

SEABEE COURIER

www.cnicy.navy.mil/gulfport

Vol. 52 No. 28

Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi

December 6, 2012



Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Sailor of the Year, Builder 1st Class (SCW) James Pace speaks with students during a Builder "A" school class on board NCTC. Pace has been assigned to the schoolhouse since October 2010, and is the assistant Builder "A" school course manager and instructor supervisor. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

Pace named NCTC Sailor of the Year

By Chief Engineering Aide
Peter S. Sydow

NCTC Public Affairs
Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Gulfport selected Builder Petty Officer 1st Class as Sailor of the Year (SOY) for fiscal year 2012.

"It is a distinct honor and privilege to be named NCTC Sailor of the year, and a deeply humbling experience. Considering all the great petty officers at NCTC, I am very proud of this achievement," said award recipient Pace, who is an Assistant Builder "A" School Course Manager and Instructor Supervisor.

Petty Officer Pace has demonstrated his leadership in every

facet and has made a tremendous positive impact on NCTC Gulfport's command climate and our mission to train and develop Seabees. He is an exemplary representative of the command and the cadre of professionals on our staff," said NCTC Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Scott Anderson.

When asked what he believes set him apart from the other nominees Pace stated, "I don't think any one thing sets me apart from the rest, as each has their own unique qualities they bring to the table. Dedication and an honest effort put forth in every assigned duty and task is to be expected from all at NCTC.

Going above what is expected may be a factor, as well as striving to improve professionally and personally through education, physical fitness, and community involvement."

Pace gives his students this advice to help them succeed in the Navy, "Don't just do the minimum required, push further and achieve to the best of your ability. Learn from those who lead you, and do your best to stay one step ahead. Don't wait to be asked for tasks or assignments. Be proactive and stay engaged, hungry to attain the next level of leadership. Learn

See NCTC page 2

~Annual Tree Lighting Friday~

MWR Tree Lighting & Holiday Gift Village

Dec. 7, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Youth Activities Center

Featuring a snow playground, children's games, free prizes, vendors, warm cookies & milk and a very special visitor! Call 228-871-4010 for details. Don't miss the fun!



NMCB 27 - Global Peacekeepers



COBAN, Guatemala - Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 27 and peacekeepers at the CREOMPAZ military base pour a concrete pad as part of a renovation project in support of U.S. Southern Command's Global Peacekeeping Operations Initiative. The Seabees from NMCB 27 are forward deployed throughout South and Central America in support of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet peacekeeping, multinational partnership, and humanitarian assistance missions. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Keith Ferreira/Released)

Don't be a regretful holiday host

From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

Navy families need to ensure they're planning for the after-party when considering plans for their holiday get-togethers according to Navy officials.

With the holiday season here, Navy leaders want holiday party hosts to make plans for guests to get home safely afterwards.

From Dec. 24, 2011 to Jan. 2, 2012 there were 33 driving while intoxicated incidents involving Sailors.

"Depending on the laws of your state, if you host a party and serve alcohol, you could potentially be legally liable if an intoxicated party guest drives away and gets in an accident," said Dorice Favorite, director, Navy Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Office (NADAP). "There are some steps you can take before, during, and after your party to keep everyone safe."

* Prepare an overnight guest, or two - guest room; air mattresses and sleeping bags, anyone?

* Always have taxi phone numbers handy.

* Make sure you know who the designated drivers are ahead of time, make sure the designated drivers have the keys and ensure the designated drivers are parked where they are not blocked by other cars.

"If you plan activities like party games, door prize drawings or a gift exchange you'll engage your guests," said Favorite "They'll be less likely to drink too much and they'll remember the great time they had. You should also provide plenty of food to keep your guests from drinking on an empty stomach. Offer non-alcoholic beverages or mocktails for designated drivers and others who prefer not to drink alcohol."

During the party make sure the designated drivers don't drink and be aware of who gets too drunk to drive. If someone has had too much to drink make sure they have a safe ride home. Don't let anyone leave without your knowledge.

As the host, have fun - but not too much fun. To be a responsi-



ble host, you should stay within your limits in order to make sure your guests stay within theirs. Close the bar 90 minutes before the party ends and serve a great dessert treat with coffee. Remember, only time sobers someone who has been drinking.

"If, despite your efforts, some of your guests have had too much to drink - take control," said Favorite. "Drive them home, arrange for a ride with another guest who is sober, call a taxi, or insist they stay over. A party should be a good time and not something you regret hosting."

For more tips on being responsible hosts visit NADAP at www.nadap.navy.mil.



SECRET SANTA EVENT DEC. 8, 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.

NMCRS-GULFPORT THRIFT SHOP, BUILDING 29

Bring the kids out and let them do their shopping with our volunteer Elves! Children ages 4 and older are invited to participate. This event is open to all with regular base access. Call 228-871-2070 for details.

From NCTC page 1

from mistakes, don't be discouraged, and keep a positive attitude!"

As Vice President of the E5/E6 Association, Pace was responsible for coordination of all fundraising efforts for the E5/E6 Association, which earned approximately \$1,000. These funds were used to assist those in need in the local community as well as family members of local Seabees. He also led Charlie Company's Community Service project where he planned, designed and executed the construction of a pavilion at Harrison Central High School in

Gulfport. The project consisted of over 800 volunteer hours of total combined support.

Pace checked onboard NCTC in Oct 2010 after completing Journeyman Instructor Training (JIT). In his role as Builder "A" School Instructor Supervisor he managed 42 instructors who trained over 1,200 Tri-service students, while maintaining 100 percent qualification of instructors and updating curriculum.

For more information on the Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering (CSFE) Learning Site Naval Construction Training Center, Miss., visit the site: <https://www.nctc.navy.mil/centers/csfe/gulfport/>.

LADD . . . Leaders Against Drunk Driving

LADD is a program sponsored by the NCBC/20th First Class Association. The mission of LADD is to prevent drunk driving on board NCBC Gulfport by providing rides for any service member who needs assistance getting home after an outing that involves alcohol.

~ It is strictly confidential. NO REPRISAL!
~ Will take individual home only, no stops.

~ Volunteers who stand the watch are on call 24/7.

It is always important to have a plan in place when going out in town, but if your plans fall through, please call LADD and we will pick you up! 100 percent confidential, zero reprisal.

Call 228-239-9007

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Seabee Courier

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Buzz on the Street

By **CECN Lucinda Moise**
NCBC Public Affairs

How do you feel about the constantly fluctuating weather?



"It doesn't impact me much, I'm from here so I'm used to it."

