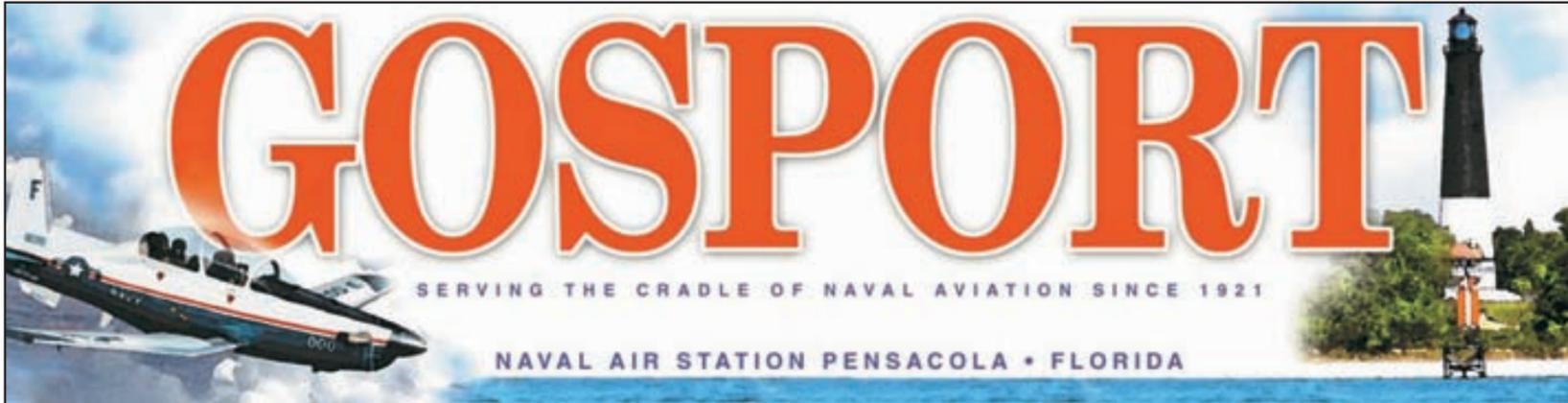




Motorists at NASP should be aware of road work at the following locations: The eastbound lanes of Taylor Road between Duncan Road and John Towers Road will be closed for reconstruction from Nov. 18-Dec. 22. Traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction during construction.

The right, southbound lane of Duncan Road near the golf course crosswalk will be closed for pavement repair adjacent to a storm drain inlet. All other lanes will remain open. This work is scheduled to start Nov. 30 and be complete by Dec. 22. Motorists should be extra cautious while driving past these work zones.



Vol. 73, No. 46

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November 20, 2009

CFC surpasses expectations

By Anne Thrower
Gosport Staff Writer

The 2009 EscaRosa Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) has exceeded all expectations. And money is still coming in.

More than \$806,000 had been collected as of Nov. 18, about 8 percent higher than last year. EscaRosa CFC Director Ron Denson hopes to pass 10 percent this year.

"That's huge considering the economic concerns," Denson said. "We just did not anticipate seeing such an increase."

The drive officially ended Oct. 30. "Even though we have pretty much stopped the workplace campaign, it's still not too late to make a donation," Denson said, adding pledge cards will be accepted until Dec. 15.

Denson was actually bracing for less this year and set a conservative goal of \$728,000, less than the \$741,000 raised last year.

But ultimately the economy

didn't make a difference. "That was the biggest surprise for all of us," Denson said.

Prior campaigns have exceeded more than \$1 million. But those were at a time when there were more federal employees in the area. The average contribution per donor is up from roughly \$120 to \$170-plus annually.

Denson attributes the campaign's success to the efforts the commands have given to the campaign. "The chairs have really been passionate about the campaign this year," he said.

CFC representatives did more guest speaking this year than the past five years combined in an effort to help people understand the program and who is benefiting. "We did try and bring more of the touchy feely aspects so people understood it's not just a handout, it's a program that is really impacting peoples' lives," he said.

The CFC is not a non-profit, but a federal program with the purpose of implementing a once-



Blue Angels, Flying Tigers meet at air show... Members of the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, meet with members of the 23rd Flying Tiger Association after the Nov. 13 Blues performance at the Blue Angels 2009 Homecoming Air Show. The Flying Tigers were a group of World War II fighter pilots originally formed to fight the Japanese in China before America's entry into the war. The group of veterans were guests of base CO Capt. Bill Reavey and had previously toured the National Naval Aviation Museum as part of their 2009 reunion. (Above) Blue Angels Flight Leader Cmdr. Greg McWherter (center) shakes hands with Steve Bonner, formerly of the 76th Fighter Squadron while James Taylor (left), formerly of the 75th Fighter Squadron, greets Blues Events Coordinator Lt. Amy Tomlinson. Photo by Mike O'Connor

For more air show photos, see pages 4-5

a-year drive for the federal employees. It's the largest payroll deductible campaign for federal workers in the area. Last year there were 292 CFC campaigns nationwide that raised \$275 mil-

lion. About 97 percent of the money given to the EscaRosa CFC is designated for local, state and national non-profits that meet federal guidelines qualifying to

receive the funding. The remaining undesignated money is equally dispersed among the agencies.

About 30 percent of the money

See **CFC** on page 2



Portable operating rooms go into place at NHP.

NHP powers down for weekend; growth includes portable ORs, new wards planned

By Rod Duren
NHP PAO

Starting today, Nov. 20, the day after national Smoke-Out Day, Naval Hospital Pensacola (NHP) will be observing a similar — but different — outage called a "power out" over the weekend. It is the initial phase of the installation of a pair of new, emergency generators. The hospital will be

without power — and void of any services, including the Emergency Room and Pharmacy — until 7 a.m. Monday.

The temporary closure begins the replacement of the hospital's original 1975-era generators.

It's an unusual step to take for the 34-year-old building — the sixth Navy hospital to be built in

See **NHP update** on page 2

NASP's chaplains, USO plan Thanksgiving activities

By Anne Thrower
Gosport Staff Writer

Thanksgiving week activities at Naval Air Station Pensacola include an ecumenical service and meal on Nov. 23 organized by the chaplains on base and a Thanksgiving feast on Nov. 26 at the USO for service members who are not able to make it home for the holiday.

The church service at the Naval Aviation Memorial Chapel will start at 6 p.m., with refreshments, soup and salad served at the J.B. McKamey Center at 7 p.m. People can also bring other food if they wish, said Lt. Randy Ekstrom, who along with Father Jack Gray are helping to organize the event.

The service will include nine chaplains from the various commands on base offering prayers, with Capt. David Girardin, the chaplain at the Naval Education and Training Command, serving as the main speaker. For information, contact Chaplain Ekstrom at 452-2341, ext. 4.

It was such a success last year that officials and volunteers at the USO at NASP plan to do it again — serve a traditional dinner on Thanksgiving Day.

And the center will remain open throughout the Thanksgiving weekend

with food and plenty of activities. "That's what the USO is all about," said local USO Director Heidi Blair.

Last year the USO planned to serve 450 military members and more than 700 showed up. "This year we are planning on 1,000 and we'll probably have more than that," Blair said.

Blair said in talking to Sailors and

See **Thanksgiving** on page 2



Volunteer Barbara Mixon serves with a smile at last year's USO Thanksgiving event. Photo courtesy of Heidi Blair

Thanksgiving Day closings and reduced hours

By Anne Thrower
Gosport Staff Writer

The commissary, the NEX at Aviation Plaza and Corry Station and many MWR facilities will be closed on Thanksgiving.

For the first time, the commissary will have reduced hours on Nov. 27, the day after Thanksgiving, said Rowena Peterson. On Nov. 27 the commissary will open at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m.

The commissary will resume its normal hours on Nov. 28 and 29, opening at 8 a.m. and closing at 7 p.m. Handicap patrons are allowed entrance to the commissary 30 minutes prior to opening on all days.

The NEX at Aviation Plaza will be closed on Thanksgiving, but will resume normal hours on Nov. 27 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The NEX will also have normal hours on the weekend after Thanksgiving.

