

# THE MIRROR NS MAYPORT, FLORIDA

2002 CHINFO Award Winner

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THURSDAY, January 10, 2008

## OFF THE DECK

### New Main Gate Traffic Pattern

Naval Station Mayport's Main Gate is open again – sort of.

Construction still is underway on the gate for the next few weeks. To accommodate the work, the gate may have to close for hours at a time which will change inbound/outbound traffic back to the Edwards Avenue gate, according to a Security message. It is expected that the traffic patterns through the gate will change on a daily basis. Traffic congestion will still be a concern during this period.

To continue to alleviate the congestion during the construction, Hanna Parka and Seminole Gate will remain open for inbound traffic from 5-8 a.m. and outbound traffic 3-5 p.m., Monday-Friday and closed weekends and holidays.

Personnel traveling from Wonderwood Expressway or working on the aviation side of the base are encouraged to use Gate 5 off SRA1A which is open to inbound/outbound traffic from 5 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday and closed weekends and holidays.

### Keep Your New Year Resolutions

Want to get started with your resolution to eat healthy and exercise? MWR Post Holiday Meltdown can give you a kick in the right direction.

Post holiday Meltdown held every year after the holidays. Experience several venues of group exercise and meet all the instructors. You can burn all those extra calories in one longer than usual, butt kickin' class. Space available at Surfside and all are welcomed at the gym. The first meltdown will be held at Surfside Fitness Center on Jan. 30 at 4:30 p.m. until last man standing. The next meltdown will be Feb. 1 at Gym on Court 2 A and B from 6-8 a.m.

### MWR Has Tiny Tigers Karate Class

MWR Mayport is offering a new children's program in 2008. Tiny Tigers Karate for ages 3-5 begins in January at the Youth Activities Center. Cost is \$30 per child, per month. Class meets on Tuesdays from 6:15-7 p.m. Call 270-5680/5421.

Single Sailors can take a trip to the snow covered slopes of North Carolina for a weekend of skiing or snowboarding Jan. 25-27. Cost is \$110. Call Planet Mayport Single Sailor Center at 270-7788/7789.

### Housing Decorating Contest Winners

Winners of the base housing decorating contest for 2007 were: First place - Guy and Amy Kuhl on England Street, Second place - Christian and Dawn Detje on Oregon City Street and Russell Lang on England Street. Winners received a turkey and additional prizes from the USO.

## In The 'Dog House'

# Mayport Awarded Kennel Of Year



Photo courtesy of MC3 Patrick Cook  
Military Working Dog Handlers aboard Naval Station Mayport are given the Navy Region Southeast 2007 Kennel of the Year award during a presentation on base. The award promotes camaraderie and competition among the region's 10 kennels and is given to the Sailors who maintain their dogs at the highest level.

By MC3 Patrick Cook  
Fleet Public Affairs Center Detachment Southeast

A division of Naval Station Mayport's security department – Military Working Dogs (MWD) – received the Navy Region Southeast's 2007 Kennel of the Year award during a presentation at Mayport in December.

Instituted in 2005, the program began as way to encourage camaraderie as well as a keen sense of competition among the region's 10 kennels. Receiving the award recognizes Mayport as being the front runner for 2007.

"I have kennels asking me all the time, 'what do we need to do to achieve this award?' and I tell them excel, push your dogs, get your dogs where they need to be and maintain them at that level," said J.R. Prevatte, the regional canine coordinator. "They really put forth the effort here and this was the region's way of recognizing that effort." The Master-at-Arms (MA)

that handle the dogs laid the foundation for the award by leading the way in both utilization and training, often doubling the instructed times required.

"This is a direct reflection of how are teams are doing both here and deployed," said MA Petty Officer 1st Class Allan McGathey. "We're constantly trying to improve the base's anti-terrorism force protection policy and the military working dogs are doing an outstanding job in helping us achieve that."

MWD, along with their handlers from every military service, are deployed worldwide to support the war on terror, helping to safeguard military bases and activities and to detect narcotics and explosives ordnances before they can inflict harm.

"We're doing an excellent job, we'll continue to do an excellent job and we will take home the Kennel of the Year again," said McGathey.

## Mayport Rescues Stranded Manatee

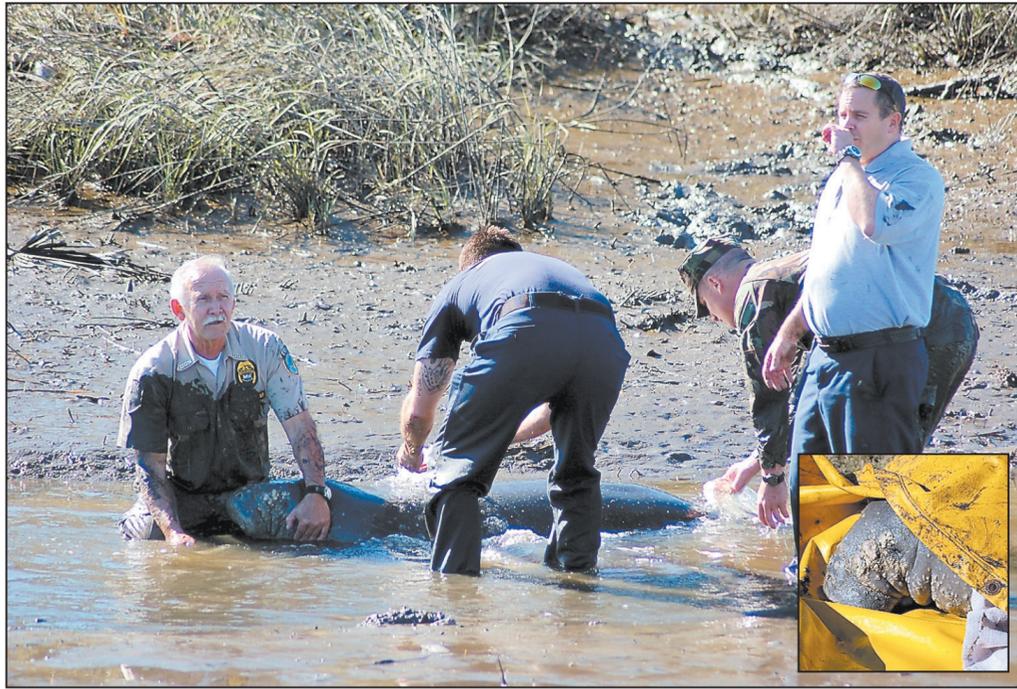


Photo by MC3 Bonnie Williams

NS Mayport Wildlife Officer Art Burt and volunteers from the Mayport Fire & Rescue and Security attempt to rescue a stranded young manatee from Sherman Creek on Perimeter Road at Mayport on Jan. 7. Burt said he was driving on Patrol Road when a pedestrian flagged him down about the manatee. Mayport Security and Fire and Emergency Services were called in to aid in the recovery. The Florida Wildlife Commission, along with several other local agencies, assisted Mayport in transporting it down to Sea World in Orlando. Although the young mammal suffered severe hypothermia, it was expected to live, Burt said. "It's not normal for a manatee to be this far North. It should be down near hot water springs in Southern Florida," said Burt. Inset, the manatee is wrapped in blankets to keep it warm while waiting for representatives from Florida Wildlife Commission.

# Doyle Crew Welcomes Zuzich As New Skipper

By Ensign Jason Bilbro  
USS Doyle PAO

On Jan. 4, the crew of USS Doyle (FFG 39) gathered on the flight deck, along with friends and distinguished guests, as Cmdr. Michael Elliott turned over command of Doyle to Cmdr. John Zuzich, the ship's 15th commanding officer.

Commodore Thomas L. Reese, Commander, Destroyer Squadron 14 was the guest speaker for the event. Reese spoke highly of Elliott's accomplishments during his tour as commanding officer, praising his "innovative leadership," and wishing him great success in his following tour.

Elliott leaves Doyle in Zuzich's capable hands, following a highly successful deployment to West Africa and the Gulf of Guinea.

A native of Mt. Arlington, New Jersey, Zuzich graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1990, at which time he left to serve



Cmdr. Michael Elliott



Cmdr. John Zuzich

Zuzich completed a tour as commanding officer, USS Sentry (MCM 3), participating in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom in the U.S. Sixth Fleet Area of Operations.

Ashore, Zuzich served as a strategic planner for the United States Transportation Command. He has also served as the Operational Test and Evaluation Force's lead test director for the TOMAHAWK Missile System and Theater Mission Planning System.

Elliott's next duty station is with COMNAVSURFPAC N3.

# NAVSO Agent Work 'Superior'

By MC3 Alan Gragg

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command Public Affairs

Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Special Agent Daniel Gilbride received the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award at U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO) Headquarters Dec. 19.

NAVSO Commander, Rear Adm. James W. Stevenson Jr., presented Gilbride with the award on behalf of Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter during a short ceremony and citation.

Gilbride received the award for his outstanding work as the NCIS Liaison to NAVSO from December 2006 to January 2008. Gilbride was cited as having "excelled during his tenure, far exceeding command expectations concerning criminal investigative, counterterrorism and counter-intelligence support."

"Special Agent Gilbride's contributions to the safety and security are immeasurable,"

said Stevenson. "I am pleased to be able to give this small thanks to him on behalf of the U.S. Navy."

Gilbride participated in numerous force protection detachments' site surveys throughout NAVSO's area of focus, providing over 40 counter-intelligence and counter-terrorism updates to the staff while liaising with national and international agencies in support of NAVSO's mission.

He coordinated NCIS support for the 2007 multi-national Partnership of the Americas deployment, USNS Comfort (T-AH 020) humanitarian assistance deployment and the Global Fleet Station deployment.

Gilbride represented NAVSO at the highest national levels during multiple high-profile counter-terrorism investigations, and provided expert coordination between the command

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# CO Column

It's back to work after a terrific holiday season at Naval Station Mayport. I look forward to a great 2008 with all of you. There are a lot of exciting things in our futures and everyone on this base continues to make it better and better.

On a very sad note, it is with great sorrow that we say farewell to a shipmate from HSL-44 who we lost over the holidays. Please join me sending our thoughts and best wishes to his squadron, friends and family.

Welcome home to USS Gettysburg and HSL-42 Detachment Nine Sailors who returned from a six-month Arabian Gulf deployment Dec. 19. Gettysburg was deployed with USS Enterprise Carrier Strike Group as the Air Defense Commander. During its deployment, the ship supported Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and conducted Maritime Security Operations in the region.



**Capt. Aaron Bowman**

Welcome home to USS De Wert and HSL-60 Detachment One Sailors who returned from deployment Dec. 21. De Wert was deployed as an element of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command theater security cooperation efforts to promote relationships between the United States and nations around the region.

Thank you for putting up with

the closure of the Main Gate during the holidays. We will continue to reroute traffic from one lane to another during the next several months but we got the hard stuff out of the way with the total closure during the last four weeks. Once completed, the gate will give our security protection from nature as well as from threats from outside the gate. I think you will all agree with me that when you drive into Mayport, the professionalism, friendliness and concern our security gives us here far exceeds anything else in DoD. If you agree with me, tell the gate guard next time you drive in.

Last week we said farewell to an integral part of Mayport's family, Command Chaplain Cmdr. Phillip Wyrick. He joined the Mayport team in 2005 and provided unbelievable support to our Sailors in and out of his capacity as command chaplain. He will be missed and we wish

him fair winds and following seas.

Congratulations to Naval Criminal Investigative Service Special Agent Daniel Gilbride for receiving the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award at U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command headquarters on Dec. 19. Gilbride received the award for his outstanding work as the NCIS Liaison to NAVSO from December 2006 to January 2008.

