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2010 BAH Rates Out

From Department of Defense
The Department of Defense released the 2010 Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates Dec. 16. Military members received an average housing allowance increase of 2.5 percent when the new rates took effect on Jan. 1.

For members with dependents, average increases in the BAH are approximately \$37 per month. A typical junior enlisted member with dependents, for example, will find his/her BAH about \$25 per month higher than last year, while a senior non-commissioned officer with dependents will receive about \$42 more than last year.

Three components are included in the BAH computation: median current market rent; average utilities (including electricity, heat, and water/sewer); and average renter's insurance. Total housing costs are calculated for six housing profiles (based on dwelling type and number of bedrooms) in each military housing area. BAH rates are then calculated for each pay grade, both with and without dependents.

An estimated \$19 billion will be paid to nearly 1 million service members in 2010.

An integral part of the BAH program is the provision of individual rate protection to all members. No matter what happens to measured housing costs, an individual member in a given location will not see his/her BAH rate decrease.

This assures that members who have made long-term commitments in the form of a lease or contract are not penalized if the area's housing costs decrease.

The continued improvement in housing allowances represents the Department's commitment to the preservation of a compensation and benefit structure that provides members with a suitable and secure standard of living to sustain a trained, experienced, and ready force in the future.

For more information on BAH, visit <http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>.

EOY Lunch On Jan. 13

Naval Station Employee of the Quarter for 4TH Quarter, Employee of the Year and Supervisor of the Year 2009, Luncheon/Presentation will be held on Jan. 13 at 11:30 a.m. at Ocean Breeze Conference Center.

The nominees and department heads/supervisors should attend. All Naval Station employees are encouraged to attend to support those nominated. Please RSVP for the luncheon by 3 p.m. on Jan 11 to Sandra Barrett, 270-5228 or email sandra.barrett1@navy.mil. Lunch cost is \$8.



-Photo by MC2 Elisha Dawkins

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead, Capt. Aaron Bowman, commanding officer, Naval Station (NS) Mayport, and Army Specialist and Purple Heart recipient Brent "Hoss" Hendrix, cut open a ribbon to the newly built handicap beach access ramp. Together members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NCMB) 14 from Naval Air Station Jacksonville and Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast constructed and engineered the first handicapped ramp to the beaches at NS Mayport for disabled veterans and civilians.

Mayport Last Stop In Ride

By MC2(SW)
Kyle P. Malloy

Office of the Chief of Naval Operations

The chief of naval operations (CNO) participated in the Ride 2 Recovery bike challenge and conducted an all-hands call with the Sailors stationed at Naval Station Mayport Dec. 17.

CNO, Adm. Gary Roughead, enthusiastically took part in the Ride 2 Recovery to show his appreciation for the service members and veterans who the challenge was in honor of and to fuel his passion for the sport.

"I think it's important to recognize and to contribute to the many rehabilitation programs for our wounded and Ride 2 Recovery is a great one, because its not simply us doing things. Riding a bike across Florida is not a simple thing to do," said Roughead.

CNO said he was grateful to be a part of the event, and is inspired by the extraordinary effort of those who rode with

him.

"I rode with Ride 2 Recovery with some truly remarkable people. Many of our wounded warriors have been riding for the past six days, they've crossed the state of Florida and they are just an inspiration to not just those of us who are riding with them but also anybody that saw them. I mean what they are doing and the drive that they have is just remarkable," said Roughead.

The Ride 2 Recovery is an organized bike ride from Tampa to Jacksonville to help encourage the rehabilitation of veterans and active-duty service members while honoring the sacrifices they have made.

After completing the bike challenge, CNO met with Sailors stationed at Naval Station Mayport and spoke about the accomplishments the Navy achieved in 2009 and what they could expect for the

See R2R, Page 6



-Photo by MC1 Leah Stiles

Roughead and Ride 2 Recovery participant Nathan Hunt pose for a photo with Jaguars mascot "Jaxson De Ville" on the Jacksonville Municipal Stadium field just before the coin toss for the Indianapolis Colts-Jaguar game on Dec. 17.



-Photo by MC1 Tiffini M. Jones-Vanderwyst

Roughead rides his bike from Tampa to Jacksonville during the Ride 2 Recovery bike challenge. Ride 2 Recovery encourages the mental and physical rehabilitation of active duty service members and veterans while promoting awareness of their sacrifices.

Chaplain's Corner

To this day I dread having to eat pitted grapes. Just the thought of it repels me. Allow me to explain because this comes from a childhood trauma. You see in my family we upheld a tradition that had been passed down to us from Spain. It was an ancient, time-honoring tradition that could be traced back hundreds of years.

Every New Year's Eve all those present at the party were given twelve (12) individual grapes. As the clock approached midnight we had about two minutes to devour ALL the grapes. Not ten (10) grapes. No, not eleven (11) but all twelve (12) grapes! It was done for good luck during the coming twelve months. The superstition was that if you didn't eat all the grapes you would probably get the plague and die. Herein lies the genesis



Chaplain Joe Molina
CDS40 Staff Chaplain

of my problem. The grapes had pits! Just the thought of having to deal with the pits ruined my New Year's celebration.

It is interesting how different cultures have this tradition in some form. In the United States some will eat black-eyed peas or cabbage or herring with

honey. Others may eat sardines and salt for good luck in the coming year. The Japanese eat long noodles. The Greeks bake special breads. Anthropologists say that eating certain foods for good luck in the coming year dates back to the ancient Babylonian Empire. Still, of all the fruits available on the planet, why the Spaniards ever selected grapes with pits for good luck is beyond me!

Well, you know what is said about "good luck": Good luck is the residue of hard work. While some may wish for good luck in 2010, I believe that we should be looking for a firmer substance to stand on. I believe that we should look for substantial nutrition that will provide us with the "inner substance" for successfully facing the next twelve months.

In preparation for the New

Year I've eliminated the tradition passed down to me from the ancient Spaniards (thank God) and I've committed to some resolutions that I would like to keep and not break. I've realized that my past failures in keeping resolutions have been due to a lack of focus and an over abundance of negligence on my part. I've allowed myself to become distracted by other less important items and the things that have been really important have not received the attention they merit. So here is a primer on lifelong resolutions that have given me some food for thought and personal action:

1. LEAVE A LEGACY: We often associate the passing of a personal legacy with material riches or a family heirloom. The legacy I refer to here is much more valuable, however. It is the legacy of a good

name. The concept is very simple. Our name will outlive us long after we are gone from the scene. Our good name will reveal to others who we are because our reputation will go "before" us. Leaving a legacy will engage us in the lives of others, especially the young. As we mentor the young, be it our children or other young people, we will encourage them to be the very best that they can be. Leaving a good legacy also means that we keep promises made. In 2010 let us do all we can to make life just a little sweeter for those we come in touch with.

2. GIVE GIFTS THAT LAST: These gifts would include, the gift of caring...as we express concern for those in need...as we express affection for family and friends that we have been blessed with.

How about the gift of a smile? It takes less facial muscles to smile than it takes to frown. Give away some encouragement.... So many times all it takes is a simple expression of affirmation to lift your shipmate's spirit. When you encourage, you empower.

3. KEEP ALERT AND STAND FIRM: Part of the adventure of living is that we never know what circumstances may demand our immediate attention and decision. Let us be quick to show good judgment and to use our heads as well as our hearts in making good decisions.

And by the way, if you must eat grapes for good luck, make sure that they are the pit-less variety!

Many Blessings in the coming year!

Know the Ropes

Back To School. . .Again!

The holidays have ended, and students have returned to school. With two and one half weeks remaining in the second quarter, parents should encourage their children to quickly make the adjustment from a holiday schedule back to school schedule. Nine weeks testing will begin soon, and end-of-course exams begin on Jan. 11 for those students taking semesterized high school courses. For example, Algebra I whether taken in middle or high school is a semesterized high school course.

When will second quarter report cards be issued?

Elementary report cards go home on Feb. 2. Middle school report cards go home Feb. 1. High school report cards go home Jan. 28.

If your family has just moved to the Duval schools' attendance area, you'll need the following documentation to register your children for school.

Results of a physical (school-entry health exam) performed within one year of the date of enrollment.



Judy Cromartie
School Liaison Officer

Proof of address. Acceptable documents include the following:

- a Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) bill,
 - a credit card statement,
 - a mortgage agreement,
 - a lease agreement (from a company, not a private individual) or
 - a piece of mail forwarded to the current address and containing a yellow U.S. Post Office forwarding address sticker.
- Proof of all required immunizations (Florida certifica-

tion of immunization, DH Form 690) or an exemption. Kindergarten and First Grade Students:

Certified birth record. Acceptable birth records include:

- the original certified birth record;
- a duly attested transcript of the child's birth record filed according to law by a public officer charged with recording births;
- a duly attested transcript of a certificate of baptism showing the date of birth and place of baptism, accompanied by a sworn affidavit by the parents;
- an insurance policy on the child's life that has been in force for at least two years;
- a bona fide contemporary Bible record of the child's birth, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parents;
- a passport or certificate of arrival in the United States showing the age of the child; or
- a transcript of record of age shown in the child's school record of a least four years prior to application and stating the date of birth.

Previously enrolled in another school:

When a child has been enrolled in another school district, parents are asked to provide the latest report card from that district.

Optional: a Social Security number.

