

Mayport Commands Thank Ombudsmen



-Photo by Paige Gnann

Command Ombudsmen from Naval Station Mayport and its tenant commands are honored at the annual Ombudsman Dinner held Sept. 26 at Ocean Breeze Conference Center. Guest speaker, NS Mayport Commanding Officer, Capt. Wes McCall, thanked the spouses for their continued support as a liaison between families and their Sailor's command. Also pictured is Fleet and Family Support Center Ombudsman coordinator Kris Edmondson, bottom right.

Get Cookin' With Fire Safety

From First Coast Navy Fire & Emergency Services Department

It's time for Fire Prevention Week and the First Coast Navy Fire and Emergency Services Department is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to remind local residents to 'Prevent Kitchen Fires.' Firefighters and safety



advocates are spreading the word about the dangers of kitchen fires—most from unattended cooking—and teaching how to

prevent kitchen fires from starting in the first place. This year's fire safety campaign runs from Oct. 6-12. The latest statistics

from NFPA say U.S. Fire Departments responded to an estimated annual average of 156,600 cooking-related fires between 2007-2011. Two of every five home fires begin in the kitchen—more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries. Among the fire safety

tips being emphasized:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave the room even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- Keep cooking areas

clean and clear of combustibles (e.g. potholders, towels, rags, drapes and food packaging).

•Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of three feet around the stove.

•If you have a fire in your microwave, turn it off immediately and keep

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USS Gettysburg Helps Adrift Dhow

By Ensign Kiley Provenzano

USS Gettysburg Public Affairs

The guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg (CG 64) provided humanitarian assistance to an adrift fishing dhow while operating in the Arabian Gulf, Sept. 24.

Gettysburg stopped to render assistance after being signaled by the dhow's crew shortly before 11:30 a.m.

According to the crew, which consisted of an Omani and four Bangladeshi men, they had been at sea for five days and had suffered an engine failure on the third day, leaving the vessel powerless and drifting for two days. The crew were found in good health and had food and water on hand.

Fire Controlman 2nd Class Yasser Rady, a close-in weapons sys-

tems (CIWS) technician assigned to Gettysburg, provided translation that facilitated mutual communication and allowed Gettysburg to provide the crew with additional food, water, and safety flares.

"We were able to quickly and effectively provide some assistance for the crew of the fishing vessel while they awaited help from local authorities," said Lt. Cmdr. Nathan Scherry, Gettysburg's executive officer. "Our assistance allowed us to enhance cooperation, build trust, and mutual respect to our fellow mariners in the region."

Local authorities were contacted by U.S. 5th Fleet to provide further assistance. The guided-missile destroyer USS The Sullivans (DDG 68) was operating nearby and offered help to ensure the

See Gettysburg, Page 8



-Photo by FC2 Robert Ortega

Sailors assigned to the guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg (CG 64) prepare to provide humanitarian assistance to a stranded fishing dhow. Gettysburg is deployed as part of the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

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Base Chapel Adds Jewish Services



Chap Karen Rector
NS Mayport Chapel

A Rabbi and a Baptist minister walk into a Starbucks; no, this isn't the beginning of a corny joke, this actually happened. I met with a local Rabbi at Starbucks the other day, which leads me to this Chaplain's Corner message. There are a lot of great things going on at Mayport chapel. Most people know that we offer both a Catholic and Protestant service on Sunday's, but soon there will be more; Beginning Oct. 4, the Mayport Chapel will also provide a

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Jewish Shabbat Services Friday Nights at 1915

Looking for *Jewish Fellowship*?

Miss that taste of fresh *Challah*?

Want to share in age-old *prayers*?

Then Come join us on Friday night!

What: Kabbalat Shabbat Service
When: Friday Nights at 1915
Beginning: On Oct. 4th
Where: Mayport Naval Station Chapel
Interest/Questions: Chapel's office (904) 270-5212

Shabbat service led by a Jewish Lay Leader. Many of you may be wondering what a Shabbat is.

Shabbat is the Hebrew word for Sabbath. At its simplest meaning, it's a day of rest and spiritual replenishment. Exodus 31:17 tells us that even the L_{rd} rested; "For in six days the L_{rd} made the heavens and the earth and on the seventh day he abstained from work and rested." He also tells us in the Ten Commandments to observe the Sabbath and keep it holy.

If you want to know more about the observance of the Jewish Sabbath we invite you to come experience it with us here at the chapel. Again, Shabbat services will be held every Friday, beginning on Oct. 4, at 7:15 p.m. here at the Mayport Chapel.

But that isn't the only thing going on. Very soon, we will also be offering a Torah study. You may be thinking, "Chaps, you keep using all of these big words and

I don't know what they mean." No worries, I'll explain this one, too.

Torah, in this case, means the five books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. But it also refers to entire Jewish bible, which to Christians would be called the Old Testament. A local Rabbi has volunteered to lead this class and we will officially advertise this class very soon.

Many think a military chapel is only about church services on Sunday, or the chapel is where you go when you have a problem and want to talk to a chaplain in confidentiality. All true, but chapels and chaplains are here for so much more than that. We are also here to help fulfill religious and spiritual needs of all recognized faith groups. You may be a Muslim or Buddhist reading this and saying

to yourself, "How come there isn't a Muslim or Buddhist service at the chapel?" I invite you to come by and talk to a chaplain and let's find out together if there is a need to start one of those services or we will help you find a place to worship.

Navy chaplains provide religious ministry and support to those of our own faith, but we also facilitate for all religious beliefs, and we care for all Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardians and their family and friends.

To find out about more happenings at the chapel, check us out on Facebook. Better yet, come by and see us.

A Rabbi and a Baptist minister walk into a Starbucks, and G_d was there.

Tips For Fostering School Connectedness



Judy Cromartie
School Liaison Officer

The new school year has been marked by many of the traditional signs of children returning to school - fresh hair cuts, new shoes, the latest backpacks, sharpened pencils, and the grateful smiles of loving parents who have longed for that first day of school. While it is certainly important that the school year begins well, it is even more important that parents and schools work together to make sure the entire school year *continues* well.

Parents with children entering school for the

Knowing THE ROPES

first time may experience some apprehension about where and how to become involved in their young child's school life. More experienced parents may struggle with making the transition as children move into new grades, schools, or districts.

The involvement of a caring adult in the school life of a child cannot be overemphasized. Research has suggested again and again that student achievement can be tied to many factors, one of which is support from home. Many families struggle to balance work demands, family needs, and extra-curricular activities. Here are a few simple suggestions which could make a big difference in your child's success in school:

Communicate with the teacher on a regular basis - Early in the school

year, clarify how information will be shared between home and school and how concerns and problems will be handled. With the technology available, many teachers post information on a classroom website, blog, or e-mail.

Volunteer for school activities - Schools, especially middle and high schools, struggle to get enough parent support to sustain programs and events. Your willingness to make yourself available will help create a cooperative working relationship between you and the school. If your work schedule does not permit volunteering at daytime events, consider helping out in the evening at sporting events, with tutoring programs, or providing refreshments for a PTA meeting.

Monitor homework

completion and work together on assignments which invite family participation - Set a regular time for homework, create an actual schedule, post it where everyone in the family can see it, and stick to it. Find a place within your home where you can concentrate, away from distractions. Set and enforce appropriate rules for homework time. During homework time, be available to work with your child.

Know your child's friends and the friends' parents - it is important to know who your child interacts with in and out of school to make sure that you approve of the activities your child is involved in. An easy way to accomplish this is to participate in school events and to become involved in academic activities. Sporting events, PTA meetings, and choral concerts give you an opportunity to meet not only your child's friends, but also their par-

ents.

Schedule informal meetings - You briefly met your child's teachers at Open House, but there wasn't time for a face-to-face meeting. If this progress report you just received indicated some academic problems or at least a negative slide from this time last year, schedule a meeting - at school or via the phone. These meetings should be brief and to the point. Write down your questions ahead of time. It is important that you share your concerns in a manner which demonstrates purpose, caring, and respect.

If your child has an IEP or 504 plan, consider a face-to-face meeting asap. The beginning of school is sometimes overwhelming for teachers as they prepare new lesson plans and get to know their students. But you do not want your child's academic needs overlooked. Plus the last time you looked at the IEP was probably last spring. Now is a good

time for you to review it as well.

Know your child's academic program - Understanding the goals for a certain grade level or for a particular subject will better prepare you to support your child's learning at home. You can log on to www.SoarAtHome.org to view by grade level and subject the core curriculum your child will be responsible for this year on language arts, math, and science. For elective classes, the syllabus or course outline can give you a better idea of what will be expected in a class. Looking at your child's textbook will also give you a good idea of what will be taught.

Review your child's daily schedule - Become familiar with your child's daily schedule. It will help you understand your child's day and how it may impact his or her learning. Middle and high school students may only

See School, Page 3

My Hips Don't Swing That Way, But My Stomach Does



Lisa Smith Molinari
Military Spouse Columnist

Out of sheer boredom and motivation to reduce my ever-expanding waistline, I somehow found myself trying a Zumba class at the base gym this week. An old veteran of the now out-of-style step aerobics craze, I figured, "How hard could it be?"

Gyms across the nation are now offering Zumba classes, which incorporate salsa, meringue, hip-hop, African beats, samba, reggaeton, cumbia, Bollywood and belly dance moves into

The Meat&Potatoes OF LIFE

group fitness routines.