Congratulations also goes out to Mayport's Military Working Dog division at Security for receiving the Navy Region Southeast's 2007 Kennel of the Year award on Dec. 17. It's a testament to the dedication and hard work of Mayport's Master-at-Arms and their military working dogs here and deployed.

Naval Station Mayport has gone above and beyond in last year's Combined Federal Campaign giving. At last count, the base was at 103 percent of

goal with more contributions still coming in.

We are a very large piece of the contributions that allowed Southeast Region to meet its goal. I am so proud of everyone who gave and I encourage everyone to keep up this kind of support again for 2008.

Congratulations to USS Robert G. Bradley for winning the holiday ship-lighting contest held Dec. 20. Participating ships competed to win bragging rights for the best decorated ship in the basin.

Myself, my wife, CMDCM Deborah Davidson, Santa Claus, USO representatives Wendy Pollack and Joyce Schellhorn, as well as reporter Casey Black, served as judges and spent the evening making a tour of the ships via one of Mayport's fire trucks.

The event turned out to be fantastic. Thanks to CMC for all her hard work in organizing the contest and of course every ship

for spending the hours making the basin look spectacular.

If you didn't get a chance to drive around Navy housing at night during the holidays, the decorations were fantastic. Hull Technician 1st Class Guy and Amy Kuhl took first place in the home decorating contest. The Detje family came in second and the Lang family came in third. Congratulations and thanks for making Mayport beautiful.

I want to thank everyone for the hard work and support you bring to work each day. Your efforts never go unnoticed. Let's have a great and safe 2008 together and keep those suggestions coming. Your concerns are my concerns. Call me at 270-5201 or email me at aaron.bowman@navy.mil.

# Fleet Talk

**By FORCM Jeff Garrison**  
*COMSUBFOR Force Master Chief*

Welcome back from the holidays Shipmates. I trust that each one of you had a joyous and safe holiday standdown with family, friends and Shipmates. Just as each one of you are preparing for new goals and resolutions in your personal lives for 2008, our great Navy will be no different.

We enjoyed many successes, overcame obstacles, and faced new challenges on a daily basis in 2007. We should expect no different from 2008. We did it with highly trained and highly motivated Sailors on carrier flight decks, engine rooms and on the ground in some of the world's most dangerous places.

I am continually amazed and inspired by the quality of men and women serving in uniform today. Your dedication to our country and the selfless sacrifices you make each day are what makes us the greatest Navy in the world.

We had an outstanding year in

2007. Our retention efforts have paid off. The deckplate leadership applied, in our effort to retain talent, has clearly made a difference. We continue working toward a steady state-force of approximately 322,000 active duty and 67,000 selected reserve component Sailors by the end of FY09. We will be a much different looking type of Navy with higher demands and ever changing missions. We must now focus on retention of the right Sailors, at the right place and time. NAVADMIN 332/07 discusses our FY08 retention goals and how we will craft our Navy to achieve our future.

Our leadership teams must continue to engage at all levels. Semi-annual professional development boards are not the only way to reach our Sailors, nor should they be. Nothing takes the place of deckplate leadership. From the moment you receive orders on that new Sailor, even before he/she crosses your quarterdeck, the professional development

board begins. LPOs and LCPOs should be mentoring their Sailors daily on the numerous opportunities the Navy can provide them. Medical, dental, thrift savings plan and education don't even scratch the surface of the many opportunities for our Sailors and their families.

Let's face it, most of us don't come to work everyday because we get outstanding pay, or we get three square meals a day, or that we have the opportunity to go to sea and fight the ship. What keeps us coming back is our job satisfaction. We must ensure that our men and women understand the purpose of what they do for our country everyday. From the signalman to the machinery room watch to the food service attendant, we all play a critical role in the mission of that unit. We owe it to our Sailors to promote and create a work environment that treats each Sailor with dignity and respect.

Another area we will closely monitor in 2008 will be our

attrition. Each year our Navy loses talented personnel. Some of these Sailors have the training, knowledge and capabilities that make them a valued member of our team. Command involvement is the key to prevent our young Sailors from making career ending actions or decisions. There is no greater impact on our Sailors than our Chief Petty Officers. As Chief Petty Officer's, we must never forget that our focus should always be centered around the personal and professional development of our Sailors we are entrusted to lead everyday.

A welcome aboard letter, Fleet and Family Support Center relocation information packet and a phone call from the sponsor sure go a long way in preparing that young Sailor for his first duty station. Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes does a remarkable job instilling pride, professionalism and a sense of purpose in our new Sailors. Initiatives like the report card system that subma-

rine school in Groton, Ct. does not only allows a gaining command to look at the academic accomplishments of their new Sailor, but also allows them to identify early any potential personnel concerns that might place them in a high risk category.

Alcohol related incidents remained constant in 2007 with an average of 126 DUI's each month Navy wide. I think we can do much better. These incidents not only place additional burdens on your fellow shipmates and command leadership, they degrade mission readiness. I challenge each command to have one less DUI/ARI in 2008.

It is important that all hands remain focused throughout 2008 on suicide prevention. This is not just a command leadership issue. It is about being a shipmate. According to Navy statistics, suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death among our active duty Sailors. Remember the warning signs which include but are not limited to depres-

sion, substance abuse, talk of suicide, relationship difficulties, isolation and impulsive behavior. Every Sailor should know these warning signs and be ready to take action immediately. COMPACFLT message DTG 111819Z DEC 07 refers to the acronym AID LIFE which can help every Sailor remember the actions to take if you suspect a shipmate may be in danger.

Each one of you make up the greatest Navy the world has ever known. We rely upon one another day in and day out and we share a common bond as shipmates that no one can break. No one else in the world has the same amount of camaraderie, trust or concern for one another than United States Sailors. Our priorities should be Ship, Shipmate and Self.

Stay safe and have a great year.

# CREDO Corner

**By Lt. Rickey Bennett,**  
**USN, CHC**

*Spiritual Fitness Division SE*

A recent experience that happened to me came to mind as I listened to a message. A couple weeks ago, I was leading a group of doctors in a low-ropes team building process. Towards the end of the day the doctors were participating in a challenging event called, Mohawk Trail. This challenge consists of a group of nine trees in a semi-circle formation that has a two-inch thick cable tightly running through each tree about two feet off the ground. The object is for all to walk across the cable without falling onto the ground. If one member falls off everyone has to start over. After a

brief time of strategizing they were instructed to begin.

So they began to execute their team's plan and about five minutes into it their entire team was on the cable. The three frontrunners had just reached the halfway point, which is one of the most difficult stretches. I was standing about 10 yards away from the leaders. I heard an unmistakable cracking sound, which I immediately dismissed as my imagination but I instinctively turned my face toward the sound. The sound came from the direction of the tree that these three doctors were embracing. My eyes caught the portion of the tree above the cable slipping slightly downward over the lower por-

tion. It all seemed so surreal. I looked up to the top of the tree and this time what was to take place was blatantly clear. The top of this 40-foot tree was clearly and quickly falling.

I immediately rushed to the base of the tree, which was falling and positioned myself on the opposite side of the tree in which it was falling. I placed my hands on the tree and yelled at the top of my lungs, "IT IS FALLING!" Two other people yelled, "RUN!" Everyone cleared the area except one doctor who had indeed started running but was running in the path the tree was falling. I felt completely helpless as I watched the tree come perilously close to the running doctor. He had

heard the warning, heeding the call to run, but in the heat of the emergency did not ascertain the safe path. What seemed like at the very last instant, he leapt to the right and tree crashed to the ground sending earthquake reverberations in our little spot on God's earth.

When it was all over, no one was physically hurt, not even a splinter. As is the case for all the events we do, a debriefing was in order, but it took some time for us to calm down. I conversed with the last doctor who barely escaped. I asked him, "What were you thinking when you heard the warning?"

He said, "I just have to get out of here."

When asked, "How did you

know to change the direction you were running?"

He replied, "I saw that I was running on the shadow of the tree that was falling."

Before hearing Pastor Joe's message, I had chalked this up to a very unusual experience and filled it in the box classified as a close call that could have been a lot worse. Just as the participants were oblivious to the seriousness of the tree falling so humanity is blind to the moral judgment. Just as the facilitator initially hesitated in delivering the warning, Christians have the moral obligation and divine mandate to tell others of the coming danger. Just as the doctor who was running in the wrong direction, so we seek our

own way that we believe leads to life but in fact it will result in certain death. Just as the doctor who was running in the path of the falling tree would have continued in that same direction if left to his own impulses, so we without God's grace are unable to choose anything but sin. Just as the doctor who was able to escape being crushed by the tree only because he saw the shadow made by the light of the sun, so we are able to see the grossness of our sin and escape the wrath of God's judgment all because of the brilliant perfect righteousness of His Son that shines in our hearts.

## Navy College Tests For Language Ability

*From Navy College Office*

The Navy College Office, located in Building 460, is currently offering the Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB) and Defense Language Proficiency Tests (DLPT).

Testing days for both the DLAB and DLPT exams will be held on the second, third and

fourth Thursday of each month.

There is no cost for active duty Sailors for either exam. Exams must be ordered in advance.

Please call the Navy College Office at 270-6341 to order your test or to request additional information regarding DLAB or DLPT testing.

## ASVAB Prep Classes Available At NCLC

*From NCLC*

It takes only 10 days to get a better score on standardized tests with Navy College Learning Center.

NCLC is offering ASVAB and SAT/ACT prep classes from Jan. 22-Feb. 1, Feb. 4-15.

The programs in math, English and reaching help increase scores. The classes improve career growth through improved test-taking skills. Course completion meets the

requirements for retaking the ASVAB.

Seating is limited and reserved on a "first come" basis. No-cost TAD orders are required and you must be referred by a career counselor. Any absences must be approved by command in advance. NCLC is open from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Thursday. For more information call 270-7814 or email mayportnclc@plato.com.

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-Photo by HN Leeann Lowman

New dad and mom Boatswain's Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Brandon and Lelia Gallardo hold one-day-old Alyssa Marie as Naval Hospital Jacksonville Commanding Officer, Capt. Raquel Bono, and Tanyia Williams of the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society pay them a visit in the hospital's Maternal Infant Unit.

## McInerney Sailor Has First Babe In 2008

By Loren Barnes

Naval Hospital Jacksonville Public Affairs

Newborn Alyssa Marie Gallardo kept her mom, Lelia, and dad, Boatswain's Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Brandon Gallardo up into the wee hours New Years Eve, arriving only 57 minutes into New Years Day 2008. The wait was definitely worth it though. Perfectly healthy and measuring 7 pounds and 1 ounce at 19 inches, she captivated all her visitors and hospital staff.

This included Capt. Raquel Bono, the hospital commanding officer and Tanyia Williams, of the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS). Bono and Williams were on hand Wednesday to present mom and dad with gifts for their first born. Bono presented a special citation officially designating Alyssa as the hospital's first delivery of the year. She also gave them a \$50 gift card provided by the NAS Jacksonville Navy Exchange. Williams gave Alyssa her "First Seabag" filled

with a blanket and other baby items from the NMCRS.

Alyssa was delivered by Family Medicine Physician Lt. Sonya Brock and she and her parents received excellent care from the hospital's Labor and Delivery and Maternal Infant Unit (MIU) staff. The hospital staff, on average, delivers about 1,200 babies each year and baby Alyssa gets them off to a terrific start.

Lelia commented that "everyone has been very nice and very helpful."

