week that the program would resume following a review and amid wide criticism of its halt, that announcement came with major changes. The new program is now only open to spouses of junior service members (E1-E5, W1-W2, O1-O2), only allows up to \$4,000 in benefits, requires that coursework be completed within three years and is limited to Associate's degrees, certifications and licenses.

Military spouses across the country are left scratching their heads wondering how the Department of Defense can justify these new guidelines, with thousands now disqualified and looking for other means to complete their education and make themselves competitive in an already fiercely competitive job market. With its new guidelines, the program severely limits career opportunities and entirely eliminates a large portion of military spouses altogether.

Those who oppose the program argue that the Department of the Defense has no responsibility in assisting military spouses to advance their careers, but it is a simple fact that spouse employment has a major impact on the sustainability of the military family. The level of satisfaction service members and their families have with the military lifestyle ultimately affects retention, so it is not only prudent, but essential that the De-

partment of Defense work with all military spouses to help them overcome the setbacks this lifestyle places on both their education and careers.

A study on military spouse employment by the RAND Corporation found that military wives are employed at lower rates and earn less than their civilian counterparts and that two-thirds of all military spouses believe the military lifestyle has had a negative impact on their employment opportunities. It is an unavoidable fact that these findings affect retention, and they must be addressed for the future of our military. The full RAND report, can be found at: www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9056/index1.html.

It seems that when creating the MyCAA program, the Department of Defense was not prepared for the large number of spouses who would seek enrollment and take advantage of its benefits. This only further highlights the program's necessity. In a press release from Congressman Glenn Nye, who has worked closely with military spouses for the program's restoration, he argues, "If the problem with this program is that it is overly successful, we should find a way to support it not cut it in half."

The new program seems to entirely miss the problem at hand. If the Department of Defense wants MyCAA to lead to positive outcomes for military families, they should be encouraging spouses of all ranks to pursue careers in fields that are highly portable such as teaching, nursing, and technology. Each of these fields typically requires a Bachelor's degree at a minimum and even Master's degrees are becoming more important as each field gets more competitive. Limiting spouses to Associate's degree programs makes it very difficult to enter truly portable career fields and causes the program to come up quite short of its original intent.

Additionally, restricting the program to spouses of junior service members disregards the sacrifice made by more seasoned spouses who have followed their service member from duty station to duty station over a number of years. In many cases, these spouses may have never been in one

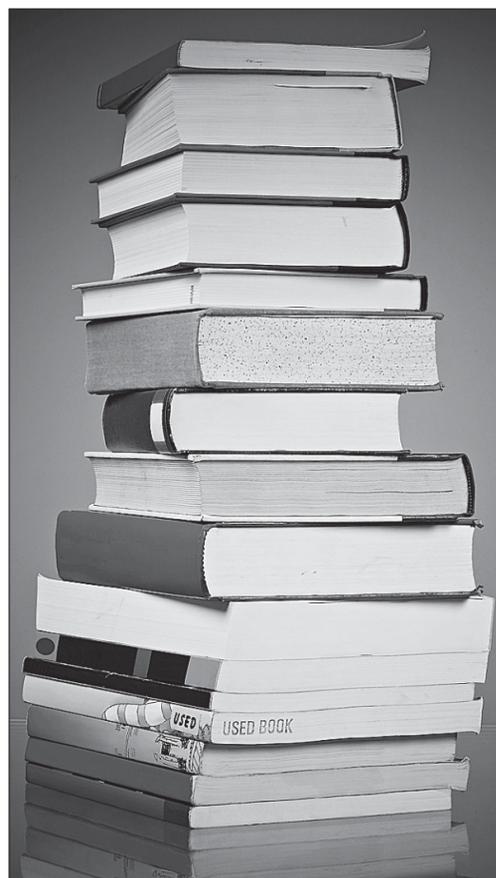
place long enough to pursue educational opportunities, have lost more years of career building, and likely have significant gaps in employment on their resumes.

It appears the program assumes the families of mid-grade and senior service members have more income to provide for the spouse's education, but this is an unfair assumption. It is likely spouses of these service members have children of their own for whom they are now saving for a college education, at the sacrifice of their own career advancement. It would seem appropriate that the Department of Defense would honor the years of sacrifice of these spouses and their service members rather than eliminating them from the program entirely.

Ultimately, MyCAA is an essential program that has the potential to address a pervasive issue facing military families and the sustainability of our military at large. In its current status, however, it falls well below the mark. The Department of Defense must take a much deeper look at what MyCAA needs to succeed, with the input of spouses who are facing the challenges it seeks to address, and find a way to fully support the program.

Casey Spurr is a Navy spouse who is an advocate for issues facing

military families and frequently writes about her experiences as a military spouse. She lives in Virginia Beach with her husband and their son. To contact Casey, send an E-mail to casey.spurr@gmail.com.



MARRIED to the Military

Why oh why do I read the news

BY BIANCA MARTINEZ

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!