The NEX will go to holiday hours on Dec. 19, opening at 9 a.m. and closing at 4 p.m. until Jan. 2. Normal hours will resume on Jan. 3.

Some of the MWR facilities that will be closed on Thanksgiving Day

See **Closings** on page 2



The National Flight Academy's new name, "Ambition," is unveiled Nov. 12.

Ship naming ceremony held for National Flight Academy

From Shelley Ragsdale
National Flight Academy

The National Flight Academy (NFA), an education program of the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation Inc. held a "ship naming" ceremony Nov. 12. The ceremony for the approximately 100,000-square-foot National Flight Academy facility took place in the Blue Angels Atrium inside the National Naval Aviation Museum onboard NAS Pensacola.

Construction of the \$36.5 million project is currently underway, with the grand-opening of the National Flight Academy planned for 2011.

Navy tradition dictates that each ship con-

See **NFA** on page 2

THIS WEEK IN NAVAL HISTORY

November 20

1856 — Cmdr. Andrew H. Foote lands at Canton, China, with 287 Sailors and Marines to stop attacks by Chinese on U.S. military and civilians.

1917 — USS Kanawha, Noma and Wakiva sink German sub off France.

1933 — Navy crew (Lt. Cmdr. Thomas G.W. Settle and Marine Maj. Chester I. Fordney) sets a world altitude record in balloon (62,237 ft.) in flight into stratosphere.

1943 — Operation Galvanic, under command of Vice Adm. Raymond Spruance, lands Navy, Marine and Army forces on Tarawa and Makin.

1962 — President John F. Kennedy lifts the blockade of Cuba.

November 21

1918 — United States battleships witness surrender of German High Seas fleet at Rosyth, Firth of Forth, Scotland, to U.S. and British fleets.

November 22

1914 — Title Director of Naval Aeronautics established.

November 23

1940 — President Franklin D. Roosevelt appoints Adm. William D. Leahy as U.S. ambassador to Vichy France to try to prevent the French fleet and naval bases from falling into German hands.

November 24

1852 — Commodore Matthew Perry sails from Norfolk, Va., to negotiate a treaty with Japan for friendship and commerce.

1964 — USS Princeton (LPH 5) completes seven days of humanitarian relief to South Vietnam which suffered damage from typhoon and floods.

1969 — HS-4 from USS Hornet (CVS 12) recovers Apollo 12's all-Navy crew of astronauts, Cmdrs. Richard Gordon, Charles Conrad, and Alan Bean, after moon landing by Conrad and Bean.

November 25

1775 — Continental Congress authorizes privateering.

1943 — In Battle of Cape St. George, five destroyers of Destroyer Squadron 23 (Capt. Arleigh Burke) intercept five Japanese destroyers and sink three and damage one without suffering any damage.

1961 — Commissioning of USS Enterprise (CVA(N) 65), the first nuclear powered aircraft carrier, at Newport News, Va.

November 26

1847 — Lt. William Lynch in Supply sails from New York to Haifa for an expedition to the River Jordan and the Dead Sea. His group charted the Jordan River from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea and compiled reports of the flora and fauna of the area.

1940 — Sixth and last group of ships involved in Destroyers-for-Bases Agreement transferred to British at Nova Scotia.

Naval historical data excerpted from U.S. Naval History & Heritage Command's Web site. For complete listings, visit www.history.navy.mil/wars/dates.htm.

CFC from page 1

stays local, Denson said. One reason it isn't larger is that a large number of the military population in the Pensacola area are students who are not thinking locally, he said.

The agency receiving the largest single contribution this year from the EscaRosa CFC will be the Manna Food Bank in Pensacola. Denson thinks the media emphasis on people needing food may have been a reason the non-profit received more contributions this year.

NHP update from page 1

Navy Pensacola since 1835 — but it's not, by a long shot, the only thing going on within and outside the medical facility.

The hospital's fifth floor — most recently used for the head offices of each of the major directorates of the facility, including Medical, Surgical and Branch Clinics — has undergone a yearlong reconstruction process and will soon become the new inpatient ward.

The fourth floor, which includes the current inpatient ward and five operating rooms, will go into another year-long renovation and restoration phase next week.

In the meanwhile, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contracted with Mobile Medical International Corporation to provide two, specially-built, portable operating rooms. They are in place at the rear of the hospital facility. Simulated OR cases were to have taken place Nov. 16 before operations begin Nov. 23.

Thanksgiving from page 1

Marines who use the center those who could only afford to go home once during the holidays preferred Christmas over Thanksgiving. "Money is tight with everyone," she said.

"Many already felt like the USO was home," Blair said. It will be the first time many of the active-duty Sailors and Marines will be away from home for Thanksgiving.

"It ends up being an emotional day," Blair said. "It can be very, very lonely." Last year many thanked the volunteers for providing the meal, she said.

As the USO continues to be more utilized on base, it is reaching out this Thanksgiving to include a shuttle service from Corry.

Closings from page 1

(Nov. 26) include NASP/Corry Child Development Centers, Auto Skills Center, Crosswinds, Portside Cinema, Oak Grove Park, Bayou Grande Marina, Sherman Cove Marina and Oaks Restaurant, golf shop and gazebo at A.C. Read Golf Course.

The two child development centers and Crosswinds will also be closed Nov. 27. And the Auto Skills Center will be closed Nov. 25.

Liberty Portside at NASP and Liberty at Corry will

NFA from page 1

structed for service be honored on historic ceremonial occasions: keel-laying, ship naming, stepping the mast, christening, commissioning and decommissioning. Since the construction of the National Flight Academy facility, designed as a modern aircraft carrier, parallels that of a United States ship, retired Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing, president and CEO

"When people think about helping somebody I think they are more willing to think about a child and feeding than the other aspects," Denson said.

This year's campaign provided gifts to contributors who gave a minimum \$240. The lunch bags are still available as donation incentive.

The campaign also had two drawings for an I-Pod and for a global positioning system (GPS) navigation device. Those were purchased with dollars from recycled ink.

Brenda Welch, an instructional

systems specialist at Corry's Center for Information Dominance, won the GPS. "I was very surprised," Welch said.

Like most people, Welch didn't give to CFC because there was a drawing. In fact, she wasn't even aware there was a drawing. "I just always give to CFC," Welch said.

She got the news on Nov. 13. "It was the best Friday the 13th I've ever had in my whole life," she said.

For those still wishing to contribute, contact the CFC office at 452-2029.

Beginning today at noon, NH Pensacola will close its gates to customers until Monday morning for the generator phase-in.

Sick call and non-emergency outpatient care for military and enrolled beneficiaries will be available on a walk-in basis at the branch health clinic at Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) onboard NAS Pensacola. Hours of operation for these services are today from noon to 7 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The NATTC clinic is located next to the Portside Complex on East Avenue directly behind the main administration and galley facilities of NATTC. For additional information or directions call 452-8970, ext. 123.

All naval hospital customers who may need urgent or emergency care, during the Nov. 20-22 shutdown, should go to the closest civilian hospital emergency room or urgent care clinic.

will be serving barbecue and snacks. So snacks are needed.

The Thanksgiving meal — open to all active-duty military — will be served noon to 6 p.m. And the center will remain open from noon to 8 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Shuttles will leave Corry's gym at 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. The last shuttle will return to Corry at 7 p.m.

While there are volunteers for the weekend, Blair said the center is always in need of permanent volunteers.

People wishing to donate items or wanting to volunteer should call Kathy Karsten at 455-8280. Donations for Thanksgiving can be dropped off at the USO until noon on Wednesday.

have normal hours on Thanksgiving from 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Portside Club at NASP will be open from noon to 10 p.m. on Thanksgiving.

The MWR fitness centers at NASP and Corry Station will have limited hours on Thanksgiving Day. Radford Fitness Center will be open 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Portside Fitness Center will be open from noon-6 p.m.; and Wenzel Fitness Center will be open noon-6 p.m. The Wellness Center will be closed.