Alex Carter
Navy College
Hometown: Gulfport, Miss.



"As long as it's not snowing I'm happy."

Kim Guillemette
Navy College
Hometown: Douglas, Mass.



"It's frustrating."

BUCN (SCW) Juan Vazquez
NMCB 11
Hometown: Abilene, Texas

Around the

the



Center



Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) and 20th Seabee Readiness Group (SRG) held a frocking ceremony at the Training Hall for Sailors selected for advancement from the Sept. exam, Nov. 29. Frocking authorizes a Sailor to wear the insignia of the paygrade of which they have been selected, and carries with it additional duties and responsibilities, but does not include pay and allowances. (U.S. Navy photos by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Ryan G. Wilber/Released)

Information Systems Technician 1st Class Kelli Rogers, left and Construction Electrician 1st Class Nerissia Lowers, assigned to 20th Seabee Readiness Group (SRG), sort toys for the Operation Homefront Toy Collection Drive sponsored by Balfour Beatty Communities on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC). Balfour Beatty will continue its tradition of hosting toy giveaways this holiday season with toys collected from local Dollar Trees as a result of the generosity of their customers. Bring the kids to the NCBC Fire Department Dec. 10, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. or 3 - 5 p.m. to see Sparky and to get a bag of goodies! (Photo courtesy of Balfour Beatty Communities/Released)



Personnel assigned to the Colmer Dining Facility on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) prepare food for the lunchtime meal Nov. 30. The Colmer Dining Facility is open for breakfast Monday - Friday, 5:45-7:45 a.m., lunch, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and dinner, 4:30-6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, breakfast, 6:30-8 a.m., lunch, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and dinner, 4-5:30 p.m. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Ryan G. Wilber/Released)



MWR to host annual tree lighting Friday night

By CECN Lucinda L. Moise
NCBC Public Affairs

Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) will host their annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Youth Center on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport from 6 - 8:30 p.m., Dec. 7. All MWR departments from Maintenance to the Liberty Center are joining together to host the event.

According to MWR Marketing and Publicity Coordinator, Maranda Johns, the Christmas Tree Lighting is held each year three weeks before Christmas to bring everyone together to celebrate the holidays. "The MWR hosts this event every year to provide a traditional lighting of the tree ceremony for NCBC, and to bring people out to enjoy the holiday atmosphere," said Johns.

There will be food, children's games, prize giveaways and a special appearance from Santa Claus. This year's event will also include a Holiday Gift Village with outside vendors selling potential holiday gifts, such as custom



A youngster gives a snowman a thorough inspection at last year's tree lighting. This year's tree lighting includes an added feature of a Holiday Gift Village. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

stuffed animals, jewelry and spa products, as well as handmade items.

"We enlisted the help of these various vendors for those who are looking for that perfect gift. This year we have also invited Heifer

International for anyone interested in making a donation in someone's name as a gift," said Grace Sheets, MWR information technology team manager.

For more information, contact Maranda Johns at 228-871-4010.



The water run off samples above show how important vegetation is for soil. You can see in the first sample on the left, the "filtering" effect that vegetation has on water. The two remaining samples are clouded with sediment. (Photo courtesy of CBC Environmental/Released)

Our water, our responsibility

By NAVFAC Southeast
Public Affairs

Water is fluid and follows a path whether predetermined by humans or created by nature and runs clean or dirty based on the path it follows.

"Water is used for so many things," said Douglas Pojegy, Public Works Department Gulfport Stormwater Program Manager. "We use it to wash dishes, cars, floors, driveways, etc. We choose to use it for its fluidity and power."

Water over time created one of the nation's most beautiful natural national parks, the Grand Canyon.

"Water is the one element that if controlled will find a way to continue its path. This is why it is important to manage where and how we use it," explained Pojegy.

Water, whether it travels through a garden hoses or it comes down from the sky can run many different channels and may carry numerous pollutants as it runs its path.

"The best deterrent to filtering all of the pollutants is through vegetation," said Pojegy.

Although the earth has this natural deterrent to pollutants it is still important for everyone to assist in the fight against erosion and pollution. With all of the construction and constant shifting of the landscape that everyone does on a daily basis, at home and on base, it is crucial to the environment that everyone make an effort to do their part.

"We must continue to clean up our own living space and not pollute," said Pojegy. "The water that hits the ground could eventually make it back into our bodies. Whether it be from the fish we eat or the water we drink we are all responsible for our Earth. We only get one."

Questions pertaining to proper water conservation can be made directly to the NCBC Stormwater Program Manager at 228-871-3118.

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Marine Toys for Tots - Staff Sgt. Marvin Perez-Diaz, of I&I, 3rd Platoon, A company, 4th AABN on board NCBC is coordinating the area's annual Toys for Tots campaign. Your contribution of new, unwrapped toys or a monetary donation would be greatly appreciated. Drop off boxes are located throughout Harrison, Hancock and Stone Counties, Keesler

Air Force Base PX and on board NCBC at the Navy Exchange and the Navy Federal Credit Union. Donations are being accepted through Dec. 22. To make a monetary donation, or for more information on Toys for Tots, visit <http://gulfport-ms.toysfortots.org>.



Seabee Courier

**Balfour Beatty hosts
'Pancakes with Santa'
Dec. 15, 8 -10 a.m.
at McDonald's
on board NCBC**



**Balfour Beatty
Communities**

Santa arrives at 9 a.m.

. . . Follow Seabee Center on
Facebook and Twitter . . .

Website assists those seeking to hire vets

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyronne C. Marshall Jr.
American Forces Press Service

The Labor Department, in concert with two other federal agencies, has provided a tool to guide potential employers seeking to hire disabled veterans, a Labor Department official said, Dec. 3.

John K. Moran, deputy assistant secretary of labor for veterans' employment and training service, said the "America's Heroes at Work" website provides resources to organizations looking to hire veterans with or without disabilities.

"What it does for the employer is it gives them some information about -- and demystifies, quite frankly -- a lot of the issues around the disabilities that many veterans might have -- particularly, traumatic brain injury [and] post-traumatic stress disorder," he said. "It advises and helps an employer understand what those issues are, what they're not, and how they can effectively recruit and hire veterans who may have those issues into their workforce without any particular problems."

This website guides employers to understand the disabilities and potential accommodations that may be necessary, and how they can be made, he added.

"In fact, [it] points out that many of the accommodations that might need to be made can be made very, very simply and easily," Moran said. "So it's really a guide for the employer how to hire the veteran who has these issues."

