

Managing Military IDs Just Got Easier

By Lisa Daniel

American Forces Press Service

The Defense Manpower Data Center is making it easier for service members and their families to get and maintain identification cards.

The center has launched its RAPIDS - Real-time Automated Personnel Identification System - self-service por-

Renew Your Family IDs From Anywhere

Use this self-service website if you are a sponsor with CAC card and CAC-enabled personal computer. Go to http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/self_service

tal to allow anyone with the Defense Department's common access card, or CAC, to apply for family ID or retirement cards or

update dependents' statuses online.

"It's really exciting," Mary Dixon, the center's director, said.

"We've been working for some time now to try to improve and transform our whole ID card application process so people

can do things online and not spend long hours going to a site and waiting to be seen."

The change may seem procedural, but its impact will be big for those who, without it, have had to spend countless hours waiting in line with their families to get ID cards. Before RAPIDS, service members, retirees and

families had to go together to a Defense Manpower Data Center to submit an application form and wait while the ID card is being made, Dixon said.

"This is big project," she said. "It takes away time from your work, and if you are separated - maybe the spouse is out on a ship or

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New Energy Contract To Save \$\$

FROM NAVFAC

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast's Public Works Department (PWD) Mayport awarded \$3.2 million Utility Energy Services Contract (UESC) Sept. 10 to TECO Peoples Gas., of Jacksonville, Fla., for an energy conservation project at Naval Station (NS) Mayport, Mayport, Fla.

"Our energy Team here at Mayport has worked extraordinarily hard to meet our very aggressive goals of reducing our energy appetite," said Capt. Doug Cochrane, NS Mayport Commanding Officer. "The UESC project is a very important 'next step' in our integrated Energy Conservation program that returned \$3 million dollars to our Government this year."

"The annual energy savings from this project is anticipated to be more than 5,000 MWHs or a dollar savings of over \$421,000 per year, based on current utility costs," said Ryan Howard, PWD Mayport Facilities Management Division Director.

The project includes installation of Direct Digital Controls (DDCs) for efficient management of the Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) Systems of 55 facilities aboard NS Mayport.

Prior to the contract award, the PWD Mayport staff audited multiple facilities on station to determine which facilities would yield an adequate return on investment based on more efficient control and management of their HVAC systems. This included reviewing facility energy usage data, analyzing prior maintenance work orders and assessing the risk of implementing new technologies as well as validating the projected savings.

Additionally, the energy savings will make significant contributions toward the mandated requirements of the Energy Independence Security Act of 2007 which requires specific reductions in energy in federal facilities of at least 30 percent by fiscal year 2015.

Anchors Up!



-Photo by Paige Gnann

Chief Navy Counselor Jonathan Dingler is piped through a line of fellow chiefs after receiving his new anchors during Naval Station Mayport's Chief Petty Officer pinning ceremony on Friday at the Base Chapel.



-Photo by NASA/Bill Ingalls

U.S. Navy Captain Steve Shinego, commanding officer of USS Philippine Sea (CG 58), presents the US flag to Carol Armstrong following the burial at sea service for her husband Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong, Friday, Sept. 14, 2012, aboard USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) in the Atlantic Ocean. Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon during the 1969 Apollo 11 mission, died Saturday, Aug. 25. He was 82.

Phil Sea Hosts Burial For Neil Armstrong

From Staff

The crew of USS Philippine Sea helped say goodbye to one of the country's most favorite astronauts on Sept. 14 during a burial at sea for Neil Armstrong.

Only the family, a few close friends, NASA representatives and the crew of USS Philippine Sea attended the event at sea. It followed a memorial held on Set 12 at the Washington National Cathedral.

The former Navy pilot and astronaut was the first man to walk on the moon. He passed away Aug. 25 from complications following a heart surgery performed Aug. 8. He was 82 years old.

"Neil will always be remembered for taking human kind's first small step in a world beyond our own," Charles Bolden, current administrator of NASA, said during the memorial. "But it was courage, grace and humility he displayed throughout his life that lifted him above the stars. Neil Armstrong left more than

footprints and a flag on the moon. In fact, as President Obama said in a letter to [Neil's widow Carol] and family this morning, 'Future generations will draw inspiration from his spirit of discovery, humble composure and pioneering leadership, in setting a bold new course for space exploration. The imprint he left on the surface of the moon, and the story of human history, is matched only by the extraordinary mark he left on the hearts of all Americans.'"

Family, friends, politicians and fellow astronauts lined the pews at the ceremony, sharing their thoughts on the life of the notoriously private veteran. Retired Navy Capt. and former astronaut Eugene Cernan recalled Armstrong's generous spirit.

"Neil was always willing to give of himself. When Neil, Jim Lovell and myself had the opportunity to visit the troops in Iraq... meeting them in chow halls,

See Armstrong, Page 12

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Capt. Doug Cochrane

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

family. Welcome back is in order for the crews of USS Taylor (FFG 50) and HSL-48 Detachment Nine with their return after a seven-month deployment to the U.S. Fifth Fleet Area of Responsibility. The ship participated in several counter piracy operations throughout the Horn of Africa and Somali basin and made several port calls to ports like Crete, Portugal and Oman. Your hard work has paid off with a successful deployment and my hat is off to each of you for a job well done. On Sept. 14, Navy commands throughout the country recognized thousands of Navy Ombudsmen who volunteer their time, talents and energy and make a difference in the lives of Navy families. These volunteers help Sailors and families during all phases of deployment, disaster or crisis. They are also there to assist with the everyday questions and challenges facing Navy families.

Shipmates, Last week we had the honor of paying last respects to the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong. The burial at sea conducted on USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) was held with dignity and respect. There are so many to thank for orchestrating this historic ceremony, and I want to thank Philippine Sea Commanding Officer Capt. Steve Shinego and his entire crew for hosting the Armstrong family and for fulfilling Neil Armstrong's wishes. Many others at Naval Station Mayport were involved as well, and each and every one of you have my heartfelt thanks for making this such a memorable event for the Armstrong

The Navy Ombudsman plays an important role in the success of a command's mission. Ombudsmen are the first step for family members to turn to during a crisis, guiding Navy families to the proper resources they need. Connecting Navy families to help is what the Ombudsmen have been doing for 42 years and I thank all of them for their service, and tireless dedication. On Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Naval Hospital Jacksonville/Branch Health Clinic Mayport will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to the Target Superstore, next door to NAS Jacksonville, or the Mayport Navy Exchange (Main Entrance). The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. Last April, Americans turned in 552,161 pounds - 276 tons - of prescription drugs at over 5,600 sites operated by the DEA and nearly 4,300 state and local law enforcement partners. In its four

previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners took in over 1.5 million pounds - nearly 775 tons of pills. Huge events on our planning table as we ready for the Blue Angels on Oct. 19 and the Nov. 9 Navy-Marine Corps Classic Basketball Game on USS Bataan (LHD 5). Tons of moving parts to make this happen and your support is certainly appreciated. Stand by for more as we work with the city of Jacksonville to put on both of these amazing events. We have the A-team planning as we speak! Finally, a word for our newly pinned Chief Petty Officers. Congratulations to each one of you. My hope is that this new chapter in your naval career will be filled with providing mentorship, leadership and sage advice to all that needs it. Our Sailors rely on your wealth of experience. I am extremely proud of all of you. Well done! Thanks to each of you for bringing your hard work and professionalism each day through our gates. Be safe and keep sending those suggestions to the CO's suggestion box or email them at douglas.cochrane@navy.mil.

Connecting with Your Child's School Counselor For Successful School Year



**Judy Cromartie
School Liaison Officer**

Knowing THE ROPES

All students can learn. However, a student who is troubled cannot learn as easily. When students deal with physical illness, divorce, substance abuse, child abuse, and poverty, it places them at-risk of educational failure and maybe dropping out of school. Military students have the added social stressor of deployment: transitions, family relocations, and extended separa-

tions. Students and parents report mobility as the most challenging aspect of the military especially for teenagers. Most young people report the greatest stress is anticipation of the move and then the first month of the move. Add to that academic adjustment and peer acceptance throughout the first year of the move and a family may be left with a sense of little control over their environment. Early intervention is essential, and parents and guardians play a vital role. Professional school counselors can also help. A school counseling program which provides direct services and is directed by a profes-

sionally trained school counselor is a critical component of a school's prevention efforts in the 21st century. The professional school counselor is a certified/licensed educator trained in school counseling with unique qualifications and skills to address all students' academic, personal/social, and career development needs. As a parent, your past experiences with a school counselor may be vastly different than the experiences your child will have. Today professional school counselors advocate, mediate, coordinate, refer, lead and collaborate with teachers, administrators and parents to help students be successful. They

provide services not only to students in need but to all students through parent nights, academic planning programs, interpretation of assessment results, exploration of college/career options, and one-on-one conferencing to name of few. The beginning of a school year is an excellent opportunity to initiate contact with your child's school counselor, and by doing so, you help to provide a positive school experience for your child. Depending on the grade your child is in, whether he is in a special program, a magnet school, or on a special diploma track, the beginning of the year is the perfect time to determine what needs to happen when. You'll be in the loop of important dates/deadlines for the rest of the school year. At part of this confer-

ence, discuss your child's challenges and concerns, especially if this is your child's first year in this school. As a parent, you know your child best. However, school counselors can offer options for dealing with concerns, including better ways to communicate with your child. By sharing information with each other, you begin to establish a helping relationship. School counselors are excellent resources; however, they do not provide therapy or long-term counseling. Referrals to outside agencies may be initiated at the school. But remember that parent-school collaboration takes time and work. This collaboration requires tenacity because things don't always go perfectly at first. But when parents work with schools, their children tend to have

greater social adjustment. They get along better with fellow students and teachers. They communicate more effectively, and believe it or not, sometimes they do their homework more willingly. By taking advantage of all the school counseling department has to offer, you can help your child start off on the right foot - and stay there - this school year. Judy Cromartie is the School Liaison Officer for NS Mayport. If you have questions about this article or concerns about an educational issue impacting your child, she can be reached via email at Judith.cromartie@navy.mil or by phone at (904) 270-6289 X1305 [office] or (904) 993-5860 [cell]. Or you can schedule a meeting with her in her office in Building One.

