

SEABEE COURIER

Vol. 53 No. 01

Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi

January 4, 2013

Families, friends dodge rain drops to greet NMCB 74 'Bees



Family and friends welcomed home more than 120 Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74, Advanced Party, Detail Guam, at the Training Hall on board NCBC Gulfport as they returned from deployment, Jan. 3. NMCB 74 has been operating forward deployed throughout the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) area of operations, supporting Navy and Joint forces. For more return photos, visit NCBC Facebook. (U.S. Navy photo by Construction Electrician Constructionman Lucinda L. Moise/Released)

Two NMCB 133 Seabees earn 'Badge of Merit' in Afghanistan

By UT3 Drew Verbis
NMCB 133 Public Affairs

A formation of Seabees stood at attention as two members from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, Task Force Anchor, received Purple Hearts during an award ceremony Dec 13.

Standing proudly in front of the stars and stripes, Builder Third Class Daniel Blount and Equipment Operator Third Class Steven Thelusma received the award from Brig. Gen. David L. Weeks, commanding general of the 411th Engineer Brigade, Joint Task Force Empire.

Both recipients suffered injuries when their convoy was struck with an improvised explosive device while conducting missions outside of the wire.

Blount, a native of Macon, Ga., who is serving his second deployment to Afghanistan, experienced the attack while his MRAP was traveling at low speed through rough terrain.

"It's difficult to explain but it felt like a long blink," Blount said. "The explosion knocked the gunner out of his turret and right onto me. I literally caught him. My first reaction was to check on his condition and then immediately attend to my shipmates. I think we're fortunate."



CAMP KRUTKE, Afghanistan – Builder 3rd Class Daniel Blount and Equipment Operator 3rd Class Steven Thelusma of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, Task Force Anchor, receive the Purple Heart for wounds sustained during a mission in the Helmand Province. NMCB 133 is deployed to Afghanistan in support of coalition forces with engineering support. (U.S. Navy photo by Utilitiesman 3rd Class Drew Verbis/Released)

"Afterward the Skipper telephoned my wife," added Blount. "He let her know that I was going to make it through this. That's really when it all sunk in."

Thelusma, a native of Roslindale, Mass., who is also serving his second deployment to Afghanistan, was operating an armored tractor trailer when his vehicle was struck.

"All I can say is that I sincerely feel honored to receive this award. There's nothing we could have done to prevent (the attack)," said Thelusma.

"But I do think that training played an important role in the way we responded and pushed through a dangerous situation."

The two Seabees are expected to recover and complete their deployment in Afghanistan.

"This is such a prestigious award," said Blount. "So few have it and I feel humbled. I don't take this for granted."

Once called the 'Badge of Merit,' the Purple Heart is the military's oldest award dating back to George Washington.

Navy Legal



Your rights under USERRA

By Lt.j.g. Brian T. Henning, JAGC

RLSO SE Mayport

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) is a federal law that protects the job rights service members who have voluntarily or involuntarily left their civilian jobs to serve in the military.

USERRA protections are easiest to understand when broken into three categories:

- ~ Reemployment Rights
- ~ The right to be free from discrimination
- ~ Health Insurance Protection.

Reemployment Rights

Under USERRA, service members have the right to be reemployed in their civilian job if they leave that job to perform military service, so long as:

- ~ The employer receives advance notice of the service member's service;
- ~ The total length of all absences from civilian employment by reason of service in

the military does not exceed five years;

~ The service member returns to work or applies for reemployment in a timely manner after their military service has ended; and

~ The service member has not been separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions.

If all of these requirements have been met, employers must restore service members to the position (both job position and benefits) that they would have been in if they had not left their civilian job to perform their military service.

Right to be Free from Discrimination and Retaliation

Under USERRA, those who have served or will serve in the military cannot be denied certain rights by their civilian employer. These rights include initial employment, reemployment, retention in employment, promotion, or any benefit of employment by an employer on the basis of the

employee's military service or the employee's application to serve in the military.

Health Insurance Protection

Under USERRA, service members and their dependants can continue their employer-based health plan coverage while serving in the military. The maximum period of coverage is the lesser of:

- ~ 24 months from the date on which the service member's absence begins; or
- ~ The day after the date on which the service member fails to apply for or return to a position of employment.

If you believe your rights have been violated or if you have any other questions, please contact your local legal assistance office.

This article is not intended to substitute for the personal advice of a licensed attorney. For legal assistance, contact the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) legal office by calling 228-871-2620 to make an appointment.

Updated List of Area Off-Limit Locations

The following establishments have been declared "Off Limits" to all Armed Forces personnel by the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board as of Sept. 10, 2012.

