

NAVY Volunteer!

A Navy Tradition

February 2003



'It is from the numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal or acts to improve the lot of others or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.'

—Robert F. Kennedy speech in South Africa, carved in stone on his grave in Arlington Cemetery

Photo by PHC T.V. Kelly

ABH1 Jeff Taylor, also known as "Pockets", juggles for children of the Gracehaven Children's Home during a port visit to Singapore. Taylor is a member of a Sailor clown troupe aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72). Read the story on page 43.

"We all want to make some sort of impact that would be of a positive nature"

- ABH1 Jeff Taylor, USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72)

NAVY Volunteer!

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To fit the content and mission of this publication, please send only Community Service related news stories and pictures. Included the author's name, rank and association with the command.

Submissions may be sent electronically to: MILL_communityservice@navy.mil or mailed to Community Service Program, Naval Personnel Command (PERS-605), 5720 Integrity Dr., Millington, TN 38055-6050



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Essex Sailors Demonstrate First Class Community Relations

By Chief Journalist Roger L. Dutcher,
USS Essex Public Affairs

Three Sailors from USS Essex (LHD 2) administered an informal version of the Troops-to-Teachers program in Sasebo, Japan, July 18.

That's when they volunteered to teach conversational English to a group of local Japanese elementary school students.

This visit was not the first of its kind for any of the three Sailors, all of whom are part of the ship's First Class Association.

Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Alex Jones, whose wife (an employee of the local Japanese government) coordinated the visit, and Master-at-Arms 1st Class Dennis Nelson, both visited the elementary school at this time last year. Photographer's Mate 1st Class Essex Moore has participated in conversational English classes at Camp Ainora, a Japanese Ground Self Defense Force installation near Fleet Activities Sasebo.

The Sailors spent more than two hours at Ishiki Elementary School, located in Kawatana-cho, a Sasebo community. While there they visited first- and sixth-grade classes and were treated to the sixth graders' rendition of John Denver's, "Take Me Home, Country Roads."

They mentioned how the visit was mutually beneficial for both the Americans and the Japanese students.

Moore, who has been stationed in Sasebo for more than nine years, said, "I learn something from these experiences, even if it's just one or two Japanese words that I can add to my vocabulary."

He said he had previously taken a Japanese culture class that gave him a foundation of understanding, but added that personal visits such as this one really helped foster an appreciation for being stationed in Japan.

Nelson returned to the school this year because of the positive experience he had during his last visit. He said he was initially surprised at how advanced the children's English skills were.

"My little girls are Japanese, and I'm surprised at how much Japanese schools teach English in their classes," he said.

The three Sailors agreed that the children were adept at the technical aspects of the language, and only needed to improve their pronunciation and conversational skills. Nelson also noted how the visit differed from other forms of community relations projects.

"Most of the projects that we have done in the past have involved construction work or painting," he said, "but this is different. We're not going out and getting our hands dirty; we're being teachers and helping the children."

He added that the visit not only gave them a chance to visit with the Japanese teachers, but also gave them an opportunity to have a positive impact on the future leaders of Japan.



U.S. Navy photo by PH1(AW) Essex D. Moore, III.

Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Alex Jones, President of the First Class Petty Officer's Association (FCPOA) aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2), volunteers to help local first-graders from the Ishiki Elementary School practice their English pronunciation.



Students from Sadie T. Tillis Elementary School say "thank-you" to Sailors from Naval Reserve Readiness Command Southeast for participating in their flag-raising ceremony Sept. 11.

YNC(AW) Criss Minich, Naval Reserve Readiness Command Southeast, half-staffs the flag at Sadie T. Tillis Elementary School, while NCC(AW) Paul Roth, YNCS(SW/AW) Vince Blendowski and HMC Paul Horn salute.

Photos by JO2 Jennifer Valdivia



NAVY Volunteer! 2003



NSWC Crane Hosts 19th Annual Science and Engineering Fair

Ms. Jamie Wagler, NSWC Crane, Public Affairs Office

Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC Crane), recently hosted their 19th Annual Crane Science & Engineering Fair. Every year, the fair is open to students in the counties surrounding NSWC Crane. This year there were over 220 participants from 24 different schools, including students who are home-schooled. The first science fair, held in 1984, was done on a trial basis and the tradition grew from there. Today it is part of the Community Outreach Program. Each year, the response from local schools and students is positive. Certificates and cash awards are provided to the winners thanks to the assistance and generosity of organizations like Federally Employed Women (FEW), Federal Manager's Association (FMA), and folks who make personal donations. NSWC Crane provides an extraordinary learning opportunity to the future leaders of tomorrow.

The NSWC Crane Science & Engineering Fair was held at the base gymnasium and students arrived early to set-up their displays before judging began. Both Junior High and High School students participated, but were judged separately. Students had the option to enter one of ten different categories: Botany, Physics, Chemistry & Bio-Chemistry, and Medicine & Health, among others. NSWC Crane employees volunteered their time to judge the categories in the area(s) of their expertise. In all, 32 employees donated their time to judge the event. Dr. Hank Webster, judge of the Chemistry &

Bio-Chemistry category, the Consumer Science category, and an overall Senior Division Judge, stated: "I volunteer my time at the science fair because it is an excellent opportunity to interact with young students and interest them into going into the areas of Science and Engineering or another technical field." Dr. Webster has judged various categories at the science fair for 18 of the past 19 years.