Okay, I know, it's my job, but sometimes when my husband is deployed – I wish I could bring myself to NOT search for the news from the region he is in. It just throws me into a funk so quickly. As I am writing this, so many of us are wondering about the poor Sailor or Sailors that may be held in insurgent custody in Afghanistan. I know my husband is fine and that makes a huge difference, but it is so hard to not think about the grief and sadness their families are in right now. They have no idea where their sons are – if they are alive or dead – or who has them. I am sure the biggest question is, "How did this happen?"

Right now, we don't know the answer to that. I do know that those families will be in my thoughts and prayers until they have some sort of closure to this nightmare ... no matter how long it takes. See, when you get that moment of relief, knowing your loved one is safe, it is followed with another emotion. Going through many deployments, you likely know it as well. It's guilt. How is it that I am so lucky? How is that my family is fortunate enough to say, "Hey our loved

one is safe." Is it okay to say, "Thank goodness it wasn't him." Yes, it's natural! You get over the guilt though by dedicating some time to that family in any way you can. Obviously, the power of prayer is one that many folks rely on. If that's not you – that's fine – just send some good vibes. While you are well aware of the fact that you most likely don't know the family in pain, you are well aware that you would not wish that pain on anyone ... especially the family of someone who willingly puts their life on the line for our freedoms. Even if you post an article about these guys on your Facebook status, you are sending positive vibes. You are letting other people know about a sacrifice someone has made. Let's just hope it is not another ultimate sacrifice and that Sailor will be returned home safely.

Don't beat yourself up for having a sigh of relief. Instead, go on a mission to make sure others are aware. It is our responsibility to be the connection between the military and our neighbors that may not know what it is like to live this life. Take a little time to remind them that someone out there could use their positive energy and thank that person for the support they are showing.



Are you up for the 'Challenge'?



I know I'm going to see you all Saturday morning, right? The Military Challenge is just days away. Join me for an awesome run with military-style challenges thrown in the mix. I had the chance to test drive bits of the course – let me tell you – it's going to be so much fun! You will be tired, but you will have a blast. Oh, and you will definitely be muddy! There is a wall you need to make your way over. We get to run the plank. Don't forget about the trenches of mud you get to run in that are just a sample of crawling through the mud. Yes, good times! Some of

the other challenges we want to keep under wraps, we can't show you our entire bag of tricks! It's gonna be a great time with events for the entire family. A number of Channel 3 folks will be "Taking Action" on the course ... will we "Get Results" ... they may not be impressive ones, but we'll finish alright! I can do it. Are you up for the "Challenge"?



12TH ANNUAL EAST COAST CPO ROUND UP

Saturday, August 28, 2010

Navy League of Hampton Roads is scheduled to hold their 12th Annual Chief Petty Officer Round Up at Kings Dominion, August 28

The CPO Round Up will be open to all active duty, reserve, retired and all families, friends and supporters of the Navy team and will include unlimited use to all rides, shows and attractions at Kings Dominion.

The schedule of the day includes the Annual Deck Plate Spirit Award presentation, Chief Selectee Cadence Competition and a 50/50 raffle in support of CPO Scholarship Fund.

Kings Dominion will be open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. with many special guests including: MCPON, MCPON's (ret.), FLTCM's, FORCM's, CMDCM's and MCPO (ret.) and Rudy Boesch from Survivor.

The event will also include the opportunity for all participants to purchase a single-serve meal for \$10 that includes: 2 pieces of fried chicken, hot dog, baked beans, bag of chips, cookie and a soft drink.

Discounted food and drink will be available throughout the day at Pine Pavilion adjacent to the Kingswood Amphitheatre.

Tickets are \$23 (Save \$33.99) and children 2 and under are admitted free with advanced ticket purchases. Children 12 and under will receive a free raffle ticket with a chance to win one of the Kings Dominion prizes.

To purchase tickets visit www.kingsdominion.com and click on tickets, then corporate partner, the company ID for the event is "CPO." Once you have purchased your ticket, simply print it out and bring it with you to the park. There is no service charge.

You can also purchase your advance sale tickets from your Command representatives:

CNRMA — YNCS Barry Fitzgibbons 322-2800, barry.fitzgibbons@navy.mil

NCR — YNC Aaron Riley (202) 781-5766, aaron.riley@navy.mil or ETC Geoff Adleman (202) 781-6456, geoffrey.adleman@navy.mil

For more information on the event visit Kings Dominion's website at www.kingsdominion.com.

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Our Lady of Victory Chapel
Mass Schedule:
11:45 a.m.— Wed.
10 a.m.— Sun..

PROTESTANT

David Adams Memorial Chapel
Worship Services:
10:30 a.m.— Sun.
Worship

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

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)

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)

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
11:30 a.m. — Sun.

Coffeehouse
6 p.m. — Sun.

For more information call JEB
Little Creek Chapel 462-7427

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Good leadership: What's love got to do with it?

BY LT. CMDR. MAURICE A. BUFORD

*Marine Corps University Chaplain,
Quantico, Va.*

A cursory examination of today's society may reveal that organizations everywhere are becoming more and more fascinated with the construct called "leadership." Scholars are asking questions like, "Where have the leaders of old gone today?" Practitioners are seemingly experimenting with various models that will produce instantaneous outward success and those in between have either become disenchanted or cynical. These emotions seem to be the new norm with regard to leadership.

