

Concert honors fallen heroes

Story, photo by MC2 Kimberly Williams

NAVSTA Public Affairs

GTMO residents paid tribute to fallen heroes with the 'Salute to Fallen Heroes' concert at the Windjammer Ballroom April 25.

The benefit was the idea of Army Pfc. Mercedes Diaz who planned the event and it was sponsored by the Guantanamo Bay African American Association.

"The Fallen Heroes concept stemmed from the fact that Diaz does non-profit work back in her hometown Boston, so she

thought it would be a good idea to do a benefit concert as a way to give back," said Army Sgt. Lavelle Jones, event master of ceremonies. "It is important to increase awareness about what family members may have to deal with when they lose a loved one," said Jones. "We are service members and may have personally been affected by this situation. It is nice to be able to help someone else that may be in need."

Jones explained that it was important to select a charity that is significant in assisting Servicemembers' families affected by the loss of a love one in battle.

All proceeds from the benefit went to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund.

Pensacola native Yeoman Seaman Katrina Mitchell, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) Administration Department performed two songs during the event



Pfc. Mercedes Diaz, rocks the crowd during her final performance at the 'Salute to Fallen Heroes' concert April 25.



Photo by MC1 Robert Lamb

CONGRATS MASTER CHIEF — *ITCS(SW/AW) Amanda Alston was frocked to the rank of master chief petty officer at a pinning ceremony performed by NAVSTA Executive Officer Cmdr. Sylvester Moore and NAVSTA Command Master Chief Keith Carlson April 30 at Bulkeley Hall.*

and explained her motivation for supporting the cause.

"This event shows support for the troops and that we are all here for the same cause," said Mitchell. "I think we should have more events like this in the future because it gets troopers from all branches involved."

Concert headliner Anjuli Stars, a musician from the Berkley

School of Music in Massachusetts, flew to GTMO with back up vocalist Shakinah Williams and keyboardist Paris Strother to participate in the event.

The group serenaded the audience with melodic hip hop, jazz and R&B tunes and ended their performance by giving thanks to all servicemembers for

their service.

"We are thankful to everyone that showed support for the event," said Jones. "A warm heartfelt thanks goes out to all the local talent that performed as well as to Anjuli Stars and her crew for coming down to support such a cause. Without them this event would not have been possible."

Navy News

Navy Reestablishes U.S. Fourth Fleet

Story by MC3 Alan Gragg,

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command Public Affairs

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead announced recently the reestablishment of U.S. 4th Fleet and assigned Rear Adm. Joseph D. Kernan, currently serving as Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command, as its first commander.

U.S. 4th Fleet will be responsible for U.S. Navy ships, aircraft and submarines operating in the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) area of focus, which encompasses the Caribbean, and Central and South America and the surrounding waters.

Located in Mayport, Fla., and dual-hatted with Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (COMUSNAVSO), U.S. 4th Fleet reestablishment addresses the increased role of maritime forces in the SOUTHCOM area of focus, and demonstrates U.S. commitment to regional partners.

”Reconstituting the Fourth Fleet recognizes the immense importance of maritime security in the southern part of the Western Hemisphere, and sends a strong signal to all the civil and military maritime services in Central and Latin America,” said Roughead. “Aligning the Fourth Fleet along with our other numbered fleets and providing the capabilities and personnel are a logical execution of our new Maritime Strategy.”

U.S. 4th Fleet was original established in 1943 as one of

the original numbered fleets, and was given a specific mission. During World War II, the U.S. needed a command in charge of protecting against raiders, blockade runners and enemy submarines in the South Atlantic. U.S. 4th Fleet was disestablished in 1950 when U.S. 2nd Fleet took over its responsibilities.

Initially, the new 4th Fleet will be headquartered with COMUSNAVSO and take advantage of the existing infrastructure, communications support and personnel already in place in Mayport. As a result, U.S. 4th Fleet will not involve an increase in forces assigned in Mayport.

”This is a significant change and presents us the opportunity to garner the right resources for the missions we run for Southern Command,” said Rear Adm. James W. Stevenson Jr., Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO). “As a numbered fleet, we will be in a better position to ensure the Combatant Commander has the right assets available when needed.”

U.S. 4th Fleet Commander will retain responsibility as COMUSNAVSO, the Navy component command for SOUTHCOM. Its mission is to direct U.S. naval forces operating in the Caribbean, Central and South American regions and interact with partner nation navies within the maritime environment.



Photo by MC1 Robert Lamb

USS CARR— *The guided-missile frigate USS Carr (FFG 52), pulls into Naval Station Guantanamo Bay April 26 for fuel and supplies and a few days of liberty. The Carr continued on a tour of the Caribbean immediately after leaving GTMO.*

Various operations include counter-illicit trafficking, Theater Security Cooperation, military-to-military interaction and bilateral and multinational training.

