

THE MIRROR NS MAYPORT, FLORIDA

2008 CHINFO Award Winner

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THURSDAY, May 21, 2009



MWR Plans Barracks Bash

Single Sailors and Geographical Bachelors on board Naval Station Mayport are invited to Barracks Bash on May 27 from 4-8 p.m. in the Barracks Quad, behind Buildings 1586 and 1587. Barracks Bash is the ultimate cookout and "backyard" party featuring food, DJ entertainment, games and lots of giveaways, all for free! For more information, call Planet Mayport Single Sailor Center at 270-7788.

Hue Memorial Scheduled

USS Hue City plans on holding the annual Hue Memorial from May 29-31.

The Memorial recognizes and celebrates the achievements of the veterans of the Battle of Hué City and invites them to tour the only ship in the United States Navy named for a battle fought during the Vietnam War.

Friday night will host a reception at Bogies Restaurant. A golf tournament, wives and widows brunch, and family picnic are scheduled for Saturday. The memorial will culminate in a memorial service with a guest speaker, author Nicholas Warr, on Sunday morning. Warr was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for participation in Operation Hué City and was honorably discharged as a first lieutenant from the Marine Corps in March 1970.

The Battle for Hué City began January 31, 1968, when the North Vietnamese Army and the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam (NLF, also known as, Viet Cong) attacked the city as a part of the Tet Offensive.

The city was reclaimed by the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and three U.S. Marine Corps battalions, who attacked and defeated more than 10,000 entrenched People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) and guerilla forces after more than a month of entrenched, block by block fighting. The memorial is by invitation only.

Gettysburg Captures Pirates



-Photo by MC1 Eric L. Beauregard

Members of a visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team from the guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg (CG 64) and U.S. Coast Tactical Law Enforcement Team South Detachment 409 capture suspected pirates after responding to a distress signal while operating in the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) area of responsibility as part of Combined Task Force (CTF) 151. CTF 151 is a multinational task force established to conduct counter-piracy operations under a mission-based mandate throughout the CMF area of responsibility to actively deter, disrupt and suppress piracy in order to protect global maritime security and secure freedom of navigation for the benefit of all nations.

From Combined Maritime Forces Public Affairs

Ships from Combined Task Force (CTF) 151 prevented a piracy attack in the Gulf of Aden, which resulted in the apprehension of more than a dozen suspected pirates aboard an alleged "mothership" May 13.

At approximately 3:30 p.m., the Republic of Korea Destroyer, ROKS Munmu the

Great (DDG 976) and guided missile cruiser USS Gettysburg (CG 64) responded to a distress call from the Egyptian-flagged Motor Vessel Amira, which reported being attacked approximately 75 nautical miles south of Al Mukalla, Yemen.

Several assault rifle rounds and one rocket propelled grenade round struck M/V Amira resulting in little to no damage

to the ship. A rope was thrown from the skiff in an attempt to board, but the attempt failed and the suspected pirates abandoned their attack.

Gettysburg and Munmu the Great launched their embarked helicopters which flew immediately to Amira's location. During its flight, the SH-60B helicopter assigned to Helicopter Anti-submarine

Squadron Light (HSL) 46 located a dhow suspected of serving as a pirate "mothership" with approximately 17 people on board.

A Gettysburg visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team boarded the suspected "mothership" along with members of U.S. Coast Guard Legal Detachment (LEDET) 409 and apprehended the suspect-

ed pirates after finding eight assault rifles, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and one rocket-propelled grenade. All 17 of the passengers were brought on board Gettysburg for further questioning.

"This is another clear example of how coordination between the Combined Maritime Forces resulted in the successful dis-

See Gettysburg, Page 6

Frigate Issues Have Global Scope

By Paige Gnann

Editor

Delegates from eight different countries joined subject matter experts at Naval Station Mayport last week to discuss maintenance, modernization and life cycle issues of the Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigates as part of the International FFG Working Group (IFWG).

IFWG is the "fairly unique," according to NAVSEA Deputy

Commander (SEA 21), Rear Adm. Jim McManamon, and is geared towards sharing best practices and concerns throughout the international frigate community.

There are currently more than 60 frigates in operation world wide, with just over half of those belonging to the allied navies of Australia, Egypt, Spain, Turkey, Bahrain, Poland and Taiwan. Thirteen

of the U.S. Navy's 30 frigates are located at Naval Station Mayport, along with Frigate Class Squadron (FFGRON), part of the CLASSRON concept to align the Surface Warfare Enterprise. The primary goal of the FFGRON is to improve readiness, productivity, efficiency and cost-effectiveness for the frigate class.

And just because a different country owns a frigate,

doesn't necessarily mean they perform the maintenance on it, McManamon said. Several of the countries rely on the U.S. Navy for maintenance and parts replacement. With a limited number of replacement parts as the ships get older, that is becoming a problem. Many of the original manufacturers have gone out of business or the parts are simply not made anymore.

By bringing the countries

together to talk, they are learning that they share many of the same problems and getting a better idea of how to solve them.

"What we are looking at here is as these ships age, who we can bring best practices to the table," McManamon said. [The IFWG] establishes lines of communication and sharing lessons

See FFGRON, Page 3

USS Roosevelt Wins Phalanx CIWS Award

From Staff

The crew of USS Roosevelt received \$1,000 towards its MWR fund and a plaque to hang on the ship as the winner of the 2008 Phalanx Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) Excellence Award May 12.

Rear Adm. Kevin M. Quinn, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet and representatives from Raytheon Systems Company presented the award to the guided-missile destroyer.

"This is a special occasion," said USS Roosevelt Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Stanley Keeve. "The CIWS team has done a phenomenal job."

The award is given based on operational efficiency of the CIWS. The Phalanx CIWS is a 20mm, rapid-fire, Gatling gun, capable of accurately firing more than 3,000 rounds per minute as the final line of defense against anti-ship mis-

siles or aircraft. The gun is mounted in a self-contained turret along with an automatic fire control system. It routinely searches, detects, tracks and engages targets using its computer-controlled radar system. Ships were evaluated based on the rounds fired, number of hours the systems were operational, operational hours between failures and number of technical assists from outside sources.

CIWS is an important self defense system for the Navy and is on nearly every ship from frigates to aircraft carriers, so being the top CIWS ship in LANTFLT is a huge accomplishment for the members of CG division that make up the CIWS team.

The CIWS team is made up of Fire Controlman 1st Class Steven Scott, Fire Controlman 2nd Class Jonathan Branch, Fire Controlman 2nd Class Christopher Brown, Fire Controlman 3rd Class Thomas Byrne.



-Photo by MC1 Heather Ewton

Rear Adm. Kevin M. Quinn, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet talks with the crew of USS Roosevelt during a visit to the ship to present it with the 2008 Phalanx Close-In Weapons System Excellence Award.

CO Column

We honored our fallen shipmates on Sunday with the 22nd annual memorial service commemorating the crew members of USS Stark (FFG-31) killed on May 17, 1987 when the ship was attacked by Iraqi missiles. Two missiles struck the ship without warning after 2100 while the ship was on patrol in the southern Persian Gulf. One missile exploded, causing immediate fires and tremendous damage in the forward part of the ship. Fuel from the second missile intensified the fires, and the crew fought the inferno through the night and the next day. Aided by equipment and fire fighting teams from other Navy ships, the crew succeeded in saving the ship, but the cost was heavy: thirty seven shipmates were killed. Several family and crew members were on hand and many told personal stories of how they reacted when the ship was hit. Special thanks to Rear Admiral Joseph D. Kernan, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and Commander FOURTH Fleet for an excellent job as the guest speaker for the event and thanks to the Naval Order of the United States for making sure the heroes we lost are never forgotten. I also have to thank Base Services for making the park look better than I have ever seen and the MWR and Security departments. The families of the Stark



Capt. Aaron Bowman

always praise the support they received from the command and base Ombudsmen who all gathered together to get the families through the tragedy. The Ombudsmen we have on this base continue to impress and amaze me. If you don't know who your ombudsman is or if your fiancé or spouse doesn't have them on speed dial, you need to track them down real quick. The connections they have and the experience they bring to the table are second to none. My wife and I had the honor of hosting the Ombudsman at our quarters last Friday evening to thank them for everything they do. Please take the time to thank them for their support and dedication to the Navy.

If you notice a large bell in Memorial park, its because more than 300 shipmates of

the USS FDR (CV 42) were on hand last Friday to dedicate the ship's bell as part of their monument of the ship. The bell will stand as a tribute to all those that served on the FDR and we will be able to use it for any ceremony in the park. The FDR was one of the first aircraft carriers at Mayport and was decommissioned in 1977. Thanks to everyone (especially our security department) who had a hand in helping this honorable group with their reunion.

This coming Saturday we welcome home the crew of the USS Robert G. Bradley as they return to Mayport after AFRICOM Deployment. The ship deployed to the Navy's Sixth Fleet area of operations six months ago and participated in countless training workshops, a multinational exercise with various European and North African countries and many other types of engagements. Welcome home and get ready for some well deserved time with your family and friends.

We now have the first sea turtle nest on base and it is a big one. For the first time in six years, a Leatherback turtle came ashore and laid her eggs in a nest on our beach. The nest is near the jetties and of course is protected by orange netting and should be avoided at all times. We should see them hatch in late July. The Leatherback is the world's largest sea turtle and

the tracks up on the beach easily can exceed seven feet across!

A little known 50th anniversary at Mayport is about to happen on 8 June. Go on-line and type in "missile mail" and you will find that in the late fifties, the post office was looking for innovative ways to speed up mail delivery and conducted a test shot from the submarine USS Barbero off the coast of Virginia with a Regulus missile filled with mail to land at Mayport Naval Station. 3000 pieces of mail arrived at Mayport and the test was a complete success. Although the concept never caught on, the vision was to launch missiles filled with mail from coast to coast and across the Atlantic.