In other words, when some people think about being a leader, their minds think about words like, power, authority, control or, as we say back home, being the "shot caller."

Arguably, such terms may in fact be a part of leading but I would suggest it is not the main ingredient. To borrow the definition of leadership from Gary Yulk's "Leadership in Organizations," leadership is "influencing others to understand and agree about what needs to be done and how to do it, and the process of facilitating individual and collective efforts to accomplish shared objectives is love."

I get it. That word seems not to fit with leadership. That word turns people off in the workplace, and that word has earned a bad reputation for being weak.

To this end, allow me to ask you a question. Have you ever eaten a dish that seemed to be missing something? I certainly have. In fact, just the other day I had the privilege of tasting one of my favorite deserts – strawberry shortcake. You should have seen the look on my face when I learned this restaurant indeed served it. I scaled back on the main entree so that I could make room.

Once our waiter came by to ask my bride and I if we would like anything else, I quickly replied before she say could finish: "strawberry short cake, please."

With a grin on her face, she nod-

ded and in a few minutes returned with it.

After one taste, however, my face told it all – something was missing and because of this fact my dining experience was jilted.

In a similar vein, countless followers come into today's organizations expecting to taste a dish of "good leadership." Unfortunately, after they experience the quality of some influencer's style, they soon dis-

the call of duty and what makes a person want to give their all for a leader. When we forget to include love in our leadership, we essentially reduce people to being mere objects to be manipulated. Obviously, we are not objects.

According to Jean Lipman-Blumen, he author of "The Allure of Toxic Leaders," we are human beings who subconsciously desire our leaders to:

- Fill our parent's shoes
- Bring security and certainty
- Make us feel special
- Make us feel apart of the community.

Good leadership knows the importance of love. The "good leadership" of Mother Teresa pushed her to become a voice for the voiceless. The "good leadership" of JFK motivated him to say, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but rather what you can do for it..." The "good leadership" of President Ronald Reagan inspired him to resonate, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

Maybe you don't know where and how to start upon this journey of "good leadership." I believe the sentiments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. can help us to keep love centerpiece. He once said, "Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

cover that something is missing. This becomes evident within a decrease in departmental morale, the absence of trust, a decrease in productivity, and, yes, even medical conditions (i.e. high blood pressure, headaches, depression).

What's missing? Love. The apostle Paul defines this term the best when he wrote 1 Cor. 13:4 - 8:

"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others, Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle, Doesn't keep score of the sins of others, Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end. Love never dies."

The above missing ingredient is exactly what inspires a person to go into harms way, to go beyond

On behalf of the hurting people in the seats of our organizations, in our communities, our country, and yes even in our homes, will you join me in renewing a commitment to love unconditionally? It may not always be easy, but I promise you it will be worth it both now and in eternity.

Let us pray: In the face of the pressures of this day, help me to love. In the face of slander, help me to reflect your glory. In moments of loneliness, help me to first show myself friendly to others. In moments of ambiguity, illuminate the way with your amazing grace. Amen.

"Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rear Adm. Hewitt assumes command of COMPATRECONGRU

PRESS RELEASE

Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group

Rear Adm. Michael W. Hewitt relieved Rear Adm. William F. Moran as Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group during a change of command ceremony, July 16, in the MacArthur Auditorium, Joint Forces Staff College on Naval Support Activity Norfolk.

Hewitt, a Naval Flight Officer, most recently served as the Assistant Deputy Director for Information Operations, J3, Joint Staff, Washington, D.C. A native of Norfolk, he graduated from George Mason University and received his Master's degree from National Defense University.

Headquartered in Norfolk, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group establishes policy for manning, training, and equipping three Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Wings, 18 operational squadrons, a fleet replacement squadron and subordinate activities. The Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force is in the midst of an aircraft transition from the P-3 to the P-8A. The first P-8 Poseidon has been delivered to the Navy and is presently at NAS Patuxent River, Md. undergoing flight testing.



Photo courtesy of RGB Imaging

(Left to right) Vice Adm. Harry B. Harris, Jr. (Sixth Fleet); Vice Adm. Peter H. Daly (Deputy Commander, USFFC); Rear Adm. William F. Moran (outgoing CPRG); Rear Adm. Michael W. Hewitt (incoming CPRG).

“On the horizon are new aircraft, new sensors, new operating concepts, unmanned capability and a new approach to how we train for our core maritime missions. Healthy tension and unanticipated challenges

will arise, but the strength of our community has always been resolve and ability to adapt and respond to change,” Moran said to the men and women of the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force.

It has been an arduous road to replace the stalwart P-3 Orion; an opportunity that Moran now passes to Hewitt. Hewitt expressed his appreciation for the diligence with which Moran has led the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force through one of the most critical junctures in the community's history.

Hewitt acknowledged his predecessor's tenure by saying, “His visionary leadership has allowed unprecedented support to the combatant commanders while managing the transition from the P-3 to the P-8 and the Broad Area Maritime Surveillance Remotely Piloted Vehicle. I look forward to rejoining the MPR community and continuing the legacy of success established by the Patrol and Reconnaissance Group.”

