

# THE MIRROR NS MAYPORT, FLORIDA

2008 CHINFO Award Winner

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THURSDAY, April 30, 2009



## Off the Deck Cinco de Mayo All Khaki Event At Foc'sle Club

Foc'sle CPO Club welcomes all Khaki's (Chief Petty Officers and Officers) and their guests for a Cinco de Mayo celebration starting at 4 p.m. on May 5. Free hors d'oeuvres will be served from 4-7 p.m. with beverage specials available all evening. For more information, call 270-5431.

## NEX Rewards For Good Grades

The Navy Exchange wants to help its customers pay for their children's college education through its A-OK Student Reward Program. Four times per school year, four students will be the recipients of a \$5,000, \$3,000 \$2,000 or \$1,000 U.S. savings bond, denominations at maturity. The next drawing will be held at the end of May 2009.

Any eligible full-time student that has a B-grade point average equivalent or better, as determined by their school system, may enter the drawing. Eligible students include dependent children of active duty military members, reservists and military retirees enrolled in first through 12th grade. Dependent children without an individual Dependent Identification Card must be accompanied by their sponsor to submit their entry. Each student may enter only once each grading period and must re-enter with each qualifying report card.

To enter the drawing, stop by any NEX with a current report card and have a NEX associate verify the minimum grade average. Then fill out an entry card and obtain an A-OK ID, which entitles the student to discount coupons for NEX products and services.

## Community Yard Sale For Housing

Balfour Beatty Communities will be holding a community yard sale at the Ribault Community Center on Assisi Lane May 9 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. All residents interested in participating should contact Genie Woodard at gwoodard@bbc-grp.com in order to reserve a table for the event.

## NH Jacksonville Hosts Health Fair

Naval Hospital Jacksonville will be hosting a health fair on Friday, May 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Naval Air Station Jacksonville Navy Exchange courtyard. Hospital staff will be on hand to provide information on a variety of health-related topics including health benefits, Pharmacy services, health promotion and wellness. All hands are invited to attend.

# NS Mayport Lights Up

From Staff

Naval Station Mayport Commanding Officer, Capt. Aaron Bowman joined representatives from the base's Bachelor Quarters (BQ) and Public Works in lighting up Earth Day with energy-efficient light bulbs.

On April 22, BQ changed out approximately 3,000 incandescent light bulbs to Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) bulbs in the rooms throughout the six BQ buildings.

The change out from the old incandescent light bulbs was a part of ENERGY STAR Operation Change Out (OCO) held each year. By changing out the incandescent bulbs with the CFLs, NS Mayport can save approximately \$200,592. The CFLs have 10,000 hours of usage. It will also reduce air pollution by over two million pounds of CO2 emissions, the equivalent of taking 172 cars off the road for a year.

"This is just the first step in improving our conservation of our resources at Mayport," Bowman said. "We are initiating an Energy Conservation Board at Mayport to work with all the tenants to look for further reductions. Our goal is to lead the effort in saving resources and to be the model for the rest of the Navy."



Naval Station Mayport Commanding Officer, Capt. Aaron Bowman joins representatives from Bachelor Quarters (BQs) and Public Works in replacing the first bulb from incandescent to CFL as part of Earth Day and ENERGY STAR Operation Change Out on April 22 at Building 2105. Approximately 3,000 bulbs were replaced in the six BQs. Pictured from left is Ship's Serviceman 2nd Class Christopher Taylor, Ship's Serviceman 2nd Class Jeffrey Fripp, Chief Culinary Specialist Ronnie Barnes, Lt. Rachael Musser, Bowman, and Ship's Serviceman 1st Class Volare Burns.

-Photo by Paige Gnann

According to Public Works Productions Officer Lt. Rachael Musser, there are several ways

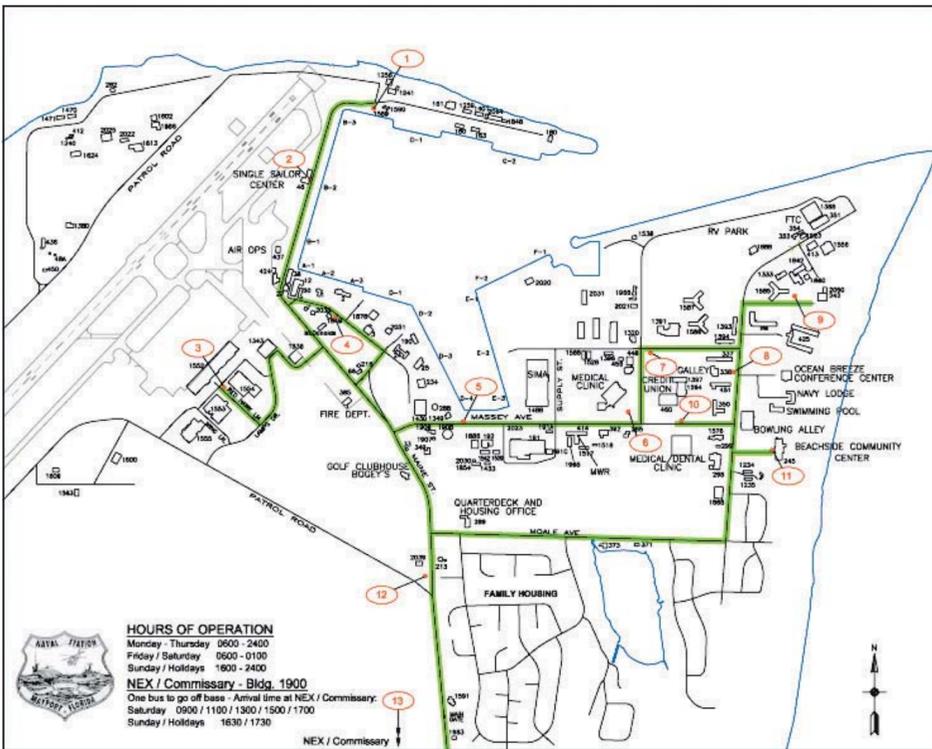
residents can also go "green" around their own homes. "Always turn off the lights

when you leave a room," she said. "Fix leaky faucets, showers and toilets; and weatherize

doors and windows."

For more information, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

## Base Shuttle Gets New Route May 4



A map of the newly-updated bus shuttle will include a new stop at the NEX gas station.

From Staff

Naval Station Mayport's scheduled shuttle service will be taking a new route effective May 4.

The shuttle operation and stops have been tweaked as part of a Lean Six Sigma project. Lean Six Sigma is a business improvement methodology that maximizes shareholder value by achieving the fastest rate of improvement in customer satisfaction, cost, quality, process speed, and invested capital.

According to the project charter, one of the problems with the old route is the base shuttle at Mayport took too long to deliver patrons back and forth from their work centers to their destinations.

"The problem has existed for at least the past year," the charter states. "Patrons do not know the shuttle schedule and shuttle stops are not clearly marked, marked incorrectly or not at all."

Other problems include shelters not located in required areas and the large amount of time that it takes for a shuttle to complete the route.

"The average time for a shuttle to complete one circuit around the base in moderate traffic is between 25 and 30 minutes," the project states. "This has resulted in delays of patrons returning to their work center from the Galley, which negatively affects mission readiness and causes some patrons... to make unwise/unhealthy choices...even though

See Bus Route, Page 3

## Military Monitoring Swine Flu Outbreak

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department is monitoring the swine flu situation closely, with its primary focus on protecting the military population, a senior Pentagon official said April 27.

As the Department of Health and Human Services leads the U.S. effort, the military is posturing itself to respond if required, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman told reporters.

"We certainly have a number of contingency plans for dealing with health incidences like this, because our primary goal is preservation of the fighting force," he said. "So we obviously

have plans and take measures to ensure that we can preserve the fighting strength of the military in the event that there should be a greater crisis with respect to a health situation like this."

Two prescription anti-viral drugs, relenza and tamiflu, already are standard stock at U.S. military treatment facilities, and larger quantities are stockpiled at several sites in the United States and overseas, Whitman said.

President Barack Obama told the National Academy of Sciences today the emerging incidence of swine flu in the United States "is obviously a

cause for concern and requires a heightened state of alert, but it's not a cause for alarm."

The Centers for Disease Control has confirmed 20 cases of swine flu virus infection in the United States in California, Kansas, New York City, Ohio and Texas. None have involved members of the military or their families.

Greater cases of infections have been reported internationally, particularly in Mexico.

Obama said HHS has declared a public health emergency only "as a precautionary tool to ensure that we have the resources we need at our disposal to respond quickly and

effectively."

Meanwhile, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management Director John Berry distributed CDC guidelines for preventing the spread of swine flu to the federal work force. Berry also distributed guidance for federal agencies to protect their work forces and the public and to ensure continuity of operations in the event that they must institute their already-prepared pandemic influenza preparedness plans.

CDC recommends the following actions people can take to stay healthy:

-- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or

sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

-- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners also are effective.

-- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

CDC also recommends avoiding close contact with sick people, particularly if they are coughing or sneezing, and to stay home if you're sick to avoid infecting others.

For more information, go to [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636).

## Chaplain's Corner

On the lighter side.... a very upset wife visited the family psychiatrist and said to him, "Doctor, you've got to help my husband. He's having delusions and thinks he's an elevator." "Oh ...you just send him in to see me. I'll straighten him out," said the psychiatrist. "I can't do that," said the wife. "He's an express and doesn't stop on your floor." (laugh.... please)

On the darker side, however... is a true story from the annals of World War I. The story goes that at the conclusion of "the war to end all wars" numerous shell-shocked French soldiers could not remember who they were. They had been victims of massive artillery barrages. Literally, hundreds of shells had exploded around them but they had been



**Chaplain Joe Molina**  
CDS40 Staff Chaplain

miraculously spared. However, mentally they were scarred. The soldiers were disoriented to the point of not knowing who they were. Try to imagine, if you can, the confusion, the horror,

the anxiety of not having any blessed idea of who you are! These French soldiers had a true identity crisis.

A small number of them could not be immediately reunited with family due to faulty military records. For these poor souls the question of the moment was: "Please, please... Can someone tell me who I am?"

Who are you? Who am I? The question appears, trite, almost ridiculous. But, at the heart of the question lies the all-important issue of "self identity." The answer to the question must go beyond merely describing what we do for a living or what our physical appearance may be like. Immeasurably more important than our professional identity

is... our spiritual and moral identity. These are the non-tangible qualities of the self that ultimately define who we are.