GUANTANAMO BAY

Gazette

Vol. 65 No. 18

Commanding Officer.....	Capt. Mark M. Leary
Executive Officer.....	Cmdr. Sylvester Moore
Command Master Chief.....	CMDDCM(SW/AW) Keith Carlson
Public Affairs Officer.....	Bruce Lloyd
Mass Communication Specialist/LPO.....	MC1 Robert Lamb
Mass Communication Specialist/Editor.....	MC2 Kimberly Williams

The Guantanamo Bay Gazette is an authorized publication for members of the military services and their families stationed at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Navy, and do not imply endorsement thereof. The editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. Questions or comments can be directed to the PAO. The Gazette staff can be reached by phone at ext. 4502; fax 4819; by email at pao@usnbgtno.navy.mil. Get the Gazette online at www.cnicy.navy.mil/guantanamo

National testing centers resume ACT, GED , SAT

Story by Sharon Anderson

Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Sailors can again take ACT, General Educational Development (GED) and SAT exams beginning May 1 at their local Navy College Center after Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Support (DANTES) officials gave the authorization to restart the testing.

Other Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Support (DANTES) paper-based testing for the Navy, both ashore and afloat, has not resumed. Sailors may take these tests electronically at National Testing Centers (NTC) located worldwide on numerous military installations.

ACT, GED and SAT tests are available only on paper.

"It was very important to start administrating these tests again so our Sailors can continue their education plans. We will continue working closely with DANTES to reestablish these testing privileges on shore and on ships," said Ann Hunter, vol-

untary education service chief.

Sailors applying for the Seaman-to-Admiral (STA-21) program should contact their local Navy College Office immediately to schedule the appropriate exam, she added.

All paper-based DANTES testing was halted in late February after tests were lost at some Navy installations and ships.

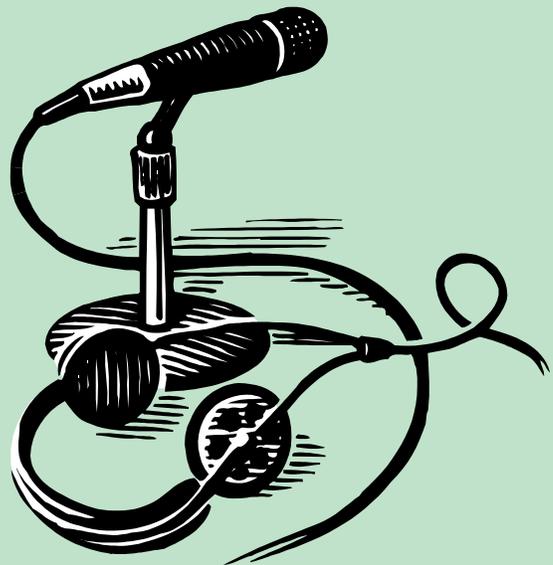
"The Navy is aggressively pursuing electronic testing through on-base NTCs," said Hunter. "The advantages of on-base NTCs are numerous, but the most significant to our Sailors is that they are able to deliver the results of the test immediately."

For more information call toll free the Navy College call center at 1-877-253-7122 or go to <https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/>.

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

Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Radio-Thon

May 12 - 16, 2008
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily



This event is a fund-raiser for NMCRS which helps servicemembers and their families in their time of need.

Donations to the society may be used to assist servicemembers and their families in times of emergency.

*Looking for Volunteers to DJ, take phone requests and collect pledges.
FMI call Chief Thomas 4325 or 84175.*

The musical **'Secrets Every Smart Traveler Should Know'**

opens May 9
at W.T. Sampson High School
Tickets are \$5 each
FMI call 2480

OCS: The Road to Leadership

By Tami Faram

LIFELines

There are a few different routes to becoming a Navy or Marine Corps officer, but the road that travels through Officer Candidate School (OCS) is one of the most challenging an individual can take.

Navy

The Navy's OCS is a 13-week training course offered at Naval Aviation Schools Command in Pensacola, Fla., to individuals aged 19 to 35. OCS is physically and mentally demanding from day one. A prospective OCS candidate must pass physical rigors and emotional stress on a daily basis before he or she is commissioned as an ensign in the United States Navy.

There are three phases to the Navy's OCS training program.

The first week is the indoctrination phase. During this time, students pass through medical screening, take the entry-level physical readiness test, receive their uniforms, and learn basic military procedures. It's also then that students learn to follow basic orders.

The second to 10th weeks of training are the officer candidate phase, in which students take the bulk of their academic courses and compete for individual team awards in military training, academic performance, and physical fitness. Academically, candidates learn about naval history, organization, and warfare, seamanship, navigation, damage control, engineering, administration, military law, and naval leadership.

Their military training consists of drill, physical fitness, inspections, and ceremonies.

"The physical demands are great," says Cmdr. Bob Kallio, director of OCS. "Many candidates arrive at OCS totally unprepared

for the physical demands of the course, despite guidance from their recruiters and a rather comprehensive website that lists the entry and graduation requirements and a conditioning program to prepare an individual for OCS. The regimented life-style, 24 hours a day for 13 weeks, is not suited for everyone."