I had seen a Zumba DVD infomercial once, with spandexed men and women writhing and jumping to Latin, Caribbean and tribal beats, claiming that you could "party yourself into shape." It made exercise look more like a wild night out in Tijuana than a workout, so I was intrigued.

After placing my keys and water bottle in the corner of the exercise room, I tried to find a spot where I could remain anonymous. I was relieved to find that our instructor looked like a middle-aged mom just like me, and did not have a figure that screamed, "I am about to kill you."

She put on some catchy Latin music, and next

thing you know I was kickball-changing, single-single-doubling, and body rolling my way around the room as if I had been doing it all my life.

But after 30 minutes,

the mild-mannered instructor bid us all adieu and told us that our "warm up" was finished. The real Zumba class was about to begin, and the *real* instructor would arrive momentarily. *What?!*

I had only a moment to wipe the sweat from my brow and slurp some

water, when in walked a woman with Beyonce's muscular thighs, Pamela Anderson's generous bust, and Charro's rolling "R."

Suddenly, driving African beats blared from the sound system and, using only crazed facial expressions and minimal hand motions, Charro

ordered us to rhythmically gyrate and flail our arms while in a semi-squat position.

A few minutes later we had moved on to reggaeton, whatever that is, and were ordered to stick out our rear ends and rotate our hips in complete circles from right to left

See Hips, Page 3

Correction
Due to an editing error, the Sept. 26 photo of USS Shamal featured on the front page of The Mirror incorrectly identified the photographer. The photographer should have been identified as QM1 David C. Ratcliffe. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Command Chaplain
Lt. Cmdr.
Jerome Cayangyang

Roman Catholic Mass
Sunday 9 a.m.
Monday-Thursday
11:30 a.m.
Holy Day of Obligation
(call chapel for schedule)
Confessions: before & after mass
or upon request
CD, 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 9:30 a.m.
Protestant Youth Group
1st Friday Youth Quak Trip
6:30 p.m.
2nd & 4th Friday at Chapel
5-8:30 p.m.
PWOC
2nd Saturday 9:30 a.m.
PMOC
3rd Saturday Prayer Breakfast
9 a.m.
MOPS
1st & 3rd Thursday, 9:30 a.m.

For more information,
call 270-5212.

THE MIRROR
NS MAYPORT, FLORIDA
Naval Station Mayport

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Getting To Know You

Editor's Note:
The Mirror is starting a new bi-weekly section to highlight an Officer or Sailor throughout NS Mayport and its tenant commands.

Every other week, a photo with a description of a command designated service member will be published.

To have your Sailor or Officer published, email The Mirror at mayportmirror@comcast.net or call 270-7817 ext. 1012.

Name: CTT2 Benjamin Rera of USS De Wert

Job: Cryptologic Technician Technical (TECH)

Age: 28

Hometown: Baton Rouge, LA

Favorite Hobby: Weight Lifting

Hero: The Apostle Peter

Best Piece Of Advice Received:

"Be particular, you know how you are." -Paul Rera

Goal for Navy:

Finish BA and follow on to DDS. Possibly re-enlist as Dental Corps Officer.

How has the Navy improved your life?:

In the sense of leadership, the Navy has helped broaden my view, deepen my understanding, and allowed my experience to burgeon.

The pride that service to your country provides you certainly instills a sense of honesty, loyalty, respect, and sheer dedication to everything put in front of you.

I was a well-cultured

person before the Navy, growing up in a melting-pot of ethnicity.

Through the Navy I have gained a diverse education in other cultures; not only from foreign ports, but equally so from ship life on board.

Why was this Sailor/Officer chosen to be highlighted?

CTT2 Rera is full of energy and consistently strives for success.

He is a self-starter and a motivator for all around him. Recently, he stepped up and took on a huge program, United through Reading.

Normally, this program is coordinated by a Senior First Class or a Chief; however, CTT2 requested to take this on and so far has done an outstanding



-Photo courtesy of USS De Wert

CTT2 Benjamin Rera of USS De Wert is being highlighted as the Officer/Sailor of the Week as part of a new section in The Mirror. To get a service member from your command highlighted, email The Mirror at mayportmirror@comcast.net

job getting it implemented.

As his CMC, I often

wonder if I was as motivated and driven as CTT2 is back in my SK2 days. I

would like to say yes, but given the energy CTT2 has I am not sure.

From Page 2

School

have ½ of their schedule each day. Note which classes are on A day and which ones are on B. One of the days may be measurably more difficult or require much more homework. Knowing this will allow you to help your child become better orga-

nized.

Establish a spot for communication - While elementary schools often send home important information in the backpack, secondary schools leave it up to the student on how to best get information home. By

checking the backpack or establishing a special spot for handouts, homework to be signed, notes from the teacher, etc., you will stay better informed. This spot can also then be the place where you can put signed tests, notes to the teacher, or even your

child's lunch. Having this spot can really reduce morning "where did I put that" headaches!

At first glance, many of these suggestions seem rather simple, but they can require a bit of commitment. With a little help from home, this

could be your child's best school year ever. Be that parent who makes a difference!

Judy Cromartie is the School Liaison Officer for NS Mayport. If you have questions about this article or concerns about an educational issue impact-

ing 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.

From Page 2

Hips

while pumping our hands out in front of us. I was able to rotate my hips counter-clockwise, but when she asked us to go the opposite direction, I was unable to maintain the fluid roll of my hips, jerking awkwardly from side to side.

I thought this might be due to the magnetism of the Earth's polls - and like toilet bowl water, I can swirl one way in the Northern Hemisphere, but would have to travel south of the equator to be able to rotate my hips in the other direction.

Halfway through the class I

was soaked with sweat, and we hadn't even gotten to salsa and meringue.

Despite the fact that everyone around me seemed to have the basic salsa steps down pat, I was so confused I just marched in place. And meringue, for me, was more of a lesson in how to sprain one's ankle. I prayed that it would all be over soon.

Somewhere between the Brazilian samba and the Columbian cumbia, Charro started jumping three feet into the air. Like lemmings, we followed. Finally happy to have

a dance move I could understand, I leapt like a gazelle. But then I remembered - I am 47 years old and have given birth to three large babies.

My innards are not where they used to be.

Thankfully, the jumping routine ended before my uterus broke loose, and we moved onto our final dance - Bollywood. At first, it seemed that Charro was merely putting us through a cruel endurance test when she demanded that we get into a deep plie squat while holding our arms out in a

sort of King Tut position. Just as my quads were about to snap, she began to twist and turn her torso back and forth, rising like a cobra from a basket.

I left the class feeling exhausted, sweaty, and humiliated. I realized that my northern European genes made it nearly impossible for me to perform the sexy writhing movements of

Zumba.

But interestingly, my stomach had performed its own wiggling dance all by itself, and at least I could be proud that it had kept perfect time to the beat.

Get more wit and observations from Lisa at her blog, The Meat and Potatoes of Life, www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com

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A CFC participant. Provided as a public service.



My service in Vietnam still serves my family today.

Roger Staubach, USAA member, veteran and former NFL quarterback

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HSM-40 Crew Takes On Each Other!



Sailors from HSM-40 pull hard against the opposing team during a tug-o-war competition at the command Sports Day on Sept. 27 at Sea Otter Pavillion.



Command Master Chief Stephen Roberts tries for a ringer during the horseshoes competition.

Left, Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Todd Heismann pitches it straight during the kickball competition held at the fields behind the base gym. HSM-40 held a command sports day on Sept. 27 to promote physical fitness and comraderie. Below left, teams gather on the fields for a morning of kickball. Below right, Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Jordan Shaver tries to avoid an out during kickball.



Above, Naval Aircrewman (Tactical Helicopter) 3rd Class Cody Johnson, middle, watches as Sailors from his command practice chipping the ball during one of several sports competitions held Sept. 27. Right, Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class Asha Hughes and Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman Caitlin Ventura enjoy the time spent with their command during HSM-40's Sports Day.



Aviation Electronics Technician Airman Apprentice Keith Hermiston lets a horseshoe fly during the horseshoes challenge at the HSM-40 command Sports Day on Sept. 27.



A Sailor goes for a spike during the volleyball competition held as part of HSM-40's command Sports Day on Sept. 27.



A Sailor goes in for a block during a basketball game at HSM-40's command Sports Day.



Teams wait to see where the ball will go during a volleyball competition.



Left and above, Sailors from HSM-40 enjoy playing cornhole during the command sports day.



Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Bridgette Wells waits for her turn during a game of cornhole.



Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Jamale Cross and Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class Kelvin Burke keep the grill going during the HSM-40 command Sports Day.



Above, Sailors from HSM-40 watch the games underway during the HSM-40 command Sports Day on Sept. 27. Right, Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate Luis Ruiz and Chief Naval Aircrewman (Tactical Helicopter) Michael Skinner serve up some food during the sports day.



Gettysburg Sees A New Era Of Chiefs

By Ensign Kiley Provenzano

USS Gettysburg Public Affairs

Guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg (CG 64) welcomed seven new chief petty officers to its ranks on Sept. 14.

Chief Gunner's Mate Jack Daniels

Chief Gunner's Mate Jose Vasquez

Chief Machinery Repairman Brandon Woodard

Chief Fire Controlman Mark Tynes

Chief Machinist's Mate Robert Woodward

Chief Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanic) Deandray Singleton

Chief Electrician's Mate Gerard Denne

The chiefs received their anchors during a ceremony held on board Gettysburg while the ship was conducting operations with the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group (HST CSG) in the Arabian Gulf.