When it comes to grinding out the practical aspects of daily living, having a clear and healthy self-identity will keep us balanced and consistent and happy with life. We will do what we say and say what we do. Let me illustrate:

A farmer was on his way to New Orleans with a big Bible tucked under his arm. A friend stopped him and asked where he was going. The farmer answered that he was on his way to Mardi Gras to indulge in liquor, women and whatever else came along. Puzzled by the reply, the friend asked why he was taking his Bible. The farmer replied:

"Well, if I stay over the weekend I want to make sure I get to church." The farmer had projected some mixed signals. His inner motives betrayed his outer appearance.

Can we talk? Let's face it. As we look across the landscape of life, I think that we can agree that the three traps of the soul are: money, sex, power. These are the three general excesses that commonly entrap people in a negative downward spiral. It appears crystal clear to me that in our personal spiritual and moral identity there are certain things that do not fit, that must not be allowed to distort and undermine a healthy self-identity. There are things that are appropriate and things that are not.

Is this easy to do? No. It takes work and sometimes the work is all uphill. Famous scholar and author, C.S. Lewis expressed it this way, "Anyone that has ever said that it's easy to be good has never tried to be good." The stakes are high when we hold up the standard for that which is good and right. In doing so we may get bloody, we may even get hurt. But the positive end-results and benefits to others and us are immeasurable.

When our self-identity is anchored and centered on the things of God we will discover great personal comfort, internally and externally.

## Homefront in Focus

**By Beth Wilson**  
Military Spouse Contributor

The successful rescue of Capt Richard Phillips from the hands of Somali pirates gives Navy families an opportunity to take a renewed pride in our United States Navy. I watched with great interest as cable news anchors chronicled the actions of the Navy ships in the area, speculating on proposed action. While we all hoped for a successful resolution it still came as a surprise that sharp-shooters from an unidentified Navy Seal team brought the situation to a very happy end.

While Rambo and Steven Segal movies have jaded our perspective of military operations, one thing remains true

— our all-volunteer military is second to none. Our Navy, and its diverse capabilities, continues to amaze me. Prior to marrying my Sailor I have to admit, I did not fully understand the mission and diversity of communities within the Navy. I am sure my knowledge of the Navy is sorely lacking but what I do comprehend only raises my appreciation of my husband's chosen branch of service.

I found understanding and appreciating the big picture of the Navy as well as the role of my Sailor's vessel or community gave me not only a sense of pride but during those moments of resenting the demands of a Navy marriage it helped me to remember that my husband is a

part of something important.

In my short time as a Navy wife I have enjoyed friendships with Navy spouses from the "Boomers" and Fast-Attack subs. They are different with very different missions. One carries ballistic missiles and deploys silently for short periods of time. The other is regarded as the most versatile platform in the Navy with a mission of surveillance, intelligence while carrying its own lethal battery. Submariners are a tight, proud group.

The surface fleet of the Navy community is perhaps most recognized. Cruisers, destroyers, frigates, minesweepers, amphibious ships, patrol craft and other auxiliary ships make

up the surface fleet. Their proud mission is to provide a forward naval presence, sea control and to project power ashore. These ships usually deploy as part of a battle group. If your Sailor serves on a surface ship, take time to learn about the capabilities and function of their ship (<http://www.baseops.net/militarybooks/navysurface.html>).

Did you know the Navy has "ground troops?" With a motto of "We build, We fight" the Naval Construction Force, or Seabees, are a unique group. One Seabee wife, in explaining to me her husband's job said, "Think rugged construction workers with guns." The Seabees proud history begins in 1941 and their legacy con-

tinues today. Their mission as 'combat engineers' makes them a versatile, effective force. Also a proud community, click here to learn more: <https://www.seabee.navy.mil/>.

The Navy Air Forces were made famous in movies such as Top Gun and who doesn't know about the U.S. Navy's elite Blue Angels? The Navy air forces include the twelve impressive, nuclear powered air craft carriers (no, they are not surface fleet), Air Wings, and approximately 3,800 aircraft (<http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact.asp>). The capabilities of the Naval Air Forces include strike/fighter missions, sub-surface warfare, anti-surface warfare, electronic warfare, reconnais-

sance, search and rescue and, communications relay, and other logistical support missions.

I've barely scratched the surface of the proud history, mission and capabilities of the United States Navy. Rescuing Capt. Phillips is but one proud capability. Take a little time to learn more about the history, capabilities and mission of your Sailor's command and take pride in their part of the Great White Fleet.

Questions or comments for Beth? Email her at [beth@homefrontinfocus.com](mailto:beth@homefrontinfocus.com). Check out her internet talk show for spouses at [www.blogtalkradio.com/nht](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/nht).

## Sweet Land Of Liberty

### Travel Tips, Deals, Insider Information Coming Soon

**By Erica I. Peña-Vest**  
Travel Contributor

When times are difficult and the economy is weak, certain extra curricular activities seem to fall by the wayside. One of those activities is travel. With gas prices as high as they are, it's often no longer affordable or even feasible to take a vacation. But, that doesn't have to be the case. As members of the armed services, there are many deals and discounts available to us throughout the nation that could help us make our family vacations a lot more affordable. Throughout the year, I will be highlighting travel opportunities available both nearby and throughout the country.

Travel is important. It's the one of the largest industries in the United States. Our country depends on it. In addition, the New York Times recently reported that travel is not just a luxury; it's also good for your health. They quoted a study that stated that people that traveled more frequently had less heart and health problems. Traveling is also educational for your family. Saint Augustine once said "The world is a book, and those that do not travel read only a page." If those reasons are not

incentive enough to take your family on a vacation, I don't know what is.

There are great deals available when you know how to find them. As a 13-year veteran of the travel industry, I know all the ins and outs and would like to share with you a few industry secrets. I will also research popular tourist destination and find out what offers they have for the military and/or government employees. We aren't the only ones feeling the hit of the weak economy. Many popular tourist destinations are also desperate to attract our business. Because of this, many are offering deals that are too good to pass up. The same way it is currently a buyers market in real estate, it is a travelers market in tourism. You just have to know how to find the great deals, and I'm here to help.

I will have a regular column highlighting those great opportunities for travel and other travel tips. I will also include information on local and nearby attractions for those of you that want to stay close to home. Meanwhile if you have any questions or for more information, visit [www.guidetofamilytravel.com](http://www.guidetofamilytravel.com).

## Coast Guard MCPON Talks At Navy League



-Photo courtesy of Mayport Council fo Navy League

Mayport Council of Navy League held their monthly dinner meeting at the Ocean Breeze, on Naval Station Mayport on April 16 with guest speaker Master Chief Charles Bowen, Master Chief Petty Officer of the United States Coast Guard. Bowen spoke about people, and how important they are to the military. He relayed stories of some of the people he has met in his travels, and how important their stories are. He said several times "that he was proud to work with the heroes." National President, Michael McGrath, presented Dick O'Rourke with a Scroll of Honor for his years of service to the Mayport Council, and most especially his role as the Liaison for the Coast Guard. The Scroll of Honor is the second highest award given on the national level. Mayport Council, the proud recipient of five Outstanding Council Awards, is a civilian organization open to all interested citizens. The council supports the men and women of Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine and their families at home and abroad since 1902. To join, call Pat Pumphrey at 280-0941. Pictured from left, Michael McGrath, National President, Navy League of the United States Dick O'Rourke, Past Vice President/United States Coast Guard Liaison Captain Paul F. Thomas, Sector Commander, USCG Sector Jacksonville Master Chief Charles Bowen Diane Wright, President, Mayport Council Navy League of the United States.

## Foreclosure Prevention Web Site Launched

From City of Jacksonville

Jacksonville City Council member Kevin Hyde joined representatives of the city's Housing and Neighborhoods Department today to officially launch the Stay Home: Jacksonville Foreclosure Prevention Web site at the "Passport to Fair Housing" Awareness Symposium.

Working with its community partners, the City of Jacksonville developed the foreclosure informational Web site, which may be accessed by visiting [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net), keyword "foreclosure," as a resource to connect those homeowners who may face or are facing foreclosure with the appropriate agencies for assistance. The key to success for homeowners in trouble is to get assistance as early as possible.

"While Jacksonville may have some of the highest foreclosure rates in the U.S., through city government and numerous service providers, we are also well-equipped to help our homeowners," said Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton. "The first step must be for homeowners in

need to reach out for assistance so alternative solutions can be arranged to help prevent foreclosure. The Stay Home Web site will direct homeowners to the appropriate agencies or service providers that can provide the necessary help."

As foreclosures affect all parts of the local community, the Stay Home logo and link to the informational site will be placed on the Web sites of all the city's community partners, media outlets and any other mediums to help reach those homeowners in need and connect them with legitimate service providers.

"I was especially pleased to help launch this foreclosure informational Web site as homeowners must be educated on the foreclosure process and know what help is available to them," said Council member Hyde. "Help is available to those in need so please visit this Web site and learn of options that are available from the city's community service providers."



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Monday-Friday 11:30 a.m.  
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CCD: Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
Baptisms: class 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month

**Protestant Worship**  
Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday school 9:15 a.m.  
Baptism: For information contact your chaplain

**Women's Bible Study**  
Wednesday 9:30 a.m.  
**Protestant choir**  
Wednesday 7 p.m.

**Interdenominational MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers)**  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays each month 9:15 a.m.  
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**Marriage**  
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The deadline for all submissions is Thursday at 4 p.m., one week prior to publication. News and articles should be submitted to the Public Affairs Office, or mailed to:

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# USS Philippine Sea Performs MEDEVAC

**By Ensign Trey Souder**  
*USS Philippine Sea*  
Just before midnight, USS Philippine Sea's mission received quite the interruption when Commander, Second Fleet contacted her with a search and rescue mission, the second in just six months. In the dark, choppy seas with sustained 35 knot winds, the Philippine Sea was en route to Plymouth, UK to participate in Exercise Joint Warrior, a multinational NATO exercise, when she was alerted

by Second Fleet of a dire medical situation onboard a nearby cruise ship. The motor vessel Braemar, located about 100 nautical miles south of the Philippine Sea, had a 70-year-old passenger who was suffering from a ruptured abdominal and perforated ulcer and needed immediate evacuation to the nearest medical facility. No more than three minutes after receiving the message, the Air Boss, Lt. Cmdr. Olaf

Talbert of HSL-46 Detachment 5, currently embarked onboard Philippine Sea, the ship's Operations Officer, Lt. Randy Chestang, and the Combat Information Center (CIC) Officer, Lt. Joe Sortillon were all in CIC gathering as much information as they could in order to brief the Commanding Officer, Capt. Gary Parriott and make a recommendation as to how to most efficiently and effectively accomplish their new mission.