June 1st is the official start of Hurricane Season. Last week we went through our HURREX and next week we get ready for the start of Hurricane Season with Hurricane Preparedness Week (May 24-30). The Navy's Operation Prepare campaign urges you to be prepared knowing the vulnerabilities and the actions you and your family can take before a hurricane. We are in an area that is prone to hurricanes so you should have plans for securing your home, evacuating to shelter, and maintaining communications. If the decision to evacuate the base is made, it will happen rather quickly and staying in the barracks or in a Navy home will

not be an option. You can help yourself by having an emergency kit ready to go and a list of key documents that you can assemble quickly. Please have those family discussions now on where you will go, what you will take, and how you will communicate if an evacuation takes place.

On June 15-19, our Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) will present its quarterly Command Financial Specialist (CFS) training course. This is a 40-hour course designed for the military service member to provide training and education, information and referral, and counseling and assistance to other service members within their command, department, and/or detachment. Qualifications for CFS class attendees include:

a. Military members in pay grade E6 and above

b. Candidates must be highly motivated and financially stable and meet financial overseas screening standards. For assistance with the CFS screening process, CO's may refer to the FFSC Personal Financial (PFM) staff for guidance. Screening shall be completed prior to training.

c. E5 candidates require special authorization from Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) PFM Program Manager.

d. Candidates must have a

minimum of one year remaining in their current command from the date of graduation from training.

e. The CFS class is also open to all Naval Career Counselors and all Ombudsmen.

To Sign up for the CFS class the service member class attendee should call NS Mayport's Fleet and Family Support Center at 270-6600, ext. 1701.

Before I close I want to thank our USO for hosting a fantastic "Military Appreciation" event last Saturday. It was an overwhelming success and the volunteers and sponsors showed up in huge numbers. I know I had a great time and my son certainly enjoyed boxing with dad and putting me horizontal with the super large boxing gloves. Plenty of games, food and fun was had by all. The USO is a big part of our team and they deserve our respect and admiration. Well done, and thank you for the support you give us.

Please keep an eye out while you go through your day and don't hesitate to let me know if you see a better (or safer way) to do business around the base. Your concerns are my concerns, so keep those suggestions rolling in to the CO's suggestion box located at the base galley, or email them to aaron.bowman@navy.mil

Chaplain's Corner

The decade of the 1960's is a benchmark in the history of 20th century America. Among a number of significant events, the decade marked the beginning of an era of cynicism, doubt and suspicion. People started to openly question the trustworthiness of their leaders. A good number of folks had some valid reasons for doing so. Many started to question the ability of government to solve the mounting and complex problems of society. The hippies of the 1960's exemplified the epitome of the era's spirit of cynicism and rebellion against the status quo. However, in their carefree lifestyle, they lacked the proper answers to society's problems. Bigger still, they lacked the right questions.

So, it was during a Christmas season in the 1960's that in the state of Georgia, where religion was as common as fried chicken, you might often spot hand-painted signs along the highways that would read: "THE END IS COMING SOON. ARE YOU READY?" Or "THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH." The skepticism and doubt of the era had already invaded the hallowed highways of the Bible Belt. Under one such sign that read, "GOD IS THE ANSWER" someone had spray-painted "SO WHAT'S THE QUESTION?"

The intent may have been irreverent but the question strikes at the heart of my beliefs and perhaps yours. Indeed, what is the question? Some of that doubt and cynicism still persists in 2009. Some of life's circumstances may still beg the question. You see, in moments of personal discouragement I have asked myself the "question of questions." That is, what is the question that God provides the answer to? Am I living my faith out of habit or does my faith in God provide the answer to some deep-seated, fundamental and ultimate questions that demand an answer.

Most of my own doubts circle around two questions: Do I matter and does God really care? These are the challenging questions of my faith. If God is the answer, then surely God must somehow speak to those two questions. To be sure, the problems of many lonely and discouraged people would be solved if these questions could be answered.

If you and I claim to believe in God we must be prepared to provide the answers. Can one person on a speck of a planet in this tremendous universe make



**Chaplain Joe Molina
CDS40 Staff Chaplain**

a difference to the Almighty? Do I matter and does God really care? If I cannot have these two questions answered, then life becomes pretty meaningless for me.

Tucked neatly into the prophetic pages of the Bible, in the ancient book of Isaiah, we can start addressing these two questions. Written some seven hundred years before the birth of Christ, we find the people of Israel dealing with precisely those questions. The questions are answered with a declaration so simple in its clarity and ever so clear in its application:

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Holy Bible, Isaiah 40:28-31)

If God cares enough to provide me with this kind of hope, then I do matter and God does care. But, if God does care then why is there so much suffering in the world? Again, the answer to this question may appear simple, because it is simple. The answer is: Because God loves us! Say what?!... Yes, because God so loves us we possess freedom to choose. We are given the freedom to love God back and hope in the Almighty's providential care. Much suffering is due to the bad choices that we make. Much suffering can be avoided and even eliminated by exercising our freedom to have fellowship with God.

Hope in the Lord... And renew your strength!

Sweet Land of Liberty Nobody Does It Like Disney!

By Erica I. Peña-Vest
Travel Contributor

With the Walt Disney Company offering the military and their family free and discounted tickets, there has never been a better time to visit a Disney park. (For more information on specific terms, visit www.disney.com or visit ITT). With our close proximity to Walt Disney World, it's convenient to visit it and visit it often. But with this year's special offer, why not venture out and visit Walt's original park?

I recently visited Disneyland in Anaheim, California with my family and was amazed at how the Disney Company works so hard to improve their parks, when to the naked eye there is no need for improvement. Yet, every time I travel to Disneyland there is something new and exciting to see. I hadn't been to Disneyland in a few years and all of Anaheim, California seemed to have changed so much. Just when you think the magic can't get any bigger and the ambiance can't get any better, Disney and Company exceed your wildest imagination in their efforts.

For those of you planning to visit in the next year, I have so much to share with you that I have decided to do it in a two part series. This first part will touch on Disneyland itself. The second part will be on Disney's California Adventure, Downtown Disney and Anaheim.

Disneyland is the oldest of Walt's parks, and will forever be the original. As the original park, I have always thought that Disneyland is a static creation. After all, why improve on the true and tested? And yet, I am always pleasantly surprised by the new rides, attractions and renovations that have taken place in the years since I was last there. For those that have been there and done it all, you will find all of your old favorites plus some new thrills and adventures. Kids and adults alike will enjoy the new Finding Nemo's Submarine Voyage. The submarines that I loved so much as a kid have returned, but this time with a spin that is sure to capture the imagination of children everywhere. On this trip, I was surprised to find two of my favorite rides had changed. Pirates of the

Caribbean has been lengthened and updated, and characters from the 2003 film have been added. I found some new thrills and new surprises waiting around every corner. Even more surprising was The Haunted Mansion. My family and I visited during the period between Halloween and Christmas, and were delighted to find The Haunted Mansion completely redecorated in the theme of the movie "The Nightmare Before Christmas." It made for a wonderful change from the expected.

During our trip to California, we stayed just down the street from Disneyland at the Sheraton Garden Grove. With so many hotels in the area to choose from, it's hard to choose the perfect one. However, this brand new hotel has worked hard to stand out. It offers great amenities, spacious rooms, transportation to and from Disneyland (for a fee), and most importantly a great place to rest after your hectic day of park hopping. They also offer fantastic military rates year-round (www.sheraton.com). Contact the hotel directly for more information (714-703-8400).

I had the opportunity to visit all the Southern California amusement parks during my visit and while they all have their merits, one thing became very clear to my family. Something was different when we left Disneyland. The different parks throughout the area lacked something we couldn't describe. Not to sound trite but there is something dreamlike about being at Disneyland. For just a moment, you are not just there for your kids. It brings something out in you. You are suddenly in a place where everything seems possible, where dreams really do come true and where you forget who you are today and remember who you were 20 years ago when you believed in magic. My husband and I in a futile attempt to pinpoint the difference between the area parks came to one conclusion - no one does it like Disney.

Stay tuned to the next issue for more information or log on to www.guidetofamilytravel.com for more recommendations and free advice for your trip to Disneyland.

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Commercial: (904) 270-7817 Ext. 1012 DSN: 960-7817 Ext. 1012

Commercial FAX (904) 270-5329 DSN FAX: 960-5329

Email: mayportmirror@comcast.net

CO Actionline: 270-5589 or 1-800-270-6307

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-Photo by Paige Gnann
Rear Adm. Joseph D. Kernan, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and Commander Fourth Fleet, speaks at the 22nd anniversary of the missile attacks on USS Stark on May 17 at NS Mayport's Memorial Park.

USS Stark Shipmates Remembered At Memorial

By Bill Austin

NS Mayport PAO

Honor, courage and true grit was recognized at Naval Station Mayport's Memorial Park on Sunday, May 17 during an annual event that marks the loss of 37 Sailors killed aboard the guided-missile frigate USS Stark (FFG 31) 22 years ago.

On May 17, 1987, while on patrol in the Arabian Gulf, senseless tragedy struck in the night when two Iraqi missiles slammed into the sides of the USS Stark. Despite the severe damage inflicted, the heroic efforts of Stark's crew saved the ship by fighting the inferno through the night and into the next day.

"I just got off watch in the auxiliary room and was watching the Clint Eastwood movie, 'Hang 'Em High,'" said Mark Selk, an Engineman Second Class onboard Stark. "Just when Clint Eastwood dropped from the gallows with a noose around his neck, I heard this tremendous bang and the ship rocked violently." Selk said that within seconds, fire and smoke engulfed the ship. "When I heard over the ship's IMC 'incoming port side' I knew we didn't hit another ship and this was no accident. Our training kicked in."