She said such support is especially important as this is her first baby. She added that they have been taking advantage of the MIU's laptops and e-mail services to alert relatives of the new arrival, e-mails complete with digital photos. She said this is very exciting for their parents as this is the first grandchild for both sides of the family. Lelia is from Brunswick, Ga. the daughter of BJ and Bobby Powell, and Brandon is from the state of Washington,

the son of Brian Gallardo and Shelley King.

Brian serves aboard the USS McInerney (FFG 8), homeported at Naval Station Mayport. He commented that he was very happy that he was able to be here for Alyssa's birth, noting that he is set to deploy later this year.

## Volpe Receives SNA Arleigh Burke Award

By Lt.j.g. Andrew Bonderud  
USS Gettysburg PAO

Lt. Cmdr. Dennis J. Volpe was recently selected as one of two recipients of the Surface Navy Association's Arleigh Burke Award for Operational Excellence.

This prestigious honor is awarded annually to two junior surface warriors in the U.S. Navy between the pay grades of E-3 and E-7, W-2 and W-4, or O-1 and O-4. It recognizes superior achievement in the operational aspects of Surface Warfare by qualified Surface Warfare Officers and Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists.

Volpe graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1996 with a Bachelor of Science degree in History. After completing Surface Warfare Officer's school in Newport, Rhode Island, he reported to his first ship, USS Spruance (DD-963) in Mayport. He spent four years on board Spruance, serving as the Communications Officer, Training Officer, First Lieutenant, and Dry-Dock coordinator.

After detaching from Spruance, Volpe reported to the Professional Development Division of the United States Naval Academy as a Leadership Instructor. While teaching at the Academy, he also earned a Master of Science degree in Leadership and Human



-Photo courtesy of USS Gettysburg

Lt. Cmdr. Dennis Volpe was awarded a Navy Commendation Medal by USS Gettysburg Commanding Officer, Capt. Rich Brown, at the end of Gettysburg's 2007 Arabian Gulf deployment.

Resource Development from the Navy's Postgraduate School's LEAD Program.

Volpe returned to Mayport, where he reported to USS Gettysburg (CG 64) in October 2004. Since reporting to Gettysburg, he has served as the Weapons Officer (October 2004 - April 2006) and the Combat Systems Officer (April 2006 - December 2007).

In 2007, Volpe led Gettysburg's combat team through an arduous training cycle and certification period before the ship deployed with the Enterprise Carrier Strike Group to the Arabian Gulf. During this complex deployment, where Gettysburg served

as the strike group's Air Defense Commander, Volpe served as Tactical Action Officer in the ship's Combat Information Center, in addition to his duties as Combat Systems Officer and Senior Watch Officer.

Due to Volpe's leadership, Gettysburg had no major equipment degradations during the entire deployment, while supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Volpe will be presented his award at the Surface Navy Association's 2007 National Symposium, to be held in Washington, D.C. between Jan. 15 and 17. He will then report to the Naval War College.

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# USS De Wert Returns From Deployment

By Ensign Ashley Wykoff  
USS De Wert PAO

USS De Wert (FFG 45) steamed into Mayport basin and moored pier-side Dec. 21 while a sea of family members and friends waved American flags and sang along to "God Bless the U.S.A." to welcome home their Sailors after a long, but successful, five-month deployment.

The officers and crew of De Wert fruitfully and aggressively carried out their mission in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, tracking and pursuing drug-trafficking vessels, as well as enjoying port visits in several beautiful South American countries. The highlights of the deployment include a port visit to Cartagena, Columbia, passing through the Panama Canal, making history with a liquid cocaine bust, and hosting a reception for American ambassadors in Kingston, Jamaica.

De Wert anchored off the coast of Cartagena, Columbia, on July 31 and the officers and crew immediately began enjoying the first South American port visit of their CNT deployment. Two small liberty boats working nearly around the clock transported Sailors to the pier where eager drivers waited to carry De Wert personnel into the heart of their beautiful city.

Sailors spent the three-day port visit touring the historical "old city," the modernized "new city," and partaking in discounted MWR tours. MWR offered two highly-acclaimed tours for De Wert personnel. A scuba diving tour included a short boat ride to a nearby island where participants thoroughly enjoyed two dives, followed by a free lunch and time to relax in the shade in hammocks after spend-



A Welcome home banner hangs from the gang plank as USS De Wert (FFG 45) to pull pierside as the ship returns to NS Mayport on Dec. 21 after a five-month deployment.

-Photos by MC1 Sonja Chambers

ing nearly all day in the water. "The scuba diving tour was absolutely amazing; hopefully there are diving tours available at every port visit," said Pilot Lt. Cmdr. Kristen Bowden said. An all-inclusive beach tour included a two-hour boat ride

to a secluded beach. On the voyage to and from the beach, passengers could either relax in the air conditioned lower level of the boat, or receive a free dance lesson from native Colombian dancers in the open-air top deck. Upon arrival at the

beach, passengers were offered an unlimited amount of delicious food and beverages for their entire stay, as well as free use of kayak and snorkeling gear. Whether they spent the day lounging in beach chairs and playing beach volleyball or

swimming under the ocean with beautiful sea creatures, De Wert Sailors unanimously agreed that the MWR scuba and beach tours were money well spent.

In addition to relaxing and having fun, De Wert practiced Theater Security Cooperation

(TSC) in Columbia. The wardroom hosted a lunch for the Commanding Officer of the naval base in Cartagena and the Commanding Officer of Columbian ship A.R.C.

See De Wert, Page 5



Lt. Matt Richter, USS DeWert Operations Officer, stands with his wife, Tonya, and daughter, Katie, after returning to Mayport Dec. 21.



USS De Wert Sailors are greeted by friends and family members as they disembark the ship.



Chief Boatswain's Mate John Wilson's family waits on the pier for the ship to pull in after deployment. Pictured is Brianne and Travis, Iris, Kayla and Cherise.



Friends and family members wait impatiently for the ship to pull into the Mayport basin as it returns to homeport Dec. 21 from a five-month deployment in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.



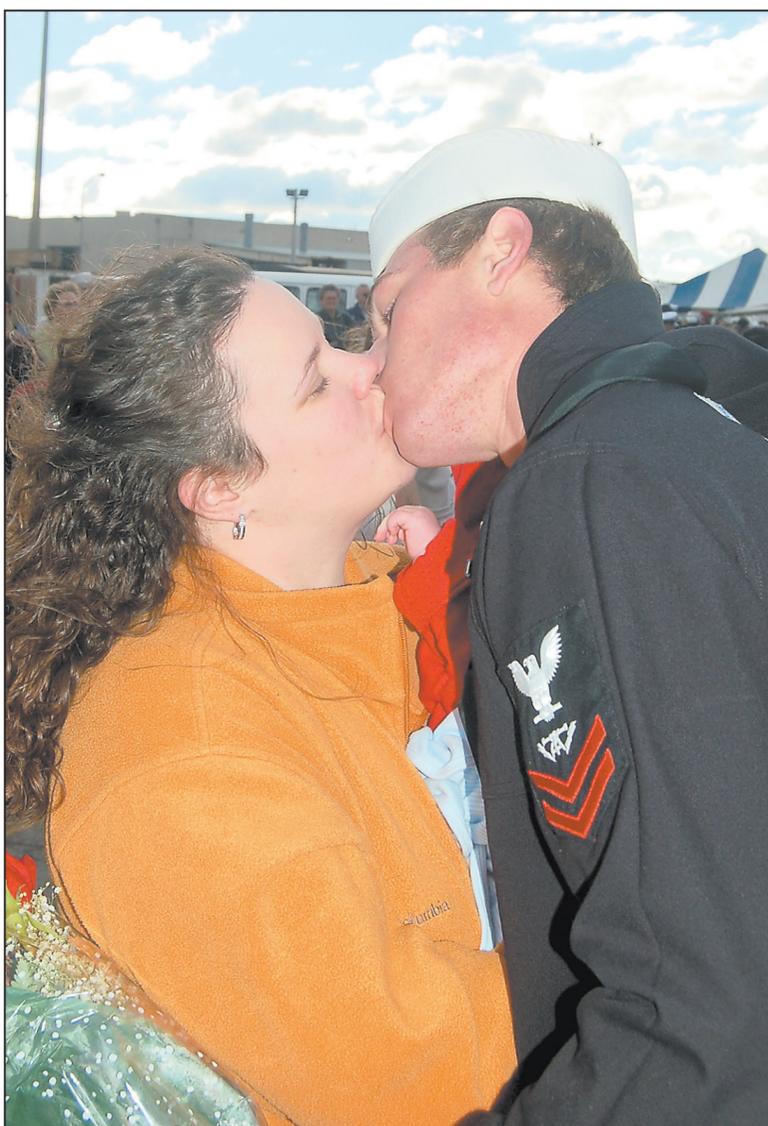
Friends and family members cheer as the ship pulls pierside.



Friends and family members hold up signs welcoming home their Sailors from a five-month deployment with USS De Wert.



USS De Wert Commanding Officer, Cmdr. William R. Campbell, is welcomed home by his family and the Boston Red Sox mascot.



FC2(SW) Justin Shelott kisses his wife, Theresa, for the traditional first kiss when USS DeWert pulled into Mayport Dec. 21.



New dad, GSESN Thomas Donnelly, sees his new five-week-old daughter Bayleigh for the first time after coming home to Mayport Dec. 21. New mom Shannon Donnelly holds the baby.

## De Wert

Almirante Padilla, and offered tours of the ship. De Wert officers and crew also took the time to educate Columbian Sailors on certain practices of the United States Navy. They received briefs on Replenishments at Sea (RAS) and Damage Control practices, and were even taught how to operate certain pieces of firefighting and dewatering equipment. Columbian Sailors also thoroughly enjoyed a tour of the SH-60B helicopter given by personnel from De Wert's air detachment and the opportunity to operate Night Vision Goggles (NVGs).

Although only a few weeks into their deployment, De Wert Sailors were rejuvenated by beautiful Cartagena and looked forward to passing through the Panama Canal to plunge into their counter-narco terrorism mission.

In the early morning hours of Aug. 5, De Wert emerged from the Panama Canal into the Eastern Pacific Ocean. Once through the Canal, De Wert remained busy and focused on catching and impeding the success of illegal drug-carrying vessels.

Their determination and dedication to the mission paid off: on Sept. 27, De Wert became the second U.S. Naval vessel in history to make a liquid cocaine drug bust. Upon receiving intelligence suggesting Columbian vessel Mar Pacifico possessed narcotics, De Wert covertly tracked and boarded the vessel via Unannounced Nighttime Boarding (UNB) in the early-morning hours of Sept. 26.

Members of De Wert's Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) team and Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) 104 searched the vessel for drugs for more than 24 hours. Their persistence earned great dividends. Despite desperate attempts by the fishing vessel to keep the drug hidden,

De Wert found approximately nine metric tons of liquid cocaine in a hidden 2,500-gallon fuel onboard the dilapidated vessel.

After a few more months of maintaining a threatening presence to criminals on the high seas and port visits to Panama, El Salvador, and a brief stop in Costa Rica, De Wert geared up to return home. Just after passing through the Panama Canal again on its way home, De Wert pulled into Kingston, Jamaica to host a highly-visible and extremely important reception for American ambassadors and various dignitaries in the country.

The sun shone brightly without a cloud in the sky as Culinary Specialists and Food Service Attendants, dressed smartly in crisp white shirts and black trousers, arranged trays of delicious hors d'oeuvres and beverages on the flight deck of De Wert on Dec. 10. The refreshing December breeze kept everyone in good spirits as the officers and crew set up for the reception and anticipated the arrival of the evening's guests, Brenda LaGrange Johnson, U. S. Ambassador to Jamaica, and her husband, Howard Johnson.