What is an Opportunity Scholarship? This State of Florida program allows parents and guardians whose students were enrolled in 2008-2009 and/or assigned for 2009-2010 to a failing school to attend a higher-performing school. A failing school is one that has received a failing grade twice within a four-year period.

Procedures: If the parent chooses to participate in the Opportunity Scholarship Program, the parent must choose one of the following options:

- Transfer the student to another public school that has been graded 'C' or higher. This year, the School Choice Office is offering a choice of three K-5, two middle and 10 high schools. The parent should make a first and second choice

on the application. However, you may be assigned to any of the school choice options listed for your student's grade level.

The parent must fill out an Opportunity Scholarship Program Student Transfer Application and either mail or bring it to the School Choice Office in the Duval County Public Schools' administration building at 1701 Prudential Drive, 32207. These applications can be downloaded from the website www.duvalchoice.com.

Transfer the student to another public school that has been graded 'C' or higher that is NOT in Duval County. It is the parent's responsibility to contact the other school district to determine if that district will accept the student based on that district's adopted criteria. If accepted by the other school district, the parent must contact the School Choice Office at 390-2144 to obtain a release from Duval County. Transportation to the other school district will be the parent's responsibility.

Where can I find informa-

tion about bus schedules? State law requires bus transportation for students who live two miles or more from the schools they currently attend. For bus stop information, go to the transportation website at <http://www.duvalschools.org/static/ourschools/studentinfo/bus-stop/>. The school district also provides special bus services for students in Exceptional Education programs, regardless of distance, under specific guidelines. For more information, contact the Transportation Department at 904-858-6200.

The new year affords parents the opportunity to either continue with an organized homework schedule or to establish now a homework schedule to insure a successful year of learning. Parental involvement, a specific schedule for homework, and enthusiasm by may be all your child needs to have an outstanding year of academic success! If you have additional questions about local schools and what services are available, contact Judy Cromartie, NS Mayport's School Liaison Officer at (904)270-6289 ext. 1305.

CNP Launches New Leadership Web Page

From Chief of Naval Personnel

The Chief of Naval Personnel launched a Web page to serve as an additional resource for the Navy Total Force and their families.

The new page, located at www.navy.mil/cnp, features news stories, podcasts and videos to update the force on the latest in personnel programs, policies and other areas which impact today's force.

"We live in an age where our force increasingly turns to the Internet for timely and accurate information. This is just one more option to provide information to our Sailors," said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, chief of naval personnel.

The page features links of interest for families, active duty Sailors, Navy civilians and Reservists. Topics range from health care and financial preparedness to education resources for families. Also found on the new leadership page is information on CNP's top priorities to include training, manpower and diversity outreach policies and programs.

For more news from the Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/cnp.

Sweet Land of Liberty Shamu Announces Free Fun In 2010

By Erica I. Peña-Vest

Military Travel Columnist

Sea World and Anheuser-Busch Parks have announced that they will be extending their free admission for military program through 2010. In February of 2005, Anheuser-Busch, owners of SeaWorld Parks, announced that they would be offering free admission to all active duty military, ready reserve members, Coast Guardsmen or national Guardsmen who wish to visit any SeaWorld, Busch Gardens, Sesame Place, Adventure Island or Water Country USA park nationwide. "Here's to the Heroes" program offers free admission for the service member and as many of three of his or her dependants with dependent ID. Since 2005, the tribute program had provided free admission to more than 4 million members of the U.S. and coalition armed forces and their families. Unfortunately, inactive, standby and retired reserve

members, military retirees, and civilian department of defense workers are ineligible for the program.

"We take great pride in saluting our men and women in uniform," said SeaWorld San Diego Manager Andy Fichthorn. "For all of us at SeaWorld and Anheuser-Busch, it's an honor to show our appreciation for the sacrifices they and their families make every day for our freedom."

Log on to www.herosalute.com for more information or visit the entrance plaza of a participating park and show your Department of Defense ID.

Remember to visit your local MWR/ITT office for more discounts and free offers. They will have the latest information on hotels and attractions, as well as discount vouchers and tickets. You can also visit www.guidetomilitarytravel.com for the largest selection of military travel discounts found anywhere.

By Beth Wilson

Military Spouse Contributor

Are you looking forward to a new year? I joked with my husband that I could not wait to 'see 2009 in our rear view mirror.' Our year was full of unexpected changes, challenges and opportunities. I was the first military spouse to imbed on a deployment, I spent a wonderful week reunited with a lost girlfriend in my favorite city, Washington, DC. We saw Scott's precious, Navy WAVE grandmother featured on the Bonnie Hunt Show. We got a new puppy. Scott battled and beat cancer and a MRSA infection. As I write this column I am surrounded by boxes; that is, packing boxes. We are moving over the Christmas weekend.

Celebrating the new year is

Homefront in Focus

a good thing. It is beneficial to have a landmark where we put the past behind us while turning our sights to a new chapter in our lives. The New Year provides this landmark.

2010 is before us and with it are endless possibilities of hope, promise, and opportunity. Yes, in the midst of the current economic challenges, the Global War on Terror and other uncertainties 2010 still presents many opportunities.

The New Year presents opportunities to express our love to our families; our children, parents and spouse. The New Year presents opportunities to do all those things we didn't 'find the time' for in 2009; time for a cup of coffee with a friend, a phone call to a sibling, a special evening with children, a date night with our

spouse.

The New Year presents opportunities to express gratitude. Yes, gratitude. I marvel at the warmth and outpouring toward military families during the Christmas season. The many events and opportunities at our base alone were astounding! What love and appreciation has been expressed to us, the military community. Take a moment to list the efforts for our children, our service member and for us as spouses; the gifts for our children, the holiday parties and luncheons, the care packages and calling cards to our service member. What a way to start the New Year - freshly appreciated and valued! Take a moment to send off a card, letter, or email to the many that made our holiday special.

There is another reason to be grateful. While military service presents challenges, we have something many in our country can no longer claim...job security. I have friends and family who have lost jobs and their unemployment benefits ran out. While 'deployment' is no fun, secure 'employment' is priceless.

The New Year is full of promise, full of hope, full of opportunities to grab life and live it 'on purpose.' 2009 is in the rear-view mirror...what do you see ahead of you? What will you accomplish in the next 365 days? What opportunity will you seize? What life will you touch? 2010 is yours for the living...may you live it to the fullest!

Contact Beth at beth@homefrontinfocus.com.



Roman Catholic Mass

Sunday 9 a.m.
Monday-Friday 11:30 a.m.
Confessions: before & after mass or upon request
CCD: Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Baptisms: class 3rd 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)

1st & 3rd Tuesdays each month 9:15 a.m.
For more information contact MOPS coordinator at mayportmops@yahoo.com

Marriage

Contact Chaplain 6 months prior. PREP is required

For more information, call 270-5212.



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Naval Station Mayport Editorial Staff

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The Mirror
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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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Groves Celebrates Success, Returns Home

By Lt.j.g. Tim Shaffer

USS Stephen W. Groves PAO

Eager Sailors aboard USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29) celebrated their long-awaited homecoming after completing a highly successful Standing NATO Maritime Group One (SNMG-1) deployment Dec. 27.

USS Stephen W. Groves, along with Portuguese frigate Alvares Cabral (F331) and German auxiliary ship Rhoen (A1443), visited Lisbon, Portugal in July for the formation of Standing NATO Maritime Group One (SNMG-1). Reforming after the summer dispersal of the NATO group, the three ships used this opportunity to plan for the upcoming Mediterranean surge deployment and to enjoy the first of many exciting port visits.

In August, Stephen W. Groves and her sister ships enjoyed a brief port visit in Cadiz, Spain and then conducted a wide variety of information operations, maritime security spotchecks, and maritime surveillance operations in the Western Mediterranean Sea in support of NATO Operation Active Endeavor. Each of these missions focused on developing a cooperative relationship with the Mediterranean maritime community and protecting freedom of navigation within the NATO area of operations. The group communicated with hundreds of merchant vessels and promoted the policies of the NATO Shipping Center. One tactical watchstander noted, "These commercial ships seem very interested in the information we have to offer about



-Photos by Bill Austin

Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Christopher Haws gets a first kiss from wife Miranda after returning to Naval Station Mayport on Dec. 27 with USS Stephen W. Groves. Groves was deployed as part of Standing NATO Maritime Group One (SNMG-1).

maintaining a safe maritime environment. They express their gratitude for our presence here and offer a lot of insight into what they're seeing in the Med on a day-to-day basis." The ship's Visit, Board, Search,

and Salvage (VBSS) team also conducted five compliant spot-check boardings, which aimed to verify cargo manifests, personnel documentation, and sanitation conditions.

Following Active Endeavor,

SNMG-1 visited the French ports of Marseille and Toulon. The crew of Stephen W. Groves hosted a force reception in Marseille, which was well-attended by the NATO group, local dignitaries, and members

of the Navy League chapter. In Toulon, the Navy League arranged several remarkable cultural opportunities for the crew, including winery visits and regional tours.

Exercise Loyal Midas came

next for SNMG-1. This multinational training operation included more than 20 NATO surface combatants, submarines, and air units. Throughout the exercise, Stephen W. Groves conducted undersea warfare exercises, maritime interdiction operations, gunnery exercises, and refueling-at-sea evolutions. Each of these events was designed to test the ship's proficiency and improve the integrated performance of the NATO Reaction Force. The scenario intensified over a two week period, requiring the NATO force to continually respond to changing geopolitical and humanitarian factors. This dynamic context provided an excellent training opportunity by forcing the ships to maintain a balance between heightened operational readiness and a stable, de-escalatory peace-keeping posture.