Several of the ship's crew and former commanding officers were on hand to tell their stories that will be forever etched in their memories. One recount was a story of forgiveness to those that caused death and mayhem that night. Barbara Kiser, who lost her husband Senior Chief Steve Kiser, attends the ceremony every year, and clutched a small reminder that has big meaning for her. "I went to Bahrain for a memorial they

had for families on the ship's fantail several days after the incident," said Kiser as her blue eyes began to well up. "We took a boat out to the ship and I went into the berthing area where he was killed and it was completely dark except for the beam of my flashlight. There was nothing but ashes and twisted metal everywhere. With my free hand I felt in the dark around his bed and there underneath his burnt mattress and in the ashes was his bible. Look, you can read every page despite it being singed around the edges. I can still smell the fire." Kiser said she had the opportunity to read a passage of forgiveness from that bible to Saddam Hussein's henchman when she returned from the ship.

Forgiveness or not, memories and a sense of camaraderie were shared by shipmates and family alike that afternoon, and with 37 strikes of a bell and the laying of a ceremonial wreath, each shipmate was honored and a 21 gun salute rang out to the blue Florida skies.

"Their valorous selfless sacrifice and courage in the face of adversity will never be forgotten," said guest speaker Rear Adm. Joseph D. Kernan, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and Commander Fourth Fleet. "Let's hope their courage is found in every generation to come."

Stark was decommissioned at Mayport in 1999. In order to preserve the tradition once the ship was retired, the Naval Order of the United States, North Florida Commandery, assumed sponsorship for the memorial service. Mayport's Memorial Park was established Aug. 1, 1987, with the dedication of the Stark monument.



-Photo by Paige Gnann
Members of the International FFGRON Working Group gather for a group shot on the steps of Ocean Breeze Conference Center last week. Eight countries gathered at Mayport to discuss maintenance, modernization and life cycle issues of the Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate. IFWG was headed up by NAVSEA Deputy Commander (SEA 21), Rear Adm. Jim McManamon and Mayport-based FFGRON/DESRON 14 Commodore, Capt. Glenn Zeiders.

FFGRON

From Page 1

learned." McManamon said one of the most pressing concerns within the frigate community is corrosion control, along with the console computer cards.

He also added that it has been interesting to see how the different countries have adapted the frigates to fit their own needs.

McManamon said the most interesting work was by the Australians who had adapted the ship's combat systems for vertical launch missiles. Egypt and Turkey have also done interesting work on hull upgrades, he added.

The U.S. Navy has done its own modernization to the frigates, including replacing the ShipAlt 423, the ship service diesel generator, with a Caterpillar 3512.

As the U.S. Navy looks towards building its fleet to 313 ships by 2013, it also has to look at the state of the current fleet.

When the Perry-class frigates were first commissioned starting 30 years ago, the ships were designed for a 25-year

life expectancy. That has been extended an additional five years as NS Mayport-based USS McInerney turns 30 this year.

"What we're trying to do here is to provide the CNO with the option of either maintaining or putting [a frigate] into decommission," McManamon added.

"Our concern is if we don't pay attention to this now, then he won't have an option. I want to make sure he does have a choice."

"[IFWG] gives us a chance to share lessons learned and get a good understanding of what we need to do to keep the FFGs a

viable benefit," he said.

Mayport's frigates include USS Boone, USS De Wert, USS Doyle, USS Stephen W. Groves, USS Halyburton, USS John L. Hall, USS Klakring, USS Robert G. Bradley, USS Samuel B. Roberts, USS Simpson, USS Taylor, USS Underwood and the oldest frigate USS McInerney. McInerney is scheduled to be decommissioned in August 2010.

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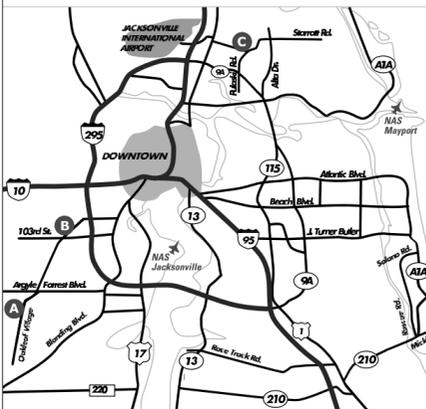
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Saturday	May 30, 1:00PM	Comcast Cable, Ch. 29
	12:30PM	FOX30/WAWS
	7:00PM	CBS47/WTEJ
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		CW17/WCWJ
Sunday	May 31, 5:00PM	WJXT 4
	6:00PM	FOX30/WAWS
	7:00PM	MyTVJax
	7:00PM	Comcast Cable, Ch. 29
Monday	June 1, 5:00PM	Comcast Cable, Ch. 7
	6:30PM	Comcast Cable, Ch. 29
Wednesday	June 3, 5:30PM	Comcast Cable, Ch. 29
Thursday	June 4, 7:00PM	Comcast Cable, Ch. 29

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USO Holds Appreciation Day For Military

From Staff

Around 5,000 military members and their families attended the annual USO Appreciation Day on May 16 at Sea Otter Pavilion at Naval Station Mayport.

Sponsored by the Greater Jacksonville Area USO and MWR this is the sixth year of the event to honor active duty men and women.

The day included live music from Southern Ruckus Band, USA cheerleaders, inflatables and activities for adults and kids.

USO Executive Director John Shockley said the event came together with a lot of work from the USO staff and dozens of volunteers. Unlike past years which relied on a large grant from Disney World, this year the staff had to be more creative with finding funding.

"We worked hard to get those sponsors," Shockley said. "When we learned we weren't getting the Disney grant, we decided no matter what - we were going to do this event. We turned it into a challenge to work harder and the sponsors came through. It's heartwarming and we also have volunteers from girl scouts, sea cadets, the USA cheerleaders [and Mayport]."

"I can't thank [NS Mayport Commanding Officer, Capt. Aaron Bowman] enough for his support and a debt of gratitude to his staff at MWR. It's been a fantastic event."



Thousands of service members and their families showed up Saturday at the Sea Otter Pavilion for the annual USO Appreciation Day.

-Photos by Paige Gnan



Misfit the Clown paints butterflies on Sophia Gray's face.



Danielle Waller participates in a Bank of America giveaway.



Gunner's Mate 1st Class Tom Hawk of USS Stephen W. Groves watches as 6-year-old Matthew Colgan amuses 15-month-old J.D. Hawk at the Base Pool. The pool officially opened for the weekends Saturday.



Two-and-a-half year old Brett Danenberg enjoys one of the free sno cones available at the Appreciation Day.



Two-year-old Chloe Boykin gets a fire hat from Mayport Firefighter Phil Rycraft and Sparky the Dog.



Matthew Cisco, 10, tries to ring the hole with a baseball while USO volunteer Travis Lebron, 11, looks on.



Ryleigh Fitz-Gerland, 9, holds her nose as she hits the bottom of the slide at the Base Pool.



USA Cheerleaders stand in front of a car display by Mike Davidson Ford. The cheerleaders were there to sign autographs and meet with Sailors and their families.



Kendall Careil, 3, dives to her father, Navy Diver 1st Class Christopher Careil of SERMC.



Participants enjoy a free lunch courtesy of USO and its sponsors. The event included live music from Southern Ruckus Band, inflatables and activities for adults and kids. There were also several prizes and giveaways.

USO News

Tickets are on sale for the annual USO Night at Adventure Landing on June 10 from 6-11 p.m.

Wristbands are \$2.50 for active duty service members and their families. Children 3 and under are free. This includes the water park and drypark with Go-Karts, Laser Tag, Miniature Golf, Wacky Worm Roller and the Frog Hopper. Arcade games and refreshments are not included.

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!

Many in the aviation community have heard of, or visited, the once famous,

Pensacola "hang-out" where Presidents, Astronauts, and almost every Naval Aviator

have lifted their mugs at Trader Jon's. Although, now closed and Trader Jon has gone to be with our many fallen heroes, his memory lives on. Our Chapter has been the recipient of two original souvenir T-shirts, bearing Trader Jon's likeness that will bring back fond memories to many of you. These t-shirts were donated with the understanding that they be used to raise funds for our Mayport USO, and their programs to help our service members and their families.

The Mayport Chapter of MOAA has decided to raise these funds by holding a raffle with the two winning tickets to be drawn at the June 21 Chapter meeting held at the Ocean Breeze Conference Center NS Mayport. Tickets are \$1 each or six for every \$5 donated and will be on sale at the chapter's April, May and June meetings. Ticket requests may be submitted to Cmdr. Chuck Carroll. Address questions to Chuck by

email at ccrarroll9@yahoo.com or call 463-2884. Make checks payable to: Mayport Chapter MOAA, Inc and in the memo on the check enter USO Raffle. Mail checks for your tickets to: Cmdr. Chuck Carroll, USN Ret; 1841 N Sherry Dr.; Atlantic Beach, Fla. 32233. Two tickets will be drawn, one for each t-shirt. If the first winner is present they will be able to select which t-shirt they want. The second will go to the second winning ticket drawn. Winners that are not present will be mailed their souvenir t-shirt, selection of shirt will be made by Carroll. These shirts may be viewed on line at www.mpmoaa.org.

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 gar-

dening 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 informa-

tion please visit your local ITT office or this website, www.disneyworld.com/military.

The new Priority Mail Large Flat Rate Box is now 50 percent larger (12 x 12 x 5 1/2) and for the first time in history, the U.S. Postal Service is offering a \$2 discount when sending the new larger box to an APO/FPO address, enabling customers to send more with one flat price of \$10.95. There are two versions of the new box; one branded with "America Supports You" (a Department of Defense-sponsored organization that supports overseas military forces) and includes an APO/FPO address block. Either version of the new Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Box is eligible for the \$2 discount. The boxes can be ordered at <http://www.usps.com> free of charge.

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, receptions, 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.