Life Lessons Can Come From The Gridiron



**Chap Buster Williams
Surface Force Ministry Center**

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Are you ready for some football? Football fans around the country are quite excited with the start of the new season. Unfortunately, not everyone is a football fan! But today I want to take just a few minutes to reflect on how football can offer so many lessons for life.

For starters any football player knows the value that can come from playing on such a challenging team sport. For one thing you learn the absolutely critical skill of how there is no substitute for hard work and preparation. All that time in practice and working hard on those two-a-days has one goal in mind, which is victory on the field of battle. Everyone quickly learns that without hard and effective practices the team will surely suffer defeat on the field. God given talent is important, but the discipline learned by working together and

getting into physical and mental shape cannot be replaced. Hard work and practice are essential in honing your skills as individuals and as a team. A good coach will also teach his team not only how to have some great victories but also how to be gracious in defeat. You learn that there is no place for a sore loser. You also learn that you can have class and dignity no

matter whether you win or lose. Of course, the flip side is that you learn there is no substitute for victory! That competitive spirit is ever so helpful in other areas of life as well. Who does not want to succeed in life? Knowing and understanding the importance of teamwork, diligence, effort, and acting with dignity all help people be successful in whatever endeavors they make in life. In addition, you learn how to work with people who are a lot different than yourself on the

football field. You learn that it is not the color of a person's skin that matters but rather how well he contributes to the team. You learn that everyone has something to contribute. You learn that you all have to work together and that you have to trust your teammate. You learn that as long as you share a common goal you can get along with almost anyone and set aside your differences to achieve greatness. If all of this sounds familiar it is because the things you learn on the

football field are also critical to what we do as a Navy. We too know the value of hard work and sacrifice. We too know that raw talent is no substitute for hard work. We too learn how to be celebratory in success but dignified in our disappointments. We too are continually learning the value of working with people a lot different than ourselves. So, this season I hope everyone enjoys some football. And take along with it some lessons for life...go Niners and go Bulldogs! Huraah!

MOPS At Chapel

From NS Mayport Chapel
Registration for the 2012-2013 MOPS year is ongoing. The group meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:30 am in the Chapel fellowship Hall. MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is focused on the needs of moms with at least one child age 0-6. Mayport MOPS exists to meet the needs of every-mom in the Mayport community - regardless of age, race, religion, or rank. At MOPS you'll be welcomed, accepted and inspired to reach your full potential. Our MOPS

group is a place to anchor your hope and share your joys and frustrations with other moms. The relationships that develop within a MOPS group help you sustain hope during the daily act of mothering, even when you feel you have no more of yourself to give! MOPS provide authentic friendships, practical help and spiritual hope. More information can be found on the Mayport Military Mops Facebook page or by calling 270-5212.



Command Chaplain
Lt. Cmdr.
Jerome Cayangyang

Roman Catholic Mass
Sunday 9 a.m.
Monday-Thursday
11:30 a.m.
Confessions:
before & after mass or upon request
CCD, RCIA & Adult Ed:
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Baptisms
3rd Sunday of month 10:30 a.m.
Catholic Youth Group
2nd & 4th Sunday 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Protestant Worship
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school 9:15 a.m.
Choir: Wednesday 7 p.m.
Baptism: For information contact your chaplain
Women's Bible Study
Wednesday 10 a.m.
Protestant Youth Group
1st Friday Youth Quak Trip 6:30 p.m.
3rd Friday at Chapel 7-10:30 p.m.
PWOC
2nd Saturday 9:30 a.m.
PMOPS
3rd Saturday Prayer Breakfast 9 a.m.
MOPS
1st & 3rd Thursday, 9:30 a.m.

For more information or other worship opportunities and religious organizations in Jacksonville, call 270-5212.



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U.S. Fleet Forces Changes Leadership

By MC1 (SW/AW)
Raphael Martie

U.S. Fleet Forces Command

U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF) held a change-of-command ceremony aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) Sept. 14 in port Naval Station Norfolk.

Adm. Bill Gortney relieved Adm. John C. Harvey Jr., as USFF commander in the traditional ceremony in front of hundreds of distinguished guests, shipmates, and crew members.

Harvey, a surface warfare officer and a 1973 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, assumed command of U.S. Fleet Forces in July 2009. In his more than three-year tenure, he led the command with a strategic focus supporting the nation's maritime strategy through operational readiness, training effectiveness, and professional and personal development.

"Today's not about me. It's about us—who we are, what we do, and why we do it," said Harvey. "The power of our Navy is in our people not our platforms. Over the past three years, there's been no shortage of challenges, but because of your hard work and dedication, we had a positive influence on this fleet. Your work ensured we provided a unified voice to our CNO in partnership with our Pacific Fleet counterparts, and I am so proud to have had the privilege of serving with you."

During his distinguished nearly 40 years of naval service as a commissioned officer, Harvey



Adm. John C. Harvey Jr. congratulates Adm. Bill Gortney as he assumes command of U.S. Fleet Forces Command aboard the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75).

-Photo by MC1 Rafael Martie

served in a variety of sea and shore billets. He was the Chief of Naval Personnel, and he commanded USS David R. Ray (DD 971), USS Cape St. George (CG 71) and Cruiser-Destroyer Group Eight as part of the USS Theodore Roosevelt Strike Group.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert served as the event's guest speaker and spoke of the many accomplishments Harvey was responsible for as the fleet commander.

"He's had a steady hand on the till for nearly four decades," said Greenert. "He saw the opportunities; he took action; he got results. He made the Fleet tangibly better during his tenure, and he's got us on the right track and speed."

Speaking to all the guests and participants, Harvey thanked everyone who supported the USFF posture to meet global mission requirements.

"I will certainly miss the Navy because of the people I got to work with in the sense of mission," said Harvey. "I did this for 39 + years because I loved it, not because I had to."

Gortney, a naval aviator and 1977 graduate of Elon College in N.C., becomes the 32nd commander of USFF. He has served in a variety of command positions afloat and ashore, including most recently as Director, Joint Staff for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and as Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command; Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet and Combined Forces

Maritime Component Commanders. He also commanded Carrier Strike Group-10, on the Norfolk-based USS Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group.

"I have spent all but six of my 35 years of service in the fleet. It is great to be back in the fleet," said Gortney. "Here at Fleet Forces Command, our missions are few but they could not be more important to our nation. If executed correctly, the overall mission of the command will succeed and most importantly our Sailors and civilians deployed or stationed around the globe will succeed."

Greenert also took the opportunity to discuss the importance of payloads in maintaining an adaptable maritime force.

"Adaptability is the absolute essence of being a Sailor, and we get that adaptability when we think about payload before platform. Replacing platforms is expensive, but when we look at payloads first, payloads that support cutting edge technology it can be a game changer."

Greenert pointed to the Navy's CVNs as an example of maximizing the platforms adaptability through the use of a variety of payloads.

"The CVN is in many ways our most adaptable platform," said Greenert. "You pay once, and you've got a half century of service. Enterprise is 50 years old; she's seen everything from A-4s to F-14s to a variety of F/A-18s, and we can now launch an unmanned strike aircraft

from that aircraft carrier. That's the way we need to be thinking."

United States Fleet Forces Command supports both the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) and combatant commanders worldwide by providing responsive, relevant, sustainable naval forces ready-for-tasking. The command provides operational and planning support to combatant commanders and integrated warfighter capability requirements to the CNO.

Additionally, USFF serves as the CNO's designated executive agent for anti-terrorism/force protection, individual augmentees, and sea-basing.