The website originally launched in 2008 and was down recently for a short period as the three agencies involved -- the Labor, Defense and the Veterans Affairs departments -- considered who should manage the website.

"We went through a few discussions this past summer," Moran said, "which resulted in a decision that since we, the Department of Labor, are the employment arm, if you will, for the federal government, it rightfully should stay where we are."

Moran also noted contracting issues and "a couple of technical glitches" also caused the website to go down for a short period, but as of Nov. 26, the website has been back online and fully accessible. Moran said Labor Department officials believe the toolkits for employers that the website provides have factored into declining veteran unemployment.

"One of the indicators that we look at, that we believe lends itself to the fact that this website is working well for the employers, is that veteran unemployment continues to go down," he said. "So there are many factors behind that, but one of the factors is, we believe, that employers are using this toolkit [and] they're learning from it," Moran said. "They're more willing and able, then, to bring on the veterans, which is probably why we're seeing the decline in the veteran unemployment rate."

Moran noted that nonveterans also experience PTSD and other brain injuries, but that doesn't preclude them from being effective contributors to the workforce.

In addition to giving employers toolkits and information about veteran disabilities, Moran said, the website also emphasizes the advantages of hiring veterans, whether they have these disabilities or not. Officials are updating all of the information so there is one "holistic place for an employer to go," Moran said.

"They'll simply come to the DOL website," said he added, and "they'll access this information, and they'll learn about everything there is for the value of hiring a veteran, period."

Whether a veteran has a disability won't be germane at that point, he said. "If they want to drill down further into 'Now, what do I need to know about the veteran who has disabilities?' then they can further access this information," he said. "So we are kind of putting it all in one place."



Seabees attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 perform drilling operations in Challalumsa, Ethiopia. The completion of this water well ensures that the people of Challalumsa will no longer have to travel 20 miles for water. NMCB 1 is currently deployed to the Europe and Africa (AOR) in support of construction operations and African Partnership Stations. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Jeff "SF" Fustick/Released)

NMCB 1 drills for liquid gold in Ethiopia

By EOC (SCW) Tremayne Nicholson

NMCB 1 Public Affairs

Challalumsa, Ethiopia is a very small village that you won't find off the side of a main road, near a river, stream or even on a map. This village is a treasure hidden in the desert near the town of Dire Dawa, and home to nearly 500 Somali Ethiopians.

Life in Challalumsa is quiet and simple, and most work consists of herding camels, goats and donkeys.

People travel up to 20 miles daily for fresh water, and for that reason it is a perfect place to send a group of Navy Seabees to drill a well.

The Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 began their mission to bring water to the people of Challalumsa Nov. 21.

A pre-assessment was done by Lt. j.g. Michael Gibson, officer-in-charge, Chief Equipment Operator

(SCW) Tremayne Nicholson, assistant officer-in-charge and Equipment Operator 1st Class (SCW) William Wilson, lead driller.

"During the assessment we met with the village elder to discuss the placement of the well, how many people the well will serve, the effect it will have on the village and job site safety," said Gibson.

After the road leading to the well site was prepped, work on the well started Nov. 25.

Equipment Operator 2nd Class (SCW) Corey Hileman worked to flatten some areas and dig out others, so that the T2W Water Well Rig and Tender would be able to reach the site. Once on-site, set up began with two 20-foot Container Express (CONEX) boxes being dropped off, a 750 cubic feet per minute (CFM) air compressor and well drilling materials.

A water well operation is a 24 hour-a-day mission broken into

three eight-hour shifts. Each shift has a "Tower Leader," "Derek Hand," "Worm" and a "Mechanic."

The Tower Leader is in charge of his shift and is the one that will control the drill rig. His second in charge and right hand is the Derek. The Worm collects cutting samples and keeps the drilling mud program correct, and the Mechanic keeps everything working properly.

The water well required a 250-foot depth to have an effective ground water flow that produces enough water for the village.

It took the team four days and nights to reach this depth, overcoming a clogged mud pump, air in the hydraulic lines and cold, wet nights.

For the village of Challalumsa, Ethiopia, the placement and completion of this well means no more 20 mile hikes just to get water; the gold so needed to keep the village thriving and hidden from the rest of world.

A common goal: Independent operations, future prosperity

By MC1 Steven Myers
NMCB 133 Public Affairs

CAMP KRUTKE, Afghanistan – Under the sun in Afghanistan’s southern provinces, through the desert, flood plains and mountains, into the bustling metropolitan area of the capital, Kabul, coalition forces continue to develop, mentor and train members of the Afghan National Army (ANA), security forces and police.

Beginning in October, 11 members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, Task Force Anchor, embedded with coalition partners at four forward operating bases (FOBs) across Helmand and Kabul Province to train, coach and advise ANA engineering units in contingency construction operations.

Embedded with U.S. Marines of a Security Force Advisor Assistance Team and the engineers of the ANA 2nd Brigade 215th Corps at FOB Nelay in northern Helmand Province, Builder 1st Class Matthew Culberson works closely with the company commander mentoring and giving technical advice on planning and execution.

Culberson said the ANA’s construction tasking came soon after his arrival and as the engineers eagerly moved forward in the construction of a mosque, an administrative building, and construction of a roof structure for the cistern on their camp, the company commander frequently requested his expertise in devising a comprehensive plan.

Coupled with the knowledge and skills attained during a contingency construction course, Culberson said the company proved to be resilient and successful.

In southern Helmand Province, two more members of the team, Construction Electrician 1st Class Justin Urban and Con-



struction Mechanic 2nd Class Timothy Woznick, attached to the 1st Brigade 215th Corps Advisor Team at FOB Dwyer, assisted in the instruction of 22 ANA students in a 30-day generator operator and maintenance course.

Along with daily lectures, the Seabees conducted hands on training with the ANA Soldiers.

“I was a little apprehensive about coming here and teaching the ANA Soldiers,” said Woznick. “But once we started and met with these guys it became really fun. It was amazing to see their progress in just a few weeks. I really can’t wait to teach them more classes.”

“I don’t always know how to respond when I hear ‘hey Seabee, great job today. You really are working hard; we don’t know what we would do without you guys.’” Woznick said.

His normal response: “I’m just doing my job.”

Not all the jobs in the engineering battalion consist of construction workers, however, and to the north, at Camp Blackhorse in Kabul Province, seven other members of the team are mentoring the ANA’s 215th Engineering Battalion in more than just construction.

Yeoman 2nd Class Narkedrian Hollis, the NMCB 133 Engineering Development Team’s administrative instructor, said there were a few challenges present upon their arrival, but were quickly overcome with the assistance of interpreters.