Stephen W. Groves and her sister ships continued to build upon their strong cohesion while supporting a second Active Endeavor surge in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. The crew enjoyed port visits to Augusta Bay, Sicily and Souda Bay, Crete, which included a highly successful beach cleanup community relations project.

In early November, Stephen W. Groves transited south through the Suez Canal and Red Sea and arrived on station in the Gulf of Aden to support the final operation of her NATO deployment. The SNMG-1 staff relieved Standing NATO Maritime Group Two (SNMG-

See SWG, Page 5



Jessica Browning and Jamie Biondo wait for their Sailors to disembark USS Stephen W. Groves during the ship homecoming.



Friends and family members stand pierside and watch excitedly as the ship pulls into port on Dec. 27.



Ensign Christian Mack reunites pierside with wife Jammie and son Jaden.



Sonar Technician Surface 2nd Class Dale Haynes get a welcome home kiss after returning from a five-month deployment with USS Stephen W. Groves.



Araya Jacobs dresses like an elf and hands out candy canes to friends and family members of USS Stephen W. Groves.



Friends and family members wave to their Sailors as the ship pulls into NS Mayport.



Lt. Tim Smith kisses his newborn son as he reunites with his wife, Karen, at the ship homecoming.



Engineman 2nd Class Travis Breazelle holds his newest daughter for the first time.



Gas Turbine System Technician Electrical 2nd Class Timothy Tuggle gets a big home at the homecoming.



Gunner's Mate 1st Class Jerry Hawk gets his first look at his newborn child during the ship homecoming on Dec. 27.

SWG

2) as Commander Task Force 508 (CTF 508) and assumed responsibility for NATO's counter-piracy efforts. In support of Operation Ocean Shield, Stephen W. Groves and her sister ships conducted a wide variety of information operations, counter-piracy patrols, and maritime surveillance operations along the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) in the Gulf of Aden.

Each of these missions focuses on deterring piracy, developing cooperative relationships with other international maritime forces, and protecting commercial shipping and ensuring freedom of navigation within one of the world's most heavily traveled straits.

One of the most unique and promising facets of Operation Ocean Shield was the chance to work with non-NATO maritime partners in the counter-piracy initiative. Naval surface and air assets from around the world patrolled



Caitie Oyler waits with other friends and family members for the ship to pull pier side.

the IRTC and nearby Somali Basin, often coordinating with NATO and sharing information about high interest shipping traffic and suspected piratical activity.

Throughout the deployment, Stephen W. Groves Sailors sought to meet new challenges and increase mission readiness. Their contributions were vital to the NATO group's operational success.

After an exciting five-month SNMG-1 deployment, the sailors of Stephen W. Groves remember recent success, celebrate a well-deserved homecoming, and look forward to future opportunities for excellence.

Operations Officer Lt. Arlen Rose concludes, "Groves came here to support and serve the NATO missions, and I believe we have accomplished our goals in all facets."

From Page 4



Friends and family members smile and laugh after finding Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Juvon Campbell during the ship's homecoming. The ship was deployed with SNMG and performed counter-piracy efforts during Operation Ocean Shield.

Groves Participates In Operation Ocean Shield

By Lt.j.g. Timothy Shaffer

USS Stephen W. Groves PAO

USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29) recently participated in Counter-piracy Operation Ocean Shield as the final mission of her 2009 Standing NATO Maritime Group One (SNMG-1) deployment.

Along with her SNMG-1 counterpart, Portuguese frigate NRP Alvares Cabral (F331), Stephen W. Groves arrived on station in the Gulf of Aden in early November. The SNMG-1 staff relieved Standing NATO Maritime Group Two (SNMG-2) as Commander Task Force 508 (CTF 508) and assumed responsibility for NATO's counter-piracy efforts. Task Force 508 also consists of American guided-missile destroyer USS Donald Cook, Italian frigate ITS Libeccio, and Canadian frigate HMCS Fredericton. In recent weeks, Stephen W. Groves and her sister ships have conducted a wide variety of information operations, counter-piracy patrols, and maritime surveillance operations along the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) in the Gulf of Aden. Each of these missions focuses on deterring piracy, developing cooperative relationships with other international maritime forces, and protecting commercial shipping and ensuring freedom of navigation within one of the world's most heavily traveled straits.

Stephen W. Groves maintained a high operational tempo throughout Ocean Shield, patrolling every sector of the IRTC over the course of her time on station. The task force ships



USS Stephen W. Groves Sailors admire the canyon view from the top of the Jamal Shoals Ridge in Oman.

communicated with hundreds of merchant vessels transiting the Gulf of Aden and promoted awareness of critical international maritime policies. One tactical watchstander noted, "These commercial ships seem very interested in the information we have to offer about counter-pira-

cy tactics and safety measures. They continually express their gratitude for our presence here and often want to know more about how to keep their vessels safe from piracy."

One of the most unique and promising facets of Operation Ocean Shield was the chance to

work with non-NATO maritime partners in the counter-piracy initiative. Naval surface and air assets from around the world patrolled the IRTC and nearby Somali Basin, often coordinating with NATO and sharing information about high interest shipping traffic and suspected piratical activity.

While most of Operation Ocean Shield centered around independent patrols, Stephen W. Groves also found time to train and operate with the other CTF 508 units. Stephen W. Groves conducted four refueling at sea (RAS) evolutions and numerous communications, electronic warfare, and tactical maneuvering exercises during the operational training phase leading up to the IRTC patrols. The crew also enjoyed a port visit to Muscat, Oman, where many sailors took an opportunity to indulge in local culture and explore the desert landscape on guided adventure tours.

Having completed Operation Ocean Shield, Stephen W. Groves detached from SNMG-1 and returned to Mayport, Florida after a successful deployment. NRP Alvares Cabral and the other Task Force 508 ships remain in the Horn of Africa region, providing continued support to international shipping and building counter-piracy coalition capabilities. Upcoming multinational initiatives offer the task force the opportunity to further extend its influence off the Horn of Africa.

IKE Strike Group Deploys With Mayport Ships

From USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Public Affairs

The USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) (IKE) Carrier Strike Group (CSG) deployed Jan. 2 for a six-month deployment in support of 5th and 6th Fleet operations.

IKE CSG is made up of Commander, CSG 8; the aircraft carrier IKE, homeported in Norfolk, Va.; Carrier Air Wing Seven (CVW 7); Commander, Destroyer Squadron 28; the guided-missile destroyer USS McFaul (DDG 74), homeported in Norfolk; and the Mayport, Fla.-based ships, guided-missile cruiser USS Hue City (CG 66) and guided-missile destroyers USS Carney (DDG 64) and USS Farragut (DDG 99).

IKE CSG missions focus heavily on maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts that help establish conditions for regional stability.

"I'm extremely proud of the men and women of the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group," said Rear Adm. Phil Davidson, commander of IKE CSG. "They've exceeded all expectations in a very short amount of turnaround time. We are ready to go over the horizon and support the troops on the ground in Afghanistan, support the nation's Maritime Strategy, and protect our nation's interests."

The deployment is part of an on-going rotation of forward-deployed forces to support maritime security operations in international waters around the globe. IKE CSG consists of approximately 6,000 Sailors who, over the last four months, have successfully completed refresher training and certifications to ensure they operate

effectively and safely together.

"IKE returned from a successful combat deployment last summer. We spent most of November at sea training during a challenging Composite Training Unit Exercise, and we spent December making

sure the ship, our Sailors and our families are ready for this deployment. This is an amazing ship, but what's even more amazing are the young Americans who bring it to life," said Capt. Dee Mewbourne, IKE's commanding officer.



-Photos courtesy of USS Carney

USS Carney linehandlers pull the line as the ship gets underway as part of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group.



Ensign Pia Chapman of USS Carney keeps a close eye on the ship maneuvers as it pulls out of Mayport on Jan. 2.

Roosevelt Advances 22

By Ensign Michele Rollins

USS Roosevelt Public Affairs

USS Roosevelt celebrated the achievements of 22 high-performing Sailors who advanced off of the September advancement exam. Soon after the results were released, the officers and crew of the guided-missile destroyer were proud to frock these Sailors to their new ranks.

The tradition of "frocking" allows commands to recognize and celebrate the Sailors who have advanced to a new rank prior to the Sailor officially gaining their new paygrade. Although all the Sailors are wearing their new rank proudly, they will get paid for their new paygrade in three increments - the top performers will begin getting paid first; a few months later a second group will follow, and nearly six months later the last increment will begin earning a paycheck for their new rank.

Roosevelt gained two new First Class Petty Officers, Hull Technician 1st Class Bennie Davidson and Operations Specialist 1st Class Christopher Johnson.

During the last cycle, there was an administrative error affecting the 1st Class Hull Technicians in which several Sailors Navy-wide were inadvertently placed on the advancement list, only to find out later they had not advanced. Davidson was one of those Sailors. So it goes without saying that he was especially happy to finally wear the extra chevron afforded a First Class Petty Officer.

The ship advanced 10 new Second Class Petty Officers, including Sonar Technician 2nd Class Paul Andrews, Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Luisa Blackwell, Operations Specialist 2nd Class Tiffany Chatham, Fire Controlman 2nd Class Steven Folkers, Operations Specialist 2nd Class Steven Gross, Sonar Technician 2nd Class Thomas Hartzell, Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 2nd Class Krista Jamison, Fire Controlman 2nd Class Michael Libby, Operations Specialist 2nd Class William McMillan, and Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 2nd Class Jayson Phillips. Petty Officers Andrews and McMillan were not present at the ceremony, as they are proud-



-File Photo

USS Roosevelt advanced 22 Sailors as a result of their scores on the September advancement exam.

ly representing Roosevelt on Individual Augmentation tours with the Army.