This year's Crane Science & Engineering Fair was a success. There was \$3,125 donated and divided appropriately among the award winners. However, no price tag can be placed on the experience and opportunity given to the students by participating in the event.



Mr. Mike Pannell, NSWC Crane, Public Affairs Office
Students check-in at the NSWC Crane Science & Engineering Fair.



LT Peebles from HS-11, shows Florida Youth Academy students the cockpit of the SH-60F helicopter.

Tomorrow's Sailors

By LTJG Teresa Ferry HS-11 PAO

Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron ELEVEN met with the future of the Navy when students from St John's Country Day School and Florida Youth Academy toured our spaces. The students started their day with a welcome aboard and were then shown videos and pictures of the World Famous "Dragonslayers" in action during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

The highlight of the day was the SH-60F static display where students were able to explore the helicopter cockpit and cabin. Three of HS-11's finest



AW2 Valdez from HS-11, demonstrates to St John's Country Day students the proper way to wear flight gear.

aircrewmen, AW2 Valdez, AW2 Buford, and AW3 Crego showed the students all the flight and swimmer gear they need to perform a successful search and rescue. They also discussed the techniques used to calm victims and secure them in the rescue strop.

After the static display, the junior high school students from St John's Country Day School were treated to a tour of the NAS Jacksonville control tower. These students were able to see how the air traffic controllers direct all the aircraft in the NAS Jacksonville airspace.

Overall the students were impressed with the workings of an HS squadron, and we were impressed with the future of our Navy.



Patriotic Rally Launches New School Year

By Norine Rowe, NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs Department

Enthusiasm, optimism and patriotism filled the air recently when public school leaders, teachers and staff joined state and local officials to launch a new school year during the 2002-2003 convocation ceremony for St. Mary's County Public Schools.

American flags, patriotic songs and an auditorium full of more than 1,500 attendees – many dressed in red, white and blue – characterized the Aug. 21 rally at Leonardtown High School which centered on the theme, "Our Nation, Our Schools."

Among the guests was Capt. Dane Swanson, NAS Patuxent River commanding officer, who was recognized as a valued partner in education.

"Thank you, Capt. Swanson, for making the commitment to carry on the wonderful partnership between the Navy and the public schools," said Patricia Richardson, superintendent of St. Mary's County Public Schools.

"One of the strongest partnerships we have" is with the station, Richardson said. "It's not just individual commitments to the schools, but a partnership between the Navy and the school system as a whole."

Richardson explained that in addition to the many station personnel who volunteer at individual schools throughout the school year, the school system also reaps benefits from its partnership with the Navy. These benefits include inputs by the naval air station in curriculum development and support of special projects, such as science fairs. She also noted how students are given many opportunities to visit the station to learn about local career opportunities available to them.

Looking to the new school year ahead, Richardson encouraged station personnel to take an active role in education.

"I would urge Pax River employees to continue to volunteer in the schools," Richardson said. "If you can touch just one child's life, you can change the future."

Also commenting on the Navy's partnership with local schools was Mary Washington, St. Mary's County Board of Education member, who attended the convocation ceremony.

"St. Mary's County is truly blessed to have partnerships with the Navy, and I look forward to these partnerships increasing with Capt. Swanson," Washington said. "I know he's committed, and I know it will be a wonderful year." New to his role as commanding officer of NAS Patuxent River, Swanson underscored his commitment to education.

"The Navy is more and more technology-based and can only succeed with a solid foundation in education," Swanson said. "It's in the Navy's best interests that our students are educated, and this event goes a long way toward celebrating education."

Swanson emphasized the importance of station personnel becoming involved in local education and volunteer programs.

"I don't think it's possible to be too involved," Swanson said. "I think it's critical that we provide students with positive role models for the overall health of our community."

The keynote speaker at the convocation ceremony was A. Skipp Sanders, deputy state superintendent for administration with the Maryland State Department of Education, who talked about the "extraordinary nature of ordinary" America.

"An ordinary American day is extraordinary in so much of the rest of the world," Sanders said. "We free our children to educate them, and we educate them to be free."

"It's in the Navy's best interests that our students are educated."

- Captain Dane Swanson, CO, NAS Pax River

PEPP Volunteers Plan for the Holidays

By Journalist 2nd Class Lisa M. Wassilieff, Naval Station San Diego Public Affairs

The Sailors and Marines of the Personal Excellence Partnership Program (PEPP) are planning to spread a little Christmas cheer to the children of Shelley Baird School.

These service members belong to the Naval Air Maintenance Training Unit (NAMTRAU) on Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif.

Shelley Baird School of Hanford, Calif., is a school that caters to children ages 3-21 with physical and educational needs. Since 1992, military personnel have volunteered to spend time with the children.

"We are planning to have service members dress up like Santa Claus and his elves. Each child will get to sit on Santa's lap and receive a gift. Then, there will be a Christmas party with cakes, cookies, candy canes and traditional Christmas music," said Aviation Electrician 1st Class Victor A. McGee, NAMTRAU PEPP coordinator. "Our involvement ranges from inside the classroom, where we do tutoring, to outside the classroom, where we play sports."