In collaboration with U.S. Pacific Fleet, USFF organizes, mans, trains, maintains, and equips Navy forces, develops and submits budgets, and executes readiness and personnel accounts to develop both required and sustainable levels of fleet readiness. Additionally, the command serves as the unified voice for fleet training requirements and policies.

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USS Taylor Returns From 5th Fleet

By Lt.j.g. Jennifer Gabriel
USS Taylor PAO

Families and friends welcomed back guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50) and members of HSL-48 Detachment 9 at Naval Station Mayport on Sept. 10 following the completion of a successful seven-month deployment to the U.S. Fifth Fleet area of operation in support of U.S. and NATO Counter-Piracy requirements.

"I am extremely pleased and proud of the outstanding efforts of every Sailor aboard Taylor during the last seven months. Taylor's efforts, combined with the efforts of the other maritime task forces, ensured the safe transit of thousands of merchant and smaller vessels throughout the Horn of Africa area in order to enable greater regional stability," said Cmdr. Dennis Volpe, Taylor's executive officer. "Every Sailor should be proud of our accomplishments and I know they are looking forward to a well-deserved opportunity to



-Photo by MC1 Ian W. Anderson
Ensign Caitlyn Levinson assigned to guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50), embraces her family during a homecoming celebration at Naval Station Mayport. The Taylor completed a successful seven-month deployment to the U.S. Fifth Fleet area of operation in support of U.S. and NATO Counter-Piracy requirements.

relax and unwind with family and friends."

Taylor and its crew of more than 200 Sailors successfully conducted a wide range of operations

supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Ocean Shield while assigned to Commander, NATO Task Force 508. Counter-piracy

was the primary mission focus of the deployment, which included operational coordination with European Naval Force (TF 465), inde-

pendent nations supporting the mission, and Coalition Maritime Force (CMF) assets operating in the Internationally Recommended Transit

Corridor (IRTC) and Somali Basin. Over the past seven months, Taylor was involved with three significant escort and safety-of-life-at-sea missions and multiple Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions to provide pattern of life information for regional trend analysis in order to support future operational planning.

In direct support of the counter-piracy mission, the ship's Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) Team dedicated over one hundred man hours conducting more than 70 Maritime Security Assistance visits of vessels operating throughout the Horn of Africa region from the Gulf of Aden to Gulf of Oman to the Indian Ocean and the Somali Basin.

Taylor's single SH-60B helicopter detachment supported the counter-piracy effort and amassed seven hundred flight hours, reaching an airframe fatigue life limit, while providing over-

See Taylor, Page 5



-Photo by Paige Gnann
Chief Gunner's Mate Kirby Dickerson gets a big welcome from his family after returning to Naval Station Mayport Sept. 10 with USS Taylor.



-Photo by MC1 Ian W. Anderson
Gas Turbine Systems Technician - Mechanical Chief (Select) Kevin Limbrick assigned to the guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50), meets his newborn daughter for the first time during a homecoming celebration at Naval Station Mayport.



-Photo by Paige Gnann
Logistics Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Chad Butler gets the first kiss from his wife Audrey during the ship's homecoming at Naval Station Mayport.



-Photo by Paige Gnann
Tonya Smith and her five-year-old daughter, Savannah, wave as USS Taylor pulls into port bringing back Ensign Chris Smith.



-Photo by Paige Gnann
Friends and family members of USS Taylor look for their Sailors as the ship pulls pierside on Sept. 10.



-Photo by Paige Gnann
Jan Castro, 7, and mom Jannelly, look for Information System Technician 1st Class (SW) Orlando Castro at the ship's homecoming.



-Photo by Paige Gnann

Families and friends reunite pierside after returning to Naval Station Mayport on Sept. 10 with USS Taylor.



-Photo by Paige Gnann

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Tony Johnston gets the first hug from his family.

Taylor

watch for VBSS operations, conducting SSC and ISR missions, and nine vertical replenishments.

“Each dawn seemed to bring a new challenge for the aircrew and maintainers of Heartache 17. Whether it was tracking the large volume of merchant ships transiting the IRTC or observing known pirate camps along the coastline, the ‘Barefoot Bandits’ of Detachment NINE could be counted on to execute the mission. The exceptional performance of our aircraft maintainers in one of the world’s most demanding environments was the foundation for our success at deterring piracy in the region,” said Lt. Cmdr. Greg Arnold, Taylor’s Airboss.

Additionally, the ship and her crew participated

in 25 replenishments at sea (RAS) and safely conducted 22 special Sea and Anchor evolutions, while pulling in and out of multiple overseas ports and transiting the Suez Canal twice.

“No piracy in our patrol area’ was the deployment motto and that is exactly what the crew ensured while patrolling the waterways known for piracy. They took on the challenge of self-sufficiency in maintaining their equipment which helped keep the ship on station and ready for all missions assigned. Every individual was challenged in achieving a warfare qualification, major in-rate qualification, or advancement to the next higher paygrade. They achieved those goals and many achieved

all of them throughout the past seven months.” Said Cmdr. Jeremy Hill, Taylor’s Commanding Officer. “I am extremely proud and honored to be part of their accomplishments and professional growth.”

The officers and crew enjoyed a few port visits during the deployment including Portugal, Crete, Oman, and the Seychelles for a little rest and relaxation from the arduous underway periods while conducting maintenance and upkeep to ensure continued operational readiness. While in port, the Chain-of-Command continued the U.S. Navy’s longstanding tradition of ambassadorship by providing tours to Ministry of Aviation in the Seychelles, hosting several foreign attachés while in Muscat, Oman, and conducting

official calls with the Task Force Commanders of both TF508 and TF465.

USS Taylor (FFG 50) performed superbly over the past seven months, satisfying all mission requirements and maintaining high spirits with a “can-do” and a “stay on mission through self sufficiency” attitude. Taylor’s crew will spend the next couple of weeks with family, friends, and loved ones and enjoy some well-deserved post-deployment leave to decompress after being away from home. During their leave and upkeep period, the crew will undoubtedly maintain their unsurpassed work ethic and high standards of professionalism to prepare the ship for future training requirements and operational tasking.

From Page 4



-Photo by MC1 Ian W. Anderson

Family and friends await the arrival of their loved ones assigned to the guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50) and HSL-48 Detachment 9 during the ship’s homecoming celebration at Naval Station Mayport.



-Photo by Paige Gnann

Sailors wave as they spot their loved ones waiting on the pier.



-Photo by MC1 Ian W. Anderson

Sailors assigned to the guided-missile frigate USS Taylor (FFG 50) man the rails as the ship arrives in Naval Station Mayport after a successful seven-month deployment to the U.S. Fifth Fleet area of operation in support of U.S. and NATO Counter-Piracy requirements.



-Photo by MC2 Salt Cebe

Ensign Justin Boily, attached to USS Taylor (FFG 50), returns early from a seven-month deployment and surprises his eleven year-old son during lunch at Finegan Elementary School. Taylor is deployed to the U.S. Fifth Fleet Area of Operation in support of U.S. and NATO Counter-Piracy requirements.

HSL-48 Sailor Reenlists In Home Nation Of Cuba

By Lt. Matthew T. Bornemeier
HSL-48 Det 3

On almost any given day in the Navy, you will find U.S. Sailors reenlisting. Although each reenlistment is special in its own right, on July 18, 2012 there was a quiet gathering for a reenlistment of a unique nature.

Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 2nd Class Yanier Cabrera chose to reenlist in the United States Navy for an additional six years while in port Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Cabrera was born in Havana City, Cuba and lived there with his fam-

ily until he was eight years old.

He told the story of his father who made it possible for his family to live the American dream by fleeing communist Cuba. His first three attempts failed and he was labeled a political dissident and incarcerated.

Eventually, Cabrera's family received visas to enter the United States and established roots in the Miami area.

Cabrera is extremely proud of his heritage and his service.

Twenty members of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light Four Eight (HSL-

48) Detachment Three, embarked on USS Underwood (FFG 36) in support of Southern Seas 2012 attended the reenlistment.

Lt. Cmdr. Raisner commented, "It is refreshing to hear a young person give so much credit to his family and the Navy for his success. Too often we hear about the entitlement crowd. AZ2 Cabrera is far removed from those people."

Cabrera has a bright future both in America and in the Navy. His goal is to one day wear the anchors of a Master Chief Petty Officer, United States Navy.



-Photo courtesy of HSL-48
Cuban native Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 2nd Class Yanier Cabrera of HSL-48 Detachment Three reenlists while visiting Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba with USS Underwood.

Mayport Branch Health Clinic 'Lynn' Caudilla Retires

By HM1 Joel Aguilon
Naval Branch Health Clinic Mayport

Branch Health Clinic (BHC) Mayport staff gathered around Calinica "Lynn" Caudilla at a luncheon on Aug. 24 to say thank you and farewell after 22 years of faithful government service. Joining the staff were Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville's Director of Nursing Services Capt. Michelle McKenzie and Associate Director of Nursing Services Cmdr. Nicole Polinsky.