"It is both the greatest honor I've ever received and the most daunting task I've ever faced to be selected for chief petty officer," said Denne. "Every advancement I've ever had has been in this region. It was the perfect setting."

The pinning ceremony followed a transitional



Chief Machinist's Mate Robert Woodward has his anchors pinned on during the chief pinning ceremony aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg (CG 64). Gettysburg is deployed as a part of the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

-Photo by MC2 Donald R. White Jr.

period to becoming a chief known as CPO 365.

The CPO 365 program allows the chief's Mess to mentor first class petty

officers as they transition from their role as junior enlisted Sailors, to mentors and senior enlisted leaders.

This program prepares chiefs to guide junior petty officers, providing knowledge from years of experience, and instilling

values through deck plate leadership.

Gettysburg is currently deployed with Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike

Group supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation in the U. S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility

Reaching Out For Enlisted Rating Subject Matter Experts

By Katrina Gergely

Naval Education and Training Professional Development Technology Center Public Affairs

The latest Advancement Examination Readiness Review (AERR) schedule and volunteer request was announced in Naval Administrative Message (NAVADMIN) 238/13.

Navy chiefs (E7 to E9) on active duty, Full Time Support (FTS), and Reservists on Active Duty for Special Work (ADSW) who are interested and motivated to participate in the process that helps identify the most qualified advancement candidates are encouraged to apply.

"I can think of no better way for a chief petty officer to positively impact his or her entire rating then by participating in an Advancement Exam Rating Review," said Naval Education and Training Professional Development Technology Center (NETPDTC) Command Master Chief Cryptologic Technician (Collections) Eddy Mejias. "Seasoned chiefs who have served on various platforms, have a variety of NECs, and are at the top of their game as technical experts are exactly who we want to develop advancement exams. These subject matter experts provide us with the knowledge and experience to produce accurate and valid exams for each rate."

Chiefs who are selected as Fleet Subject Matter Experts (FSME) for the AERR panels are responsible for determining the content of E4 through E7 rating advancement exams. Chiefs with experience in multiple platforms or recent experience on a major rating skill-set are highly desirable. There are seven eligibility requirements

listed in the nomination package and detailed in the NAVADMIN. Potential applicants should contact NETPDTC for additional information.

The application to volunteer as a FSME must be endorsed by the member's commanding officer or officer in charge, as well as their command master chief, senior chief or chief of the boat prior to submission to NETPDTC. The Navy Advancement Center (NAC) AERR fleet liaison, Peter Pappas, coordinates with learning center rating managers, detailers and Type Commander (TYCOM) representatives to select the best nominees.

"The FSME selection determination is based on having a well-rounded panel with the extensive rating knowledge and experience that corresponds with what the rating is tasked to accomplish out in the fleet," said Pappas. "NETPDTC continues to seek experienced applicants to enable seating panels for every AERR with all of the rating-critical skills included. The FMSE selection process is vital to the development of valid and reliable enlisted examinations."

The exam reviews are held at Saufley Field in Pensacola, Fla. and FSME travel is funded by NETPDTC. The reviews run one or two weeks in length with each rating being reviewed about every two years. Updates to the AERR schedule are published quarterly.

For application forms and additional requirements, visit <https://www.nko.navy.mil/portal/careermanagement/navyadvancementcenter>.

USS Halyburton (FFG 40) CPO Pinning



Chief Logistics Specialist (SW) Leketa Gaines and Chief Hull Technician (SW) Kyle Heck of USS Halyburton join the CPO mess during a Chief Pinning ceremony Sept. 13.

-Photo by OS2(SW) Quintrel Brown

NKO Technology Gets Refresh

From Sea Warrior Program (PEO EIS PMW 240) Public Affairs

The NKO Technology Refresh (NKO-TR) was deployed Sept. 18. Most of NKO's users will see only minor changes to the portal's look and feel since the technology refresh replaces the underlying technology.

"NKO was launched in 2001 to support Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) Training Centers and Schoolhouses, and the last portal software upgrade was in 2004," said Bill Johnson, NKO Project Director. "The NKO tech refresh is a major step in delivering the capabilities needed for today's dynamic Navy training environment."

The new portal technology improves navigation and search, and provides a cleaner-looking, more intuitive interface.

A new global navigation

bar provides quick-access links and dropdown menus to more easily find relevant content.

System alerts now appear on both the NKO login page and home page. Users are notified in advance of scheduled system outages and receive other important information that may affect NKO access.

In addition, replacing NKO's older infrastructure with modern technology will reduce operating costs and position NKO for future Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (MPTE) portal integration efforts.

"While many of the tech refresh changes won't be apparent to NKO users,

the portal administrators - which number about 5,000 - will appreciate the expanded configuration options and flexibility," said Johnson.

Tutorials and training materials for NKO administrators are available at: <https://www.nko.navy.mil/portal/aboutnko/home/nko-tr>.

NKO currently has 756 active communities of practice (COPs) and 26,178 active knowledge centers. The NKO-TR project is a collabora-

tive effort with the Navy Education and Training Command (NETC), the Sea Warrior Program (PMW 240), and OPNAV N156.

In accordance with information assurance policy, a Common Access Card (CAC) is required to use NKO. For help, please contact the NAVY 311 at:

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Chiefs Take Pride In ATG Mayport Heritage



-Photos courtesy of ATG Mayport Newly pinned Chiefs, Chief Operations Specialist (SW) Tavares D. Ricks and Chief Gunner's Mate (SW/AW) Amy L. Hamilton researched ATG Mayport's heritage during the CPO 365 Phase II.

By Lt. Samuel Lopez, Jr.
ATG Mayport

Another induction season has ended and the Navy has pinned its newest Chief Petty Officers. While the induction season marks a time of new beginnings, it is also the chance to reflect on the rich heritage around us.

ATG Mayport's newest Chief Petty Officers, Chief Operations Specialist (SW) Tavares D. Ricks and Chief Gunner's Mate (SW/AW) Amy L. Hamilton were tasked to research the command's history during induction.

What they found was a great war story and the Navy continuing to honor its Sailors and Officers.

The story is one about battle, sunken boats and rare events. The new chiefs said that they were amazed to have been unknowingly working and living around such an interesting part of their heritage.

"As a Chief Petty Officer, you are charged with keeping the naval heritage and traditions alive," Ricks said. "Learning that naval heritage comes from knowing your command history."

"It does not matter if you are on a ship or at a shore command; there is still some type of naval history in the namesake of the building," he added. "You can find naval heritage in the pictures on the wall or the bell located in our auditorium. When you learn the meaning of the inscription or research the history of the name, you feel a sense of pride for what that person has accomplished. You get a sense of pride from the building that you are working in."

It was 1943 in the Mid-Atlantic and one of the U.S. Navy's finest Destroyers was alongside refueling when the report came up to the Bridge.

"SONAR contact, 1,100 yards!"

Without pause, the Captain and his Crew sprang into action.

"Officer of the Deck - Emergency Breakaway, Set General Quarters!"

"Aye aye, Captain!"

"Boats, pass the word for Emergency Breakaway and sound the alarm for General Quarters!"

"Aye aye, sir."

"Sonar, Captain, where away?"

"1,100 yards off the starboard bow and closing, sir!"

The orders came quick



Lt. Thomas H. Byrd captained USS George E. Badger when it was attacked by a WWII submarine off the Jacksonville coast.

and sharp. The response from the crew was even quicker and sharper. And before most could even comprehend what had just happened, the ship was buttoned up and making its first attack run on the contact. Depth charges fired off the fantail of the ship with precision and lethality.

Ah, but the foe was not going to just roll over and take it. And, the first pass didn't get her. The second pass missed and the Sailors knew they were in the fight of their lives. The third pass missed, too. But, before anyone could start thinking they might be in trouble, the U.S. Navy captain changed his tactic, and made a fourth pass.

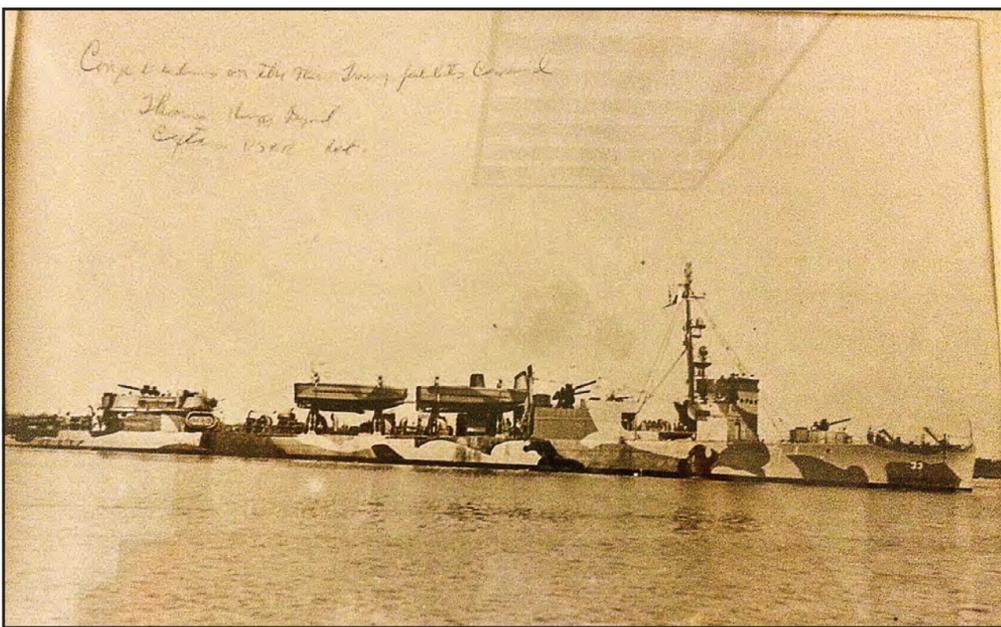
Oil, clothes, mattresses, dead bodies, and other flotsam all littered to the surface. The crew was ecstatic!