Biloxi:

YaYa's
2751 Pass Road

Gulfport:

Herbal Alternatives
1909 East Pass Road

Herbal Alternatives
11530 Highway 49

BJ's Bar (Club 228)
17920 16th Street

Gulfport, continued

Sinsations Night Club
1809 30th Ave.

Nick's Place
12460 Highway 49

Pascagoula:
Bunksmall Apartments
708 South Pascagoula St.

Service members are ordered not to enter or patronize these off-limit establishments of their locations. This does not apply to Armed Forces police on duty or others on official business. Violations of this order are punishable under Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Follow NCBC on Facebook and Twitter

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, Email: CNRSE_HOTLINE@navy.mil.

NCBC/20SRG Commanding Officer

Capt. Rick Burgess
Public Affairs Officer
Rob Mims

Editor

Bonnie L. McGerr
Mass Comm. Specialist
MCC (SCW/SW/AW)

Ryan G. Wilber
Special Contributors
CM3 (SCW) Katchen Tofil
CECN Lucinda Moise

22 NCR Commander

Capt. Darius Banaji
Public Affairs Officer
Vacant

25 NCR Commander

Capt. Darius Banaji
Public Affairs Officer
MCC (SW/AW) Scott Boyle

NMCB ONE Commanding Officer

Cmdr. Chad M. Brooks
Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Brian Gates

Mass Comm. Specialist
MC1 (AW/NAC) Aron Taylor
Special Contributor
CE1(SCW) Joshua Thonissen

**NMCB ELEVEN
Commanding Officer**
Cmdr. Maria Aguayo
Public Affairs Officer
Lt.j.g. Brian Myers
Mass Comm. Specialist
MC1(AW) Jonathan Carmichael

NMCB SEVENTY FOUR Commanding Officer

Cmdr. David McAlister
Public Affairs Officer
Lt.j.g. John Parizek
Mass Comm. Specialist
MC2 Ryan Williams

NMCB ONE THIRTY THREE Commanding Officer

Cmdr. Nicolas D. Yamodis
Public Affairs Officer
MC1(SW/AW) Steven Myers

NCTC GULFPORT Commanding Officer

Cmdr. Scott Anderson
Public Affairs Officer
Lt. J. Johnson



The Seabee Courier is a weekly authorized on-line publication for members of the military services and their families. Content does not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the DoD or the U.S. Navy and does not imply endorsement thereof. The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the U. S. Government, DoD, the Navy or NCBC Gulfport of the products and services advertised. All content in this newspaper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the pur-

chaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. The Seabee Courier solicits news contributions from military and civilian sources, but the Public Affairs staff reserves the right to edit and/or rewrite material selected for publication to conform with journalism standards. The deadline for material is close of business every Friday. Your comments are always welcome. The Seabee Courier office is in Building 1, Room 205. The mailing address is 4902 Marvin Shields Blvd., Code 15, Gulfport, MS 39501. Phone: 228-871-3662., E-mail: seabecourier@navy.mil

Buzz on the Street



By **CECN Lucinda Moise**
NCBC Public Affairs

"What is your New Year's resolution?"



"To be in school by fall."

EOCN(SCW) Michael Kohut
20th SRG
Hometown: Elkalmæ, Pa.



"To spend as much time [as possible] with my family before I deploy again."

CE3 Kristen Guardia
NMCB 11
Hometown: Gulfport, Miss.



"To get through another deployment."

CM2(SCW) Daniel Welk
NMCB 15
Hometown: Farmington, Ark.

Around the Center



Children from the NCBC Child Development Center (CDC) sang Christmas Carols at the building 1 Quarterdeck in celebration of the holiday season on board NCBC, Dec. 20. The four-year-olds sang Jingle Bells, We Wish You A Merry Christmas and Silent Night. The kids also sang carols at the Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) and Fleet and Family Center (FFSC). The CDC plans to make the caroling an annual tradition and hopes to visit more facilities in the future. (U. S. Navy photo by Construction Electrician Constructionman Lucinda L. Moise/Released)

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74, Detail Gulfport, post signs for their deployed shipmates along the road on board NCBC Gulfport Dec. 27. NMCB 74 is currently operating forward deployed throughout the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) area of operations, supporting Navy and Joint forces. (U.S. Navy photo by Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Katchen Tofil/Released)



MWR employees distribute 2013 Sugar Bowl tickets to pleased NCBC Gulfport personnel over the Christmas holiday. Tickets were distributed from the MWR Information, Tickets and Travel office to the Jan. 2 game between the Florida Gators and Louisville Cardinals in New Orleans. (U.S. Navy photo courtesy of MWR/Released)

NCBC FRAMES

**Utilitiesman 1st Class
(SCW/EXW/FMF)
Michael DeAngelo**
Utilities Phase Head
20th SRG, R-73

By CM3 (SCW) Katchen Tofil
NCBC Public Affairs



FF: What single experience during your career stands out the most and why?