MWR Happenings

May 21: CPO Weekly Social Hour (Mug Night). Free hors d'oeuvres every Thursday 4-6 p.m. at Foc'sle CPO Club plus all-you-can-drink soft drinks for only \$1. Bring in your official CPO mug for \$1 domestic drafts. The CPO mug rep will be on site to place orders for those without a mug. Thursday night is reserved for active and retired Chief Petty Officers and their guests. 270-5432

May 22: Summer Outdoor

Movie (Inkheart, PG). 8:30 p.m. every Friday at Sea Otter Pavilion. Light refreshments available for purchase. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and bug spray, just in case. 270-5228

May 25: Memorial Day Bowling Special. 1-8 p.m. at Mayport Bowling Center. All day bowling pass is \$8 per person (shoes included). Children ages 3 and younger bowl for free. Ages 4-5 bowl for half-

price. Come and go all day long. 270-5377

May 26: All Khaki Night at CPO Club (Vendor Night). Free hors d'oeuvres every Tuesday 4-6 p.m. at Foc'sle CPO Club plus all-you-can-drink soft drinks for only \$1. Tonight is vendor night with drink specials from a specific vendor (TBD). Tuesday night is reserved for Chief Petty Officers and Officers, active and retired, and their guests. 270-5432

May 27: Intramural Lunchtime Bowling League. 11:15 a.m. warm-ups every Wednesday at Mayport Bowling Center. Cost is \$2 each week for Active Duty. Captain's Cup league. 270-5377

May 28: Free 10-Minute Golf Lesson. Lessons will be offered 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Windy Harbor Golf Club. Sign up in advance at the Pro Shop. 270-

5380

May 28: CPO Weekly Social Hour (Retiree Night). Free hors d'oeuvres every Thursday 4-6 p.m. at Foc'sle CPO Club plus all-you-can-drink soft drinks for only \$1. Retirees bring in a cruise book and receive one free domestic draft. Thursday night is reserved for active and retired Chief Petty Officers and their guests. 270-5432

June 12-14: Open Water Scuba Certification Course. Course includes use of all dive gear, course study materials, professional instruction, two nights lodging, two days admission to the springs, round-trip transportation for only \$290 (\$320 for guests). Sign up at Outdoor Adventures. 270-5541

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 21: Battle of the Sexes. This trivia challenge tests your knowledge of the opposite sex beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Planet Mayport.

May 22: Happy Birthday to All May Birthdays. Stop by Planet Mayport for your birthday treat starting at 6 p.m.

May 23: Nacho Day. Free nacho bar starting at

6 p.m. at Planet Mayport, while supplies last.

May 25: No Barracks Break In on Memorial Day.

May 27: Barracks Bash. 4-8 p.m. in the Barracks Quad (behind Buildings 1586 and 1587). Free food, wet t-shirts contests, prize pong, DJ entertainment and more for Mayport's Single Sailors and Geographical Bachelors. No pre-registration required. Just stop by.

May 31: Surveys and Sundaes. Stop by Planet Mayport, complete a survey telling us your opinions and receive a free sundae for your time and input.

Kid Zone

May 22: Summer Outdoor Movie (Inkheart, PG). 8:30 p.m. every Friday at Sea Otter Pavilion. Light refreshments available for purchase. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and bug spray, just in case. 270-5228

May 23: Teen Lock-In. 7 p.m.-7 a.m. at Club Teen for middle and high school ages. Theme is "murder mystery". Cost is \$12 in advance or \$15 the day of (if space). A permission slip is required. 270-5680 or 246-0347

May 29: Freedom Friday, Japan Style. 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 29: Club Teen Extended Hours. 7-10 p.m. for middle and high school ages. 270-5680 or 246-0347

May 29: Summer Outdoor Movie (Race to Witch Mountain, PG). 8:30 p.m. every Friday at Sea Otter Pavilion. Light refreshments available for purchase. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and bug spray, just in case. 270-5228

June 5-6: Register for Session 1 Swim Lessons. 8-10 a.m. Friday and Saturday at the Base Pool. Morning and evening lessons available. Session begins June 8 and meets Monday through Thursday for two weeks. Cost is \$40 per child. 270-5425

MWR Sports/Fitness

Sports

The Intramural Volleyball Lunchtime League game time is 11:30 a.m., Monday-Thursday, behind Beachside Community Center. This is a Captain's Cup activity.

Fitness

The Surfside Fitness schedule is as follows:

Monday

7 a.m., TRX with Emily
9:30 a.m., Power Walking
9:30 a.m., Broken Hearts with LaPlace

1 p.m., Moms in Motion with Traci

4:30 p.m., Zumba with Emily

Tuesday
6:30 a.m., Yoga with Mia
9:30 a.m., LoImpact with Emily

11:30 a.m., Advanced Mind Body with Mia and Emily

1 p.m., Strength Solutions & Flexibility Fix-Ups with LaPlace

Wednesday
6:30 a.m., Functional Flexibility and Stress Management with Mia

9:30 a.m., Intro to Mind Body with Mia

Noon, Lunch Crunch with LaPlace

1 p.m., Moms in Motion with Traci

3 p.m., TRX with Emily

5:30 p.m., Kids Clinic with Ruthie

5:30 p.m., Kickboxing with LaPlace

Thursday
9:30 a.m., Pump and Grind with Emily and Mia

11:30 a.m., Zumba with

The Fitness P.O.W. is Cardio:
Concept 2 Rowing;
Strength: Nautilus Pullover;
Stretch: Low Back

Emily
1 p.m., Strength Solutions & Flexibility Fix-Ups with LaPlace

Friday
7 a.m., Beach Bootcamp with LaPlace

9:30 a.m., Broken Hearts with LaPlace

9:30 a.m., Fitness Equipment Training

The Gym schedule is as follows:

Monday
6 a.m., Weight Training for Warfighters

11:30 a.m., Circuit Senations with LaPlace

3 p.m., Command Row-bics with LaPlace

Tuesday
6 a.m., Command Cardio Pump with Traci

11:30 a.m., Resistance with Traci

3 p.m., Conditioning for Running with LaPlace

4:30 p.m., Spinning

5:45 p.m., Fitness Equipment Training with LaPlace

Wednesday
7 a.m., Cardio, Combat and CORE with Traci

11:30 a.m., Spinning with Traci

Thursday
7 a.m., Command Jump and Jab

11:30 a.m., Row-bics

3 p.m., Victory PRT with Mia

Friday
6:30 a.m., Command Spinning

9:30 a.m., Intro to Spinning with Mia

11:30 a.m., Strength Training Basics for Women with Traci

Gettysburg

ruption of pirate activity," said Royal Navy Commodore Tim Lowe, deputy commander of the Combined Maritime Forces. "It is imperative that all maritime forces continue to synchronize their efforts to deter and disrupt these unlawful and aggressive acts."

Gettysburg and Munmu the Great are operating in support

of CTF 151, a multinational task force established to conduct counterpiracy operations under a mission-based mandate throughout the CMF area of responsibility to actively deter, disrupt and suppress piracy in order to protect global maritime security and secure freedom of navigation for the benefit of all nations.

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USS Hue City Joins With Norwegian Frigate Roald Amundensen During Group Sail



-Photos courtesy of USS Hue City

Several crew members from USS Hue City got a chance to board the Norwegian Aegis Frigate KNM Roald Amundensen recently. Ensign Nicholas Watts-Fernandez, Ensign Amanda Beierl and Ensign Steven W. Adams with USS Hue City in the background.

From USS Hue City

Several crew members of USS Hue City had a unique opportunity to visit the Norwegian Aegis Frigate KNM Roald Amundensen (F311) during a recent group sail.

Ensign Steven W. Adams, Ensign Amanda Beierl, and Ensign Nicholas Watts-Fernandez had the privilege to spend a morning on board, Chief Operation Specialist David Flournoy spent a week and a half, and Fire Controlman 2nd Class Christopher Ford spent a couple of days. While there, the Ensigns were granted an inside view of the newly commissioned frigate and spent the morning touring the ship, comparing work loads, and ship systems. Flournoy was on board to help integrate the ship's crew

into USS Harry S. Truman Strike Group Air Defense and Air Intercept Control postures. Ford was on board to compare, contrast, and train the crew on the intricacies of the Aegis Weapon System.

"There is a pride in ownership among the crew that I have yet to encounter," Adams said. "Every person is dedicated to their tasks, their job, and to the ship. Despite working in a two section rotation (12-on-12 off for engineers and six-on-six off for combat) personnel are performing at a higher level. More maintenance is being done, and they have yet to encounter a person not being able to perform their watch."

KNM Roald Amundensen has a smaller crew, hence the

extended watch section and need for extra training. "It was a very informational visit; the modernity of their ship is remarkable and offers a great opportunity to see where the future of naval ship building is heading," Watts-Fernandez noticed. "Full ship automation gives ready access to plant configuration from almost any part of the ship, and the Damage Control features offer three dimensional visual on any casualty. My guide, an electrician petty officer, was very informative and took great pleasure in showing me the plant and all the various Engineering modes. His former ship was a 40-year-old frigate, so he was able to point out the major differences between the ultra old and the ultra new. The combination



Pictured from left is Kvartermester Kvassheim, Ensign Nicholas Watts-Fernandez, Ensign Amanda Beierl, Loyntant Taasen, and Ensign Steven W. Adams on the bridge of KNM Roald Amundensen.

of gas and diesel offered ultra fuel conservation and also made the ship more able to maintain silence."

"The crew was very friendly, going out of their way to show us around, learn from us and teach us," Beierl added. "Their Wardroom was awe inspiring, with the presence of ship memorabilia as well as that of the King. The Sailors were all-around intelligent, working the equipment as though it was second nature to them and the Commanding Officer was very cordial, taking the time to show us around and teach us. He even gave the ship's Challenge coin to every visitor."

"The week and a half on RAMU [Roald Amundsen] was both a good training evolution and a great learning experi-

ence," said Flournoy. "The crew of RAMU is incredibly professional and takes pride in their ship, their Navy and their country. Training was conducted in various Air Defense issues from Air Intercept Control to recommendations for internal and external reporting, as well as coalition integration."

Ford also mentioned, "While aboard the Norwegian vessel, I found that we have many differences in platforms and equipment, but the ways both nations run their ships aren't very different at all. While there to teach their SPY technicians some "tricks of the trade" and setup features for Surface Search, I also had to opportunity to find out a lot about their particular system. Their knowledge level was very great in both the tacti-

cal and practical sense. I hope that my visit has left them with more tools that they can use to help support further intentions in our nations' cooperation. The Norwegian hospitality was wonderful in all aspects and, if granted another visit, I would gratefully accept."