What they didn't know, and what we would find out years later, was that the SONAR contact was a German U-boat, U613 to be exact. It had specific orders to proceed to Jacksonville and foul the entrance of the harbor to the 25-meter line.

The captain of the U.S. Navy Destroyer, a Lt. Thomas H. Byrd, would go on to retire from the Navy as a full-bird Captain and be one of the few people in our history to have a Navy building dedicated in his honor while still alive. He attended the dedication of the building that is now the northernmost portion of ATG Mayport's present-day complex.

The ship he commanded was the World War I-era destroyer, USS George E. Badger. Her bell graces the ATG auditorium and is used in the ceremonies held there.

Now, some of you may be asking, "Why tell this story? What does it have to do with the Navy of



Above, USS George E. Badger successfully defended Jacksonville's coast after it was targeted in 1943 by a WWII German U-boat. Because of the ship's effort, the captain was honored with the renaming of ATG Mayport building in his honor. Right, the ship's bell from USS George E. Badger is used in ceremonies at ATG Mayport.

today?"

Well, those are terrific questions. But, before the answer is revealed, it's quiz time!

So, the first question. Remember when the ship was alongside the oiler and they called away "Emergency Breakaway" and "General Quarters"? Here's the question: Amidst all the confusion that had to ensue, who do you think made sure the Sailors on the Main Deck organized themselves, acted with precision and safely detached all the UNREP gear? **The Chief.**

Okay, that was too easy. So, you get a second question. All that equipment and all those weapons on George E. Badger were put through its paces in just a few quick minutes - engines at full speed, SONAR banging away, rudders causing the ship to heel over, depth charges being set and fired, damage control lockers being manned.

But, you're only as good as you train and you're equipment will only work if it's maintained.

So, here's the question: Who made sure those Sailors knew their jobs and maintained their equipment and weapons day in and day out and who ensured they had the confidence, amidst all the chaos, to use it correctly and lethally? **The Chief.**

So they missed on the first run, and the second run, and the third run.

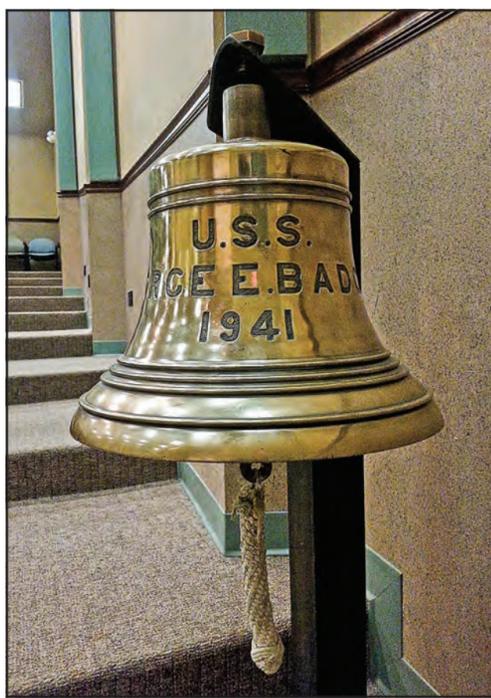
You know by the fourth run, there were some young 'uns who hazarded a glance from behind their flash gear, looking around with the beginnings of doubt.

Here's your last question: Who do you all think they saw that restored their confidence and kept them focused on the task at hand, who reassured those young Sailors from all walks of life that they were going to win? **The Chief.**

That's right! The Chief. And, that is how this story from our past is relevant today. The pride of the ATG Mayport's two Selectees was evident, as was the pride of the "Genuines" who spent the last few weeks preparing them for their new mission. Their new mission is to develop their leadership and management skills, skills necessary to accomplish the Navy's mission through the Sailors for whom they will be responsible. And, what better place to participate in the great tradition of induction, the pinning ceremony and kicking off their first day as a Chief than here, at ATG Mayport.

A place, as it turns out, that has a rich heritage, storied and steeped in the valiant achievements of unnamed Chiefs and Sailors who answered the call.

We often hear and



some of us may have said. "They don't make Chiefs like they used to."

That statement is disingenuous! The Genuines made these Selectees into Chiefs, and will continue to shape them, just as the Genuines before made the Chief of today. That chain of Chiefs goes all the way back, even before the Chiefs in George E. Badger were brought together as a Mess.

"I am so grateful for those who have lead me to be successful to include my family, leadership, subordinates, and even my peers," Hamilton.

"At first, I was overwhelmed with how much I must learn in such a short amount of time, especially knowing that every day as a Chief, there will always be more to learn," she continued. "But I humbly accepted

this challenge. My time as a 'Select' will never be forgotten, but I look forward to the trials, tribulations, and duty that come with being 'The Chief.'"

"During the process I have learned the importance of heritage and history. Learning about Afloat Training Group Mayport was not only interesting, but it is important to know where this command came from. This command has grown into such a valuable asset."

Hamilton added. "The special emphasis placed on training ships' training teams, special evolution teams and watch teams to institutionalize the onboard capability to sustain and improve combat readiness throughout an employment cycle. This task was an honor to complete and to share with fellow Sailors."

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Sailors assigned to the guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg (CG 64) steer a rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) toward a stranded fishing dhow after its crew signaled the ship for help.



-Photos by MC2 Donald R. White Jr.

Sailors aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg (CG 64) lower a rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) after the crew of a stranded fishing dhow signaled the ship for help. Gettysburg is deployed as part of the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

Gettysburg

From Page 1

dhow's security and welfare until that aid arrived.

Rear Adm. Kevin Sweeney, commander, Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group, said the assistance provided by Gettysburg was a good example of how professional mariners help each other in time of need.

"This is what we do as professional mariners," said Sweeney. "When someone at sea needs help, we help them. The

assistance provided by Gettysburg and her crew will help ensure those fishermen are safe until the local authorities arrive."

Gettysburg is currently deployed with the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

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Fire

From Page 1

the door closed. Never open the door until the fire is completely out. If in doubt, get out of the home and call the fire department

•Always keep an oven mitt and a lid nearby. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan (make sure you are wearing the oven mitt). Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, do not remove the lid until it is completely cool. Never pour water on a grease fire. If the fire does not go out, get out of the home and call the fire department.

•If an oven fire starts, turn off the heat and keep the door closed. If the fire does not go out, get out of the home and call the fire department.

Several activities have been scheduled for Fire Prevention Week, including a kick off on Oct. 7 at 9:30 a.m. at the off-base Child Development Center Building 2287 and 10:45 a.m. at Building 1960 with Sparky Pumper and Engine Company making special appearances at both CDCs.

There will be fire drills conducted on base throughout the week and live fire extinguisher training at Building 365 on Oct. 12 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

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Fishing On The Jetties



—Photo by Paige Gnann
Fishermen line the rocks along the Jetties at the mouth of the St. Johns River, across from Naval Station Mayport's RV park, Pelican Roost. The spot is popular with fishermen looking for some fresh catch on the weekends. In the background, ships line the piers of Mayport's basin.

Naming Ceremony Held For 3 DDGs

By MC2
Tim D. Godbee

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West

A naming ceremony was held at Naval Base San Diego for the Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyers USS John Finn (DDG 113), USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114) and USS Rafael Peralta (DDG 115) Sept. 20.

Friends and family attended the ceremony and Lt. Gen. John A Toolan Jr., Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general, gave the keynote address.

Toolan expressed that the three men for which the ships are

named, were like anchors within their units and set a high standard for heroism within the services.

"These three men are examples of the service, sacrifice, dedication and the heroism it took to be that anchor from World War II to Vietnam to Iraq," said Toolan. "We're here today to name these destroyers in their honor. These destroyers will be able to conduct a variety of operations, from peace time presence and crisis management, to sea control and power projection."

Georgeann McRaven, sponsor of the USS Ralph Johnson, said

she's looking forward to working with and supporting the ship and it's crew as it transforms from raw metal to a war-fighting vessel.

"I will become part of the ship. I'll be kind of like a den mother to the crew," said McRaven. "It will be wonderful when the ship has a crew and will be able to go out to see for the first time. I look forward to it."

Lt. John Finn was the first Medal of Honor recipient of World War II. He was honored for defending his ship from Japanese aircraft for over two hours during the attack on Pearl Harbor despite being shot twice and hav-

ing numerous shrapnel wounds. He died at the age of 100 in 2010.

Pfc. Ralph Johnson was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in March 1968 after jumping on a hand grenade that was thrown into his fighting hole to save the life of a fellow Marine and to prevent the enemy from penetrating his patrol perimeter.

Sgt. Rafael Peralta was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross after taking critical gunshot wounds and later grabbing live grenade and covering it with his body to save his fellow Marines during a firefight in Fallujah, Iraq, Nov. 2004.