The first guest arrived at precisely 4 p.m., commencing a continuous stream of arrivals for the next half hour. Johnson and Mr. Johnson, stepped off the brow and onto De Wert's flight deck as Seaman(SW) Matthew Wilson, De Wert's Honors Boatswain's Mate, dressed smartly in his service dress whites and accompanied by eight side boys, piped her arrival. Others who attended the reception included His Excellency and Mrs. Denis Kingsley (High Commissioner of Canada), His Excellency and Mrs. Jurgen Engel (German Ambassador), His Excellency Mr. Jesus Silva (Spanish Ambassador), Her Excellency

Leonora Rueda (Mexican Ambassador), retired Rear Adm. Hardley Lewin (former Chief of Staff of the Jamaican Defense Force), Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wehrli (Consulate General), and Todd Schafer, Director of Programs and Resources for United States Southern Command, a member of the Senior Executive Service.

According to Ensign Zachary Yoffe, "The evening really put our mission in perspective and it was great to talk to some of the people who are completely in support of what we do. It's nice to be reminded that what we do while on deployment helps better their futures."

"It was a highly enjoyable evening under a perfect Jamaican sunset, and the opportunity to socialize with the Ambassadors of so many nations was extraordinary," Lt.j.g. Lauren Sonnelitter said.

Mr. Johnson and a few other guests also enjoyed a tour given by De Wert's Combat Systems Officer, Lt. Kris Kell.

"This ship and her crew are awe-inspiring!" Mr. Johnson said.

After the reception, De Wert quickly headed to Port Everglades, Fla., where it picked up "Tigers" (family members and friends of the officers and crew) for the two-day cruise to Mayport. The guests took tours of the ship's pilot house and engineering spaces, took turns shooting the 50-caliber gun mounted on the flight deck, and donned ear plugs with eyes gleaming to witness the firing of the MK 75 76-mm deck gun. The Tigers also thoroughly enjoyed a "Steel Beach Picnic" with hamburgers, hot dogs, and sodas, and movies shown each night on the flight deck.

Despite the fun and new experiences, the Tigers and Sailors alike were thrilled to return home just in time for the holidays.

## NOTICE

Due to production issues, photos and story from the return to homeport of USS Gettysburg on Dec. 19 will not be published in The Mirror until the Jan. 17 edition. The Mirror staff apologizes for the delay. Questions and comments can be directed to editor Paige Gnann at 270-7817 ext. 1012 or email [mayportmirror@comcast.net](mailto:mayportmirror@comcast.net).

# NS Mayport Celebrates The Holidays

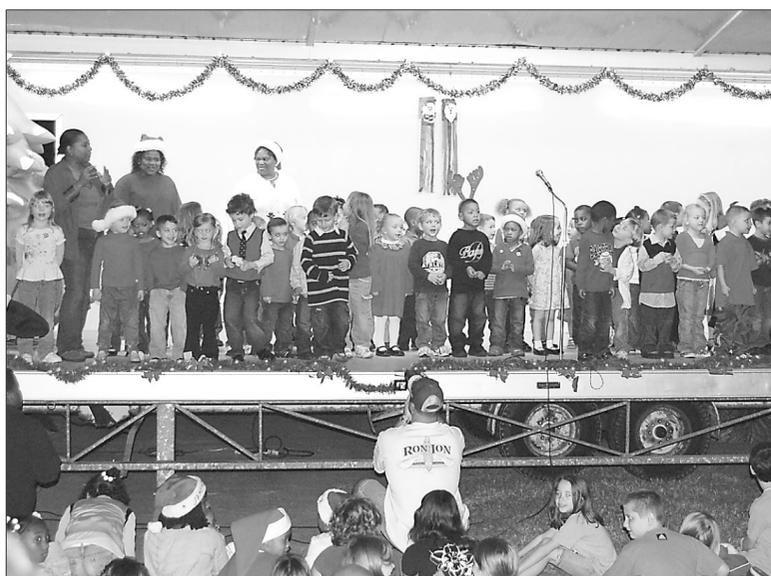


-Photos by MC1 Sonja Chambers

The daughter of Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Robert Pennington sits on Santa Claus' lap and prepares for a picture during the annual MWR Magical Christmas held at Beachside Community Center in December.



Children complete a craft at one of the several arts and crafts stations at the holiday celebration.



Children from the Child Development Center entertain participants at Magical Christmas.



-Photo by Stephanie Edwards

Children at the Youth Activities Center make holiday decorations during Open Recreation. Pictured from left is Jordan McCall, 8, Summer Rountree, 9 and Youth Counselor Robin Mathews.

## USS Robert G. Bradley Lights Up Mayport Basin

By MC3 Bonnie Williams

Staff

Naval Station Mayport's basin was an array of Christmas lights and displays of holiday cheer for the shiplighting contest Dec. 20. USS Robert G. Bradley won the contest and received a night of bowling and pizza sponsored by MWR. USS Roosevelt won second place, receiving a chicken wing party and USS Klakring third place winning a movie and popcorn party.

Mayport's Commanding Officer Capt. Aaron Bowman, his wife, Deborah Bowman, Command Master Chief Deborah Davidson, Casey Black of Channel 4 News and other volunteers dressed in costumes and rode a base fire truck to each ship to judge the contest. Most ships were decked out in an effort to win the contest for not only bragging rights, but excellent prizes as well. Both parties were sponsored by USO.

"Mrs. Bowman, Wendy Pollack from USO, DESRON 14 Command Master Chief Laurel Davis and myself hatched the plan to make the contest something every crew on every ship would enjoy," said Davidson. "We baked 3,000 cookies to give to the ships and dressed up as Santa and Mrs. Claus, Rudolf, Frosty and a penguin and went from ship to ship judging the contest."

"I think the ships' crew members were pleasantly surprised to see the 'hoop-la' over the contest. Congratulations to the winners. Next year look for more surprises, as we will include the squadrons too," said Davidson.



-Photo by MC3 Bonnie Williams

Judges stand with crewmembers of USS Robert G. Bradley during the judging period of NS Mayport's annual shiplighting contest on Dec. 20. The ship won the contest and received a night of bowling and pizza courtesy of MWR. USS Roosevelt and USS Klakring placed second and third, respectively.

## SBR Hosts Holiday Party

From USS Samuel B. Roberts PAO

Recently, USS Samuel B. Roberts opened up the ship to members of its extended family as 44 children of "Sammy B" Sailors bounded on board for the ship's first "Kid's Holiday Party."

Lasting for about two hours, the holiday party included lunch on board for the children, featuring kiddie favorites such as hot dogs, brownies, ice cream and other sugary sweets to keep children bouncing all evening long.

The holiday party also featured a visit from Santa Claus. For all kids, it was a great experience to see Santa out of the shopping mall and right on board their fathers' ship.

The event was organized by the Command Family Support Group, Jenn Williams and while she was unable to predict the turnout for the party, the large



-Photo courtesy of SBR

Santa Claus entertains 44 children on board for the Kid's Christmas party. Pictured here, Madison, 8 and Carson, 10 months, daughters of Ensign Corey Leewright, "Sammy B's Anti Submarine Warfare Officer ask Santa for another LSU Tigers win.

number of children and families that came to celebrate the onset of the holiday season was a direct reflection of her outstanding planning and energy.

"The party was a great way for children to meet Santa in

a unique environment, as well as bring 'Sammy B' families together to spread a little Christmas cheer," said Ensign Brannan, who attended with his wife Nora and 3-month-old son Aidan.

## Taylor Hosts Breakfast With Santa

USS Taylor's Family Support Group treated the Proud Defender families to a holiday brunch. At "Breakfast with Santa," Taylor children received personalized presents from Chris Cringle, decorated Christmas bags, and reindeer dust. The Taylor Traveling Band performed Christmas Carols and festive songs, and Santa, accompanied by his elf, narrated 'Twas The Night Before Christmas to the Taylor children. Taylor extends a special thanks to the Family Support Group for making "Breakfast with Santa" a huge success.



# MWR Happenings

Jan. 12: Strike Frame Bowling Tourney at Fast Lanes Bowling Center. 2-4 p.m. 270-5377  
 Jan. 14: Adult Sports Program Resumes. 270-5451/52  
 Jan. 15: 5K Run/Walk. 8 a.m. start in front of the Gym. Free. 270-5451/52  
 Jan. 15: Intramural Volleyball Organizational Meeting. 11 a.m. in the Gym lobby. 270-5451/52  
 Jan. 16: Puerto Rican Cuisine. Available during lunch only and while supplies last at Fast Lanes Grille. Lunch served starting at 10:30 a.m. 270-5377  
 Jan. 18: Youth Freedom Friday, Winter Ball Theme. 7-11 p.m. at the Youth Activities Center. Open to children in grades kindergarten through fifth. Cost is \$7 in advance or \$9 the day of. Early sign up is recommended; space is limited. 270-5680/5421  
 Jan. 18: Twisted Lemon Band. Live at Castaway's Lounge, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Free. Everyone welcome. 270-7205  
 Jan. 19: Twisted Lemon Band. Live at Castaway's Lounge, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Free. Everyone wel-

come. 270-7205  
 Jan. 23: Intramural Bowling Starts. 11:30 a.m. every Wednesday at Fast Lanes Bowling Center. League runs until April 2. Open to Active Duty only. 270-5377  
 Jan. 25-27: Open Water Scuba Certification Course. Cost is \$290 complete, \$320 for guests. Cost includes use of all scuba equipment, course study materials, certification, professional instruction, two days admission to the springs, two nights lodging and round-trip transportation. We leave on Friday and come back certified on Sunday. Don't be fooled by false advertising. No equipment purchase required. Pre-registration is required. 270-5541/5221  
 Jan. 26: Red Pin Bowling at Fast Lanes Bowling Center. 2-4 p.m. 270-5377  
 Jan. 26: Club Teen. 8-11 p.m. at the new Teen Center, next door to the Youth Activities Center. Open to middle and high school ages only. \$2 admission. 270-5680/5421  
 Jan. 28: Intramural Volleyball

Begins. Season runs until April 14. 270-5451/52  
 Jan. 30: MWR Command Meeting. 10 a.m. at Bogey's. Send your command rep for the latest MWR Mayport information. 270-5228  
 Jan. 30: Filipino Cuisine. Available during lunch only and while supplies last at Fast Lanes Grille. Lunch served starting at 10:30 a.m. 270-5377  
 Jan. 30: Post Holiday Fitness Melt-down. 4:30 p.m. at Surfside Fitness Center. Melt off that holiday weight gain with an intense workout that continues until no person is left standing. Sample a variety of group fitness classes in limited intervals and meet your Navy Fitness Trainers. 270-7718/19  
**Specials:**  
 Auto Skills Center: 10 percent of fuel injection cleaning. Call ahead to make an appointment. 270-5392  
 Outdoor Adventures: Take \$5 off any rental of \$35 or more. 270-5221

## MWR Tennis Champ



The winner of the 2007 intramural tennis league is the undefeated champion Chief Culinary Specialist Theo Lundy.

-Photo courtesy of MWR

## Liberty Call

The following activities and events target single or unaccompanied Sailors. For additional information on Liberty events, call Planet Mayport Single Sailor Center at 270-7788 or 7789. Planet Mayport is located in Building 46 across from Bravo Pier. Hours of operation are 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.  
 Jan. 10: Jacksonville Barracudas Trip. This trip is free and includes transportation, admission and a meet and greet with all the team players after the game.  
 Jan. 11: Nacho Day. Did you ever have a day that was just "nacho" day? Come and enjoy the free nacho bar at Planet Mayport. Food will be served at 6 p.m.  
 Jan. 13: NFL Playoffs - Road to the Superbowl. The game will be played on the big screen at Planet Mayport in the movie theater. Free snacks for all football fans.  
 Jan. 14: WWE is back. Catch your favorite wrestlers battle it out on the big screen in Planet Mayport's movie theater.  
 Jan. 15: Rock and Roll Mania.