McGee, a 17-year Navy veteran, has been coordinating events like these for the last two years. He recalls that last year's event went very well.

"The kids really loved it. They just didn't want to let Santa Claus go," McGee said.

Shelley Baird School is not the only school at which service members volunteer their time. For the holidays, they will be traveling to several different schools throughout Hanford and Lemoore, Calif., handing out gifts and Christmas goodies.

Events like these take a lot of time and effort, however, for McGee, it is well worth it.

"I love seeing the smiles on all the children's faces. They really appreciate what we do," McGee said.



Academy, Local Schools Formalize Partnership

From Naval Academy Public Affairs

Anne Arundel County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Eric J. Smith, U.S. Naval Academy Superintendent Vice Adm. Richard J. Naughton and Undersecretary of Education Gene Hickok have agreed to form the first-ever formal partnership between Anne Arundel County public schools and the academy.

The partnership hopes to raise reading, math and science proficiency among students in Anne Arundel County public schools.

The agreement was signed Nov. 7 at Germantown Elementary School in Annapolis. State Superintendent of Schools Nancy Grasmick was also present to demonstrate her support of the program.

The partnership is an expansion of the academy's successful "Mids for Kids" program, in which Midshipmen volunteer as tutors in reading, math and science, and serve as positive role models for local school students.

As part of the agreement, the school district will coordinate volunteer efforts and provide transportation for the Midshipmen.

"We want to concentrate on the schools we've identified as needing improvement first," said Smith. "As such, I've asked Adm. Naughton for his assistance in the downtown Annapolis elementary schools, as that is the area where the most initial impact can be made.

"We're delighted that we can expand and refocus the long-standing association between Navy midshipmen and the county's schools. These young people are the best role models an educator could ask for."

"Dr. Smith and I are both relatively new to the area, and we wanted to for-

mulate a positive relationship right from the start," said Naughton. "We think this project can have a significant positive impact.

"President Bush recently said that '... education is a national priority and a local responsibility.' Dr. Smith and I couldn't agree more. We already have many midshipmen in these schools as tutors and mentors. This new program will prioritize the needs and emphasize results."



Hickok hailed the announcement and praised the cooperation between the two school systems.

"This program very much captures the spirit of the 'No Child Left Behind Act,' which President Bush signed earlier this year," he said. "Having these midshipmen mentoring and tutoring our elementary students represents the best of what schools and communities should be about in this country.

"This model could work in any city with access to a university or community college, and we hope to see more of these partnerships."

The program will begin immediately, and at the request of Dr. Smith, will concentrate on the elementary schools in Annapolis. Later, Midshipmen will volunteer in other county schools.

Under the 'No Child Left Behind Act,' which President Bush signed into law in January, states and school districts will develop strong systems of accountability based on student performance. The new law also gives states and school districts increased local control and flexibility, removing federal red tape and bureaucracy, and putting decision-making in the hands of those at the local and state levels.

With the start of the new school year, parents of children from disadvantaged backgrounds have options under the new law to participate in public school choice programs or obtain supplemental services such as tutoring.

Teachers around the country are encouraged to use teaching methods based upon scientific research that show they have been proven to work.

In keeping with No Child Left Behind's emphasis on measurable results, Anne Arundel school officials will track the performance of the students involved with the volunteer Midshipmen and make adjustments as appropriate.

"Tonight I ask Congress and the American people to focus the spirit of service and the resources of government on the needs of some of our most vulnerable citizens - boys and girls trying to grow up without guidance and attention...and children who have to go through a prison gate to be hugged by their mom or dad. One mentor, one person, can change a life forever - and I urge you to be that one person."

*President George W. Bush
Jan. 29, 2003*



Local Sailors volunteer time to help students succeed

By JO1 (SW) Jay Cope

Serving the community is nothing new to the Team New London Sailors. They donate blood regularly, they helped to build a house for Habitat for Humanity, they collect and distribute food and toys during the holidays, they help keep the highways clean, and they mentor students at area schools. It is safe to say the local Sailors know the value of being part of a community, so who better to participate in a program that teaches students the importance of a community, the free enterprise system, and how to succeed.

Some area Sailors are already participating in Junior Achievement (JA), a program that teaches those topics and many others in a curriculum established for students of all grades.

The local program is based out of Hartford, and has recently made a focused effort to establish a program in the New London area. Sailors from Navy Region Northeast, Submarine Group TWO and Navy Submarine School are helping to instill JA's basic beliefs of integrity, respect and excellence to the students at Sacred Heart Elementary this year. More than 20 Sailors volunteered to mentor 11 classes in the kindergarten through sixth grades, and another Groton school has applied for JA mentoring in the near future.

MACM Paul Whelton, a volunteer in the program, naval reservist and a former teacher wanted to participate in the program because he wanted to take an active role in the Navy community which includes the local schools.

"Education is the foundation of our society," said Whelton. "It is the cornerstone upon which a great nation is built and now is time to start molding good citizens."

JA provides the curriculum and handouts for all the lessons and provides indoctrination for the volunteers to help them prepare for their classes. Classes can cover a variety of topics ranging from roles in a community, U.S. business economics, the role of foreign exchange and imports and exports.

The end goal is to provide students with an understanding of business and economics in today's society and to pair them with successful role models who inspire an interest in learning.