Kallio says that even an undisciplined person can become more disciplined with the help of the "very capable staff" of fleet lieutenants, recruit division commanders, chief petty officers, and seasoned Marine Corps drill instructors. Each OCS class of 50 candidates is led by these individuals, who shape them into qualified officers. Each year, OCS graduates and commissions about 1,200 Navy ensigns who will serve in one of 14 officer specialties. On average, 10 percent of the student population per year are women.

Ensign Suzanne T. Hubner was commissioned from OCS in October 2001. Following OCS, she completed another course, the Basic Officer Leadership Training Continuum. From there she was headed for Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape School before entering training for her designated area as a cryptologic officer.

"The greatest award OCS bestows is a great feeling of accomplishment and self-confidence," says Hubner. "You realize that you can do just about anything." And when it comes to overcoming the challenges of OCS, Hubner says, "OCS is only as difficult as you make it. If you are physically prepared and ready to endure some inconveniences, you will survive. The best thing to do is to remember your goals, your reasons for being there, and that it can't last forever!"

Marine Corps

To become a Marine Corps officer through the Officer Candidate School program, prospective candidates attend their initial training course in Quantico, Va.

There are two types of students at Marine Corps OCS — those in the Platoon Leaders Class (PLC) and those in the Officer Candidate Class (OCC). PLC students can be freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors in college who have not yet received their degree, while OCC candidates have already earned their bachelors degree from college.

The OCC classes are conducted three times a year in January, June, and October. OCC candidates are put through the rigors in one 10-week course, whereas PLC students evolve through two six-week training courses or a combined 10-week course, both of which are conducted at OCS during the summer.

PLC and OCC class sizes are typically 250 to 300 students, broken into four to six platoons. The platoons train in a physically demanding environment where sleep deprivation, military tasks, and memorization are constantly forced on candidates to test their ability to handle stress.

Fifty percent of the Marines OCS training involves leadership evaluation, 25 percent is academic, and 25 percent is physical fitness.

Once OCS training is completed, the candidates are commissioned as second lieutenants in the Marine Corps. From there, the newly commissioned officers attend another six months of rigorous training at the Basic School, also located at Quantico. The Basic School is a strict learning environment where officers learn how to lead Marines in peacetime and war. After Basic School, the Marines head to their Military Occu-

pational Specialty School to learn their specific job in the Marine Corps. From there, they enter the fleet.

"We're looking for well-rounded individuals who are good in almost anything they attempt," says Capt Greg Corbett, an Officer Selection Officer (OSO) instructor. OSOs are Marine Corps officers who educate prospective candidates on the Marine Corps OCS program before they enter training.

"We're really developing leaders," Corbett says. "We want people who want to become leaders and are willing to accept challenges." He says every prospective Marine Corps OCS candidate is encouraged to find an OSO in their region of the country who will meet with them to explain what the Marine Corps expects of its officers.

Capt Anita Weissflach is an OSO located in Hyattsville, Md. Her region covers Maryland, D.C., Northern Virginia, and parts of West Virginia. Weissflach said that, like a recruiters office, she does get some people walking into her office who are interested in OCS, but most of her prospective candidates are college graduates or college students.

"I tell people the best part of this job [as an officer] is that you get to lead Marines," she says. "Marines work hard and play hard." She adds that, for her, another advantage to becoming a Marine was that she gained a "lot of responsibility at a very young age."

Members of the Navy's enlisted ranks who are interested in attending OCS can apply through their chain of command using Instruction OPNAVINST 1420.1. Chapter 7 of the instruction specifically addresses OCS.

Spouse Education, Training & Careers

Story provided by
Military OneSource

MilitaryHOMEFRONT wishes to offer a Special Announcement for Military Spouses! The Department of Defense is pleased to announce the Operation RE/MAX new awareness campaign.

This campaign coincides with the CAA pilot program co-sponsored by the Department of Defense and the Department of Labor, which will provide educational benefits to qualifying military spouses.

Operation RE/MAX is an employment recruitment program, targeting military spouses, retirees, injured veterans and other ex-military personnel. Volunteer RE/MAX brokers agree to attend on-base job fairs, sponsor informative "recruiting events," provide personal mentoring and schedule training as needed.

All of these activities are provided at no cost to military participants.

The RE/MAX broker also provides information on possible employment in the real estate industry, to assist program participants in deciding upon a career path.

If interested in pursuing a real estate license, the broker can also provide detailed information on local licensing requirements. In many cases, classroom instruction for obtaining a real estate license can be paid for by GI Bill benefits or with new CAA funds.

New Awareness Campaign - Operation RE/MAX initiated a new awareness campaign earlier this year, when redesigned marketing materials will be sent to military installations around the country.

This new awareness campaign coin-

Sailor of the Week



"I never expected to get Sailor of the Week. I always try to work my hardest. It's a good feeling to be Sailor of the Week."

