Naval Station Guantanamo Bay
Cuba’s Navy Exchange received their 2009 Bingham Award during a ceremony in the atrium Aug. 9.

The award was presented by Gary King, the Senior Vice President of Exchange Operations for the continental United States.

The Bingham Award is named after the late reservist Navy Capt. W. H. Bingham, Supply Corps. Bingham was the Chief Executive Officer of the R. H. Macy’s company and was appointed by the Secretary of the Navy in 1946 to lead an advisory board for the establishment of the Navy Exchange System.

The award was presented to NEXs that showed superior performance over the past year in service to Sailors and their families, according to the Navy Exchange Service Command’s news release announcing the winners.

The award was presented to NEXs that showed superior performance in nine sales categories for overall financial results and customer service.

The award is presented to Navy Exchanges in nine sales categories for overall financial results and customer service.

The Guantanamo NEX won the award in the category for ‘Overseas Sales Over $20 million dollars’, along with Naval Station Rota, Spain.

During his remarks to guests at the ceremony, King said that winning the award represents a tremendous achievement on the part of all store associates, management, and the base community.

“Celebrations like this one today exemplify the true spirit, dedication and professionalism of our associates,” King said. “Navy Exchange Guantanamo Bay associates take to heart the mission of our command…to provide quality goods and services at a savings and to support Navy quality of life programs.”

The NEX made approximately $40 million dollars in sales last year. Of this amount, the NEX took in $4 million dollars in operating profits.

Profits from NEX’s are shared with the local MWR. The MWR at Guantanamo will be receiving $730,000 from the NEX profit.

“The local MWR, after we pay the NEXCOM expenses, gets 25 percent of our profits,” said Don Mohlman, the general manager of Guantanamo’s NEX.

In addition to the local MWRs receiving a percentage of the profits, another 25 percent is provided to the MWR headquarters located in Millington, Tenn., totalling $1.5 million donated to MWR, said Mohlman.
The Guantanamo Bay Gazette

Vol. 67 No. 31

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

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Executive Officer Cmdr. William Rabchenia
Command Master Chief CMDCM (SW/AW/EXW) J.D. McKinney, III
Public Affairs Officer Terence Peck
Leading Chief Petty Officer MCC(SW) Bill Mesta
Gazette Editor MC3 Leona Mynes

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All-class reunion held by W.T. Sampson alumni

By Joshua King, W.T. Sampson Alumni

KISSIMMEE, Fla. —

It was once the case that when young people left Guantanamo Bay, the only way for them to keep in touch with their friends was to write letters.

Often, students lost touch with each other due to distance.

These days, W.T. Sampson alumni tell their friends that they will email them the next day or they say, “Skype me tomorrow.”

An all-class reunion was organized by LoBasso in June 2000 in Orlando, Fla. The site continued to grow, and five years later, another all-class reunion was held at the Imperial Palace Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev.

The weekend of July 16, former students had a third all-class reunion at the Radisson World Gate Resort in Kissimmee, Fla.

Planning for this reunion began in January 2009 when Teri Lawrence-Fitzgerald and LaShawna Lickliter-Russell, two former students from the late 1980s/early 1990s, decided that the time was right to have another all-class reunion.

A group was created on Facebook where former students were polled as to what part of the country the reunion should be held, what time of year, and what activities should take place. After different internet surveys, the time and place was decided on.

Another task that had to be done was getting the word out. That job fell to Josh King, a GTMO resident off and on from 1987 to 2005.

King gathered more than 1,000 names to determine who had active email addresses and who had Facebook accounts.

“I sent out so many messages on Facebook that they almost banned me because they thought I was a spammer,” said King.

Alumni came from as far away as Seattle, Wash., to attend the event, and the consensus was that every penny spent on travel was well worth it.

“It was a great night with old friends and meeting new ones,” said Priscilla Maass, class of 1999. “GTMO friends are one of a kind.”

“How the Navy has improved his life: Made me the man I needed to be, helped me finish college.

Quote: “Sow an act, and you reap a habit; sow a habit, and you reap a character; sow a character, and you reap a destiny.”

-George Dana Boardman.
New NAVADMIN: Enlisted warfare qualifications now mandatory

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW/AW) Sonya Ansarov, Office of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy

WASHINGTON (NNS) --

Initial enlisted warfare qualifications are now mandatory for all Sailors per the recent release of NAVADMIN 268-10.

The NAVADMIN announces the release of OPNAVINST 1414.9, Navy Enlisted Warfare Qualification Programs Instruction, which issues the basic overarching requirements for the qualification and designation of all enlisted warfare programs.

The arduous environment Sailors operate in dictates the need for all personnel to have a basic understanding and operating knowledge of the platform or command to which they are assigned.

Warfare programs are essential in ensuring Sailors understand and are able to effectively engage a casualty, operate equipment or platforms safely, and ensure backup as needed. Warfare qualifications are about ship, shipmate and self, and ensure the safety and safe operation of each command and platform on a daily basis.

“It’s a standard every Sailor must achieve,” said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Rick D. West. “Having every Sailor at or working toward that level will only strengthen the war-fighting ability of that command and the Navy.”