Moran has commanded Patrol and Reconnaissance Group since August, 2008. His next assignment will be Deputy Director, Air Warfare Division, N88, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

Capt. James L. Shields III assumes command at NOLSC

PRESS RELEASE

Naval Operational Logistics Support Center

NORFOLK — Capt. James L. Shields III, SC, USN relieved Captain Raymond J. Rodriguez, SC, USN as Commanding Officer, Naval Operational Logistics Support Center (NOLSC), Norfolk, July 23. Rear Adm. Michael J. Lyden, SC, USN, Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) and Chief of the Supply Corps was the presiding officer. The ceremony marks the beginning of Shields' tour as commanding officer.

Shields graduated from Villanova University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. He earned a Master of Science degree in management from the Naval Postgraduate School and completed the Executive Program at the University of

Michigan's Ross School of Business.

At sea, he served as Supply Officer aboard USS Flying Fish (SSN 672) and Fleet Support Officer on USS Orion (AS-18). His most recent sea tour was as Officer in Charge of USNS Spica (T-AFS 9). During that tour, 19 of 25 months onboard USNS Spica was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ashore, he served as a Logistics Intern at Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington, D.C. At the Fleet Material Support Office and Navy Ships Parts Control Center, Mechanicsburg, PA., he served in both Financial Management and Allowance Development positions. He served in the Comptrollers office as Ships Program Officer at Commander, Surface Force Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk. He served as Joint Logistics Action

Officer at United States Special Operations Command in Tampa, FL. During two “Pentagon tours,” Shields was first Logistics Actions Officer (N41) and later served as the Resource Sponsor for Science and Technology (N091) on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations. He also served at the U.S. Embassy Kuwait as the Director of Security Cooperation where he was responsible for the sale of all U.S. military equipment to the Kuwait Ministry of Defense. He served as Deputy Director for Logistics (N4) Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe – Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa – U.S. Sixth Fleet. His most recent assignment was as the Chief of Staff, Naval Supply Systems Command in Mechanicsburg, PA.

Shields is designated as a Submarine Supply Officer and Surface Warfare Sup-

ply Corps Officer and is a member of the Acquisition Professional Community. His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, two Legions of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, four Navy Commendation Medals, the Joint Achievement Medal, three Navy Achievement Medals and various unit and service awards.

NOLSC, headquartered in Norfolk serves as NAVSUP's focal point for enhancing operational commanders' material readiness by providing innovative solutions to logistical challenges. NOLSC is NAVSUP's supply chain manager and service provider for transportation, petroleum and ordnance logistics services supporting the Navy, Marine Corps, Joint and Coalition Forces.

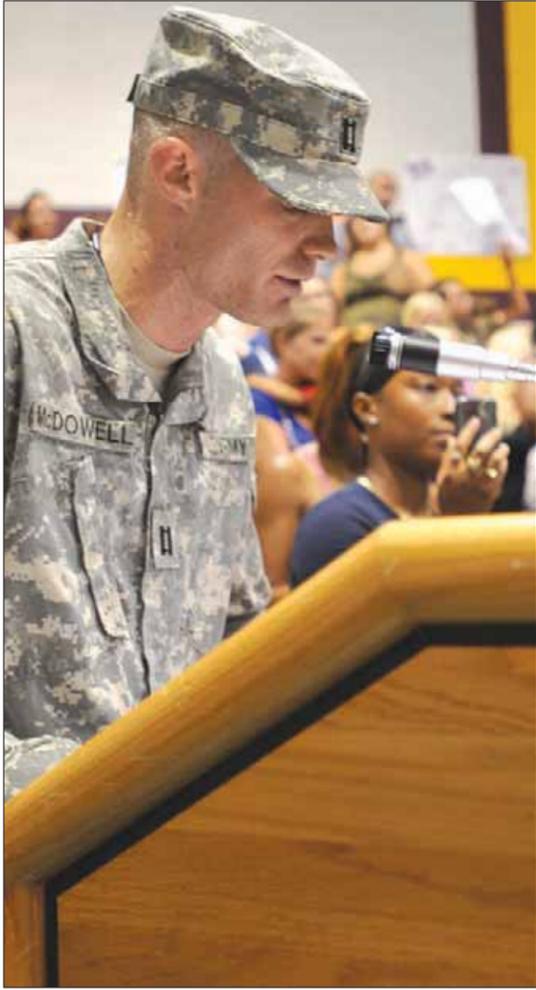
'Warrior Pride' Company returns home after a year-long deployment

STORY AND PHOTOS BY U.S. ARMY
SGT 1ST CLASS KELLY JO BRIDGWATER
7th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

They march in after being away for so long. As the formation grows to fill the auditorium, the families only feet away get louder with excitement. After a few brief words of welcome, these Soldiers hear the command they waited for to rejoin their families.

The 159th Seaport Operations Company, 10th Transportation Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade returned from a 12-month rotation to Iraq during a ceremony at the Joint Base Expeditionary Little Creek-Fort Story gym, July 20.

The 184 Soldiers served on four bases all over Iraq with the mission of managing the largest central receiving and shipping point as well as the relocation and management of the only container repair yard in Iraq.