The navigator onboard Philippine Sea, Lt.j.g. Giuliana Velucci and the Officer of the Deck, Ensign Chris Stover collaborated with the supporting cast in CIC to come up with a best course and speed to get Philippine Sea in position to launch her helicopter in hot pursuit of Braemar. Ensign Joe Garia, a newly commissioned ensign out of Officer Candidate School was the conning officer on his first-ever underway experience aboard a U.S. Navy

ship. "It was great to really see how the bridge and CIC watch teams are supposed to support one another in a real situation, especially to come to the aid of a distressed vessel" said Garia. Philippine Sea responded with a heightened sense of urgency and the utmost proficiency. Flight quarters was set and the helicopter was off en route to Braemar by 2:50 am, once Philippine Sea reached a safe distance to launch her helicopter

for endurance and range reasons. The SH-60B helicopter proceeded to the cruise ship, and conducted a basket retrieval of the medical patient while hovering at 40 feet above the Braemar. By 5:31 am, Cutlass 477 was on the ground at Bermuda Rescue Coordination Center and the patient was transferred to the nearest hospital.

## Groves Sailors Visit Children's Hospital In Jax

*From USS Stephen W. Groves Public Affairs Office*  
Six Sailors from USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29) set out for Wolfson Children's Hospital on April 21 eager to donate a truckload of toys, ball caps and ship memorabilia to the hospital's residents. The volunteers organized and prepared for this community relations event in close cooperation with the Navy's Caps for Kids program. Since 1999, Navy afloat and ashore commands have donated thousands of unit ball caps, t-shirts and patches. These items are then presented by Sailors to children who are fighting serious illnesses in hospitals across the country. Throughout the afternoon, the Sailors visited more than 50 children, between ages two and

18. Culinary Specialist First Class Marvincent Williams arranged the day's schedule and collected \$450 worth of stuffed animals and toys. The children were delighted with their gifts and were proud to receive U.S. Navy ball caps and ship coins. "It was quite an experience watching the kids receive the toys and seeing the joy it brought them," Williams said. "I think our guys were really excited to see how much of a difference it made. We all agreed that the smiles on the children's faces made our visit well worth the effort." The crew of USS Stephen W. Groves, homeported in Mayport, Florida, looks forward to participating in more community relations opportunities on the ship's upcoming deployment.

## Resurfacing Project Starts On A1A

*From FDOT*  
Work started April to resurface 3.5 miles of S.R. A1A from S.R. 101 (Mayport Road) to Broad Street near the ferry landing area. The \$2.5 million construction project should be finished this fall. The contract specifies 180 days to complete the work and allows extra time for weather delays and unforeseen field conditions. The roadway will be milled and resurfaced. Almost a one-mile section of S.R.

A1A north of the Sherman Creek Bridge will be reconstructed due to the settlement of the existing roadway. To allow for this reconstruction, the existing two-way roadway will be reduced to one lane. Two-way traffic will be maintained using a temporary traffic signal. This roadway reconstruction should take three to four months to complete. Drainage improvements will occur at several locations within the project limits. Guardrail safety improvements will also

be made to the Sherman Creek Bridge. No lane closings will be allowed between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. and between 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Milling and resurfacing operations and drainage repairs under the roadway will occur at night. Duval Asphalt is the contractor on the job. The Jacksonville office of GAI Consultants, Inc. will be managing the work for the Florida Department of Transportation.

### Bus Route

they receive COMRATS. Also, possible waste of fuel and time exists on the shuttle routes." According to project coordinator Cmdr. Mike Russo, the base collected data throughout a 30-day period in which ridership, as well as shuttle stop usage, were counted. "This data was crunched so there have been some stops eliminated and some added," he said. One of the main issues with the shuttle was Massey Avenue, Russo added. He said that the

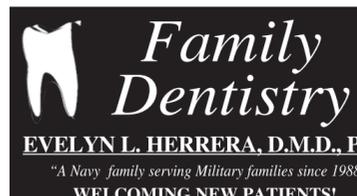
shuttle disrupted flow during peak traffic times. With a little reworking, Russo said they hope to reduce that traffic issue. "The goal of the project was to decrease the amount of time it takes for the base shuttle to safely transport patrons from location to location; ensure all stops are safe and have shelter if required and ensure patrons are aware of the shuttle route." Two shuttle buses will make the circuit starting at the tug pier between Charlie and Bravo piers, followed by stops to

Single Sailor Center, Building 1554 off LAMPS Road, McDonald's, Delta Four pier, BHMC Mayport, the corner of Bailey Avenue and Bon Homme Richard, Galley, Bowman Hall, Building One, Beachside Community Center and NEX gas station. The shuttle route will include NEX/Commissary on Saturday at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and Sunday at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. An additional shuttle bus will be provided from 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Monday-Friday,

*From Page 1*  
to support the HSL to Galley route. The standard hours of operation for the shuttle at 6 a.m.-midnight, Monday-Saturday and 4 p.m.-midnight on Sunday.



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# UNITAS Ships Set Sail For 50<sup>th</sup> Exercise

By MC2 Alan Gragg and MCSN Patrick Grieco

UNITAS Public Affairs

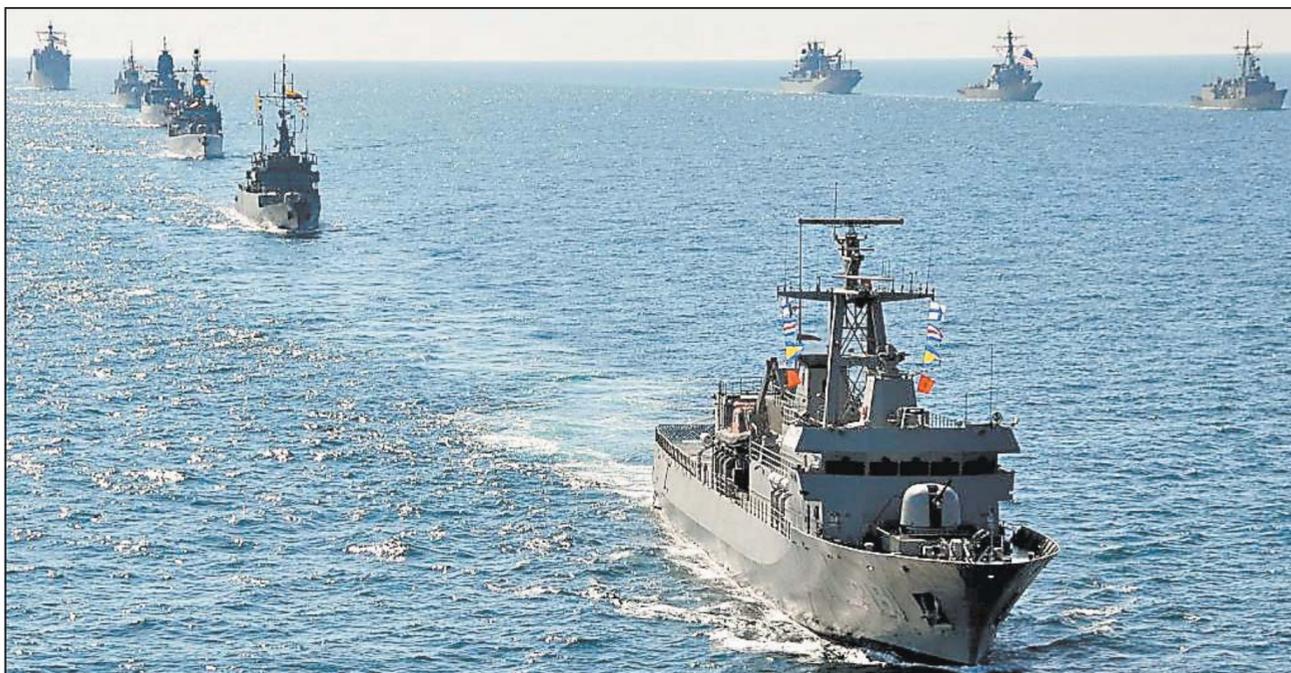
Ships from 11 nations got underway April 23 for UNITAS Gold, the 50th iteration of the longest-running multinational maritime exercise.

Maritime forces from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico, Peru, the United States and Uruguay left Mayport, Fla., and began the underway portion of the annual partnership building exercise.

"Through the years, UNITAS has evolved to fit the landscape, needs, and mutual naval and maritime interests of the Americas and Caribbean," said Rear Adm. Joseph D. Kernan, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO) and U.S. 4th Fleet. "As we move forward together, I am confident that future opportunities to work with our partners will not only strengthen our ability to operate together and provide for our nation's security but will also build personal and professional respect and friendships."

For 50 years, UNITAS has served as the primary maritime security engagement exercise among the militaries of the Western Hemisphere.

During the two-week exercise lasting from April 20-May 5, the United States, partner nations and Latin American countries will train together in a realistic scenario-driven training environment featuring live-fire exercises, undersea warfare, shipboard operations, maritime interdiction operations, air defense and surface warfare, amphibious operations,



-Photo by MC2 Alan Gragg

Ships from eleven countries sail in formation during the photo exercise (PHOTOEX) of UNITAS Gold, the 50th iteration of the annual multinational maritime exercise. Maritime forces from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico, Peru, the United States and Uruguay are participating in the partnership building exercise April 20-May 5. The two-week exercise includes realistic scenario-driven training opportunities such as live-fire exercises, shipboard operations, maritime interdiction operations and special warfare.

electronic warfare, and special warfare.

More than 30 ships, two submarines and 50 aircraft from the U.S. and participating navies are involved.

"This isn't something we have an opportunity to do quite often," said Canadian army 1st lieutenant Michael Faber of Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment. "The

Canadian forces are very much arranged towards international partnerships and joint operations. UNITAS provides us a chance to practice working on our basic operational skills with people of other countries." Faber also said UNITAS helps provide his team with the experience they need to be ready for almost any real-world operation.

During the exercise, Sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen have the opportunity to train side-by-side with Latin American navies in a high-tech environment using state-of-the-art equipment.

The relationships that develop from this exercise will help to foster cooperation and understanding between participating Navies.

A member of the Brazilian marines, Private Renan Gabriel said he is grateful his unit was selected to participate in this exercise. He said the differences between American and Brazilian operational procedures are almost non-existent.

"There are little differences between our two forces," said Gabriel. "We have identical fast rope and amphibious operation

instructions."

"It's quite amazing," said Ships Serviceman Seaman Philip Kozloff, a ship store attendant onboard amphibious transport dock ship USS Mesa Verde (LPD 19). "It's great to meet other people from different countries and learn their customs or culture. It helps build our relationships with them abroad."



