

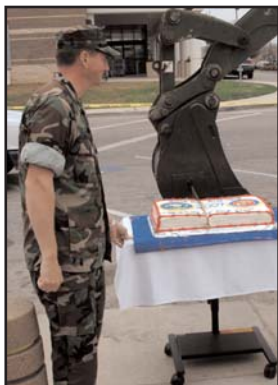
# SEABEE COURIER

Vol. 44 No. 6

Home of the Atlantic Fleet Seabees Gulfport, Mississippi

March 22, 2007

## inside this edition



Capt. Van Dobson, NCBC Commanding Officer watches as EO1 Davidson of Naval Construction Training Center expertly makes the first cut into the ceremonial cake to kick off the 2007 Active Duty Fund Drive for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society March 1.

*See page 5*



UT2 Bobbie Halford of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 gives instructions at a project site in Djibouti, Africa. The Air Detachment of NMCB 133 is performing humanitarian missions as part of Combined Joint Task Force, Horn of Africa.

*See page 6*



Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport Seabees celebrated their 65th Birthday in style at the Imperial Palace ballroom March 17. If you didn't make the party, here's an opportunity to see what you missed.

*See page 11*

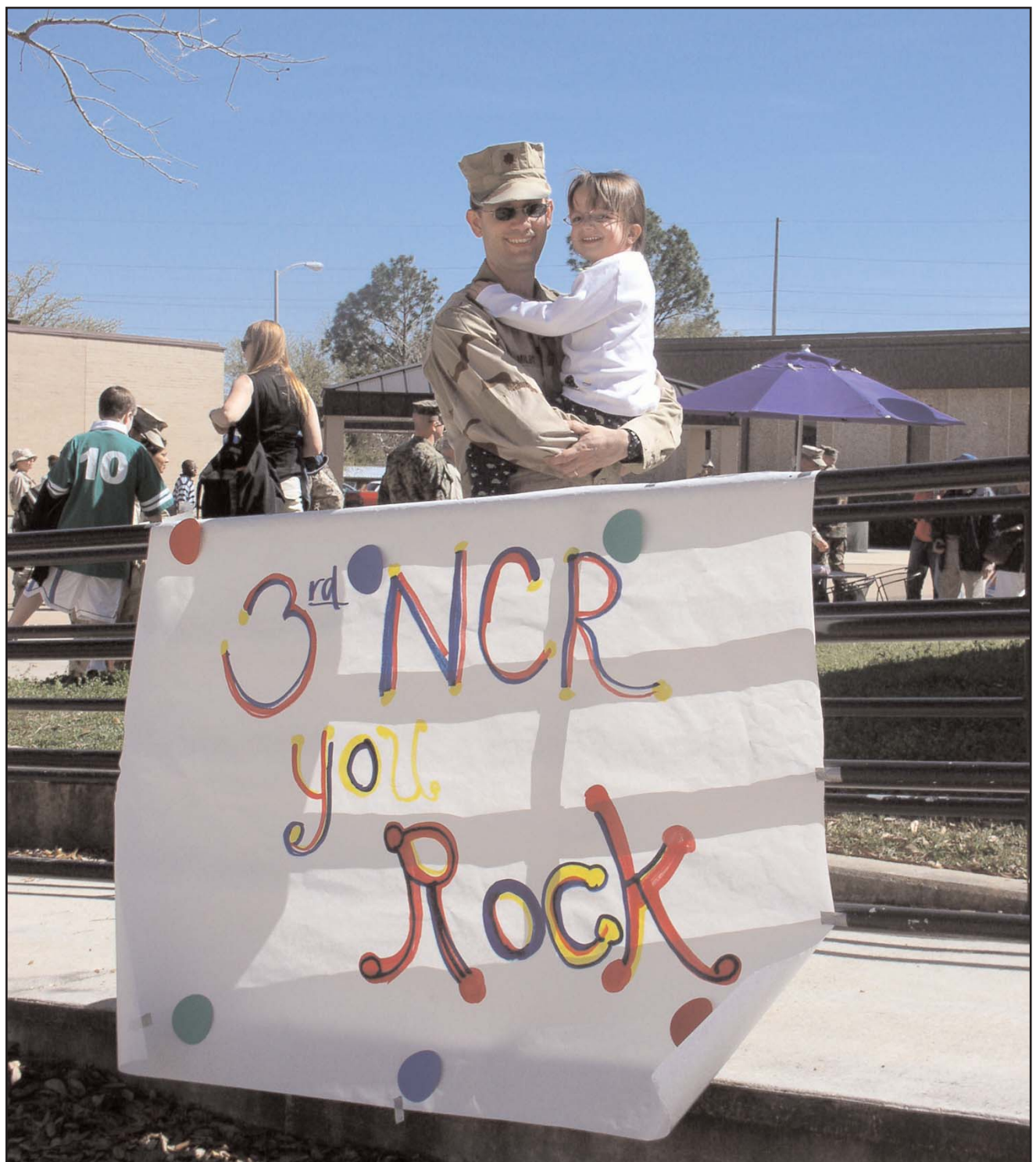


Photo by Jean Remley  
Lt. Cmdr. Brian Milby is welcomed home by his daughter Joanna on Saturday, March 17, 2007 at the NEX Courtyard onboard Naval Construction Battalion, Gulfport. Lt. Cmdr. Milby returned with members of the 3RD Naval Construction Regiment who were deployed to Southwest Asia in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Milby resides in Athens, Georgia with his family.





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# Seabee fatally shot while deployed to Guam

By Lt.Cmdr. Kyra Haw  
Public Affairs Officer,  
22NCR

At approximately 5:20 p.m. central time on Mar. 14, Petty Officer Second Class Jared Krutke of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 (NMCB 74) was fatally shot while performing his assigned duties during the unit's deployment to Camp Covington in Guam.

A second member of the unit was shot and is in stable condition at Naval Hospital Guam. The name of this individual is being withheld in efforts to protect the personal privacy of the member and his family. A third member of NMCB 74 has been taken into custody and is being held in the brig at

Andersen Air Force Base. To date, no charges have been filed and the incident is under investigation.

Family members affected by this tragedy are being aided by the Navy Casualty Assistance Office and are also being offered counseling and services through the base chapel as well as the Fleet and Family Service Center. Ombudsman and family friends in the area have continued to provide invaluable support to the family of Petty Officer Krutke.

Arrangements are being made for interment services near Petty Officer Krutke's home in Wisconsin. A local memorial service at the NCBC Gulfport Seabee Memorial Chapel will be held on

Thursday, March 22 at 10:30 p.m.

Additional details regarding the memorial service will be released via e-mail and through local chains of command and family readiness groups. Any established memorial fund information will be publicized through this paper and disseminated widely through local chains of command. Written expressions of sympathy for the family may be delivered to the NMCB 74 homeport liaison via the Fleet and Family Service Center.

The Navy released the following statement to the media in conjunction with the news of Petty Officer Krutke's death: "From the Seabee family in Gulfport, we wish to express our sincere sympathy to the

family members and local friends of Petty Officer Krutke who are affected by this tragedy. The Navy is committed to thoroughly investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident and pursuing subsequent disciplinary action and legal charges as deemed appropriate. Our primary focus outside of the investigation is to proactively ensure that members of the Krutke family are provided with counseling, aid and any assistance desired, and to reassure them that they are not alone in negotiating this painful and challenging situation. We are grieving with the family and mourning the loss of a valued shipmate and friend."

## PPV Town Hall Meeting

Monday, March 26, 2007, 6 p.m., Base Theater

Information will be presented to the residents by the Public Private Venture (PPV) Partner in preparation for PPV kickoff October 1, 2007. Regional and CBC Housing representatives will be also present. Come to the meeting and hear the latest on PPV!

## NCBC prepares for IG Team visit

By NCBC Public Affairs

Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport is preparing for a visit from the Naval Inspector General (NAVINSGEN) in mid-April. The NAVINSGEN team comprised of military and civilian staff, as well as subject matter experts drawn from throughout the Navy will come to Gulfport looking for opportunities to improve naval readiness, both ashore and afloat.