Capt. Philip McDowell, the 159th Seaport Operations Company, 10th Transportation Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade commander, gives words of praise to his Soldiers before releasing them to their families at the Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story gym, July 20.



Friends and family of the 'Warrior Pride' Company wait for their soldiers to return home after a 12-month deployment to Iraq.



Pfc. Ernesto Acosta, a cargo specialist with the 159th Seaport Operations Company, 10th Transportation Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade, rejoins his wife, Barbara, and son after a year-long deployment in Iraq.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion homecoming



Photo by E03 Mikayla Mondragon

A Sailor assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 is greeted by her son after returning from a five-month deployment to the Central Command area of responsibility. NMCB-133 was deployed to Afghanistan in support of the surge ordered by President Barack Obama.

Boy Scouts set up camp on NAS Oceana

BY CATHY HEIMER
Jet Observer

When more than 80 Boy Scouts and their leaders begin descending on Oceana this weekend as part of their annual jamboree, those troops will just be part of a continuous flow of Scouts who take advantage of two camp sites on base.

Throughout the entire year, large and small Scout troops travel to Oceana from as far north as Maine to spend anywhere from a weekend to two weeks camping on Oceana.

"The main reason why they come here is the base. The kids are psyched about the jets and they want to come see the base," explained Oceana's Boy Scout Liaison, Senior Chief Aviation Support Equipment Technician (AW/SW) Mark Farley, who is stationed at Fleet Readiness Center Mid-Atlantic.

"They come pretty steady; every other weekend I have someone here. They come in the rain, the snow, all year-round - summer, of course, picks up big time," he laughed as he explained about the campers dressed in rain gear in February.

The most commonly-known campsite is located off Tomcat Boulevard in the treeline behind on the electronic marquee. But there is a secondary, more "hidden" location, known as the Oceana Pond, off Oceana Boulevard, between Bells Road and the Natural Resources building.

Considered primitive due to lack of facilities, Farley explained "it's the best kept secret of Oceana," and the older Scouts like that location much better.

The primitive site offers Scouts the chance to "drop their canoes in the water or fish. They have big mouth

trout in there, the fishing is incredible," explained Farley. There's also nearly three miles of hiking trails back there and several picnic sites for campers' use.

While National Boy Scout Jamboree, taking place July 26 through Aug. 4 in Camp A.P. Hill, is nearly 100 miles away, many Hampton Roads campgrounds are full. The Boys Scouts will celebrate their 100th anniversary this year and the celebrations have brought more Scouts than normal to the annual event.

Although reservations for both camp sites at Oceana have been at near-capacity since early June, Farley still managed to squeeze in one last troop from California, who found themselves without reservations less than a month out. And as soon as those Scouts have packed up and headed home, another 100 campers from New York are expected to set up camp, Aug. 7.

For the Scouts, camping on base offers a reasonably-priced vacation. The only fee charged covers the cost of renting port-a-potties. There is no site rental charge for camping and Scouts are authorized to eat at the galley without paying an additional surcharge. With the support from Oceana MWR Director Scott George and Fitness and Sports Director Lisa Sibelius, Farley said Scouts have also been able to use MWR facilities such as bowling, golf, the movie theater and the water park - all of which cost much less than off base facilities.

Farley uses his contacts to give Scouts the "VIP treatment" while at Oceana. He arranges tours of Oceana's Air Traffic Control Tower, as well as squadron tours during regular working hours. He's had good support from the squadrons, with the oc-



Photos by MC2 (AW/SW) Sara Allison



Top: While camping on Oceana last month, Troop 342 received a tour of the Oceana Air Operations Tower and VFA-106 from Lt. Cmdr. Ken Hockycko.

Left: At the Boy Scout camp site, located off Tomcat Blvd., Wesley Bullse, 12, from troop 342, boils hot dogs for lunch. Oceana offers two camping areas for Scouts to use. The second is located off Oceana Blvd. near Bells Mill Rd.

casional commanding officer jumping in to give a personal tour to the troop. He also helps them set up tours at Naval Station Norfolk and JEB Little Creek-Fort Story to see the Navy's ships and amphibious operations, with a tour of an aircraft carrier

most commonly requested.

Farley said Oceana's campsites need no formal advertising because "word of mouth" from past campers attracts troops from all over the U.S. Also many Scout leaders have camped somewhere in Hampton Roads when they themselves were in scouting and want to re-

turn with their troops.

One such group is Troop 342, from Louisville, Ky., that spent a week visiting Oceana last month. Seven Scouts, ages 12 -16, accompanied by six adults, based themselves at Oceana as they explored Virginia Beach and learned what the Navy offers. The troop toured Oceana Air Op-

erations and Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106, as well as visiting USS Enterprise (CVN 65) and JEB Little Creek-Fort Story.

While it's typical for scouts to go to summer Boy Scout Camp and earn merit badges, Scoutmaster Brian Kiesler explained nearly every year, their troop has chosen to go on the week-long trips, "to get the boys different experiences, explore new areas."