The ship also advanced 10 new Third Class Petty Officers including Operations Specialist 3rd Class Anthony Beekman, Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Mark Daniels, Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Michael Dinkle, Interior Communications Electrician 3rd Class Brett Hornecker, Operations 3rd Class Stacy Neely, Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 3rd Class Renee Pineda, Quartermaster 3rd Class Garrett Robertson, Information Systems Technician 3rd Class William Rush, Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Gustavo Santos and Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Cortez Sherman.

Advancement is always a special accomplishment, but it is even more of an honor now. With the Navy growing smaller and the outside economy struggling, making rank has become more challenging in the past few years. It takes hard work and great technical knowledge on the part of the Sailor, as well as the dedication of his Chain of Command. Roosevelt congratulates all our Sailors who took the exam on a job well done.

R2R

future force in the upcoming year.

"We are going to be busy for a while because we bring tremendous value to some critical things that are taking place in the world today," said Roughhead.

CNO also expressed the great work that the Navy is doing globally and thanked the Sailors

From Page 1

for all their hard work, dedication, and professionalism.

CNO wrapped up his trip by being the honorary guest with the Ride 2 Recovery riders at the coin toss of the Indianapolis Colts vs. Jacksonville Jaguars game played in Jacksonville.

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DESRON 40 Returns From SPS-Amphib 2009

By DESRON 40 Public Affairs

Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 40 embarked onboard the multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1) returned home Dec. 18 from nearly three months deployed to U.S. Southern Command area of focus, wrapping up Southern Partnership Station (SPS) - Amphib 2009.

Wasp deployed Oct. 4 from Naval Station Norfolk. Working alongside Mayport-based DESRON 40 and Security Cooperation Marine Air-Ground Task Force (SCMAGTF) they worked to build interoperability and cooperation between U.S. and partner nation naval forces through a variety of exercises, theater security cooperation (TSC), military-to-military engagements and community relations projects.

"SPS 2009 deployment was the first of its kind here in the Fourth Fleet area of focus. The deployment was designed to focus on counter-illicit trafficking (CIT), which included the USS Wasp as a forward operating base and a variety of different agencies embarked on the ship," said Capt. Rudy Laco, Commander Task Group 40.7.

The Wasp-DESRON 40 team joined forces with Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) - South, SCMAGTF, Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) 405 and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to conduct CIT operations in the Caribbean. The month-long interoperability mission working alongside Haitian and Dominican civil and military agents resulted in a disrupted flow of drugs through the Caribbean and to the U.S.

"The key to the success of this deployment has been that the Wasp, as a fusion center, has allowed us to bring to bear several assets that were able to work with Joint Interagency Task Force-South, conducting CIT operations in the south. The benefit is that we've been able to operate in different regions of the Caribbean," said Laco.

By mid-November Wasp and the embarked task force were conducting operations in Ocho Rios, Jamaica and Belize City, Belize, which included military-to-military exchanges and community relations (COMREL) projects. Humanitarian assistance was provided through the donation of over 100 pallets from Project Handclasp filled with medical, medicinal and hygiene supplies. Also, the Rotary Clubs of Cape Coral Gold Coast and Downtown

Jacksonville, Fla., donated pallets of books and computers.

"We as the Navy will have opportunities to conduct engagements with the countries in Central America, Caribbean and South America and part of the strategy is to visit locations on a periodic basis and show the populace that the Navy is not just about fighting wars, but also humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and working to help other partners in the region to solve common issues like

providing military-to-military exchanges," said Laco.

One hundred forty backpacks and 125 teddy bears from Hugs Across America were given out to school children in Jamaica and Belize by Sailors and Marines. Thirty-three volunteers from CTG 40.7 traveled to Parry Town Basic School in Ocho Rios, Jamaica to help paint classrooms. With help from the U.S. Embassy, who provided the necessary paint and equipment, they were able

to paint 12 classrooms, which held grades one through six for local children.

In December, TG 40.7 completed CIT operations once again, this time with the Nicaraguan military and U.S. Coast Guard LEDET in an effort to disrupt the flow of narcotics through the Caribbean.

In addition to Jamaica and Belize, the Task Group also stopped in Panama and made several visits to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



Above, Lt. Rick Tester holds his wife, Heather, during a homecoming celebration for members of DESRON 40. The Destroyer Squadron was deployed on USS Wasp as part of Southern Partnership Station (SPS) - Amphib 2009. Left, Lt. Jorge Gonzalez holds his son, Jorge, Jr., during the homecoming at the Mayport air terminal. DESRON 40 spent three months performing good will efforts in the Caribbean and South America.



-Photos by MC1 Heather Ewton

Lt. Cmdr. Mike Eatough holds son Derek and gets big hugs from children Katherine and David after returning to NS Mayport on Dec. 18 with DESRON 40.

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USS Robert G. Bradley Enters Drydock

By Ensign Amy Hueter
USS Robert G. Bradley

On the morning of Dec. 7 at 10:45 a.m., USS Robert G. Bradley (FFG-49) got underway from Naval Station Mayport for a two-mile transit up the St. Johns River to Atlantic Marine Florida dry dock facility.

Instead of being raised in a floating dry dock, Robert G. Bradley was pulled out of the water on a wooden trolley along a railway. This procedure had not been performed to an Oliver Hazard Perry class frigate since USS De Wert (FFG-45) was dry-docked on the same marine railway in 2002. Several Bradleymen were De Wert crewmembers at that time, such as Senior Chief Sonar Technician Surface Peaslee and Chief Gas Turbine System Technician Mechanical Bigwarfe, and their experience helped ensure a smooth docking operation for RGB.

Dry docking a naval war ship is a unique and potentially dangerous evolution. Countless man-hours are spent by contractors, SERMC Maintenance Team, SERMC docking personnel and ship's force preparing the ship for dry-docking. Once a ship is designated for dry docking, the docking team obtains the most current ship's drawings from the planning yard in preparation for the block build. When the docking

position has been determined, the contractor builds and sets the blocks in accordance with the docking plan. Contractors, the SERMC Docking Team and ship's force verify the blocks are built to specification and placed correctly in the dock.

The docking operation was overseen by Dan Powell, a civilian dock master from the shipyard and Lt. Cmdr. Hunt, SERMC's docking observer. Their expertise ensured the success of the entire docking timeline from getting underway with tug assistance from NS Mayport to docking on the railway seven hours later.

After an hour-long transit from NS Mayport, the C-Tractors transferred Robert G. Bradley to contracted tugs from the shipyard for the final operation. These tugs guided Robert G. Bradley into position using a bumper that had earlier been welded onto the port bow. The ship was then positioned onto the blocks. Once the keel and hull were secured in these blocks, the entire trolley was pulled out of the water.

With the docking evolution complete, Robert G. Bradley will receive two months of intensive work to overhaul and repair many essential systems. When this work is completed in the spring, Robert G. Bradley will return to sea and prepare for the next training cycle and deployment.



USS Robert G. Bradley is pulled out of the water on the marine railway.

-Photo courtesy of USS Robert G. Bradley

ETCS (SW) Mullins and LT Bittner on top of the ship's mast at the completion of ETCS (SW) Mullins' reenlistment ceremony.



RGB Senior Chief Reenlists Mast High

From USS Robert G. Bradley

On Dec. 11, Senior Chief Electronics Technician (SW) Mullins reenlisted in the U.S. Navy onboard USS Robert G. Bradley (FFG 49). To put a twist on the event Mullins reenlisted at the top of the main mast adjacent to the TACAN.

Lt. Zachary Bittner was the reenlisting officer administering the oath. Mullins has served onboard since Nov. 17, 2008. Mullins' leadership skills onboard are without match. He has filled many positions outside of his division while on board; most recently as Engineering Department LCPO.

Before reporting aboard RGB, Mullins served in Bagram, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During this assignment he led a guard force of more than 110 Soldiers and Sailors in the care, custody, and treatment of over 650 detained enemy combatants. Mullins next assignment is in Little Creek, Va., where he will be assigned to Naval Special Warfare Group 4.

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New Qual Standards Out

From Center for Service Support Public Affairs

New and updated personnel qualification standards (PQS) booklets for the yeoman (YN) rating, personnel specialist rating (PS), 3-M and scullery operator (specific platforms) were released in December by the Center for Service Support (CSS) in Newport, R.I.

A PQS is a compilation of the minimum knowledge and skills an individual must demonstrate to qualify to stand watches or perform other specific routine duties necessary for the safety, security or proper operation of a ship, aircraft or support system.

"With the current emphasis on 3-M and back to basics, it was necessary to review and update the 3-M PQS. But, the revision is only one small step toward refreshing 3-M fundamentals. We are also reviewing and revising 3-M training taught throughout the fleet," said Command Master Chief Jeff Owejan from CSS. "Being a post-tour 3-M coordinator, reviewing 3-M training requirements has been a passionate experience, and CSS has received astounding support from the fleet."

The PQS booklets are available for download and printing on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) via the Navy PQS link found on the Quick Links tab on the left side of the main page. From the

Navy PQS page, Sailors should follow the PQS 43200 Series link on the left side.