The purpose of the visit was to promulgate good relations between partner nations and help integrate them into the ways and means of an American Strike Group. That purpose is being met. The Captain of the ship was a very gracious host and assured us before we departed that, though there are still areas that need more practice and attention, he is fully confident that Roald Amundsen is ready for a deployment.



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Aviation Boatswain's Mate Equipment Airman Juan Gonzales holds his newborn daughter for the first time.



Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 3rd Class Steven Mills is greeted by his wife and newborn son after returning from deployment on May 10

HSL-48 Detachment Returns To Mayport

By Lt. Helen Smith
 HSL-48 Detachment Five "BOHICA Air" (Beware Of Helos Intentionally Carrying Armament), recently returned from their seven-month deployment to the Africa Partnership Station embarked USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55). The detachment conducted operations in support of AFRICOM on the east and west coasts of Africa, the Horn of Africa, and in the Mediterranean Sea. They participated in operations in both 5th and 6th Fleets and visited numerous ports to build positive relationships with other nations. The 32 members of the detachment were able to experience a wide breadth of culture including visits to Congo, Senegal, Gran Canaria, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Sicily, Cyprus, Egypt, the Seychelles, and Greece. More than 700 mishap-free flight hours were flown during deployment, more than 220 of which were in support of multinational counter-piracy operations in the HOA. USS Leyte Gulf played host for receptions in a number of nations, while Bohica Air provided tours of

the SH-60B as well as training on aircraft capabilities and SAR procedures. Early in deployment, USS Leyte Gulf and Bohica Air supported the training of Cape Verde law enforcement to help curb the illegal fishing and drug trade between South America and Africa. While on the West Coast of Africa, the detachment participated in COMREL projects in Congo and Senegal, assisting with roof and paint projects for local schools. Many Bohicans became illustrious Emerald Shellbacks, crossing the equator at 0 degrees latitude and 0 degrees longitude off the coast of Gabon. After a brief stay in Agadir, Morocco, the ship conducted a PASSEX with the Hassan II, a Moroccan Naval vessel. Bohica Air's Lieutenant Pat McInerney was embarked on the Hassan II for the duration of the PASSEX as an ambassador, where he received an enthusiastic welcome. For two weeks in January, the detachment found themselves in Sicily. They spent five days in Messina for the 100-year anniversary of a devastating earthquake that left the city

destroyed in 1908. Ships from the various nations that had responded to the disaster were present for the commemoration. Bohicans participated in various municipal events throughout the city, serving as ambassadors for the United States Navy. Just prior to the first of four Suez Canal transits, Bohica Air was able to visit Alexandria, Egypt for a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit the pyramids. Some Bohicans even became experienced camel riders during their brief stay. After completing escort duties that involved a total of three Suez Canal transits, USS Leyte Gulf and Bohica Air proceeded down the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden towards the Horn of Africa to participate in counter-piracy operations. Bohica Air worked in cooperation with both merchant and multinational military vessels to provide protection and to investigate any suspicious activity. Although it has been a long deployment, Bohica Air has returned with increased knowledge, an appreciation for the comforts of home, and great respect for the many cultures they have experienced.



Family and friends gather at the Mayport Naval Station terminal for Detachment Five Homecoming on May 11.

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CDS 24 Train to Execute Maritime Strategy

By MC3(SW)
Candice Villarreal

Commander Destroyer Squadron 24
Public Affairs

U.S. Navy units and a host of allied forces have commenced a multiple platform, comprehensive maritime operations exercise in the coastal waters of the United Kingdom, slated to take place May 11-21.

The Joint Warrior (JW) exercise, a two-week evolution led by the Joint Tactical Exercise Planning Staff (JTEPS) in the United Kingdom (UK), provides a robust training environment for partnering nations to prepare their maritime forces and improve interoperability for any combined operations in future global assignments. Participating countries include the United States, Germany, Great Britain, Turkey, the Netherlands, Greece, France, Italy and Denmark.

"One of the strengths of the U.S. Navy is our ability to forward-deploy worldwide and work well with our allies and partners," said Commander, Destroyer Squadron (COMDESRON) 24 Commodore Capt. John Kersh.

"The way you get really good at that is to work with them in a benign environment first and then draw upon those relationships once you get in theater. It brings us to a higher overall state of training readiness."

USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51), USS Porter (DDG 78), USS Philippine Sea (CG 58), USNS Kanawha (T-AO 193) and COMDESRON 24 represent the United States during the scenario-driven engagement. While in transit to the region, the ships conducted a series of underway replenish-

ments (UNREP), counterpiracy scenarios, boarding exercises, gun shoots, and ship maneuvering drills, all in preparation for the fast-paced event.

"Our Sailors are going to get to see the world while working on building relationships with other navies," said Kersh. "They will begin to understand things like our allies' procedures, how they operate, their rules of engagement and the communications pathways they have established. It's going to be unbelievably good training, and it's all very, very positive."

Exercise JW also encompasses fleet irregular warfare training (FIWT), focusing heavily on more non-traditional warfare areas such as counterpiracy and theater security. The innovative FIWT is an invaluable tool for 21st century Sailors addressing and overcoming new, emergent threats.

"A number of Sailors will be heavily involved in visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) teams, force protection, and antiterrorism evolutions," said Kersh. "They will see firsthand how it all fits together, and that they have a very important role to play."

Arleigh Burke Commanding Officer Cmdr. Brian Mous said working with allies keeps the American military fluent in what other nations are doing, ensuring partnered nations can execute operations together, both correctly and efficiently.

"Joint Warrior is a completely new experience for me and a lot of other junior Sailors," said Hull Technician Fireman Apprentice Teela Vaudrin, a Sailor assigned to USS Arleigh Burke. "We don't know what's ahead of us on our [follow-on]

deployment, so any practice we get to prepare us for future missions is going to be really valuable for us."

Both the JW exercise and FIWT evolutions are expected to increase fleet efficiency and battle readiness in accordance with the U.S. Navy's maritime strategy.

Following successful completion of JW, Arleigh Burke will depart for the remainder of its six-month deployment to African waters in support of maritime security operations at sea.

"We will be out conducting multiple warfare evolutions in real time, which is something we don't necessarily get while operating off of the East Coast," said Mous. "It's going to teach everybody, at all levels, to not just focus on one task but to keep a clear focus on the bigger picture at all times."



-Photo by MC3 Candice Villarreal
Commander, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 24, Capt. John Kersh and Commanding Officer, Royal Navy HMS Argyll (F231), Cmdr. Peter Olive, discuss Exercise Joint Warrior training operations with crew members in the Argyll's hangar bay. Exercise Joint Warrior is a two-week, multinational training evolution incorporating five U.S. Navy units and a host of allied forces.

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Thursday, May 21st vs. Montgomery - 7:05pm
Thursday Night Throwdown and Elvis Himselvis! MILITARY NIGHT!
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Friday, May 22nd vs. Montgomery - 7:05pm
Elvis Himselvis and Friday Family Fireworks!
 Catch another appearance from Elvis Himselvis! Sponsored by Winn-Dixie. It's also Click It or Ticket night with the Florida Department of Transportation! After the game, Friday Family Fireworks!

Saturday, May 23rd vs. Montgomery - 7:05pm
Rally Towel Giveaway!
 The first 3,000 fans will receive a high-quality Suns rally towel!

Sunday, May 24th vs. Montgomery - 7:05pm
MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT and Post Game Fireworks!
 Help celebrate the Memorial Day weekend with the Suns, and stop by an area Navy Federal Credit Union for a \$5 discount coupon while supplies last! Stick around after the game for a special patriotic fireworks display! It's also a Lance Family Sunday with buy-one-get-one-free tickets with three Lance wrapper! Due to fireworks, no Kids Run the Bases this day.

Monday, May 25th vs. Montgomery - 7:05pm
MEMORIAL DAY VETERANS CELEBRATION & Reading Day!
 The Suns honor US Military War Veterans in a special pre-game ceremony on the field. It's also Reading Day! Duval County schoolkids can receive a free general admission by reading 10 books with a special ticket bookmark. Area media specialists will be recognized on the field before the game! After the game, all kids can run the bases!

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 358-2846 or visit www.jaxsuns.com 616663

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MAPP
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Calendar

Out in Town

Thursday, May 21
New Friendship Baptist Church is hosting an Academic Awards Dinner at 7 p.m. to honor its graduating students and the achievements of the students of the Alternative Unlimited DBI Academy. Everyone is welcome. The

church is located at 1996 Mayport Road in Atlantic Beach. RSVP by May 14 to James Stackhouse, 635-7065, jswghm@comcast.net.

Wednesday, May 27
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. Snacks

will be available for a donation of \$1.50 to \$5. Then stay and enjoy the music of Doug Bracey from 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Thursday, May 28
In accordance with Jewish tradition, an all night session of Torah study will be held on the first night of Shavuot, beginning at 10 p.m. The event will be hosted by Chabad @ the Beaches, 521 A1A N,

Ponte Vedra Beach. Separate study sessions will be conducted, a groups of Yeshivah Students from New York, Rabbi Kurinsky, as well as by lay members of the community. Coffee and refreshments will be served. The entire community is invited to attend.

Friday, May 29
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 music of SOUTHBOUND from 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Saturday, May 30
As a public service, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary 14-04, Jacksonville Beaches, is offering a one-day Safe Boating Program on the following dates: June 27, Sept. 12, Oct. 3, or Nov. 14. Program runs from 7:30 AM to 5 PM and will be held at the Captain's Club, 13363 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville. Course fee of \$25 includes materials. This course meets the Florida

State requirement for a Boaters Safety Card that could result in a decrease in your boat insurance. For more information, please contact Mike Christnacht at 904-502-92154 or log on to www.uscgajaxbeach.com.