“They all had dealings with

prior ANA battalions and U.S. military mentors,” said Hollis. “As the initial conversation progressed, each interpreter chimed to share their experiences, expectations, and significant do’s and don’ts.”

The interpreters were subject matter experts in various fields, said Hollis, so they matched their expertise with each team member. The next step was to develop a course of instruction for each specialty and Hollis said he had to really give it some thought.

“I had no idea whether or not their administrative personnel had any experience,” he said. “I didn’t want my course of instruction to overwhelm them.”

Ultimately, after several meetings with the garrison personnel, Hollis had the information he needed to fine tune the course.

“I gave them advice on how to make their personnel status reports better and instructed them on the importance of timeliness,” said Hollis. “I began by going out to watch them muster in the mornings. I also incorporated tools on how to evaluate personnel, document leave, the importance of positive and negative counseling, and accurately maintaining personnel records. Though they had doctrine that dictated these matters, I attempted to streamline and reinforce what was already in place.”

Hollis said he plans to pass the course of instruction on to the next administrative mentor so they can continue to support the ANA on their road to independent operations.

Regardless of the location within the country, Task Force Anchor’s mentors continue to renew the enduring partnership between the coalition forces and the ANA toward one common goal: the future prosperity of Afghanistan.

NMCB 133 conducts Airfield Damage Repair Exercise



U.S. Sailors assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, lay sand grid to create a compactable surface above a simulated crater during an airfield damage repair exercise. NMCB 133 is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility to support engineering operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Construction Electrician 2nd Class Richard Rickert/Released)

Underwater Construction Team (UCT) ONE is searching for highly motivated Seabees and CEC Officers looking for a career and lifestyle change.



Join an ELITE force and travel as a small, professional team. Execute specialized construction, diving and demolition skills with the latest and greatest technology and equipment.

Contact UCT CCC/Diver recruiting team @ 757-462-3988 or 757-462-4313 or Email YNC Aberle at christopher.aberle1@navy.mil; SW1 Dohse at ryan.dohse@navy.mil or visit www.facebook.com/seabee.diver for more information.

'First and Finest' of NMCB 1 enhance partnerships in Africa

By NMCB 1 Public Affairs

Dikhil, Djibouti -- Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 is leading the way in building and sustaining relationships with East African partner nation military leadership, and local community leaders in their Area of Operations (AO).

Detail Kontali Officer-in-Charge (OIC) Lt. j.g. Aleksandra Reed and Assistant OIC Chief Steelworker (SCW) Chris Sterner took time to coordinate meetings with key officials in the Dikhil region to discuss opportunities for engagements with Djiboutian military, local civilians and U.S. Seabees.

These engagements will be focused on allowing Local Nationals to participate in the construction of a medical clinic compound located in the Village of Kontali.

The Detail OIC, AOIC and Detail Interpreter had a morning meeting with the Dikhil military base Commanding/Operations Officer, Lt. Col. Idriss Omar, which focused on the future military-to-military construction engagements that will

allow Djiboutian military personnel to learn basic construction practices and quality control measures.

The skills acquired will be of great value and benefit to the Djiboutian military as they learn the various construction trades. Their contributions will also allow them to take ownership of the projects being constructed in their AO.

During the visit, Omar was excited about having his troops participate in the construction of the Kontali Clinic.

"This will be a great opportunity for my personnel to learn the construction trade and maybe apply it to our future construction needs ... and we can teach the Seabees the 'Djiboutian way' to do stucco," said Omar.

Later that afternoon, the Detail leadership conducted another meeting with the Dikhil Region Prefect, Mohamed Cheiko Hassan.

During the meeting there was discussion of the utilization of adult students from the local vocational technical school located within the city.



Lt. j.g. Aleksandra Reed and Chief Steelworker (SCW) Chris Sterner meet with Dikhil Military Base Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Idriss Omar to discuss future plans for collaborating on the construction of a medical clinic in a nearby village. NMCB 1 is currently deployed to the Europe and Africa (AOR) in support of construction operations and African Partnership Stations. (U.S. Navy photo by NMCB 1 Public Affairs/Released)

The Dikhil Prefect was equally excited about the students learning the construction trade from Seabees, and how it will allow the students to acquire the skill necessary to support

independent economic growth in the region.

"This opportunity will allow the students to learn and apply their newly gained knowledge to future jobs," said Hassan.

The actions by the Seabees will not only enhance the current U.S. relationship with the East African military, but allow for new bridges of friendship and coordinated efforts to be built in the future.

Seabee who assisted Sandy victims remembers when others came to rescue of Gulf Coast

By MC1 (AW) Jonathan Carmichael

NMCB 11 Public Affairs When Construction Electrician 1st Class Eric R. Montag detached with his Seabee shipmates assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 from their homeport in Gulfport, to provide disaster response assistance to the people of Hurricane Sandy affected areas in New Jersey and New York in early November, he had a pretty good idea of the fears and emotions that those people were dealing with.

Montag, a native of Klamath Falls, Ore., was living on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi when Hurricane Katrina plowed through in 2005.

"I spent six weeks with no

power," said Montag. At the time, Montag was assigned to NMCB 7, also in Gulfport. He spent two weeks cleaning up the Gulf Coast in the immediate aftermath, but he and the other Gulf Coast Seabees weren't alone.

"The entire NCF (Naval Construction Force) was helping out. There was CBMU (Construction Battalion maintenance Unit) 202, the National Guard, West Coast Battalions, Spec War; It seemed like everyone from everywhere was helping us out," explained Montag.

When Montag received the call that he would be needed to provide assistance in the northeast, he felt like he was returning a favor.

"Once we got the word I was hoping I'd be one of the ones



CE1(SCW) Eric Montag

that went," said Montag, "so I had an opportunity to help someone else out after going through a bad storm myself."

While clearing debris, putting up tents, and dewatering, Montag was relating with the residents whom he was assisting.

"I talked to several residents and city councilmen about my experience with Hurricane Katrina and how we overcame things over time," said Montag. "I think being able to relate to them based on our similar experiences helped give them a sense of hope that they would come out alright."

The stress and anguish felt by his community following Hurricane Katrina is something that Montag remembers all too well. This shared experience of loss gave Montag a personal interest in the communities he was assisting in the northeast.

"The hardest part was telling them that they couldn't go into

their homes to get stuff because it was too dangerous," said Montag. "That really upset the homeowners and store owners, and I feel bad for them."

Montag and his NMCB 11 shipmates provided assistance in some of the hardest hit areas of New Jersey and New York for roughly two weeks.