-Photo by MCC Anthony Casullo

Ships from countries participating in Exercise Unitas Gold are moored at Naval Station Mayport. Mayport is host to maritime forces from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico, Peru, the United States and Uruguay for the 50th iteration of the annual multinational maritime exercise, which takes place off the coast of Florida April 20 through May 5.



-Photo by MC1 (SW) Holly Boynton

A U.S. Marine takes a picture of Armada de Chile Rear Adm. Cristian Del Real and Fuerzas armadas del Uruguay Capt. Rubens Romanelli prior to their flight on board a U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey. Partner nation navy and Marine Corps representatives and local dignitaries took a flight on the MV-22 following a visit to U.S. Fourth Fleet headquarters during UNITAS Gold.



-U.S. Coast Guard Photo by Petty Officer Seth Johnson

A United States Navy landing signal officer with Assault Craft Unit 4 (ACU-4) directs two 87-foot Landing Craft to their landing zones to unload soldiers and marines from Canada, Chile, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay and onto a Florida beach during an amphibious training exercise. ACU-4 is currently underway with the amphibious transport dock ship USS Mesa Verde (LPD-19) as part of UNITAS Gold, a multi-national exercise that aims to increase interoperability among participating nations.



-Photo by MC1(SW) Holly Boynton

A landing craft air cushion (LCAC) arrives on the beach at Naval Station Mayport during an amphibious landing demonstration for UNITAS Gold.



-Photo by MC1(SW) Holly Boynton  
 Civilians and multinational military members view a U.S. Marine Corps amphibious assault vehicle following a beach assault during an amphibious landing demonstration for UNITAS Gold. Mayport hosted maritime forces from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico, Peru, the United States and Uruguay for the 50th iteration of the annual multinational maritime exercise, which will take place off the coast of Florida April 20-May 5.



-Photo by MC2 Ron Kuzlik  
 Sailors from USS Doyle's (FFG 39) visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team demonstrate U.S. Navy VBSS procedures to partner nation navies during UNITAS Gold, the 50th iteration of the longest running multinational maritime exercise in the world. The United States, this year's host nation, will participate in several realistic tactical training scenarios with maritime forces from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay off the coast of Florida April 20-May 5.



-Photo by MC2 Ron Kuzlik  
 Sailors from USS Doyle's (FFG 39) visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team stands ready during a demonstration to partner nation navies during UNITAS Gold.



-Photo by Paige Gnann  
 A German Sailor from FGS Frankfurt AM Main (A 1412) tries to block the ball as a Sailor from USS Kauffman (FFG 59) taps it in for a point during a beach volleyball game at Naval Station Mayport, Fla. The game was part of a two-day Sports Challenge event held in conjunction with UNITAS Gold, the 50th iteration of the longest running multinational maritime exercise in the world. Naval units from the U.S. are joined by maritime forces from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. The forces are participating in several realistic tactical training scenarios off the coast of Florida April 20-May 5.



-Photo by Paige Gnann  
 Partner nation sailors compete in a biathlon as part of a two-day Sports Challenge event held in conjunction with UNITAS Gold, the 50th iteration of the longest running multinational maritime exercise in the world.



-Photo by Paige Gnann  
 Sailors from partner nation sailors participate in a picnic at the conclusion of a two-day Sports Challenge.

## Multinational Commanders Weigh In On UNITAS

By Lt. Arwen Consaul

Commander, U.S. 4th Fleet Public Affairs  
 Twenty-three officers from 11 countries are aboard USS Mesa Verde (LPD 19) working as an integrated multinational staff as part of UNITAS Gold, the longest running multinational maritime exercise in the world.

The members of the Command and Control center for UNITAS Gold are working together aboard the flagship, Mesa Verde, to run the 50th iteration of UNITAS, an exercise designed to train the participating forces in a variety of maritime scenarios, with each operating as a component of a multinational force, and providing the maximum opportunity to improve interoperability.

The at-sea phase of the exercise kicked off April 23 as 15 U.S. and 13 partner nation ships joined together in close formation off the coast of Florida.

"All navies have many things in common, but this exercise UNITAS helps to increase the capabilities of each navy," said Cmdr Renato Besa, Chilean Navy. "Each navy has strengths and weakness in each area. Through UNITAS all navy's increase knowledge and abilities to interoperate."

Maritime Forces and observers from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Germany, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and the United States are participating in the exercise UNITAS Gold through May 5. The members of the Multinational Task Force and the



-Photo by MC1 Holly Boynton  
 The Armada de Mexico frigate ARM Mina (F-214) departs Mayport Naval Base to participate in UNITAS Gold off the coast of Jacksonville. Mayport is host to maritime forces from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico, Peru, the United States and Uruguay for the 50th iteration of the annual multinational maritime exercise, which will take place off the coast of Florida April 20-May 5.

crews of more than 30 ships, four submarines and 50 aircraft are putting words into action. "Our mission is to give peace," said Cmdr.

Byron Paredes, Ecuadorian Navy. "To work together to identify a common threat, not to fight each other. It is important that UNITAS remains

in this time."

During the 16-day exercise the partner nations will participate in various exercises addressing a variety of mission areas to include live-fire exercises, undersea warfare, shipboard operations, maritime interdiction operations, air defense and surface warfare, amphibious operations, electronic warfare, and special warfare.

Since its inception, UNITAS has grown in both participating countries and assets. This year marks the first time that both Mexico and Canada have specifically sent assets to take part in the exercise. The ships and crew of the ARM Mina (F-214), ARM Oaxaca (PO-161), HMCS Montreal (336) and HMCS Corner Brook (S 878), all joined UNITAS to share knowledge and capabilities with 11 other countries.

"This is our first time to participate," said Cmdr. Jose Barradas, Mexican Navy. "We have similar problems, and it is very important to confront similar threats."

Not only does UNITAS Gold provide an opportunity for each navy to learn from one another and work together to address common security issues, it also fosters friendly, mutual cooperation and understanding between participating navies.

"That is what this is all about," said Capt. Rudy Laco, Commodore, Destroyer Squadron 40. "Making friendships, learning about each others cultures and navies, and truly learning about how to work with our partner nations."

# MWR Happenings

**April 30: CPO Weekly Social Hour.** Free hors d'oeuvres every Thursday 3-5 p.m. at Foc'sle CPO Club. Drink specials available plus all-you-can-drink soft drinks for only \$1. Weekly social hour is reserved for active and retired Chief Petty Officers and their guests. 270-5432

**May 1: Deadline for Emergency First Responder and Rescue Diver Classes.** EFR class (\$49) is May 8. Rescue Diver class (\$224) is May 9-10. Sign up at Outdoor Adventures.

For prerequisites, call 270-5541.

**May 1: New Castaway's Hours Begin.** Monday through Saturday 2 p.m.-1:30 a.m. and Sunday 12 p.m.-1:30 a.m. 270-7205

**May 2: No Saturday Movies at Beachside Community Center.** Family-friendly outdoor summer movies start on Friday, May 8 at Sea Otter Pavilion. 270-5228

**May 5: CPO Club Cinco de Mayo Party.** 4 p.m. at Foc'sle CPO Club for all Khakis (active and retired Chief

Petty Officers, military officers and their guests). Free hors d'oeuvres from 4-7 p.m. Beverage specials also available. 270-5432

**May 6: Intramural Bowling.** Lunchtime league meets at 11:15 a.m. Wednesdays at Mayport Bowling Center. Captain's Cup league for Active Duty. 270-5377

**May 8: Summer Outdoor Movies Begin (Bedtime Stories, PG).** 8:30 p.m. every Friday at Sea Otter Pavilion. Light refreshments available for purchase. 270-5228

**May 8 & 9: Live Band, Denny's Revenge.** 9 p.m.-1 a.m. both nights at Castaway's Lounge. Everyone welcome. Free admission. 270-7205

**May 10: Mother's Day Bingo.** 12:15 p.m. at Beachside Community Center. Double payouts on all hard cards and an extra \$1,000 game. 270-7205

**May 10: Mother's Day Bowling Special.** 1-8 p.m. at Mayport Bowling Center.

**May 11: Deadline for Base Golf Championship (May 16-17).** 8:30 a.m. shotgun start at Windy Harbor for eligible patrons (active and retired military, reservists, DoD and their dependents with established handicaps at Mayport). Format is 36-hole stroke play. 270-5380

**May 12: Armed Forces 5K/10K Fun Run.** 8 a.m. start at the Gym. Free. 270-5451

## Liberty Call

The following activities target single or unaccompanied Sailors. For more information, call 270-7788/89 or stop by Planet Mayport Single Sailor Center and pick up the monthly activity calendar with a complete listing of all upcoming Liberty events.

**May 1: Comedy Zone Trip.** This free trip includes transportation, admission and appetizers. Open to those 18 years old and older. Trip departs from Planet Mayport at 6:15 p.m.

**May 4: Barracks Break In.**

Free pizza and a movie in the lounge of Bldg. 2105 starting at 6 p.m. every Monday.

**May 5: Cinco de Mayo.** Free food, music and fun at Planet Mayport starting at 6 p.m.

**May 5: Texas Hold 'Em.** This free, progressive tournament starts at 6 p.m. every Tuesday at Castaway's Lounge (Beachside Community Center).

**May 6: Rack Attack Pool Tournament.** This free, single elimination tournament starts at 6:15 p.m. at Planet Mayport.

**May 7: 10-Minute Tourist**

**Tour.** Quick tours of Planet Mayport offered on the hour every hour with a giveaway gift for everyone participating.

**May 8: Free Fry-Day.** Free McDonald's French fries starting at 6:30 p.m. at Planet Mayport (while supplies last).

**May 9: Funk Fest 2009.** This trip to Metro Park features the funky sounds of BBD, Guy Featuring Aaron Hall, Fantasia, Doug E Fresh, Alexander O'Neal, and Midnight Starr. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$15.