The Mustin Beach Officers' Club will be closed Nov. 26-Nov. 30. The Ready Room at the O'Club will be open from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Nov. 25.

of the National Flight Academy, and retired Vice Adm. Mike Bowman, chairman of the board for the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, honored this tradition by officially naming it "Ambition."

The name "Ambition" was chosen because the NFA program will give students the inspiration and "ambition" to study science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and the field of aviation.

The National Flight Academy is the latest major endeavor of the Pensacola-based Naval Aviation Museum Foundation Inc. Upon opening, the National Flight Academy will have an estimated \$30 million economic impact on the Gulf Coast region. The Academy Web site, www.nationalflightacademy.com, will include regular updates on the construction and program progress.



Vol. 73, No. 46

November 20, 2009

Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.: A Bicentennial Defense Community
Commanding Officer — **Capt. William Reavey Jr.**
Public Affairs Officer — **Harry C. White**

The *Gosport* nameplate features the T-6A Texan II aircraft, the newest joint services trainer. The T-6 has replaced the Navy's T-34C aircraft that for more than 40 years has served to provide primary flight training for student pilots, NFOs and navigators attached to the Naval Air Training Command. It will also replace the Air Force T-37.

Maintained by the United States Coast Guard since 1939, the Pensacola Lighthouse, aboard NAS Pensacola, originally began as the lightship *Aurora Borealis* in June 1823. Evolving through structural and location changes, the current facility was built

in 1856 and at night still shines for Sailors 27 miles out at sea.

Established in 1921 as the *Air Station News*, the name *Gosport* was adopted in 1936. A gosport was a voice tube used by flight instructors in the early days of naval aviation to give instructions and directions to their students. The name "Gosport" was derived from Gosport, England (originally God's Port), where the voice tube was invented.

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the writer can be reached during working hours. All submissions are subject to editing to comply with established policy and standards. Address editorials and commentaries to: Gosport Editor, NAS Pensacola, 190 Radford Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32508-5217. E-mail: scott.hallford@navy.mil.

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A 13-year-old's thoughts on an unknown Soldier

Dear Editor:

Mary Catherine Smith is 13 years old and in the eighth grade at Little Flower Catholic School in Mobile, Ala.

This past year, Mary Catherine was given an assignment to choose a poem, read it and then write down her reaction in the form of a letter to the poem's author.

The poem she chose was "The Unknown Soldier" by J.P. Dunn.

Mary Catherine found herself extremely moved and touched by J.P. Dunn's simple words.

They had a profound effect on her and she shared this in her let-

ter to Mr. Dunn.

I had not seen Mary Catherine's letter of response until I stumbled across it while cleaning out her book bag in preparation for the new school year.

I was amazed by what I read. It was remarkable to read how the words of one man, the efforts of many and the privilege of our freedom can affect a 13-year-old girl without a care in the world.

It brought tears to my eyes, and my heart filled with feelings of both happiness and sadness.

I am so very proud of the way my daughter showed respect and gratitude for the men and women who have fought, and who are

currently fighting for our country and what we believe in.

I want to share her words with as many people as possible in hopes to inspire others to recognize the efforts of our veterans and our active military and to bring joy to those who have served us and our wonderful country.

I think it is important to show how one young child's words from the heart can speak for thousands.

Please see her letter of response to Mr. Dunn, as well as his poem below. Thank you for your time.

**Kathy Smith
Mobile, Ala.**

Dear Mr. Dunn:

I have read your poem "The Unknown Soldier." I found it to be very inspiring in so many ways.

It speaks for the men and women who wore the uniform and served their country.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a great reminder of how great our country is.

This poem inspired me because the Soldier gave his life to protect his land.

He fought for his country and for his people. It made me feel thankful and sad.

I felt thankful because I know there are many people dying and fighting for my country. Also, I felt sad because he cared so



Mary Catherine Smith

much that he would give his life for his own country.

I felt so many different feelings while reading this poem.

Some of those feelings were happiness, sorrow, gladness and gratitude.

This poem also helped me realize how lucky most of us are to live in the land of the free and live life to the fullest.

Also, that we have

many people that love this country and that are willing to sacrifice their lives for all the other people.

Those people who serve their countries just like the unknown Soldier are greatly respected for what they did for the stars and stripes.

My opinion is those who are not scared to go to the battlefield and risk their lives are the bravest of this country. They have a choice whether to fight or not, and they choose to do so. They are not afraid to stand up for what is right and sacrifice their lives.

The unknown Soldier paid a heavy price while fighting for his country's democracy.

Although the unknown Soldier lies quietly at his resting place, the good deed and the bravery he showed for his fellow countrymen will live on and never be forgotten.

Many admire people like the unknown Soldier and will always remember what they do to give us freedom!

This poem helps me reflect on my life because I don't have to live in fear from day to day that my freedom will be taken away and I won't be able to live life as I want.

Also, I know many people care for my rights and for other people's rights.

Sincerely,
Mary Catherine Smith

The Unknown Soldier By J.P. Dunn

Although unknown he was not alone,
The night he passed away;
A mother touched his heart and lips
While his guardian angel led his soul
away

To the far off better land.
Across the trackless plains
When all will meet again those
Who are absent from home today

He gave his live for Democracy
To cement the hearts of men,
That all alike might share
Full freedom in every land

He fought beneath the stars and stripes
For the country he loved so well;
In the Flanders Fields in France
Our gallant hero fell

As a token of true friendship
We beautify his grave
In the cemetery at Arlington
Where the flowers gently wave;
We promise as we kneel beside him
Beneath the elms quiet shade,
That his flag of yesterday
We hold in ecstasy today

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BLUE ANGELS



Photo by RuthAnn Malloy

Fat Albert's last JATO takeoff, Nov. 14



Photo by Billy Enfinger

Fired-up crowds await the Blues



Photo by Mike O'Connor

Aerostars perform in twilight



Photo by Mike O'Connor

Base CO Capt. Bill Reavey (right) in USAF F-15E Strike Eagle flight



Photo by Mike Rich

Blues' precision line abreast pass

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Homecoming Air Show

Nov. 13-14, 2009



Photo by Mike O'Connor

F/A-18 Super Hornet in transonic vapor cloud



Photo by Mike O'Connor

Stearman biplane makes a turn over Fort Pickens



Photo by Billy Einfinger

The Shockwave Jet Truck races a wall of flames



Photo by Mike O'Connor

The Geico Skytappers make a smoke pass in formation

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New bill should help military spouses with relocation bureaucracy

Story, photo by Anne Thrower
Gosport Staff Writer

President Barack Obama recently signed the Military Spouse Residency Relief Act that is intended to ease the bureaucracy that military spouses endure with relocations.

The bill allows military spouses who relocate out of a state with their service members on military orders to have the option to claim the same state of domicile as their active-duty spouses, regardless of where they are stationed.

In the past, each time a military family moved to a different state, the spouse was subject to unnecessary and often expensive changes, proponents of the bill said.

Relocation and deployment specialists at Naval Air Station Pensacola are waiting to get the details of the bill that was signed on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

"It gives them more options with regard to paying taxes and getting tags," said Pam Banks, a relocation and deployment specialist at NASP.

The bill will amend the Service Members Civil Relief Act that, among other things, allows service members to use the same driver's licenses, voting cards and state tax procedures when they relocate.

Now those same rights will apply to spouses who often had to shift through mounds of paperwork to determine different state tax procedures and incur



NASP Fleet and Family Support Center employees (from left) Val Young, supervisor, Work & Family Life; Pam Banks, relocation and deployment specialist and Shelia Q. McNeely, administrative assistant, go over the relocation package that military families receive and talk about new legislation for family members.

expensive changes every time they relocated.

Residents of Florida, for example, do not have a state income tax. However, when a couple relocates to a state with state income tax, often there are questions about how the tax should be handled. The bill gives couples the option on where they want to declare residency.

Other changes like having to get a new driver's license within 30 days of locating in some states would also be an option for spouses.

"I'm still researching the extent of the act," Banks

said, adding details of the new legislation should be arriving at FFSC shortly. "It will save a lot of hassle."