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Oct. Special: 10% off open stall fees and 4-wheel brake job, turn rotors, tire rotation and balance \$225 (most vehicles). 270-5392

Tire Special: Buy four tires and receive free rotation on those tires for life (must show receipt to receive rotation). 270-5392

Beachside Bingo
Wednesdays: **Lunchtime Bingo.** Every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at Beachside Bingo. Two \$500 payouts every week. Buy two, get one free. Still only \$13.00 per pack. 270-7204

Castaway's Lounge
Every Weekday: **Castaway's After Work, At Ease:** Stop into Castaway's every Monday-Friday from 4-6 p.m. for our great nightly specials! Enjoy Margarita Monday, Tuesday's Pint

Glass Night, Around-the-World Wednesday, BOGO Thursday and Five Dollar Friday! Plus, Last Buck Bottles on the 14th and last day of every month! 270-7205

Every Thursday: **Trivia on Tap. 6 p.m.** at Castaway's. Test your general trivia knowledge! the winning team of four takes home awesome prizes! 270-7205

Oct. 16: Game Night. 7:30 p.m. at Castaway's Lounge Enjoy a night of your favorite games: Life-Sized Jenga, Twister & more. 270-7205

Oct. 18: UFC 166-Velasquez vs.

Dos Santos. 10 p.m. at Castaway's Lounge. 270-7205

Oct. 25: Liberty Halloween Party. 8 p.m. at Beachside Community Center. Be prepared to be scared to death. DJ, food, costume contest, prizes, games and more. 270-7205

Community Events

Oct. 26: Make a Difference Day. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. True Blue Navy Family Benefactors has partnered with First Coast News to assist in Naval Station Mayport's Lake Wonderwood Project. We are inviting volunteers from the Naval Station Mayport Community to assist in this event focusing on helping our base community. We will follow this event with our annual Fall Fest. 270-5228

Oct. 26: Fall Fest 2013. 1-5 p.m. at Sea Otter Pavilion. Free activities

include a haunted house, games, rides, bounce houses, take your own pictures in the pumpkin patch and more. Food and beverages will be available. A variety of vendors will be on-hand selling arts and crafts, baked goodies, and more. Purchase your seasonal pumpkin from the pumpkin patch. 270-5228

Foc'sle Lounge CPO Club

Every Tuesday: All Khaki Wings and Trivia Night. 3-7 p.m. every Tuesday at Foc'sle CPO Club with 40-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). 270-5431

Chicken Wednesdays. Every Wednesday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Foc'sle Lounge. Enjoy a two-

piece fried chicken plate with two sides for only \$7.00. 270-5431

ITT

Monster Jam Tickets Now On Sale. Tickets are now on sale for Monster Jam on Feb. 22, 2014 at Everbank Stadium. 200s section is \$22 and 100s is \$42. 270-5145

Halloween Horror Nights Now On Sale. Tickets are now available for Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios Orlando select nights from Sept. 20- Oct. 31. Prices range from \$44.25-\$74.25. 270-5145

Jacksonville Zoo Halloween Spooktacular Tickets on Sale. Dates available Oct. 18-20 and Oct. 25-31. Tickets are \$9.00, ages 3 and up (under 3 are free) 270-5145



Child and Youth Programs

Oct. 4: Freedom Friday- Freaky Creepy Friday Movie Night. 7-11 p.m. at the Youth Center. Cost is \$8 advanced sign-up and \$10 day of, space permitting. 270-5680

Oct. 18: Freedom Friday- Spooktacular Costume Dance Party. 7-11 p.m. at the Youth Center. Cost is \$8 advanced sign-up and \$10 day of.

Oct. 19: Teen Trip- Ice Skating at Jacksonville Ice and Sports Complex. Departs 6 p.m.; returns no later than 11 p.m. Cost \$15.

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.

Oct. 4: Movie Trip. Van Departs 5:15 p.m. at Liberty Center. Transportation only; sign up by Oct. 2.

Oct. 6: Paintball. Van Departs 7:30 a.m. at



Liberty Center. Cost \$15; includes transportation, field fees and gear. Sign

up by Oct. 2.

Oct. 7: Billiards Tournament. 6 p.m. at

Liberty Center.

Oct. 11: Halloween Horror Nights at Universal. Van Departs 10 a.m. at Liberty Center. Cost \$40.00. Sign up by Oct. 8.

Oct. 14: Ping Pong Tournament. 6 p.m. at Liberty Center.

Oct. 15: Liberty Programmer Meeting. 4 p.m. at the Liberty Center. This is a chance to tell the programmer what you want on YOUR Liberty Calendar. Free Food! Stop

by and bring your ideas!

Oct. 16: Help Feed the Homeless. Van departs 3:15 p.m. Sign up deadline Oct. 7.

Oct. 18: Mall Trip: Town Center. Van departs Liberty Center at 5 p.m.; transportation only.

Oct. 20: Jacksonville Jaguars vs. San Diego Chargers. Van Departs 11 a.m. at Liberty Center. Cost \$15. Sign up by Oct. 14.

Oct. 23: Chess Tournament. 6 p.m. at

Liberty Center.

Oct. 27: Jacksonville Jaguars vs. San Francisco 49ers. Van Departs 11 a.m. at Liberty Center. Cost \$15; Sign up by Oct. 21.

Oct. 29: Ping Pong Tournament. 6 p.m. at Liberty Center.

Oct. 30: Call of Duty Black Ops Tournament. 6 p.m. at Liberty Center.



Knock Out Domestic Violence
 5K Run/3K Walk
 Tuesday, October 8
 8:10 am in front of the Temporary Gym

For more information, please call (904) 270-5452



Intramural Sports
 Please contact Rita Hammerstad at rita.hammerstad@navy.mil for more information

Oct. 8: Knock Out Domestic Violence 3K Walk/5K Run. 8:10 a.m. in front of the gym.

Oct. 8: Men's Basketball Meeting. 11 a.m. at the Fitness Center.

Oct. 18: Surf Contest. 10 a.m. at Sea Otter Pavilion. Sign up by Oct. 9.

Oct. 21-24: Pre-Season Basketball Tournament. Sign up by Oct. 14.

Oct. 28: Men's Basketball Season Begins. Season ends Feb. 13.

Mayport Bowling Center

Friday Nights: Xtreme Bowling. 8-11 p.m. every Friday at Mayport Bowling Center. \$10 include 2 hours of black light bowling, shoe rental, prizes and dazzling

laser light show. 270-5377
Saturday Nights: Xtreme Bowling. 8-11 p.m. every Saturday at Mayport Bowling Center. \$10 include 2 hours of black light bowling, shoe rental, prizes and dazzling laser light show. 270-5377

Sunday Nights: Bowling Family Fun Night. 4-7 p.m. at Mayport Bowling Center. Cost is \$10 per person and includes your choice of a ¼ lb hamburger or a hot-dog with fries and a soda, All-You-Can Bowl with shoes, music videos, light show and colored head-pin bowling for prizes. 270-5377

Oct. 27: Halloween Family Fun Night. 4-7 p.m. at Mayport Bowling Center. Enjoy a night of ghoulish fun which includes Xtreme Bowling, shoe rental, goodie bags, costume contest (4 age brackets) and more. \$10.00 for adults, \$7.00

for children 12 and under. Advanced tickets and reservations required. Call (904) 270-5377 for tickets.

Windy Harbor Golf Club

Wednesdays: Military Appreciation Day every Wednesday at Windy Harbor Golf Club. 18 Holes and a Cart Only \$15. Offer open to DOD, active duty, retired, and military dependents

Surfside Fitness class schedule

Monday 11:30 a.m., Kickboxing

Tuesday 9:30 a.m., Yoga 11:30 a.m., Zumba

Wednesday 11:30 a.m., Strength Training For Women

Thursday 9:30 a.m., Strength Fundamentals

11:30 a.m., Zumba

Friday 9:30 a.m., Zumba Basics 11:30 a.m., Strength Training For Women

Mayport Sandbox

The Mayport Sandbox is a high intensity (H.I.T.) outdoor workout area located oceanfront behind Surfside Fitness Center. The area includes a Pull -up Bar and Ring rig, Kettlebells, Sleds, Tires, TRX Suspension Frame, Slam Balls, Ropes, Ab Mats, Sledge Hammers, Farmers Walk, Olympic Lift area and equipment, Monkey Bars, Low Crawl, Sprint and Drag area. H.I.T. training involves functional programming that will take your workout to the next level.

Monday 7-8:30 a.m., Open Sandbox

7:30 a.m., Command Bootcamp

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Open Sandbox

Tuesday 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Open Sandbox

Wednesday

7-8:30 a.m., Open Sandbox

7 a.m., NOFFS

9:30 a.m., TRX Suspension Training

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Open Sandbox

Thursday 7 a.m., Sunrise Yoga

7-8:30 a.m. Open Sandbox

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Open Sandbox

Friday 7-8:30 a.m., Open Sandbox

7 a.m., Command Bootcamp.

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Open Sandbox

Saturday 9:30-11:30 a.m. Open Sandbox

Gymnasium class schedule

Monday 11:30 a.m., Spinning

5:45 p.m., Kids Clinic

Tuesday 11:30 a.m., Steel Anchor

4:30 p.m., Spinning

Wednesday 7 a.m., Rowing

11:30 a.m., Rowing

11:30 a.m., Spinning

Thursday 5:30 p.m., Steel Anchor

Friday 7:30 a.m., Spinning

11:30 a.m., Rowing

CG Takes Softball Playoffs Championship



-Photo courtesy of MWR

The softball season has come to an end with the Coast Guard coming out on top in the Playoffs. The teams hard hitting and exceptional fielding stopped the Airwolves in their tracks with a 10-4 victory in the finals. The Coast Guard took 2nd in the league with a 14-2 record behind the Phil Sea's Champion league 8-0 record before heading to sea.