The Sailors' role in JA has been important to ensuring a continued presence in the local schools.

"It's very difficult to maintain an active involvement from the schools without a good volunteer base," said Jeremy Race, JA's District Manager for Eastern Connecticut. "We have received strong support from the Sailors at the Navy Base, and the program has started successfully. It's a partnership we hope to maintain for the future."

Increasing Navy participation and support of the program is one of the goals for



MACM Paul Whelton, one of the volunteers in the Junior Achievement Program, shows the students the cards in the envelopes he is preparing to pass out to the class.

NCC (SW) Andrew Byrd, the Navy Region Northeast/Submarine Group TWO JA coordinator. According to him, additional volunteers are always welcome and current participants are encouraged to mentor other classes as well.

"Sailors can be good role models for these kids," said Byrd. "Inspiring and helping these kids become successful is very important to our future."



U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate Airman Sara Bohannan.

Master at Arms 2nd Class Jefferey Olson from Tacoma, Wash., delivers flowers to Auston Love, at the Veterans Hospital in Seattle. Mr. Love served in the Navy from 1970-1972 as a deckhand and cook. Petty Officer Olsen is attached to Naval Station Everett and volunteers to visit Veterans each month.



THE VIRTUES OF FAMILY VOLUNTEERING

Family Volunteering:

- enables those who are restrained by family care-giving obligations (either responsibilities to children or seniors) to become involved. Family volunteering greatly increases the chances for busy families to engage in service.

- is a natural multiplier of volunteers. Recruiting any family member acts as a catalyst for enlisting other family members.

- is attractive to communities with relatively low rates of involvement. Volunteer Centers are able to attract support from ethnic, immigrant, and low-income communities because they are very family-oriented.

- provides a positive effect on personal relationships.

- offers volunteers the opportunity to take responsibility for identifying and addressing the needs of their communities. Empowered family volunteers can directly confront, identify, and solve their own needs and those around them.

- provides the same benefits as individual volunteering, including passing on of social values, building individual self-esteem, and allowing individuals to give back to the community through service. It also strengthens family bonds and communication patterns, and involves parents as role models for proactive social behavior.

PAX Personnel Bring Their Work to School

Story and Photo by Norine Rowe, NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs Department

Elementary students may be a little too young to start blazing trails on a career path, but it's not too soon for them to begin learning about the wide range of career choices available to them.

That's the thinking behind a recent career fair at Park Hall Elementary School, where students in first through fifth grade heard from local professionals, including members of the NAS Patuxent River community, about the work they do.

"The purpose of this program is for students to learn about different careers and different options," said Fay van Esselstyn, counselor at Park Hall Elementary and coordinator of the June 4 event. "This is not only a career fair," she said, "but an opportunity for students to learn about what's available to them in the community."

In addition to learning about the careers of station personnel and other local professionals through classroom presentations, students became engaged in the work of presenters through hands-on demonstrations and interactive learning experiences.

Among the presenters were people from Pax River's Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Department, which sponsors a Navy-education partnership with Park Hall Elementary. This partnership features a buddy mentoring program that fosters positive self-esteem among students while boosting academic performance through one-on-one tutoring with station volunteers. Over the last year, AIMD volunteers have also helped with computer repair and wiring for the school's new computer lab.

Coordinating the partnership with Park Hall Elementary is ASC(AW/SW) Leonard Lampp, one of the presenters at the career fair who was joined by ATAN Jason

Miller. During their presentation, Lampp and Miller explained how AIMD plays a critical role in ensuring the safety of aircraft equipment, pilots and crew members through the daily testing and repair of aircraft parts. To help students understand what they do, they brought along an oscilloscope and signal generator so the students could actually handle some of the test equipment they use.

During their presentation, Lampp and Miller described how some AIMD test equipment works, and how it helps identify problems with aircraft equipment and parts. They explained how every component on an airplane needs to be tested and evaluated regularly. Additionally, they emphasized the importance of a good education, not only for the work they do, but for all careers in naval aviation.

Of the 28 presenters at the career fair, about one-third came from Pax River. Station presenters included an engineer, scientist, information technology specialist, aviation technician, naturalist and youth center director.



Keetje Johnson, director of the Rassieur Youth Center, takes first-graders at Park Hall Elementary on a wild roller-coaster ride, showing them how much fun she has in her work as a youth center director. Johnson was one of many presenters from NAS Patuxent River who took part in a career fair at the school.



SIMA Mayport Children Get Special Treatment

Story/photos by IC1(SW) Paul French - SIMA PAO

SIMA took advantage of a recent day off for the Duval County school system by sponsoring "Kids Day," a chance for the children of SIMA Sailors to learn more about their parents' work. Sailors were encouraged to bring their children to work with them. The MWR committee provided various activities to keep the children's day filled with fun.

TMC(SW) Kathy Dugan, SIMA's MWR coordinator, along with the rest of the MWR committee spearheaded the event by involving every aspect of SIMA. Each division set up an activity or display for the children to experience or participate in.

Upon arriving and registering, each child received a nametag provided by the engraving shop of R-2 division. The chil-

dren were broken up into groups of 20 to explore SIMA together as they walked through the various work centers and activities set up for them.

The carpenter shop of R-1 division gave away wooden puzzles that they had manufactured.