To assist the IG Team in preparing for the visit,

NCBC Gulfport military and civilian employees are encouraged to participate in an internet-based survey that is available online until Friday, March 30 at [www.ig.navy.mil/gulf-coast.htm](http://www.ig.navy.mil/gulf-coast.htm).

A second survey, geared to the family's perspective is open for military spouses online until Friday, March 30 at [www.ig.navy.mil/gulf-coastspouse.htm](http://www.ig.navy.mil/gulf-coastspouse.htm). Both surveys are anonymous and will provide valuable background information for the NAVINSGEN team before they arrive in

Gulfport.

While onboard, the Team will review a multitude of issues including mission-readiness, active-reserve integration, fleet support, work environment, training, quality of life programs, facilities management, housing, bachelor quarters, as well as safety and environmental issues. Any Hurricane Katrina quality of life issues that remain open will be also be examined.

Information on these issues will be obtained through a variety of sources including person-

nel surveys, interviews with command leaders, military and civilian focus groups, and discussions with personnel assigned to installation and tenant commands.

Although the NAVINS-GEN team's visit will focus on the Gulfport area, visits may also be made to Navy activities in New Orleans, as well as the John C. Stennis Space Center.

The last visit to Gulfport by the Naval Inspector General was September 2002.

### Command Action Line

Because of limited IG resources throughout the Southeast Region, all Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline work will now be handled by the Region. To report Fraud, Waste and Abuse, contact the Region at:  
Toll Free 1-877-657-9851 Comm: (904) 542-4979 DSN 942-4979 FAX: (904) 542-5587  
E-mail: CNRSE\_HOTLINE@navy.mil





A. In the background are visible signs that the NCBC Water Tower Sandblast and Painting project nears completion. The foreground shows demolition in progress of warehouse building 41. Once demolition is finished on building 41, the contractor will demolish a Public Works facility and the water tank just inside the Pass Road gate.

B. Contractors continue reroofing the Naval Construction Training Center student dormitory building 315 to repair damage caused by Hurricane Katrina.

C. Masonry work is complete for 42 dumpster pads located throughout NCBC. Each dumpster pad will include concrete caps and aluminum fencing.

D. Building 117 renovation next to the Broad Avenue gate nears completion for the standup of the 25th Naval Construction Regiment. The furniture is installed, and the building is nearly ready for occupancy.

Photos by Lt. Hely S. Gonzelez, AROICC Gulfport

# Post-Katrina Construction Progress





# Magnificent Seven's Medical Department overcomes obstacles to provide quality care during joint FEX

By MCC Jeffrey J. Pierce  
NMCB 7 Public Affairs

Medical staffs assigned the Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCB) are called upon to provide medical treatment to over 600 personnel. As is often the case, the environments they may be called upon to work in are not ideal.

NMCB 7's recent field exercises (FEX) held at Camp Shelby, Miss., helped prepare their medical staff to work and excel in austere environments around the world and overcome the challenges they might face during real-world contingencies.

According to NMCB 7's Battalion Surgeon, HMCS (SCW/SW) Sheila Shipman, the training they received on FEX was excellent.

"None of my corpsmen had been through an entire field exercise before. It provided great training for my entire medical staff, especially for those assigned to a detachment on our upcoming deployment," Shipman said. "Those assigned to a Det don't know how remotely they will be stationed or the situations they might find themselves in and FEX helped prepare them for this."

For this FEX, NMCB 7 worked jointly with over 300 personnel from NMCB 14. The two medical staffs were responsible for the health and welfare of over

800 personnel. To do this effectively, many obstacles were overcome.

According to Shipman, the biggest obstacles they faced were the weather and a limited amount of medical supplies.

"The Battalion Aid Station (BAS) ran 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Being joint, we had a lot of extra personnel and a limited amount of supplies to care for everyone, so we had to stretch what we had on hand," Shipman said. "It was very cold the first few days we were in the field, and then it got warm. This caused a few problems."

The staff dealt with one case of hypothermia, along with cases of bronchitis, pneumonia and a slew of common colds. When the weather warmed up, they faced new challenges.

"We had two actual heat casualties that required personnel be medivaced to Forest General Hospital in Hattiesburg, Miss. We had one Seabee who suffered from heat exhaustion and respiratory arrest and almost stopped breathing. HN Joshua Fruge from NMCB 7's staff assisted NMCB 14's physician with a Seabee who suffered heat



HM2(SW) Cory Hanson (kneeling in foreground) reassess Lt. j.g. Clifford Younberg's abdominal wound during a mass casualty drill on Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVEN's recent field exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss.

Photo by MC3 Paul D. Williams

stroke and had to be medivaced via helicopter," Shipman said.

The medical staff had two personnel bitten by the Brown Recluse spider. According to Shipman, if it wasn't for the quick thinking and rapid antibiotic treatment by her personnel, the Seabees that were

bitten would have faced permanent skin damage. Additionally, Lt. Daniel Paige, NMCB 7's Dental Officer extracted one Seabee's tooth during FEX.

Overall, Shipman could not be more proud of her staff and their performance during FEX.

"We treated patients all

day and night and participated in 12 mass casualty drills. My staff performed magnificently throughout the exercise and I couldn't have asked for a better medical team," Shipman said. "This field exercise really prepared our staff for our upcoming deployment."

March 22, 2007

Seabee Courier

# Annual NMCRS Fund Drive kicks off with donations and food

By Alice Huffman  
Director, NMCRS

The threat of tornadoes did not deter a small, but enthusiastic crowd who gathered at the NEX courtyard on March 1st to kick off the 2007 Active Duty Fund Drive in support of Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

Capt. Van Dobson, Commanding Officer, NCBC, welcomed the military and civilians in attendance and thanked them for their support. He encouraged everyone to give generously so that the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society can continue to provide financial assistance and education to fellow Seabees, Sailors and Marines.

Following Capt. Dobson's comments donations from the Seabee Memorial Chapel and Navy Exchange were formally presented to kick off the Fund Drive.

Cmdr. John Lyle, Senior Chaplain, and Lt. Cmdr. Dedra Bell presented a check in the amount of \$2,000 to Capt. Dobson which represented \$1,000 each from the Seabee Memorial Chapel Catholic

and Protestant Religious Offering Funds. Money collected through the Religious Offering Funds are given by the members of both the Catholic and Protestant congregations at the chapel. Jennifer

Tillman, NEX Gulfport General Manager also presented an \$800.00 check as a donation to the 2007 Fund Drive. Ms. Tillman implemented a "donate your change" program throughout the Navy Exchange facilities. Customers of the Navy Exchange donate approximately \$1,500.00 each year

to the annual Fund Drive. The much-awaited highlight of the kickoff followed the presentation of donations. The NCBC Colmer Galley provided a large sheet cake beautifully decorated with the

See NMCRS page 19



Photo by MC1 Sean Mulligan

**Cmdr. John Lyle and Lt. Cmdr. Dedra Bell from the Seabee Memorial Chapel present Capt. Van Dobson, Commanding Officer, NCBC Gulfport and Alice Huffman, Director, NMCRS with a \$2,000 donation for the 2007 NMCRS Active Duty Fund Drive.**



# Seabee humanitarian efforts make worldwide impact

By EA3 Marc N. Comaduran  
CJTF-HOA NMCB 133

At home and abroad the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion One Thirty Three (NMCB 133) have demonstrated their skill and resourcefulness in all aspects of construction, disaster relief and humanitarian efforts.

Those skill sets are on display here and are vital to their current mission in Africa.

The air detachment of NMCB 133, known as the "Kangaroos," are currently deployed to Camp Lemonnier on a humanitarian mission and are using the lessons and skills from their Hurricane Katrina relief operations to improve the quality of life here in Horn of Africa.

UT2 (SCW) Bobbie Halford saw the Gulf Coast destruction first-hand and related her experiences to helping Africans here in the Horn.