NEX Mayport Sponsors 1st Chili Cookoff

From NEX

The NEX is inviting all Mayport commands to compete in the 1st annual Last Command Standing Chili Cookoff to be held in front of the Main Exchange on Oct 25.

This event is opened to all departments and tenant com-

mands based at Mayport. This also includes Family Readiness Groups. More than one department from the same command can enter.

In addition to competing for the best chili on base, each department or group may use this opportunity to raise funds

by selling their chili to customers from 11 a.m. -3 p.m. Each group will determine what price they want to sell their chili for. Side dishes and drinks may also be sold but will not be part of the judging.

Judging will begin at noon but you may setup as early as you

like. A panel of 5 judges will select the three best tasting chili entries. The NEX will award 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes to the winners.

Each group that enters the contest will receive a certificate from the NEX that they can use at a later date for up to 5

percent off their total purchase for their Christmas party or other function (discount not to exceed \$250. Some exclusions do apply).

To enter, contact Pam Haley at pamela.haley@nexweb.org prior to Oct 11.

NEX Gives Back This Navy Blue Holiday Season

From NEXCOM

The NEX has made some exciting changes to our second Navy Blue Holiday celebration. The Navy Blue Holiday is a time to celebrate the NEX's unique connection to the Navy and Navy families, emphasize Navy values and to give back to deserving NEX customers.

"This year, our Navy Blue Holiday is going to be even bigger and better," said Rear Adm. Robert J. Bianchi (Ret),

Chief Executive Officer, Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM). "We are very excited to bring our customers more savings, quality and value, and most importantly, say thank you for being a loyal customer of your NEX."

The Navy Blue Holiday season will kick off this year on the Navy's 238th birthday on Oct. 13. The kick off includes one of the largest single customer giveaways ever! NEXCOM has partnered

with its vendor community to give away 1,000 NEX \$100 gift cards. Customers can enter for the drawing beginning October 9 at their local NEX or online at www.myNavyExchange.com.

"We are excited to be able to give away \$100,000 in NEX gift cards to our customers," said Bianchi. "I know there are many other shopping options available. We are thrilled to be able to thank our customers for their support throughout the years. It is our honor to give

back, because our mission is our customers."

One thing that hasn't changed is that customers will continue to find a great selection of items in all price ranges including prestige brands, national mass brands and private brands at excellent savings, plus no sales tax on NEX purchases. Throughout the holiday season, the NEX will offer even more savings and promotions so customers can save even more.

In addition, based on the success of last year's

afloat Navy Blue Holiday sale, NEXCOM will once again be offering special pricing on the most popular gifts through its web store to Sailors and Marines at sea prior to Thanksgiving. From Nov. 24 - 27, afloat personnel will be able to take advantage of a sale designed just for them.

"Once again, we tailored the items for sale to be ones that would appeal most to Sailors and Marines at sea," said Bianchi. "They will find electronics, video games, outerwear and holiday gifts that can be sent home to loved ones."

Afloat Sailors and Marines can also sign up to win one of the \$100 NEX gift cards that are being given away.

The Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) oversees 100 Navy Exchange (NEX) facilities and nearly 300 stores worldwide, 40 Navy Lodges,

Ships Stores Program, the Uniform Program Management Office, the Navy Clothing Textile and Research Facility and the Telecommunications Program Office. NEXCOM's parent command is the Naval Supply Systems Command. NEXCOM's mission is to provide authorized customers quality goods and services at a savings and to support quality of life programs for active duty military, retirees, reservists and their families. NEXs and Navy Lodges operate primarily as a non-appropriated fund (NAF) business instrumentality. NEX revenues generated are used to support Navy Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) programs. In FY12, \$2.8 billion in sales were generated with \$45.9 million in dividends provided to Navy MWR programs.

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- One dress per person!

OCTOBER 5th
BUILDING ONE
1pm- 3pm

To donate dresses or accessories, give them to your command ombudsman or drop them off at building one.
A donation is NOT required to receive a dress!
*Please clean your donated dress before handing it in!

CONTACT YOUR COMMAND OMBUDSMAN FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Naval Station Mayport

238th Navy Birthday Ball

Friday, October 18

Ocean Breeze Conference and Catering Center

Cocktails 1800 Dinner 1900

E1-E4.....	\$26
E5-E6.....	\$31
E7- O3/ GS5-GS11.....	\$51
O4 and Above (GS12/non-sofa).....	\$56

Dress: Uniform Service Dress (military) or Formal (civilian)

Tickets on Sale at the Mayport ITT Office

For more information please call ABHC Robert Hawkins at (904) 270-6104 or robert.e.hawkins@navy.mil

Nail Services At NEX

From NEX

Nail care services are now available at the Navy Exchange Salon, located at the Navy Exchange Main Store on Mayport Road. Manicures, pedi-

cures, acrylic and gel nails, and long-lasting OPI gel polish are available. Call the Salon at 242-3249 for an appointment and pamper yourself.

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SWOS Graduates Navy's Newest Department Heads

Prospective Ops Officer For USS Taylor Earns Top Gunner

From Surface Warfare Officers School Command Public Affairs

Department Head Class 223 of the Surface Warfare Officers School (SWOS) graduated Sept. 19 in the school's Admiral Michael G. Mullen Auditorium.

The class of 49 Surface Warfare officers, completed the 27-week course designed to prepare officers for duty as chief engineers, combat systems and weapons officers, operations officers on all classes of ships, and as first lieutenants on amphibious ships.

The course is divided into two major subdivisions: the Tactical Action Officer (TAO) curriculum focuses on areas such as undersea warfare, air defense, and surface warfare; and Operations, Readiness, Training, and Engineering (ORTE), which explores the specifics of each student's pro-

spective job assignments.

"The duties and responsibilities of the shipboard department head are significant and reflect a great degree of authority," said Capt. Richard A. Brown, SWOS commanding officer. "The length of the course is indicative of the investment the Navy has made in the future readiness of the students and in their importance to the mission of the ship. A significant graduation ceremony is merited to acknowledge these facts and to note each officer's passage from student to ship's officer."

The guest of honor for the ceremony, Rear Adm. Michael Gilday, commander, Carrier Strike Group 8, shared his experience and some words of wisdom with the graduates.

"We are eager to get you back to where you belong,

which is at sea," said Gilday. "There's nothing like being positive. Think about how you will be that department head that your (division officers) want to be. What you're going to do isn't going to be easy. Go out there, confident in who you are and how well you've been trained."

Gilday also thanked the families of the students for their enormous contributions to the service and the SWOS staff for their superb training and mentoring.

Lt. J.R. Munoz, prospective operations officer for Mine Countermeasures rotational (MCM) Crew Constant, received the Arleigh Burke Award for the graduate recognized by classmates as the individual possessing the strongest leadership, industry and perseverance - best exemplifying

the fighting spirit of Adm. Burke's 'Little Beavers' of Destroyer Squadron 23.

"It's a great honor to be selected by my classmates, my shipmates, my peers, who have stayed with me during my time at SWOS," said Munoz. "I couldn't have done it without them. This course was definitely a challenge in many regards, both mentally and physically and psychologically. Overall, it was a great course and it's definitely going to help me perform my duties."

Munoz added that he is eager to get back to sea and "stand the watch" for which he's been trained.

Lt. Jason Holbrook, prospective weapons officer for USS San Jacinto (CG 56), received the City of Newport Award for demonstrating the highest qualities of professionalism and leadership,

as reflected by his overall contributions to Class 223.

Lt. Graig Diefenderfer, the prospective operations officer for USS Taylor (FFG 50), earned the Top Gunner award for having the highest overall grade point average for the TAO portion of the course.

Diefenderfer also received the Newport Navy League Award for academic excellence as the top graduate for department head class 223.

Lt. Ken Lusk, prospective chief engineer for USS Gonzalez (DDG 66), earned the Top Snipe award for having the highest overall grade point average for the engineering portion of the course.

The graduates will report to their next assignments aboard ships around the world in the

coming months.

After more than 50 years, the Department Head course remains the flagship course at SWOS. Approximately 275 students attend the course each year.

SWOS is headquartered in Newport, R.I. and oversees nine learning sites, which provide more than 1,000 courses a year to more than 67,000 Sailors.

SWOS uses a mix of blended-learning techniques comprised of instructor-led classes, hands-on labs, simulation and computer-based training. Courses include specialized training supporting all enlisted engineering ratings, and Surface Warfare Officers at every level. Building maritime partnerships, the command also provides training to many international students.

Mail Call



-Photo by MC3 Shane A. Jackson
An MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter delivers a pallet of mail on the flight deck of the guided-missile destroyer USS Bulkeley (DDG 84) during a vertical replenishment. Bulkeley is deployed as part of the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

October Officer Promotion Message Incomplete

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

The office of the chief of naval personnel (CNP) announced Sept. 27 that the October 2013 monthly officer promotion message will not include all officers who are authorized promotion on Oct. 1, 2013.

The following will not be reflected in the October promotion message:

- active line and staff O4
- active and reserve All Fully Qualified (AFQ) O3
- active and reserve W3,

W4 and W5

Final review of the above-mentioned O4s and O3s was not completed in time for inclusion of those officers in the message. Also, the board results for the active W3, W4, and W5 are still in the approval process and will be announced once the process is complete.

Once the respective vetting and approval processes are complete, a supplemental message announcing those officers authorized for promotion will be released by CNP with a retroactive promotion and pay date as appropriate.