He discovered Oceana simply by contacting Hampton Roads Scouts, who eventually referred him to Farley. Another of Troop 342's scoutmasters, John Hamilton, has been involved with the troop for 30 years, and began camping in the Hampton Roads area in 1983. Both men said their Scouts were impressed with the tours and what Hampton Roads has to offer. Camping on Oceana made the trip to Virginia Beach very affordable for each of their Scouts. "We've been able to do this trip for \$285 per Scout; that includes gas, food and kayaking," explained Kiesler.

"We greatly appreciate the opportunity to come here and it's been a great trip," Kiesler added.

Farley prides himself on making the Scouts' experiences good ones while visiting Oceana because he has discovered camping on base has proved to be a recruiting tool. Many returning troops have told Farley that previous campers are now in the military.

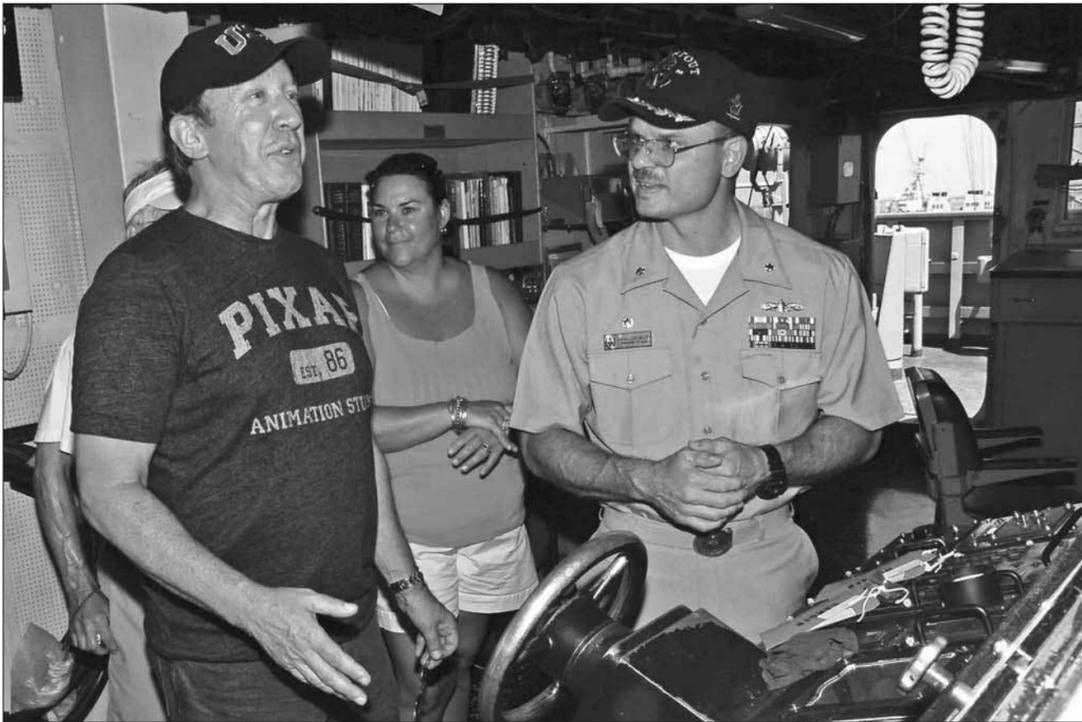
"We do get a lot of kids who have joined the Navy just coming here," he said.

As a former Boy Scout himself and the father of a Scout in Troop 493, who has camped on Oceana, Farley knew the importance of volunteering as the liaison. Several years ago, when the previous liaison was transferring and "nobody wanted to do, I took it on," said Farley.

Now with his own transfer to Enterprise just four months down the road, Farley is searching for his replacement.

Anyone who is interested in being the next Oceana Scout liaison can contact Farley at mark.farley@navy.mil.

COMEDIAN: Allen learns about how ships work, impressed with Sailors



Photos By MC1 (AW) Tim Comerford

Entertainer, Tim Allen, along with family and friends takes a tour of the guided missile destroyer, USS Stout, pierside at Naval Station Norfolk, July 22. Cmdr. Mark J. Oberley, commanding officer, USS Stout answers questions about the helm of the ship as he shows the bridge.

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er, but I don't think they'd last as long," joked Allen. "I'm going to add a little bit more power to this thing and get this up on a plane and water ski behind it."

The next stop was nuclear powered submarine USS Scranton (SSN 756), where Allen was greeted by Cmdr. Paul A. Whitescarver, commanding officer and Master Chief Machinist's Mate (SS) Stephen Nordman, Chief of the Boat, who guided Allen and his family through the sub. Allen saw how the crew lived, how torpedoes are fired and the bridge. The tour ended with refreshments in the submarine's ward room where Allen tried some of the baked pastries provided by the sub's culinary specialists.

Allen understood that he couldn't be shown everything on the submarine, because much of it is top

secret. He had gotten a similar experience touring USS Los Angeles (SSN 688).

"I asked the captain how fast we were going and he said, 'That's a big deal.'" said Allen smiling. "So I told him, Just whisper it to me. I mean we could see it if we were up on the surface. He told me 'Mr. Allen, I can't tell you anything about the stupid props, stop asking about it.'"

He loved the experience though.