Saturday, June 6
U.S. Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL) today announced a First-Time Homebuyer Forum from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. to be held at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. The workshop will provide information about first-time homebuyer programs, applying for a FHA loan, first-time homebuyer tax credits, and credit counseling. This forum is open to the public. An RSVP is required to attend the workshop due to limited space. Please call 904-398-8586 or email rsvp-vent@martinez.senate.gov.

Sunday, June 7
Join a park ranger at 2 p.m. and learn about the lifecycle of the sea turtle and the importance of these creatures. The program will take place at pavilion one on Little Talbot Island. No reservations are necessary and the program is free with regular park admission.

Saturday, June 13
A diversity of plant and animal species survive in Florida's tropical environment, including both native and exotic species.

Join a park ranger at 2 p.m. to learn how to identify exotic, non-native animals and what you can do to help Florida's natural communities thrive with native plants and animals. This program will take place at the Ribault Club on Fort George Island Cultural State Park. No reservations are necessary and the program is free.

Sunday, June 21
Join a park ranger at 2 p.m. and learn how you can help Florida's environment stay natural and healthy by planting native species, eradicating exotic species, and creating an earth-friendly mini-environment on your property. This program will take place at the Ribault Club on Fort George Island Cultural State Park. No reservations are necessary and the program is free.

Monday, June 22
United Methodist Church, 400 Penman Road, Neptune Beach, invites the children of our community on an exciting prayer safari from June 22-26. We will have a great time together with lively songs, hilarious skits, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories and tasty snacks - all of the things that make Vacation Bible School so much fun for our children. Call 249-5370 today to register.

Asian American Pacific Islander MONTH



Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at NS Mayport

**11 a.m. Wednesday, May 27, 2009
Ocean Breeze Conference Center**

**Free event. Ticket required for entry.
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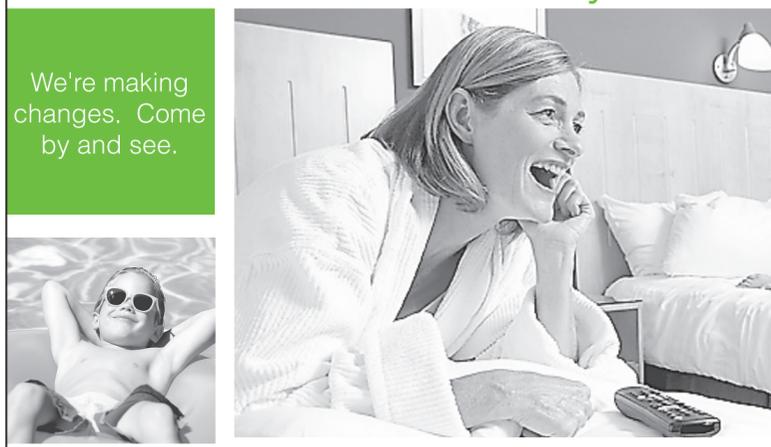
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FFSC Classes, Workshop Schedule Set

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.

May 21, 8-11 a.m., **Anger Management**, FFSC

May 21, 9-11 a.m., **Resume Walk-In Review Assistance**, FFSC

May 22, 9-11 a.m., **Home Buying**, FFSC

May 26, 9-11 a.m., **Parenting Class (8 Steps)**, FFSC

The program is based on Dinkmeyer & McKay's Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (8 STEPS). The program is designed to assist you and your family put into practice the skills learned in the class. Specific parenting skills that are discussed as well as the challenges that are faced by all families include: understanding yourself and your child, the four goals of misbehavior, beliefs and feelings, encouraging and listening to your child, helping children cooperate, discipline that makes sense, and how to choose your approach. Each week a different topic is thoroughly covered via discussion, video vignettes, and handbook information. Participation in all 8 sessions is required.

May 26, 9-11 a.m., **Resume Walk-In Review Assistance**, FFSC

May 26, 1-3 p.m., **Smooth Move**, FFSC

May 27, 9 a.m.-noon, **Tottletyme Playgroup**, USO

Parents and children together meet to share parenting concerns, ideas, and fun! The group invites professionals to address specific areas of concern such as nutrition, toilet training, etc. We even take field trips several times a year to local parks, museums and playgrounds. This group is designed for moms new to the area or moms who want their child to interact with other children their child's age. All children age four and below are invited to attend.

May 27, 6-7 p.m., **Individual Augmentee (IA) Family**

Bravo Zulus To Ombudsmen



-Photo Submitted

Ombudsman from commands throughout Naval Station Mayport enjoy a potluck picnic at home of NS Mayport Commanding Officer, Capt. Aaron Bowman and his wife, Debbie. Pictured from left front row: USS Philippine Sea Delina Eden, USS Halyburton Kara Ramesar, USS Carney Erin Sturgill, Debbie Bowman. Middle row: USS Roosevelt Venus Byrd, USS The Sullivans Sarah Otto, NRD JAX Tausha Johnson, USS John L. Hall Elsie Beauchamp, ATG Melanie Callum. Back row: FRCSE Carrie Phillips, USS Roosevelt Kathleen Hoar, USS The Sullivans Apryl Woods (Assembly Secretary), CDS-14, Pam Coates, NS Mayport Julia Dixon (Assembly Chair), Melissa Weller.

Discussion Group, USO

May 27, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., **Leadership Life Skills for E5 & E6**, Base Chapel

May 28, 9-11 a.m., **Resume Walk-In Review Assistance**, FFSC

May 29, 8 a.m.-noon, **Leadership Life Skills for E4 & Below**, Base Chapel

June 1, 9-11 a.m., **What About The Kids**, FFSC

Children who witness family violence are often forgotten as the unintended victims. A wide range of child adjustment problems has been found to be associated with exposure to domestic violence. Parent's need to see and understand the effects of domestic violence on children as encompassing behavior, emotion, development and socialization. Parents need to understand that there is an intergenerational cycle of violence and they may be creating a legacy for their child of learned violent behavior. The purpose of this program is not

to shame parents for events that have already happen, but to instill hope that things can change. The knowledge that the violence, which many parents incorrectly believe is unseen by their children, is negatively impacting their children's growth and development and may provide an additional motivator for ending the violence and seeking intervention.

June 1, 1-4 p.m., **Expectant Dad's Class**, USO

This program is designed for new Dads and Moms. The program will address, investigate, and discuss issues facing fathers in today's weird world. The attendees will look at being a

father in the military, on care of newborns and toddlers and how to grow with your child and become the Dad you really want to be. The program will increase the participant's knowledge about child development and will also address relationship changes that accompany the birth of a child.

June 2, 1-3:30 p.m., **Smooth Move**, FFSC

This workshop is designed for inexperienced, as well as experienced military members on permanent change of station (PCS) orders. The Personal Property Shipping Office will provide information on how to deal with movers and personal

property entitlements. The travel section of Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) will present a section on travel pay and allowances. FFSC staff will discuss the emotional cycles of relocation, budgeting for a PCS move and provide some strategies for families.

June 2, 9-11 a.m., **Resume Walk-In Review Assistance**, FFSC

June 2, 9-11 a.m., **Parenting Class (8 Steps)**, FFSC

The program is based on Dinkmeyer & McKay's Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (8 STEPS). The program is designed to assist you and your family put into practice the skills learned in the class. Specific parenting skills that are discussed as well as the challenges that are faced by all families include: understanding yourself and your child, the four goals of misbehavior, beliefs and feelings, encouraging and listening to your child, helping children cooperate, discipline that makes sense, and how to choose your approach. Each week a different topic is thoroughly covered via discussion, video vignettes, and handbook information. Participation in all 8 sessions is required.

June 3, 9 a.m.-noon, **Tottletyme Playgroup**, USO

Parents and children together meet to share parenting concerns, ideas, and fun! The group invites professionals to address specific areas of concern such as nutrition, toilet training, etc. We even take field trips several times a year to local parks, museums and playgrounds. This group is designed for moms new to the area or moms who want their child to interact with other children their child's age. All children age four and below are invited to attend.

June 4, 9-11 a.m., **Resume Walk-In Review Assistance**, FFSC

June 5, 9-11 a.m., **Car**

Buying Tips, FFSC

June 8, 9-11 a.m., **Parenting Class (8 Steps)**, FFSC

The program is based on Dinkmeyer & McKay's Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (8 STEPS). The program is designed to assist you and your family put into practice the skills learned in the class. Specific parenting skills that are discussed as well as the challenges that are faced by all families include: understanding yourself and your child, the four goals of misbehavior, beliefs and feelings, encouraging and listening to your child, helping children cooperate, discipline that makes sense, and how to choose your approach. Each week a different topic is thoroughly covered via discussion, video vignettes, and handbook information. Participation in all 8 sessions is required.

June 8, 1:30-3:30 p.m., **FERP- Starting Your Own Business**, FFSC

June 8-11, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., **TAP Retiree Workshop**, Building 1 Room 104

Designed for Military personnel within 180 -90 days of leaving the military. The seminar focuses on benefits for service members and their family members. Participants receive help in translating their military acquired skills into civilian language and are exposed to the civilian job market and how to successfully compete in the civilian employment arena; learning about resumes, employment interviews and marketing themselves. If you are within a minimum of 180 days of leaving the military see your career counselor for a quota for this highly successful program.

June 9, 9-11 a.m., **Resume Walk-In Review Assistance**, FFSC

June 10, 9 a.m.-noon, **Tottletyme Playgroup**, USO

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Day 3: ✓ Chipping ✓ Putting	Day 4: ✓ Course review ✓ Play golf!

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Updated: FEBRUARY 1, 2007

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RGB Completes Phoenix Express '09

By Ensign Rajiv Seth
USS Robert G. Bradley
 USS Robert G. Bradley (FFG 49), on deployment to the Sixth Fleet area of responsibility, began transiting out of the Mediterranean Sea upon successful completion of PHOENIX EXPRESS '09 (PE09).



-Photos courtesy of USS Robert G. Bradley
 The Tunisian boarding team debarks RGB onto the RHIB while conducting boarding exercises in the Mediterranean Sea.

