

SEABEE COURIER

Vol. 1 No. 6

Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi

March 22, 2018

NCBC Seabee Memorial Base Chapel Lends A Hand

By Ryan Labadens
NCBC Public Affairs

For some people, budgets can get a little tight between paychecks, and even spending money on the basic necessities can put a strain on the finances. The Seabee Memorial Chapel provides service members and their families an opportunity to relieve some of those financial burdens by offering basic food items through the chapel's food pantry. According to Religious Program Specialist Seaman Apprentice Jacob Bechtel, the food pantry program is available to service members ranked E-6 and below. Those who meet the qualifications can pick out food items at the pantry once every two weeks, allowing time for the pantry to be restocked and for other "in need" service members to use this service. "It's meant for people who really need it," said Bechtel about the food pantry. "So, for example, let's say you have a young married Sailor with three kids, someone like that would take priority, of course."

The pantry stocks basic food items such as canned goods and vegetables, cereals and other non-perishable items, but it also stocks perishable items such as meats and cheeses as they receive them through donations. "Typically, meats are the hardest items to come by and the ones that tend to go the quickest because those are what usually cost the most at the grocery, so those are always needed," said Bechtel.

Bechtel said that people who would like to make contributions of food items to the pantry are more than welcome to do so. He also mentioned that the chapel will even send out requests during various holiday seasons for special food items, like turkeys for Thanksgiving, so that people who want to make donations can have a better idea of what might be requested for the pantry at that time. Father Paddy Mockler, a contract Catholic chaplain at NCBC Gulfport, said the food pantry program has been in place for more than 10 years. He noted that the chapel was more than happy to be able to provide this type of service to help others with a tangible need.

"When people come looking for help, it's nice to have a very practical way to be able to do so and to be able to say 'Look, if you need food, we have it,'" said Mockler. "It's a very good service that the chapel has been able to provide for the people, and we enjoy helping out however we can."

People who want to find out if they can use the pantry or to make food donations can call the Seabee Memorial Chapel at 228-871-2454.



Religious Program Specialist Seaman Apprentice Jacob Bechtel restocks the food pantry Mar. 7, at the Seabee Memorial Chapel aboard NCBC Gulfport, Miss. The food pantry is available to enlisted Sailors E-6 and below who may need basic food items they normally might not be able to afford. (U.S. Navy photo by Ryan Labadens/ Released)

Saturday, March 31
Breakfast & with the Bunny
8-9:30a Breakfast at The Galley
Purchase Tickets by 3/24
FREE LAST CHANCE FOR BREAKFAST TICKETS!
Online at navymwrgulfport.com/myFFR Parking on the Grinder or at Community Recreation
Tickets & Travel, Bldg 365
Ages 0-5 Free
E1-E4 & Family \$2.60
First 200 FREE! - Ticket Required
All Others \$3.45
Fields for Ages:
 0-2 3-4 5-6 7-9 10-12
 Sponsored in part by:
USO SOUTH MISSISSIPPI smiles
 Questions? Call 228-871-2323
 The Department of the Navy does not endorse any company, sponsor or their products or services.

NCBC

Commanding Officer

Capt. William Whitmire

Public Affairs Officer

Brian Lamar

Assistant PAO

Ryan Labadens

Courier Staff

MCC Rosalie Chang

BU2 Susan Johnston

CE2 Alyssa Ware

The Seabee Courier is an authorized on-line publication for members of the military services and their families. Content does not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the DoD or the U.S. Navy and does not imply endorsement thereof. All content in this newspaper shall be made available for use without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. The Seabee Courier office is in Building 1, Room 205. The mailing address is 4902 Marvin Shields Blvd., Code N00P, Gulfport, MS 39501. Phone, 228-871-3662.

Naval Construction Battalion Center Welcomes New Captain

By BU2 Susan Johnston
NCBC Public Affairs

The Naval Health Branch Clinic, Gulfport celebrated a milestone accomplishment 3 March in the Naval Construction Battalion Center Training Hall during a ceremony to promote Cmdr. Timothy Thompson to Captain. Capt. Thompson began his 24 year career as a Hospital Corpsman at Naval Hospital Great Lakes, Ill.

With four years active duty service and two years attached to a Reserve Unit, he was honorably discharged in 1995. In pursuit of a continued pharmacy career, he attending college in South Carolina. Three years later, with heavy encouragement from the school's dean, he was encouraged to return to the armed forces through the commissioning program. Thompson was awarded the Navy's Health Service Collegiate Program Scholarship and earned his Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from Campbell University.

During his 18 years as a Commissioned Officer, he has worked at Portsmouth, Va., Norfolk, Va., Great Lakes, Ill., Pensacola, Fla., Cherry Point, N.C., Kabul, Afghanistan, Fort Belvoir, Va., and serves currently at the Naval Health Branch Clinic, Gulfport, Miss.

During an emotionally-charged ceremony, Thompson was supported by many family members as he received his new rank. His sister, Command Master Chief Latricia Robinson, had the honor of being the Master of Ceremonies. Thompson's two of seven children, Jayden Thompson and Jadah Lofton, recited the National Anthem. His wife, Tajh-Marie Thompson, parents, Ivory and Bernetta Thompson, and three other children, Taahirah, Logan, and Teghan also attended the ceremony. Tim and Heaven, Thomp-



Family members place new rank insignia on Thompson's shoulders. (U.S. Navy photo by BU2 Susan Johnston/Released)

son's other two children, were unable to attend.

Retired Capt. David Price, Thompson's mentor and colleague, officiated the promotion. According to Price, he knew Thompson would do great things and he gave him opportunities to be successful, but it was Thompson that took those opportunities and made himself successful.

Thompson gratefully and gave a shout out to his family and his mentor, Price, for all the devotion and support that had helped him get where he is today. He thanked his son for stepping up and being the man of the house

when he needed to. His sister, as a Command Master Chief, had taught him a great deal about leadership. He thanked his wife for being a large supporter and an influence that helped him get where he is today as the family followed him throughout his career. With over 24 years of service to the Navy, Thompson wishes to influence junior sailors and encourage them to set their sights high because he never believed he would be where he is today. He stated, "The unbelievable is believable and the unachievable is achievable."