Kathy Sims, a relocation and deployment specialist at NASP, said this is another example of how much has improved for military families in the past decade. "There are more things available than they have ever had in the U.S. military," she said.

In addition to helping families relocate, there are services that help spouses with job leads at their new location, including help with resume writing.

Sims said it makes her feel proud when she sees legislation that helps military members and their families.

Word of the new legislation pleased Families United for Our Troops and Their Mission, the nation's largest military family organization.

"By signing the Military Spouse Residency Relief Act, the president is easing the cumbersome bureaucratic hurdles that military spouses are forced to endure with every relocation," the organization said.

"Military spouses and their families serve and sacrifice with their troops every day," officials with Families United said.

"(We) will continue working to ensure that their sacrifice for this country is made as easy as possible and that the families that support our men and women in uniform are taken care of while their loved ones serve this nation."

The organization went on to say "this legislation represents a significant step forward for military families, and Families United applauds President Obama for signing it into law.

Federal officials pledge support for hiring veterans under Obama directive

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Senior federal officials recently pledged their support of President Barack Obama's directive to increase the hiring of military veterans.

Obama signed the executive order Nov. 9 that calls on each federal agency to establish a veterans' employment program office designed to help former service members get through the maze of paperwork as they apply for federal positions. It also mandates that agencies train personnel specialists on veteran employment policies.

The order also directs federal agencies to work with the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to develop and apply technologies designed to help disabled veterans.

Also recently Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis appeared at a U.S. Chamber of Commerce event where she told civilian employers they should consider military veterans as employees of choice.

Solis said establishing a veterans' program office within most federal agencies is part of a program designed to transform the federal government into the model employer of America's veterans.

America owes a great debt to its military veterans, Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary W. Scott Gould said at the press conference.

"We can reach out to them with something as simple, as pragmatic, as practical as a job; a good job in government," Gould said.

And, veterans' hard-won experience, he said, constitutes "an asset we can now

bring into government."

It is imperative, Gould said, that government agencies assist veterans to become aware of government jobs, help veterans translate their military skills into civilian parlance, and to help them adjust to their new civilian environment.

Office of Personnel Management Director John Berry told reporters that the president directed him "to do right by our veterans."

America's veterans "are valued, they are experienced, and they are trained," Berry said. Consequently, he said, it would be foolish not to provide veterans with more opportunities to continue to serve in the federal workforce after military service.

"And so, we want to make sure that they know they are welcome and we will have a job for them," Berry said. "We will find one that matches their skills, their passions and their interests and their abilities."

After finding the right job, he said, each veteran will be mentored to help them adapt and transition into the civilian work culture so that they can succeed.

The governmentwide Council on Veterans' Employment, chaired by Solis and Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki, will play a key role in the veterans hiring program, Berry said.

Solis' and Shinseki's influence, vision and leadership will make the program a success, Berry said. OPM plans to release a list of the numbers of veterans working at federal agencies.

"And our goal is to have every one of those numbers increase, so that those percentages go up," Berry said.

The United States "arguably has the best-trained, best-equipped and best-led military force the world has ever seen," said Gail McGinn, acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The president's veterans employment initiative "will showcase the leadership and technical skills our military members have to offer," McGinn said, and "will bring back that wonderful talent into our civilian workforce."

The Defense Department already is the largest federal employer of military veterans, McGinn noted. Today, about 342,000 defense civilians are veterans, she said, making up about 45 percent of the department's civilian workforce.

"I work side by side with veterans every day," McGinn said. The skills veterans learned in the service, she said, "serve them very, very well working within the Department of Defense."

The department has two Web sites that provide employment information for veterans, as well as a toll-free phone number where they can talk to career advisors, she said.

The department, McGinn said, also provides transition programs for separating military members that feature resume writing, skills assessments, interview-process training, and jobs-search techniques.

"We also provide special help to our wounded, ill and injured service members whose careers have been cut short due to the injuries received in Iraq or Afghanistan," she said, through the "Hiring Heroes" career fairs.

Thirty one of these career fairs, she said, have been run across the United

States since 2005.

The largest of the fairs, conducted in June at Walter Reed Army Medical Center here, attracted more than 570 job seekers, McGinn said.

The career fairs, she said, provide service members, many of whom still are recovering from wounds, the opportunity to visit with potential employers, get on-the-spot interviews, and often, job offers.

"At DoD, we are extremely proud of our service members and fully aware of the value that they bring to the federal government," McGinn said.

The interagency process launched by Obama's executive order "will clear a pathway for more federal jobs for our service members," McGinn said, and "will allow them to look throughout the federal government to find the right fit and the best federal job for them."

The Department of Homeland Security's mission of securing the homeland requires dedicated people "willing to do whatever it really takes to get the job done," said Jeff Neal, DHS's chief human capital officer.

Military veterans, Neal said, have "all the types of qualifications that we are looking for in DHS, and they have proven time and time again, when their country has called on them, they are ready to respond."

Neal said his agency plans to employ 50,000 military veterans by 2012.

"We want to show the veterans of America that DHS is one of the places where you are welcome, where you are valued, where you can build a second career and continue your service to America," he said.

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GOSPORT PARTYLINE

Partyline e-mail submissions

Submissions for Partyline should be e-mailed to: anne.thrower.ctr@navy.mil.

Submissions should include the organization's name, the event, what the event is for, who benefits from the event, time, date, location and point of contact.

Naval hospital closed starting today (Nov. 20)

Naval Hospital Pensacola will be closed Nov. 20-22 for a scheduled power outage. The hospital will reopen Nov. 23 at 7 a.m.

Military and enrolled beneficiaries seeking non-emergency care may go to the Naval Branch Health Clinic at the Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) onboard NAS Pensacola.

NATTC hours are Friday, noon-7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Call 453-8970, ext. 123, for info and directions.

Turkey Trot 5K Nov. 21

The Turkey Trot 5K will take place at 8 a.m., Nov. 21. People are encouraged to register between 6:30-7:30 a.m. at the track near the parade field.

The event — open to people with military ties — will include a 5K, a Mashed Potato one-mile run and a toddler trot.

The 5K costs \$20, the one mile costs \$10 and the Toddler Trot costs \$5. For information or to register in advance, call PS2 Liliana Balcazar at 452-3100, ext. 1121.

Blended families class planned

Just in time for the holidays the Fleet and Family Support Center is holding two blended families workshops.

Participants will learn techniques for dealing with problems and suggestions for creating harmony.

Join the discussion about the challenges and joys of living in blended families. All military parents/families are welcome.

The workshops will take place Nov. 24 and Dec. 1 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at FFSC.

Call 452-5990 for information or to register.

New hours for relief society

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Pensacola will have new hours from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Phones will still be answered from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at 452-2300.

Tree to be planted at NASP Dec. 1

The 15th annual Tree Awareness Week will be observed Dec. 1-4 at NASP.

To highlight the observance, a live oak will be planted on the south side of Bldg. 679 on Turner Street between Fred Bauer Street and Fisher Avenue.

The ceremony will be held Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. All hands are encouraged to attend. For information call 452-3131, ext. 3016.

Relief society 5K fundraiser

The 5K Combat Run to raise money for the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society will take place Dec. 5 at NASP.

People can register in the food court inside Bldg. 630 from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. every military payday until the run.

There will be prizes for the fastest males and the fastest females.

When the runners sign up and give a \$10 donation, they will receive goodie bags with more than \$40 worth of items as well as a T-shirt.

People are encouraged to start registering at 7:30 a.m. on the day of the run, which starts at 9 a.m.

People with questions should contact or e-mail Amy TerHorst at 458-

8884, ext. 3326.

Mega team century ride spin Dec. 5

Spin into the holidays with a Mega team century ride on Dec. 5, starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Radford Fitness Center at NASP.

As part of the ride two-member teams complete 100 miles per team.

The contest will have 40 bikes for the 20 teams. There will be prizes for first, second and third place.

To participate call 452-6802.