## Kid Zone

**May 1: Club Teen Extended Hours (Movie Night).** Open 7-10 p.m. for middle and high school ages. 270-5680 or 246-0347

**May 1: Freedom Friday, Fiesta Dance.** 7-11 p.m. at the Youth Activities Center for elementary ages. Cost is \$7 in advance, \$9 the day of (if space). Space is limited; early sign up is recommended. 270-5680

**May 2: No Saturday Movies at Beachside Community**

**Center.** Family-friendly outdoor summer movies start on Friday, May 8 at Sea Otter Pavilion. 270-5228

**May 4: Teen Camp Registration Begins.** (Replaces Junior Counselor Program.) Weekly camp sessions are available for ages 13-14 from June 8-August 21. Sessions are limited to 12 teens per week. Cost is \$60 per week. Sign up begins at 9 a.m. at the Youth Activities Center. 270-5680

**May 8: Summer Outdoor**

**Movies Begin (Bedtime Stories, PG).** 8:30 p.m. every Friday at Sea Otter Pavilion. Light refreshments available for purchase. 270-5228

**May 9: Teen Dance.** 8-11 p.m. at Club Teen for middle and high school ages. Cost is \$2 per person. 270-5680 or 246-0347

## CDH Goes Green



From MWR  
Planting flowers is one of many activities Tammy White provides for children in her care as part of the Month of the Military Child. Shown: Taylor White, age 5, Child Development Home Care Provider, Tammy White and Ryan Renteria, age 18 months. For more information on Navy Child Development Homes, call 270-6961.

The Fitness P.O.W. is Cardio:  
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Strength: Cable Flyes/Flyes;  
Stretch: Hamstrings



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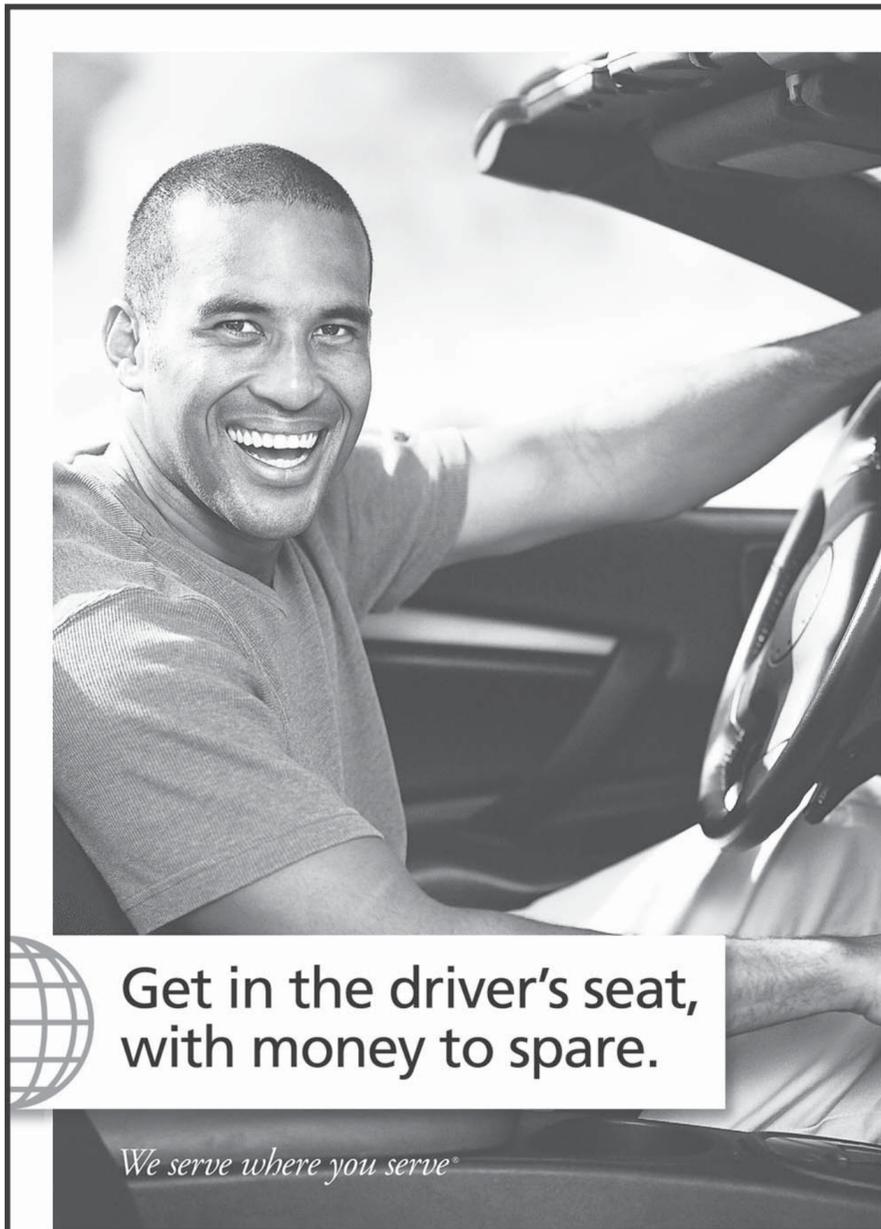
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# Rap Artist Yung Joc Drops In On Vicksburg



-Photo courtesy of USS Vicksburg  
Capt. Chuck Nygaard, Cmdr. Joseph Thomas, Command Master Chief (SW) Jay Powell and Culinary Specialist First Class (SW/AW) Corey Clemons pose with Yung Joc and associates.

**By Ensign Marc Schron**  
USS Vicksburg PAO  
Rap & Hip-Hop artist Yung Joc recently dropped by USS Vicksburg during their Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group Deployment. Arriving by helicopter from the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, Rapper Yung Joc and his associates were met by Vicksburg Commanding Officer Captain Chuck Nygaard, and Executive Officer Commander Joseph Thomas. Standard for all Vicksburg guests is a tour of the massive warship, the "Death Star" of the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group, so naturally the first stop was in the Combat Information Center. Impressive as the extensive array of systems that comprise the nerve center of the Eisenhower Air

Defense Commander's backbone is, the tour continued ever-higher to Vicksburg's bridge. Comparing the Corvette of Vicksburg to the Cadillac of Eisenhower, Seaman John Caplinger showed Yung Joc a few pointers before letting him take the helm and take VIK through several full-power high-speed turns. Stepping out to the bridge wing, the guests were met by Gunners Mate First Class Brandon Clark who showed them the basics of the M240G 7.62mm machine gun. Outfitted with a bandolier of ammunition apiece, Yung Joc and crew tried their hand on the fully-automatic setting, tearing up the water and generating large smiles all-around. Next on the tour was Central Control



-Photos courtesy of USS Vicksburg

Rap artist Yung Joc shares a few thoughts with Information Technician 2nd Class (SW) Marcus Baugh.

Station, where Chief Warrant Officer Angelo Jones gave the VIP's an up-close and personal introduction to Vicksburg's four LM 2500 Gas Turbine Engines, the power behind the impressive 100,000 shaft horsepower rooster tail seen off the stern.

By this time, the crew was assembled on the flight deck for a special treat. Not to be outdone by a celebrity, Vicksburg's own Hull Technician First Class "Buck-Fifty" Charles Backer, Information Technician Second Class Marcus Baugh,

and Seaman Kenny Lewis laid down their own rhymes before Yung Joc. Put on the spot but not to be outdone, Yung Joc treated the crew to several off-the-cuff verses, demonstrating his true gift for the art of Rap. No celebrity visit is complete

without an autograph session, so with photos and CD's provided by Navy Entertainment, every member of the crew that joined the line received a personally autographed photo and CD, as well as their picture with Yung Joc.



**Windy Harbor GOLF CLUB**

**BASE GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Saturday, May 16  
AND  
Sunday, May 17

**TOURNAMENT FORMAT**  
36 Hole Stroke Play  
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Championship Flight will play the Blue Tees  
All Others Green Tees, Ladies Red  
8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start

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✓ Awards banquet following Championship Round

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Will Sonny find the Magic again?  
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**Thursday, April 30th vs. Mobile - 7:05 pm**  
**Thursday Night Throwdown**  
Enjoy Buds for a Buck and other great drink specials at the hottest spot in Jacksonville during the summer!

**Friday, May 1st vs. Mobile - 7:05 pm**  
**Strike Out Stroke Night!**  
The Suns honor Stroke Survivors and help promote stroke symptom and prevention awareness! After the game, Friday Family Fireworks.

**Saturday, May 2nd vs. Mobile - 7:05 pm**  
**Southpaw's Birthday Party & Chevrolet Night**  
Help the Suns mascot celebrate his special day at the Baseball Grounds with a pre-game whiffle ball game at 6PM featuring Southpaw, Billy the Marlin, Jaxson De Ville and all of Southpaw's mascot friends! Catch a special appearance from Myron Noodelman throughout the game! Plus, catch the hottest rides around from Chevrolet! All kids will receive a small ice cream treat at entrance.

**Sunday, May 3rd vs. Mobile - 3:05 pm**  
**ZOOnerstars Appearance & Credit Union Day!**  
See the first 2009 appearance by Roger Clemens, Cow Ripken, Harry Canary and their crazy friends! Plus, it's Credit Union Day! Stop by your local Credit Union for a special ticket discount. After the game, Kids Run the Bases.

**Monday, May 4th vs. Mobile - 11:05 am**  
**Celebration of Reading Day #2**  
Schoolkids from all over the Jacksonville area are invited to enjoy this special late morning game! No beer will be sold today!

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 358-2846 or visit [www.jaxsuns.com](http://www.jaxsuns.com)

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# Phoenix Express Kicks Off With Robert G. Bradley

By Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa / Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet Public Affairs

Maritime and land forces from 14 countries kicked off Exercise Phoenix Express (PE09) in Souda Bay, Greece April 22.

PE09, a two-week long exercise designed to strengthen regional maritime partnerships, is part of the

overall U.S. Africa Command and Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe ñ Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa - Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet theater security cooperation (TSC) strategy to enhance regional stability in the region through increased interoperability and cooperation among regional allies from the United States, Africa, and Europe.

"Phoenix Express demonstrates U.S.

and partner nation commitment to regional stability and maritime security," said U.S. Navy Capt. Red Smith, Commander, Task Force 68. "During this exercise, Sailors will get underway and become familiar with the other navies' operating procedures and practices. When they meet in the future to conduct combined peacekeeping or humanitarian operations, or to counter trafficking in drugs, weapons, or per-

sons in this region, they will be better able to work together."

U.S. units participating in the exercise include members of the U.S. 6th Fleet staff, the 6th Fleet Command ship, USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20) homeported in Gaeta, Italy, and USS Robert G. Bradley, homeported in Mayport, Fla.

"Phoenix Express offers a phenomenal opportunity to hone fundamental

naval skills and improve the interoperability in the interest of maritime safety and security," said Robert G. Bradley Commanding Officer Cmdr. Clinton A. Carroll.

Participating countries include Algeria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, Turkey, Tunisia and the United States.