Get in on this latest craze and all the rage at Planet Mayport tonight. It doesn't matter if you are a drummer, guitarist or the singer. Rock Band will be available to play on the 61" flat screen at Planet Mayport starting at 6 p.m.  
 Jan. 17: Dinner and a Movie Trip. Join the Liberty Program on a trip to Regal Cinemas to catch some of the newest box office hits. Pizza will be served at Planet Mayport prior to departing to the theater. Cost of this trip is only \$2 and includes food, admission and transportation.  
 Jan. 19: Orlando Magic Trip. Join Liberty on a trip to Orlando for some NBA action (Orlando Magic vs. Portland Trailblazers) at the Amway Arena. Sign up at Planet Mayport. Trip departs at 4 p.m. from Planet Mayport.  
 Jan. 20: NFL Playoffs - Road to the Superbowl. The game will be played on the big screen at Planet Mayport in the movie theater. Free snacks for all football fans.  
 Jan. 21: WWE is back. Catch your favorite wrestlers battle it out on the big screen in Planet Mayport's movie theater.

Jan. 22: Rock and Roll Mania. Get in on this latest craze and all the rage at Planet Mayport tonight. It doesn't matter if you are a drummer, guitarist or the singer. Rock Band will be available to play on the 61" flat screen at Planet Mayport starting at 6 p.m.  
 Jan. 23: Nine Ball Tournament. Join the Liberty Program in a free, single elimination tournament starting at 6:15 p.m. sharp at Planet Mayport. Prizes will be awarded to first and second places.  
 Jan. 25-27: Ski/Snowboard Trip. Join us on a trip to the snow covered slopes in North Carolina for a weekend of skiing or snowboarding. It's your choice on what you want to do but you have to sign up early; spots are limited. Cost of this trip is \$110 and includes transportation, lift tickets, lodging and equipment rental for the entire weekend. Costs for snowboarders are subject to change. Please see Planet Mayport staff for details.  
 Jan. 28: WWE is back. Catch your favorite wrestlers battle it out on the big screen in Planet Mayport's movie theater.

Jan. 29: Rock and Roll Mania. Get in on this latest craze and all the rage at Planet Mayport tonight. It doesn't matter if you are a drummer, guitarist or the singer. Rock Band will be available to play on the 61" flat screen at Planet Mayport starting at 6 p.m.  
 Jan. 30: Dollar Dining Options. Are you low on cash? Save your money and satisfy your hunger at Planet Mayport. Check out all the dining options for only \$1 today. Event will start promptly at 6:30 p.m.  
 Jan. 31: Comedy Zone Trip. Join the Liberty Program on a trip to the Comedy Zone in Mandarin. This trip is free and includes admission, transportation and appetizers. There is a one drink minimum purchase. This trip is open to those 18 years old and older.

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From Page 1

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# Boone Takes Time For Others

By Lt.j.g. Steven Gonzalez  
USS Boone PAO

A USS Boone visit to Nassau, Bahamas Dec. 7-11 afforded the crew the opportunity to meet the local population, sample traditional cuisine and relax to island music. The ship's visit to Nassau also served to foster good relations between the Bahamians and the U.S. Navy.

While in port, Sailors stationed aboard Boone took time out to participate in a community relations (COMREL) project. More than 17 crewmembers participated in a massive clean-up effort at the Bahamas Scout Association's recreational site in Adelaide Village on Dec. 8.

The volunteers removed debris along nature trails and an obstacle course used for physical training. The 30-acre property at the camp site of the Scout Association was donated by the Bahamas Government in 1926.

The association uses the land to give Scouts access to natu-



-Photo courtesy of USS Boone

Sailors from USS Boone took time to participate in a community relations project while visiting Nassau, Bahamas in December. The volunteers removed trash and limbs from nature trails and an obstacle course Bahamas Scout Association camp site.

ral habit and nature trails where they can participate in hiking, confidence training, and camping.

"It's a great opportunity to get off the ship and come out and do something worthwhile in the community," said Chief

Store Keeper Thomas Smith. "We want to show the community something positive about the Navy, and in turn learn more about local culture."

"They were very appreciative," Quarter Master Seaman Apprentice Anthony M. Banaszek said. "It was rewarding both personally and professionally and just makes you feel good."

"I like helping people," said Culinary Specialist Seaman Karl T. Cruz. "Plus, it's a great way to learn more about people here in the Bahamas."

Chief Commissioner of the Scout Association, Brian Christie, expressed gratitude for the assistance. Christie said that the long term goal is to construct a site that the Scouts can use on a continual basis.

He also foresaw that such a site could be used to promote eco-tourism and could attract scouting associations from around the world to the Bahamas.



-Photo courtesy of USS Taylor

USS Taylor Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Kurush Morris, presents Columbian patrol ship ARC San Andres Commanding Officer, Cmdr. L. Solar, with a plaque during a social at NS Mayport.

# USS Taylor Hosts Columbian Ship ARC San Andres

By Ensign Kimberly Koss  
USS Taylor PAO

USS Taylor entertained the crew of Columbian patrol ship ARC San Andres during their 10 day visit to Mayport.

Upon their arrival, Taylor welcomed the San Andres Commanding Officer, Cmdr L. Solar, and other Officers aboard for lunch and a ship tour. Taylor also challenged San Andres to a soccer game. Taylor scored the first goal, and San Andres answered back goal for goal for a score of 2-2. San Andres then rallied for three unanswered

goals. Despite a valiant effort, the Proud Defenders suffered a 6-3 defeat to the San Andres crew. Taylor said goodbye to the crew of San Andres at a recent social at the Ocean Breeze conference center.

The Columbian Navy purchased the 1943 US Coast Guard Buoy Finder and embarked a crew two weeks ago and has now commenced their voyage home to Cartagena, Columbia. ARC San Andres's primary mission will be inter-coastal patrol.

# Learn More About Mayport Middle School

From Mayport Middle School

Mayport Middle School is offering tours, an open house and a middle school night at Atlantic Beach Elementary for those interested in learning more about the school.

The tours are from 10 a.m.-noon on Jan. 11 and 25, and Feb. 8 and 29. Also, representatives from the school, including the band, drama department, administration, teachers and parents will be at Atlantic Beach

Elementary's middle school night on Jan. 22 at 6 p.m., and anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Mayport Middle's open house, "Shark Showcase," will be at the school on the evening

of Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. Further information can be found on the school's website at www.mayportmiddle.org, or by calling the school at 247-5977.

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-Photo courtesy of USS Vicksburg

From left, Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Tyler Vidas Aviation Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Johnathon Smith Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Danger Escobar and Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Ryan Kerley.



Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Danger Escobar changing out the #2 Engine.

# Vicksburg Team Ready To Tackle Difficulties

**By Lt. J.A Scharlow**  
*USS Vicksburg*  
 Flying in the Arabian Sea on a functional check flight for Proud Warrior 437 after completion of Phase D maintenance, Lt. Mike Perez and Lt. Matt Allan of Detachment Five attached to USS Vicksburg noticed that the reading on their engine oil pressure gauge was decreasing.  
 This abnormal indication was enough for them to immediately turn back towards the ship and close the 15-mile separation. The pilots executed the appropriate emergency procedures while the ship immediately set a Green Deck for the helicopter to land.

With oil pressure steadily decreasing and the helicopter on final, the #2 ENG OIL PRESS (Engine Oil Pressure) caution light illuminated with eight miles to go. However, due to the expeditious and flawless coordination between Ensign Nate Mitich as the ship's Officer of the Deck, the rest of the bridge team, the Landing Signal Officer and the aircrew, Proud Warrior 437 landed safely.  
 "The coordination effort was flawless between all parties," stated Lt. Cmdr. Chad Bryant, Vicksburg executive officer.  
 He continued, "The ability to execute high pressure evolutions comes down to training and preparation – the Vicksburg

team was ready!"  
 Post-flight inspection found the #2 engine to be completely drained of all oil, caused by an internal leak in the engine oil system.  
 The Air Department continued to impress all after finding the source of the oil leak. The #2 engine now had to be replaced with the spare engine from the LAMPS Pack-Up Kit (PUK). Maintenance personnel, including Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Ryan Kerley, Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Danger Escobar, Aviation Electrician's Mate 1st Class Aaron Burns, Aviation Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Johnathon Smith, Aviation

Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Dustin Maxey, Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Jamoal Hamilton, and Aviation Machinist's Mate Airman Justin Scruggs worked throughout the night to remove the bad engine from the aircraft and exchange it with the new engine kept in the supply inventory.  
 This was not an easy task. A chain pulley system had to be used to lower the bad engine from a height of over ten feet from the engine bay to the ground, and then raise the good engine for replacement. To make things more difficult, 437 was located in the starboard rapid securing device (RSD) trap in the hangar, with the #2

engine also located on the starboard side of the helicopter. Therefore, working space was minimal.  
 Kerley stated, "Wow, I have never changed out an engine underway with this little space before!"  
 Less than 24 hours later, after lots of hard work and occasional laughs to keep spirits high,

the engine replacement was complete and the bird was once again ready for FCF.  
 Coordination between the Vicksburg ship-air team made this operation go quickly, smoothly, and safely. Thanks to all the people who made this rapid turn-around possible, Vicksburg remained mission ready.

# Hue City Rescues Pakistani Crew

*From Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/5th Fleet Public Affairs*

U.S. Navy rescued six Pakistani crew members from a sinking dhow in the Gulf of Oman Dec. 13.  
 The guided-missile cruiser USS Hue City (CG 64) responded to a distress call from the Omani Coast Guard that a Pakistani dhow was sinking and

the crew was in distress.  
 The U.S. Navy took the Pakistani mariners aboard the Hue City and provided medical assistance, food and water to all six crew members. Initial reports are that all six Pakistani mariners are in good health.  
 Hue City later transferred the rescued mariners to the Coalition warship PNS Babur (F 182), a Pakistani frigate.

The Pakistani dhow later sank and poses no hazard to navigation.  
 Babur is part of Combined Task Force 150, commanded by Pakistan Navy Commodore Khan Hasham Bin Saddique and is responsible for Maritime Security Operations in the Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, North Arabian Sea, and parts of the Indian Ocean.

Hue City is currently deployed to the 5th Fleet area of responsibility, conducting Maritime Security Operations and supporting the U.S. sea services' new Maritime Strategy, which provides opportunities for military forces to work more closely with regional partners and allies to protect and extend security and prosperity, which depend on free use of the seas.

## Mitch Fatel

**Jan. 18th & 19th**

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# Not All Of Mayport's Sewers Are The Same

**By Scott Dombrosky**  
NS Mayport Water Program Manager

In the near future, you should start seeing curb markers or stencils showing up on storm-water drains around Naval Station Mayport.



-Photo by Scott Dombrosky  
A new marker warns Naval Station Mayport residents and visitors that drained water will go back to the environment.

These markers are being installed as part of a public education effort with the goal to remind people that water and other materials that go down storm drains flow directly to the creeks and rivers that surround us on nearly every side.

At Naval Station Mayport we have two very different "sewer" systems. Liquids that enter the sanitary sewer system, typically through sinks, toilets, and floor drains, flow to the

Station's wastewater treatment plant. There, they are treated in a series of processes to disinfect the flow and remove contaminants.