While most of the NMCB 11 Seabees who traveled to the northeast United States to aid in disaster response of Hurricane Sandy are simply too new to the Navy to have been a part of the response to Hurricane Katrina, there are many still serving who were part of the post-Katrina response.

History has proven that Seabees are eager and ready to come to the aid of those in need.

'The Meat & Potatoes of Life'

By Lisa Smith Molinari, Military Spouse Contributor

Never lose your cool



My brother grabbed the chrome knob of our Buick's radio and cranked it up, hoping Mom wouldn't complain. From the back seat, I could hear the grinding voice of Ted Nugent and see my brother's elbow jerk to the rhythm of his air guitar.

"I just don't get it," Mom piped up over the screeching sounds, "Why on Earth would a 'cat scratch a beaver?' That just

doesn't make sense ecologically."

My brother and I were mortal enemies, but he grinned at me to share our mutual opinion that Mom was totally uncool.

She was notorious for embarrassing us by botching lyrics and doing cheesy "mom dances" to our favorite songs. My brother and I shriveled in humiliation when Mom pointed her thumbs alternately into the air to the beat, or did the Mashed Potato to Rod Stewart's "Da Ya Think I'm Sexy" or KC & The Sunshine Band's "Shake, Shake, Shake Your Booty."

She must've been born uncool, we thought, and were thankful that we would never suffer the same fate.

But then, life played its cruel joke, and I became a middle-

aged mom.

Although fully entrenched in denial, I sometimes get the feeling that, much like my mother before me, I have no idea what's cool anymore. I reluctantly allow my kids to control the radio on our way to school, and am forced to listen to the repertoire of new rock alternative and pop tunes that only serve to keep me from hearing the news and weather. As cool as I think I am, I'm just realizing who Foo Fighters and Train are. It'll take me another five years before I can wrap my mind around Mumford & Sons, Fun and Young the Giant.

Recently, our kids wanted to go to a base concert featuring a band named Switchfoot. All our friends were going, so despite the fact that we couldn't identify the music off the top of our heads, we jumped on the bandwagon like groupies. The

morning of the concert, my husband and I figured we'd better do our research. With the assistance of our teenage daughter, we played snippets of Switchfoot's songs on iTunes.

"Hey, I've heard this one before!" I said, and my husband and I gyrated to the beat while our kids rolled their eyes. "Oooo, this one's actually pretty good," my husband exclaimed upon hearing another familiar song. "Yea, hmmm, uhuh, da, da -- HEY, we are the Dark Horses!!!" he belted at the top of his lungs.

Later at the concert, my husband and I were ready to prove that we hadn't lost our cool. Pairing middle-aged dance moves with inaccurate lyrics, we appeared to be having a blast. An hour later, my husband asked me to search my purse for ibuprophen for a pain in his lower back. Another hour

later, we began to yawn and complain about the noise. Finally, in the last hour of the concert, we just wanted to go home, take our fiber tablets, and go to bed.

No matter how obvious it is that we're not cool anymore, we middle-aged parents never want to face reality.

"Sounds like a xylophone. What's the name of this band, Honey?" I asked my teenage daughter last week while driving our minivan to school.

"Gotye," she answered with a slight eye roll.

Sheesh. Kids these days just don't know good music. Why would anyone name a band 'Goiter' anyway? I thought to myself, secure in the knowledge that I'd always be cool.

Get more wit and observations from Lisa at her blog, <http://themeatandpotatoesof-life.com>.

Seabee Memorial Chapel Sandy Relief



Religious Program Specialist Seaman Jamie Hamm, assigned to the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Seabee Memorial Chapel is pictured with the health and comfort items donated by NCBC military and civilian personnel and their families. Chapel personnel coordinated the base relief effort before turning the goods over to points of contact at the Shed BBQ as part of "Operation BBQ Relief," who traveled to the East Coast in late October. (U.S. Navy photo courtesy of NCBC Chapel/Released)

See Something Wrong, Do Something Right!

NCIS has two new anonymous ways to report crimes or suspicious behavior with the use of discreet and secure online or texting tip lines.

To report information by Cell text:

1. Text "NCIS" to the short code 274637 (CRIMES) from any cell or smart phone.
2. Receive a response, for example: "Your alias is: S2U5 Call 911 if urgent! If replies put you at risk, text "STOP"
3. Begin dialogue

To report information Online:

1. Go to www.NCIS.navy.mil, click on the "Report a Crime" tab and select the icon for "text and Web tip Hotline."

There is a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to a felony arrest or apprehension.



Focus on Education

DeCA 2013 Scholarships

In 2012, the Scholarships for Military Children Program celebrated a major milestone as it reached more than \$10 million in scholarships awarded to 6,742 students from around the globe.

It's time, once again, to add to these impressive numbers, as applications for the 2013 Scholarships for Military Children Program will be available starting Dec. 3 at commissaries worldwide. You can also find them online through a link at <http://www.commissaries.com> and directly at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

Scholarship awards will be based on funds available, but the scholarship program awards at least \$1,500 at each commissary. If there are no eligible applicants from a particular commissary, the funds designated for that commissary will be awarded as an additional scholarship at another store.

To apply for a scholarship, the student must be a dependent, unmarried child, younger than 21 — or 23, if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university — of a service member on active duty, reservist, guardsman, retiree or survivor of a military member who died while on active duty or survivor of a retiree. Eligibility is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database.

Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current military ID card. The applicant must also be planning to attend or already attending an accredited college or university, full time, in the fall of 2013 or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program. Applicants must submit an essay on a topic chosen by the Fisher House. The essay topic will be available Dec. 3 on <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. Applications must be turned in to a commissary by Feb. 22.

Five Star Service



Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport MWR ITT Manager, Grace Sheets, and Navy Gateway Inns and Suites Front Desk Supervisor, Fanny Crispell present NCBC Fitness Center Life Guard Charlie Smith with his Star Service certification. Instructors Crispell and Sheets conducted a Star Service course Nov. 27- 28 in which 10 different MWR employees from various programs like Navy Outdoor Recreation, Liberty and Human Resources learned effective customer service techniques and practices. The course detailed the importance of earning the trust of the customer and consistently providing positive, helpful service. (Photo courtesy of MWR/Released)

FFSC December Classes

The Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) invites you to check out their December class schedule at: <http://www.slideshare.net/SeabeeCenterGulfport/ffsc-classes-december-2012>. Please call FFSC at 228-871-3000 to pre-register.

NCBC School Liaison Officer, Kevin Byrd is located at MWR

Building 352, 1706 Bainbridge Ave.