CFS continuing education Dec. 8

The Command Financial Specialist quarterly continuing education training — required to uphold CFS designation — will take place Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. at the base theater in the Schools Command building.

A mortgage loan specialist from Pen Air Federal Credit Union will discuss current home and mortgage issues in the local NASP area.

For information contact Amy Lee Ming at amy.ming.ctr@navy.mil or 452-5990, ext. 3133.

Fill the Mayflower for Thanksgiving

Coastal Moving & Storage and Manna Food Pantries invite the public to fill the Mayflower (tractor-trailer) during the week of Thanksgiving, Nov. 23-25.

Manna will provide fully staffed drop-off sites for food and monetary donations at Cordova Mall at Ninth Avenue and Airport Boulevard.

Manna would like to fill as many Mayflowers as possible. For information visit www.mannafoodpantries.org or contact or contact Jay Bradshaw at 602-7762.

Talent gospel show Dec. 5

B.J. Entertainment, TK and Kirkland Ent. presents "So You've Got Talent Gospel Show" at Pensacola High School on Dec. 5.

There will be more than \$2,500 in prizes. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available at Gold Market, The Cellphone Place, The Drizzle BBQ and Zevo's.

For information or to sign up for auditions, call 232-0545.

Blanket ride for the homeless Nov. 28

The benefit motorcycle ride to gather blankets for the homeless will take place Nov. 28 starting at 1 p.m.

The cost to participate is \$5 or a blanket per person.

Riders will meet at the Panhandle Motorcycle Society (PMS), 1487 South Fairfield Drive, in Pensacola.

The ride will leave at 2 p.m. and go to the Heavenly Blessings Ministry in Pensacola where Pastor Renee Star will be accepting blankets. Riders will then return to PMS for live music and celebration.

For information, contact Cat Warfield at 492-6224 or 375-0428.

Double Bridge Run scheduled

The 2010 Double Bridge Run is scheduled for Feb. 6, 2010.

The run is a 15K that begins in Pensacola, crosses the Pensacola Bay Bridge and the Bob Sikes Bridge and finishes on Pensacola Beach.

There is also a 5K run/walk that begins in Gulf Breeze and finishes on Pensacola Beach.

Registration is \$30 through Dec. 31 and \$35 beginning Jan. 1. Register at pensacolasports.com.

Also the Pensacola marathon will now be in November. The marathon is scheduled for Nov. 14.

The Pensacola Marathon includes a marathon, half Marathon and a kids marathon.

For questions regarding the run or marathon, contact the Pensacola Sports Association at 434-2800 or johnliff@pensacolasport.com.

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Ashley Brown, vocal April 17, 2010	

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Cmdr. Amos Stibolt



Cmdr. Jeffrey Lehnertz

VT-10 SAU change of command; see page B2 Spotlight

Snapshot: facts about diabetes, America's seventh leading cause of death

How many Americans have diabetes and pre-diabetes?

- 23.6 million Americans have diabetes — 7.8 percent of the U.S. population. Of these, 5.7 million do not know they have the disease.

- Each year, about 1.6 million people ages 20 or older are diagnosed with diabetes.

- The number of people diagnosed with diabetes has risen from 1.5 million in 1958 to 17.9 million in 2007, an increase of epidemic proportions.

- It is estimated that 57 million adults age 20 and older have pre-diabetes.

What is the prevalence of diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes by age?

- 23.5 million Americans ages 20 or older have diabetes — 10.7 percent of this age group.

- 12.2 million Americans ages 60 or older have diabetes — 23.1 percent of this age group.

What is the prevalence of diagnosed diabetes in youth?

- 186,300 people under age 20 have type 1 and type 2 diabetes — 0.2 percent of this age group.

What is the prevalence of diabetes by race/ethnicity?

- Non-Hispanic whites 14.9 million; 9.8 percent of all non-Hispanic whites aged 20 and older have diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes.

- African Americans 3.7 million; 14.7 percent of all non-Hispanic blacks age 20 and older have diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes.

- Non-Hispanic blacks are about 1.8 times more likely to have diabetes as non-Hispanic whites 20 years and older.

- Hispanics/Latinos 10.4 percent of Hispanics/Latinos ages 20 or older have diagnosed diabetes.

- The overall risk for death among people with diabetes is about double that of people without diabetes.

November is American Diabetes Month

New cases of diabetes linked to rising obesity rates

From Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Diabetes is a leading cause of kidney failure, blindness and amputations, and a major cause of heart disease and stroke. Nearly 24 million Americans have diabetes, and about 6 million of them are unaware of their disease. With obesity on the rise, millions more are at risk of developing diabetes.

Every 24 hours more than 4,000 adults are diagnosed with diabetes and approximately 200 people die from diabetes. Diabetes is a major cause of heart disease and stroke and a leading cause of leg and foot amputations unrelated to injury, kidney failure, and new cases of blindness in adults. However, people with diabetes can lower their risk of complications by following important steps to control the disease:

- **Talk to your healthcare provider** about how to manage your blood glucose (A1C), blood pressure, and cholesterol.

- **Get both the seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines** as soon as they are available. For those with diabetes, it is important to ask for the “shot” version of both vaccines. In addition, talk to your health care provider about a pneumonia (pneumococcal) shot. People with diabetes are more likely to die from pneumonia or influenza than people who do not have diabetes.

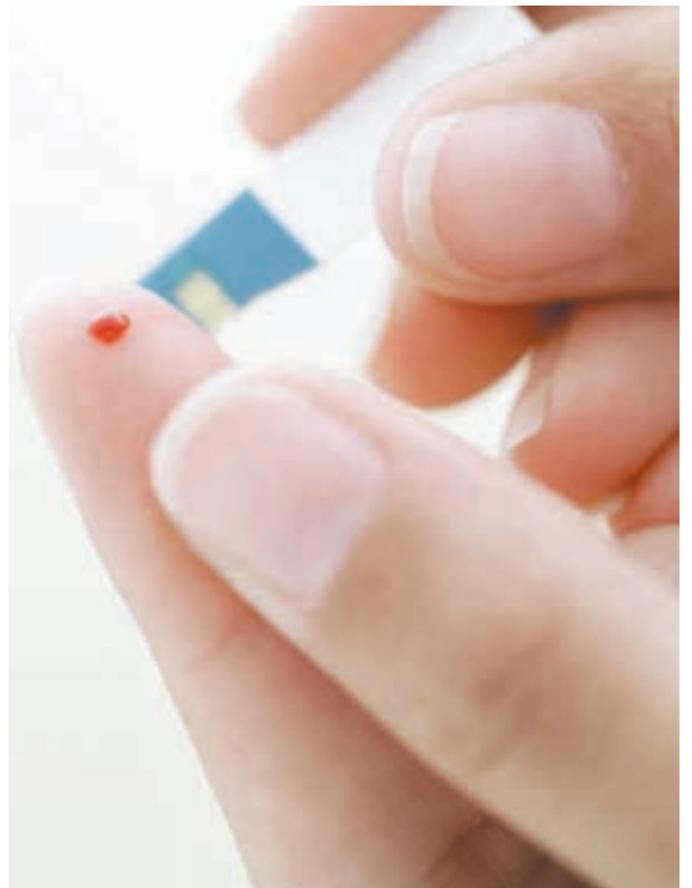
- **Stay at a healthy weight and engage in moderate physical activity** for two hours and 30 minutes each week or vigorous physical activity for one hour

and 15 minutes each week. Be sure to add muscle strengthening activities on two or more days each week. Physical activity can help you control your weight, blood glucose, and blood pressure, as well as raise your “good” cholesterol and lower your “bad” cholesterol.

Obesity is a major risk factor. During the past 20 years there has been a dramatic increase in obesity in the United States, and this is a major factor — but not the only factor — in the increasing rate of newly diagnosed cases of diabetes. Population increases in diabetes have coincided with increases in obesity, and the type 2 diabetes epidemic is believed to be largely a result of the increase in obesity levels. Diagnosed diabetes has increased, particularly in overweight and obese individuals, and improvements in diabetes awareness and enhanced detection are occurring among the most obese.