MASN Brett Wilder
NAVSTA Security

Photo by MC2 Kim Williams

cides with the CAA pilot program co-sponsored by the Department of Defense and the Department of Labor, which will provide educational benefits to qualifying military spouses.

These new Operation RE/MAX marketing materials contain an informative brochure, a wall poster, an introductory booklet for the installation and one for potential program participants.

As part of the new awareness campaign the Operation RE/MAX website is being updated and will include a recently produced promotional video that features testimonials from successful program participants. The website should be online in May.

RE/MAX is committed to support our military families through Operation RE/MAX and is continuing to provide the resources that will bring more success in its second year.

For more information about this program or searching career centers go to <http://cs.mhf.dod.mil/content/dav/mhf/QOL-Library/MilitaryHOMEFRONT/243282.html> or check out the May edition of Military Spouse Magazine.

Religious Services/ Base Chapel

Catholic

Daily Catholic Mass Mon. - Fri. 5:30 p.m. (Main Chapel)
Vigil Mass, Sat. 5 p.m. (Main Chapel)
Sun. Mass, 7:30 a.m. (JTF-Troopers Chapel)
Sun. 9 a.m. Mass (Main Chapel)

Protestant (GTMO Chapel)

Sat. 11 a.m. Seventh Day Adventist Service (Room B)
Sun. 5:30 a.m. Iglesia Ni Cristo (Room A)
8 a.m. Pentecostal Gospel Temple (Room D)
9 a.m. LDS Service (Room A)
10 a.m. Liturgical Service (Room B)
11 a.m. General Prot. Service
11 a.m. United Jamaican Fellowship (Bldg 1036)
1 p.m. Gospel Service
1 p.m. LORIMI Gospel Service (Room D)
7 p.m. GTMO Bay Christian Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)

Friday Religious Services

1:15 p.m. Islamic Service (Room C)
7 p.m. Jewish Service (FMI call 2628)

Religious Services/ JTF Troopers Chapel

Catholic Services

Wed. 11 a.m. Spanish Mass (New)
Sat. 6:30 p.m. Vigil Mass (PPI Chapel)
Sun. 7:30 a.m. Sunday Mass (New)

Liberty program offers activities for servicemembers



GTMO residents take advantage of the beaches surrounding the island and kayak around the Guantanamo Bay. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center offers several water sports and other activities for servicemembers in search of activities.

From NAVSTA Public Affairs

"Get out of your barracks room," said Jeffrey Shaw, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Liberty Center coordinator. "We at the Liberty Centers average about four activities per week. Some are re-occurring like the upcoming movie night every Saturday and bowling every Wednesday," said Shaw, "but some events are less frequent, like our quarterly poker tournaments and monthly overnight trips to Leeward. We're always looking for feedback, that is how many of our programs have become so popular."

Shaw explained that MWR looks for new ideas and that suggestions from the community have turned into reality.

"If an idea or program doesn't work,

we will restructure it and try it again a couple weeks/months later. Trends change fast here, especially with a young demographic such as ours, customer feedback is essential to keep the pulse of what is new and exciting."

He also added that residents should take advantage of GTMO's beautiful climate.

"Our weather and outdoors are our assets and you can't enjoy them if you're a barracks rat," said Shaw. "Time flies when your having fun, so you just have to get out there and find it."

Residents can participate in individual, co-ed or captains-cup team sports, officiate sporting events, or coach. GTMO has several fitness facilities including G.J. Denich Gym, Marine Hill Gym and Camp America Gym.

There are also two pools located on Marine Hill and behind the Windjammer

where locals can play water sports. Four Liberty Centers, housed at Deer Point, Camp America, Tierra Kay and Marine Hill, have for all sorts of daily and weekly activities.

During the months of May and June, the Liberty Centers have 38 activities scheduled.

"We have gone from two centers supporting primarily non-JTF personnel to four centers with heavy support for our JTF servicemembers," said Shaw. "When I arrived, we had a monthly patronage at our Liberty Centers of about five thousand. Presently, we see on average about 20 thousand per month."

Additions to the Liberty centers include Satellite TV, wireless internet access, bigger lounge areas, doubled the number of video game stations and games and extended the 8mm movie program to all center from just one.

"The program participation is up about 400 percent and the number of programmed activities have more than doubled. New programs include overnight trips, beach bashes, Last Buck parties, Golf outings, 3-on-3 basketball tournaments and much more," said Shaw.

LIBERTY PROGRAM MAY EVENTS

May 5 Cinco de Mayo Cruise 7 p.m.-
GTMO Queen

May 7 Liberty at the Lanes 6 p.m.-
Bowling Center

May 8 Night Fishing 7 p.m.- Marina

May 10 Midnight Movie - Bulkeley
Lyceum

FMI Call 2010

DoD announces new relocation tool for families

Story by Barbara Goodno

Special to American Forces Press Service

It's almost peak moving season again for military families, and Defense Department leaders want families to know new resources are available to help.