Richard Price said the CSS PQS and non-resident training courses (NRTC) manager, review of the newly released PQS will be required in 18 months.

"[In the meantime,] CSS will turn its focus toward building and revising NRTCs for the administrative, logistics and media ratings," said Price.

The first NRTC on the table will be for the mass communication specialist. Subject-matter experts from within the rating will gather for a conference Jan. 25-29 in Norfolk. The revised courses, like the PQS, will be available in electronic versions only. They can be downloaded via NKO.

"We are excited about the challenge of bringing the NRTCs up to date and in line with the fleet," said Price. "The MC NRTC is the first one on our plate, and we expect it to be quite a tasking as we merge about ten previously printed manuals from the four previous ratings."

Sailors in the administrative, logistics and media ratings should visit the "What's happening" page in the Center for Service Support NKO domain to remain informed.



-Photo by Bill Austin

NS Mayport Chaplain Rita Love places a wreath at the gravesite of a military spouse.

Holiday Wreathes Placed To Honor Dead

By Bill Austin

NS Mayport PAO

The smell of fresh pine lingered in the air as volunteers arrived with fresh Christmas wreathes at Jacksonville's National Cemetery on Dec. 23 and placed them on the graves of more than 130 military spouses and children buried there.

The previous weekend, more than 1,000 wreathes were placed on graves as part of Wreaths Across America, a campaign created by the Worcester Wreath Company, an outfit out of Massachusetts that has donated holiday wreathes to veterans at 130 national cemeteries across the country for the past eighteen years.

"When my wife Debbie and I went to cemetery the previous weekend for the event, she was

surprised to see that the spouses and children of servicemen buried there didn't have a wreath at their grave," said Capt. Aaron Bowman, commanding officer of Naval Station Mayport.

"As soon as she got home she got on the phone and managed to get some great partners and donations over the weekend and they put together 150 wreathes for those graves," said Bowman.

Some of those partners included the Navy League, the Filipino Veterans Society and the Patriot Guard Riders

After the wreathes were set out by the volunteers, they gathered together for a reading of "a Military wife," a poem that pays tribute to the sacrifices that military spouses often endure that are often unrecognized.

"Strangely enough, the bright

sky and the cold wind sweeping through the many rows of wreathes with red ribbons symbolized for me in that moment a sense of peace," said Navy Chaplain Rita Love.

Patriot Guard member Daze Vincent, stood solemnly by a gravesite dressed in his leather riding gear and took a moment of silence after he laid down a wreath.

He said earlier that he joined the Patriot Guard because they stood for recognizing the honor and service of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"We didn't have that recognition of service to our country when we came back from Vietnam," said Vincent. "Everyone buried here signed a blank check to defend and support our country. 'We need to honor that sacrifice.'"



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-Photo by MC22 Sunday Williams

Sonar Technicians aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS The Sullivans (DDG 68) monitor sonar equipment during the Southeastern Anti-Submarine Warfare Integrated Training Initiative. The Sailors are remaining alert for signs of marine mammals as well as for submarine activity.



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MWR Happenings

Jan. 7: CPO Social Hour (CPO Mug Night). 3-7 p.m. at Foc'sle CPO Club with thirty-five cent wings, drink specials and all-you-can-drink soft drinks for only \$1. Enjoy one dollar domestic drafts in an official CPO mug. Thursday night is reserved for active and retired Chief Petty Officers and their guests. For CPO Club activity information, call AWRC Jon Abell at 850-748-5941 or 270-5431.

Jan. 7: NCAA Football National Championship. Watch the University of Alabama versus the University of Texas in Hi-Def on our mega 20-foot screen at Beachside

Community Center. Pre-game activities begin at 6 p.m. Kick-off is at 8 p.m. Food (while supplies last), trivia and more! (Free) 270-5228

Jan. 10: Bowling Family Fun Night. 4-7 p.m. every Sunday at Mayport Bowling Center. Cost is \$9 per person and includes All-You-Can Bowl with shoes, spaghetti dinner, music videos, light show and colored headpin bowling for prizes. 270-5377

Jan. 11: Spaghetti Monday. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Fast Lanes Grille. Buffet includes spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and a drink for only \$6 per person. 270-5377

Jan. 11: Intramural Sports Program Resumes. Download the 2010 Intramural Sports calendar at www.cnic.navy.mil/Mayport/Recreation. 270-5451

Jan. 12: 5K Run and 3K Walk. 8 a.m. start in front of the Gym. (Free) 270-5451

Jan. 12: Badminton Organizational Meeting. 11 a.m. in the Gym lobby. This Captain's Cup league for singles and doubles begins Jan. 25. (Free) 270-5451

Jan. 12: All Khaki Wings and Trivia Night. 3-7 p.m. at Foc'sle CPO Club with 35-cent wings, drink specials and all-you-can-drink soft drinks for \$1. Trivia begins at 5:30 p.m.

All Khakis welcome (Chief Petty Officers, Officers and their guests). For CPO Club activity information, call AWRC Jon Abell at 850-748-5941 or 270-5431.

Jan. 13: Wednesday Bowling Special. 5-10 p.m. every Wednesday during January at Mayport Bowling Center. All-You-Can-Bowl is only \$15 per lane for up to five people per lane. 270-5377

Jan. 17: Women's Volleyball Organizational Meeting. 12 p.m. in the Gym lobby. League begins Jan. 31. (Free) 270-5451

Jan. 18: MLK Holiday Bowling Special. 11 a.m.-

5 p.m. at Mayport Bowling Center. Two hours of Xtreme bowling with shoes, spaghetti dinner and colored headpin bowling for prizes. Cost is \$10 per person (free for ages 3 and

younger). 270-5377
Jan. 22: Comics on Duty World Tour. 8 p.m. at Castaway's Lounge. (Free) www.comiconduty.com 270-5228

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Kid Zone

Jan. 9: Teen Dance Party. 8-11 p.m. at Club Teen for age 12 through grade 12. Free admission. Snacks, drinks and wings available for purchase. 270-5680 or 246-0347

Jan. 10: Bowling Family Fun Night. 4-7 p.m. every Sunday at Mayport Bowling Center. Cost is \$9 per person and includes All-You-Can Bowl with shoes, spaghetti dinner, music videos, light show and colored headpin bowling for prizes. 270-5377

Jan. 16: Youth Lock-In. 7 p.m.-7 a.m. at the Youth Activities Center for grade K

through age 12. Cost is \$15 if advance sign-up or \$20 the day of, if space. 270-5680

Jan. 16: Teen Lock-In. 7 p.m.-7 a.m. at Club Teen for age 12 through grade 12. Cost is \$12 if advance sign-up or \$15 the day of, if space. 270-5680 or 246-0347

Jan. 18: MLK Holiday Bowling Special. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mayport Bowling Center. Two hours of Xtreme bowling with shoes, spaghetti dinner and colored headpin bowling for prizes. Cost is \$10 per person (free for ages 3 and younger). 270-5377

Jan. 23: Circus Trip. 11:30 a.m. show time. Cost is \$12 per person. Trip is open to school age children and their parents. Parents are welcome to attend with younger children. Deadline to sign-up and pay is Jan. 20. A minimum of 12 sign-ups are required for trip to go. 270-5680 or 5421

Jan. 29: Youth Freedom Friday, Movie Night. 7-11 p.m. at the Youth Activities Center for grade K through age 12. Cost is \$7 if advance sign-up or \$9 the day of, if space. 270-5680 or 5421

New Fees For Fido In 2010

From MWR

In order to provide consistent quality service to all patrons throughout the Department of Defense (DOD), the United States Army Veterinary Command (VETCOM) is working with MWR activities to assume all aspects of financial responsibility for Veterinary Treatment Facilities (VTF). As a result, VETCOM has announced new standardized pricing and wellness packages effective Jan. 15, 2010.

Patrons at MWR Mayport's VTF could experience small price increases for canine and feline vaccinations. The most significant change will be the new fees established for wellness screenings, sick-call examinations, wellness examinations, re-check examinations and health certificate examinations.

New prices for examinations and screenings range from \$10 to \$25 where there was no cost to patrons in the past. Consistent with previous policy, fees will be the same for all clients regardless of position or rank.

For additional information on Mayport's veterinary services and fees, call 270-7004.