There were two phases of the exercise. The first phase of PE09 entailed in-port workshops in Souda Bay, Greece on medical training, damage control and firefighting, navigation, deck seamanship, search and rescue, maritime interdiction operations and small boat operations. The second phase involved participation in underway exercises focusing on improving interoperability and maritime security.

Robert G. Bradley embarked naval liaison officers from several countries including Senegal, Libya, Italy, Tunisia, and Algeria. In addition to a liaison officer, Tunisia also sent an entire visit, board, search, and seizure team consisting of 12 Sailors. The Tunisian team conducted two boardings from Robert G. Bradley onto the CDIC Hallebarde, a French

landing craft unit, and the USNS Laramie, a US merchant marine replenishment vessel. Both were participating in the exercise as simulated target vessels.

Robert G. Bradley operated with the multi-national group of ships practicing divisional tactics, communications, and maritime interdiction operations in the Mediterranean Sea.

PE09 is an annual multi-national exercise conducted in

the Mediterranean hosted by Commander, Sixth Fleet. The exercise is intended to increase maritime stability by strengthening relationships.

PE09 aids in this effort by increasing interoperability between the U.S. and participating nations from Europe and North Africa.

Robert G. Bradley has been on deployment to Africa Command's area of responsibility since Nov. 2008.



The Liaison Officers from Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Senegal have a discussion on the Robert G. Bradley's bridge wing during PE09.

Mayport Schools Begin Kindergarten Registration

Submitted
Finegan Elementary
 General Joseph Finegan Elementary School serves the children of Naval Station Mayport and the North Beaches. The school is nestled between the Southern gate of Naval Station Mayport and the Western line of Hanna State Park. Added protection, for the children and families of Naval Station Mayport, is provided by Base Security with a "manned" pass-through gate for the opening and closing of school each and every day.

As a repeat, Florida "A" rated school, Finegan Elementary provides a rich Internationally Benchmarked Standards Based learning environment. The student academic gains have afforded the school a coveted Florida "Top 100" school rating.

More than 80 percent of Finegan's students are children of the military. To better serve these students, Joseph Finegan employs a quorum of educators who have ties to the military. As a matter of fact, over 50 percent of our faculty and staff are retired military themselves or are spouses of active duty or retired military. Empathy for the military way of life abounds in our school. Deployment Counseling is available for children and parents alike.

Finegan Elementary provides Art, Music, PE, Media, Computer Lab and a Strings Program (grades 3-5 only) for the enrichment of students. Play Days, Dances, Academic Family Nights and Art Festivals provide opportunities for all family members to participate in the Finegan Family Life!

Finegan strives to attend to children in an individual and personal manner. Recognition has come to the school around this premise through the Florida Inclusion Network (FIN) and the United States Department of Education as a Model School

and National Blue Ribbon School, respectively.

Mayport Elementary
 Mayport Elementary was established to serve the communities of Mayport and North Atlantic Beach more than 40 years ago. Built amidst the natural flora of the Atlantic shoreline, Mayport Elementary developed a reputation of excellence that continues today.

Mayport Elementary has earned the distinction of being designated an A+ school by the Florida Department of Education, meeting AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) for all students. Faculty and staff are dedicated to high-quality teaching, learning and achieving.

Mayport Elementary's historic partnership with the Navy and Coast Guard is also a point

of pride that has enhanced the learning community over the years. Both have volunteered extensively to support student learning, beautify the campus, and serve as role models for the students.

Both Finegan and Mayport elementaries are registering children for Kindergarten for the 2009-2010 school year. This registration will continue until school begins in August. The child must be five on or before September 1st. Bring with you to register: birth certificate, results of a Florida physical performed within one year of the date of the enrollment, and proof of all required immunizations, a Social Security card and proof of address. For more information about Finegan call, 247-5996. For more information about Mayport Elementary, call 247-5988.



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425443

Scouts visit HSL-60



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

AWI(AW) Brian Vaughn of the HSL-60 "Jaguars" explains helicopter operations and what he does as a search and rescue swimmer to a group of Cub Scouts from Pack 268 based at the Mandarin United Methodist Church. The scouts toured the squadron May 2 where they were able to check out an SH-60 helicopter, tour the paraloft and see several helos being reworked by Fleet Readiness Center Southeast.



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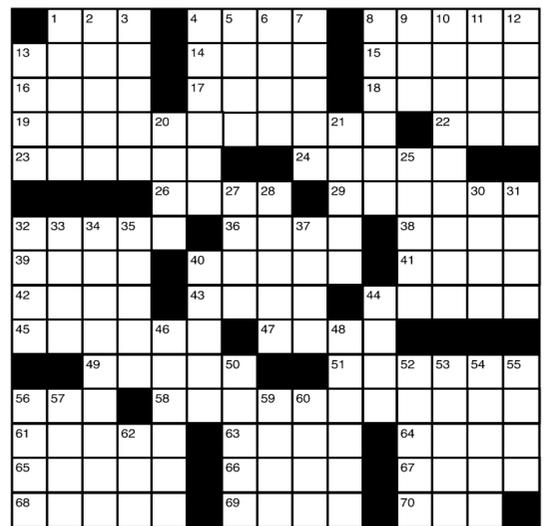
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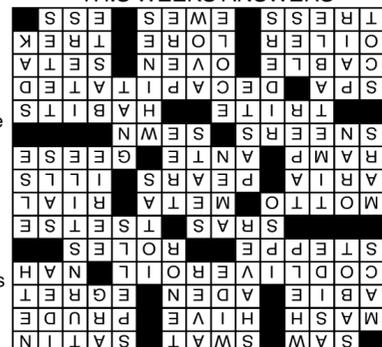
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THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- Noticed
 - Hit
 - Lustrous fabric
 - Prepare taters
 - Honey factory
 - Overly proper one
 - Lover of an Irish Rose
 - Yemeni seaport
 - Wading bird
 - Yucky stuff once commonly given to kids
 - Nope
 - Rather barren plain
 - Acting parts
 - Ladies of the casa: abbr.
 - Disease-carrying fly
 - Saying
 - Comes before physics
 - Irani money
 - Opera solo
 - Fruit salad ingredients
 - Misfortunes
 - Incline
 - Poker bet
 - Scatterbrains
 - Curly the upper lip
 - Stitched
 - Commonplace
 - Customary practices
 - Hot spring
 - Operated a guillotine
 - TV
 - Baker's need
 - date; make concrete plans
 - Refueling ship
 - Traditional learning
 - Journey
 - Lock of hair
 - Female sheep
 - Suffix for lion or poet
- DOWN**
- Wooden shoe
 - In reserve
 - Young animal
 - Youngster
 - Broad
 - Declare
 - Caruso, for one
 - Brief periods
 - S. A. nation
 - Admittance regulator
 - Thought
 - Land of Queen Beatrix: abbr.
 - Bernie & others
 - facto
 - Tiny amounts
 - Mysterious
 - Prayer ending
 - Bleachers
 - "My Gal" and others
 - In addition
 - Red planet
 - Algerian port
 - Schedule
 - Diminish
 - Maple or pine
 - Stickum
 - Small fly



THIS WEEK'S ANSWERS



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- Horsemen
- Complains peevishly
- French school
- Moisten a cooking turkey
- Brain canals
- Noggins for Rene & Renee
- Coyote State: abbr.
- Edinburgh resident
- Pants or pliers
- Acknowledge
- French dad
- Brown with a band

Navy News

New Ship Life Cycle Management Activity Stands Up

From Naval Sea Systems Command Office of Corporate Communications

Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) formally established the Surface Ship Life Cycle Management (SSLCM) Activity on May 8 in a ceremony at Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) in Portsmouth, Va.

The new activity, a NAVSEA program office, will be aligned under the deputy commander for surface warfare (SEA 21).

The SSLCM Activity will maintain, monitor and refine class maintenance plans for all non-nuclear surface ships to ensure material readiness for the projected service life, develop life-cycle strategies to address system upgrades, and fully implement the Integrated Class Maintenance Plan into

each surface ship's maintenance schedule and availability planning process.

The new activity is modeled after and will function similarly to the Submarine Maintenance Engineering Planning and Procurement Activity and the Carrier Planning Activity. These activities provide engineering and maintenance planning services for the U.S. Navy submarine and carrier fleets.

"The acquisition of new ships is only part of what it will take to reach the Navy's goal of 313 ships," said Rear Adm. James McManamon, deputy commander for surface warfare (SEA 21). "To meet this goal, we need to continue to maintain and efficiently manage our existing ships. The SSLCM

Activity will put in place the processes necessary to accomplish that."

Since Planning, Estimating, Repair and Alterations (PERA) Surface in Philadelphia was deactivated in 1993 as part of the BRAC process, surface fleet class maintenance and availability planning has been executed by Regional Maintenance Centers and the type commander.

The SSLCM activity will provide centralized life-cycle support and management for U.S. Navy surface ships to assess and manage the maintenance requirements throughout the life-cycle of ships in the surface fleet. This will help better plan and budget for long-term maintenance needs.

By analyzing and weighing the costs and risks of maintenance tasks, the activity will improve the accuracy of future Baseline Availability Work Package development and will validate existing maintenance strategies.

This effort will provide long-term value for surface ship lifecycle sustainment efforts and ensure an effective means to achieve full service life. SSLCM Activity will regularly work with the U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Surface Warfare Enterprise, Board of Inspection and Survey and other NAVSEA and Navy offices to carry out their mission.

"SSLCM Activity will execute the complex task of maximizing the material readiness

of our current Fleet by ensuring each and every ship in our inventory is ready to respond to their missions today, tomorrow, and well into the 21st century," said Vice Adm. Kevin McCoy, commander of NAVSEA.

"And as we continue to build our future Fleet, particularly as our Littoral Combat Ships come online, every newly commissioned ship will be meticulously tracked right out of the gate to ensure our warfighters, our taxpayers and our nation get the most out of these national assets."