Ways you can help prevent diabetes

Prediabetes is a condition in which individuals have blood glucose levels higher than normal but not high enough to be



Diabetics use a blood glucose meter and a lancet (a tool to get a drop of blood) to check their blood glucose. A meter will use the blood to give you a number which is known as the blood glucose level. It is usually checked before meals, after meals, and sometimes at bedtime. People who take insulin usually need to check their glucose more often.

classified as diabetes. In 2007, at least 57 million American adults were estimated to have prediabetes. People with prediabetes have an increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. However, progression to diabetes among those with prediabetes is not inevitable.

Recent studies have shown that people at high risk for type 2 diabetes can prevent or delay

the onset of the disease by losing 5 to 7 percent of their body weight. You can do that by eating healthier and getting moderate physical activity for 150 minutes each week or vigorous physical activity for 75 minutes each week.

The development and delivery of lifestyle interventions to people at risk for diabetes are needed to stop the rise in new cases of diabetes.

Diabetes directly affects the lives of millions of Americans and their families. While no cure exists, medical advancements are continually producing new, more effective treatments to control the disease. Individuals who manage their diabetes properly can lower their risk of complications and live productive, normal lives. During National Diabetes Month, we recommit to educating Americans about the warning signs of diabetes, and help those with the condition to mitigate the effects of this devastating disease.

The two common forms of diabetes are known as type 1 and type 2. Type 1 diabetes occurs when an individual's immune system destroys insulin-producing cells. The outlook for those with type 1 diabetes has dramatically improved in the past few decades due to a host of

innovations. Type 2 diabetes is the most prevalent form of diabetes and usually affects individuals age 40 and older, and those who are overweight, inactive, or have a family history of the disease. Every day, 10 children in this country are diagnosed with type 2 diabetes — a staggering statistic that reflects the growing epidemic of obesity in our country.

Preventive care is the simplest way to avoid diabetes and its complications. A healthy diet, combined with daily exercise, has been shown to dramatically reduce incidence of this disease.

African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans, as well as the elderly, are at greater risk of developing diabetes during their lifetimes. As a nation, we must ensure that all Americans know the warning signs of this disease, and if diagnosed,

have access to affordable, quality medical care to help control it.

While diabetes is a complex and challenging disease, dedicated researchers continue to make important discoveries. This month, we honor those who have made these successes possible, support those who are battling diabetes, and rededicate ourselves to sustaining Federal investments in research and education programs that improve the prevention and treatment of this disease.

Now, therefore, I, Barack Obama, president of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2009 as National Diabetes Month. I encourage citizens, medical institutions, Government and social service agencies, businesses, non-profit organizations, and other interested groups to join in activities that help prevent, treat and manage diabetes.

National Diabetes Month 2009: a proclamation by the president of the United States of America

Word Search 'Got wings?'

S P A R R O W L S Z D K M K W
 G I H W K P J F T M F O H W P
 E Y N S H G U Q O L R O G A K
 E E N R G S K R S G L Y W H U
 N A S P C U L Y E R S U A L F
 F G K I L E W V I S U N G R T
 T L X A L R O L E E C N U V X
 E E D L M D J C Z W R E N O D
 T H G R R I B P W V N V Y X S
 D H D L S F R Y G D G V X I K
 L R E H I E K V H W P P E W U
 V E O N Q G G R E X S H N M N
 M N C B D W Y B C N Q G U U Y
 C H B T I A H Q N O R E H R I
 H B S U P N L W Q L Z E Z O I

DOVE
 EAGLE
 FINCH
 GULL
 HAWK

HERON
 OWL
 ROBIN
 SPARROW
 WREN

Gosling Games

Color Me 'Songbird'



Jokes & Groaners

The Defendant

The judge read the charges, then asked, “Are you the defendant in this case?”
 “No sir, your honor, sir,” replied Bob, “I’ve got a lawyer to do the defendin’. I’m the guy who done it.”

Math 'help'

Parents are expected to participate in their children's education. Most gladly help their children whenever they're stumped. One day after school, young Andrew ran into the house waving a paper in the air. “Hey, Mom, great news! There were only three mistakes on my math homework,” he announced. “You made one, Dad made one and I made one!”

Translating advertising language

- NEW** — Different color from previous design.
- FUTURISTIC** — No other reason why it looks the way it does.
- REDESIGNED** — Previous flaws fixed — they hope.
- BREAKTHROUGH** — They finally figured out a use for it.
- MAINTENANCE FREE** — Impossible to fix.
- MEETS ALL STANDARDS** — Theirs, not yours.
- SOLID-STATE** — As heavy as it can possibly be.

VT-10 SAU to change command today

From VT-10 SAU

Training Squadron Ten Squadron Augment Unit (SAU) Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Jeffrey Lehnertz will be relieved by Cmdr. Amos Stibolt today (Nov. 20), at 10 a.m., in a ceremony at the National Naval Aviation Museum's USS Cabot



Cmdr. Amos Stibolt

Flight Deck onboard NAS Pensacola.

Cmdr. Amos Stibolt is a native of Richton Park, Ill., and received his commission when he graduated from the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at Northwestern University in 1993.

After designation as a naval aviator in March 1996, he reported to Patrol Squadron Thirty (VP-30) at NAS Jacksonville for initial training in the P-3 Orion.



Cmdr. Jeffrey Lehnertz

Cmdr. Stibolt's first assignment was with the Mad Foxes of Patrol Squadron Five (VP-5). During this tour he completed deployments to NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; NAS Keflavik, Iceland; and NAS Sigonella, Sicily.

At the completion of this tour, he moved to NASP as a flight instructor in the T-34C Mentor with Training Air Wing Six. While instructing in the T-34C Flight Instructor Training Unit (FITU) he was selected to be the first NATOPS program manager/evaluator and one of the first Navy flight instructors in the T-6A Texan II.

Cmdr. Stibolt left active duty in 2003 and immediately affiliated as a reservist in the Training Squadron Ten (VT-10) Squadron Augment Unit (SAU). In February 2007, he volunteered for nine months of active duty when asked to serve as the officer in charge of the T-6A FITU. Subsequent assignments as the VT-10 SAU operations officer and executive officer have lead to his selection as commanding officer.

During his career, Cmdr. Stibolt has accumulated more than 3,400 flight hours, with more than 1,300 of them in the T-6.

Naval Hospital Pensacola names its top Sailors of the Year

Story, photos, by Rod Duren
NHP PAO

The top four Sailors of the Year (SoYs) at Naval Hospital Pensacola are a mirror image of the command as a whole: taking direct care of patients and making sure those Sailors deploying and their families are watched over attentively.

On Oct. 29, NH Pensacola named its top Sailors of the Year (for FY-09) at a luncheon at the Crosswinds at Corry Station.

The Senior Sailor of the Year is HM1 Marquita Y. Culley of radiology. The Junior SoY is HM2 Sally R. Griffin of the Plans, Operations and Medical Intelligence (POMI) department. The Sailor of the Year is HM3 James L. Aldridge of Naval Branch Health Clinic, Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC). The Blue Jacket SoY is HN Jevelle Moore of the physical therapy/occupational therapy department.

HM1(SW) Culley, leading petty officer of radiology, is described as having "superior leadership ability" that enhances the professional and technical development of 22 junior Sailors, two reservists and 19 civilians under her tutelage, said the department's leading senior enlisted member, HMC(FMF) Kari Ferguson.

The petty officer manages a \$2.7 million annual budget and maintains cognizance of \$5 million in equipment supporting more than 150,000 hospital beneficiaries. Her tireless efforts were paramount in the providing of more than 77,000 radiological exams without

delay or interruption to patient care despite a 20 percent decrease in manpower due to deployments. Culley oversaw and managed Sailors in the purging of more than 4,400 pounds of X-ray film resulting in a 20 percent increase of storage space in preparation for the department's digital archiving system.

As a person who consistently seeks ways to improve patient care and safety, Culley's efforts in organizing a 24-hour duty section, and on-call watch operating room watches, provides continuous emergency services and radiological support.