BM2 Portia Davis, with the assistance of R-5 division, set up a haunted house for the children to wander through. BM1 (DV) Dale Brown, with assistance from the R-7 division divers, setup a diving static display that allowed the children dress out as a diver and to learn the basics of diving equipment.

Other activities included, a test equipment display by R-4 division, an electricity path flow display by R-3 division and a

recycling awareness display provided by the safety office.

The highlight of the day was for children of the age of seven and older was the chance to travel to the USS John F. Kennedy for a walking tour of the flight deck, hangar bay and mess decks. Jeremy Hamilton, the 13-year-old son of MMC(SW) Fred Hamilton said, "the best thing was the opportunity to go to the carrier and walk around."

The event was concluded with a cook-out. The quality assurance department manned the grills to cook the hot dogs and provide the substance to fill all the empty little bellies. Overall the event was a great success and allowed the service members of SIMA to show off their workplace and spend the day off from school with their children."

Students renew partnership with NAVAIR

Story and photo by Norine Rowe, PAX River PAO

Students from Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy visited NAVAIR headquarters recently to renew their partnership with the Program Executive Office for Tactical Aircraft Programs, ushering in the fifth year of this Navy education partnership.

On hand to greet the students at the Oct. 11 kick-off ceremony was Rear Adm. James Godwin, program executive officer for Tactical Aircraft Programs.

"Our aim in our partnership with your school is to play a role in instilling in you our values, character traits and beliefs that we hold so important," Godwin told the students. "It is these traits that make us stand out as leaders."

As part of PEO(T)'s partnership activities, Godwin explained that NAVAIR volunteers visit the school monthly to offer character development lectures on the school's honor code, addressing such traits as honesty, dependability and respect.

"What I know you will be observing in the people you meet from PEO(T) is leadership," said Godwin. He added that effective leaders define and embrace a set of unshakable principles to guide them in the way they lead.

"I offer you today three such principles – honor, courage and commitment," Godwin said. "For those of you who will go on to join one of the services, these words will become quite familiar. They are the Navy's core values."

Explaining why the Navy's core values are so important, Godwin said, "These are principles worth holding on to. These are values worth putting into action."

Also speaking at the partnership renewal ceremony was Suzanne Youngson, headmaster of Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy.

"As I have stated many times before, this partnership is a perfect match," Youngson said. "We teach military bearing and beliefs as well as positive char-

acter traits on a daily basis, and it is so awesome to see you come in time and time again and emphasize what we preach to the midshipmen."

In addition to offering monthly character lectures, Youngson explained that PEO(T) volunteers provide bi-weekly tutoring, serve on the school's promotions board, sponsor uniform drives, conduct inspections, host drill competitions and help with the school's computer lab.

AECS Robert Dixon of PMA-241 passes out decals and program literature to students from Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy during the partnership renewal ceremony at NAVAIR's Moffett Building.





Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary Celebrates Hawaii's '3 Rs'

By Journalist 2nd Class Daniel J. Calderón

"Reading, writing and 'rithmetic are the traditional 'three Rs' taught to the tune of a hickory stick."

However recently, Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary celebrated a new meaning of the "three Rs." In a ceremony held at the school, students, school officials, the state of Hawaii and the Navy celebrated a full year of the new Hawaii 3Rs - Repair, Remodel, Restore Our Schools program.

Adm. Thomas Fargo, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, and U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye were guest speakers at the ceremony. Both agreed that the 3Rs program is crucial to Hawaii's schools.

"I'm really pleased to join Senator Inouye here to recognize all the hard work the entire community has put together for a noble cause - our public schools," said Fargo. "Clearly, this is a priority for the community. You're all here doing the right thing and setting a great example for future generations."

Inouye initiated the program Aug. 1, 2001. The idea is to match "sweat equity" with state funds to help repair and rehabilitate schools. Ann Maile-Yamasaki, executive director of the Hawaii 3Rs program, defined sweat equity as volunteer effort. The program's aim is to match volunteer labor with professional labor at a one-to-one ratio. That is, volunteers would provide half the estimated cost of a repair project.

Maile-Yamasaki's office receives estimates from the state Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS). Schools applying for state grants take the list of estimates and select what is most essential to them and submit that to the 3Rs office.

For example, if a project is estimated at \$50,000, the school would have to provide \$25,000 in volunteer efforts and private contractors would come in and complete the other \$25,000. This saves the state \$25,000. The contractor makes out

as well because the state gives a 10 percent tax credit up to \$40,000 per year. This means a contractor can receive up to \$4,000 in credit at tax time.

"It's a good deal for everyone," said Maile-Yamasaki. "It saves the state money and children get new classrooms and facilities. In Pearl Harbor Kai's case, it's almost like they got a whole new school. Every building was repainted."

"You're all here doing the right thing and setting a great example for future generations."

**ADM Fargo, Commander,
U.S. Pacific Command**

The estimate for all the work done at Pearl Harbor Kai came to \$293,000. The program spent about \$70,000 in professional contracted labor and the volunteers provided the rest.

About 250 volunteers donated their time and effort to repairing, rebuilding and restoring that school. Naval Medical Clinic Pearl Harbor (NMCPH) provided more than 50 of those volunteers. Pearl Harbor Kai and NMCPH are partners in the Personal Excellence Program (PEP).