Caudilla's first assignment was NH Jacksonville, where

she worked as an Intensive Care Unit nurse in 1990. In 1991 she transferred to NH Portsmouth's ICU and trained as a non-invasive vascular technician, working for Vice Adm. Adam Robinson—who later became the 36th Surgeon General of the Navy. Caudilla credits Robinson with inspiring her to continue her education. In 1994, she returned to NH Jacksonville where she worked on the first team to implement the military nurse call center. After transferring

to BHC Mayport in 2008, she served as women's health coordinator and nurse for a Medical Homeport team, coordinating care for over 6,000 patients. Throughout her career, Caudilla pursued her education. She completed her master's in nursing, a bachelor's in education, and was certified as a legal nurse consultant. And she's currently one year away from receiving her family nurse practitioner license.

Married and with three children, Caudilla and her hus-

band are now both retired and plan to remain in the area. She has a passion for caring for the uninsured and plans to remain strongly involved in local volunteering.

She is the recipient of many awards, including the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, awards for volunteer work, and in 2007 she was selected as one of the "Great 100 Nurses of Northeast Florida."

With many fond memories from her 22-year career,

Caudilla advises, "It's up to you to make the best of any assignment. Continue to grow, personally and professionally, and never stop learning."

The priority of BHC Mayport and its parent command, Naval Hospital Jacksonville, is to heal the nation's heroes and their families. BHC staff consists of 25 health care providers and 190 allied and support staff, who perform 98,000 outpatient visits each year and fill 17,000 to 20,000 prescriptions each month.

RAPIDS

on deployment or your child is away at college - it makes it a huge problem."

Now, the CAC holder can go onto the RAPIDS site, call up the listing of their dependents, and fill out and digitally sign form No. 1172-2 for their family members to receive an ID

card. That family member then can go alone to the closest DMDC office - they are listed on the website and linked to Google Maps for driving directions - to pick up the card, Dixon said.

RAPIDS is a win for both the department and

families, the director said. "You can do this from your desk," she said. "As long as your computer is CAC-enabled, it could be from your home or office. You can do it without going to a physical site, which is huge."

The site also allows you

to get a DOD self-service user name and password, known as a DS Logon, that allows you to access several DOD and VA websites with the logon information, rather than a CAC.

DS Logon, which is available only to CAC

holders, also has a "premium account," which gives the highest level of access, allowing you to view personal data about yourself in the DOD and VA systems, apply for benefits online, check the status of your claims and update your address

From Page 1

records. Dixon said she hopes the site also will one day include alerts for when an ID card is about to expire, and will be integrated with DMDC's MilConnect website to access all DOD and Veterans Affairs benefits.

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Scorby Recognizes Ombudsman Program

By MC1 (SW)
Greg Johnson
Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs

The commander of Navy Region Southeast (NRSE), signed a proclamation in support of the Navy Family Ombudsman Program (NFOP) on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville Sept. 6.

Rear Adm. John C. Scorby Jr. signed the proclamation commemorat-

ing the 42nd anniversary of the NFOP and declared Sept. 14 as Ombudsman Appreciation Day throughout the region.

"For more than four decades, the Navy ombudsman program has been an invaluable resource in our efforts to support our warfighters and their families," Scorby said. "I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of our

ombudsmen throughout the region for continued support. Our Sailors and their families would face a much more difficult task without you."

The NFOP was launched Sept. 14, 1970, by then-Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo Zumwalt to assist commanders in maintaining the morale, health and welfare of Navy families. Ombudsmen act as liai-

sons between commanding officers and the families of service members. They typically provide a variety of resources, such as providing family members with official information and emergency assistance. Commander, Navy Installations Command reports that ombudsmen volunteer efforts save the Navy more than \$2 million annually.

According to Dianne

Parker, NRSE deployment support program manager and ombudsman program coordinator, the proclamation is significant because it acknowledges the efforts of ombudsmen not only throughout the region, but throughout the Navy.

"It's important to recognize the anniversary of the ombudsman program because our ombudsmen are a part of the com-

mand support team, they make sure families know what resources are available to them, and help them adjust to the military way of life," she said. "If it weren't for our Navy ombudsmen, our Sailors would carry a much heavier burden in the face of their military duties."

Dispose Safely Of Prescription Drug

From NCIS

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Naval Hospital Jacksonville/Branch Health Clinic Mayport will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs on Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m..

Bring your medications for disposal to the Navy Exchange Main Entrance, Mayport or the Target Superstore, next door to NAS Jacksonville. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last April, Americans turned in 552,161 pounds-276 tons-of prescription drugs at over 5,600 sites operated by the DEA and nearly 4,300 state and local law enforcement partners. In its four previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners took in over 1.5 million pounds-nearly 775 tons-of pills.

This initiative address-

es a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends.

In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines-flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash-both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Law enforcement agencies like NCIS and the DEA will continue to hold prescription drug take-back events every few months. Additional local area collection sites and information can be found by visiting www.dea.gov, and clicking on the link, "Got Drugs?"

HSL-46 Drills In 5th Fleet



-Photo by MC3 Jeff Atherton

U.S. Navy Sailors examine an SH-60B Seahawk helicopter from HSL-46 Detachment Eight during a damage control drill aboard guided-missile destroyer USS Nitze (DDG 94). Nitze is deployed as part of the Enterprise Carrier Strike Group to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations, theater security cooperation efforts and support missions for Operation Enduring Freedom.

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UNITAS Kicks Off In Key West

From U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet Public Affairs

Naval forces from Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States will kick off the Atlantic Phase of UNITAS, an annual multinational exercise, in Key West, Sept. 17 hosted by Commander, U.S. Fourth Fleet.

Thirteen warships will conduct operations in the Western Caribbean through, Sept. 28, 2012.

UNITAS is designed to train participating forces in a variety of maritime scenarios to test command and control of forces at sea, while operating as a multinational force to provide the maximum opportunity to improve interoperability. Observers from France, Jamaica, Panama and Peru are also partici-



-Photos by MC2 Stuart Phillips

The visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) team from the Brazilian frigate BNS Greenhalgh (F-46) approaches the Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate USS Underwood (FFG 36) during a maritime interdiction operation (MIO) subject matter expert exchange exercise. Underwood and Greenhalgh are group sailing en route to Key West, Fla. for UNITAS Atlantic 53-2012. Underwood is deployed to Central and South America and the Caribbean in support of U.S. 4th Fleet's mission, Southern Seas 2012.

pating this year.

UNITAS develops and sustains relationships to improve the capacity of our partners' maritime forces. This annual exercise fosters friendly, mutual cooperation and understanding between participating navies.

"While the overarching goal of the exercise is to develop and test command and control of forces at sea, training in this exercise will address the spectrum of maritime operations," Commander U.S. Fourth Fleet, Rear Adm. Sinclair Harris said.

"Specifically, there will be high end warfare scenarios addressing Electronic Warfare, Anti-Air Warfare and Air Defense, Anti-Submarine Warfare, Anti-Surface Warfare, and Maritime Interdiction Operations," he said.



A member of the visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) team from the Brazilian frigate BNS Greenhalgh (F-46) searches Operations Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Jeffrey Pettway aboard USS Underwood (FFG 36) during a maritime interdiction operation (MIO) subject matter expert exchange exercise.



Quartermaster 3rd Class Kaiser Chowdhury takes a ranging with a pelorus on the port bridge wing of the Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate USS Underwood (FFG 36) during the approach to Key West, Fla. for UNITAS Atlantic 53-2012.

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-Photo by MC3 Frank J. Pikul
Chief petty officer selectees receive their covers from their sponsors during a pinning ceremony on the flight deck of the Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate USS Underwood (FFG 36).



-Photos by MC2 Stuart Phillips
Chief selects stand at attention during the fiscal year 2013 chief petty officer pinning ceremony aboard the Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate USS Underwood (FFG 36) while moored in Key West for UNITAS Atlantic 53-2012. Underwood is deployed to Central and South America and the Caribbean in support of U.S. 4th Fleet's mission, Southern Seas 2012.

Underwood Arrives For UNITAS, Pins New Chiefs

By MC3(SW) Frank J. Pikul
USS Underwood

Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate USS Underwood (FFG 36) arrived in Key West, Fla., for the start of UNITAS Atlantic (LANT) 53-2012 and pinned seven new Chief Petty Officers, Sept. 14.

UNITAS is a multinational exercise including ships from the U.S. Navy and seven partner nation navies that include maritime interdiction operations, flight operations, replenishments at sea, and communication exercises.

"This is the culmination of everything we have worked for up to this point during our deployment," said Cmdr. Peter T. Mirisola, commanding officer of Underwood. "I am looking forward to working with the navies from the participating countries and I know the crew is ready to execute the evolutions involved to the best of their ability."

The exercise is designed to increase cooperation and interoperability with the other participating navies and to promote friendly relationships with them.

"UNITAS gives us a chance to showcase how professional we are and to learn how to operate with other navies in a multinational environment," said Mirisola.