Culley, known as a "problem-solver" who possesses an "outside the box mentality" also provides collateral duty as a Volunteer Income Tax assistant, Combined Federal Campaign representative, and First Line Leadership Training coordinator where she teaches various topics to junior Sailors and officers. Within the community, she volunteers her time with the Pine Forest High School Junior ROTC drill meet; and mentoring second grade students at Edgewater Elementary. She also serves as the command outreach coordinator where she coordinates community service opportunities throughout



HM1(SW) Marquita Culley



HM2 Sally R. Griffin



HM3 James L. Aldridge



HN Jevelle Moore

the area resulting in 105 Sailors volunteering more than 435 off-duty hours of 40 separate projects.

HM2 Griffin, leading petty officer for the POMI department, uses her "exceptional planning and prioritizing" to handle the tremendous responsibility in support of command individual augmentees (IAs) deploying throughout the world; and in support of their families remaining in the area.

"She has accomplished more personally and professionally than anyone in her position in the last three years," said HMC Ronald Edquilang. She is the "go-to person" for all deployment requirements and has been the key to the successful operation of POMI.

Griffin maintains strict quality assurance on database and deployment readiness of more than 1,070 active-duty personnel from the hospital and its 12 branch health clinics. Due to her detailed nature and unrelenting pursuit of excellence, POMI successfully deployed 148 Sailors in support of 45 Navy medicine taskers; and eased the transition of 90 personnel returning to the command from deployments. She also serves as the assistant family care plan coordinator identifying and notifying service members' families in need of care plans.

In the community, Griffin volunteered for the Mustin Beach and internal beach clean-ups, the annual Fiesta Fun Run and the "Animal Foster Home for

IA Sailors," a group that cares for pets of currently deployed service members. She currently is pursuing an associate's degree in pre-veterinary medicine at Pensacola Junior College.

HM3 Aldridge, a certified member of the sick call screener team at the NATTC branch clinic and its medical records petty officer, is the Junior SoY. He has conducted a multitude of 'first string indoctrination' health-clinic briefs for both NATTC and Marine Air Training Support Group staff; and has provided medical coverage for six MATSG-21 and four NATTC fire-fighting physical training exercises involving more than 800 Sailors and Marines.

An invaluable member of the military sick call team, Aldridge assisted health care providers in the treatment of more than 300 patients monthly, performing triage, primary assessment and entries into the hospital's computer records. His efforts were essential in the clinic achieving 98 percent operational medical readiness.

Aldridge is "self-motivated, resourceful, persistent and constantly personifies the high standards," of the United States Navy, said HMC David Lockard, leading chief of the clinic.

Within the community, the Sailor volunteered his time as a fire fighter and first responder for the Myrtle Grove Volunteer Fire Department; mentoring adolescents with Big

Brothers of America; and assisted and mentored students at Bellview Baptist Church.

HN Moore, the Blue Jacket SoY, has provided complex treatment sessions and fabrication of customer orthotics for 1,200 patients for the physical therapy and occupational therapy department demonstrating the "ability to quickly assimilate complex skills and implement his knowledge to overcome the challenging technical aspects of the specialty clinic, said HMC Victor Alonzo, leading chief.

As the department's training representative, he implemented military and therapy training plans; directly supervised two military assistants; and ensured compliance and timeliness of all Department of Defense mandated training.

As a dedicated educator, he personally instructed occupational therapy specific exercises and modalities to six West Florida High School students from February to April 2009; and facilitated monthly nurse/corpsmen orientation classes for new PT/OT staff members.

Within the community, Moore volunteered with Big Brothers & Big Sisters to provide after-school mentoring of students from Navy Point Elementary; served breakfast for a month to the homeless at Pensacola Lutheran Church; and was parade marshal for the Fiesta Day Parade in downtown Pensacola.

NOMI selects Civilian of the Quarter

From Felicia Sturgis
NOMI PAO

The Naval Operational Medicine Institute (NOMI) Civilian of the Quarter

for the July 2009-September 2009 period is Thomas F. Robertson, lead medical instrument technician, of the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute (NAMI) hyperbaric medicine department. He is responsible for

managing operation and maintenance of the hyperbaric chamber and serves as lead maintenance supervisor for the Department. He also serves as a lead diving supervisor during clinical hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatments and emergency treatments for decompression sickness and all other dysbaric illnesses.

Two of many examples of Robertson's key support of the NOMI mission during this past quarter:

- He identified a defective system component in the hyperbaric chamber, found a replacement component, tested it and directed its installation; allowing the NAMI hyperbaric chamber to remain 100 percent operational and ensured the continuation of the system's NAVFAC certification.

- He researched and directed the set-up of the planned maintenance system for the newly acquired "Fly Away Recompression Chamber" to ensure the hyperbaric department's operational status during the upcoming chamber and dive system overhaul.

Ongoing hyperbaric chamber function is key not only to the NAMI hyperbaric medicine department's primary mission of emergency treatments for decompression sickness and all other dysbaric illnesses, it is critical to NAMI's ability to support clinical hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatments and the upcoming cooperative study with the DVA of hyperbaric oxygen therapy for combat-related traumatic brain injuries.



Thomas Robertson closes door to hyperbaric chamber.

USS Constitution is America's 'ship of state'

By MC1 Eric Brown
USS Constitution Public Affairs

CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD, Mass. (NNS) — USS Constitution recently became America's Ship of State.

USS Constitution's primary mission will remain education and public outreach and any Ship of State functions will be an adjunct to the ship's primary mission, according to the National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 2010 in section 1022.

It is the sense of Congress that the president, vice president, executive branch officials and members of Congress should use the USS Constitution for the conducting of pertinent matters of state, such as hosting visiting heads of state, signing legislation relating to the armed forces and signing maritime related treaties.

Constitution's 71st and current commanding officer, Cmdr. Timothy Cooper, could not be more excited about this law signed by President Barack Obama, after

the House of Representatives and the Senate passed the bill earlier in October.

"I am really proud and humbled to be a part of this honor," Cooper said. "USS Constitution has always been the most visible reminder of the beginnings of our Navy. Now, USS Constitution is a visible reminder of America, and all that we stand for."

Constitution was launched into the Boston Harbor on Oct. 21, 1797. In her years of active service, from 1798-1855, the three-masted wooden frigate fought in the Quasi-War with France, the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812.

Today Old Ironsides is the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the world, has a permanent crew of 73 active-duty U.S. Navy Sailors and is visited by nearly half a million people every year.

The origins of Old Ironsides status as America's Ship of State were in July of 1997 when then Cmdr. Chris Melhuish, Constitution's 65th commanding officer, had a vision for the future of the ship,

shortly before he took command.

"The idea struck me after Cmdr. Michael Beck (USS Constitution's 64th commanding officer) challenged me to create my vision for the ship, following his vision, which was to sail the ship for the first time in 116 years, for Constitution's bicentennial," said Melhuish.

The status of the ship had inherently changed after that historic sail, and Constitution should no longer be thought of as a pierside museum exhibit.

"The best description of the ship was 'ship of state,'" Melhuish said. "That was the vision, and then began the long process of translating that vision into a concept."

In October of 2006, he laid out that concept on paper, which was endorsed by the Congress of the Naval Order of the United States, and by Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England.

Then-Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy sponsored the bill in 2008, but it

did not make final passage into the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, which would take another year.

"The people of this country, through Congress, have done the right thing, which should have been done in 1815," said Melhuish, referring to a *National Intelligencer* article that appeared in 1815.

"Let us keep Old Ironsides at home," the newspaper author opined, shortly after Constitution won a string of victories against her British adversaries in the War of 1812.

"She has, literally, become a nation's ship, and should be preserved. Not as a sheer hulk in ordinary (for she is no ordinary vessel); but, in honorable pomp as a glorious monument of her own, and other naval victories."

"One hundred and 94 years later, we have recognized our greatest ship," Melhuish said. "I'm very, very happy about that."