"Coming to Djibouti and seeing how the living conditions are here, I was reminded of seeing Gulfport for the first time after the storm. I specifically remember starting our clean up back home and how the community responded with so much gratitude. We were there to help, and that's just what we

did. For the first time in my career, I felt as though my presence in the military was really needed and that we were really making a difference," said Halford. "I've always known that Seabees regularly get tasked with large scale disaster relief and humanitarian efforts. Now coming here, I see so much of what we went through in the daily lives of the people here."

Following the storm, the Seabees cleared more than 200 miles of roads, removed 3,500 tons of debris, delivered 170,000 gallons of water and fuel and repaired more than 90 schools. They've worked to restore power, water and sewage to local communities. Seabees also delivered food to more than 600 families a day. They did this despite the fact that 650 Seabees assigned to the Navy's base in Gulfport lost their homes to Hurricane Katrina.

Today, the Seabees are assisting people who call the Horn of Africa home. The Seabees of NMCB 133 work daily here to repair schools, drill clean water wells and improved roadways. In this foreign frontier the challenges presented to NMCB 133, whether they come when putting a hammer to nail or putting aside a piece

of equipment to take time to kick a soccer ball with local children, are similar to those the unit faced during post-Katrina operations.

These challenges are ones that each and every Seabee has willingly accepted. For Halford, the work here represents the best ideals of why she became a Seabee.

"This is my first deployment leaving my twin boys, Miles and Mason, who are almost three now. Coming here to Djibouti and seeing the children and all of the people here makes me wish I could help them all. This may very well be the most rewarding deployment I have ever been a part of," said Halford.

The mission of CJTF-HOA is to prevent conflict, promote regional stability and protect coalition interests in order to prevail against extremism. The CJTF-HOA organization began operations at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti May 13, 2003. It works with partner nations on humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, consequence management, civic action programs to include medical and veterinary care, school and medical clinic construction and water development projects.



Photo by Steve Wilson

**Lean Six Sigma graduates Lt. Tony DePalma, Lt. Cmdr. Angie Walker and Dr. Merrill Stevens apply their training to the NMOPDC curriculum development process review. L6S principles are a systematic approach to reducing waste and improving quality.**

## L6S cuts fat to improve business quality

By Lt. Cmdr. James Tannahill  
Executive Officer, NMOPDC

Lean Six Sigma (L6S) isn't the latest high protein diet fad, but a systematic approach to reducing waste (Lean) and improving quality (Six Sigma).

But isn't L6S just talking about manufacturing? I don't make widgets--how can it help me? Is this the management tool flavor of the month? Those hard questions were asked by 20 somewhat skeptical military and civilian students on February 5th, as they began their week long L6S Greenbelt course at NCBC Gulfport, Miss. The instructors, Rathmond Collins and Paul Isakson, Master Black Belts from the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), would reveal the benefits of L6S throughout the week—winning over even the most skeptical students.

The population was extremely diverse: junior and senior management from five commands (Naval Oceanography Office (NAVO), Commander Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (CNMOC), Naval Meteorology and

Oceanography Professional Development Center (NMOPDC), Resident Officer in Charge of Construction (ROICC) and OICC Katrina), office workers to service providers. Thanks to great facilitation and some fun exercises, though, the class quickly gelled.

"We all had one thing in common—we all wanted a tool to improve the way our shops do business." The class covered the basics of L6S and used NAVSEA to show L6S in practice. "The entire class focused on how they could improve one [or more] process(s) at their own command while they absorbed course material," reflected Lt.j.g. Kelly Collins from NMOPDC.

L6S embodies what the CNO espouses in the Navy Performance Excellence Guidebook: we must improve combat readiness through a perpetual cycle of improvement. Sue McGraw from the CNMOC Manpower shop summed it up, "I'm fired up about the concepts [of L6S] and can't wait to apply them."

Fifteen Belt and 51 Black Belt L6S courses can be found on Navy Knowledge Online.

## Camp Arifjan Seabee Celebration



Photo by MC1 Nicholas Lingo

The Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 celebrated the 65th Seabee Birthday with a luncheon and sports-day. The honorary cake cutting was performed with a hand-saw, a Seabee deployment tradition. Cutting the cake are (from left) CMDCM Jonathan Slichter, Command Master Chief NMCB 133; Maj. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy Deputy Commanding General, Third Army, U.S. Army Central, Coalition Forces Land Component Command, UTCN Christopher Griffin (youngest Seabee); EO1 Gerald Wagner (oldest Seabee) and Cmdr. Allan M. Stratman, Commanding Officer NMCB 133.





Photo by Theresa Dezellem

Constructionman Apprentice Matt Barber, left, radios his squad, while Seaman Jessica Skibenenes, right, keeps her eyes peeled for the enemy during a Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 field exercise Feb. 15 at Camp Covington, Guam.

## NMCB 74 holds FEX in Guam

*Courtesy of Theresa Dezellem  
Pacific Navigator Staff*

Sweat drips down Seaman Chris Vanfossen's temple as he sits in his rifle position behind a barrier of sandbags. He doesn't move nor does his concentration flag as he looks down the barrel of his M16 surveying the enemy territory in front of him. It is not combat, but it is as close to the real thing as it gets.

Vanfossen is one of the more than 150 Seabee Sailors of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 participating in a field exercise to simulate deployment to a hostile environment.

"I've learned how we all work together to make one big range," said Vanfossen. "So that we each cover our own little spot, but we cover a big ground when we are all together." The training took place in the sweltering fields near the old air strip on U.S. Naval Base Guam, Feb. 12-

16. Petty Officer 1st Class Gene Bumbalough, a member of the training team said his role in the scenario was to evaluate the training. He said the training team ensures the scenario fulfills the Seabee training requirement.

"We have five people here to evaluate, to make sure the training is done, that it's effective and done safely, so no one gets hurt," UT1 Bumbalough. Lt. j.g. Matthew Baird, Alfa Company Commander NMCB-74, said the training comes at an optimum time for the battalion.

"It's really good for our Sailors right now because we have a lot of junior troops onboard who just came out of boot camp, who have been in the Navy less than six months," said Lt. j.g. Baird. "This is the first time they've been exposed to any kind of environment like this."

The training involved the Sailors setting up a camp complete with a medical

station, and a guarded perimeter with defensive rifle positions and barbed wire obstacles. Some volunteer Sailors assisted the Seabees by assuming the role of aggressors and attacking the camp using various techniques.

Seaman Apprentice Tony Shuck said this was the first time he had participated in this kind of training. He said it was very different than anything he had encountered before in the Navy.

"It's a lot of tactical stuff," said Shuck. "It's a lot of good training. We don't get to do a lot of it, so we've got to make the most of it while we can." The bulk of NMCB-74 Sailors are currently on deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Lt. j.g. Ben Waite, public affairs representative for the detachment on Guam said the training Sailors received during the field exercise would be used in support of OIF in the future.

## Protect your hearing Turn down the volume before it's too late!

*Provided by NCBC Safety*

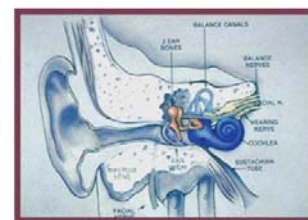
Imagine, for a moment, that you must strain to hear the sounds of your favorite TV program or CD, or play them so loud they rattle the windows. Imagine you can't hear your wife's soft voice or your kids' happy laughs. Imagine wearing a hearing aid for the remainder of your life.

Unfortunately, for many Navy personnel, dependents, and DoD workers hearing loss is all too real. Most noise comes from machines, especially automobiles, trucks, and aircraft. Construction tools, lawn equipment, shop tools, guns, fireworks, and even some toys can be dangerously noisy. Even music, when played at very high volume, particularly through personal headphones, is as damaging to the ears as a roaring chain saw.