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Information Warriors Work Together To Reach Career Milestone

From U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet public affairs

Six Sailors assigned to U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. Fourth Fleet earned their Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist designations Sept. 26 after studying together for as many as 3 ½ hours daily since August.

Chief Information Systems Technician (SW/AW) Torivio Hall led Information Systems Technician 1st Class (SW) Faith Elbert, Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Jolene Lovett, Cryptologic Technician Technical 1st Class (SW) Craig Pendergrass, Electronics Technician 2nd Class Harold Holloway II and Intelligence Specialist 2nd Class Hector Serrano in study sessions held over lunch and after work.

The group members set an ambitious schedule in hopes of earning their designations as quickly as possible, Hall said.

"I am proud of each and every one of them," he said.

Some group members were keeping up with college classes as well as regular duties and leadership responsibilities during the preparation period. They lost sleep – but gained a sense of commitment to one another.

"I absolutely love the group,"



-Photo by Lt. Cmdr. Mike Cody

Six Sailors assigned to U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet passed their Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist boards Sept. 26 after studying together during lunch periods and after work since August. They are, from left, Chief Information Systems Technician Torivio Hall, Electronics Technician 2nd Class Harold Holloway II, Intelligence Specialist 2nd Class Hector Serrano, Information Systems Technician 1st Class Faith Elbert, Cryptologic Technician Technical 1st Class Craig Pendergrass and Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Jolene Lovett.

said Elbert, who is among those enrolled in college. "Based on all the time we spent together, I would say we became a close family."

By relying on members from different ratings to explain or expand on the Navy person-

nel qualification standards, the group also became an efficient board-preparation machine.

The contributions of other group members gave Elbert a clearer understanding of what she was studying, which helped her feel more confident when

asked intelligence-related questions during her board, she said. Likewise, when Holloway fielded questions from the board, he thought back to examples that group members had provided and used those examples to provide solid infor-

mation, he said.

In passing their boards, the 4th Fleet study group members join the thousands of Sailors who earned the right to wear the Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist pin since it was created in 2010. By becoming experts in mission areas that are related to their traditional fields, but vastly different, they also make the Navy stronger, said Cmdr. Bradley Maas, the director of communications and information systems at 4th Fleet.

"The breadth of knowledge required to demonstrate mastery in information dominance is overwhelming at first glance," Maas said. "The studying and hard work they invested in their qualification will pay off for them, and the greater Navy as an organization, as we become ever more dependent on the effects of information dominance across all war-fighting disciplines."

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet employ maritime forces in cooperative maritime security operations to maintain access, enhance interoperability and build enduring partnerships that foster regional security in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility.

4th Fleet Reservist Accomplishes Lifelong Goal

By MC1 Sean Allen

4th Fleet Public Affairs

Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Owenbiugie Edoohonba will accomplish one of the goals he set for himself when his career in the Navy began when he is commissioned as a Supply Corps officer in the Navy Reserve next month.

Edoohonba, who was born in Nigeria and goes by Owen, recently graduated from Webster University in Jacksonville, earning a master's degree in business administration. After eight years as an enlisted Sailor, he was selected in January for a direct commission.

"I always wanted to be an officer, and I told myself from day one that I would not limit myself," he said. "I never took my eyes off of my goal."

Education was always a high priority in Edoohonba's family. His father was the head of the elementary school in his hometown of Benin City, in southwestern Nigeria. After finishing high school there, Edoohonba studied at the University of Benin,



-Photo by MC1 Sean Allen

As a member of the U.S. 4th Fleet reserve unit, Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Owenbiugie Edoohonba supported the command's Logistics Readiness Center by tracking supplies in the Fleet Logistics Center warehouse at Naval Station Mayport. Edoohonba is scheduled to be commissioned as a Supply Corps officer next month.

earning his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

After college, Edoohonba began working with Nigeria's National Electric Power Authority – but despite a promising start to his career, he wanted more out of life.

"I had family who had gone to the United States, and knew there would be more opportunities there, so I began to explore coming to here," he said.

Edoohonba obtained a Permanent Resident Card, also known as a green card, through

the State Department's Diversity Immigrant Visa program. The program, started in 1995, makes available 55,000 green cards annually to natives of countries with low rates of immigration to the U.S.

In July 2005, at 31, Edoohonba arrived in

Austin, Texas, where he had relatives, and began to explore his career options. The Navy gave him the opportunity to become a U.S. citizen, and through the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, Edoohonba could further his education.

Edoohonba enlisted in the Navy. After boot camp at Great Lakes, he attended aviation structural mechanic equipment "A" School at Naval Air Technical Training Center Pensacola, graduating at the top of his class and earning meritorious advancement. As AME3 Edoohonba, he reported to Strike Fighter Squadron 106 at Naval Air Station Oceana, Va.

He eventually transferred to Patrol Squadron 8 at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, where he completed his five-year active-duty term and transferred to the Navy Reserve. Edoohonba remained in Jacksonville, but changed ratings and became a logistics specialist, first drilling with Patrol Squadron 30's augmentation unit and then transferring to the U.S.

Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet reserve unit at Naval Station Mayport.

Cmdr. David Polatty, who led the 4th Fleet reserve unit until December 2012, said he was deeply honored to be Edoohonba's commanding officer.

"From the moment he checked onboard the unit, our entire leadership team knew that we had gained a true superstar," Polatty said. "His phenomenal attitude, heartfelt care for his fellow Sailors, tenacious work ethic, and love of our Navy and our nation were evident in everything he did."

Edoohonba said his family and his late father will be proud of his accomplishments.

"In Nigeria, family legacy is very important," he said. "My father impressed that upon me at an early age. I feel like earning my master's degree and becoming an officer in the Navy will make him, and my family, proud."

FFSC Gears Classes To Military, Families

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.

Oct. 3, 9 a.m.-noon, **Tottle Tyme 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.

Oct. 3, 10 a.m.-noon, **Active Parenting Ages 5-12**, FFSC Building 1, Room 607

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, and encouraging and listening to your child. Each week a different topic is thoroughly

covered via discussion, video vignettes, and handbook information. Participation in all 6 sessions is required.

Oct. 7, 1-3 p.m., **Relationship Communication**, FFSC Bldg. 1, Room 702

Oct. 7-11 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., **Transition GPS Separatee Workshop**, Bldg. 1, Room 1616

Oct. 9, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., **Military Family Employment Orientation**, FFSC Bldg. 1, Room 719

Oct. 9, 1:30-3 p.m., **Military Family Employment Resume Writing**, FFSC Bldg. 1, Room 719

Oct. 9, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., **Stress Management**, Wellness Center

Oct. 9, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., **Developing Your Spending Plan**, Bldg. 1, Room 719

Oct. 10, 9 a.m.-noon, **Tottle Tyme Playgroup**, USO

Oct. 10, 10 a.m.-noon, **Active Parenting Ages 5-12**, FFSC Building 1, Room 607

Oct. 15, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., **Command Liaison**, FFSC Bldg. 1, Room 719

Oct. 16, 8 a.m.-noon, **Point of Contact Training**, FFSC Bldg. 1, Room 719

Oct. 16, 1-3 p.m., **Data Collection Coordinator**, FFSC Bldg. 1, Room 719

Oct. 16, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., **Military Family Employment Orientation**, FFSC Bldg. 1, Room 719

Oct. 16, 1:30-3 p.m., **Military Family Employment Resume Writing**, FFSC Bldg. 1, Room 719

Oct. 17, 9 a.m.-noon, **Tottle Tyme Playgroup**, USO

Oct. 21, 8:30 a.m.-4

p.m., **Ombudsman Basic Training**, FFSC Bldg. 1, Room 607

Oct. 21-25, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., **Transition GPS Separatee Workshop**, Bldg. 1, Room 1616

Oct. 22, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., **Ombudsman Basic Training**, FFSC Bldg. 1, Room 607

Oct. 22, 10 a.m.-noon, **What About The Kids?**, FFSC Building 1, Room 702

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

Oct. 23, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., **Ombudsman Basic Training**, FFSC Bldg. 1, Room 607

Oct. 23, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., **Military Family Employment Orientation**, FFSC Bldg. 1, Room 719

TRICARE Prime Service Area Reduces

From a TRICARE Management Activity News Release

The Defense Department reduced the number of TRICARE Prime service areas in the United States beginning Oct. 1, affecting about 171,000 retirees and their family members.

Those beneficiaries, who mostly reside more than 40 miles from a military clinic or hospital, received a letter earlier this year explaining their options. They will receive a second letter later this month.

TRICARE Management Activity officials said changing the location of Prime service areas has been planned since 2007 as part of the move to the third-generation of managed care support contracts and will allow them to continue their commitment to making high-

quality health care available while supporting DOD efforts to control the rising cost of health care for 9.6 million beneficiaries.

Health care under TRICARE Prime costs about \$600 more annually per enrollee, but on average, each member of a family of three using TRICARE Standard will pay only about \$20 more per month than if they were using Prime.

"The first thing TRICARE beneficiaries should know about the reduction in the number of Prime service areas is that it doesn't mean they're losing their TRICARE benefit," said Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "Next, it's important to remember this change does not affect most of the more

than 5 million people using TRICARE Prime, and [it affects] none of our active duty members and their families."

All affected beneficiaries will receive a letter this month following up on their initial notification to ensure they have the time and information to make important decisions about their future health care options, officials said.

Current details on Prime service areas and the option for beneficiaries to sign for email updates are available at <http://www.tricare.mil/PSA>. A ZIP code tool is available on the site to help beneficiaries determine if they live in an affected area.