"Under that program, we have sponsored the school for the last four years," said Ens. Ann-Marie Noad, marketing director for NMCPH. "Our role with them [as part of the 3R program] was to paint, clean windows, clean overheads and give the buildings a basic tune-up. We also participate in tutoring projects, assist with book fairs, Olympic field days and various other projects throughout the year."

Noad is proud of the special relationship her command shares with Pearl Harbor Kai.

"Our goal in the relationship is to help youth attain their fullest potential," she said. "The 3Rs program was another opportunity for us to help support and strengthen our relationship with the school."

Of the \$600,000 the 3Rs program had set aside for military schools, the program still has about \$150,000 left.

"We're looking for more schools right now," said Maile-Yamasaki. "There may be room for three or four more schools to apply and receive money."

She said the grants are competitive and schools would need to submit applications before they would be considered for aid. Once the money comes, schools are able to repair their schools at a significant savings to taxpayers. Inouye is pleased with the program he helped begin.

"Here is the spirit of America," he said at the ceremony. "I'm especially pleased to see the men and women in uniform here. They've already pledged to put themselves in harm's way. Today, they've volunteered to fight rust, to paint and they've volunteered to help the school system."

Fargo closed his remarks with a message to the volunteers at Pearl Harbor Kai.

"Let me thank all the volunteers - both military and civilian from all walks of life," said Fargo. "You've contributed what means most of all - your time."

"When you save a child, you preserve generation. There is nothing more important than helping children in your community."

*Larry Ellison, Chairman and CEO,
Oracle Corporation*

Health, Safety & Fitness

Northwest Special Olympians bowl at Whidbey Lanes

By Tony Popp

The Northwest Region Special Olympics came to NAS Whidbey last Saturday for a Bowling Tournament that drew 150 athletes.

"It's always a treat to come to a military base," said John Borgognoni, a Special Olympics Program Director, in a telephone interview from his Seattle office.

Borgognoni's Special Olympics region ranges from the Canadian border to King County and is one of four regions in Washington State.

Bowling teams competing for medals were the Fidalgo Fliers, Anacortes; Marysville Hawks, Marysville; Whidbey Alley Cats, Oak Harbor; North Whatcom Windmills, Ferndale-Lynden areas; and Skagit, Mt. Vernon.

Oak Harbor's Liz Kinsella, 22, won a gold medal for her division with the Whidbey Alley Cats. "It was cool and lots of fun," she said. "I really enjoyed it."

This was a great event for our athletes," said Borgognoni. "I commend the Whidbey Lanes staff, especially Bob Morrison and Ernie Ghezzi, for putting on a quality regional tournament."

All ages took part in the event, from 8 to 69 years old.

Borgognoni noted that Special Olympics has held such events at the air station in the past, and, "The level of response is A-plus! The air station makes us feel welcome."

Ghezzi said, "We couldn't have pulled it off without the help from the Security Department." He singled out MA1 Charles Hawkins, YN2 Maria McCully, AO3 Jeremy Davenport and MASR Melissa Phillips for coordinating base access for the civilian guests.



Photo by PH2 Michael Watkins

A Special Olympics bowler goes for the gold.

VRC-40 Scores for Charity

By Journalist 3rd Class Andrew Stamper, Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet

The Officer's Wardroom of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 40 kicked off a football relay charity run for the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk, Va., Nov. 14 at Hangar LP-3, Naval Station Norfolk.

Leading the way was Cmdr. Douglas Carsten, VRC-40 executive officer, his eyes set on the end zone some 210 miles away in Annapolis, Md.

In his arms was the official NCAA game ball for the upcoming U.S. Naval Academy and University of Connecticut football game.

The 15 runners plan to carry the ball for 30 hours until they reach Annapolis Nov. 15. The squadron will then deliver the football before kickoff Nov. 16 at the Navy/Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. Each runner is expected to carry the ball

about 14 miles.

The decision to take part in this relay came almost two months ago, when the wardroom at VRC-40 tried to think of a way to give back to their community.

"Like so many military members, Hampton Roads is our home, too," said Lt. Manuel Tatakav, the charity event's coordinator. "Getting involved in the community is not only great for Hampton Roads, but it bolsters the Navy in many ways."

The wardroom members of the "Rawhides" said their game plan was to pursue an event that would not only help raise money for the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, but would promote "esprit de corps and strong physical fitness standards within the squadron."

When asked how the runners would hold up for the duration of the jog, Lt. Tatakav responded, "Being an officer holds a requirement for us to maintain strong physical health. I am extremely confident everyone will excel in this run."

The Rawhides scored their first touchdown by raising more than \$3,500 for the Children's Hospital by soliciting donations from local and national businesses, as well as individuals, during a five-week period. Lt. Tatakav said, "I wanted to come up with an idea that would not only get my shipmates motivated, but also get the public excited enough to donate to the cause. It was a combined effort that required a lot of support, and they came through like champs."

Caring Sailors = Caps for Kids

By Journalist 2nd Class Kimberly Rodgers

Sailors from the Navy Office of Information, Midwest (NAVINFO MW), extended gifts of care and concern to patients of Chicago's Children's Memorial Hospital as part of a four-year-old Navy "Caps For Kids" program.