UT1: Serving with the SEALS of Naval Special Warfare Group 2, especially the deployment to Afghanistan with SEAL TEAM 4. The experience of that duty station gave me the confidence to be able to work all

around the world independently, as well as with small teams of SEABEES accomplishing a great many tasks that I previously thought too difficult. It showed me just how inventive and motivated SEABEES can be!

FF: What has been your biggest motivation throughout

your career?

UT1: I would say that my biggest motivation throughout my career has been my desire to succeed at whatever task is given to me.

FF: What advice would you give to future Seabees/Sailors?

UT1: Try to have constructive things you enjoy doing

when not at work, and you'll be surprised how much it helps you at work.

FF: What is your favorite thing about being/working with Seabees, and why?

UT1: History. All the things that the SEABEES have done and continue to do makes me proud to be a part

of that.

FF: Who was your most influential mentor during your career, and why?

UT1: My dad, Kevin DeAngelo. Even though he has not been on active duty with me, he has been and continues to be my best mentor not only in my career but in life.

CDC Story Time combines learning with fun

By CM3(SCW) Katchen Tofil
NCBC Public Affairs

Team members from Families Overcoming Under Stress (FOCUS) taught FOCUS skills, read books and participated in crafts with the children at the Child Development Center (CDC) on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), Dec. 20. The Gulfport United Service Organizations (USO) joined FOCUS for the event, donating teddy bears that were passed out to the children during the event as Christmas gifts.

Once each month the FOCUS group visits CDC to teach the children a FOCUS skill centering on ways of dealing with emotions, to read a story and to participate in an activity.

"By engaging children in



Eva Shinka, site director for Families Overcoming Under Stress (FOCUS), reads the book "The Spirit of Christmas" to children at the Child Development Center (CDC) on board NCBC, Dec. 20. The FOCUS group reads to the children each month, and teaches the children FOCUS skills, which center on ways of dealing with emotions. Teaming up with FOCUS this month was the Gulfport United Service Organizations (USO), who donated teddy bears that were passed out to the children during the event as Christmas gifts. (U.S. Navy photo by Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Katchen Tofil/Released)

story time and fun activities with FOCUS each month, these children are building their emotional vocabulary and developing positive coping strategies which are important aspects of resiliency for military families," said Elizabeth Ramsey, a FOCUS resiliency trainer.

"The skills taught help the children to recognize and role-play their feelings regarding deployment. Many of the skills are retained and continued by the CDC staff also," added CDC Director Pamela Carlisle.

During the month of December, FOCUS asked the USO to join the group for story time.

"December is often a special time for many military families, although holidays can be challenging when a service member

is deployed.

For story time in December, FOCUS chose a book about a teddy bear that is much loved, but gets separated from the child who loves him. As a special treat, FOCUS sought out the USO to provide teddy bears for each of the children participating in story time," said Ramsey.

FOCUS and the USO both work to support military families in unique ways. Ramsey said that the FOCUS staff and USO will continue to identify ways to collaborate on projects to support military families in the future.

According to Carlisle, FOCUS's involvement with the CDC not only helps the children, but also helps the

See **Story Time** page 12

Seabees brighten holidays for local families with 'Can Do Christmas'

By **CECN Lucina L. Moise**
NCBC Public Affairs

Seabees assigned to 20th Seabee Readiness Group (SRG), R-73, surprised two families with Christmas gifts and a special visit from Santa Claus as part of the "Can Do Christmas," Dec. 20.

This is the 6th consecutive year that the Can Do Christmas has been able to make Christmas a more joyous time for less fortunate families in the community.

More than \$1,200 was raised for the charity through a baked goods silent auction, monetary donations and generous contributions from ABC Pawn Shop of Long Beach, Miss., which was used to provide gifts and a Christmas meal for each family.

The charity was initiated by Chief Utilitiesman Dan Clowser, currently assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, deployed to Rota, Spain, while assigned to NMCB 74, Detail Whidbey Island as a way to give back to the community in the Seabee "Can Do" spirit.

In Clowser's absence, Utilitiesman 1st Class Michael Deangelo and Utilitiesman 1st Class Chad Hert, both assigned to 20th SRG, R-73 took the lead, assisted by their R-73 shipmates, to continue the Can Do Christmas tradition.