NCBC, 228-871-2117

or email:

kevin.r.byrd@navy.mil

Right place, right time



Chief Utilitiesman (SCW) James Penney welcomes the students and teachers from Quarles Elementary School of the Long Beach School District. Approximately 225 students were rewarded with a movie, soda and popcorn for perfect attendance. NCTC partnered with Quarles Elementary School as part of the Navy Partner In Education (PIE) program. (U.S. Navy photo courtesy of NCTC/Released)

Civilian federal employees

Are you thinking about retirement? The only CSRS and FERS retirement planning courses being offered at NCBC Gulfport during Fiscal Year 13 will be offered in February and are limited to 25 students each. Information on all civilian

course offerings can be found at: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/gulfport/OperationsAndManagement/HumanResource-s-Office/ServiceCenterTraining/index.htm> or <http://www.donhr.navy.mil/> and click on HR office - southeast to find a course.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Scholarships:

From Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Gulfport

Applications for Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) educational scholarships and interest-free loans for the 2013 - 2014 academic year are now available and can be downloaded at www.nmcrs.org/education.

Students eligible to apply include spouses or children (under the age of 23) of Sailors and Marines who: are on active duty, are retired or who died on active duty

or in a retired status.

Consideration for selection is based on scholastic ability and financial need. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors or full-time (minimum 12 credit hours) college students working toward their first undergraduate degree. Applications must be received at NMCRS by May 1, unless the due date on the application states otherwise.

The NMCRS Education Program has provided scholarships and in-

terest-free loans totaling more than \$60 million to more than 50,000 students over the last 30 years. It is based on the Society's mission "to provide financial, educational and other assistance." The program is supported entirely by donations and bequests to NMCRS.

For more information on the NMCRS Education Program, please visit www.nmcrs.org/education or email education@nmcrs.org.



Special Event

Light up the season with MWR at our annual Tree Lighting and Holiday Gift Village event, Friday from 6 – 8:30 p.m. at the Youth Activities Center. There will be a snow play area and lots of fun games for the children, along with cookies and milk. Adults can shop for gifts at the Holiday Gift Village which includes new vendors this year. And of course, Santa will be waiting to hear what is on everyone's wish list. Call 228-871-4010 for more details.

Fitness

Sign up for the Monthly Dodgeball Challenge at the CBC Fitness Center. There is no charge and the event will be held Friday. All eligible commands are welcome. Call today for details, 228-822-2668.

Do you like tennis or is badminton more your style? Sign up for Lunchtime Intramural Pickleball. Pickleball is a racquet sport which combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. Head to the CBC Fitness Center and sign up. The league starts Feb. 6 and games will

be held 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the Fitness Center gymnasium.

Recreation

Movie Theater: **FREE** every weekend. Grab some popcorn and sit back and enjoy the movie!

Friday, "Bourne Legacy," PG13, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Movies cancelled due to training

Sunday, "The Possession," PG13, 6 p.m.

Information, Tickets and Travel:

Looking for a great holiday event for the family? Look no further, ITT is taking you and your family to Mickey's Music Festival in Mobile Dec. 15 for only \$25! Departing from the ITT parking lot at 11 a.m., and returning approximately 7 p.m. Space is limited- sign up today! (Children ages 6 and under must be in a passenger restraint device, not provided by MWR.)

The last Saints game of the season Saints vs. Panthers will go on sale on Dec. 17 at 9a.m. for just



Parents enjoy a turkey dinner with their children at lunch as part of the Child Development Center's Thanksgiving celebration. The CDC works hard to maintain strong parent participation in their programs. (Photo courtesy of MWR/Released)

MWR Tree Lighting & Holiday Gift Village

Friday, December 7
6 – 8:30 p.m.
@ the Youth Activities Center
Offering a Snow Play Area,
Warm Cookies & Milk,
Children's Games,
Free Prizes & Vendors.
Call 228-871-4010 for details,
or ask us on Facebook. Scan here
or search NCBC MWR.

Guest Starring
Santa Clause

USAA ALLIED AMERICAN UNIVERSITY Sprint McDonald's USO

\$52.25/ticket! The first week of sales will be open to Active Duty only. During the second week of sales tickets will be available for purchase to all eligible MWR patrons (Active Duty, Reservists, Dependents, Retirees and DOD employees) with proper ID. Limit two (2) tickets per Military ID card. Parking passes are \$40 for parking inside of the Superdome Parking Garage and will be available on a first come first serve basis. (No refunds or exchanges. All ticket prices are subject to change without warning. ITT is not responsible for lost, stolen or laundered tickets and will not replace them. Resale is prohibited.

Active Duty, Reservist, National Guard, USCG and Retirees are now eligible for a complimentary Universal 3 Day Park-to-Park ticket and Blue Man Group Ticket at children's price! All dependents and DOD personnel are eligible for discounted Universal 2 Day, with 3rd Day Free tickets! Call ITT for info!

We have Nutcracker tickets available for the performances on Friday, Dec. 21 for just \$15/ ticket! Call ITT for more information.

Liberty Center:

Head to the Liberty Center for FREE food while you enjoy the 113th Annual Army vs. Navy Football Game, Saturday, 2 p.m.

Find the inner animal in you! Join the Liberty center on a trip to the

Audubon Zoo for only \$10, Sunday, 9 a.m.

Navy Outdoor Recreation:

Do you have holiday parties scheduled this season? Outdoor Recreation offers all kind of equipment for gatherings from grills and cookers to children's bounce houses at very affordable prices.

Calling all fishermen! Navy Outdoor Recreation presents the Fishing Rodeo at Seabee Lake, Dec. 22. To sign up or for more details, call ODR.

FREE Batting Cage: No more to-kens needed. Stop by and take a swing! Rent bats and helmets at no charge from Outdoor Recreation during business hours.

Food & Beverage

Starting this Sunday, the Beehive will be open. New hours are from

11:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Enjoy Sunday football with friends.

Fight the cold weather by getting a hot breakfast from the Grill. The Grill is located at the corner of Colby and 7th Street and has everything from French Toast plates to breakfast burritos or traditional eggs and bacon.

Anchors & Eagles: Open Tuesday-Thursday 2 - 9 p.m.

Youth Activities

Take a trip to the Louisiana Children's Museum with YAC this Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The trip is limited to 30 so sign up now for only \$6. Bring a lunch and any money for cool things from the museum store.

Don't get bored after school. Do something cool at the Youth Activities After-School Program and Power Hour, Monday - Friday, 2 – 5:30 p.m. Call YAC for details.