Eager children lined up to hear firsthand about the Navy and to accept hats NAVINFO Sailors offered them. In addition to ball caps, each child received an "Honorary Sailor" certificate, Navy stickers and a copy of All Hands Magazine.

With bright smiles and wishful eyes, the children donned their new Navy caps in appreciation to Sailors, who presented the caps on behalf of Sailors who provided them from several operational commands throughout the Fleet.

The Navy Office of Information, Southwest (NAVINFO SW), based in Dallas, Texas, launched the program as a regional community relation effort in 1999. By early 2000, with more than 100 commands participating and cap donations reaching more than 1,300, NAVINFO SW expanded the program into a national effort.

The success of the Navy's "Caps for Kids" program revolves solely around Fleet support.

"We send annual request letters to every commanding officer in the Fleet,

knowing well there is not a special fund for caps and no requirement to participate in the program," said Lt. Cmdr. Jack Todd, Director of NAVINFO SW. "We want the donating Sailors and units to truly be a part of the program," Todd added. To accomplish this, NAVINFO SW sends a letter thanking each participating unit and later tells them when, where and who gave their caps out.

Currently, more than 300 commands have donated ball caps and Navy memorabilia to bring cheer to young patients throughout the United States. Sailors add sentiment to the gifts by signing them, some with a brief word of encouragement.

Crewmembers visiting CONUS ports or their ship's namesake are ideal for "Caps For Kids" visits. For example, USS Constellation (CV 64) and USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) Sailors recently conducted a "Caps" visit while at



U.S. Navy photo Journalist 2nd Class Kimberly Rodgers.

A patient at Children's Memorial Hospital shows off his new USS Samuel Eliot Morison (FFG 13) ballcap that he received from Capt. Bruce Cole, Director of Navy Office of Information, Midwest.

Children's Hospital.

Ball caps from the VP-40 Fighting Marlins, VP-26 Tridents, USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), and USS Samuel Eliot Morison (FFG 13) were given to the children during the Chicago visit.

"It was so much fun," said Teri Foster, an official with the Chicago hospital. "I love to see smiles on the kids' faces. They go through a lot. I think it was a hit, for sure. We really appreciate the Navy taking time out to do these kinds of things."

The "Caps For Kids" point of contact is YN2(SW) Derrick Love at NAVINFO Southwest. Sailors and command representatives interested in taking part in this national community outreach program should contact Petty Officer Love at (214) 767-2553 or navinfo_dal_3@earthlink.net.

Making way for new growth — Alfred Navejar (left) and Ernesto Perez, of King Isles Construction Co., work on dismantling one of two softball field back stops located on the construction site of the Waterfront Operations Support Facility aboard Naval Station Ingleside. NAVSTA Ingleside donated the back stops to the local community for their public recreation complex.

Photo by Mike Antoine



Dental Center Southwest Lends a Helping Hand

By Lt. Cmdr. Kevin T. Fitzpatrick, Dental Corps, Naval Dental Center Southwest

Sailors from San Diego discovered a great way to show gratitude to our veterans by volunteering at the 15th annual National Stand Down last month.

More than 100 Sailors and civilians from Naval Dental Center Southwest volunteered at "Give a Hand Up, Not a Handout," a program benefiting homeless veterans.

Dental personnel worked from two state-of-the-art Mobile Dental Units. Nearly 100 veterans were examined and screened for oral cancer. Diseased teeth were extracted and more than 150 oral hygiene kits were distributed.

"This is time well spent in order to give something back to the veterans that have given to this country and who really need our services," said Dental Technician Second Class Charles Mara, a leading petty officer from the dental center.

The Vietnam Veterans of San Diego initiated the Stand Down in 1988 with help from local military, veterans' organizations, governmental support agencies and civic groups. Other cities picked up the idea in 1990, and it has grown quickly. Last year, Stand Downs took place in 120 cities nationwide. Veterans receive food, clothing, shelter, dental care, medical care and counseling for three days in a safe environment. More than 700 homeless veterans received assistance at San Diego's Stand Down.

NSCS Races in Relay For Life

Story and photo by LT Andy Gist, SC, USN - Navy Supply Corps School Public Affairs

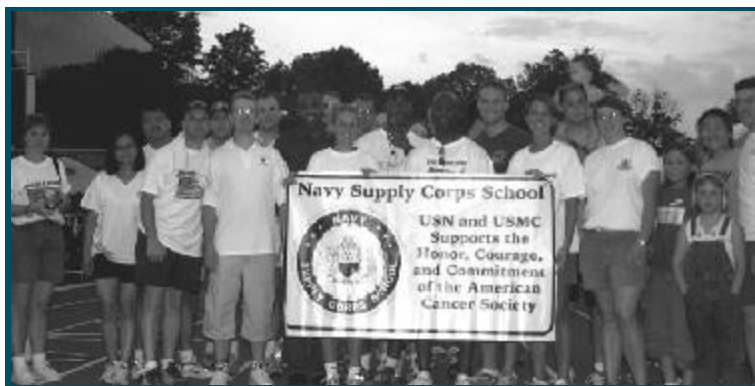
Two teams representing the Navy Supply Corps School (NSCS) participated in the 10th annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Athens, GA. Marine Corps and Navy staff, students and family members volunteered to help make the 2002 event to fight cancer a big success.