Conversely, liquids and materials entering the storm sewer system receive little to no treatment prior to discharge. The only treatment that stormwater may receive is if it is absorbed into the soil or taken up by plants that grow in storm ponds or ditches. However, most of the stormwater sewer lines have no treatment at all as they are comprised of steel culverts and concrete lined ditches that speeds the flow of stormwater to the river. It is best to assume that any drain you may come

across in outdoor areas flows to the storm sewer system.

Because of the nature of stormwater system designs, our personal practices will have a significant effect on water quality in the St. Johns River and other nearby water bodies.

The city of Tallahassee's "Think About Personal Pollution" (TAPP) campaign has a slogan that states, "Every drop you lose, nature finds."

This statement is just as true here at Naval Station Mayport as it is in Tallahassee. Whatever you drip, drop, sweep or blow into storm drains or even just onto streets, piers and parking lots will most likely ultimately end up in the river. While most

people are probably aware of the adverse effects of oil and chemicals on fish and other aquatic species, people should also be aware of the adverse effects of such materials as soil, grass clippings, cigarette butts, and litter.

Naval Station has processes for getting rid of all types of wastes. Sweeping them into streets and storm drains isn't one of them.

When you see the new storm drain markers like those pictured in this article around the station, remember that whether marked or not, storm drains are for stormwater only and streets are not disposal sites.

## Calendar

### On Base

**Tuesday, Jan. 14**

USS McInerney FRG will meet at the USO on Mayport Road at 6:15 p.m. The theme for the evening will be Family Game Night - bring in your favorite game. Child-care will be provided.

**Thursday, Jan. 17**

USS Philippine Sea FRG will meet at the USO on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Mayport USO.

**Tuesday, Feb. 5**

The Naval Officers' Spouses' Association of Mayport will meet at 9:30 am at the USO on Mayport Road. Babysitting is available for a nominal fee. NOSA of Mayport is open to all spouses of officers, active duty and retired, from all branches; Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Army and Air Force and spouses of Foreign Exchange Services. For more information, please check the NOSA website at [www.orgsites.com/fl/nosamayport](http://www.orgsites.com/fl/nosamayport).

**Friday, Feb. 8**

The Robert G. Bradley FRG will host a Valentine's Dance from 7-10 p.m. at the American Legion on Atlantic Blvd. and Mayport Road. Cost is \$5 per couple. Please contact the FRG at [rgbfg49pres@yahoo.com](mailto:rgbfg49pres@yahoo.com) to find out how to purchase tickets.

**Thursday, Feb. 21**

USS Philippine Sea FRG will meet and hold a potluck on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Mayport USO.

**Tuesday, March 4**

The Naval Officers' Spouses' Association of Mayport will meet at 9:30 am at the USO on Mayport Road. Babysitting is available for a nominal fee. NOSA of Mayport is open to all spouses of officers, active duty and retired, from all branches; Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Army and Air Force and spouses of Foreign Exchange Services. For more information, please check the NOSA website at [www.orgsites.com/fl/nosamayport](http://www.orgsites.com/fl/nosamayport).

**Thursday, March 20**

USS Philippine Sea FRG will meet and hold a potluck on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Mayport USO.

### Out in Town

**Thursday, Jan. 10**

The Fleet Reserve Association Branch 290 will hold their monthly General Assembly meeting at 8 p.m. at the Branch Home, 390 Mayport Road,

Atlantic Beach. All members and prospective members are invited to attend. The Fleet Reserve Association is a world wide veteran's organization that represents nearly 165,000 active duty and retired Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard members. The FRA Branch 290 is called the "active duty Branch" because of the number of active duty members. If you are a member of any of the maritime services or have served, stop by the Branch Home, 390 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach, FL or call 246-6855. New members are always welcome.

**Friday, Jan. 11**

The Fleet Reserve Association Branch 290 is hosting a "Fish Fry" from 5-8 p.m., at the Branch Home at 390 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach. A donation of \$8 is requested for each dinner. Carry out orders are accepted. The public is always invited to dinner. Starting at 9 p.m., the music of DOUG BRACY will entertain until 1 a.m.

**Saturday, Jan. 12**

Ooh! A snake! Will it bite me? Is it venomous? This interpretive program explores the snakes that are native to Florida and live at the Talbot Island State Parks. Join a Park Ranger at 11:30 a.m. and learn how to identify the most common snakes, their habitat, and their lifecycles. Discover why these critters are important to a healthy and balanced natural community. This program will take place at pavilion number six (6) at Little Talbot Island State Park. No reservations are necessary and the program is free, however, non-campers will need to pay the park entrance fee (\$4.00 per vehicle) to attend. Call the Talbot Islands Ranger Station (904-251-2320) for additional information on any of these programs. For more information on Florida State Parks, visit [www.FloridaStateParks.org](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org).

**Friday, Jan. 18**

The Ladies Auxiliary of Fleet Reserve Association Branch 290 is hosting a "Cornish Hen Dinner" from 5-8 p.m., at the Branch Home at 390 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach. A donation of \$7 is requested for each dinner. Carry out orders are accepted. The public is always invited to dinner. Starting at 9 p.m., the music of DOUG BRACY will entertain until 1 a.m.

**Saturday, Jan. 19**

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society will hold their regular monthly meeting at 1:30

p.m., at the Webb-Wesconnett Branch Library, 6887 103rd St. Speaker, Dr. Carolyn Williams, Professor of History at the University of North Florida will discuss African-American History and Genealogy; From Slavery to Freedom; African-American Migration from Fort George Island to Jacksonville, 1870-1910." For additional information please contact Mary Chauncey at 781-9300.

**Sunday, Jan. 20**

The Fleet Reserve Association Branch 290 has helped bring together other Beaches veterans groups to become the *Beaches Veterans Organization*, in support of community events. Other veterans groups, in addition to FRA 290, are American Legion Post 316 and Post 129 along with Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3270. Their first community event will be a family cookout starting at from 1 p.m. This event is open to the public and will take place at the FRA Branch 290 Home located at 390 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach, FL. Ribs, and all the fixings, will be the menu for only \$8. Take out orders are always welcomed. All proceeds raised at these events will benefit the "USO No Dough Dinners". Subsequent cookouts will be hosted by the other organizations every month. American Legion Post 129 will be on Feb. 24, VFW Post 3270 will host on March 30, followed by the fourth cookout at the American Legion Post 316 on April 27. For more information on these events or the Beached Veterans Organization, please call Bruce Drinkwater at (904) 246-6855.

Discover the importance of estuarine systems that surround the inshore sides of barrier islands like Fort George

Island. Join a park ranger at 1 p.m. at the Ribault Club on Fort George Island to learn why these areas are one of the most productive ecosystems on Earth and how plants and animals survive in this extremely dynamic environment. No reservations are necessary and the program is free. Don't forget your bug spray and water bottle. Call the Talbot Islands Ranger Station (904-251-2320) for additional information on any of these programs. For more information on Florida State Parks, visit [www.FloridaStateParks.org](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org).

**Tuesday, Jan. 22**

Atlantic Beach Elementary School will be hosting "Mayport Middle School Night" from 6-7:30 pm. Mayport Middle is the middle school for Atlantic Beach students. Parents and students will be entertained by the Mayport Middle School band and Drama Club. Administrators, guidance counselors, teachers, and parents will be on hand to answer questions regarding the various academic programs that the school offers, along with sports and elective information.

**Saturday, Jan. 26**

The Duval County Extension office will hold "How to start your own vegetables from seed workshop" from 10-11:30 a.m. at the office, 1010 N. McDuff

Ave. Cost is \$10. Please call 904-387-8850 to pre-register for this hands-on workshop. You will take home your own planted seed trays.

Join a park ranger to learn about the many common, threatened and endangered species that inhabit the natural communities of the undeveloped barrier islands of northeast Florida. The program will take place at pavilion six (6) on Little Talbot Island. No reservations are necessary and the program is free, however, non-campers will need to pay the park entrance fee (\$4 per vehicle) to attend. Call the Talbot Islands Ranger Station (904-251-2320) for additional information on any of these programs. For more information on Florida State Parks, visit [www.FloridaStateParks.org](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org).

**Wednesday, Jan. 30**

The Beaches Branch Library,

600 Third Street, Neptune Beach has scheduled a free movies during December and January. "Live Free or Die" will be shown. Shows start at 5:30 p.m. in the Claiborne Community Room.

**Thursday, Jan. 31**

The First Coast Commandery of the Naval Order is hosting a second golf outing at Queen's Harbour Country Club in support of the building of a monument dedicated to the U.S. Navy participants during the Allied Landings at Normandy in June 1944 at Utah Beach. They are looking for active duty golfers to participate in this event. Cost is \$75 for active duty or \$110 for retired/civilian golfers. For more information, contact retired Capt. John O'Neil at 221-7348. For more information about the monument, go to [www.normandymonument.org](http://www.normandymonument.org).

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JIFFY LUBE	3212 UNIVERSITY BLVD S	JAX	U.S. COAST GUARD OFFICE	A1A HWY	JAX
JIFFY LUBE	6135 ST AUGUSTINE RD	JAX	USO MAYPORT	BEHIND 2550 MAYPORT RD.	JAX
JIFFY LUBE	11620 SAN JOSE BLVD	JAX			

Updated: FEBRUARY 1, 2007

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# Oasis Galley

There will be a price change effective Jan. 1. Breakfast now costs \$2.10, lunch and dinner is \$3.85. Weekday hours for the Oasis Galley are 6-7:30 a.m. for breakfast, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for lunch, and 4:30-6 p.m. for dinner. Weekend and holiday hours are 8-9:30 a.m. for breakfast, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. for brunch, and 4:30-6 p.m. for dinner. The Oasis Galley also offers a speedline and hot bars Monday through Friday. The menu line is 270-6857. For service assistance, call the Oasis Administration Office at 270-5373. The menu is subject to change by FSO due to food availability.