For more information about MWR programs and opportunities, contact:

Anchors & Eagles	228-871-4607
Auto Hobby	228-871-2804
Beehive	228-871-4009
Child Development Center	228-871-2323
Fitness Center	228-871-2668
Information, Tickets & Travel	228-871-2231
Liberty Center	228-871-4684
Seabee Heritage Center	228-871-3619
Navy Outdoor Recreation	228-871-2127
RV Park	228-871-5435
The Grill	228-871-2494
Training Hall	228-871-4750
Youth Activities Center	228-871-2251

NCBC Helping Hands volunteer opportunities

WEST HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL
WHHS needs 10 volunteers to assist with proctoring the Mississippi SATP Tests the Dec. 10, 10 volunteers for Dec. 12, five volunteers for Dec. 13, seven volunteers for Dec. 17 and two volunteers Dec. 14. Volunteers should report to West Harrison High School at 10399 County Farm Rd, Gulfport no later than 7:30 a.m., and should be finished around noon. Volunteers may dress in civilian clothes or uniform. If you are interested, please e-mail Julie at JHadley@harrison.k12.ms.us

LONG BEACH ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL SEEKS MENTORS - Long Beach Alternative School on Old Pass Road in Long Beach is looking for mentors for three high school girls and four high school boys. Mentor duties will include providing direction on as-

signments, increasing personal accountability and other life skills. Please call Michelle Harrison at 228-865-1956 for more information or to volunteer.

WOOLMARKET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SEEKS MENTORS - Woolmarket Elementary School on John Lee Road in Biloxi is looking for mentors for their male students as they prepare for middle school. Please contact Shirley Hardman at 228-392-5640 for more information or to volunteer.

COAST SALVATION ARMY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS - Volunteers are need for various projects throughout the year. Contact Shawna Tatge for info, Shawna_Tatge@uss.salvationarmy.org

DRIFTWOOD NURSING HOME - Want to make a difference in the life of the elderly then volunteer this fall



with Driftwood Nursing Home located right outside the Broad avenue gate. The contact for this volunteer opportunity is Christina at 228-243-3421.

VOLUNTEER WITH USO - Volunteering is both fun and rewarding. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please visit <http://www.usovolunteer.org/>. Volunteers are needed at both USO locations - (NMPS 2nd Floor, NCBC and Gulfport Biloxi International Airport.)

CAN DO Christmas

CAN DO Silent Baked Good Auction . . .



The CAN DO Christmas Charity is holding a Silent Baked Goods Auction throughout the day, Dec. 13. Anyone who is interested in supporting the charity can stop by CCCT/building 260A and submit a written bid, complete with contact information, on a baked item of interest. The bidder can stop by throughout the day to check on their bid and add to their bid if they have been outbid by someone else. All bids begin at \$5.

Donations of baked goods for the auction are needed. Cakes, cookie, cup cakes, brownies and pies would be most welcomed. Anyone interested in donating a baked good is asked to contact one of the CAN DO coordinators listed below by Dec. 10 and bring the item to CCCT/building 260A the morning of the Silent Auction (Dec. 13.) Monetary donations would also be welcomed.

CAN DO coordinators: UT1 Deangelo, 757-513-8001, UT1 Rygh, 228-547-7240, CE1 Troup, 571-331-0043

Seabee Memorial Chapel



Center Chaplains:

Lt. Cmdr. Paul Smith, Protestant Chaplain

Lt. Yoon Choi, Protestant Chaplain

For information concerning other faith groups, call the chapel office at 228-871-2454

Services:

Gospel Service: 8 a.m.

Sunday Catholic Mass: 9:30 a.m.

Weekday Mass: Tuesday, 11:15 a.m.

Divine Worship: Sunday, 11 a.m.

NCBC Angel Tree

The NCBC Angel Tree program is an opportunity to help children of military members in need that may not otherwise receive a Christmas gift. Children of active duty and Reserve military members E-5 and below are eligible for the program. Deadline for signing up a child is Dec. 12. at the Seabee Memorial Chapel. To choose a child to help, select an angel from the tree at the Navy Exchange near the Customer Service Desk, purchase appropriate gifts and return the gifts to the NEX Customer Service Desk or drop them off at the Chapel by Dec. 15. For more information contact the Chapel, 228-871-2454.



Chapel Offerings

Looking for a church?

The Seabee Memorial Chapel holds services every Sunday that might suit your needs. Protestant Services include a Gospel Service at 8 a.m. and Divine Worship Service at 11 a.m. Catholic Services include Catholic Mass at 9:30 a.m. There is also Catholic Mass Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m.

Seabee Pantry

The Seabee Pantry needs restocking. During the holidays, the need for food donations is at its highest level. Please donate as many canned goods and other nonperishables as possible. Donation drop-off sites are located at the Navy Exchange, Chapel, Commissary, Fleet and Family Support Center and Armed Forces Retirement Home. The Seabee Pantry is for anyone affiliated with NCBC.

Praise and Worship

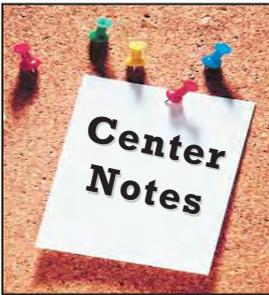
The Seabee Memorial Chapel is looking for new members for the Praise and Worship Team for the Divine Worship Service at 11 a.m. Sundays. If you can sing or play an instrument, you are invited to come share your gift.

Women's Bible Study Women's Fall Bible Study is held Wednesdays at 11 a.m. at the Seabee Memorial Chapel. The Fall Bible Study is conducting a six-week study by Jennifer Rothchild - "Missing Pieces." Free child care is available.

Angel Tree Program

Sign up sheets are now available at the chapel for the annual Angel Tree Program for children. Deadline for sign up is Dec. 12.

For more information, contact the Chapel at 228-871-2454.



SUPPORT

Family Readiness Groups

NMCB 1 FRG invites friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the first Monday of every month at the Youth Activity Center, building 335. A potluck dinner is served at 6 p.m., followed by a meeting at 6:30 p.m. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided during deployment. Contact FRG President Mary Belanger, e-mail nmcbonefrg@gmail.com.

NMCB 11 FRG For more information regarding the NMCB 11 FRG, please visit the FRG and Ombudsman website at <http://nmc11.webs.com>.

NMCB 74 FRG All families of NMCB 74 are invited to the 74 FRG meeting the third Monday of each month. Meetings are at the MWR Youth Activities Center, building 335, behind the Grinder on NCBC. Socializing begins at 5:30 p.m., and meetings begin at 6 p.m.