Each family received Christmas gifts and a gift card. According to Deangelo one of the most rewarding parts of the Can Do Christmas was delivering the gifts to the



Santa Claus and Seabees assigned to 20th Seabee Readiness Group (SRG), R-73, surprise a child with Christmas gifts as part of the 7th annual "Can Do Christmas," Dec. 20. More than \$1,200 was raised for the charity through a baked goods silent auction, monetary donations and generous contributions from ABC Pawn Shop of Long Beach, Miss, which was used to provide gifts and a Christmas meal for two less fortunate families in the community. (U.S. Navy photo by Construction Electrician Constructionman Lucinda L. Moise/Released)

families.

"It is such an awesome feeling when you see the smiles on the children's faces knowing you helped give them a good Christmas. Everyone deserves a good Christmas," said Deangelo.

The children seemed to be shocked and thrilled when Santa Claus made a stop at their house. It was evident that the parents were delighted as well. They laughed and smiled at their chil-

dren's' reactions of joy and excitement.

Deangelo said he was happy to be part of the Can Do Christmas team and hopes to see the tradition continue in the years to come.

"It was a great experience being part of the Can Do Christmas this year. I could tell it made a difference in the lives of the families, and I hope to see it continue in the future," said Deangelo.

3 Ways to Put Yourself First Self-Care in the New Year Jan. 23, Seabee Memorial Chapel

8 - 8:30 a.m., Welcome, Childcare drop off
8:30 - 10 a.m., Self-Care Workshop
10 - 10:30 a.m., Refreshments & Resources

Free Workshop, Free Childcare, Free Refreshments

Open to all service members, military dependents and civilian employees

Registration: Contact Eva Shinka or Bet Ramsey at FOCUS: 228-822-5736 or email: Gulfport@FOCUSProject.org

Space may be limited for childcare, please register in advance if possible.

Hosted by *FOCUS*,
NCBC Chapel & MWR



NCBC Security Reminder:

To prevent both personal and governmental property theft, NCBC Security would like to remind you to remember to secure vehicles, personal compartments, work spaces, compounds, and buildings. Don't be a target!



Race Engines, Dirt Bikes, ATV's, Cigarette Boats, Zodiacs

Are you up to the challenge of hard work and repairing unique SOF equipment?

Naval Special Warfare Development Group is seeking active duty Construction Mechanics and all other Seabee rates.

- **Motivated/Volunteer**
- **Pass Navy PFA**
- **E4 - E6**
- **No NJP**
- **No bankruptcy**
- **Obtain Secret/TOP Secret clearance**



Email us at DEVGRURecruiting@vb.socom.mil or contact your detailer to request additional information.

NCBC Are You Up for a Challenge? Announcing: 'Can Do Weight Loss' the NCBC/Keesler Weight Loss Contest

NCBC has challenged Keesler Air Force Base to a Weight Loss Challenge. The competition will kick off Jan. 14 at the Fitness Center during an orientation. This competition is open to all who have access to NCBC. Civilian employees interested 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 participat-

ing 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.





Equipment Operator Constructionman Jason Williams, assigned to Naval Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, instructs Spanish Marines on the proper operations of D7 Dozer. NMCB 1 is currently deployed to the Europe and Africa areas of responsibility (AOR) in support of construction operations and African Partnership Stations. (U.S. Navy photo by Construction Electrician 1st Class Joshua Thonnissen/Released)

NMCB 1 tests combat readiness during Rota deployment FEX

By CE1 (SCW) Joshua Thonnissen
NMCB 1 Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 is currently deployed to 6th Fleet area of responsibility in support of construction operations throughout Europe and Africa; however, the Seabees have taken time out from their normal mission to enhance the command's combat training and readiness during a Field Exercise (FEX) executed in Rota, Spain.

The exercise consisted of four days of instructor-led training, followed by two days of intense scenarios designed to push the troops physically and mentally to ingrain the lessons into each person.

Instructors took blocks of time with each company using both slide shows and hands-on guidance to teach the troops skills needed for a battalion's deployment to combat environments, and discussed the operations that are conducted during those missions. Classes were designed to give insight into how the battalion processes work together prior to and during a combat deployment.

Students were taught multiple skills so that any member could step in to fill a gap and succeed in the new role.

Troops were not only taught "book knowledge," but were also given the opportunity to apply the lessons learned as they dug fighting positions, conducted survey patrols, constructed antenna towers and engaged in a host of other training activities.

"This training was a good refresher for me. The gear has changed so much since I was last in battalion, so it was great getting tips on how to best set-up and utilize the new equipment," said Utiltiesman 1st Class Michael Montalto.

A small camp was set up and 24-hour operations were conducted on board Camp Mitchell. Seabees were put on high alert while they patrolled forested terrain and stood watches to prevent intruders from infiltrating the camp, or handle any scenario that took place. Each member was given a role to play and a job to do.

The battalion also seized the opportunity to build relations with the

Spanish forces, when a small detail of troops was sent out to conduct road improvement operations alongside the local Spanish Marine Forces.