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LOCATION	ADDRESS	CITY	
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AMERICAN LEGION POST	316 ATLANTIC BLVD.	JAX	JIFFY LUBE
COAST GUARD STATION (EXCHANGE STORE)	A1A HWY	JAX	JIFFY LUBE
COMFORT INN	MAYPORT RD.	JAX	JIFFY LUBE
COMMISSARY (INSIDE RACKS)	MAYPORT RD.	JAX	JIFFY LUBE
DAYS INN	1401 ATLANTIC BLVD.	JAX	JIFFY LUBE
FCE - SHELL	9115 MERRILL RD./9-A	JAX	JIFFY LUBE
FCE - SHELL	1539 S 3rd ST	JAX BCH	JIFFY LUBE
FCE - SHELL	7150 MERRILL RD	JAX	KANGAROO
FCE - SHELL(DAILY'S)	13490 ATLANTIC BLVD./SAN PABLO	JAX	KANGAROO
FLEET LANDING	MAYPORT RD.	JAX	KANGAROO
FLEET RESERVE ASSOC. BRANCH # 290	390 MAYPORT RD.	JAX	KANGAROO/BP
FLETCHER HIGH SCHOOL ROTC		JAX BCH	KANGAROO/SMOKERS EXPRESS
GATE	1900 MIZELL RD	STAU	LA CRUISE GIFT SHOP
GATE	220 A1A N	PVB	LIL CHAMP
GATE	619 A1A N	PVB	LIL CHAMP
GATE	10970 US 1/SR210	ST AUG	LIL CHAMP
GATE	2350 SR 16	STAU	LIL CHAMP
GATE	463779 SR 200/A1A	YUL	LIL CHAMP
GATE	3230 EMERSON ST	JAX	LIL CHAMP
GATE	3938 HENDRICKS AVE	JAX	LIL CHAMP
GATE	8070 ATLANTIC BLVD	JAX	MALLARD COVE OFFICE
GATE	1721 UNIVERSITY BLVD N	JAX	NAVY HOUSING APARTMENTS
GATE	5617 BOWDEN RD	JAX	NEX (OUTSIDE RACKS NEAR ATM)
GATE	570 BUSCH DR	JAX	OTTER RUN OFFICE
GATE	12548 SAN JOSE BLVD	JAX	RAINBOW CENTER CHILD CARE
GATE	10946 FT CAROLINE RD	JAX	RIBAULT BAY COMMUNITY CENTER
GATE	1001 MONUMENT RD	JAX	SINGLETON'S SEAFOOD SHOP
GATE	10044 ATLANTIC BLVD	JAX	SOUTHTRUST BANK
GATE	4100 HECKSCHER DR	JAX	SPRINT
GATE	2520 S 3rd ST	JAXBCH	SPRINT
GATE	319 S 3rd ST	JAX BCH	SPRINT
GATE	9144 BAYMEADOWS RD	JAX	SPRINT
GATE	11461 OLD ST AUGUSTINE RD	JAX	SPRINT
GATE	10455 OLD ST AUGUSTINE RD	JAX	SPRINT
GATE	9540 SAN JOSE BLVD	JAX	SPRINT
GATE	1605 RACETRACK/SR13	JAX	SPRINT
HOME FINDER'S REALTY	2550 MAYPORT RD.	JAX	SPRINT
JAX FEDERAL CREDIT UNION	664 ATLANTIC BLVD.	JAX	SPRINT
JIFFY LUBE	3212 UNIVERSITY BLVD S	JAX	U.S. COAST GUARD OFFICE
JIFFY LUBE	6135 ST AUGUSTINE RD	JAX	USO MAYPORT
JIFFY LUBE	11620 SAN JOSE BLVD	JAX	Updated: FEBRUARY 1, 2007

PICK UP YOUR COPY OF THE MIRROR AT ANY OF THESE LOCATIONS

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.

Jan. 7: NCAA Football National Championship. Watch the University of Alabama versus the University of Texas in Hi-Def on our mega 20-foot screen at Beachside Community Center. Pre-game activities begin at 6 p.m. Kick-off is at 8 p.m. Food (while

supplies last), trivia and more! (Free)

Jan 9: Dave and Busters Trip. Van departs Planet Mayport at 7 p.m. Game card included. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 8.

Jan. 11: Barracks Break-In. Food, soda and a movie starting at 6 p.m. in the lounge of Barracks Bldg. 2105. (Free)

Jan. 13: Pool Tourney Wednesdays. Pool tournaments every Wednesday starting at 6 p.m. with prizes for the winner. (Free)

Jan. 15-16: Tampa Breeze LFL Trip. Van departs Planet

Mayport at 1 p.m. for this Tampa overnight trip to see the Tampa Breeze LFL. Cost is \$80 and includes tickets, hotel and transportation. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 9. www.lflus.com

Jan. 17: Greg Behrendt Trip. Van departs Planet Mayport at 5 p.m. to see the stand-up comedy act from the author of "He's Just Not That Into You". Cost is \$10. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 14.

Jan. 19: Car Buying Class. 6 p.m. at Planet Mayport. Includes refreshments. (Free)

USO News

Tickets for the Jan. 21-22 Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Circus shows are available for purchase for only \$7.50 per ticket. First come, first served - active duty and families only.

A tribute program that has provided free admission to SeaWorld and Busch Gardens for more than 4 million members of U.S. and coalition armed forces and their families has been extended through 2010. "Here's to the Heroes," a program sponsored by Anheuser-Busch, was launched in February 2005 to celebrate the service of military men and women and the sacrifices made by their families.

Any active duty, active reserve, ready reserve service member or National Guardsman representing any of the five service branches is entitled to free admission under the program. He or she need only register, either online at www.herosalute.com or in the entrance plaza of a participating park, and show a Department of Defense photo ID. Also included in the offer are members of foreign military forces serving in the coalitions in Iraq or Afghanistan or attached to American units in the U.S. for training.

Inactive, standby and retired

reserve members, military retirees, U.S. Merchant Marine and civilian DoD workers are ineligible for the program. The program does not include Discovery Cove or SeaWorld's waterpark, Aquatica.

Your Greater Jacksonville USO has signed up to participate in the Give a day program with Disney. We have a limited number of spots available to volunteer for January and February. If you are interested please go to www.Disneyparks.com to register. Once you have completed your opportunity and we verify your attendance you will be eligible for a ticket to Disney. Please see complete rules at Disneyparks.com. You do not receive the tickets from our Centers and you must register online to participate.

Jacksonville Morocco Shrine Job Fair is presented by Corporate Gray/ Military Officers Association of America on Friday, Jan. 29, 2010 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This event will be held at the Morocco Shrine 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road, South Jacksonville, FL 32224-2620. Meet with military-friendly companies and government agencies. This is open to all military personnel and spouses. Business attire recommended, bring plenty of resumes. For more information

please visit www.corporategray.com or www.moaa.org/career-fair.

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. Please contact your local USO center for more information.

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.

The USO is available for meetings, support groups, receptions, parties and pre-deployment briefs.

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

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Thursday, Jan. 7th

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Servicemember Voting Laws Reflect Changes

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

Laws have changed and servicemembers who want to vote need to be aware of these changes, the director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program said.

Generally, military personnel who want to vote are a higher percentage than that in the general population. Still, there can be roadblocks to exercising the franchise.

Overseas-deployed servicemembers may find that "the absentee ballot doesn't get to them on time, so they can vote it and send it back to the elec-

tion official so it can be counted," Bob Carey explained during an interview.

In the general population about nine out of every 10 absentee ballots are successfully cast, the director said.

"Only about six or seven out of every 10 military ballots are successfully returned," he said.

The biggest problems, Carey said, involves the nature of overseas duty and delays in the military postal system. Carey's organization is working to expedite the voting process for military members. On the postal side, officials are looking at ensuring that all military ballots take seven days or

less in transit. Imagine an express-mail service for military voters, Carey said.

The power of the Internet also is being harnessed. Military voters can go to www.fvap.gov for almost one-stop shopping. A servicemember can go online and find the necessary voting forms and fill them out right there.

"Down the line we will also have an online ballot system where they can receive the ballot online, fill it out online and chose their candidates online," Carey said. "They will still have to print it out and sign it, but it would end the wait of getting the ballots."

Deployed servicemembers - at combat outposts and aboard ships - are the most affected by voting issues. Many military voters also are younger and aren't aware of the processes behind voting, Carey noted.

"We're trying to make it easy," he said, "so they don't have to know chapter and verse of election law in order to participate in the process."

One of the bigger changes in the process is that military voters must send in a federal postcard application - again available at www.fvap.gov - as soon as possible.

"The law has changed and even if

they have been getting their absentee ballot automatically they have to register each and every year," Carey pointed out.

Servicemembers also must submit a postcard application each time they move, each time they deploy and each time they redeploy.

"We're encouraging everyone by Jan. 15 to send in a new federal postcard application," Carey said.

Local election officials, he said, are more than happy to deliver balloting materials, but they have to know where to send them.

Spouses Can Keep Residency While Under Orders

By Samantha L. Quigley

American Forces Press Service

A new law protects military spouses from being taxed for work performed in states where they're living outside their home states as a result of military orders.

President Barack Obama signed the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act, an amendment to the 2003 Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, on Nov. 11.

"This act, among other things, would provide that when a servicemember leaves his or her home state in accord with military orders, the servicemember's spouse may retain residency in his or her home state for voting and tax purposes, after relocating from that state to accompany the servicemember," the president said in a Nov. 12 White House statement.

The new law means a change in fundamental tax law for military spouses, said Army Col. Shawn Shumake, director of legal policy in the office of the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"If a spouse accompanies a military member to a state that is not the spouse's [state of legal residence] and does so solely to be with the servicemember under military orders, then the income the spouse earns from services performed

in that nondomiciliary state cannot be taxed," he said in a Pentagon Channel interview.

But, he warned, some states interpret the act to apply only if the military servicemember and the spouse live under the same roof.

"A number of states believe that to get this tax break, or tax exemption, the spouse and the servicemember must have the same domicile," he said. "Different states interpret this possible requirement differently."

The law does not necessarily mean that someone who makes their permanent home in one state will never be taxed in the state they're living in because of a servicemember's military orders, Shumake said. In fact, he explained, the act states only that income earned from work performed in the nondomiciliary state is not taxable. That doesn't mean the spouse wouldn't have to pay income tax on such income to the state of legal residency.

"Of course, there are those states that don't have any income tax at all," Shumake said. "If the spouse were a legal resident of those states, then they would likely not pay income tax from [work] performed in any state."