Many of us suffer significant hearing loss from being subjected to noise without protection. Hearing loss has a dramatic impact on quality of life and can also pose safety problems on the job and off. In the wilderness, a typical sound level would be 35 dB. Speech runs 65 to 70 dB; heavy traffic generates 90 dB. By 140 dB, sound becomes painful to the human ear, but effects, including hearing loss, start at much lower levels.

The most significant health problem caused by noise is hearing loss. Excessive noise can damage the structure of the inner ear that converts sound waves into auditory nerve signals. The initial damage may be temporary, but with repeated exposure, it becomes permanent. In addition to deafness, noise can cause a condition called tinnitus or ringing in the ears. The two most common types of hearing loss that occur in adults are Sensorineural and Conductive.

Sensorineural loss results



from damage to the inner ear and accounts for over 90% of hearing loss in adults. This type is generally permanent. Conductive loss occurs when there is damage or blockage in the outer or middle ear, preventing sound from traveling normally. This type of loss can often be corrected.

Hearing damaging noise can be controlled or prevented. Individuals can look for ways to reduce overall noise levels. Perhaps paying attention to the noise level labels on appliances or turning down the stereo or car radio. Wearing hearing protection such as muffs or plugs when using noisy equipment or tools will reduce noise to safe levels. Several different types are available.

Ear Muffs - suppress unwanted noise by completely covering the outer ear.

Disposable Ear Plugs - made of formable material and are designed to be inserted into a person's ear canal, where they expand and conform to the shape of each individual's ear canal.

Reusable Ear Plugs - usually pre-molded and made from silicone, plastic or rubber and are available in different sizes. Be sure and get the right size for your ears.

Don't forget children are susceptible to noise hazards too. Researchers reported toy xylophones at 120 dB, toy drums at 122 dB, rattles with bells at 110 dB and a toy trumpet at 95 dB. High noise levels can damage your child's hearing in the same manner as an adults. In addition, noise can cause irritability, aggressiveness, and other physical problems in children.

**Women's History Month Celebration**

March 27, Bldg. 114, Drill Hall, 10 a.m.

Guest Speaker & Refreshments

Sponsored by the NCBC Diversity Committee



# Air Force holds change of command at NCTC

By BU1(SCW) James LePage  
NCTC Public Affairs

A bittersweet morning dawned on NCTC Gulfport Friday, March 9. It was a day of farewells as the Air Force 366th Training Squadron bid fair winds to Lt Col. Thomas Rietkerk.

As Commander of Detachment 6 aboard NCTC, Lieutenant Colonel Rietkerk's tour had many highlights. Most notably was his distinguished service in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In partnership with the Navy and Army unit commanders, he was instrumental in reestablishing training within four months after the worst natural disaster in the United States history. Despite the loss of 120 training days, his leadership directly contributed to the graduation of 1,371 Army, Navy and Air Force combat engineers in Fiscal Year 2006.

Shortly before the passing of the organizational guidon, the commander received his final salute



Official U.S. Navy photo

**Lt. Col. Thomas Rietkerk receives a final salute from the men and women of 366th Training Squadron, Detachment 6 at the Change of Command ceremony held March 9 onboard Naval Construction Training Center, Gulfport.**

from the men and women of the 366th Training Squadron, Detachment 6. The future combat engineers of the Air Force then welcomed the incoming commander, Major Walter Graves. Major Graves spoke of his outline for success while serving as Commander of the Air Force detachment.

Confidence, Commitment

and Courage – the Three C's as the Major described them, are guideposts for proud yet humble military service. He spoke of Confidence in the men and women of the unit, both staff and students and their abilities to see the mission through, the Commitment, to do the right thing, even if it isn't the popular thing, and

finally, the Courage to see every task through to the end, and to stand ready to defend this great nation.

*The Naval Officers Spouses Club presents*

## **SELF DEFENSE TRAINING**

with instructor Derek Pruitt of South Coast Martial Arts and guest speaker Peggy Cuevas, Sexual Assault Rights Coordinator

**April 21, 9 a.m. in the Bubble Gym - \$5 registration fee**

100 percent of proceeds will benefit the Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence  
Purchase tickets at the Fleet & Family Support Center or call Beverly Conrad at 871-3000

Dress comfortably - Light refreshments will be served

**No One under the age of 12 will be admitted to the gym for safety reasons**

March 22, 2007

Seabee Courier



# NMCB 1 Takes First Steps Toward Convoy Success

By MC3(SCW) Ja'lon Rhinehart  
NMCB 1 Public Affairs

U.S. Navy Seabees attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion One (NMCB 1), recently completed a training exercise with the Raydan Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer at Camp Shelby, Miss., to further develop their tactical skills for the upcoming deployment to Iraq. Although they just recently returned from their last deployment in the Pacific, NMCB 1 eagerly took advantage of the resources of an adjacent unit to prepare its Seabees to meet upcoming deployment challenges.

Much like a video game, the trainer allows service members to step into a virtual environment where they are called upon to respond as if in a real life situation. Users are presented with various hazards such as improvised explosive devices; traffic problems; and encounters with local nationals, where quickly distinguishing combatants from non-combatants is a life-saving skill. Equipped with a gun



As convoy commander, UTC Edward Guerra attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ONE (NMCB 1), maintains communications with all the victors (vehicles) during training with the Raydan Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer, Camp Shelby, Miss. Mar. 5, 2007. The Seabees of NMCB ONE used the virtual training exercise to provide a simulated environment for troops to practice skills, key to completing successful convoys in an contingency environment.

Photo by MC3 Ja'lon Rhinehart

turret, crew-serve weapon and M-16's, each Humvee in the four-vehicle convoy transports the Seabees into

a very realistic virtual environment. "It was a great eye opener," said Chief Builder,

(SCW) Louis Pambianco, one of two convoy commanders. Seabee battalions are gen-

erally responsible for providing advance base construction, battle damage repair, contingency engineering, humanitarian assistance and disaster recovery to fleet and unified commanders. Convoy security is vital, as civil engineer support equipment, and construction materials are often required to be moved from one location to another.

The training gave the opportunity for younger troops to get their first taste of what it takes for a convoy security mission to be successful.

"This training was a great tool for us," said Pambianco. "For many of the troops that don't have prior convoy experience, this provided an opportunity for them to learn what to expect; learn where their training needs to go."

There is no doubt that this training better prepared the NMCB 1 Seabees for success in their upcoming deployment. The hands-on experience provided what books alone cannot; a real time exercise to hone key military skills.

## KAFB reopens laser eye clinic

Provided by 81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Keesler Medical Center's Warfighter Refractive Surgery Clinic reopened March 12.

The Warfighter Refractive Surgery Program is a mission-readiness program available to all active-duty military personnel with nearsightedness, farsightedness or astigmatism. Laser vision correction is an exciting procedure that can reduce or even eliminate dependence on corrective lenses.

Laser Refractive Surgery is currently available only to active-duty personnel. Contact KAFB for more information on Laser Refractive Surgery.

It is forbidden to operate a cell phone while driving a vehicle onboard NCBC Gulfport. Obey the traffic laws.