"Plan My Move," soft-launched in late summer, is the next generation of DoD's MilitaryHomefront tools to provide an integrated "e-moving" solution, officials said.

Moving to a new community can be a stressful event for all service and family members," Leslye A. Arsht, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy, said. "This tool helps to ease that burden. It will put our servicemembers and their families in direct contact with those who can help every step of the way, from their current home and community to the new one."

When the user enters the current loca-

tion, the new location and the departure date into the new application, it generates installation overviews, a three-month planning calendar, valuable travel and arrival checklists, as well as important points of contacts and family program information, Arsht said.

The Plan My Move tool is designed to coach servicemembers and their families through the entire moving process, step-by-step. And while most moving takes place over the summer, it's never too early to start a plan, Arsht added.

Special features of Plan My Move include:

- A planning calendar with useful information that can be customized to meet the unique needs of each move;

- Decision tools, such as best communities to live in, best schools, and af-

fordable housing, based on data from military and civilian comparative community studies;

- "Smooth move" tips;
- Special calendars for moving to or from an overseas location; and
- Information about moving with a special-needs family member.

In addition, families will be able to access 55 directories of programs and services on installations worldwide, from the barber shop to DoD schools to the family center; maps and driving directions to most locations on the installation; overviews, photo galleries and must-know information for each installation included in the database; current local weather conditions; and extensive local community point-of-interest information.

VEHICLE CLAIMS

As per NAVSTAGTMO 11200.1 Security Department can hold vehicles for only 120 days. Vehicles are turned over to Bremcor as per NAVBASEGTMO 4500.3F Abandoned Property Board instruction. Only the registered owner or his agent may claim the vehicle; do not call asking to purchase. For more information, contact Chief Thomas at 4325, Monday – Friday 0730-1600 or email thomasc@usnbgmto.navy.mil.

Reg. Number	Year	Make	Model	Color	VIN
C-6928	1977	Ford	Van	Grey	E11BH8B0693
UNK	1980	Ford	Mustang	White	ORO 341 40379
C-3992	1986	Ford	Escort	Blue	1FA8P319JGT203711
UNK	1980	Chevy	C-30	blue/gold	cct3au1 10296
UNK	UNK	Chevy	Cavalier	Red	1G1JC54G6L7136556
UNK	1986	Plymouth	Voyager	Blue	2P4FH41G6HR21 3568
UNK	UNK	Chevy	Nova	Brown	1X27G9W 125803
C-2958	1991	Ford	Ranger Custom	White	1FTCR10U1 NUB29764
C-0855	1981	Ford	100	Black	1FTCF10E7BNB01006
C-5286	1987	Dodge	Ram	White	1B7KD36W7FS609366
C-7138	UNK	Mercury	Sable	Blue	1MELN5040RG613479
UNK	1985	Ford	F150	Gray	2FTCF15Y8GCA 60983
C-8193	1984	Ford	LTD Wagon	White	1FABP4031EG262104
C-7158	UNK	Ford	Escort	Blue	1FABP3693FT188148
C-1701		Ford	Bronco		1FMEU1SY8DLA 43306
UNK	UNK	Ford	F150	Black	1FTUF15Y1ENA 21244

Sports

SAVI hosts 3-on-3 basketball tournament

Story, photos by MC2 Kimberly Williams

NAVSTA Public Affairs

The Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) Sexual Assault Victim Intervention (SAVI) program held a 3-on-3 basketball tournament April 26 at G.J. Denich Gymnasium. The event was held to recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

SAVI Program Coordinator James Mandley used the event to increase awareness among the GTMO community about the occurrence of sexual assault and its prevention.

He stated that the majority of assaults in GTMO involved the misuse of alcohol.

“Sexual assault does happen ... it is a crime and when you see inappropriate behavior physical and verbal, take some actions [and] intervene,” said Mandley. “The worst thing a person can do is ‘nothing’.” “The best prevention is education ... learning the risk factors so as not to put yourself at risk,” said Mandley.

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National website, almost 2/3 of rapes were committed by someone known to the victim.

“I just tried to think of an activity that would attract people ... and basketball



James Mandley educates the audience about sexual assault issues prior to the start of the 3-on-3 tournament April 26.



seemed to be a [good option],” said Mandley.

The tournament consisted of eight teams ranging from high school students to military officers. The top three teams won prizes including athletic bags with water bottles, a book of NEX coupons T-shirts and three certificates for dinner at NAVSTA Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Leary’s house.

‘Team Docs’ won the overall tournament beating ‘Team Goon’ 15 – 10.

“I think the event was great because it brought awareness to the base about sexual assault and that everyone is re-

sponsible for trying to limit the causes leading to assault,” said Navy Diver 2nd Class Clessie Simmons, member of ‘The Docs’. “I definitely would participate in another event like this. It is always good to get information out to everyone to change old ways of thinking about sexual assault. I think the SAVI did a great job in the production of the 3-on-3 and the way he gave a speech on sexual assault before the event started was a really great idea,” said Simmons.