**Friday, Jan. 11**

- Breakfast**  
Ham Slices  
Turkey Sausage Links  
Pancakes  
French Toast  
Potato Rounds
- Lunch**  
Minestrone Soup  
Pizza  
Chicken Wings  
Burgers  
French Fries  
Chips  
Baked Beans  
Cauliflower  
Green Beans
- Dinner**  
Minestrone Soup  
Salisbury Steak  
Mustard Dill Baked Fish  
Sicilian Brown Rice  
Mashed Potatoes  
Broccoli  
Corn on Cob  
Brown Gravy

**Saturday, Jan. 12**

- Breakfast**  
Bacon  
Corned Beef Hash  
Pancakes  
French Toast

- Hashbrown  
**Brunch**  
Chicken Rice Soup  
Chicken Fillet Sandwich  
Corn Dogs  
Onion Rings  
Corn  
Bacon  
French Toast  
Hashbrown
- Dinner**  
Chicken Rice Soup  
Chicken Cordon Bleu  
Yankee Pot Roast  
Steam Rice  
Paprika Potatoes  
Carrots  
Green Peas  
Natural Pan Gravy

**Sunday, Jan. 14**

- Breakfast**  
Bacon  
Turkey Sausage Links  
Pancakes  
French Toast  
Potato Rounds
- Brunch**  
Carrot Soup  
BBQ Pork Sandwich  
Chicken Tenders  
French Fries  
Mixed Vegetables  
Turkey Sausage Links  
French Toast  
Potato Rounds
- Dinner**  
Carrot Soup  
Cranberry Glazed Chicken  
Polish Sausage  
Rice Pilaf  
O'Brien Potatoes  
Peas & Carrots  
Cauliflower

**Monday, Jan. 15**

- Breakfast**  
Sausage Patties  
Corned Beef Hash  
Pancakes  
French Toast  
Hashbrown
- Lunch**

- Shrimp Gumbo Soup  
Sweet & Sour Chicken  
Pepper Steak  
Vegetable Fried Rice  
Egg Rolls  
Vegetable Stir Fry  
Sesame Glazed Green Beans  
Burgers  
Baked Beans  
French Fries
- Dinner**  
Shrimp Gumbo Soup  
Knockwurst with Sauerkraut  
Chicken & Italian Vegetable Pasta  
Oven Brown Potatoes  
Squash  
Peas

**Tuesday, Jan. 15**

- Breakfast**  
Bacon  
Turkey Sausage Links  
Pancakes  
French Toast  
Potato Rounds
- Lunch**  
Cuban Black Bean Soup  
Chicken Enchiladas  
Beef Fajitas  
Spanish Rice  
Refried Beans  
Broccoli  
Mexican Corn  
Chili Dogs  
Onion Rings  
Baked Beans
- Dinner**  
Cuban Black Bean Soup  
Teriyaki Baked Chicken  
Pork Steaks  
Rice Pilaf  
Mashed Potatoes  
Brown Gravy  
Corn  
Carrots

**Wednesday, Jan. 16**

- Breakfast**  
Cream Ground Turkey  
Sausage Links  
Pancakes  
French Toast

- Hashbrown  
**Lunch**  
Cream of Broccoli Soup  
Lasagna  
Chicken Alfredo  
Boiled Pasta  
Italian Roasted Potatoes  
Marinara Sauce  
French Fried Cauliflower  
Club Spinach  
Burgers  
Baked Beans
- Dinner**  
Cream of Broccoli Soup  
Swedish Meatballs  
Caribbean Chicken Breast  
Steam Rice  
Paprika Potatoes  
Peas with Mushrooms  
Broccoli

**Thursday, Jan. 17**

- Breakfast**  
Sausage Gravy  
Biscuits  
Corned Beef Hash  
Pancakes  
French Toast  
Potato Rounds
- Lunch**  
Clam Chowder  
Lobster Tail  
Grilled Steaks  
Mashed Potatoes  
Rice Pilaf  
Corn on Cob  
Broccoli  
Natural Pan Gravy
- Dinner**  
Clam Chowder  
Creole Macaroni  
Savory Baked Chicken  
Potatoes & Herbs  
Steam Rice  
Chicken Gravy  
Green Beans Cauliflower

## No More 'Special Meal' Thursdays

By MC3 Bonnie Williams  
Staff

Mayport's Oasis Galley has changed the policy towards special meals.

In the past every Thursday has been a special meal where civilians can eat at the galley. Now Region Southeast has ordered all galleys in the region to allot only two meals per month as special meals. These meals will be held on holidays such as Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day,

Independence Day, etc.

"Funds have strictly been allocated for the contractors to provide services at the galley to active-duty Sailors only. So the special meals have been cut back to just two a month, and this started in December," said Senior Chief Culinary Specialist Edgardo Pabon. "This is a permanent change Navy-wide, but we will make those two meals a month just as good as the previous weekly special meals."



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## FFSC January Schedule Set

From FFSC  
The following classes and activities are offered by the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) and are free of charge. Pre-registration is required and childcare is not available. For more information about the classes or to register call 270-6600, ext. 110. FFSC is located in Building One on Massey Avenue.  
Jan. 10, 9-11 a.m., Resume Walk-in Review Assistance, FFSC  
Jan. 10, noon-4 p.m., Leadership Life Skills for E4, Building 1 Executive Training Room  
Jan. 10, 9-11 a.m., New Parent Support Playgroup, USO  
Jan. 10, 9-11 a.m., Sponsor Training, FFFSC  
Jan. 11, 9-11 a.m., Establishing A Sound Family Budget, FFSC  
Jan. 14, 1:30-3 p.m., FERP Starting Your Own Business, FFSC

Jan. 15, 9 a.m.-noon, Parenting Class, FFSC  
Jan. 15, 9-11 a.m., Resume Walk-in Review Assistance, FFSC  
Jan. 16, 8-11:30 a.m., Stress Management, Wellness Center  
Jan. 17, 8-11 a.m., Anger Management, FFSC Mayport  
Jan. 17, 9-11 a.m., New Parent Support Playgroup, USO  
Jan. 17, 9-11 a.m., Resume Walk-in Review Assistance, FFSC  
Jan. 18, 9-11 a.m., Credit Report Review, FFSC  
Jan. 22, 9-11 a.m., Resume Walk-in Review Assistance, FFSC  
Jan. 22, 9 a.m.-noon, Parenting Class, FFSC  
Jan. 23, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Leadership Life Skills for E5 & E6, Building One Executive Training Room  
Jan. 23, 8-9 a.m., TRACC Meeting, FFSC  
Jan. 24, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Military Spouse 101, FFSC

Jan. 24, 9-11 a.m., Resume Walk-in Review Assistance, FFSC  
Jan. 24, 9-11 a.m., New Parent Support Playgroup, USO  
Jan. 25, 9 a.m.-noon, Considerations for Home Buying, FFSC  
Jan. 25, 1-4 p.m., Leadership Life Skills for E7 & Above, Building 1 Executive Training Room  
Jan. 28, 6-7 p.m., Ombudsman Assembly, USO  
Jan. 29, 6-7 p.m., IA Family Discussion Group, USO  
Jan. 29, 9 a.m.-noon, Parenting Class, FFSC  
Jan. 28, 1-2:30 p.m., FERP Federal Employment, FFSC  
Jan. 28-31, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., TAP Separatee Workshop, RBCC  
Jan. 29, 9-11 a.m., Resume Walk-in Review Assistance, FFSC  
Jan. 30, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., SAVI Advanced/Refresher Training, Building 460

## Deadline For Commissary Scholarship Deadline Soon

By Caroline Williams  
DeCA  
Applications for the 2008 Scholarships for Military Children Program must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 20. They are available in commissaries worldwide or online through a link at <http://www.commissaries.com> and directly at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>, where they can be filled out on the computer and printed, or printed and filled out by hand. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

or university full-time in the fall term of 2008. Students at community or junior colleges must be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

"Applications must be in the store by close of business Feb. 20," said Edna Hoogewind, DeCA's scholarship program liaison, "either by hand or mail." If you are not hand-delivering your application, Hoogewind recommends using a delivery method that supplies a return receipt. From April 15 through

July 1, applicants can go online and verify receipt of their application in the "Verification of Receipt" section.

Hoogewind also advises students to check all their materials carefully for simple things, like making sure the application is signed or that they are using the 2008 application, not one from previous years. Everything applicants need to know about the program can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the military scholar Web page.

The scholarship program kicked off in 2001 and, according to agency officials, has awarded more than \$5.5 million dollars in scholarships to 3,532 of the best and brightest children of military families.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired military personnel. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are currently enrolled in the DEERS database and that they have a current ID card. All applicants must be U.S. citizens.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college

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## The Weekly Crossword By Alan P. Olschwang Huntington Beach, CA

**ACROSS**

- Oxen pair
- Inclination
- Celestial transient
- Rounds or clips, e.g.
- Jamaican fruit export
- One-celled organism
- Decant
- Bank offering
- Halos
- Start of an Evan Esar quip
- Actress Witherspoon
- "\_\_\_ Miserables"
- College cheer
- More stylish
- Casa component
- Slightest bit
- Humdinger
- Biblical mount
- Part 2 of quip
- Hersey's bell town
- Go yachting
- Santa \_\_\_ winds
- Comic Foxx
- Snitched
- NBC classic reminders
- River of forgetfulness
- End of quip
- Delectable
- Sagacious
- Formerly, formerly
- Join
- Memorable periods
- Nuzzle
- Choir voice
- Cong. people
- Woodlands ruminant

**DOWN**

- Hoglike mammal
- Ham it up
- Entertain
- Bog
- Cow's mate
- Composer Stravinsky
- Jai \_\_\_
- Unmarried
- Tilts to one side
- Leave out
- Business
- Flow out
- Skater Babilonia
- Classic French film, "Pepe \_\_\_"
- That girl
- Actor Delon
- Israeli port
- Whatever
- Old-time motorcar
- Reliance
- Knight's address
- Ski-slope rides
- Shakespearean forest
- Pride or sloth, for example
- Exclusively
- In addition
- Snitch
- Actor Wheaton
- Greek letter
- Response
- Rely
- Customer
- Pang
- Wiesbaden's state
- Computer command
- Sgt. Snorkel's dog
- Emerald Isle
- Quickly!
- British pianist Myra
- Exclamation of disdain
- Organic suffix

By Alan P. Olschwang 1/10/07

### Last Week's Answers

B	U	S	T	O	P	T	S	H	O	B	B	S
A	S	T	I	X	O	U	T	Y	P	R	E	S
N	A	A	N	E	T	T	E	M	E	E	T	S
F	I	R	E	I	N	S	U	R	A	N	C	E
F	R	E	A	K				E	G	O	Z	O
A	C	C		A	C	R	E		Y	O	W	L
S	H	O	T	A	R	A	B	S	M	A	I	A
S	U	S	H	I		F	A	K	E		Y	E
A	R	M	Y	N	A	V	Y	G	A	M	E	
D	L	I	G	R	E			E	A	S	Y	A
C	A	R	P	E	N	T	E	R	S	H	O	P
C	A	R	T	A	J	O	E	Y	T	A	U	S
O	M	A	N	I	A	G	A	R	L	U	N	E
S	P	Y	O	N	Y	O	K	E	A	N	T	S

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# Bataan Death March Documentary Premiered

By MC2(SW/AW) Jeremy Grisham

USS Bataan Public Affairs

Bataan Death March survivors and Sailors from the multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) attended the premiere of "That We Might Live," a documentary about World War II veterans Dec. 5 at the WHRO-TV Studio in Norfolk.

The documentary is the work of Stephen Melillo, a composer who wrote the libretto, the text of an opera, in honor of the Death March veterans. It blends a pre-existing concert-work with still photos and video from World War II.

The program began with a welcome from WHRO's Chief Executive Officer and President,

Bert Schmidt, who assisted in hosting the premiere. When describing the honor of being present among the heroes past and present, Schmidt simply said, "words fail me."

Honored guests for the premiere included World War II veterans David Topping, Norman Matthews, Dame Mary Sigillo Barraco, Charlie Dowdy, Turk Turner, Stanley Woody and Sam Ring.

Before the airing of the documentary, guest speaker Capt. Rick Snyder, Bataan's commanding officer, said "The legacy [of these men and women] lives on through this movie and through our Sailors today."

The documentary included photos and video clips from the National Archives, foreign gov-

ernments, personal collections from World War II veterans around the world, and from the guests of honors' collections as well.

The audio that accompanies the video clips includes the sound of a gong made from a 500-pound piece of an I-beam from the World Trade Center. It also includes famous speeches from Adm. Chester W. Nimitz and Winston S. Churchill

Melillo intends on ensuring that the current generation and those in the future never forget what sacrifices were made for our freedom.

For more information on the DVD "That We May Live," visit Melillo's Web site, www.stormworld.com.



-Photo by MC2 Jeremy Grisham

Amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) Sailor of the Year, Master-at-Arms 1st Class Terri Ellis, listens as Bataan Death March survivor Marion "Turk" Turner reflects on his time as a prisoner-of-war during World War II. Ellis and Turner were guests at the premiere of the documentary "That We Might Live," a film about the war and Bataan Death March.