## VIP tours NCBC Gulfport

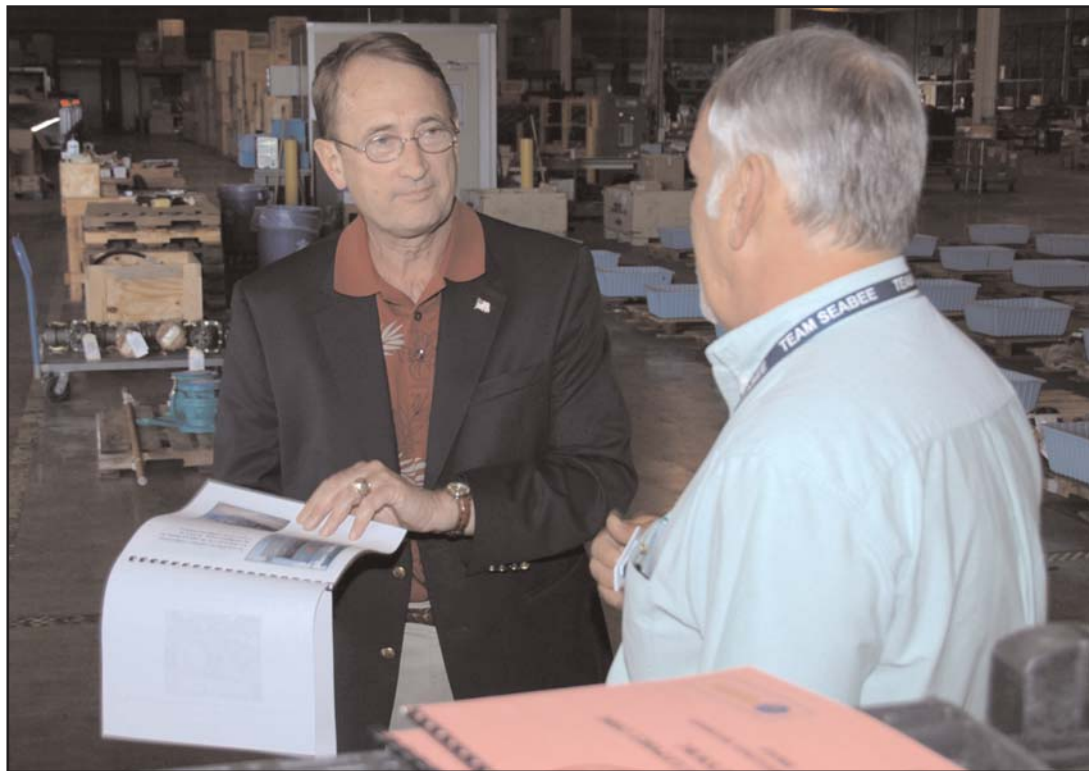


Photo by MC1 Sean Mulligan

**Mr. Wayne Army, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Installations and Facilities discusses military logistics with Jeff Wolfe, containerization division officer of the Mobilization and Contingency Operations and Outfitting Center (MCOOC) during his March 9 visit to Naval Construction Battalion Center. Mr. Army was onboard to see how the Center has progressed since Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Army's visit encompassed quality of life issues in base housing, logistics and supply.**

## CNIC National Security Personnel System Update

By Richard Peck  
CNIC NSPS Program  
Manager

CNIC successfully completed a flawless conversion of its Human Resource (HR) personnel to National Security Personnel System (NSPS) on Jan. 21.

The HR community conversion was successful because of the extensive organization, planning and coordination among all of the activities involved. CNIC will need a similar effort from all the activities in each region for the next conversion.

In order to get the process started the CNIC NSPS Program Office has requested a central point of contact

from each region, a regional project manager, that will coordinate with the CNIC project manager and lead each region's NSPS conversion efforts.

The next step in the conversion effort is to convert all of CNIC's non-bargaining unit personnel to NSPS in spiral 2.

The actual date for the conversion has not been set; however, for planning purposes CNIC is using a conversion date of January 2008.

Spiral 2 may actually involve a "rolling conversion" where the CNIC headquarters personnel will convert in October 2007.

To meet the conversion date, CNIC will be starting the preparations to convert

in March 2007. The first step in the conversion process will be to schedule training for all non-bargaining unit employees. Training will be mandatory.

While the training is going on, every employee's records will be screened by Human Resource Office personnel to ensure all the data is correct.

There will be more information forthcoming from the regional project managers and Public Affairs Offices as the conversion process progresses.

For more information on NSPS, check out the NSPS website:  
<http://www.cmps.osd.mil/nsps>.

March 22, 2007

Seabee Courier







# Volunteer Spirit



Photo by MC1 Sean Mulligan

Despite a rigorous military training schedule, members of the 20SRG, R75 department find the time to assist Brooke Bell in coaching the Orange Grove Bobcats 9-10 year old girls basketball team. Assistant coaches BU1 (SCW) Subrina Stallings and EA2 (SCW/FMF) Dennis Denney celebrate with the team after winning 2nd Place in the championship tournament.

For Seabee Courier delivery, contact Naval Construction Battalion Center Public Affairs at: (228) 871-3662 or send email to [seabeescourier.navy.mil](mailto:seabeescourier.navy.mil)

## For Babies, Boomers & Everyone Else

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That's 1 (888) 878-3256.



# 4TH Annual SEABEE DAYS

## Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show

**Saturday May 5, 2007**

Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, MS 39501

Show will be in the Base Theater parking lot next to the Navy Exchange

RAIN OR SHINE

ENTER THROUGH THE PASS ROAD GATE - MUST HAVE ID/PROOF OF INSURANCE

Open to All Military & Civilians, All Spectators FREE

OVER 30 CLASSES FOR SHOW - ANTIQUE(VINTAGE), IMPORT, DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN CLASSES— WE HAVE A CLASS FOR EVERYONE

KANDYLAND KUSTOMS IS DONATING A CUSTOM PAINT JOB

!!BEST OF SHOW, BEST INTERIOR, BEST ENGINE & CLUB PARTICIPATION TROPHIES!!

\$\$\$\$THOUSANDS IN PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS FROM LOCAL SPONSORS\$\$\$\$

COME OUT AND HELP SUPPORT THE SEABEE BALL!

1ST AND 2ND place Trophies will be awarded in all Mild & Wild Categories

7-11 a.m. Registration, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm Judging, 2 p.m. Award Presentation

**\*\*GULFPORT DRAGWAY & TIRE KINGDOM IS SPONSORING A \$10 BURNOUT CON-TEST AT THE SHOW!\*\***

SPL CONTEST: SPONSORED BY SOUND SOLUTIONS--\$20--1ST, 2ND & 3RD PLACE

For questions contact: **David Fulcher** (228)365-1611 or **Brian Harrison** (228)343-9891

*Early Registration fee is \$20. Must be received by April 25th.*

*The registration fee the day of the event will be \$25.*

**Pre-Registration Form:**

Mail to: Seabee Ball Committee, ATTN: David Fulcher, P.O. Box 3641, Gulfport, MS 39505

*Money Order Only Please!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Make and Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Observe posted speed limits onboard NCBC



# Community Calendar March/April 07

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>22</b> Memorial Service GM2 Jared Krutke, Seabee Memorial Chapel, 10:30 All Khaki Social, A&E, 3 p.m.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Seabee Days Mtg, Bldg 1, 1 p.m.  Town Hall Mtg, PPV Information, Base Theater, 6 p.m.	<b>27</b> COMPASS Training, 9 - 1p.m., Chapel  Women's Hist. Cel., NOSC, Bldg 114, Drill Hall, 10 a.m.	<b>28</b> Lunchtime Bible Study, Bldg 1 Conf. Room, 11:30 - 12:30 COMPASS Training, 9-1 p.m., Chapel Holy Week & Easter Services, St.. Thomas, LB, 7 p.m.	<b>29</b> COMPASS Training, 9-1 p.m., Chapel  All Khaki Social, A&E, 3 p.m	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>1 April</b> April Fool's Day	<b>2</b> Seabee Days Mtg, Bldg 1, 1 p.m. Quality of Life Mtg, Bldg 1, 1:30, Conf. Rm Switch to Summer uniform Navy Crane Center Audit	<b>3</b> Navy Crane Center Audit	<b>4</b> Lunchtime Bible Study, Bldg 1 Conf. Room, 11:30 - 12:30 Navy Crane Center Audit	<b>5</b> CBC Blood Drive, Chapel, 8 - 12:46 All Khaki Social, A&E, 3 p.m Holy Week/Easter Services Chapel, Protestant, 5 p.m. Catholic 7 p.m.	<b>6</b> Holy Week/Easter Services, Chapel, Protestant, Noon Catholic, 3 p.m.	<b>7</b> Month of Mil. Child Easter Egg Hunt/Carnival, 10 a.m. - Noon, Youth Center Sports Field Holy Week Easter Vigil, Chapel, Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
<b>8</b> Easter Commissary closed Protestant Easter service, Chapel, 11 a.m., Catholic Mass, 9:30 a.m.	<b>9</b> Seabee Days Mtg, Bldg 1, 1 p.m. Lean Six Sigma Mob. Proc. Event, 8 - 4 p.m., Conf. Center.	<b>10</b> Lean Six Sigma Mob. Proc. Event, 8 - 4 p.m., Conf. Center.	<b>11</b> Lunchtime Bible Study, Bldg 1 Conf. Room, 11:30 - 12:30 Lean Six Sigma Mob. Proc. Event, 8 - 4 p.m., Conf. Center.	<b>12</b> All Khaki Social, A&E, 3 p.m Lean Six Sigma Mob. Proc. Event, 8 - 4 p.m., Conf. Center.	<b>13</b> Lean Six Sigma Mob. Proc. Event, 8 - 4 p.m., Conf. Center. Basewide Hail & Farewell, Sponsored by NMCB 7, A&E	<b>14</b>