To volunteer for the SAVI program, contact the Fleet and Family Support Center 4141.

‘Team Docs’ member Clarence Lampkin drives through the lane for a layup during the GTMO SAVI 3-on-3 basketball tournament April 26 at G.J. Denich Gymnasium. The event was held to recognize sexual awareness month to inform base residents about the causes and prevention of sexual assault.

Center for Disease Control discusses childhood vaccines

Story provided by Navy One Source

A recent opinion column "Give Us Answers on Vaccines" by David Kirby in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, which misinterpreted available information about a case before the National Vaccine Injury Compensation program, may have parents wondering what is best for their child when it comes to immunizations. That is unfortunate, given that our nation's childhood vaccines are very safe and are proven to protect and save lives.

Parents should know that CDC, along with other agencies in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the wide range of scientists and health professionals involved in the nation's immunization programs take seriously questions and concerns related to vaccine safety. Furthermore, our efforts in vaccines, developmental disabilities and the health of children go far beyond our professional interests— as many of the dedicated professionals involved are also parents and grandparents.

Mr. Kirby's column included many inaccuracies related to childhood vaccines. As such, it illustrates that when it comes to immunizations, child development and specific medical conditions the best source of guidance is the child's health care provider. Parents should not be reluctant to ask their child's doctors or nurses about any health concerns, including immunizations. Vaccines are often given early in life in order to protect against diseases that can seriously harm infants and young children. The joint immunization recommendations of CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics and American Academy of Family Physicians do recognize there are

instances when a child should not receive a recommended vaccine or when a recommended vaccination should be delayed. Those decisions, however, are best made in consultation with the child's doctor.

As the column correctly noted, vaccine injury cases are often handled through the National Vaccine Injury Compensation program administered by HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This program is charged with determining whether a claimed injury meets pre-established criteria or if vaccination may have contributed to a child's serious medical or health condition. If such a determination is made, the program works to provide timely and compassionate compensation.

Since 1988, HRSA's vaccine injury program has provided compensation in about 2,100 cases, including some that have involved vaccines and encephalopathy (injury to the brain). While Mr. Kirby's column suggested otherwise, to date, this program has never determined in any case that autism was caused by a vaccine. In comparison, during this same time period about 100 million American children received recommended childhood vaccinations, and cases of vaccine preventable diseases in the U.S. have decreased to record or near record lows.

Recently, mitochondrial disorders have become the focus of media attention with respect to vaccine injury compensation. Mitochondrial disorders, which occur very rarely in children, are believed to be genetic. Children born with these disorders often appear normal through the first

years of life. When placed under severe stress from such things as infections, fever, dehydration, malnutrition or lack of sleep, children with these disorders often experience loss of some brain and nervous system functions.

Some have suggested that infants and children be screened for mitochondrial disorders before getting recommended vaccinations. Unfortunately, mitochondrial diseases are very difficult to diagnose and it is usually not possible to identify children with such disorders until there are signs of developmental decline. A definitive diagnosis often requires multiple blood tests and may also require a muscle or brain biopsy (removal of a portion for testing, usually under anesthesia). Therefore, providing routine screening tests on children who have no symptoms would bring other medical risks and raise many ethical questions.

At present, we do not know definitively if vaccines can trigger neurological or developmental declines among children with mitochondrial disorders. We do know, however, that infections can cause neurological and developmental declines among these children—and we also know that childhood vaccinations protect children against some of the same infections known to cause developmental decline among children with mitochondrial disorders. These include vaccine-preventable diseases like measles, chickenpox and influenza.

In the case of children with mitochondrial disorders, we do not yet have sufficient evidence to make general immunization recommendations. Physicians who care for children with these dis-

orders usually recommend that these children receive their childhood vaccines, but depending on the child's health status or medical condition, they may change when those vaccinations are provided.

We recognize that developmental disorders whether related to mitochondrial disease, autism or other causes are a serious challenge for many families. In the case of autism, CDC has actively supported vaccine safety research in this area. To date, the best science indicates that there is no association between vaccines and autism. As part of our efforts to foster understanding of autism, CDC is currently conducting the largest study to date designed to identify potential autism causes and risk factors.

We recognize that much of the success of our nation's immunization efforts comes from the trust of parents. We do not take that trust lightly. Rather, CDC, FDA and other HHS agencies are continually working to expand efforts in vaccine safety research and science as well as clinician and parent input and involvement. Like parents, we want the best information possible when it comes to protecting and ensuring children's health.

Our nation's high immunization rates are the reason why very few children suffer from vaccine preventable diseases that, in the past, used to harm them in large numbers. These high rates show that parents realize the importance of childhood vaccinations. CDC is committed to maintaining that high level of support as well as making sure all our efforts are working to foster the health of children.

Downtown Lyceum Bank Job

Friday, May 2

College Road Trip

8 p.m., PG, 83 min.

10,000 B.C.