Mirisola also pinned seven new Chief Petty Officers in a ceremony aboard Underwood. The Chief Petty Officers went through a six-week induction process after being selected in August to become Chiefs.

"All of the hard work over the years has paid off," said Chief Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical) (SW) Maurice Gil. "I am proud of my peers who went through the same process as me and now we can call ourselves true leaders who want to take care of our junior enlisted guys."

Naval forces from Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States will officially start UNITAS LANT 53-12, an annual multinational naval exercise, in Key West, Fla., Sept. 17. UNITAS is the lon-

gest running and largest maritime exercise in the Western Hemisphere and is hosted by Rear Adm. Sinclair Harris, commander of U.S. 4th Fleet.

Underwood is deployed to Central and South America and the Caribbean in support of U.S. 4th Fleet's mission, Southern Seas 2012.

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providing principally sea-based, forward presence to ensure freedom of maneuver in the maritime domain, to foster and sustain cooperative relationships with international partners and to fully exploit the sea as maneuver space in order to enhance regional security and promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the Caribbean, Central and South American regions.



-Photos by MC2 Stuart Phillips
Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (SW) Philip Coburn (right) and Personnel Specialist 3rd Class William Hancock lower the national ensign from the mainmast as the USS Underwood moors in Key West for UNITAS Atlantic 53-2012.

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German Naval Officer Serves Aboard Hué City

By Ensign Anastasia Abid

USS Hué City (CG 66) Public Affairs

Guided-missile cruiser USS Hué City (CG 66) has some extra help in operational planning and coalition teambuilding, while currently on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility, thanks to a German exchange officer serving aboard.

German Naval Officer Lt. Florian Gocht checked aboard Hué City last September as part of a two-year personnel exchange program (PEP) between the German and U.S. Navies, where U.S. personnel will serve on German ships and command staffs and Germans will serve on U.S. naval platforms.

Since his arrival, Gocht has steadily integrated into the Hué City crew.

"At first I was worried that I would not be accepted, but it was the total opposite. I was treated not only like part of the crew but part of the family," said Gocht.

Gocht's main job is



-Photo by MCSN Darien G. Kenney

German Officer Lt. Florian Gocht, right, and Quartermaster Seaman Nicholas Frank plot coordinates during a replenishment-at-sea aboard guided-missile cruiser USS Hue City (CG 66). Hue City is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations, theater security cooperation efforts and support missions for Operation Enduring Freedom.

to compile operational briefs for the daily briefings with Hué City leadership. In addition, he manages the short term

and long term operational schedule, ensuring the ship's routine flows smoothly. A deep relationship has

formed between the crew and Gocht. Gocht works diligently to train junior officers, consistently devoting his attention to

others in order to keep Hué City's operations running smoothly.

"Flo keeps the department running," said Lt.

Cmdr. Jynelle McCoy, Hué City operations officer. "He is definitely having a positive impact on the department."

Gocht is one of three officers serving in the German navy's PEP program. The other two officers participating are serving in the Netherlands and Great Britain, respectively.

Gocht takes pride in representing his country and his navy.

"I was ecstatic when I found out I was being given the opportunity to serve as a German officer with the U.S. Navy," said Gocht.

To summarize his experience thus far, Gocht uses the word 'wunderbar', which means something exceptionally good, and to the crew of Hué City, Gocht himself embodies the definition of that term.

Hué City is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations, theater security cooperation efforts and support missions for Operation Enduring Freedom.

Bahrain Welcomes USS Hué City For Port Visit

By Lt. j.g. Colin Ryan

USS Hué City (CG 66) Public Affairs

Guided-missile cruiser USS Hué City (CG 66) visited Manama, Bahrain, after weeks at sea, Aug. 31.

Sailors took advantage of their time in port to take in the sights and culture, tour the town, stay at an array of world-class hotels, sample local cuisine, and purchase souvenirs.

"I really enjoyed the shopping, especially

the gold jewelry," said Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical) 3rd Class Steven Miranda. Hué City's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program, spearheaded by Lt. Karen Rector and Fire Controlman 2nd Class Jessica Haywood, coor-

minated the opportunity for the ship to compete against athletic teams from other commands in Bahrain as part of a "Challenge Cup."

Hué City fielded participants for soccer, softball and a handful of other sports, performing admi-

rably and bonded with shipmates from other ships as part of the events.

"The soccer game was awesome," said Engineman 3rd Class Job Jean-Baptiste. "In fact, it was my best day in Bahrain. I am looking forward to another game

like that in the future."

Bahrain offered a welcome respite for Hué City Sailors that spent a long time at sea, and they took full advantage of everything the city had to offer.

Hué City is deployed to

the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations, theater security cooperation efforts and support missions for Operation Enduring Freedom.

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USS Vicksburg Welcomes Newest Chiefs

By MC2 Nick Scott
Enterprise Carrier Strike Group
Public Affairs

New chief petty officers were pinned in a ceremony aboard guided-missile cruiser USS Vicksburg (CG 69) Sept. 14.

The chief petty officer induction process, which began six weeks ago for selectees, was meant to train the new chiefs in preparation for their new tier of leadership.

"You have greater responsibility [as

a chief]," said Chief Operations Specialist (SW) Luis Sandoval, who was pinned during the ceremony. "There's no more running to the chief for answers, you are the chief. A benefit is that you have the whole chief's mess backing you up and helping you."

The pinning ceremony marks the end of the induction process and represents a new beginning through a proud naval tradition.

"As chiefs we are now proud upholders of tradition," said Chief Information Systems Technician (SW/EXW) Michael Burns, who was pinned during the ceremony. "We are the only branch of service that has a rank like chief. I think it builds camaraderie between us that the other branches don't get to experience."

Becoming a chief can be a long and difficult journey, but there is a rea-

son it isn't easy.

"[Induction] reminds you where you came from and doesn't let you forget how you got to where you are," said Chief Damage Controlman (SW/AW) Gary Lee, another of Vicksburg's newly-pinned chiefs. "Ultimately it's the Sailors that got us where we are. They are the ones who built us up and helped us become good leaders."

The Sailors that have helped the new chiefs get

to where they are now have the benefit of being helped by the new chiefs as they assume greater leadership roles.

"We have a new role, we have to be more involved," said Chief Fire Controlman (SW) Lawrence Evans, who was also pinned during the ceremony.

"We have to know more about administration and know the Navy instructions," said Evans. "It's not just that though, you have

to be involved with Sailors lives personally and professionally. That could be the most important thing of all. Sailors depend on you."

Vicksburg is currently deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations, theater security cooperation efforts and support missions as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom.



-Photo by MC2 Nick Scott
Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Jeremy Anthony stands watch on the bridge aboard guided-missile cruiser USS Vicksburg (CG 69).



-Photo by MC3 Daniel Meshel

U.S. Navy Sailors practice pipe-patching techniques during a general quarters exercise aboard guided-missile destroyer USS James E. Williams (DDG 95). James E. Williams is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations, theater security cooperation efforts and support missions for Operation Enduring Freedom.

U.S. Navy Sailors assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Platoon 12-3-1 fast rope to the flight deck of USS Vicksburg (CG 69) and post security positions during a helicopter visit, board, search and seizure training exercise.



-Photo by MC3 Randy J. Savarese



-Photo by MC2 Nick Scott

Sailors participate in a fresh-water wash down aboard guided-missile cruiser USS Vicksburg (CG 69).

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Jax Jaguars Shake Hands, Give Out Tickets To Mayport



Blaine Gabbert, quarterback for the Jacksonville Jaguars shakes a Sailors hand and thanks him for his service as his teammates autograph memorabilia for Sailors on board the Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) at Naval Station Mayport. Players and cheerleaders for the Jacksonville Jaguars visited Sailors to show their appreciation to the military for their service and pass out free tickets to their upcoming game. USO Mayport is currently selling tickets for the Jags/Bengals game on Sept. 30. Tickets are \$15 cash and available to all active duty, family members, reservists, retirees, veterans and DoD employees. For more information, call the center at 246-3481.



-Photo by MC2 Marcus L. Stanley Gabbert, along with a few teammates, autograph a memorabilia for Sailors on board the Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) at Naval Station Mayport.



-Photo by Paige Gnnn Master-at Arms 3rd Class Stephanie Ferrara gets a picture an autographed poster from Jacksonville Jaguars Quarterback Blaine Gabbert during a visit to Naval Station Mayport last week.



C.J. Mosley, defensive lineman for the Jacksonville Jaguars, autographs team memorabilia for Sailors on board the Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) at Naval Station Mayport.

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Armstrong

From Page 1

control centers, and yes, even armored carrier and helicopters, those enthusiastic men and women, yet to be born when Neil walked on the moon, were mesmerized by his presence. In a typical Neil fashion, he would always walk in, introduce himself as if they didn't know who he was, and he'd always give them a 'Hi, how are you guys doing.' Asked one overwhelmed, inquisitive Marine, 'Mr. Armstrong, why are you here?' Neil's thoughtful and sincerely honest reply was, 'Because you are here.'