According to the NAVADMIN, qualification and/or re-qualification is mandatory for all enlisted Sailors assigned to designated warfare qualifying commands.

Warfare sponsors will establish specific qualification and re-qualifying timelines however, the maximum allowable time for initial qualification of all enlisted Sailors assigned to designated warfare qualifying commands will not exceed 30 months.

“I often highlight efficient manning and future platforms such as LCS as examples of the need to ensuring our Sailors have a good, basic understanding of the systems and fighting capabilities of the command to which they are assigned,” said West.

For more information, see NAVADMIN 268-10.

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Faith in the little things

By Lt. Thomas O’Flanagan Command Chaplain

For the most part, our days are filled with little tasks that go unnoticed and are often considered less important than the larger, sometimes more dramatic, events.

However, it is precisely in those seemingly little tasks that our true character is revealed.

Our commitment to eternal core values provides the bar to which we all strive. All too many times, we see individuals who wish to lower their expectations because they either don’t want to put forth the required effort to win in the struggle for personal excellence, or don’t share in our convictions: That truth is not subjective. The ends do not justify the means. Poor behavior should not be rewarded.

It all goes back to our character and how we treat the little things. How we conduct ourselves in public and in private with the knowledge that everything matters. The person of good virtuous character sees all events, small and large as opportunities for growth.

Our free will and God’s grace can bring us to fulfillment and peace in the moments of struggle to which we all are presented.

Daily, our question becomes, “Do we strive to reach the bar or choose not to achieve excellence?”

The ultimate tragedy is when we see a life that has talent and potential, but in the end, regrets what could have been but for lack of faithfulness in little things.

Pray for the wisdom to know what to do and the courage and strength to fulfill the call.

“In every life the great is reached through the little.” – Fulton J. Sheen
DoD adjusts child care rates

By Lisa Daniel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Defense Department is adjusting its child care fees, adding categories for its highest income earners, to compensate for six years without fee range increases, Pentagon officials announced today.

The department’s Military and Community Family Policy Office has added three categories to the top of its fee schedule to go into effect by September 30, Barbara Thompson, director, office of family policy, children and youth, said.

Each branch of service will issue specific fee guidelines, including exceptions to the fee schedule, and adopt fees within the policy office’s ranges.

The adjustment brings the number of fee categories to nine, causing some people to move into different categories, Thompson said.

Military child care is known as a model for the nation, and funding is evenly split by fees and federal subsidies, Thompson said. The increased fees are necessary to maintain high quality of care, she said.

The changes come after two years of study that found the fees were not keeping up with inflation and family income, Thompson said.

“We understand that these are tough economic times for families, but we did this very deliberately after careful study,” she said. “When you look at what you’re getting for your child care fees, it’s a wonderful opportunity in a high-quality care environment.”

Bang for the buck

DoD adjusts child care rates

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Saving your lunch money

Degree-seekers can earn college credits for free through Columbia College programs

By Terence Peck

Hundreds of dollars can be saved by degree-seekers of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Columbia College allows servicemembers, spouses and civilians to gain college credit in several different ways.

A free way to gain college credit is by taking College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) exams.

The exams are accepted as college credit hours by more than 2,000 colleges and universities, including Columbia College, which is located in the Chapel Annex.

Active-duty servicemembers can take the exams for free. “Students may have proficiency in certain areas, whether it is foreign language, math or English,” said Michael Matheny, Director for Columbia College, Guantanamo Bay Campus.

The exams are designed to test an individual’s college level knowledge, which can be gained through course work, independent study, cultural pursuits, travel, special interests, military schools, and professional development, according to the DANTES website.

“If they pass, they actually gain three or more credits for a course equivalent in Columbia College’s course catalogue,” said Matheny.

For spouses of military members, there are also ways to save money on college tuition. Another program that saves money for military spouses is the Spouses Opportunities Scholarship through Columbia College.

“If it’s their first in-seat class with us, it’s free,” said Annie Stuart, Enrollment Assistant at Columbia College’s Guantanamo Bay campus. “Then, for any in-seat class they take after that, the course fee is discounted 20 percent.”

For more information on CLEP and DANTES exams, Spouses Opportunities Scholarship, classes or to schedule advising appointments, call Columbia College at ext. 75555, or email guantanamo@ccis.edu.
Leah Williams, a soon-to-be 11th-grader at W.T. Sampson High School, is responsible for replacing and restocking products, cleaning the facility and helping Triple C’s permanent staff with inventory.

Williams is one of 30 high school students employed under the MWR Summer Teen Hire Program at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

“It’s a great working experience,” said Williams. “I worked hard last year and they gave me more responsibilities this year.”

Staying busy keeps Williams’ mind off of missing her dad and two siblings, all three of whom left the island this summer.

Williams’ dad left for Individual Augmentee training in July and both of her siblings moved back to the United States permanently.

“My dad left on my sister’s eighteenth birthday and he’ll get back on mine,” said Williams. “I miss him. He’s my role model.”

Throughout her life, her dad taught she and her siblings the way they should carry themselves in a working environment, Williams said.