The activity will be headquartered at NNSY in Portsmouth. Initially staffed with about 40 people, the activity is expected to grow in the near future.

SEA 21 manages the com-

plete life-cycle support for all non-nuclear surface ships and is the principal interface with the Surface Warfare Enterprise.

The directorate is responsible for the maintenance and modernization of non-nuclear surface ships currently operating in the fleet.

Through planned modernization and upgrade programs, SEA 21 will equip today's surface ships with the latest technologies and systems to keep them in the Fleet though their service lives. Additionally, SEA 21 oversees the ship inactivation process, including transfers or sales to friendly foreign navies, inactivation and or disposal.

DoD Promotes Participation In World No Tobacco Day

From DoD

The last Monday in May is Memorial Day, a day set aside to honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to their country. Living freedom to the fullest by reducing unnecessary health risks is one way to honor the memories of those who've died.

Just around the corner from Memorial Day is World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) on May 31, sponsored by the World Health Organization. This year, for the first time, the Department of Defense (DoD) is endorsing the observance of WNTD by encouraging military personnel to participate. The effort is part of the DoD's multi-year tobacco cessation campaign, Quit Tobacco—Make Everyone Proud.

"On Memorial Day, when we reflect on the sacrifices our fallen heroes made so that we can

live free, it seems that World No Tobacco Day comes at a perfect time," said Capt. David Arday, a physician and U.S. Public Health Service officer and chairman of the DoD Alcohol and Tobacco Advisory Committee. "Freedom from tobacco addiction is not a sacrifice; it's a way to live our lives to honor those who gave us our freedom. This is a great opportunity for servicemen and women to connect to others on their installation, across the country and around the globe in a worldwide event to take a public stand and make a personal commitment in the fight against tobacco."

Health promotions staff members at installations are encouraging their patients and clients to sign the online pledge at <http://www.ucaquit2.org/facts/WNTD> and accept the challenge to become tobacco free on WNTD. There are free promotional and informational items available to order or download online to help stage events, plus specially designed e-cards visitors can send to encourage friends and family to give up tobacco. Military personnel also can use the e-card to announce their intention to quit.

The campaign headquarters at <http://www.ucaquit2.org> offers the latest high-tech ways to connect with others on the road to becoming tobacco free. The site has launched a Twitter page at <http://www.twitter.com/ucaquit2>, and anyone who signs up can follow the site's activities and news, including tobacco and other related health information.

Visitors can take advantage of other social networking opportunities, such as being a friend at MySpace, tuning in to the videos and making comments at the YouTube page and becoming a fan of the campaign's Facebook page. On Facebook, there's a new feature that allows users to announce to others they've quit and to congratulate friends and family who've made the commitment to quit tobacco. For those who want their own private area to concentrate on tobacco cessation, the campaign Web site offers users "My Quit Space," where they can create a customized quit plan and calendar. Blogging options include starting a private blog or publishing it for others to read and make comments.

The site has gone mobile, which is perfect for the enlisted community. Users can point their mobile browsers to <http://m.ucaquit2.org>, the new mobile ucaquit2 Web site, to find cessation programs across America to help them quit tobacco and access important tobacco cessation news.

Getting support from others is an important weapon in winning the battle against tobacco, which is recognized as an obstacle to optimal readiness and performance for the armed services. "Committing to participate in World No Tobacco Day on May 31, 2009, is a one-day test run for what could be the beginning of a tobacco-free lifestyle for servicemen and women," Arday said.

Visit TRICARE's Web page geared to quit tobacco at <http://www.tricare.mil/tobaccofree>.

Data At Rest Deployment Enhances NMCI Security

By NMCI Public Affairs Office

A new security initiative from the Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) is helping the Department of the Navy (DON) protect its critical and sensitive data safe from unauthorized access.

The Data at Rest (DAR) initiative uses information security software, Guardian Edge, to encrypt all files and folders on NMCI workstations and removable storage. This software will prevent unauthorized access if the devices are compromised, stolen or lost.

"Data at rest" is information residing on storage media, such as an internal hard drive, external USB hard drive or compact disc. NMCI's Guardian Edge encryption software ensures users are compliant with both Department of Defense (DoD) and (DON) mandates. NMCI is among the first defense IT networks to begin enterprise deployment and work towards meeting the mandate concerning the protection of data at rest.

Starting in February, NMCI began pushing the Guardian Edge software to its users. With a success rate to date of approximately 99.7 percent, users' data, files and folders are now more secure with little to no interruption to their day-to-day activities.

The Guardian Edge software provides two key capabilities: full encryption of workstation hard drives and mandatory encryption of all data saved to removable storage devices such as external hard drives, CDs, and DVDs using either passwords or Common Access Card certificates. Users are still able to de-encrypt files from removable storage regardless of whether their computer has Guardian Edge installed.

The increase in security allows users more flexibility in transporting data knowing it was

protected from unauthorized access should the data become lost or stolen.

"We are very pleased with the success of the roll-out thus far," said Capt. Scott Weller, NMCI Program Manager. "NMCI is one of the DoD's most secure networks. Data at Rest is part of increasing the network's security posture and protecting Navy and Marine Corps data."

The Data at Rest deployment consists of two phases: Phase One features both hard drive and removable storage device encryption. A slow rollout will span several months until all seats are completed in summer 2009. Phase Two will activate the pre-boot authentication (PBA) feature in the Guardian Edge software, requiring CAC-based end user authentication when the workstation is powered on. PBA will be activated beginning in summer 2009 with completion of all seats across the enterprise no later than September.

As DAR begins to encrypt all files and folders, NMCI users will require more disciplined security behavior in how they access and share data. For this reason, all Marine Corps and Navy personnel are advised to take the DAR encryption security training prior to the rollout to learn more about the government requirements mandating all data at rest be secured and protected. Training, backup tips, site deployment schedules and other DAR information are available on the NMCI portal website, Homeport.

NMCI is part of the program portfolio of the Program Executive Office for Enterprise Information Systems (PEO-EIS). For more information contact Denise Deon, PEO-EIS Public Affairs Officer, at denise.deon@navy.mil.

ing a fan of the campaign's Facebook page. On Facebook, there's a new feature that allows users to announce to others they've quit and to congratulate friends and family who've made the commitment to quit tobacco.

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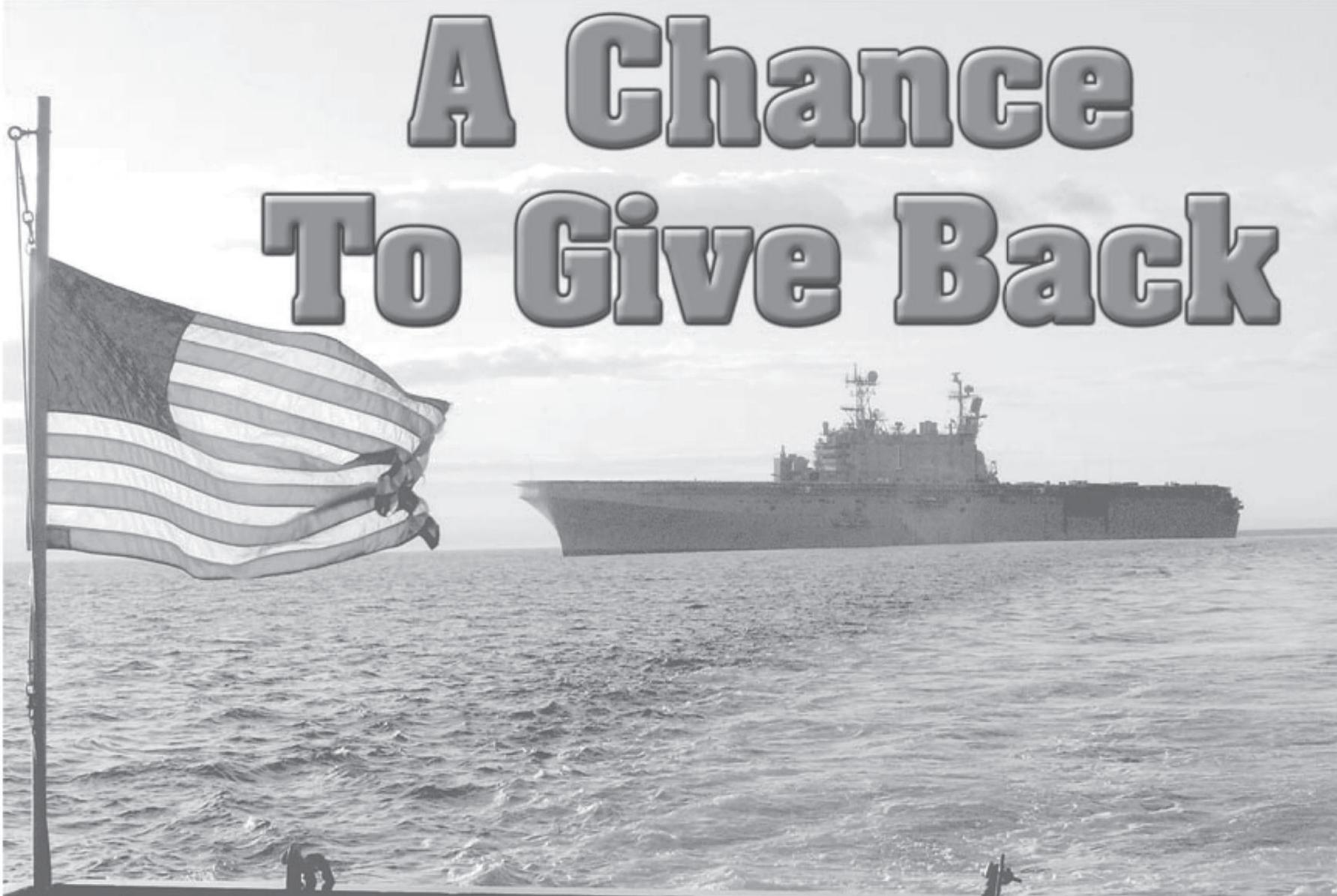
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