Addressing Armstrong, a visibly emotional

Cernan added, "It's now for you a new beginning, but for us, I promise you, it is not the end. Farewell, my friend."

Armstrong flew nearly 80 missions during the Korean War. During one such flight, the right wing of Armstrong's plane was clipped by a cable wire over North Korea. He managed to fly into friendly territory before parachuting to safety.

After being honorably discharged from the Navy, Armstrong joined NASA as part of its second group of astronauts. He then went on to command the Apollo 11 mission that saw him walk

on the moon in July of 1969. After the mission was successfully completed, Armstrong and his crew landed in the Pacific Ocean where they were picked up by Sailors. Returning to the water meant his mission was complete, said Lovell, Armstrong's friend and fellow astronaut, in an interview with USA Today.

He's a Navy man," said Lovell. "It's how he knew he was finished. It's how he knew his work was done."

Armstrong was buried at sea with the help of Naval Station Mayport-based USS Philippine Sea.

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MWR HAPPENINGS

Sept. 21: Bingo Extravaganza. 6:30 pm at Beachside Bingo. Our first ever \$25,000 one-game payout. Ten \$1000 games, Ten \$500 games and more. Only 225 packages available; multiple packages may be purchased. Advanced purchase required. 270-7204.

Sept. 26: All-Hands Steak Night. 4-7 p.m. at Foc'sle CPO Club. Cost is \$10 per person. Purchase

tickets in advance; limited tickets available at the door. Sponsored HSM 46. For tickets, call AMC Mani Bitor (904) 270-6010 x144.

Sept. 28: One Night in Mexico. 7-11 p.m. at the Teen Center. It's a fiesta! We'll have a taco and nacho bar, mock-aritas, jalapeño eating contest, Spanish music and much more. 246-0347

LIBERTY CALL

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

Sept. 21: Bingo Extravaganza. 6:30 pm at Beachside Bingo. Our first ever \$25,000 one-game payout. Ten \$1000 games, Ten \$500 games and more. Only 225 packages available; multiple packages may be purchased. Advanced purchase required. 270-7204.

Sept. 22: Kennedy Space Center Trip. Van departs 8 a.m. Cost \$20. Sign up deadline Sept. 18.

Sept. 23: Laser Tag. 7-9 p.m. at Sea Otter Pavilion.

Free.

Sept. 26: Ping-Pong Tournament. 5 p.m. at Liberty Center.

Sept. 26: All-Hands Steak Night. 4-7 p.m. at Foc'sle CPO Club. Cost is \$10 per person. Purchase tickets in advance; limited tickets available at the door. Sponsored HSM 46. For tickets, call AMC Mani Bitor (904) 270-6010 x144.

Sept. 27: Liberty Bash. 4-7:30 p.m. at Sea Otter Pavilion. Free food, DJ, Laser Tag, games, rock wall, t-shirts and more! FREE

Sept. 28: Movie Trip. Van departs 6 p.m. Cost \$5.

Sept. 30: Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Cincinnati Bengals. Van departs 2 p.m. Cost \$10.

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OCTOBER 2

- 0830 - *FCO Challenge Canoe Race (Lake Wonderwood)
- 0900 - Experienced Canoe Race (Lake Wonderwood)
- *0930 - Kickball (Behind Medical Fields 1 & 2)
- 1100 - Bowling (Mayport Bowling Center)

OCTOBER 3

- *0830 - Relay Race (FRT Track Behind Gym)
- *1100 - Chicago 16 Softball (Softball Complex Fields 3 & 4)
- *1130 - Swim Relay (Pool Complex)

OCTOBER 4

- *0830 - Golf (Windy Harbor Golf Course)
- *0900 - Darts (Beachside Community Center)
- *1100 - Table Tennis (Gym)
- *1100 - 8 Ball Pool (Beachside Community Center)

OCTOBER 5

- *0830 - Volleyball (Beachside Community Center)
- *0900 - Balloon Launch (Next to Mayport Bow)
- 0930 - Corn Hole (Beachside Community Center)
- *1000 - Auto Racing (Beachside Community Center)
- 1130 - Cook Out (Beachside Community Center)
- *1200 - *Tug-o-War (Beach behind Sea Otter Pavilion)
- 1230 - Awards (Beachside Community Center)

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Relationship Counseling Available At FFSC

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.

Sept. 20, 9 a.m.-noon,

Tottle Tyme Playgroup, USO

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.

Sept. 24, 1-4 p.m., **Relationship Communication**, FFSC Room 702

Whether you've been dating for 6 months or married for 20 years, effective communication is critical to keeping

your relationship happy, healthy and strong. Come learn new techniques which will help you build on the strengths of your relationship and learn to identify barriers to effective communication.

Class is a one-time 3-hour class. Couples are encouraged but not required to attend class together.

Sept. 24-27, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., **TAP Separatee**

Workshop, Building 1, Room 1616

Sept. 25, 6-8 p.m., **Ombudsman Assembly**, Building 1, Room 104

Sept. 26, 3-4:30 p.m., **Managing Anger Group**, FFSC Room 702

Sept. 27, 9 a.m.-noon, **Tottle Tyme Playgroup**, USO

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.

Saturday, Sept. 22

Join a park ranger at 2 p.m. for an adventurous hike to discover the island's wondrous wildflowers. Participants are encouraged to bring bug spray and bottled water. 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.

Come out and join River Region Human Services and Gateway Community Services for the annual Recovery Walk. September marks the 23rd annual observance of National Recovery Month (Recovery Month). The walk takes place at 8 a.m., River Region, 390 Park St., Jacksonville, Florida 32206, and ends at the Landing. Contact Kenneth Arnold at (904) 899-6300, ext. 4444, or KArnold@rrhs.org for more details. Visit our Strength through Recovery Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/StrengththroughRecovery

Thursday, Sept. 27

The Duval County Extension Offices/UF IFAS will be offer-

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ing a workshop on Fall Gardening at the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road, Jacksonville, Fla. The time is 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The cost is \$5 for materials and light snacks. Payment can be made at the door. Topics covered will be Fall Gardening and Landscape Tips, Planting Wildflowers and Misconceptions about Trees. To pre-register, please call Becky at 904-255-7450 or email her at beckyd@coj.net with your name and phone number.

Saturday, Sept. 29

The Duval County Extension Office and the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs District IV will be hosting the 2012 GardenFest at the Duval County Extension Office, 1010 N McDuff Ave., Jacksonville, Fla. The time is 9-2 p.m. The cost is \$10 without lunch or \$15 with lunch. Drinks will be provided. To register, call Rachel Wilson at 904-272-4252 or pick

up a registration form at the extension office. The deadline to register is Sept. 24. Speakers are Terry DelValle, Options for Managing Pests, Jim DeValerio, Vegetable Gardening Gold Nuggets, Larry Figart, Money does grow on Trees, and Joe Stewards, Water: Waste Not, Want Not.

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 the multi-use trail pavilion located at the south beach area on Little Talbot Island. No reservations are necessary and the program is free.

Saturday, Oct. 20

Crafters Wanted! Christ United Methodist Church, 400 Penman Road, Neptune Beach will host its annual Craft Fair and Fall Festival on from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. To reserve your booth, please contact the church office today at 249-5370.

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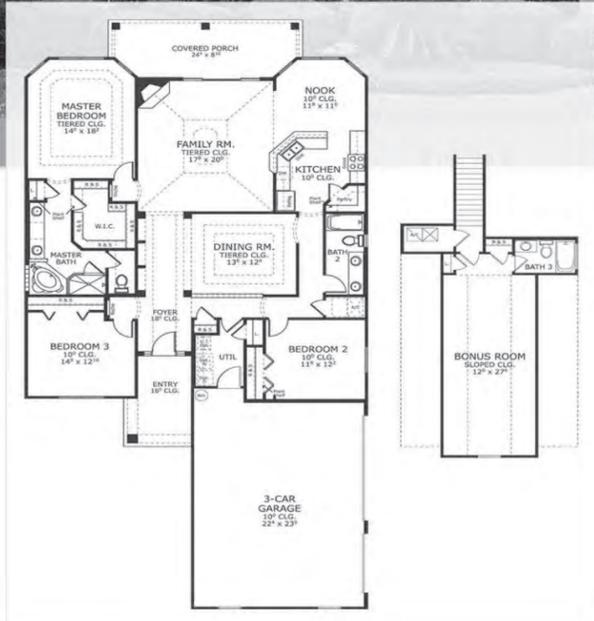


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USS Farragut Departs Germany, Arrives In France

By MC3 A.J. Jones

USS Farragut Public Affairs

Guided-missile destroyer USS Farragut (DDG 99) arrived in La Rochelle, France, for a port visit, Sept. 7.

During the visit, Farragut Sailors will have a busy schedule including participating in sporting events against local teams, conducting a community service project, and experiencing the local culture.