## Compass Gulfport COMPASS

### Spouse Teams Mentoring Spouses

Make New Friends, Learn about the Navy lifestyle,  
Acquire Knowledge and Skills, Develop Realistic expectations and a positive attitude

What is COMPASS?  
Spouse-to-Spouse Mentoring Program  
12 Hour Session Presented Over Three Days  
Taught by Experienced Volunteer Navy Spouses

#### The Course Curriculum

Benefits and Services  
Anchors Aweigh  
Local Insights  
Personal Finance  
Moving in the Navy  
Getting along with others  
Naval History and Traditions

All Navy Spouses are welcome.

Need babysitting? -  
Inquire during registration.

#### Upcoming Sessions:

March 27, 28 & 29  
April 24, 25, & 26  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

To register call:  
(228) 871-3000, X 7444

COMPASS will be held at  
CBC Chapel Fellowship Hall. For directions call:  
(228) 871-3000, X7444.

COMPASS is presented  
by experienced Navy spouses.

## Fleet and Family Support Center Offers Services to Families of Individual Augmentees

Provided by FFSC

The CBC Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) offers a variety of services for the families of Individual Augmentees (I.A.'s). The I.A. member's temporary duty assignment differs from a normal Navy or Seabee deployment in many ways, including the following:

Interruption of a shore duty billet to receive I.A. assignment  
Length of time away from home  
Area in which the assignment is completed

Often, assignment to a non-Navy unit  
To insure continuity of information and support for I.A. families, the FFSC hosts monthly family gatherings for the spouses and children of I.A.'s, gives information-packed family packets, and provides general information and referral support.

All I.A. families are strongly encouraged to call FFSC at 871-3000. Other sources of information include the following:  
[www.ecrc.navy.mil](http://www.ecrc.navy.mil); [www.ffsp.navy.mil](http://www.ffsp.navy.mil), and [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com). The toll-free I.A. Family Information Line is 1-877-364-4302.

## Transitional CACs require software upgrade

By NMCI Public Affairs

Have you received a new Common Access Card (CAC) lately? If so, you may have received a new version of the card, known as a "Transitional CAC." Transitional CACs look very similar to the previous version of the card, with one small difference: it will list the manufacturer on the back as either Oberthur Card Systems ID-One Cosmo v5.2 72K, Oberthur Card Systems ID-One v5.2, or Gemalto Cyberflex Access v2c 64K.

Transitional CACs are not compatible with

the version of the ActivClient software currently installed on NMCI laptops and desktops. If you received a new CAC card since January 18, check to see if it lists the name on the back as one of the manufacturers listed above. If you do have a Transitional CAC, please call the Help Desk at 1-866-THE-NMCI to request an upgrade to ActivClient 6.0. This software will soon be deployed enterprise-wide; but in the meantime, the Help Desk is authorized to push it to users with a Transitional CAC.

March 22, 2007

Seabee Courier





## Youth Activities Center

March 22, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Scrapbook making, bring pictures to share  
 March 23, 6 to 9 p.m., Youth/Teen Movie Night & Popcorn! Only \$1  
 March 24, 9 to 3 p.m., National WWII D-Day Museum! Only \$5.00  
 March 27, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Puzzles and Brain- Teasers  
 March 28, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Candle making and Wax Crafts  
 March 29, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Bonus Buck Auction!!!  
 March 30, 5:30 to 9:00 p.m., Lynn Meadows Discovery Museum! Only \$3  
 March 31, 9 to 3:30 p.m., Xtreme Paintball 12 & up! Only \$15.00  
 April 3, 5:30-8:30 p.m, Teens Only Keystone Club Meeting  
 April 4, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Smart Moves & Indoor games  
 April 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Easter egg coloring, and Easter crafts  
 April 6, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Movies on the Big Screen Snacks Included! Limit 50-\$1/Person  
 April 7, 10:00 a.m. - noon, FREE Easter Egg Hunt for Youths Ages 3-12



**SEABEE DAY OPEN HOUSE  
SB TOURNAMENT  
2007**

4-6 May 2007  
 NCBC Gulfport, CBC Fitness Center Ball Fields  
 Slow-pitch, Double Elimination  
 Up to 20 teams  
 Military Teams - MWR Dept Sponsors Entry Fee & Gear Issue;  
 Civilian Teams - \$200.00  
Entry and payment deadline is 30 April 2007.  
 Team Trophies to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Teams  
 T-shirts to all 1<sup>st</sup> place team winners!

**Food & Snack Bar, Beverage Carts, Family Entertainment on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Rosters:** Teams may carry up to 20 members on the roster. Team rosters may be faxed to 228-871-2082 and should include the names of the coaches and players, as well as, contact phone numbers for each person. Civilian players on each roster should be annotated by "CIV" and military player by "MIL".

**Base Access:** Though the base will be open for the Seabee Day Open House event, all players driving aboard CBC must have a valid driver's license, proof on vehicle insurance, and vehicle registration.

For further questions, please contact Samuel Perkins, CBC Sports Coordinator at 871-2353.



**SEABEE DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**JOIN US ON MAY 4, 2007 AT 1300 FOR A SHOTGUN START. THE FEE IS \$25.00 PER PERSON. TEAMS WILL BE MADE OF A FOUR PERSON SCRAMBLE.**

**TEE OFFS:**  
**50 & OLDER <GOLD TEES>**  
**49 & YOUNGER <WHITE TEES>**  
**LADIES <RED TEES>**

**MULLIGANS: 2 FOR \$5.00**  
**STRING: \$1.00 PER FOOT, 10 FOOT LIMIT.**

**PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN AWAY TO THE TOP THREE TEAMS: PRO SHOP GIFT CERTIFICATES, AND TROPHIES!!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO ENTER, CALL THE GOLF PRO SHOP AT 871-2494.**

**THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS WEDNESDAY, MAY 2.**



**Month of the Military Child Celebration  
& Easter Egg Hunt**

The annual Month of the Military Child and Easter Egg hunt will be held at the Youth Center sports field on Saturday, April 7th from 10:00-12:00 for all youth 0-12 years of age.

**Check out the line up for this awesome celebration!**

Easter Eggs, Baskets With Prizes & MORE  
 CBC Security Identi-Kid Booth & Bike Registration  
 Keesler Air Force Base K-9 Team  
 Car Seat Safety Test  
 CBC Fire Truck  
 Face Painting  
 Moon Bounce  
 Stennis Space Center  
 DARE Train

Times of Egg Hunts will be posted at the carnival that day. Easter bags will be provided for the hunt! Call 871-2251 for more information.

**MWR** **NAVY CYP**

March 22, 2007

Seabee Courier



# FFSC starts Trauma Intervention Group

By Jim Soriano, LPC  
FFSC

A 2006 military study of the mental health of troops who fought in Iraq found that about one in eight reported symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The survey also showed that less than half of those with problems sought help, mostly out of fear of being stigmatized, being labeled as weak or hurting their careers. PTSD can develop in individuals who have experienced an emotionally or physically traumatic event. Service members from GITMO, Iraq and other missions have also experienced these symptoms. Traumatic stress reactions are normal responses to abnormal events.