The team worked, ate and slept next to the local forces, waking each morning and heading out to the job site. The roads were in such bad shape that they were difficult to navigate with the average car, so the team brought the roads down to grade, while leveling and compacting them using a grader, roller and excavator.

"We have been able to work much faster than originally planned . . . we have been able to complete the mission tasking after only three days on site," said Chief Builder Eric Dirk, detail assistant officer-in-charge.

The completion of the exercise, combined with the release of rate advancement results gave the Seabees plenty of reasons to celebrate.

The battalion is scheduling more exercises with realistic training opportunities to ensure personnel are prepared for any events that may arise in the future.

Spotlight on Diversity: NMCB 11 Seabee exhibits strong devotion to duty

By MC1 Jonathan Carmichael
NMCB 11 Public Affairs

Construction Electrician 3rd Class Olorunshola Olukera, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11, isn't going home for the holidays this year. He continues striving for personal and professional excellence since an October visit to see his family in Nigeria, his first such visit in over five years.

Originally from Lagos, Nigeria, Olukera took three weeks of leave in October and paid his family a surprise visit.

"My dad barely recognized me when I walked in, and my mom was crying," said the soft spoken 33-year-old.

"I had to break my promise to visit my family during our homeport in 2011. They were able to understand that the circumstances were beyond my control," said Olukera. His devotion to duty took precedence in 2011 as NMCB 11 was in heavy preparation for its 2012 deployment to Afghanistan. Olukera came to the United States in 2007 to continue his education.

"I always had this dream of continuing my education abroad," stated Olukera who also considered moving to London. "I weighed the options, and I chose to come to the United States. I've been loving it so far."

Olukera completed a three year electronics program at the head of his class at a Nigerian technical college then took the opportunity to continue his education in the U.S. with a move to Bowie, Md. and an enrollment at Capital College.

When a Navy recruiter told the student about the education benefits available to Sailors, Olukera decided that an enlistment in the Navy would be the right move.

"Thank God for the United States Navy because it has really shaped my life," exclaimed Olukera.

After completing Construction Electrician "A" school, Olukera took orders to NMCB11 with



CE3 (SCW) Olorunshola Olukera

whom he has deployed to Guam and Afghanistan.

While deployed to Guam, Olukera took some college classes, and he has plans to take more in the spring.

Olukera believes that "whatever is worth doing is worth doing well," and because of this philosophy he has decided to limit his enrollment in school so that he may focus on his Navy career. With less than four years of service, Olukera has advanced to the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class in a very competitive Seabee community. He has also earned the Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist qualification, his primary warfare qualification.

"This is the best job I've ever had," stated Olukera. "I don't want to be an average Sailor in the Navy. I want to be the best that I can be, and I also want to continue being an "A" student."

This desire for excellence and a strong faith in God guide Olukera's decisions.

"I don't do things because of money. That's not the purpose. I only do things because I know it is right to do it and because I know I could use it to help people."

Olukera earned his U.S. citizenship in 2009, and, though his family doesn't fully understand everything that the U.S. Navy is all about, they know how much it means to him and support

See **Devotion** page 12



Left: Students assigned to the Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Navy Builder and Steelworker "A" School and 336th TRS Air Force "AIT" School, begin a 15-mile journey to raise money for the family of Tyler and Katelyn Myers of Long Beach, Miss. Above: NCTC Navy and Air Force students continue their 15-mile Ruck March in honor of Tyler and Katelyn Myers. The children are undergoing treatment in Augusta, Ga., for third degree burns suffered in an accident at their home in November. (U.S. Navy photos by Builder 2nd Class Whitney Taylor/Released)

Ruckin' for a cause: NCTC students in action

By BU2(SCW) Whitney Taylor

NCTC Public Affairs

At 6:30 a.m. Dec. 16, officers of the Long Beach Police Department, students from the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Builder and Steelworker "A" School, students

from the 366th TRS Air Force "AIT" School and one staff member participated in a Ruck March from the Bay St. Louis Bridge to Jones Park at the Gulfport Harbor to raise money for the family of Tyler and Katelyn Myers.

With backpacks loaded with water and food, the volunteers began their 15-mile journey

through Bay St. Louis, Long Beach, and Gulfport to help support the cause.

The route was monitored and the volunteers supplied with generous contributions of water and fruit from the I.P. Casino and emergency services from the AMR team of Memorial Hospital.

At each city along the route

the volunteers had a health and comfort rest opportunity.

Tyler Myers is a 7th grader at Long Beach Middle School and Katelyn Myers is a 3rd grader at Quarles Elementary School.

Both children are being treated in Augusta, Ga., for third degree burns following a fire accident at their home in November.

Both children require multiple surgeries and will need to remain in the hospital's care for an extended period of time.