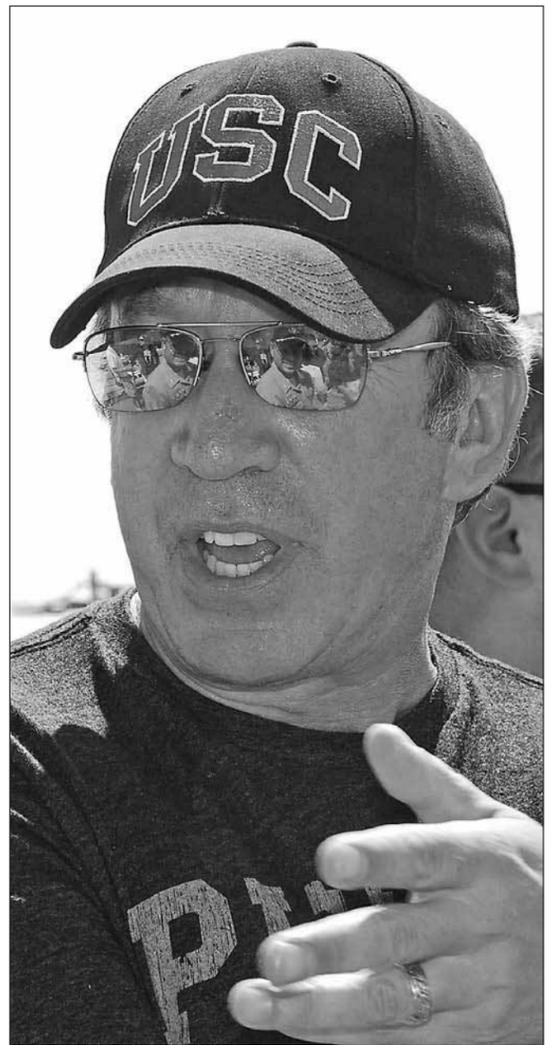
"When we were going into a dive, you could feel the whole ship at an angle. It was amazing," he explained.

He was admittedly impressed by the Sailors he met and what the Navy does.

"They are really good people," Allen commented. "All of us that are on this tour are very proud of all of what you guys do ... Thanks for all you do!"



Tim Allen, known for his role in the sitcom Home Improvement and voice of Buzz Lightyear in the Toy Story series, takes time out to sign a copy of Toy Story for Chief Fire Controlman (SW) Brandon Wackerly on the USS Stout.



Comedian, actor, voice-over artist and entertainer, Tim Allen, talks with Cmdr. Mark J. Oberley, commanding officer of guided missile destroyer USS Stout (DDG 55), July 22. Allen took a tour of the vessel with family and friends and then toured the nuclear powered submarine USS Scranton (SSN 756).

NEX introduces Military Star® Card uniform payment plan for CPO selects

PRESS RELEASE
Navy Exchange Services
Command Public Affairs

Chief Petty Officer (CPO) selectees now have an additional deferred payment plan option available to them when purchasing new uniforms at their NEX. The NEX has created a CPO (Sel.) Uniform Payment Plan through the Military Star® Card, which will allow CPO Selectees to charge their new required CPO uniforms to their Military Star Card. The Military Star® Card CPO (Sel.) Uniform Payment Plan can only be used at NEX Uniform Stores.

"We were looking for a way to make purchasing new Chief uniforms easier for our CPO selectees," said Capt. Ed Spillman, Navy Exchange Service Command's (NEXCOM) Deputy Commander, Military Services. "With the creation of the Military Star® Card CPO (Sel.) Uniform Payment Plan, CPO Selectees can walk up to the cash register with their uniform purchases and charge them just like they would anything else in the NEX. It's quick and easy and eliminates the need for the CPO selectee to fill out paperwork."

The new Military Star® Card CPO (Sel.) Uniform Payment Plan provides zero percent interest for 12 months with no minimum purchase amount. However, min-

imum monthly payments are required. Customers who open a Military Star® Card account will receive 10 percent off their first day's purchases, including a uniform purchase. The 10 percent discount is applied to the customer's Military Star® Card statement.

Become a Facebook fan and follow the NEX on Twitter.

ROLLING THUNDER: Bikers bring smiles to kids

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Cozza. "This was a nice change for both of us, and it was a great way to get Caroline to smile again.

"It's nice to get a gift, but it's nicer to see the faces and smiles of the people who come with it," she continued.

NMCP American Red Cross chairperson Charlotte Beard said collaborating with the motorcycle groups has been a great part of a great cause.

"Most of them are veterans of the Vietnam War," said Beard. "They selflessly give back to the children of their fellow veterans, collecting money and toys to give to them with the single hope of bringing a smile to a sick child's face. They are great tough-love, soft-hearted men and women."

Rolling Thunder traditionally visits NMCP twice a year. In addition to "Christmas in July", they also come for "Operation Bright Light"



Photo by MC2 Riza Caparras

Rear Adm. Alton L. Stocks, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth's commander, Santa Rick and members of Rolling Thunder and the American Legion look over the cart of toys to be distributed to children in the Pediatric Ward, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and the Emergency Room, July 18, during the 10th Annual Christmas in July.

in December. The bikers travel from various cities across the state, some more than one hundred miles away, and gather at Bayside Harley Davidson in Portsmouth before caravanning together to the medi-

cal facility to visit the children. Any toys and stuffed animals not given out during the Rolling Thunder visits are donated to the Pediatric Ward to give to patients throughout the year.