## PNLOs Visit USS Carney



—Photo by MC2 Alan Gragg

A group of Partner Nation Liaison Officers (PNLOs) from U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) stand in the bridge of USS Carney (DDG 64), while receiving a tour of the Mayport-based guided-missile destroyer. While in Mayport, the PNLOs also toured U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO) and U.S. 4th Fleet Headquarters. SOUTHCOM, headquartered in Miami, is the regional commander in charge of all U.S. military operations in the Caribbean, Central and South America and surrounding waters. Both SOUTHCOM and NAVSO host PNLOs, military officers from regional countries who are assigned as staff members.

## Hue City Welcomes New Ensigns



—Photo courtesy of USS Hue City

USS Hue City is proud to welcome Ensigns (Select) Kelly Jones, Mersha Dodds, Valerie Hantke. The Ensign Selects are expected to arrive after graduation from the Naval Academy in May. Also pictured is Ensign Ryan Kelly.



—Photo by MCSA Whitfield M. Palmer

Sailors aboard USS Robert G. Bradley (FFG 49) man the rails upon arrival in Algiers April 17. Robert G. Bradley is in Algiers for a Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) mission to strengthen the maritime partnership between the U.S. and Algeria.

## RGB Marks Visit To Algeria To Strengthen Partnership

By MCSA Whitfield M. Palmer

USS Robert G. Bradley (FFG 49) arrived in Algiers April 17 for a Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) mission to strengthen the maritime partnership between the U.S. and Algeria.

The visit included a luncheon aboard the ship attended by various Algerian officials to include Brigadier General Mohammed Guelmami, Commander of the Central Naval Region. A flight deck reception attended by senior military officers, civilian officials, and members of the diplomatic corps including U.S. Ambassador David Pearce was held aboard the ship as well.

In addition to training with Algeria's military, Robert G.

Bradley Sailors took advantage of unique opportunities to visit military and arts museums and the Roman ruins at Tipaza. All of the tours were hosted by the Algerian Navy specifically for the crew of Robert G. Bradley.

The visit concluded with a reception hosted by the Algerian military that included a dinner of traditional Algerian food and music by the National Folk Orchestra. A surprise for Sailors attending the reception came in the form of a rendition of "She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain" played by the musicians.

"The friendship with the United States is not a recent relationship," said Navy Brigadier General Mohammed Guelmami as he addressed the attendees of the reception. "Our

common interests and challenges are several hundred years old. We are pleased to have the opportunity to work together here and during Phoenix Express."

Phoenix Express is a multinational exercise designed to increase interoperability among participating nations to strengthen partnerships and maritime safety and security in the region. This port visit served as a precursor to the exercise.

Robert G. Bradley, an Oliver Hazard Perry class frigate home-ported in Mayport, Fla., is on a regularly scheduled deployment to the Sixth Fleet area of responsibility in support of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa.

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# HSL-48 Detachment Two Returns To Mayport



-Photos courtesy of HSL-48

Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman Louis Willie greets his family after a six-month deployment.

By HSL-48 Public Affairs

HSL-48 Detachment Two returned to Naval Station Mayport on April 3 after deploying with the USS Underwood (FFG-36) and U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment 101 in support of Counter Illicit Trafficking (CIT) Operations in the 4<sup>th</sup> Fleet Area of Focus (AOF).

Throughout the deployment, the Rock Hard Roosters, Underwood, and U.S. Coast Guard team seized and disrupt-

ed more than 53,000 pounds of contraband worth an estimated street value of more than \$1.6 billion.

In addition, the Roosters also interrupted a human trafficking operation. With Intel received from Joint Interagency Task Force (South), the Roosters launched to locate a fishing vessel suspected of smuggling an undetermined cargo of narcotics. Once VENOM 507 arrived overhead, the crew counted numerous individuals on the

weather decks. With vectors provided by the aircrew, Underwood was able to close the vessel. After a successful boarding by U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Det 102, it was discovered that the fishing vessel, involved in human trafficking, was running dangerous-



Friends and Family rush out to meet the crew of Venom 507.

ly low on fuel and food. There is no telling what further deteriorating conditions the migrants would have been subjected to if not for the interdiction by the Rooster/Underwood team. All told, 43 migrants of various nationalities were returned to Ecuador. The youngest was a

3-yr old girl!

At last, the Rock Hard Roosters returned to Mayport and their families as heroes, with Venom 507 flying in on April 2 and the remainder of the Detachment arriving on Friday, April 3. The Roosters remained on station for six months, ready

to face any challenge that was presented to them. Their success was only one part of the larger operation to stop drug smuggling operations. Their lessons learned will be invaluable to all future CIT detachments.



Chief Aviation Structural Mechanic William Wilkinson greets his family with flowers in hand.



Above and below, children hold signs welcoming home their crewmembers from a six-month deployment.



**MWR Mayport's Summer Outdoor Movies**  
Begin Friday, May 8 at Sunset 8:30 p.m. at Sea Otter Pavilion

- Friday, May 8 Bedtime Stories (PG)
- Friday, May 15 Marley and Me (PG)
- Friday, May 22\* Inkheart (PG)
- Friday, May 29\* Race to Witch Mountain (PG)

Light refreshments will be available for purchase.  
For more info, call (904) 270-5228.

\*The movies on May 22 and May 29 may start slightly later than 8:30 p.m. if it is not dark enough outside.

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MMMF 608151

# Hall Completes ULTRA-C

By Ensign T.J. Orth  
USS John L. Hall PAO

The crew of USS John L. Hall (FFG-32) recently completed a busy two weeks which included a Unit Level Training Readiness Assessment for Certification (ULTRA-C) as well as a Commander, Second Fleet Force Protection Exercise that tested the crew's reaction to a number of scenarios they may face in an overseas deployment.

The ship completed ULTRA-C between April 6 and April 10, which consisted of an inport and underway period during which numerous drills were conducted across all warfare areas, including complex combat systems and damage control scenarios, navigation, shiphandling, and total ship survivability evolutions.

Operations Specialist 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Carlos Ramos was positive about the crew's endurance throughout the week.

"Everybody adapted to the situation and dealt with the lack of sleep pretty well," Ramos said. "The TSSE [Total Ship Survivability Evolution] went real well, especially from Combat's standpoint."

Upon completion of ULTRA-C, John L. Hall's crew had the weekend off before starting the Force Protection certification exercise, which pitted inport watchstanders against actors attempting to breach and circumvent security measures throughout a full 24 hour period.

The exercise consisted of 15 events on the ship, pier, and



-Photo by FC2(SW) Kevin Arnold

The Sailors are Cryptologic Technician Technical Seaman Jordan Hubbard, Sonar Technician Surface 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (SW) William Merryman, Sonar Technician Surface 2<sup>nd</sup> Class David Paxton, Operations Specialist 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Chris Rowe, and Operations Specialist 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Randy Vo.

water, including vehicle and pedestrian-borne improvised explosive devices, protests at the entry control point on the pier, armed intruders on the ship, swimmer attacks, and small boat attacks. USS John L. Hall scored 93 percent overall for the exercise, passing 14 of 15 events.

"It was really fun," said Sonar Technician 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (SW) William Merryman, who responded as a member of the Security Alert Team.

"It was nice to have outsiders act as the adversaries instead of actors from the ship. There was a lot of motivation from the crew and the reaction forces and it gave the crew more confidence in their skills."

John L. Hall simulated conducting an overseas port visit

and manned all overseas inport watches, including extra topside rovers and a RHIB crew that conducted constant patrols.

"The crew was very excited, stayed motivated as the day went on and reacted to everything that came their way," said Chief Gunner's Mate (SW) Jack Hollis. "The Anti-Terrorism Watch Officers controlled the situations and the Duty Gunner's Mates armed, briefed, and deployed the Security Alert Team and Backup Alert Force skillfully through the entire exercise."

By passing the exercise, John L. Hall is certified to conduct port visits overseas.

"It [the FPEX] was a big deal. The whole crew should be proud of themselves," said Hollis.



-Photos courtesy of USS Gettysburg

USS Gettysburg Commanding Officer, Capt. Rich Brown, left, and Executive Officer, Cmdr. Scott Robertson, greet the captain and crew of the Singaporean warship Persistence.

# Gettysburg Welcomes Singapore Navy

By MC3 Brian K. Fromal  
Combined Task Force 151 Public Affairs

A Singaporean counterpiracy task group joined Combined Task Force (CTF) 151 this week and began conducting operations alongside other Coalition naval forces off the coast of Somalia.

Commanded by Navy Col. Bernard Miranda, the Singaporean task group includes the Landing Ship Tank (LST), RSS Persistence (209), and joins other naval forces from the U.S. and UK who are currently conducting counterpiracy operations as part of CTF 151.

"Extensive international coordination is the key to maximizing the maritime counterpiracy mission," said Rear Adm. Michelle Howard, commander, CTF 151. "Having Singapore sailing alongside us will strengthen our ability to deter piracy and make the waterways safer for everyone."

The Singapore Navy has operated as part of the Combined Maritime Forces since 2004 and is a longstanding partner and vital Coalition member. They have provided support to CTF 158 in the North Arabian Gulf.

Prior to joining CTF-151,



Singaporean Naval Officer E H Poh is shown a weapon recently confiscated from suspected pirates in the Gulf of Aden.

Persistence's staff visited the guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg (CG 64) to discuss counterpiracy operations.

"We were honored to welcome the crew of Persistence aboard Gettysburg," said Capt. Rich Brown, Gettysburg's commanding officer. "We were excited to pass on our counterpiracy experience and to have them join the CTF 151 team. Persistence is an exceptionally well suited platform for the

counter-piracy mission and we look forward to building on an already strong professional relationship."

CTF 151 is a multinational task force conducting counter-piracy operations to detect and deter piracy in and around the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean and Red Sea. The task force was established to create a lawful maritime order and conduct Maritime Security Operations.

## Reaching Out

The following are just a sample of volunteer opportunities available through NS Mayport and Volunteer Jacksonville. For more information, call NS Mayport volunteer coordinator CS1 Hopkins at 237-5808 or 270-5373 or Dianne Parker at 542-5380 or you can immediately sign-up online for opportunities using [www.volunteer.gatewayjacksonville.org](http://www.volunteer.gatewayjacksonville.org).