In order to help their parents, Shannon and Elisha Myers, with medical bills and living expenses, Long Beach Police Department organized this event and collected more than \$4,000 in donations.

VIP on board NCTC graduation



Rear Adm. Don Quinn, commander Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) presents certificates of completion to a graduating class of Steelworker "A" school students during a ceremony at Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Gulfport Dec. 19. (U.S. Navy photo by Steve Vanderwerff/Released)

Think you're tough . . . enough to play RUGBY?

"Rugby is a game for BARBARIANS that is played by GENTLEMEN" The newly formed Mississippi Gulf Coast Rugby Club is recruiting players, coaches and fans for the 2013 season right now. We aren't looking for wanna-be tough guys, people who are out of shape or people who don't have time to dedicate three days a week. Once you learn how to play, this sport will supersede your love of any other. Our games last 80 minutes, split into 40 minute halves, and demand a high level of endurance, strength and teamwork. The team is comprised of military and civilians, officers and enlisted, blue-collar workers and doctors, 18 year-olds to 40 year-old men.

We are diverse and strong. If you think you have what it takes, come out and see for yourself. Practice is held at Popps Ferry Fields on Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m. Bring a friend, if you think they can hang. For more information, visit Mississippi Gulf Coast Men's Rugby Football Club at www.MSGulfCoastRugby.com, <http://HTOSports.com/MSGULFCASTRUGBY> or call Joey at 228-243-2673, Billy at 440-251-4411, Doug at 228-493-6191 or email, MSGulfCoastRugby@gmail.com.



Seabees Adopt-A-Highway



Seabees assigned to 20th Seabee Readiness Group (SRG) R73 are pictured during a quarterly clean up of Highway 53 in Saucier, Miss. The 43 service members adopted the highway to add to their volunteer experience and clean up the environment. The volunteers will be responsible for their stretch of Highway 53 for the next year. To adopt a 1 or 2-mile portion of a highway in Harrison County, visit gomdot.com or contact the District 6 Litter Program Coordinator at 601-544-6511. (U.S. Navy photo courtesy of R-73/Released)

NMCB 133 Detail Bravo honors fallen during 'Run to Remember'

By Lt.j.g. Mat Ward
NMCB 133 Public Affairs

KUWAIT –With temperatures in the high 40's, the troops of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133's Detail Bravo got together for a 2.5 mile Run to Remember sponsored by members of the Army Support Group – Kuwait (ASG-KU), Dec. 24.

The Run to Remember gave the detail a chance to honor their fallen brothers and sisters of the armed forces this holiday season. The group of runners, that included service members from the Army, Marine Corps and Navy, started the ceremony by introducing themselves. Following a blessing for the health and safety of the runners by the Chaplain of the ASG-KU Resiliency Center, the runners took a moment of silence to honor the fallen before starting the motivational formation run.

Throughout the run, Detail Bravo

maintained the group's motivation by leading the cadences and setting the pace. The group ran two laps around the perimeter of the Life Support Area (LSA) singing loud and proud.

Detail Bravo's Senior Enlisted Advisor, Senior Chief Equipment Operator James Brock, was at the front of the formation representing the Seabees and gave all an opportunity to reflect on the importance of the camaraderie they share.

NMCB 133 is currently deployed to the U.S Central Command area of responsibility to support engineering operations.

Senior Chief Equipment Operator James Brock, a native of Tucson, Ariz., assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 Detail Bravo, leads the formation during the Remembrance Run, Dec. 24. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt.j.g. Mathew Ward/Released)



Focus on Education



Ocean Springs High School members of the Student 2 Student or S2S club are pictured in the courtyard of the school. Ocean Springs High School is one of eight Mississippi High Schools that have S2S clubs. (Photo courtesy of MWR/Released)



Members of the Biloxi High School Student 2 Student (S2S) program gather for a photo. One of the important objectives of the S2S program is to change the transitioning students focus from what they have lost by moving to what they have to gain at their new location. Contact Kevin Byrd, Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) school liaison officer at 228-871-2117 for details on S2S. (Photo courtesy of MWR/Released)

S2S Clubs: Meeting the needs of new students

By Kevin Byrd

NCBC School Liaison Officer

Imagine being a school age child waking up one morning realizing that you are in a strange new place and, except for your family, you don't know anyone at all.

You have no friends, you have no one to talk to and you know nothing about the school you are about to enter, the

neighborhood in which you live, or the community into which you have just moved.

Moving to a new place, adjusting to a new school, encountering new teachers and finding new friends are daunting and scary experiences for most school-age children, especially, if the child faces the experience more than once.