Farragut's visit to La Rochelle comes after its visit to Wilhelmshaven, Germany, during which Farragut Sailors competed in sporting events with German sailors, toured historical monuments and enjoyed the local culture.

"I was incredibly happy with our visit

to Wilhelmshaven," said Cmdr. Glen B. Quast, commanding officer of Farragut. "Germany and the U.S. share a joint set of goals and priorities, and I am confident that we will achieve these together as we continue combined operations around the world."

Farragut also hosted tours of the ship for local military representatives and civilians, giving Wilhelmshaven residents the opportunity to explore the ship as Farragut Sailors explained shipboard life and the U.S. Navy in general.

Farragut is on a scheduled deployment in support of maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility.

Household Goods Goes 'Social'

From NAVSUP

NAVSUP Global Logistics Support (GLS) Household Goods (HHG) services initiated social media campaign to reach out to customers and further reduce confusion and make a household move easier on families.

HHG is now employing the public web, YouTube and Facebook to unravel some of remaining mystery associated with moving, shipping and storing household goods.

"Our number one goal is easing the whole moving process for families moving across the country or around the world," said Deborah McGlennon, program manager, Household Goods and Global Distance Support Center in San Diego. "We're choosing new mediums to reach out and social media will help us reach our audiences with a message that we know how hard a move is, and here's how we can be there to help you."

"We believe our web presence, plus YouTube and Facebook Fan Page will provide relevant and interesting information to NAVY service members and civilians initiating a household goods move. In addition, the YouTube Channel provides customers with instructions to set up their household goods move using the Defense Personal Property System (DPS)," McGlennon said.

The idea is to use YouTube as a source

for education. According to McGlennon, even as the process incorporated www.move.mil and the Defense Personal Property System (DPS), the process can still be a bit daunting. The YouTube and Facebook sites are designed to ease families into the move.mil and DPS process.

"It will be like 'pre-learning' designed to familiarize families with how these systems operate and integrate," McGlennon said.

You can subscribe now to the HHG YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/NavyHHG> and for tips, updates and additional information, make sure to like our Facebook Fan Page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/NAVY-Household-Goods/294799990565426>. In addition, the Navy Household Goods webpage also provides customers with information on getting started with their move, entitlements and contact information. Check us out at https://www.navsup.navy.mil/navsup/ourteam/navsupgls/prod_serv/household.

McGlennon said, "We value your feedback and suggestions on how we can further help you to have a successful move."

Finally, In addition to leaving comments on our social media pages, you can email them at householdgoods@navy.mil.

Raising The Ensign



-Photo by Paul Farley

A Sailor raises the national ensign as the Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate USS Halyburton (FFG 40) arrives for a scheduled port visit. Halyburton is homeported in Mayport, Fla. and is on a scheduled deployment operating in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility.

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Ft. Worth Departs Mayport For Commissioning

From Program Executive Office for Littoral Combat Ships Public Affairs

The Navy's newest Littoral Combat Ship, USS Fort Worth (LCS 3), sailed away from Naval Station Mayport, Fla., Sep. 13, beginning the final leg of its maiden voyage to its commissioning site in Galveston, Texas.

Fort Worth is the third LCS delivered to the Navy - the second of the steel, semi-planing monohull Freedom variant - and will be commissioned Sept. 22.

During a two-week stay in Mayport, the ship underwent a scheduled preventive maintenance availability and conducted initial Combat Support Systems Onboard Testing and TRS-3D RADAR Electronic Target Generator Testing in support of the Combat System Ship Qualification Test that will take place later this year after the ship arrives in its homeport of San Diego, Calif.



-Photo courtesy of Lockheed Martin
The littoral combat ship Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Fort Worth (LCS 3) departs Marinette Marine Corp. shipyard in Marinette, Wis. Fort Worth is scheduled to be commissioned Sept. 22 in Galveston, Texas.

The ship departed the Marinette Marine Corp. shipyard in Marinette, Wis., Aug. 6, sailing through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway, before eventually making her way down the East Coast of the United

States. The trip through the Seaway was particularly complex, as the ship transited 11 narrow locks that were, in many cases, only a few feet wider than the ship itself - a feat few Navy vessels ever get the opportunity to experi-

ence. "Fort Worth completed a challenging transit, and I'm impressed with how well she handled," said Rear Adm. James Murdoch, Program Executive Officer for Littoral Combat Ships.

"Both the ship and crew performed superbly."

LCS 3 has incorporated a number of design changes based on lessons learned from the first ship of class, USS Freedom (LCS 1). These changes are now part of the baseline design and will be incorporated into future ships of the class prior to construction. LCS is a high-speed, agile, shallow-draft, focused-mission surface combatant designed for operation in near-shore environments yet fully capable of open-ocean operation. Fort Worth is designed to defeat asymmetric "anti-access" threats such as mines, quiet diesel submarines and fast surface craft. The 387-foot Fort Worth will be outfitted with reconfigurable payloads, called mission packages, which can be changed quickly, and focus on three mission areas: mine countermeasures, surface warfare and

anti-submarine warfare.

In addition to the three focused warfare missions it will conduct, the Littoral Combat Ship's inherent capabilities and suitability to conduct lower-end missions will free up our more expensive, multi-mission cruisers and destroyers to conduct higher-end missions.

The Lockheed Martin team now has Milwaukee (LCS 5), Detroit (LCS 7), Little Rock (LCS 9), and Sioux City (LCS 11) under construction in Marinette. Austal USA is constructing Independence-variant ships Coronado (LCS 4), Jackson (LCS 6), Montgomery (LCS 8), Gabrielle Giffords (LCS 10) and Omaha (LCS 12) at the company's shipyard in Mobile, Ala.

Deploying Soldiers Test New Female Body Armor Prototype

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

Female soldiers at Fort Campbell, Ky., preparing for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan are getting a chance to weigh in on the latest innovation in personal protective equipment: body armor designed specifically to fit them.

Any woman who has deployed to the combat zone can tell you what's wrong with wearing the improved outer tactical vest - military-speak for body armor - it's designed for a man's body.

"Women were having a real problem with the fit of the IOTV," said Lynn Hennessey, lead designer for the female body armor prototype being tested at Fort Campbell. "The size extra-small was too large for 85 percent of the females, so they weren't getting a good fit. It was too loose and too long."

That left vulnerabilities where the body armor left gaps, particularly under the arms. But it also made the vests uncomfortable enough to affect performance, Hennessey explained.

In some cases, women were reporting bruising on their hip bones because the side plates dragged down to their hips, she said. "And when they were sitting down, it was riding up to their chins, because the torso was so long."

This kind of feedback, both anecdotal and through a formal process of surveys and focus groups, led the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center here to launch a program to design female-specific body armor.

The program kicked off in January 2011, with prototypes now undergoing testing by members of the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team.

To design the new vests, the design team studied anthropometric data - a series of measurements to reflect the size and shape of female soldiers' bodies, with a particular focus on the bust, torso length and shoulders.

"Females are not small



-Photo Submitted
Specialist Gillian Campbell, a Female Engagement team Soldier with 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, is strapped into her prototype Generation III Improved Outer Tactical Vest with help from PM Soldier Protective Equipment Project Engineer Deana Archambault. Campbell is one of 19 female Soldiers from the 101st to participate in the fielding of this vest designed specifically for the needs of Army women.

males," said Beverly Kimball, project engineer for female Army aviation combat uniforms also being developed at Natick. "We have specific proportions that require designs for fit and function for uniforms as well as equipment."

The Natick team came up with eight different sizes of female body armor, in two different lengths, to accommodate the force. Although the vests use the same protective plates as the generic body armor, the side plates are slightly scaled down to fit the new contours.

During the initial fit tests, 120 female soldiers at Fort Campbell, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.; Fort Benning, Ga.; and an Army Reserve Center in Milford, Mass., gave the prototypes a resounding thumbs-up.

Of the 100 second-generation female body armor prototypes, 19 were issued to Fort Campbell soldiers in mid-August.

Soldiers who participated in the test are assigned to a female engagement

team that will interact closely with the Afghan population, particularly women, when they deploy later this year. The plan, Hennessey explained, was to let the soldiers get accustomed to wearing the new body armor and then to train in it for about five weeks. This week, they are wrapping up a human factors evaluation that includes such things as weapons firing and climbing in and out of vehicles - all of the things the soldiers are likely to do in combat.

The project team will assess the feedback to determine if the female body armor is ready for fielding throughout the Army.

Army officials hope to produce 3,000 of the new vests and to field them to an Army brigade to be selected next year as a major step.

"This is a project that will have a direct impact on the soldiers who wear this," Hennessey said. "It will make them a lot more comfortable - but even more important, safer and more effective."

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Are You Ready To Receive Notifications In Emergency Or Base Closure

From CNIC

Are you ready to be notified in the event of an emergency or base closure? A quick and easy sign up to the Wide Area Alert Notification (WAAN) system could save you in more ways than you can imagine.