### First Coast

**"No More Homeless Pets"**  
First Coast No More Homeless Pets brand new high capacity Spay /Neuter Clinic opens this month. The new facility will be able to help thousands of pets and owners as well as stray and feral cats -each year, with free or low cost spay/neuter and low cost vaccinations. We still need lots of volunteers for the clinic at the new location on Norwood Avenue. No medical experience needed. For more information, email Debbie Fields at [dlfields@bellsouth.net](mailto:dlfields@bellsouth.net)

### Fletcher H.S./TPC

Fletcher High School is requesting volunteers to help during the upcoming Player's Championship at TPC Sawgrass. Volunteers are needed May 4 - 10. For more information please contact Diane Russell at 241-2624/[dianer460@bellsouth.net](mailto:dianer460@bellsouth.net)

### Mayport Lions Club Volunteers

The Mayport Lions Club is looking for Volunteers to help with various projects. If you are interested (military & civilian), please contact either Bob Krepps, Senior Chief Petty Officer, USN(Ret) 509-4945 or Chuck Carroll, Commander, USN(Ret) 463-2884.

### Jacksonville International Airport Volunteer Ambassador Program

We are looking for volunteer to assist travelers with locating arrival and departure gates, telephones, baggage claim and ticketing areas. The Ambassadors provide vital customer assistance and a lot of smiles to ensure a pleasant and memorable experience while traveling through our airport. Benefits of being in the Ambassador program include gratitude of the passengers served each day, invitations, to volunteer appreciation events, free parking at the airport, meal voucher for every four-hour period worked, service recognition and the opportunity to meet people from all over the world. Contact Yvonne Pooler at 904-741-2006 or email [yvooler@jaa.aero](mailto:yvooler@jaa.aero).

### Jacksonville Zoo

The Jacksonville Zoo is asking for volunteers. Volunteers are needed to educate varied audiences about the natural world, teach conservation messages, beautify the grounds, assist guests in various areas of the park, input data, lend a hand in animal care areas, answer questions, drive trains and enhance guests' experiences. You provide the interest and enthusiasm, and the zoo will provide the training. Scheduling is flexible. Volunteers receive special discounts, free admission, newsletters and special programs only available to employees and volunteers. Take this opportunity to meet others who share your interests in the animal kingdom. All interested personnel please CS1 Hopkins or call 270-5373 for more information.

### YMCA of Jacksonville

YMCA of Jacksonville is looking for volunteers for their outreach programs geared towards males. For more information, contact Terra Herzberger at 265-1820.

### Children's Home Society of Florida

Children's Home Society of Florida is getting ready to permanently place seven or eight children in loving homes within the next couple weeks. Contact Nick Geinosky at 904-493-7738.

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# Calendar

## Out in Town

**Friday, April 24**  
Fleet Reserve Association Branch 290 is hosting "Pizza/Calzone" dinners from 5-8 p.m., at the Branch Home at 390 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach. A donation of \$5 to \$8 is requested for each dinner, and depends on what is ordered. Carry out orders are accepted. The public is always invited to dinner. Happy hour precedes the dinner from 4-6 p.m., all drinks are 50¢ off. After dinner, enjoy the Southern Rock music of SOUTHBOUND from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

**Saturday, April 25**  
Sixty juried artists will exhibit fine arts and fine crafts at Arts in the Park! 2009 on Saturday, April 25th, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. in Johansen Park, Atlantic Beach. Enjoy a day in the park, with musicians and dance performers in this beautiful seaside community. Original art will be avail-

able for purchase, but admission is free and open to the public. Dance performances are from 11 am to 2 pm and musicians will perform throughout the day. Bring blankets, lawn chairs, and picnic baskets for a family-friendly afternoon under huge oaks and palm trees. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Johansen Park is located on Seminole Rd, between Park Terrace East and West in Atlantic Beach. This annual event is sponsored by the Atlantic Beach Cultural Arts & Recreation Advisory Committee. For more information see AB website www.coab.us/artsinthepark or contact Timmy Johnson at 904-247-5828 or tjohnson@coab.us or Jolyn Johnson at artsjolynjohnson@bellsouth.net.

Guests can "Party for the Planet!" during the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' Earth Day celebration from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Environmental and animal conservation experts will have

booths set up for visitors to learn and collect valuable information on how to preserve our earth and its wildlife for future generations. They can also enjoy live entertainment, visits from Jazoo, the Zoo's friendly lion mascot, and a children's activity area that will include face painting, eco-friendly crafts, a bounce house, and an inflatable slide for the kids.

The Butterfly Festival at Tree Hill will be held from noon - 5 p.m. There will be a Bella Butterfly Tent with 1,000 butterflies, Take a Tree Hill Tour, Nature Store, Radio Disney, Goat Encounters, JAXPORT Butterfly Wings, Bubble machine, Giant Caterpillars, CreativePANdemonium steel drum workshop, ESI Trash to Treasure recycled art, Original art, Live music in the Joseph A. Strasser Amphitheater, Eco-Education & The Chef's Garden Monarch Dining Pavilion with healthy, tasty food. Jax4Kids.com Kids Zone will feature

bean bag toss for tattoos and pencils, mural painting, pine cone bird feeders, necklaces with magazine beads, eric carle style craft tissue paper collage and kites that fly, bags for all the arts fun. There will be live music in the Amphitheater. This celebration of nature (in nature) ends with the release of 1,000 butterflies. For more information, go to www.treehill.org.

Join a park ranger at 1 p.m. to learn about the many common species that inhabit the natural communities of the undeveloped barrier islands of northeast Florida. The program will take place at pavilion one on Little Talbot Island.

**Sunday, April 26**  
Guests can "Party for the Planet!" during the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' Earth Day celebration from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Environmental and animal conservation experts will have booths set up for visitors to learn and collect valuable information on how to preserve our

earth and its wildlife for future generations. They can also enjoy live entertainment, visits from Jazoo, the Zoo's friendly lion mascot, and a children's activity area that will include face painting, eco-friendly crafts, a bounce house, and an inflatable slide for the kids.

**Wednesday, April 29**  
The Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 290, invites you to participate in its "Wings-N-Things" from 5-8 p.m., at the Branch Home, 390 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach, FL. Snacks will be available for a donation of \$1.50 to \$5. Watch the Dart League competition; then stay and enjoy the music of Doug Bracey from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

**Thursday, April 30**  
Duval County Extension Agency, West Branch Library, 1425 Chaffee Road S., will hold a Butterfly Gardening Workshop from 6-8 p.m. Come hear staffers from the Duval Co. Extension Office teach about

what plants to plant to attract butterflies and how to maintain them. Please call 387-8850 to pre-register. Class is free.

**Saturday, May 2**  
Skater registration for the City of Atlantic Beach 4th Annual Bowl Bash is now open for the skate competition at the Oceanside Rotary Skatepark. Skaters, in age-groups and pro, can register at the Department of Recreation and Special Events office located at Bull Park, 7th Street and Ocean Blvd. Skaters will compete for awards and cash prizes. Age groups - eight and under, 9-12, 13-15, and 16 plus - can register for \$20; open pro registration is \$40. Registration after April 24th is \$25 and \$45 per skater. Registration forms are available online at www.coab.us/recreation.

## USO News

The USO will be hosting a "Military Appreciation Day" event on Saturday, May 16th at the Sea Otter Pavillion onboard Naval Station Mayport (between the Navy Lodge and the Pizza Hut). Volunteers are needed to help us out. Please contact the Mayport USO Center at 246-3481 or email jfritzwater@usojax.com.

Your Greater Jacksonville USO is excited to be participating in this year's "Birdies for Charity" fundraiser with the Tournament Players Championship (TPC) at Sawgrass. This is a fun way of following this tournament and supporting your Greater Jax USO. Help support your USO via the Birdies for Charity event. You may participate online at www.playerschampionship.com and click on "Birdies for Charities", make a pledge (no money upfront), guess the number of birdies for fabulous prizes

and enter. Or you can enter the contest for a minimum donation of \$25 to USO. Checks may be made payable to "The Greater Jacksonville USO." Jiffy Lube is teaming with the Jacksonville USO. Stop by the Mayport/Jax USO and pick up a flyer, take it to one of the three shops listed on the flyer along with your active military ID to receive \$10 off a Jiffy Lube Signature Service Oil Change. It's a great deal and helps out the USO at the same time!

In order to reduce expenditures and continue troop programs, the Mayport USO has discontinued its \$6,000 a year lawn service. The USO has a labor force to do the work, but is lacking the tools. What's urgently needed with spring approaching are working gardening tools that may be unused in your garages. Lawn mowers, blowers etc can all be used. Please contact Ed Champaign

at 246-3481 to coordinate your donations.

United Through Reading program makes it possible to share in the enjoyment of reading to the children in your life, even while thousands of miles apart. The Mayport Center and NAS Center can record you reading a book to your children and send it to them after you have gone on deployment. It is a great way to make them smile on their special day even when you can not be there with them. Please contact your local USO center for more information.

The Anheuser-Busch theme parks have extended their free admittance for Active duty personnel again this year for more information click on the link www.herosalute.com

Active duty military are being given a five-day park hopper for Free. For more information please visit your local ITT office or this website, www.dis-

neyworld.com/military.

All University of North Florida athletic events are free to active duty service members and their dependents. Just show your military ID card at the gate.

There is a computer resource center available to all service members with email, Internet and word processing. Fax, copy

and free notary service is also available.

Watch TV or a movie from the video library. Service members can also enjoy video games or use the sports equipment.

There is a full kitchen, showers, a quiet reading room and a meeting room available at the USO. The USO is available for meetings, support groups, recep-

tions, parties and pre-deployment briefs. A TV, VCR and overhead projector are available for use.

For more information about activities or meeting availabilities, call 246-3481 or stop by the center at 2560 Mayport Road.