Believing that transitioning

does not have to be difficult "just different." S2S or Student 2 Student, is a unique, student led, school-managed program that confronts the challenges of transition and provides relevant training that gives students the best possible transition experience.

S2S is a powerful program that uses student trainers to help change a transitioning

student's focal point from what the student just lost to what the student will gain.

When students do not feel threatened by the transition process, and when someone understands them and shares in the process, it makes transition more acceptable.

The initial training for the S2S programs at Ocean Springs and Biloxi High

Schools were funded by the Navy. Military Child Education Coalition provided the training which was centered around academics, relationships and finding the way.

For information on S2S, or any of the other programs available for your student, contact Kevin Byrd, NCBC school liaison officer, 228-871-2117 or kevin.r.byrd@navy.mil.



Balfour Beatty Communities
is hosting a

**Mardi Gras Ball for
Residents of Base
Housing!**



**Jan. 18, 6 - 9 p.m.
Rhodes Hall, building 303**

Call for more info! 228-863-0424

Balfour Beatty
Communities



Fitness

It's time to stop talking about it and make those 2013 New Year's resolutions a reality at the CBC Fitness Center. Personal Trainers are available to design a customized work out plan just for you! These professionals motivate and customize a plan based on a client's individual needs. Trainers are open to all eligible MWR patrons and are available at an affordable rate of \$30 for active duty and \$45 for all reservists, dependents, retirees and DOD civilians. This price covers five one-hour sessions of one on one time with an expert. Start today, call 228- 871-2668.

Do you need people around to motive you to work out? Then, make time for a group fitness class. The CBC Fitness Center offers courses as early as 8 a.m. and as late as 6 p.m. Get your heart pumping with some strength/cardio, Zumba or cycling. You can also try out the new low impact aerobics course or center yourself with yoga. For the class schedule, visit us on Facebook at NCBC Gulfport MWR or stop by the Fitness Center today!

Recreation

FREE Movie Program at the Training Hall: Take a load off. Sit back and watch the big screen all by yourself for some alone time, or make it a family night and bring the whole crew! Stop by the Snack Bar on your way in to get that buttered movie popcorn and those other goodies that help you get lost in the moment. Forget what was playing? No worries - put the movie hotline in your phone, 228-871-3299 and call anytime!

Friday, "End of Watch," R, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, "Finding Nemo," G, noon; "Here Comes the Boom," PG, 3 p.m.; "Resident Evil Retribution," R, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, "Hotel Transylvania," PG, 2 p.m.; "Taken 2," PG13, 4 p.m.

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

Information, Tickets and Travel:

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!

Disney Military Salute tickets are in! The promotion has been extended for your deeply discounted 4 Day Park Hopper Ticket. New tickets are valid through Sept. 30, and they're only \$153.25 each! Purchase up to six for your Disney getaway. *Eligible patrons only (active duty, reservist, retired).

Don't blink . . . or this offer will race by you like the Daytona 500. Feel the rumble of the stadium in person. Book your Daytona International Speedway package today! ITT is offering packages at great prices that include a ticket to the Daytona 500, round trip transportation on a Coach bus and two nights' hotel accommodations. Package prices vary depending on room occupancy - starting at \$450 for a single and running as low as \$160 for four person occupancy. The trip runs from Feb. 23 - 25, and an initial down payment is due by Jan. 18. Call ITT for details, 228-871-2231.

Liberty Center:

OMG - A trip to New Orleans this Saturday! Text your buddies now and get on board Liberty's FREE shuttle and explore The Big Easy. Play a tourist for a day or blend in like the locals. Enjoy the historical sites, shopping, fine dining or the

infamous Bourbon Street. Smell the tasty Cajun favorites and let the sounds of jazz and blues move you. Sign up today. The FREE shuttle departs at 9 a.m.

How's your aim? Take a trip with Liberty to the Gun Ho Shooting Range Sunday and find out. The FREE shuttle departs the Liberty Center at noon.

Navy Outdoor Recreation:

Toughen up . . . don't let that cold weather keep you indoors! NOR has lots of fun equipment that will make you forget all about that chill in the air.

Shhhhhhh . . . I smell a doe . . . no a hog! Sorry Elmer Fudd, this hunt doesn't include rabbits. Put on your camouflage and sign up today for a Navy Outdoor Recreation hunting trip package. Packages include transportation, lodging and meals and your choice of doe or hog hunting or both. This opportunity is scheduled for Jan. 25 - 27 and pricing starts as low as \$1,000. Plus, the ranch does the dirty work and retrieves and cleans your kills for you. Be sure to bring an ice chest so you can take the meat home to the family. Call NOR for details and to put down a deposit today, 228-871-2127.

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

Food & Beverage

The Beehive is now open every day of the week! Watch the game on one of our seven flat screens, play a little pool and enjoy good times with friends! With an excellent beverage selection, you are sure to find your preference. Call for details 228-871-4009.