Deployed by the Navy in 2008, the WAAN system provides Navy Installations (worldwide) with an effective and reliable mass notification system that can be used during a crisis to warn and direct affected personnel.

"As a civilian employee, I thought that my home phone or cell phone numbers were none of my command's business. And certainly they didn't need to know my kids' personal information," says Marcher Castell, CIV CNIC HQ. "Of course, that meant that they couldn't call me to tell me to evacuate, or include my children in the evacuation count. Heck, they couldn't even call me to tell me something simple like the power being out in my building and not to drive all



the way in to the office."

All military (active duty and Reserve), civil service, and contractor personnel with an NMCI or One Net user account are required to register their office email address and phone number, at minimum, in the WAAN. Registering personal emergency contact information also is strongly encouraged.

As Marcher discovered, the Navy can't alert you, if it cannot find you. Registration is not automatic, but by providing your personal contact information, you take advantage of the following benefits:

- Registration enhances your safety and empowers you to react in times of crisis.
- Registration ensures that real-time

alerts provide information to you and your family on what to do and where to go in an emergency.

- Registration allows you to find out about base closures due to weather or an emergency, before you show up.

- Registration permits you to be notified when it is clear/safe to return to the installation.

Rest assured; your personal information is safeguarded.

How to Register

NMCI/One Net users—Right-click on the Purple Globe icon (bottom right corner on desktop).

Select "Access Self Service."

Select the "My Info" tab and update your Last Name, First Name, and Display Name and save.

Select the "Devices" tab and enter your work and personal contact information in the appropriate mandatory and optional device fields.

SAVE.

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a change.

If needed, use a Workaround to Register

If you have trouble with registering through the Purple Globe, try the workaround for your region. Links can be found under Mass Notification>Wide Area Alert Notification System on the Ready Navy website at www.ready.navy.mil. Click on (or copy and paste into your browser's address bar) the link for the workaround below for your region.

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For questions about the WAAN or support, contact the CNIC Support Center at 888-264-4255, DSN 942-6597 or http://www.cnic.navy.mil/CNIC_HQ_Site/supportcenter/index.htm.

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Money App Puts Finances In Hand

By Lisa Daniel

American Forces Press Service

Financial planners often talk about "being smart" when it comes to your finances - where, when and how to save, spend, and invest your money and how to manage your credit.

The ins and outs of getting and staying in good financial shape can feel like a full-time job. From buying a house to researching tax breaks to asking about lower interest rates on credit cards or auto insurance, getting smart about finances takes effort.

That endeavor can be made easier, however, with a free website and app created especially for military members by the Better Business Bureau and McGraw Hill

Companies. The consumer advocacy group's military division teamed up with the global financial information company to create militaryandmoney.com and its smartphone app, which is available for the iPhone and iPad. There will also soon be an Android version available, Brenda Linnington, director of the BBB Military Line, told me today.

Linnington, wife of Army Gen. Mike Linnington, who commands the Military District of Washington, creates curriculum for the Military Line's personal finance workshops, which are given at military bases around the country as part of the Defense Department and services' financial readiness outreach. BBB's Military Line

also is a partner in the Kiplinger/BBB Financial Field Manual.

Linnington replaced Holly Petraeus last year as MilitaryLine's director when Petraeus was appointed to head the military division of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Both have worked to ease personal finance for service members and their families.

"We don't want it be laborious kind of thing," Linnington said of the website and app. "They can just plug in their numbers, so they have their personal financial situation in palm of their hands."

The digital aids came about after the bureau and McGraw Hill separately pledged to help

"Joining Forces," the campaign First Lady Michelle Obama and Second Lady Jill Biden created last year to support military families, Linnington said. The campaign fostered the partnership, merging the bureau's military financial acumen with McGraw Hill's global financial reach.

The website and app provide "basic training" in personal finance with video instructions on budgeting and managing credit. They also offer an "action center" with a calculator for entering your own financial information to help with building savings - you can set a reminder for regular installments - and reducing debt.

"The great thing about the app is it's very user-

friendly, and it puts that person's financial situation in the palm of their hands," Linnington said. "They can have it with them wherever they go."

The website and app can help families through the financial shift of deployments and how to ease the burden when combat and hazard pay go away, she noted.

"That reunion period, as wonderful as it is, especially during the honeymoon period, also is full of a lot of stressors," she said. "Add in the changes to your financial situation - now you have less income, your children are getting older, and becoming more expensive - that can cause more stress on an already stressful situation."

The website and app

are tailored to enlisted members at the E6 level and below, Linnington said, because that is who the bureau found needs it most. Most complaints of financial problems from service members come from the E5 and E6 level, she said. Unlike junior service members, they "most in their mid-20s" are beginning to develop credit and make enough money to pay off debt and save. And they are starting families.

"They have more money than they had before, but they also have more expenses and they're getting into larger purchases," she said.

Navy's 2nd Joint High-Speed Vessel Christened

By Meghan Patrick

Military Sealift Command Public Affairs

USNS Choctaw County (JHSV 2), the second of the Navy's new joint high-speed vessels (JHSV) designed for rapid intra-theater transport of troops and military equipment, was christened, Sept. 15, during a ceremony at Austal USA in Mobile, Ala.

Military Sealift Command (MSC) will own and operate Choctaw County and the other JHSVs, that are under contract to be built for the Navy. Choctaw County will have a crew of 21 civil service mariners working for MSC who will operate, navigate and maintain the ship.

"The ship's performance will be matched by the unique qualities of her crew - 21 civil service mariners committed to freedom, democracy and compassion," said Rear Adm. Brian LaRoche, deputy commander, Military Sealift Command, during his address to an audience of more than 700 people including leaders from the military services, Congress and the maritime industry. "The impressive ship awaiting the crack of the champagne bottle will help safeguard those ideals. Choctaw County will carry the Military Sealift Command funnel stripes and the strength of the U.S. military anywhere America needs it."

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus was the ceremony's principal speaker. The ship is named for



-Photo by MCC Sam Shavers
Theresa Gilliam Pitts, Sponsor of the Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV) 2, USNS Choctaw County, breaks a bottle of champagne during the christening at the Austal Shipyard. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus named the ship after three U.S. counties located in Mississippi, Alabama and Oklahoma; places he said demonstrate core American values of hard work, putting family first, and community service.

three counties in America, located in Mississippi, Alabama and Oklahoma, which share the name Choctaw County.

Twenty-nine women from the 1966 graduating class of Ackerman High School in Ackerman, Miss., served as the ship's sponsors. Lead sponsor, Theresa Gilliam Pitts, a retired teacher, broke the traditional bottle of champagne across the bow to formally christen the ship while she and the other sponsors present said in unison, "For the United States of America, we christen thee USNS Choctaw County. May God bless this ship and all who sail in her."

The 338-foot-long aluminum catamarans are designed to be fast, flexible and maneuverable, even in shallow waters, making them ideal for transporting troops and equipment quickly within

a theater of operations. The 20,000-square-foot mission bay area aboard JHSVs can be reconfigured to quickly adapt to whatever mission the ship is tasked with, such as carrying containerized portable hospitals to support disaster relief or transporting tanks and troops.

"This ship class fits perfectly with the new concept of forward-basing," said civilian Capt. Jose Delfaus, Choctaw County's civil service master who has been sailing for MSC for 31 years.

The goal of forward-basing is to cut back on the number of overseas bases by equipping more forward-deployed ships with troops and gear.

"JHSVs can join up with these ships and help them essentially by being their delivery truck, delivering anything they need from troops and gear, to provi-

sions or cargo," Delfaus said.

JHSVs are capable of transporting 600 tons of military troops, vehicles, supplies and equipment 1,200 nautical miles at a high average speed of 35 knots and can operate in shallow-draft, austere ports and waterways, providing U.S. forces added mobility and flexibility.

The JHSVs' aviation flight decks can support day and night flight operations. Each JHSV also has sleeping accommodations for up to 146 personnel and airline-style seating for up to 312. One of the things Delfaus said he is most looking forward to in his role as master of the

second JHSV is the new technology.

"The JHSV bridge functions more like a 747-cockpit than a traditional ship's bridge. The design is for the officer to operate the entire ship from a chair. Everything you need to move the ship is available through an elaborate control panel. The navigation team also sits in the bridge, as does the engineering consul. It's a very unique set-up - the rows of people make it look a bit like Star Trek."

Following acceptance trials, delivery to the Navy and operational testing, Choctaw County will operate out of Little Creek, Va., and is expect-

ed to begin conducting missions for the Navy in the first quarter of fiscal year 2014.

The Navy's current contract with Austal is for the construction of 10 JHSVs, one of which is yet-to-be awarded construction options. As MSC assets, all of the JHSVs will be civilian-crewed.

The first four of the 10 currently under contract - including Choctaw County and USNS Spearhead (JHSV 1) - will be crewed by federally employed civil service mariners, while the next six are slated to be crewed by civilian mariners working for private companies under contract to MSC.



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