10 p.m., PG-13, 109 min.

Saturday, May 3

Penelope

8 p.m., PG, 83 min.

The Bank Job

10 p.m., PG-13, 110 min.

Sunday, May 4

Vantage Point

8 p.m., PG-13, 84 min.

Monday, May 5

Nim's Island

8 p.m., PG-13, 96 min.

Tuesday, May 6

Definitely Maybe

8 p.m., PG-13, 112 min.

Wednesday, May 7

Semi-Pro

8 p.m., R, 90 min.

Thursday, May 8

Witless Protection

8 p.m., R, 90 min.



A car dealer with a dodgy past and new family, Terry has always avoided major-league scams. But when Martine, a beautiful model from his old neighborhood, offers him a lead on a foolproof bank hit on London's Baker Street, Terry recognizes the opportunity of a lifetime. Martine targets a roomful of safe deposit boxes worth millions in cash and jewelry.

Penelope



Generations ago, a witch placed a curse on the Wilhern family that would result in the next girl being born into the clan having the face of a pig. For generations, only sons were born into the family, until approximately twenty-five years ago, when Penelope was born, stricken with the curse. The curse can only be lifted if one of her own learns to love her, which is interpreted by her parents to mean a blue-blooded.

MWR Happenings

**Armed Forces Entertainment Presents:
Soul Motion**

INOBE

May 2nd - Tiki Bar - 2100

**USO Meet and Greet with BRADLEY
COOPER**

May 2nd - Camp America 1530, Marine
Hill Liberty Ctr 1630,

Goat Locker 1800

May 3rd -NEX Atrium 1400, Deer Point
Liberty Ctr 1600,

Rick's Lounge 1800

CINCO de MAYO

May 3rd

1800 to 2400 at the Bayview

Salsa and Guacamole w/French Chips,
Roasted Pork Enchiladas, Tequila
Marinated Chicken, Mexican w/Mexican
Mole Sauce, Mexican Rice & Black Beans,
Grilled Corn on the Cob w/Garlic Butter and
Fresh Lime, Mexican Cornbread, Chocolate
Tres Leches Cake, Aqua Fresca Watermelon

Cost is \$12.50

2008 SPRING 1/2 MARATHON

May 10th at 0600

Run starts at the Denich Gym

Sign up by May 9th

May participate individually or as a team
of two

FMI Call 77262 or email at

chapmanaj@usnbgmtmo.navy.mil

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

1000 - 1400 At the Bayview

\$11.50 for Mom

Full House \$15.95

Children 6 & Under \$7.50

For Sale

(2) Sea and Sea underwater digital camera DX 8000G Islander package. New! \$1400. FMI call 72900 or 77796.
 (2) internet DSL box with a power supply for \$60. FMI call 4519 or 78690.
 (2) Wooden Futon w/ magazine, linen storage \$150. Wooden Twin bunk bed set, upgraded mattresses, linens, and matching wooden dresser \$250. Glass-topped dining table w/ dolphin base, 6 chairs w/ sage covers \$400. FMI call 77729/84716.
 (2) \$250 Wii for sale with cables/documentation. No remote or games. FMI contact gmo345@yahoo.com
 (2) FORTEC STAR 1.8m (6') C/ KU Band Prime Focus FTA Satellite Dish. Good condition, needs LNB. \$325. FMI call 77182.
 (2) Spear gun, Biller 42, original condition, \$125. Fluorescent Light bulbs, 42 watt, 150 watt equivalent, brighten up your house, \$15 each. Red Patio blocks, 18"x18", over 200, \$1 each, or \$150 for all, you pick up. FMI call 75815.
 (2) Sony 32" Trinitron TV - \$175, Sony 5-Disc CD Player - \$50, Sony VCR - \$15. FMI call 72073 or 77898.
 (2) Blue sofa, \$100.00; Glass top end tables and coffee table, \$75.00; 25" Color TV, \$50.00; Panasonic 5 CD stereo w/oak stand, \$100.00; Sony Discman w/ speakers, \$35.00. FMI call 75779 or 2276.
 (1) GE Washer and Dryer, good condition, both for \$50, FMI call 77134.
 (1) 80 Gigabyte external Hard Drive (USB) brand new, still in the box, \$75. 6X-Box 360 games, Like new, in the original cases, \$120. Please call for titles. FMI call 77828.
 (1) Bunk-bed over desk combination. Mostly metal and wood ... \$50. Excellent condition. FMI call 77877.
 (1) Timex alarm clock radio with CD player and nature sounds. \$30. FMI call 9834.
 (1) Sony 32" Trinitron TV - \$150, Sony Surround Sound and Sony Receiver, \$100. FMI call 72073 or 77898.