Understanding the meaning of "domicile" and knowing how

to prove it are keys to understanding the law, Shumake said.

First, he said, the terms "domicile," and "legal residence," are synonymous. A person can have only one domicile at a time. It is one's primary home or permanent residence, and it's formed by being physically present in a state and simultaneously forming the intent to remain there for the indefinite future.

"You have to prove your intent by establishing certain contacts with the state, such as voting there, buying property there, getting your professional license there, claiming in-state tuition rates there, registering a vehicle or obtaining a driver's license there," Shumake said. "Of all of those, voting may turn out to be the most important for proving your domicile for the purposes of the [Military Spouses Residency Relief Act]."

The act also has an effect on personal property taxes, Shumake said.

"The [act] now says that a nondomiciliary state cannot tax personal property such as automobiles and boats if that property is in the state only because the spouse is with the servicemember in that state in compliance with military orders," he said.

For all the positive benefits

the law offers military spouses, it can be confusing, Shumake acknowledged.

The Military Spouses Residency Relief Act addresses only tax law concerning income earned in nondomiciliary states, the colonel said, and doesn't change the rules for establishing and proving legal residency.

"One common misperception is that the new law allows a spouse simply to 'choose' his or her spouse's domicile. This is not true," he said. "Domicile must still be demonstrated or proven under the rules that have always been in place. Likewise, a spouse does not 'inherit' the domicile of the military member through marriage."

Spouses also should be aware

that the law doesn't allow them to recapture or regain a previously abandoned domicile, he added.

"For example, if the spouse established a Texas domiciliary status and then moved to Virginia under orders with the [servicemember], and while in Virginia the spouse registered to vote and bought property in Virginia and got a real estate license from Virginia, then it looks like the spouse has established Virginia as the new domicile," Shumake said. "The [law] is not likely to allow the spouse to abandon Virginia and resume or recapture Texas domiciliary status while still in Virginia."

It seems the matter of how

the law affects driver's licenses has left some in a bit of a quandary, as well. Whether a spouse needs to obtain a new driver's license in each new state the spouse lives in is a matter of state law and completely unaffected by the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act, Shumake said.

While the new law can be confusing, help is only as far away as the nearest legal assistance attorney, Shumake said. He also suggested checking with appropriate state tax authorities for any rules they may have put out, especially with respect to refunds for tax year 2009.

TRICARE Dental Program Premiums Set for 2010

From TRICARE

The TRICARE Dental Program's 1.9 million enrollees will see a slight increase in their monthly premiums, beginning Feb. 1, 2010. The new annual rates are effective for one year through Jan. 31, 2011.

TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) premiums are determined by the plan (single or family) and the duty status (active or reserve) of the sponsor. If and when the sponsor's duty status changes, his or her premiums also change to reflect

the new duty status.

The monthly premium for an active duty family member single plan will increase from \$12.12 to \$12.69 and the monthly family plan premium will increase from \$30.29 to \$31.72.

The National Guard and Reserve monthly sponsor premium will increase from \$12.12 to \$12.69. For National Guard and Reserve family members, the monthly single family member plan goes from \$30.29 to \$31.72 and the family plan pre-

mium will increase from \$75.73 to \$79.29.

The monthly single premium rate for an Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) sponsor plan and the separate IRR single family member plan will increase from \$30.29 to \$31.72. The monthly IRR family member premium will increase from \$75.73 to \$79.29.

To learn more about TRICARE dental options and premium rates visit <http://www.TRICAREdentalprogram.com>.

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ACROSS

- Ballpoint
- Take ___; resemble
- Lion's cry
- Word of lament
- Item on a playground
- Actress Paquin
- Farewell gesture
- Is fond of
- Lowly laborer
- Fuzzless peach
- Ain't, properly
- Navel residue
- Dylan's "The Times They ___ a-Changin'"
- Quantity
- Women's group
- Mr. Koufax
- Cavalry spear
- No, on the barge
- Rubber tube
- Compost layer
- "Ali ___ and the Forty Thieves"
- Before
- Tea variety
- Caruso or Pavarotti
- 78% of the atmosphere
- Newfangled
- Ms. Lupino
- "The ___ Piper of Hamelin"
- Burial place
- Insistent and overbearing
- Saudi, for one
- Wed on the run
- Lunchtime
- Intl. alliance
- Spring flower
- Respected teacher
- ___ Campbell
- Derisive looks
- Butterfly catcher's need

DOWN

- Handle clumsily
- Vigorous spirit
- Main part of a church
- Tilted
- ___ with; make eyes at
- Polynesian image
- Biblical garden
- Investigate carefully
- Narrow sword
- Singles
- Shortly
- ___ and rave
- Isolate
- Minuscule
- Caviar source
- Pale
- Native New Zealander
- Beginning
- Beauty parlor
- A single time
- Bananas
- Biblical mount
- ___ for; desire greatly
- ___ Skywalker
- Huge business transaction
- Sheets and blankets
- Like peas in a ___
- ___ the line; obeyed
- Blue ___; first-place award
- Excavators
- Daily, for one
- Orangy drink
- Televangelist Roberts
- Partner
- Otherwise
- Speck
- Part of speech
- Impale
- Eccentric one

THIS WEEK'S ANSWERS

17/10

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Out in Town

Thursday, Jan. 7

The Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 290, will hold its monthly General Assembly meeting at 8 p.m. at the Branch Home, 390 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach. All members and prospective members are invited to attend. The Fleet Reserve Association is a world-wide veteran's organization that represents nearly 1'65,000 active duty and retired Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard members. The FRA Branch 290 is called the "active duty branch" because of the number of active duty members. If you have served in any of the maritime service - Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard, no matter how long - stop by the Branch Home or call 246-6855 for more information. New members are always welcome.

Friday, Jan. 8

Come join the Fleet Reserve Association for a night of Karaoke at the Branch Home, 390 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach, FL. Featured will be host DOUG BRACEY, from 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 9

Between 9 a.m. and noon,

bring your UN-DECORATED Christmas tree to the Tree Hill Nature Center JAS Amphitheater, located at 7152 Lone Star Road in Arlington. The first 50 people will also receive a free seedling from JEA and Greenscape.

Join a park ranger at 10 a.m. and discover the importance of estuarine systems that surround the inshore sides of barrier islands like those of the Talbot Islands State Parks complex. This ranger-guided hike along the salt marsh will help point out why these areas are one of the most productive ecosystems on Earth, the many roles the salt marsh plays, the plant and animal life found in this natural community, and the impacts humans have on this system. 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.

The Fleet Reserve Association Branch 290 is hosting a Mexicali Pork Chop dinner, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Branch Home at 390 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach. A donation of \$8 is requested for each dinner. Carry out orders are accepted. The public is always invited to dinner. Starting at

9 p.m. the music of DOUG BRACEY will entertain until 1 a.m. Happy hour precedes the dinner from 4 to 6 p.m., all drinks are 50¢ off.

Sunday, Jan. 10

A diversity of plant and animal species survive in Florida's tropical environment, including both native and exotic species. Join a park ranger at 1 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 animals. 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.

Monday, Jan. 11

The Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 290, invites you to play Bingo at the Branch Home, 390 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach. Games start at 6 p.m. and are usually finished by 8 p.m. Snacks will be available for a small donation.

Wednesday, Jan. 13

The Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 290, invites you to participate in its "Wings-N-Things" from 5 to 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. to 1 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 15

The Fleet Reserve Association Branch 290 is hosting a Country Buffet Dinner, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Branch Home at 390 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach. A donation of \$8 is requested for each dinner. Carry out orders are accepted. The public is always invited to dinner. Starting at 9 p.m. the music of DOUG BRACEY will entertain until 1 a.m. Happy hour precedes the dinner from 4 to 6 p.m., all drinks are 50¢ off.

First Coast families are invited to Mary Lena Gibbs Community Center, 6974 Wilson Blvd., to enjoy a dance from 6-9:30 p.m. commemorating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The celebration will offer free music, dancing, fellowship and fun. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. Free refreshments will be available while they last. For more information on events and activities hosted by JaxParks, call (904) 630-CITY or visit www.jaxparks.com.

Saturday, Jan. 16

Come join the Fleet Reserve

Association for a night of Karaoke at the Branch Home, 390 Mayport Rd. Featured will be host DOUG BRACEY, from 9:00 PM to 1:00 AM. The bar will be open for drinks and snacks.

The United Methodist Men of Christ United Methodist Church Neptune Beach are cooking up a spaghetti and meatball dinner from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$6 for adult, \$4 for children under 12; 5 and under eat free. Take out available. 400 Penman Road, Neptune Beach. 249-5370.

Join a park ranger at 10 a.m. for a walk on the beach as they explain the importance of undeveloped beach habitat, including many interesting facts about sea creatures and common shells found in the area. 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.

Monday, Jan. 18

The Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 290, invites you to play Bingo at the Branch Home, 390 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach. Games start at 6 p.m. and are usually finished by 8 p.m. Snacks will be available for a small donation.

Tuesday, Jan. 19

The Duval County Extension Agency will hold a workshop "Plant Propagation Workshop -How to Grow for Less" from 2-4 p.m. at Webb Wesconnett Regional Library, 6887 103rd St. Perhaps you want to save a piece of your grandmother's favorite plant or start a butterfly garden. Then, this is the class for you. Come learn how to save money by propagating your own plants. There will be a hands-on activity on how to recycle newspaper into seed pots. Call Becky at 387-8850 to pre-register. Class is free, but space is limited.