Natalie Stovall and Safety Suit rock the USS Nassau

BY MCSN (SW/AW)
JONATHAN PANKAU

USS Nassau Public Affairs

USS NASSAU, At Sea — Navy Entertainment and USS Nassau (LHA 4) hosted Natalie Stovall and Safety Suit on the last stop of their tour of military installations overseas.

Natalie Stovall, a fiddle-playing country singer and Safety Suit, an alternative rock band who climbed to the number one spot on VH1's Top 20 Countdown, performed aboard Nassau, toured the ship and signed autographs during their visit.

"I don't think we've ever played a cooler venue than overlooking the Flight Deck of a Navy warship surrounded by the ocean," said Safety Suit's lead singer Doug Brown. "While we were touring with 3 Doors Down they told us that the most important thing is to take time out of our schedules to support the military. Playing on the huge Flight Deck with three Harriers facing us really put the military's hard work and effort into perspective."

Stovall was very impressed with the set up as well. USS Nassau's Commanding Officer Capt. Ronald Reis explained to her how the ship's AV-8B Harriers from the Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162 (VMM-162) Golden Eagles (REIN.) take off from the flight deck.

"After he was done I asked him why the jets and helicopters were facing the opposite direction," said Stovall. "He said it was so we had something awesome to look at while we performed. I was really choked up by that because we came out to play for you guys, who sacrifice everything for our country and you still take the time to do little things like reposition Harriers and Ospreys to let us know how much you appreciate us too."

Stovall and Safety Suit were all in agreement that the military venues they played brought out the



Zachary Morse (L) and Natalie Stovall perform for the crew of USS Nassau (LHA 4) during a Navy Entertainment concert tour.

best crowds. They added that they're always so excited to play for the military because there is so much energy coming from the crowd.

"When Stovall played 'The Devil Went Down to Georgia' I just had to get up and line dance," said Marine Cpl. Travis Cruse, from La Vista, Neb.

Presentations were set up all around the ship for the guests, including a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP) and a weapons demonstration.

"I was impressed at how approachable the rock stars were," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handler) 1st Class (AW/SW) Jeremy Wilson, from Cleveland. "One of the guitarists from Safety Suit even wrestled around with the Marines doing the MCMAP demonstration. You could tell they really wanted to be here and they supported everything we do."

The Navy Entertainment Presents Safety Suit and Natalie Stovall Tour visited 30 bases in the United States and five overseas.

Natalie Stovall and Safety Suit can be found on Twitter, Facebook,

Myspace, and at www.safetysuitmusic.com and www.nataliestovall.com.

The Nassau Amphibious Ready Group (NAS ARG)/ 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) is currently supporting Maritime Security Operations (MSO) and Theater Se-

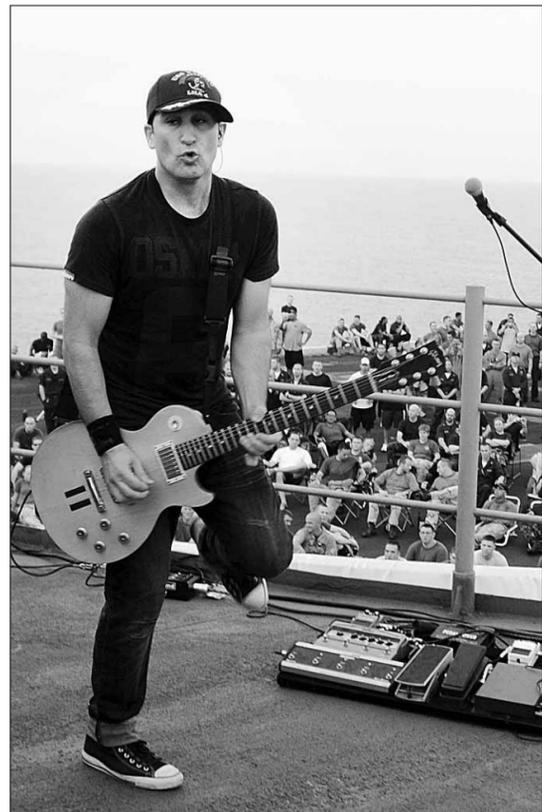


Doug Brown, lead singer of Safety Suit, performs for the crew of USS Nassau (LHA 4) during a Navy Entertainment concert tour.

curity Cooperation (TSC) Operations in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

NAS ARG is comprised of ships from Amphibious Squadron Eight (PHIBRON 8) including the Tarawa-class multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Nassau (LHA 4), the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock USS Mesa Verde (LPD 19) and the Whidbey Island-class amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland (LSD 48). Marines from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (24 MEU) complete the group.

Photos by MC2 Patrick Gordon



Dave Garofalo, of the band Safety Suit, performs for the crew of USS Nassau (LHA 4) during a Navy Entertainment concert tour.