Vehicles & Boats

(2) 84 Honda Civic, 4-door, cold AC, excellent gas mileage, 170 miles, runs very well. \$1700. FMI call 75517.
 (2) 1992 FORD Bronco 4X4, 2002 factory 302 (10K) New paint (2003), 8000# bpr winch, tow hitch, 2" lift. \$7000. Avail May. FMI call 77198.
 (2) 2001 4 door Saturn sedan, good condition with working A/C. 83,000 miles asking \$5000; 1993 Toyota 4 Runner 4door, fair condition, 200k+ miles, runs great, great for GTMO asking \$2500 FMI call 77793
 (2) 1998 Ford Contour, V6, 84k miles, cold a/c, great interior, new battery. Great family car. \$5000. FMI call 72073 or 77898.
 (2) 24ft Tracker Pontoon, 60hp Merc BigFoot 4 stroke (super quiet). Medium density polyethylene pontoons, perfect for salt water because they won't rust or corrode. Motor \$5000, plastic pontoons and mounting hardware \$4000, total package \$9000. Having a boat so you can go diving or fishing any time you want to, priceless. FMI call 74097.
 (1) 1989 Dodge Ram 250 truck, custom, dependable, good condition, \$2,500 OBO. FMI call 79599.
 (1) 2007 BMS Moped only 190 miles, \$1500. FMI call 77265.
 (1) 2003 Ford Taurus SE, V6, 49K mile, excellent condition, asking \$9,500 OBO. FMI call 77134.
 (1) 1987 Bayliner Boat, 26 foot, Good condition and good trailer. \$8,000, OBO. FMI call 3472.
 (1) Tractor mower, good shape. Please give offer, it's like new. FMI call 3472.
 (1) 1992 FORD Bronco 4X4, 2002 factory 302 (less than 10K) new paint (2003), 8000# bpr/winch, tow hitch, 2" lift. \$6000, Final Price! FMI call 77198.
 (1) 1998 Ford Contour, V6, 84k miles, cold a/c, great interior, new battery. Great family car. \$5000. FMI call 72073 or 77898.

Employment

(2) Practical Nurse, LGS-0620-05 / LGS-0620-06. FMI please contact the Ministry Of Labor, Kingston Jamaica.
 (2) Materials Handler, LWG-6907-07; Management Analysis, LGS-0343-05/LGS-0343-07/LGS-

0343-09; Office Automation Technician, YB-0326-01 .FMI call CNRSE forward Deployed Detachment Office at 4441 to 4822.
 (1) Business Manager, YC-0301-02, FMI call 4441.

Announcements

(2) American Red Cross CPR & First Aid Course May 13 at 6 p.m. FMI call 5060.
 (1) Plant Nursery openings are May 3rd, 10th & 17th. Closes June & July reopen in August, FMI call 75806.

Misc. Ads

(2) Lost backpack: Two toned brown containing 4 High School text books, two red folders and a yellow calculator. Last seen at the AMC flight terminal April 8. Reward!!! FMI call 4152.
 (2) Wanted - local beginning tennis instructor for small child. FMI call 77650.

Yard Sales

May 3: Paola Point 18. 8 a.m. - 11 am
 May 3: Villamar 20A. 8 a.m.
 May 3: Caribbean Circle 34D. 7 - 11 a.m.

*Marine Hill
 Subway
 is now open
 Mon - Thurs
 & Sun
 10 a.m. -
 10 p.m.
 Fri & Sat
 10 a.m. to
 midnight*

Odyssey of the Mind Indoor Flea Market

May 10, 2008

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Elementary School Gymnasium

Cost: \$10.00 per table

FMI call

Karl Kuehner

Ombudsman Corner

**Steve Doherty
 (Retired Steve)**

NAVSTA Ombudsman
 84882/77239
gmoombudsman@aol.com

Connie Schiltz

NAVSTA Ombudsman
 84792/78519
Konikat@hotmail.com

Jennifer Amaio

US Naval Hospital
 Ombudsman
 Pager 72090 #493
Jennifer.Amaio@med.navy.mil

**GTMO School of Dance
 Spring Recital
 7 p.m. at the Windjammer
 May 9
 Admission is free!**

GTMO Happenings



SEA CADETS GET NEW HOME— *Members of the GTMO Sea cadets, the Chief Petty Officer's Association, Facilities Assessment Team, NMCB 74 and several other volunteers, gut and clean the old Goat Locker building which will serve as the Sea Cadets new home. Maintenance to the building will continue through the Spring.*

Photo provided by Jennifer Botkins



Photo by MC1 Robert Lamb

Derek Sode, age 12, pitches a piece of metal into a dumpster at Ferry Landing Beach during GTMO's Earthday clean-up. Thirty-one hundred pounds of wood waste; 3720 lbs. of metal and 5484 lbs. of general refuse were collected, totaling about 6 tons of trash.



Photo by MC2 Kimberly Williams

MILITARY CHILD— *Jasmine Old Chief leads a parade of Guantanamo Bay children, parents and Child and Youth Program staff members during the annual Month of the Military Child celebration April 25. The event ended with picnic at the base library where children performed their talents for the audience and enjoyed free cotton candy and snowcones.*