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**THE Daily Commuter Puzzle** by Jacqueline E. Mathews

**ACROSS**

- 1 Rat-\_-tat
- 5 Interweave
- 10 Bench piece
- 14 One listed in a will
- 15 Last part of a sonata
- 16 Sharpen
- 17 Land unit
- 18 Performer
- 19 Ms. Paquin
- 20 Secretary of State, once
- 23 Ruby & Sandra
- 24 Suffix for ideal or isolation
- 25 Lighter
- 28 Altar servers
- 33 At bay
- 34 Hum
- 35 Ms. Gardner
- 36 Low dam
- 37 Croats' neighbors
- 38 Word of agreement
- 39 Episc., in England
- 40 Book of maps
- 41 Exhausted
- 42 Magazine extensions
- 44 \_-door salesman
- 45 Word with doll or time
- 46 Pays attention to, cockney-style
- 47 Johnson's opponent
- 54 Muffin topper
- 55 Funeral oration
- 56 King of fiction
- 58 Scent
- 59 William Bendix television sitcom role
- 60 One of HOMES
- 61 Hurl
- 62 Zooms skyward
- 63 Out of \_

**DOWN**

- 1 Triumphant cry
- 2 Word with Cal or Virginia
- 3 English river
- 4 More stylish
- 5 "Hail Mary," for one
- 6 Door fasteners
- 7 Nay voter
- 8 Vows
- 9 Twisting
- 10 Hut
- 11 Yearn
- 12 Singer Murray
- 13 Rip
- 21 Tall grass
- 22 \_ of Man
- 25 Battling
- 26 Dancing Castle
- 27 Rule
- 28 Decorative hanging
- 29 Ears of corn
- 30 More civilized
- 31 Happening
- 32 \_ Domingo
- 34 Farmer's home, in song
- 37 Is tipsy
- 38 Peter and the others
- 40 Out of town
- 41 Carbonated drink
- 43 Fallacies
- 44 Family of the opponent of FDR and HST
- 46 Item in a backyard shed
- 47 To \_; also
- 48 Actor \_ Ray
- 49 Autos of old
- 50 Mishmash
- 51 "Damn Yankees" seductress
- 52 Weird: var.
- 53 Parade spoiler
- 57 \_ room

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4/30/09

THIS WEEK'S ANSWERS

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# Navy News

## Navy's Operation Prepare Campaign Encourages Sailors, Families To Be Disaster Ready

From CNIC

Everyone is concerned about the economy. Most of us have seen our assets shrink and are trying to be thrifty. Unfortunately, natural and man-made disasters don't wait for good times. Keeping yourself and your family ready for emergencies is as important as ever. If you haven't done it yet, here are some steps you can take to protect your most precious assets, your loved ones.

The good news is that it doesn't take a lot of time OR money. Since 2007, the Navy's Operation Prepare campaign has been encouraging personnel and their families to take three simple steps to disaster preparedness: **Be informed. Have a plan. Make a kit.**

The free part  
Getting and staying informed takes only a little time. You can probably do it all online at

Visit Operation Prepare's website at <https://www.cnic.navy.mil>. Explore the following sections within the website to help you and your family be disaster ready:

**Be informed.**  
For detailed information on the range of hazards you and your family may face and the various emergency actions to take, click on the link "Be Informed."

**Have a plan.**  
Obtain detailed planning

your convenience. First, identify the hazards most likely to affect you and your family. Is your area subject to extreme weather events like hurricanes, tornadoes, or winter storms? Is it flood-prone? Are hazardous materials stored nearby? Is a new strain of flu virus making news? Your Installation

tips and develop action and communication plans for emergencies by using the Family Emergency Plan template found on the link "Have a Plan."

**Make a kit.**  
Download a list of recommended emergency supplies to include in your kit, and print a list of links for additional resources from the link "Make a Kit."

Emergency Management Program and other local sources can help identify area hazards, as well as warning systems if there is an emergency and the recommended actions.

It is also essential—and free—to make plans as a family for reacting to various emergencies. Discuss where your chil-

dren will go if they are in school at the time of the emergency, and make sure they understand where you intend to be. Take into account any members of your family with special needs and what you will do with pets.

An important part of this plan is having a system to get and stay in touch if you're separated. Make a wallet card with all the phone numbers and information every family member may need, including an in-case-of-emergency name and number of local and out-of-state contacts. Make sure everyone has a copy, and file a copy with the command ombudsman and the command.

Economical emergency supply kits

Finally, make an emergency supply kit to keep at home, and be sure every family member knows where it is. You can keep your kit in one or two porta-

ble containers and have them ready to go if you suddenly have to take shelter or evacuate. Keeping smaller, specialized kits at work and in your car is also a great idea.

In building your emergency kits, consider area hazards and the special needs of family members and pets. In addition to basics like a first aid kit, personal sanitation supplies, dust masks, a battery-power or hand-crank radio, flashlight, extra batteries, maps, and your family communications plan, include enough nonperishable food and at least one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days.

Preassembled kits are available at discount stores for around \$100, but you can probably make one for considerably less. More than likely, you already have many of the items around the house. Also, you

don't have to get everything at once—just add items each week until you have enough. Rethink your family needs every year, and refresh food and water supplies periodically. Who can't afford added family security at that cost?

Operation Prepare: It's YOUR duty

Your family emergency plan and emergency preparedness kit are the cornerstones of Operation Prepare. For more information, visit the Operation Prepare information posted on CNIC's website at <https://www.cnic.navy.mil>. Remember: It's your duty to be prepared—Be informed. Have a plan. Make a kit.

## Navy Sponsors Whale Behavioral Response Study

By Bob Freeman

Special to American Forces Press Service

A Navy-sponsored study on the behavioral response of toothed whales to various sounds in the ocean has provided fresh insights into these little-understood mammals.

Of particular interest to the Navy is the whales' reaction to the sound of mid-frequency active sonar, an issue that has stirred some controversy and resulted in five lawsuits against Navy training practices.

"Our goal was to develop and safely test responses of whales to sound, particularly beaked whales, which we know seem to be more affected by mid-frequency active sonar than other species," said Navy Rear Adm. Lawrence S. Rice, director of the Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Readiness Division, during an interview on Pentagon Web Radio's "Armed with Science: Research and Applications for the Modern Military" audio webcast, April 22.

Rice said the focus on beaked whales is due to several incidents in which groups of beaked whales stranded themselves near naval exercises using mid-frequency sonar. The first such incident to attract national attention was in the Bahamas in 2000, where 17 whales stranded themselves. In the ensuing debate, sonar frequently has

been depicted by concerned citizens and media reports as injurious to all whales.

The admiral pointed out, however, that sonar exercises on the Navy's Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center range, 40 miles south of the site of the Bahamas stranding location, consistently are conducted in the presence of a resident population of beaked whales, apparently without negative effects.

"There's a lot of scientific uncertainty regarding the conditions that lead to these strandings," said Rice, noting that whales do not beach themselves every time active sonar is turned on.

For the Navy, the problem is not purely academic. Multi-million-dollar training exercises, which the Navy maintains are critical for national defense, have been hampered by lawsuits. Rice said a lack of verifiable knowledge in this area means the debate is not informed by science, and that proposed restrictions on training are based primarily on conjecture.

The behavioral response study is designed to expand understanding of whale response to acoustic sound, Rice said. Although sponsored in part by the Navy, the study is conducted under the auspices of the National Marine Fisheries Service, with participation by scientists and engi-

neers from some of the top research organizations, including Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Duke University, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and the Scottish Oceans Institute at the University of St. Andrews.

The study, the first of its kind, began in 2007. Rice said it has been conducted at the Navy's AUTECH range because the area has listening devices mounted on the sea floor that can monitor the movement of marine mammals, and because of the range's resident population of beaked whales.

The study began by attaching digital recording tags to the whales with suction cups and following their dive patterns. Researchers then introduced sound into the water and observed changes in the whales' behavior. The sounds included synthesized mid-frequency sonar pings, the call of a predatory killer whale, and random sound samples.

Initial results showed that all three sounds caused the beaked whales to slow their ascent to the surface and to move deliberately away from the sound source, but in none of the cases did they seem panicked, Rice said.

The researchers also tagged a pilot whale, a melon-headed whale and a false killer whale and exposed them to the same

sound sources. They didn't seem to respond to the sounds, Rice said.

"Their dive profiles look almost exactly the same whether they're receiving sound or not," the admiral said. "And again, that was above 150 decibels. They were just kind of milling

around out there."

Rice said forthcoming research will be conducted this year in the Mediterranean Sea with beaked whale stocks that are not as routinely exposed to sonar as those in the AUTECH.

"Everyone agrees," the admiral said, "that the best available

science, frankly, isn't really good. Unfortunately, it's all we have right now, and we're hoping that the results of the [behavioral response study] will plug into this."

(Bob Freeman works in the Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy.)

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## Groups Use Social Networking Sites To Reach Out To Supporters

By Sharon Foster

American Forces Press Service

From fundraising to volunteering, troop-support groups are taking full advantage of social networking Web sites to reach out and gather support for troops at home and abroad.

"We created three MySpace pages a few years back and a Facebook page this year," Andi Grant, president and founder of Give2TheTroops, said. "We update our pages daily, running current events, group news and photos. These Web sites have helped us quite a bit in gathering support and organizing."

Operation Gratitude, a California based troop-support group, has long believed social Web sites are a "great" tool for keeping in touch with supporters and sharing troop information.

On its official Web site, Operation Gratitude urges all visitors to join the group's Facebook "cause" page and invite more of their Facebook friends to join as well.

"Our Facebook page was set up a month ago," Carolyn Blashek, president of Operation Gratitude, said. "The 'cause' page was set up about two years ago. We have seen an increase in volunteers and supporters through our Facebook networking. We started using Twitter about a month ago. The two have provided a mechanism for us to publish updates easily and recruit volunteers. I can honestly say keeping up with the two has enhanced our efforts, but also caused more work!"

Leaders of both groups agree social networking sites have allowed them to "get the word out" more quickly about different activities and events because of the high volume of traffic on these Web sites.

It also allows for online conversations with prospective volunteers and supporters through chat rooms and forums, and direct supporters back to their official Web sites to collect funds for troop-support activities.

"By utilizing these Web sites, we have been able to introduce more people to who we are — our goals, our mission and why we do what we do," Blashek said. "We've also received a lot of positive feedback and ideas from supporters who didn't know we existed."

Grant, whose troop-support group is based in Connecticut, acknowledged some possible drawbacks to social networking.

"You need to have the time to maintain the Web site, answer questions and monitor responses and comments," Grant said. "There is plenty of competition out there, so if you don't have designated people updating and monitoring your page, it can have adverse effects."

Grant said he had to delete inappropriate remarks and, on occasion, links to other causes, which other supporters wanted his group to endorse.

"Bottom line — you have to patrol it often," he said.

While both leaders recommend social networking Web sites to other troop-support groups, they still value the success of their official Web sites.

"It's still too early to tell in comparing our Facebook page with our Web site," Blashek said. "Our Web site is still a vital part of who we are. I would definitely recommend these other social networking sites to other groups. The more people know what you do, as it relates to supporting the troops, the better. I look at this as just another way of communicating with supporters."

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2/1, DR, quiet crt \$875 + sec 904-725-2621

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### Houses Unfurnished

**Westside near 1295 3/2**  
3 bdr m, 3/2 deposit. Call 904-535-1453 or 904-535-2391.

### Houses Unfurnished

**WESTSIDE - 3BR**  
Houses ch&g \$850mo Call Angelo 626-4200

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He looked into Roadmaster Drivers School...  
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**Store Hours**

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