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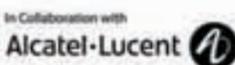
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WORSHIP

NAS Pensacola Protestant

Sunday
 • 8 a.m., Communion Service**
 • 10:15 a.m. Worship Service*
 • 6 p.m. Contemporary Service**
 Tuesday
 • 9 a.m., Women's Bible Study***
 Wednesday
 • 5:30 p.m. Fellowship Dinner
 • 6 p.m. Bible Study***

Roman Catholic

Saturday
 • 3:45 p.m. Sacrament of Penance****
 • 4:30 p.m. Mass*
 Sunday
 • 8:30 a.m. Mass*
 Monday and Thursday
 • Noon Mass****
 Friday
 • 11 a.m. Mass****

Corry Station Protestant

Sunday
 • 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study (chapel conference room)
 • 9 a.m. Chapel Choir (sanctuary)
 • 10 a.m. Worship Service
 • 11:30 a.m. Fellowship
 • 7:30 p.m. Praise and Worship
 Thursday
 • 5:30 p.m., Bible Study and dinner (fellowship hall)

Roman Catholic

Sunday
 • Noon Mass
 Tuesday
 • 11 a.m. Mass (small chapel)

Latter Day Saints

Sunday
 • 10:30 a.m.**
 Wednesday
 • 7-8:30 p.m., Bible Study (Corry)

*Naval Aviation Memorial Chapel
 **All Faiths Chapel
 ***J.B. McKamey Center
 ****Lady of Loreto Chapel



Century ride ... A Mega team century ride will take place Dec. 5, starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Radford Fitness Center at NASP. Two-member teams will complete 100 miles per team. There will be prizes for first, second and third place. The winning team is usually over the line in a little more than two hours. To participate call 452-6802. Photo courtesy of Bob Thomas

Handel's 'Messiah' in Pensacola Dec. 5

From Pensacola Symphony Orchestra

Pensacola Symphony Orchestra (PSO) will once again join with the Pensacola Choral Society and the University of West Florida Singers to perform the holiday classic George Frideric Handel's "Messiah" Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul Catholic Church.

This season's presentation of "Messiah" brings two of Pensacola's most celebrated vocal talents in the soloist line up.

Jane Redding, soprano, has performed with operas



Those performing solos in Handel's "Messiah" include (clockwise from top right) Jane Redding, Andrew Elliott, Wanda Brister and Leo Day

and orchestras across the United States and Asia. Tenor soloist, Leo Day, is minister of music at Olive Baptist Church and an adjunct voice faculty member at the University of West Florida.

Wanda Brister, mezzo-soprano, and Andrew Elliott, baritone, round out the soloist ensemble. Brister is associate professor of voice at Florida State University where Elliott was her student.

"As a performer, this is one of those scores that is full of favorite moments that we look forward to," said Peter Rubardt, music director.

"I imagine that most everybody struggles at times with the stress and chaos of the holidays," Rubardt said.

"I don't think there is a more enjoyable or uplifting way to connect with the true spirit of the holidays than to experience Handel's "Messiah."

Tickets are on sale through Dec. 4. Reserved tickets are \$25 and general admission tickets are \$20.

Call the PSO office at 435-2533 or order online at www.pensacolasymphony.com.

Wreaths Across America project returns to Barrancas

By Anne Thrower
 Gosport Staff Writer

It's an annual event at Barrancas National Cemetery at Naval Air Station Pensacola — hundreds of Christmas wreaths are placed on grave sites as part of the Wreaths Across America project.

Last year more than 1,000 wreaths were placed on graves at Barrancas, said Buster Hartford, who is organizing the event in Pensacola.

It's the fourth year for the wreath drive and every year the numbers keep getting larger.

Hartford said he would like to eventually collect 5,000 wreaths locally, which would be a tractor-trailer load.

The wreaths — with the help of local volunteers — will be laid Dec. 12, starting at 9 a.m.

A ceremony will take place at 11 a.m.

Each year a different section of the cemetery is designated to receive the wreaths since there are roughly 37,000 grave sites at the cemetery.

Hartford said this year one of the older sections near the main office will get the wreaths.

The Dec. 12 ceremony will coincide with the laying of the wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery.

There will also be wreaths laid at 350 sites nationwide and across the world, including seven wreaths thrown from ships. Last year 105,000 wreaths were collected and laid.

The ceremony at NASP will include a tribute to the unknown Soldier and Rosie the Riveter, Hartford said.

Wreaths are given to local families who had a family member die this year in Iraq or Afghanistan.

"It's kind of amazing that even with the way the economy is today, people still want to honor the veterans,"

Hartford said. "It's quite heartwarming." The Wreaths Across America project was started 18 years ago.

People can continue to order wreaths until Nov. 25. The wreaths cost \$15.

Hartford said people can order the wreaths to be placed at Barrancas through the *Wreaths Across America.org* Web site.

They can also order wreaths to be placed at grave sites of individuals who are buried at other cemeteries.

But Hartford said he would like people to call him if the wreaths are going somewhere other than Barrancas so he can arrange for those people to pick the wreaths up.

Hartford can be reached at 341-7937.

People can also order wreaths through several local groups who are sponsoring wreath collections.

Among the 15 or so groups sponsoring the drive is the Young Marines of Pensacola chapter that has been selling the wreaths since early October.

The young Marines will also help lay the wreaths on Dec. 12.



November Liberty Activities

The Liberty Program events target young, unaccompanied active-duty military. For a monthly calendar of activities at the main Liberty Center in the Portside Entertainment Complex or onboard Corry Station, call 452-2372 or visit their Web site at www.naspensacola.navy.mil/mwr/singsail/liberty.ht.

20 Liberty — Free movie premier — "The Ugly Truth" at NASP, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; and "Public Enemy" at Corry, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

21 Liberty — FSU vs. Maryland, \$25 includes tickets and transportation. Time to be arranged.

22 Liberty — Tandem skydiving, \$140, departs NASP at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. and Corry at 8:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

23 Liberty — Football on the big screen, free chips and salsa.

"NAS Live" — Because of the holiday, there will be a taped program. The show airs at 6:30 p.m. on Cox Cable's Channel 6 or Mediacom's Channel 38.

24 Liberty — Free mall shuttle, leaves 5:30 p.m.

25-29 Liberty — Trip to Disney World departs Nov. 25 and returns Nov. 29. The \$175 cost includes lodging, transportation and Disney Armed Forces Salute.

30 Liberty — Football on the big screen.

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GOSPORT MOVIES

Movies and show times for Portside Cinema

FRIDAY Where the Wild Things Are (PG) 5; Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (PG) 5:15; Law Abiding Citizen (R) 7, 9:30; Zombieland (R) 7:15; Couples Retreat (PG13) 9:15

SATURDAY Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (PG) noon, 2:15; Where the Wild Things Are (PG) 12:15, 2:30; The Invention of Lying (PG13) 4:30; The Stepfather (PG13) 4:45; Couples Retreat (PG13) 6:45; Law Abiding Citizen (R) 7; Zombieland (R) 9:15; Surrogates (PG13) 9:30

SUNDAY Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (PG) noon; Where the Wild Things Are (PG) 12:15; Whip It (PG13) 2:15; Surrogates (PG13) 2:30; Couples Retreat (PG13) 4:30; The Stepfather (PG13) 4:45; Law Abiding Citizen (R) 7; Zombieland (R) 7:15

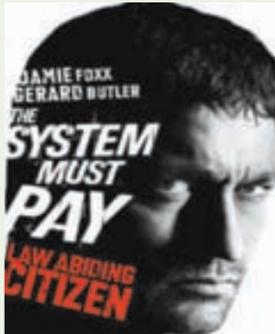
MONDAY Closed

TUESDAY Whip It (PG13) 5; Surrogates (PG13) 5:15; The Invention of Lying (PG13) 7:15; Zombieland (R) 7:30

WEDNESDAY Where the Wild Things Are (PG) 5; Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (PG) 5:15; Law Abiding Citizen (R) 7:15; Couples Retreat (PG13) 7:30

THURSDAY Closed, Happy Thanksgiving

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