Saturday, Jan. 23

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society will hold their monthly meeting at the Webb-Wesconnett Branch Library, 6887 103rd Street, at 1:30. Please note this is a date change from our normal meeting time. Our speaker will Mr. Dick Cardell, the society's historian and parliamentarian. His topic will be his latest genealogical trip to Europe. Mr. Cardell has always given our members and guests an informative and fun program. Please plan to attend. For additional information, please contact, Jim Laird, (904) 264-0743.

January Schedule Released For FFSC Mayport

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. 1701. FFSC is located in Building One on Massey Avenue.

Jan. 7, 9-11 a.m., **Resume Walk-in Review Assistance**, FFSC

Jan. 8, 9-11 a.m., **Car Buying Tips**, FFSC

Jan. 11-12, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., **Ombudsman Training**, Building 1, Room 1616

Jan. 11, 8:30 a.m.-noon, **FERP- Career & Job Readiness Class**, FFSC

Jan. 11, 1-3 p.m., **FERP-Federal Employment Class**, FFSC

Jan. 11-14, 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.

Jan. 12, 9-11 a.m., **Parenting Class**, FFSC

The program is based on Dr. Michael Popkin, PH.D ACTIVE PARENTING NOW 6 classes. This 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 some of the challenges that are faced by all families include: understanding yourself and your child, the four goals of misbehavior, building courage and character in your child, encouraging and listening to your child, helping children cooperate, discipline that makes sense. Each week a different topic is thoroughly covered via discussion, video vignettes, and handbook information. Participation in all 6 sessions is required.

Jan. 12, 9-11 a.m., **Resume Walk-in Review Assistance**, FFSC

Jan. 13, 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.

Jan. 13, 8-11:30 a.m., **Stress Management**, Wellness Center

Stress is a normal part of everyone's life. It can be energizing and a factor in motivating us. But too much stress, without relief, can have debilitating effects. This program is designed to provide participants with an understanding of what stress is and how it affects them. It will also help participants begin to look at their own lives and ways they currently cope with stress. Participants will be challenged to develop behavior and lifestyle changes that will improve their ability to cope with stress.

Jan. 14, 8-11 a.m., **Anger Management**, FFSC

What does anger do for you? Communicate for you? Keep people at a safe distance from you? Keep you in charge? For many people, anger serves them many uses, but all too often, it is at a high cost...usually of relationships, unhappiness in the workplace, and a general feeling of disdain. If you want to be able to break out of the "get angry/get even" syndrome, come to this class. Participants learn how anger and judgment are related, about irrational beliefs and faulty self-talk, what "E + R = O" means, and the roles of stress and forgiveness in anger.

Jan. 14, 9-11 a.m., **Resume Walk-in Review Assistance**, FFSC

Jan. 15, 9-11 a.m., **Credit Report**, FFSC

Budgeting means using dollars with sense... making sure there's enough money available at the right time. Money is needed for food, fun, clothes, savings, shelter, emergencies, transportation and charity. So it's never too early to learn the basic skills you'll need...for today and in the future. INVEST your time and learn some basic budgeting skills, how to set financial goals, and begin planning for your future. The "school of hard knocks" has a high tuition. Instead of paying for your mistakes, come to this training.

Jan. 19, 9-11 a.m., **Resume Walk-in Review Assistance**, FFSC

Jan. 19, 9-11 a.m., **Parenting Class**, FFSC

The program is based on Dr. Michael Popkin, PH.D ACTIVE PARENTING NOW 6 classes. This 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 some of the challenges that are faced by all families include: understanding yourself and your child, the four goals of misbehavior, building courage and character in your child.

Jan. 20, 9 a.m.-noon, **Tottletyme Playgroup**, USO

Jan. 21, 9-11 a.m., **Resume Walk-in Review Assistance**, FFSC

Jan. 21, 9-11:30 a.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.

Jan. 22, 9-11 a.m., **Establishing A Sound Family Budget**, FFSC

Budgeting means using dollars with sense... making sure there's enough money available at the right time. Money is needed for food, fun, clothes, savings, shelter, emergencies, transportation and charity. So it's never too early to learn the basic skills you'll need...for today and in the future. INVEST your time and learn some basic budgeting skills, how to set financial goals, and begin planning for your future. The "school of hard knocks" has a high tuition. Instead of paying for your mistakes, come to this training.

Jan. 25-28, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., **TAP Separatee 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.

Jan. 25, 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 moti-

vator for ending the violence and seeking intervention.

Jan. 25, 6-7 p.m., **IA Family Discussion Group**, USO

Jan. 25, 6-7 p.m., **Ombudsman Assembly**, Building 1, Room 104

Jan. 25-26, 8:30-3:30 p.m., **Three is a Crowd**, FFSC

Jan. 25, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., **Military Spouse 101**, FFSC

The Fleet and Family Support Center offers this class to military spouses new to the area, and those new to the military way of life. Guest speakers from the military and civilian communities will present useful information to help you have a pleasant tour here at Naval Station Mayport.

Jan. 26, 9-11 a.m., **Parenting Class**, FFSC

Jan. 26, 9-11 a.m., **Resume Walk-in Review Assistance**, FFSC

Jan. 26, 9-11 a.m., **Overseas Living**, FFSC

Overseas Living is a class designed to prepare you for living in new and different setting. This class will provide helpful information about living on the economy to dealing with potential terrorist activities. You will have a chance to understand the emotional cycles of overseas living to making this tour the best part of your Navy career. Specific information about visas and absentee voting will be discussed.

Jan. 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.

Jan. 28, 9-11 a.m., **Resume Walk-in Review Assistance**, FFSC

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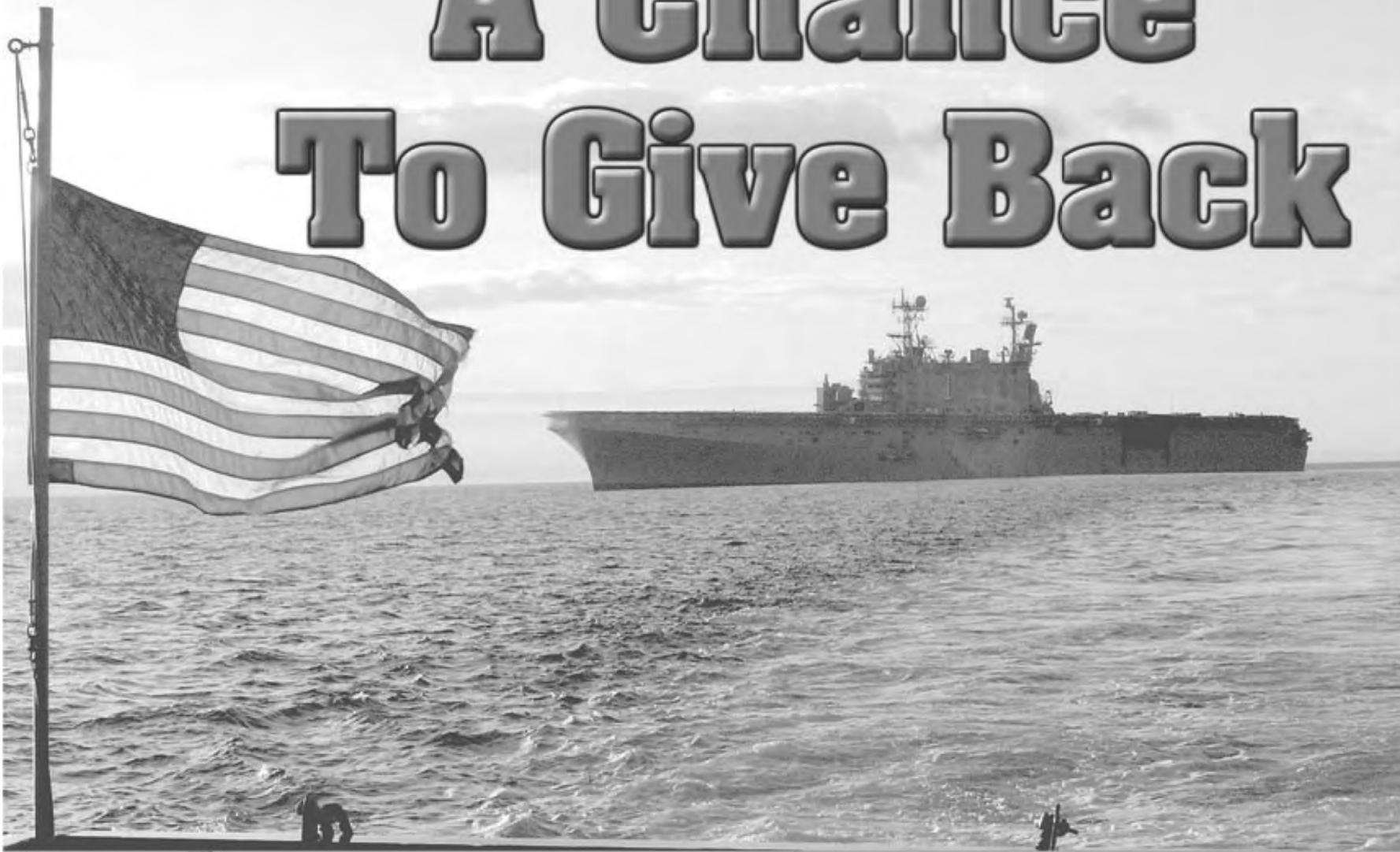
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