The most frequently experienced traumas include:

- Witnessing someone being badly injured or killed
- Being involved in a fire, flood, or natural disaster
- Being involved in a life-threatening accident
- Combat exposure
- Physical/Sexual abuse or assault
- Repetitive routine activities
- Most people experience post-traumatic stress features and reactions for days or even weeks after

the trauma. However, for some, the effects may continue for months and years. Usually these reactions become less severe over time, but in some cases may persist and psychologically handicap a person.

## Signs of PTSD:

Re-experiencing the trauma of the event through dreams or flashbacks

Recurrent recollections of a disturbing event; i.e. (images, thoughts, perceptions)

Feeling of emotional numbness and detachment from others

Irritability or exaggerated shock responses

Sleep disturbances

Anxiety or anger

Difficulty concentrating, remembering, and/or making decisions

Physiological responses to situations or events that symbolize or resemble the original stressful event or situation

## PTSD and The Family:

The family is profoundly affected when any member experiences psychological trauma and suffers PTSD. Some traumas are directly experienced by only one family member, but other family members may experience shock, fear, anger, and pain in their own unique ways simply because they

care about and are connected to the survivor.

PTSD will not automatically develop in friends and/or family members regardless of their physical or emotional proximity, but they may feel the affect of the disorder experienced by the survivor in several ways:

Family members may feel hurt, alienated, frustrated, or discouraged and may have a tendency to feel angry or distant toward the survivor.

Even if the traumatic event occurred many years ago, survivors may act...and family members may feel...as if the trauma never stops happening. This can cause family members to avoid activities or people and become isolated.

They may find it difficult to discuss personal or family problems, because the survivor either becomes controlling, overprotective, or unreasonably anxious and fearful about problems becoming terrible catastrophes.

Family members may find their sleep is disrupted by the survivor's sleep problems.

Alcohol and other drugs may be used by the survivor and could expose family members to emotional, financial, and even domes-



tic violence problems.

## Learn to Manage PTSD:

The Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) will be starting a Trauma Intervention Group. The 12-week group will insure confidentiality, provide information and support and will be offered to service members (both male and female) dealing with combat stress and/or PTSD symptoms. Informational groups for family members will be offered upon request.

Co-facilitators, Jim Soriano LPC & Sarah Hopper LCSW, will lead the group that will meet every Wednesday from 1600 to 1730 at the FFSC starting 4 April 2007. All members will be screened before they attend. For more information contact Sarah Hooper at the FFSC, 871-3000.

Congratulations to Cmdr. James S. Fitzgerald, NAVFAC Military Engineer of the Year

## Local Seabees participates in "Great American Race"

By MC2 Chad Runge  
NMCB 1 Public Affairs

Two local Seabees recently took advantage of an opportunity of a lifetime. CE1 (SCW) Jason Knorr and BUC (SCW) Landon Henson, both of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion One (NMCB 1), took part in pre-race festivities at the Nextel Cup Series' Daytona 500.

Knorr and Henson were invited to the track to represent the nation's Armed Services by participating in the pre-race extravaganza titled "Tribute to America." Alongside several hundred military servicemembers and their families, the two marched and carried flags onto the legendary track's infield.

The star-studded event was headlined by a performance by two-time Grammy winner, Kelly Clarkson. In addition, country

artists Big & Rich sang the National Anthem, accompanied by an F-15 flyover, and actor Nicholas Cage was the race's Grand Marshal. To top it all off, Baseball's iron man, Cal Ripken Jr. drove the official pace car.

Knorr heard about the opportunity to participate in "The Great American Race" through his chain of command, and couldn't pass it up.

"I'm a huge race fan," he said. "So, I actually already had tickets to go. Being asked to actually be a part of it was just a huge bonus for me."

Many of the participants were also given passes to other race events and were presented a few more opportunities that most race fans never get the chance to take part in.

"They let us all into the Nextel Fan Zone, where we got to check out some of the cars being



Official U.S. Navy photo

CE1 (SW) Jason Knorr stands on the race track prior to the running of the Nextel Cup Series' Daytona 500. Knorr was one of hundreds of servicemembers to take part in the pre-race show entitled "Tribute to America."

worked on by their crews," Knorr said. "We also got to go out on the track and sign our names on the start/finish line."

Capping their event-filled weekend was the 49th running of the Daytona 500, which the servicemembers were allowed to watch from the infield. The exciting race featured several crashes, one of which occurred on the race's final lap and ended in one of the closest finishes in the track's history.

Knorr's and Henson's involvement in the "Tribute to America" is a classic example of some of the added benefits that a service member can enjoy with a little bit of research and chain of command communication. As demonstrated by these two Seabees, a little research can yield the experience of a lifetime.

March 22, 2007

Seabee Courier



# Seabee Community Notes

## NMCB 1 FRG

We would like to invite all friends and family of NMCB 1 Seabees to join us on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the CBC Chapel in Fellowship Hall. Bring the kids, babysitting is available and free. The NMCB 1 FRG offers fun activities including movies, picnics, bonfires, holiday parties and lots more for the whole family. During homeport and during the deployment we are available to help support all of our NMCB 1 families and friends. If you have any questions please call the FRG President, Monica Ortega at (210) 421-7810 or email her at [mluvsdn@yahoo.com](mailto:mluvsdn@yahoo.com) or Ombudsman, Kathy Thomas at 392-8464 or email [seabeezac@bellsouth.net](mailto:seabeezac@bellsouth.net). We hope to see you there.

NMCB 1 FRG also has a new website that will keep you up to date on what is happening within our military family. The new website is <http://hub.cinchouse.com/nmcb1seabees>.

## NMCB 133 FRG

We would like to invite all friends and family members of NMCB 133 to join us on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the base chapel. We also do many activities such as holiday parties, fun trips, movie outings and more. During homeport we share in each others excitement and during deployments we lean on each other for support. We offer battalion information and welcome those with children, those without, wives, husbands and other loved ones.

## NMCB 7 FRG

Come join our growing family. We are here to promote and grow social relationships and encourage interaction of spouses and family members during often trying and difficult times during the deployment of our NMCB 7 men and women. We have lots of fundraisers and activities planned for the whole family.

There are games and crafts for the kids and speakers on different topics for the adults. We will also have drawdowns for door prizes and refreshments each month. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck dinner at the start. Come and get together with us and meet your fellow family members. For more information on NMCB 7's FRG, contact Kathleen Whisenhunt, FRG president at [kwhisenhunt@gmail.com](mailto:kwhisenhunt@gmail.com). You can also check out [nmcb7fsg@cinchouse.com](mailto:nmcb7fsg@cinchouse.com) and <http://hub.cinchouse.com/nmcb7fsg/> for more information.

## NMCB 74 FRG

The NMCB 74 Family Readiness Group welcomes friends and families of NMCB 74 personnel. We encourage and promote friendly and sympathetic relationships among our family members.

We have a new Careline number for battalion updates, it is 1-866-531-1101 (toll free), or 871-3650 (local).

Family Readiness Group meetings are held every third Monday of the month at the CBC Chapel in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. Free baby-sitting and activities for the children are provided. For information contact FRG President, Helen Walker at (228) 586-0114; or Secretary, Robyn Baca at (228) 539-9059. The FRG Advisor is Susan Prather, (228) 392-5945.

## NCTC TRI-SERVICE FRG

We invite all spouses and loved ones of NCTC to join us on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall of CBC Chapel. We are offering fun activities for the family, girls night out, and fellowship among the NCTC Command. For more information, please contact our FRG President Tessa Grimes @ 865-4364 or email her at [tgrimes730@hotmail.com](mailto:tgrimes730@hotmail.com).

## Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

The Navy-Marine Corps

Relief Society (NMCRS) Thrift Shop is located at the far north end of McKinney Ave, Building 16. The Thrift Shop is staffed entirely by volunteers. The retail hours of operation are Monday - Thursday, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

New volunteers are always welcome. Visit the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society offices at the Fleet and Family Support Center, Building 30, Suite 103, or call (228) 871-2610 to obtain information about becoming a part of the NMCRS volunteer team! Childcare and mileage are reimbursed.

## Mississippi Gulf Coast First Class Association

MGCFA is seeking new members. Meetings are every Weds at 2 p.m at CBC's Beehive, Bldg. 352. Call BU1 Reyes or CE1 Johnson at 871-2145 for more information.

## VFW Post 3937

VFW Post 3937 Long Beach is open every Friday from 6 - 8 p.m. for a seafood, steak, of pork chop dinner. Weekend breakfasts are served from 7 - 10 a.m. on Saturday and from 9 - noon on Sunday. VFW meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome. Point of contact for more information

is Post Commander, Mike Hanko at 228 863-8602.

## Retired Activities Office

The Retired Activities Office (RAO) is located in the Fleet and Family Support Center and staffed entirely by volunteers for the retired military community. A wide range of services are offered to retirees and surviving spouses of military members that includes pay issues, the Survivor Benefit Program, and dealing with the Department of Veterans Affairs to obtain benefits. RAO volunteers act as a liaison to guide the customer through all aspects of the above programs. RAO's services are free and intended to assist the customer to obtain their entitled rights, benefits, and privileges as a retiree, dependent, or survivor of a military service member.

Customers from other RAO's are welcome to visit the NCBC, Gulfport Retired Activity Office. The hours of operation are Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. Call for an appointment at 871-3000 ext. 35 or just drop in. Customers and volunteers are welcome.

## Navy College Test Prep

The Navy College Learning Center Facilitators have announced the spring sched-

ule of test preparation classes. The two-week classes can be taken by those who want to prepare for the ASVAB, ACT, SAT, GED, or CLEP Exams. The class dates are March 26 - April 5, April 9-19 and April 23 - May 3.

To enroll, select dates, verify availability with the NCLC, submit a chit, and see your command career counselor to secure a slot.

For additional information and reservations contact Anna or Bonnie in the Navy College Learning Center, located in Building 60 on the second deck, Room 234, call 871-2508, or send an email to: [gulfportnclc@plato.com](mailto:gulfportnclc@plato.com).

## 1st Annual VFW District 1 Golf Tournament

VFW District 1 will hold a golf tournament at Great Southern Club on April 14. Lineup is a 4-person scramble, 8 a.m. shotgun start. Deadline for sign up is April 1. Contact Rick (228) 818-9404 or Pete (228) 324-5149 for information.

## NCBC Photo Lab Closure

The NCBC photo lab will be closed to studio work April 2 - 6. Passport photos will be taken by appointment. Call 871-3662 to schedule a passport photo.

## New Colmer Dining Facility Hours

Because of the impending mobilization schedules, the Colmer Galley will be extending its weekday hours to accommodate the increase in personnel. The extension of hours will begin on March 19 and last until further notice.

The new hours will be as follows:

Breakfast 5:45 - 8 a.m.

Lunch 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Dinner 4:30 - 6 p.m.

Additionally, both sides (both lines) in the galley will run for breakfast, lunch, and dinner to enable our patrons to get food faster and easier.



# Gulf Coast USO



3001 6th Street, (Bldg 306), 228-575-5224

FREE SERVICES AVAILABLE

Fax - Send & Receive (228-575-5225), Copies (limited amount)

X-Box

Snacks & Drinks, Information and Referral

United through Reading Program

Computers (4): with web cams, Internet Access, Email Access, Yahoo, Hotmail

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Closed on Sunday



## Seabee Memorial Chapel



For more information concerning other faith groups, call the chapel office at 871-2454.

### Center Chaplains

Cmdr. John Lyle, Catholic Chaplain

Lt. Cmdr. Dedra Bell, Senior Protestant Chaplain

Lt. David Cullen, Protestant Chaplain

### Services

Protestant Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Sunday 11 a.m. Divine Worship

### Catholic

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Family Choir Mass

Sunday 10:40 a.m.

Religion Education

Monday - Friday, 11:35 a.m. Daily Mass



From NMCRS page 5

Navy and Marine Corps emblems by CS1 Stephen Codington and CS2 Lorenzo Shugart. Naval Construction Training Center personnel put the "fun" in Fund Drive by adding a unique touch to the cake cutting ceremony.

When the NMCRS Gulfport Director, Alice Huffman, contacted NCTC and asked if they could pull off a cake cutting using a piece of heavy equipment CUCM Scott Morris responded with two words, "Can Do." EOC Vinnie Lombardi, from NCTC Alpha Company, took the lead and the morning of the 2007 Fund Drive Kickoff, EO1 Edward Davidson drove up to the NEX courtyard behind the wheel of a backhoe. Welded to the side of the bucket of the backhoe was a pirate's sword with a black handle and gold blade. UT1 Gerald Hislop, NCTC Fund Drive Representative, directed EO1 Davidson as he made a few practice cuts into an imaginary cake. When the time arrived to cut the cake, Capt. Dobson stepped in and directed EO1 Davidson as he expertly made the ceremonial first cut into the cake.

The NCBC/20th SRG First Class Association and Chief Petty Officer's Association jump-started the fund raising activities by sponsoring a hot dog sale. CM1 Larry Johnson, the designated cook, had hot dogs ready for consumption as people started to gather for the kick off. After the cake cutting the smell of barbecued hot dogs was hard to resist and those attending the kick off flocked to the booth to have an early lunch. Members of both Associations, including



CMCS Matt Aninos, provided great service to the customers. All proceeds from the hot dog sale were contributed to the Area Fund Drive.

AGC Stephen Daniel, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Center, was selected to serve as the Area Fund Drive Coordinator for 2007. AGC Daniel has previously served as Fund Drive Representative onboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). His experience and enthusiasm, along with that of the NMCRS Fund Drive Representatives from area commands, will help meet the goals of the 2007 fund drive which runs through the end of March.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is a private, non-profit, charitable organization that exists solely to support the active and retired communities of the Naval Service. In 2006

NMCRS worldwide provided \$33.7 million dollars in interest free loans and grants for emergency needs. Included in those figures are \$1.2 million dollars in assistance to 778 clients whose emergency need arose from their service in the Global War on Terrorism.

Locally, the Gulfport Office provided \$460,610 in interest free loans and grants. Additionally, the Gulfport Office provides budget counseling Visiting Nurse services and operates a Thrift Shop.

All programs are funded directly from charitable donations and are returned to clients in the form of financial assistance or education. The annual Active Duty Fund Drive is an opportunity for Seabees, Sailors, and Marines to help "take care of their own" when emergency situations occur.

Photo by MC1 Sean Mulligan

At left: **CBC/20SRG First Class and Chief's Association members kick off the NMCRS Active Duty Fund Drive with a hot dog sale. All proceeds from the sale went to the fund drive.**

## SAVI Training

An Initial Command SAVI Victim Advocate class is scheduled for April 16 - 19 at the FFSC, CBC Gulfport. If you are interested in attending, contact Peggy Cuevas 871-3000, X7428 for an interview and return completed necessary paperwork prior to March 29. The class is limited to 25 participants, so please register early.



# Let the games begin!



Photo by MC1 Sean Mulligan

**Celebration Tournament!** CBC re-opened the adult softball fields for the first time since Hurricane Katrina for a Spring Slow-pitch Softball Tournament held March 10. Field renovations included all new lights, new fencing and back-stops, new bleachers, and re-furbished dug-outs. Infield work is scheduled to be complete by May 1.

Eleven military teams entered the Spring SB Tourney to include teams from NCBC, Stennis, and the Coast Guard. The USCG Team took 1st place and all teams are gearing up for the Seabee Day Open House Tournament scheduled for May 4 - 6, 2007.

To enter a team in the upcoming season (May - June) or for field information, please contact the Fitness /Sports Office at 871-2353.