# Officer Leads Efforts For Needy Families In Djibouti

By Marine Sgt. Alec Kleinsmith

Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa Public Affairs

A visit outside the gates of Camp Lemonier was all it took for one man to change the lives of three Djiboutian families.

"The first time I went off camp, I had an opportunity to go with some Marines on a civil affairs mission," explained Lt. Cmdr. Steven J. Mauro, the Public Works officer for Camp Lemonier. "The Marines had an engineering problem that they needed help with, so I went out

to have a look." Mauro was immediately taken aback by the harsh realities of a third-world country entrenched in years of hardship and struggle.

"Being there gave me an opportunity to see the squalor and poverty they live in," said Mauro, from Jacksonville, Fla. "It obviously had an impact on me, so I tried to think about what I could do to help."

Mauro was quick to act, writing letters and sending photographs to friends of a church he once frequented, The Holy

Redeemer. While his friends worked to raise money back in the states, Mauro looked to Marine Capt. Christopher F. Crim, commanding officer of Bravo Battery, 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, for assistance in finding three families who needed the most help.

Crim, a native of Hesperia, Calif., who frequently leaves the camp for civil affairs missions, paid particular attention to the nomadic families of the Djiboutian countryside. Lacking the basic amenities

of a common Djiboutian village, nomadic families have no permanent abode, but move from place to place, usually seasonally and often following a traditional route according to the state of the pasturage or food supply. They are poor, tired and hungry, but they're proud and resourceful.

"We're actively involved with the people in the villages, however, we have minimal contact with nomadic families who live between villages along travel routes," explained Crim. After finding three families,

Mauro and Crim purchased supplies from local Djiboutian markets, spending \$325 on four goats, bags of sugar and rice, tea kettles, cooking utensils, wheelbarrows, water jugs and a set of thermoses.

Through an interpreter, the families thanked the service members for their kindness, though the smiles on their weathered faces provided sufficient proof.

Crim was also thankful for the contributions made by the church in Washington.

"I think what the church has done is incredible, and they've helped us accomplish our mission," said Crim. "Folks back home just want to help in any way they can, and their generosity will make a significant impact on the lives of the families we help."

But the giving doesn't stop here. With more than \$4,500 left to spend, Mauro and Crim continue to scour the land, looking for those in need.

# Amphibious Transport Ship Mesa Verde Commissioned

From the Department of Defense

The Navy commissioned the newest San Antonio class amphibious transport dock ship Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Mesa Verde (LPD 19) on Dec. 15 in Panama City.

The ship is named to honor the Mesa Verde National Park in southwestern Colorado. In 1906, Congress established Mesa Verde as the first cultural park in the National Park System. This is the first U.S. Navy ship to be named Mesa Verde.

Former U.S. Senator from Colorado, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, delivered the ceremony's principal address. Campbell's wife, Linda Price Campbell, served as ship's sponsor. The ceremony was

highlighted as she gave the first order to "man our ship and bring her to life!"

Mesa Verde is the third amphibious transport dock ship in the San Antonio class. As a critical element in future expeditionary strike groups, the ship will support the Marine Corps "mobility triad," which consists of the landing craft air cushion vehicle, the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle and the Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft (MV-22).

Mesa Verde will support amphibious, special operations, and expeditionary warfare missions in keeping with "A Cooperative Strategy of 21st Century Seapower," the new maritime strategy that postures the sea services to apply maritime power to protect U.S.

vital interests in an increasingly interconnected and uncertain world.

Cmdr. Shawn W. Lobree of Miami, Fla., is the first commanding officer of the ship and leads a crew of approximately 360 officers and enlisted personnel and three Marines.

Built by Northrop Grumman Ships Systems, Ingalls Operations in Pascagoula, Miss., Mesa Verde is 684-feet long, has an overall beam of 105 feet, a navigational draft of 23 feet, displaces approximately 24,900 tons and is capable of embarking a landing force of up to 800 Marines. Four turbo-charged diesel engines power the ship to sustained speeds of 22 knots. Mesa Verde is homeported in Norfolk.

## Reaching Out

The following are just a sample of volunteer opportunities available through NS Mayport and Volunteer Jacksonville. For more information, call Dianne Parker at 542-5380 or you can immediately sign-up online for opportunities using www.volunteer.gatewayjacksonville.org.

**Exotic Plant Species Pull At Fort Clinch**

Many of Florida's plant and animal communities are found nowhere else in North America. Invasive non-native plants disrupt Florida's natural environment by altering ecological processes that permit native plants and animals to survive. Come and join Fort Clinch State Park, 2601 Atlantic Avenue, remove invasive non-native plants. Volunteers will meet at the Ranger Station parking area on Jan. 12 at 9 a.m. and work until noon. Sturdy footwear, a sun hat and long pants are suggested attire and be prepared to get dirty. If you have work gloves and a water bottle please bring them with you. Minimum age to participate is 12 years old. Please contact Cliff Joyce to sign up: clifford.joyce@dep.state.fl.us or call 277-7274.

**2008 MDA Summer Camp**

The Muscular Dystrophy Association is searching for summer camp volunteers to assist young people with neuromuscular diseases and help them enjoy a fun-filled MDA summer camp June 7-12 at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simon's Island. Applicants must be at least 16 years old and able to lift and care for a young person between the ages of 6 and 21. Each volunteer counselor becomes a companion to a camper with a neuromuscular disease and helps them with daily activities such as eating, bathing and dressing. Counselors will also

assist campers with recreational activities such as arts and crafts, swimming and horseback riding. To obtain a volunteer application or learn about other ways to support MDA's summer camp program, call your local MDA office at (800) 572-1717. More information about summer camp volunteers can be found at www.mda.org/clinics/camp.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring**

Big Brothers Big Sisters is providing an in-school mentoring program at Mayport Elementary School. Little Brothers and Sisters are needed just as much as Big Brothers and Sisters! If you are interested in this opportunity, please visit our website for more information: www.usojax.com

**Navy-Marine Corp Relief Society Needs You**

The Navy Marine Corp Relief Society is in need of Volunteers to give a couple of hours of their time each week to help others in need. The mission of the Navy-Marine Corp Relief Society is to provide emergency financial help and educational assistance to members of the Naval Services - active, retired, and family members - when in need: to assist them achieve financial self-sufficiency and to find solutions to emergent requirements. Navy-Marine Corp Relief Society firmly believes in personal financial responsibility. By helping the service member and family through difficult times and by assisting them to develop their own problem solving capabilities, they will achieve financial stability, increase self-worth and reduce the need for future financial assistance. Without their volunteers, the Society could not meet the needs of so

many. If you are interested in volunteering and would like more information, contact Bill Kennedy at 270-5418, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

**NS Mayport Retired Activities Office**

Naval Station Mayport is currently searching for committed volunteers to serve the local retiree community in the Retired Activities Office (RAO) located in the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC). RAO volunteers maintain the vital link between the retiree, local military communities and other government and non-government agencies. Anyone interested should contact the FFSC for an application or to get more information about the duties and responsibilities of the RAO volunteers. Call the FFSC at (904) 270-6600 Ext. 110

**I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless**

Volunteering at the I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless The I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless serves more than 1,000 well-balanced, nutritious and delicious meals per day, every day of the year. These meals are prepared and served with the help of more than 100 civic, religious and business organizations from the Jacksonville community. Annually, these Volunteer Meal Groups provide over one hundred thousand dollars in support and more than 13,000 hours of volunteer time. Serving meals at the Center is a fun and feel-good way to give back to the community. For information about volunteering at the I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless call 904.394.1356. Also, see www.imshomelesscenter.org/volunteers.html

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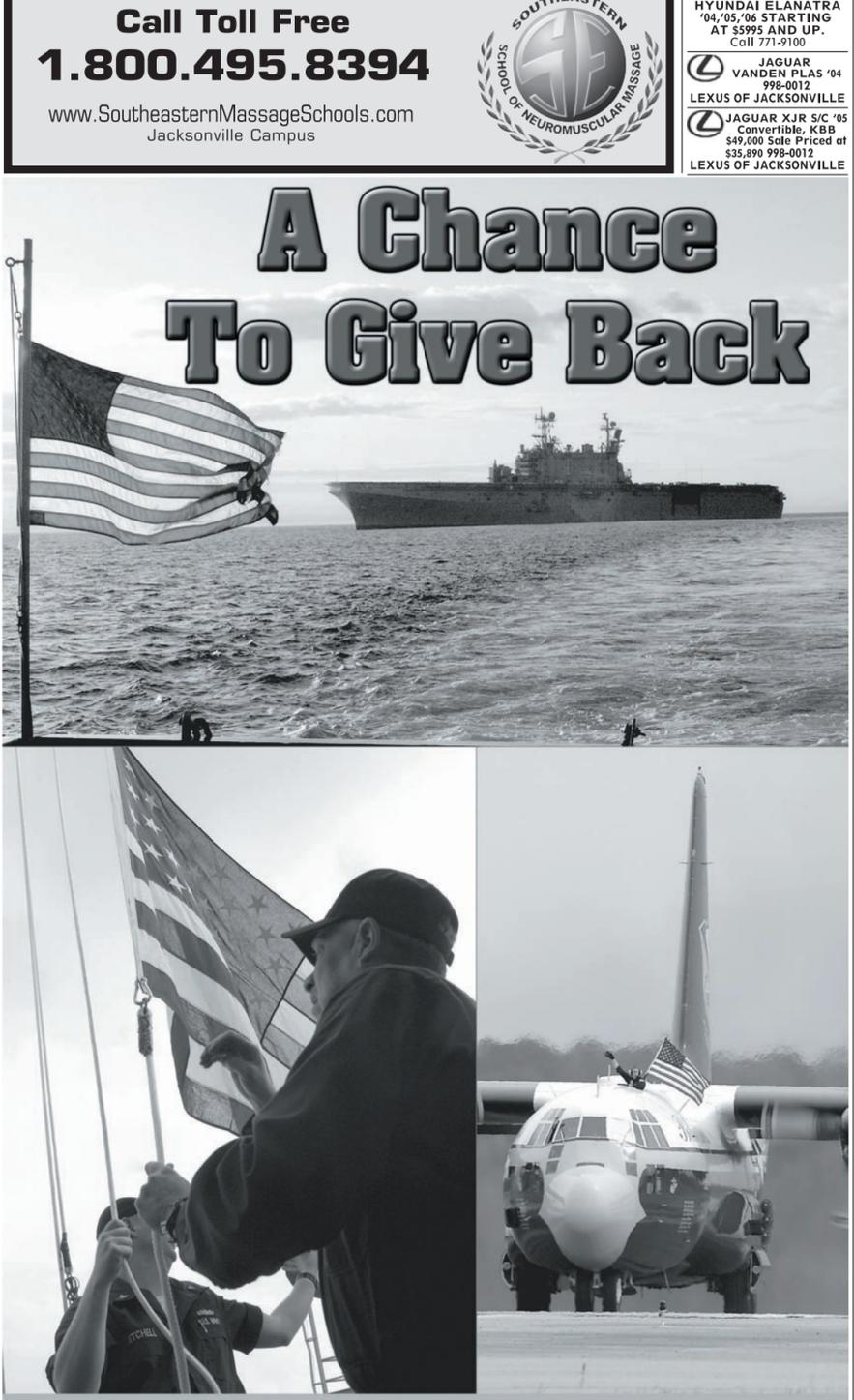
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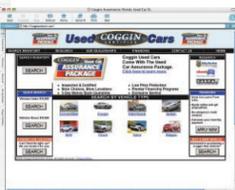
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