“He taught us to be patient with others,” said Williams. “That’s a big one for working here. He teaches me there’s a difference between just doing your job and doing the best you can at your job.”

Doing the best she could helped Williams earn a spot on the Triple C staff two summers in a row.

“She was specifically requested by Triple C to come back,” said Christopher McKnight, the MWR Teen/Youth Sports Coordinator, who headed the Teen Hire Program.

“This program gives youth the opportunity to gain real world experience,” said McKnight.

The program helps youth build coping skills, McKnight added.

“It does provide youth an opportunity to deal with life-stressers, both work-related and home-related,” said McKnight.

Williams will earn approximately $1,200 by the end of the summer.

“This job made me realize you have to work hard,” said Williams. “When you work hard, you’re going to get more responsibility.”
The Guantanamo Bay Gazette

**Sunny side UP**

A slow moving vehicle (SMV) can run at 20 to 25 miles per hour and can be powered by solar panels atop the vehicle.

From NAVFAC Southeast Public Affairs

**JACKSONVILLE, FLA. —**

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast turns to solar powered slow moving vehicles (SMVs) to offset utility demands as the Navy moves into the electric vehicle market.

“The Navy, through executive orders and SECNAV instructions, is to reduce petroleum usage 50 percent by 2015 using a 2009 baseline,” said Jesse Evans, NAVFAC Southeast transportation specialist. “This is a tall order based on our customers mission requirements so we must venture away from fossil fuel vehicles and move into a greener state.”

Electric vehicles provide that capability; however, with the focus to reduce energy consumption NAVFAC is also looking seriously at future impacts on the electrical grid. NAVFAC is reaching out to new technologies and is hoping that solar technology will help offset utility demand to its customers.

“The new vehicles are electric powered with solar integration which is designed to increase the range capability and provide charging which will increase the life of the battery and reduce the electrical demand,” claims Evans. “Based on a typical half-ton pickup driving 15,000 miles annually, there would be a savings of over $1,200 in fuel costs each year.”

The solar integration increases the life of the battery and in turn increases the life of the vehicle. These drivers will ensure rate changes indoors (i.e. warehouses, hangars).

The overall benefit is the reduction in fossil fuels and Green House Gases that are obtained by operating SMV’s. In addition, the solar integration reduces the demand on the already overburdened electric grid with minimal impacts to the mission.

“...we must venture away from fossil fuel vehicles and move into a greener state.”

**Jesse Evans**

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Transportation Specialist

Evans explained that an SMV is not a “green substitute” for a fossil fuel vehicle. It is designed to meet the mission minimum requirements at a reduced rental cost. The fact that they are “green” is a bonus.

SMV’s are economical, eco-friendly, versatile, and safe alternative to big engine gas vehicles. They produce zero-emissions and can be driven indoors (i.e. warehouses, hangars).

From NAVFAC Southeast Public Affairs

Evans, NA VFAC Southeast Transportation Specialist.
FURNITURE
King size water bed frame, headboard w/ glass doors, backlit inserts. Matching dresser. Call 77906.
Blue rocker recliner. Call 77906.
Sectional couch, love seat, couch. Table w/ 4 chairs. Call 77177.
House full of furniture. Everything must go! Call 84112.
Matching oak computer/TV armoire. $800 for both. Call 77975.
Two twin mattress/box sets. $40 ea. Call 77975.
Twin bed platform w/ drawers, nightstand & storage. Call $750. 1997.
52” floor console TV (CRT). $300. Call 77975.
Patio set w/ 5 arm chairs. $75. Call 77975.

WANTED
Wicker living room furniture. Call 77806.
Slalom waterski and accessories. Call 77872.
Retro is looking for substitute guitarist and drummer. Come and be a part of GTMO’s very own band. 79404.

MISCELLANEOUS
Michelin XML tires. 53” tall never used. $500. Call 79554.
Set of 20” Stazworks bead lock 2 pc. rims. 0.5” cold rolled ring/7” inward offset. $2,100. 2.5 ton Rockwell bolt pattern never used. $2,500 for both. Call 79554.
 Borrow toys for your children while awaiting approval from security. Call 79554.

ELECTRONICS
Asus Laptop i3 16” LCD 500gb HD, 4g mem, DVD writer, Windows 7 Professional Ed. $650 OBO. Call 752208.
SCSI modem. $65. Call 75665 before 2 p.m.
SCSI starband satellite TV w/ modem, dish, new 2 watt receiver & Belkin N wireless router. $500 and take $75. Call 77069 or e-mail cwburks@msn.com.

LOST AND FOUND
Lost: My daughter’s Purple iPod with ivory/brushed skin and headphones ( interoperable). Please, return no questions asked. 79404.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES


ABANDONED VEHICLE LISTING
As per NAVSTAGTMO 11200.1 Security Department can hold vehicles for only 120 days. Vehicles are turned over to Bremcor as per NAVBASEGTMO 46.6.4.3, abandoned property/dead storage.

The Naval Hospital is now open Wednesday evenings and closed Wednesday mornings. FMI, call 72360.
All MWR facilities give free soft drinks to designated drivers. Stay safe, and never drive drunk. Designate a driver.