Don't want to get out in the cold for lunch? Let The Grill bring it to you. The Grill offers lunch delivery Monday - Friday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call 228-871-2494 to place your order. Fight that early morning chill by getting a hot breakfast. The Grill is open as early as 6:30 a.m. Take your pick from French toast plates to breakfast burritos or traditional eggs and bacon. The Grill is located at the corner of Colby and 7th Street.

Anchors & Eagles: Great service

THE GREAT AMERICAN RACE®
55TH RUNNING OF THE DAYTONA 500®
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2013

Book Your Daytona International Speedway Package Today!
Travel with MWR February 23-25. Cost includes Daytona 500 ticket, round trip transportation and two nights' hotel accommodations.

- *Single Occupant: \$450/person
- *Double Occupancy: \$255/person
- *Triple: \$195/person, Quad: \$160/person

Contact ITT for details.
(228) 871-2231

and good times are what you can expect at Anchors & Eagles. Open Tuesday - Thursday 2 - 9 p.m., and designated for chiefs and officers. Stop by and shake off the day with comrades.

Youth Activities

Just because it's cold outside doesn't mean you have to avoid the pool. Sign up today for indoor swimming at the Kroc Center. For

only \$7, hop in the pool with your fellow Youth Activities Center pals and feel like its summer again this Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Please bring a sack lunch.

Explain the strange . . . understand the misunderstood . . . make your brain swell with the YAC's Weird Science Night Wednesday, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Explore fish facts from the Gulf of Mexico for free!

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
Main Office	228-871-2538

NCBC Helping Hands volunteer opportunities

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 assignments, 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 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.)
PROFESSIONAL GOLF ASSOCIATION NEEDS VOLUNTEERS - Volunteers are needed for the Professional Golf Association (PGA) Champions Tour featuring top golfers - Fred Couples, Tom Lehman, Mark Calcavecchia, Nick Price, & Bernhard Langer March 18 - 24 at the Fallen Oak Golf Club,



24400 Highway 15, Saucier. Volunteer will receive a shirt, hat or visor, a credential for the Week, meals during shift, six good-any-day tickets, a free round of golf at Grand Bear and admission to a volunteer party at Hard Rock, Biloxi. For details, contact Stephanie Griffis, 228-896-6365.

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, 10:30 a.m.

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 10:30 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 10:30 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.

For more information on all offerings that are available, contact the chapel at 228-871-2454.

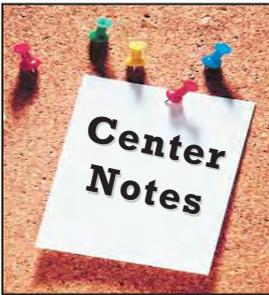
Looking for a way to serve your community?

Interested in a law enforcement career? If so,

consider volunteering your off duty time and become a Gulfport Police Reserve Officer or a Reserve Community Service Technician. Call

Lt. Phillip Kincaid at 228-868-5900, ext. 6189 or email him at pkincaid@gulfport-ms.gov for additional information.





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 nmc74fsg@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 gosgulfport@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 Cloude 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.

From Story Time page 4

families of the children when the kids teach their families about the skills they have learned that month.

"Any opportunity where an outside source comes in to read to the children is beneficial. The children really enjoy the story time and eagerly participate and interact with the FOCUS staff," said Carlisle.

FOCUS and the USO together are working to help military children and families stay resilient through military life challenges that

may present themselves now or in the future, and the skills being taught through the children can be a benefit for all. It is not only an example of what these two organizations have to offer to the children, but can open doors for more opportunities for the families.

Story Time is scheduled for each month at 2:30 p.m. at the NCBC CDC. Stories and activities are chosen by the FOCUS staff, and parents are always invited.

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.*



From Devotion page 6

his decision.

"You know, it's pretty tough coming (to the U.S.) by yourself; starting from zero. But you know, life is a risk," stated Olukera.

Olukera would like to be able to visit his family every year, but responsibilities to the Navy and personal budget constraints put limits on how often he is able to make that trip.

NMCB-11 is currently in the midst of a homeport cycle following an eight month deployment to Afghanistan and is preparing for its next deployment, set to begin near the end of the summer next year.

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 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!

- ~ LADD is strictly confidential. NO REPRISAL!
- ~ LADD will take individual home only, no stops.
- ~ Volunteers who stand the watch are on call 24/7.

Call 228-239-9007

NCBC Gate Hours

- Pass Road:** 24 hours, 7 days a week
- Broad Avenue:** 5 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat/Sun and Holidays
- 28th Street:** 5 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday and 5 - 7 p.m., Outbound Only