As always, officials noted, TRICARE beneficiaries still are covered by TRICARE Standard. For those living within 100

miles of a remaining Prime service area, re-enrolling in Prime may be an option, depending on availability. To do this, beneficiaries must waive their drive-time standards, and they may have to travel long distances for primary and specialty care.

"I urge all impacted beneficiaries to carefully consider their health care options - they should talk them over with family members and their current health care provider," Woodson said. "Many beneficiaries may be able to continue with their current provider using the Standard benefit. Being close to your health care team usually offers the best and safest access to care."

Those enrolled in TRICARE Prime are assigned a primary care provider who manages

their health care. Retirees pay an annual enrollment fee and have low out-of-pocket costs under this plan. TRICARE Standard is an open-choice option with no monthly premiums and no need for referrals, but it has cost shares and an annual deductible.

The Prime service areas being eliminated are not close to existing military treatment facilities or base realignment and closure sites, officials said. Prolonged protests resulted in a staggered transition, they added, and all Prime service areas were retained until all three new regional contracts were in place. The West region completed the transition April 1.

Same-Sex Spouses of Military Retirees Now Eligible For Survivor Benefits Program

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Same-sex spouses of military members and retirees will now be eligible for Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage according to an Assistant Secretary of Defense memorandum.

SBP coverage is a benefit extended to same-sex couples after the June 26 Supreme Court ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act in addition to medical, dental, and with-dependent Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) benefits.

NAVADMIN 218/13 was released Aug. 29 to provide Navy guidance on the Department of Defense memo dated Aug. 13 that announced the plan to extend benefits to same-sex spouses of uniformed service members and Department of Defense civilian employees.

Effective from June 26, a service member who becomes eligible to participate in the SBP under 10 U.S.C. 1448(a)(1) and is married to a same-sex spouse shall have the SBP

Same-Sex Spouse Benefits Available

From American Forces Press Service

The Department of Defense has extended benefits to same-sex spouses of uniformed service members and Department of Defense civilian employees, according to a DOD news release.

After a review of the department's benefit policies following the Supreme Court's ruling that Section Three of the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional, and in consultation with the Department of Justice and other executive branch agencies, the Defense Department made spousal and family benefits available regardless of sexual orientation, as long as service member-sponsors provide a valid marriage certificate.

The DOD remains committed to ensuring

that all men and women who serve in the U.S. military, and their families, are treated fairly and equally as the law directs.

Entitlements such as TRICARE enrollment, basic allowance for housing and family separation allowance are retroactive to the date of the Supreme Court's decision. Any claims to entitlements before that date will not be granted. For those members married after June 26, 2013, entitlements begin at the date of marriage.

The DOD recognizes that same-sex military couples who are not stationed in a jurisdiction that permits same-sex marriage would have to travel to another jurisdiction to marry. That is why the department will implement policies to allow military person-

nel in such a relationship non-chargeable leave for the purpose of travelling to a jurisdiction where such a marriage may occur. This will provide accelerated access to the full range of benefits offered to married military couples throughout the department, and help level the playing field between opposite-sex and same-sex couples seeking to be married.

For civilian benefits administered government-wide to federal employees, the DOD will follow the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Labor's guidance to ensure that the same benefits currently available to heterosexual spouses are also available to legally married same-sex spouses.

ried prior to the date, will have until June 25, 2014 to make a spouse election under 10 U.S.C. 1448(a)(3). If an election is not received on or before June 25, 2014, full spousal coverage will be entered and the member shall be responsible for premium payments effective from June 26, 2013.

A service member who was not married upon becoming eligible to participate in SBP, but who married a same-sex spouse before June 26, 2014 to make a spouse election under 10 U.S.C. 1448(a)(5). If the election is not received on or before that date, the service member shall be prohibited by law from making such an election.

Additionally, a service member who married a same-sex partner on or after June 26, and has insurable interest coverage under 10 U.S.C. 1448(b) may terminate that coverage and, if eligible, elect spousal coverage under 10 U.S.C. 1448(a)(5).

The Department of Defense recognizes all marriages that are certified with a valid marriage certificate. Other entitlements, such as BAH, family separation allowance and medical expenses are retroactive to the date of the Supreme Court's decision, June 26. For those married after June 26, entitlements will begin on the date of marriage. Spousal and family benefits, including ID cards, were made available to same-sex spouses beginning Sept. 3.

Enrollment in the SBP is not automatic. Individuals must take action to confirm each service member is receiving the benefits to which he or she is entitled. It is incumbent upon the service member to ensure he or she is enrolled and up to date on their intended beneficiaries.

2013 Marine Corps - Marathon And Freedom 5k

Join us for the 10th Anniversary Marine Corps - Marathon and Freedom 5K down at Metropolitan Park on Saturday, Oct. 5. Over 3,500 runners take to the roads at 7 a.m.! Come out for one of Jacksonville's finest races. For registration forms, stop by either your Mayport or NAS Jax USO Centers. There will be age group awards, overall prize payouts, a challenged athletes division, and medals to all finishers.

Southern Womens Show

The Southern Women's show will be at the Prime Osborn Convention Center on Oct. 17-20. Come on out to enjoy food, fashion, celebrity guests, health informa-

Out in Town

Saturday, Oct. 5

The 41st Annual Rock Shrimp Festival continues its long-standing tradition of family fun in historic St. Marys, Georgia. The festival presents a full day of events including a 5K and 10K races, 1-mile Kids Fun Run and a themed parade featuring decorated floats, fire trucks, tractors, golf carts, and more. The streets will be overflowing with all day entertainment, demonstrations, arts & crafts vendors and food con-



tion, along with beauty and lifestyle information. For more information please visit: www.southernwomensshow.com. Mayport and NAS JAX USO Centers are selling tickets for \$5 each/cash only. Tickets will also be available for purchase through the ITT office at Kings Bay.

Military Spouse Vendor Show

Looking for holiday gift ideas? Are you a military spouse with a small business? If you answered yes to either of these questions, the Military Spouse Vendor Show at the Mayport USO on November 2 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. is for you. Please

vice member who was married to a same-sex partner upon becom-

ing eligible to participate in the SBP prior to June 26, and who was married prior to the date, will have until June 25, 2014 to make a spouse election under 10 U.S.C. 1448(a)(3). If an election is not received on or before June 25, 2014, full spousal coverage will be entered and the member shall be responsible for premium payments effective from June 26, 2013.

Jaxtoberfest Tickets

The Mayport and NAS Jax USO centers are selling discounted tickets to Jaxtoberfest. General admission tickets are \$6 each/cash only for either day (a 25% savings) and VIP tickets for \$35 (a \$5 savings). VIP tickets are for Saturday only. Children under 12 do not require a ticket. Don't miss this inaugural event Oct. 11-12. There will be traditional German music and dancing, food and drinks,

games, and a kinderfest for all ages. Activities at the kinderfest include pumpkin decorating, face painting, bouncy houses, pumpkin bowling, wiener dog racing, birdhouse decorating, and more. No alcohol will be served at the kinderfest. Activities at the games include a beer barrel race, brat eating competition, stein holding competition, corn hole, apple pie eating contest, paintball, over-sized jenga, and over sized connect four. Tickets are open to Active Duty, National Guard, Reservists, Retirees, DOD, Veterans with I.D., and dependents. Visit jaxtoberfest.com for more information.

Are You Ready For Some Football?

Jaguar Ticket sales will begin at noon. Price is \$15 per ticket (cash only).

Campout at Grassy Pond Recreation area at 5360 Grassy Pond Road, Lake Park, Georgia. For reservations: call (229) 559-5840.

Friday, Oct. 11

The Ladies Auxillary Fleet Reserve Association Unit #290 will have a potluck dinner from 5-8 p.m. Donation \$8 at our branch home 390 Mayport Rd., Atlantic Beach. The dinner is open to the public. Take out orders welcome. For more information, call 246-6855.

Oct. 11-12

The United States



cessionaire. For information or questions contact the St. Marys Convention & Visitors Bureau at 912.882.4000 visit www.smkiwanis.com.

Join a park ranger at 2 p.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. 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.

Aviation Boatswain's Mates Association Jacksonville Chapter will hold its Fall Jam &

Southeast Navy Band "Pride" will perform at the inaugural Jaxtoberfest Family Fall Festival. Pride will join musical acts The Rhinelanders German Band, a polka playing sensation and the Swinging Bavarians, offering a traditional German show complete with Lederhosen! Jacksonville's very own First Coast Wind Ensemble will also perform along with many other melodious groups. Go online www.jaxtoberfest.com to learn more about the musical talents and other family fun activities.

Saturday, Oct. 12

Tree Hill Nature Center will hold a free "Music on the Hill" community music festival from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. All events will be held at the Joseph A. Strasser Amphitheater.

The pumpkins arrive and the pumpkin patch opens at Christ United Methodist Church Neptune Beach, 400 Penman Road. Join us at the Beaches communities celebrate this annual tradition. For more information, contact the Church Office at 249-5370.

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HUGE COMMUNITY YARD SALE - Oct 5th, 8-2pm Kingsley & 17, Orange Park. Everyone Welcome! 673-6337

INTRACOASTAL WEST Pablo Bay Community Garage Sale Sat. Oct. 5th, 8am - 1pm off San Pablo Rd. S. North of JTB

350 Long Tractor 41 horse \$3K. 5 foot bush hog \$350. 6 foot box blade \$350. 912-729-6230

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