Bring a covered dish to share at our potluck dinner. Children are welcome. Email nmcb74fsg@yahoo.com or visit our Facebook page at "NMCB74 Fearless FRG" for more information.

NMCB 133 FRG invites all friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the first Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Youth Center. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided. Please bring a dish to share. For more information contact FRG President Jaime Royal at 317-730-4064 or send an email to NMCB133fsg@gmail.com. To receive updates, log on to the FRG site at <http://www.wix.com/NMCB133FSG/133frg>

Gulfport Officer's Spouse Club
The Gulfport Officers' Spouses' Club is a social organization that has FUN while helping our community. We meet monthly and have special interest groups for almost everyone! For more information, email goscgulfport@yahoo.com. We hope to see YOU soon!

NMCRS
The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Shop is located in building 29 on Snead Street. The Thrift Shop is staffed entirely by volunteers, and child care and mileage are reimbursed. Retail hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Volunteers are always welcome. Visit the NMCRS offices at

the Fleet and Family Support Center, building 30, suite 103 or call 228-871-2610 to find out how to become a part of the NMCRS volunteer team!

Gamblers Anonymous

The Fleet and Family Support Center offers GA meetings every Thursday at 11 a.m. GA is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other. All meetings are confidential and facilitated by GA. Come to a meeting or call Jim Soriano at 228-871-3000 for information.

TRAINING

Naval Sea Cadets

The Gulfport branch of the Naval Sea Cadets are recruiting youth ages 11 to 17 for Sea Cadets, a nation-wide organization that help youth achieve personal success through nautical training. Meetings are the third Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., building 1, 2nd floor conference room. Contact Lt.j.g. Bowling at 228-313-9035 or coachcb@yahoo.com for information.

SOCIAL

Miss. Gulf Coast First Class Association is seeking new members. Meetings are every Wednesday at 3 p.m. at CBC's Beehive, building 352. Call BU1 Tony Boldrey 228-871-2577 for more information or just come and join us at a meeting.

CBC/20SRG Second Class Petty Officers Association is seeking mem-

bers. Meetings are Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. in the Fitness Center classroom. Contact the Association's Public Affairs Officer LS2 Matthew Wasson at matthew.t.wasson@navy.mil or President LS2 Earl Simpson at earl.simpson@navy.mil for information.

NCBC Multi-Cultural Diversity Committee is seeking members. Meetings are held the first and third Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m., at the Seabee Memorial Chapel. Contact BU1 Jerma Claude at 228-871-2454 for details.
VFW Post 3937 Long Beach is open Monday - Thursday from Noon until 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from Noon until 10 p.m., Sunday from noon until 7 p.m. The first Friday of the month is Seafood Night, the remaining Fridays are Steak Night. Breakfast is served from 7 to 10 a.m. on Saturdays. VFW meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome. Contact Post Commander Bill North at 228-863-8602 for information.

VFW Post 4526 Orange Grove is open daily from Noon to 10 p.m. and located at 15206 Dedeaux Road, Orange Grove. Meetings are the first Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Call 228-832-0017 for more info.

NMCB 62 Alumni Group Naval Mobile Construction Battalion

(NMCB) 62 was recommissioned in Gulfport in 1966, and decommissioned in 1989. To become a member, go to <http://nmc62alumni.org> or for links to Seabee historical sites.

Seabee Veterans of America Island X-1 Gulfport are seeking Active Duty, Reserve, Retired or Seabees who left the military after a short period of time. Island X-1 Gulfport meets the first Thursday of each month at Anchors & Eagles at 7 p.m. Contact Joe Scott (secretary) at 228-669-8335 or elevenoaks58@cableone.net or log onto www.nsva.org for information.

D.A.V. - Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 5 invites Veterans and future Veterans to monthly meetings held the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Call Service Officer, Silva Royer at 228-324-1888 to find out more about our organization and all that is offered to members.

HERITAGE

The Seabee Gift Store is located in the Seabee Heritage Center Training Hall, building 446. Hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 11a.m. to 3 p.m. The shop has a variety of Seabee related memorabilia, books and DVD's. Contact the museum at www.seabeesmuseumstore.org/-/shop/index.php or call the gift shop at 228-871-4779 for information on all that is available for customers.



Your Gulfport Commissary. . . It's worth the trip! Visit www.commissaries.com to see all that the Commissary has to offer!

NCBC CIVBEEs . . . Are You Up for a Challenge? Announcing the NCBC/Keesler Civilian 'Biggest Loser' Contest

NCBC Civilians (CIVBEEs) have challenged Keesler Air Force Base civilians to a Biggest Loser Team Challenge competition. The competition will kick off Jan. 14 at the Fitness Center during an induction to Fitness Center equipment. Anyone who is interest in participating in the six week-long competition must have a doctor's release of good health form turned in to their supervisor. The release states that the participant is cleared to begin an exercise program. Official weigh-in for participants will be conducted Jan. 7 - 11, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Fitness Center. Benefits of participating include access to a free training class during the lunch hour, as well as nutritional classes. Weigh-ins will be conducted weekly during the challenge. The base that wins will have bragging rights to a trophy that will be displayed at the winner's command suite. For more competition information, contact Dorothy Coleman, 228-871-4848 or dorothy.coleman@navy.mil.

Balfour Beatty Operation Homefront Toy Distribution

Balfour Beatty Communities staff has been volunteering with Operation Homefront during the holiday season. The staff has been collecting toys donated from generous customers of local Dollar Trees. Some of the donations will be distributed at the NCBC Fire Department Dec. 10 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and from 3 - 5 p.m. Bring the kids to see Sparky the Fire Dog and receive a bag of goodies! If you have any questions please feel free to email Leah Ladner at lladner@bbc-grp.com



PORTRAITS OF LOVE

Take advantage of a FREE portrait session sitting and FREE portrait done by world renowned photographers to send your loved one whether they are currently serving overseas or have returned home. In addition to your free family photo, you will also receive your sitting photos via e-mail from the photographers. The goal of Portraits of Love is to provide military families with portraits to have and share with those serving both near and far. Portraits of Love will be available Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Hilton Gar-



den Inn Gulfport located at 14108 Airport Road, Gulfport, MS 39503. Sittings will be done in 10 minute increments with a 5 minute transition period between families. To schedule a sitting please e-mail the usogulfcoast@uso.org or call the USO Gulf Coast office at 228-248-0533. **Families must be Active Duty, Guard, or Reservist.

Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline Information

Due to 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.