Four months in the making, the relay is a continuous 12-hour walk/run team event around the University of Georgia's track. NSCS was one of 135 teams from local city and county businesses and organizations that participated in this year's relay.

NSCS team chairman LT Paul DeMeyer has been conducting and organizing fundraisers for the event since January. Ongoing efforts included car washes, T-shirt sales, summer camp

raffles from the YMCA, and luminary candle sales. The luminaries, paper bags with a candle inside, were stenciled with the names of individuals to commemorate their struggle with cancer. The luminaries were lined along the length of the track at night in memory of those that have lost the battle to or are still fighting cancer.

The event got off to a strong start with the traditional survivor lap that included hundreds of cancer survivors making a "victory" lap in front of thousands of cheering supporters. The event helped raise a total of \$475,000 for the American Cancer Society- \$4,150 coming from NSCS.



NSCS team members proudly support American Cancer Society's Relay for Life

NAVY COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM VIDEO

The Navy Community Service Program's (NCSP) premiere video "Serving America Twice Through Navy Community Service" is now available. This 15-minute video explains the ways in which the NCSP builds on the success of the Navy's Personal Excellence Partnership Program which started it on its community outreach efforts.

The video also describes the program's five Flagship Projects, which constitute the framework of the Community Service Program and how you can get involved by volunteering in your community. The Flagship projects are:

- Personal Excellence Partnerships
- Project Good Neighbor
- Campaign Drug Free
- Health, Safety, and Fitness
- Environmental Stewardship

To obtain a copy of "Serving America Twice Through Navy Community Service" contact your regional volunteer coordinator.

Health, Safety & Fitness

China Lake's "Club Med" Walks for a Cure

Story and photos by LT Cher Jacobsen, MD, BMC, China Lake

Thirty-five volunteers from the Branch Medical and Dental Clinic in China Lake, CA participated in the American Cancer Society's Annual Relay for Life fundraiser on October 5th and 6th, 2002. The Relay for Life is a 24-hour event to raise money for cancer research. Nationwide over \$200,000,000 was raised in 2001 with over \$11,000,000 coming from the state of California. The Branch Medical Clinic's 2001 inaugural team consisted of 17 member volunteers who raised approximately \$1,700. This year's team was twice as large and raised approximately \$4,500.

In addition to "Walking for the Cure", the providers at the BMC at China Lake offered medical support for the event. LCDR Tuan Nguyen, MD and RNs Susan

Hoppus and LCDR Michelle Lofland manned the First Aid Station.

The Relay for Life's motto "There is no finish line until we find a cure" was



especially meaningful to Team Captain LT Cher Jacobsen. Her beloved father, Ronald E. Wright, died from brain cancer

just three weeks prior to this year's Relay. LT Jacobsen and her mother, Maureen Wright, organized the team for 2002. "Club Med" walked in memory of Ron.

The Branch Medical Clinic at China Lake is active throughout the year in other charitable events such as Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics and community health fairs. "I am proud of our commitment to extending the health and wellness of our community beyond the walls of BMC China Lake," said LCDR GERALYN HARADON, the Officer in Charge of the Branch Medical Clinic. "We hope to continue to foster this productive partnership with our local civilian health care and community organizations," Haradon added.

NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA PENSACOLA, FL

Daily Point of Light No. 2277 — October 25, 2002

Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties have one of the highest retiree populations in the country; and Naval Air Station Pensacola takes great pride in meeting the special needs of the community's elderly population, especially the many who have so proudly served the United States.

Surrounded by such a large older adult population, NAS Pensacola volunteers partner with the Council on Aging (COA) to meet the reoccurring needs of senior citizens. During the four-year partnership with COA, military volunteers have assisted thousands of senior citizens with lawn care, home repairs, painting, entertainment and meal deliveries.

The frequent volunteer service in nursing and retirement homes develops and nurtures relationships between young military volunteers away from their family and senior citizens away from their home. The volunteers offer their time, skills and friendship to these individuals who are most of the time isolated.

In addition to their ongoing visits, NAS Pensacola's volunteers have participated in the 9th Annual Day of Caring, the 3rd Annual "Springtime with our Seniors" and the second year of "adopting" one senior couple. Nearly 500 volunteers cleaned the yards of 50 seniors, and over 3,400 volunteer hours of mowing and painting. Ten volunteers also spent their Valentine's Day with Alzheimer's patients dancing to big band music to make the holiday special for the seniors who are sometimes forgotten.

The impact of NAS Pensacola's volunteers community service is cleaner yards, freshly painted homes, repaired homes, more meals delivered to the homebound, hours of fishing, trips to the zoo, picnics, Valentine's dances and improvements to nursing homes. The greatest impact is the special bond between our young military volunteers and their senior partners. Youth and elders have been matched together leading to the success of an extensive collaboration with the Council on Aging.

Health, Safety & Fitness

PAX Police Volunteer Time for Athletes

Story and photo by Jim Jenkins, NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs Department

NAS Patuxent River police volunteers are providing their cycling expertise in support of the St. Mary's County Special Olympics.

"They ride with them and coach them a little bit," said Jim Drasgow, St. Mary's County Special Olympics cycling coach. "If they see that the kids are doing something wrong they help them out, and the biggest thing is that [the police] are the safety factor here."

For the last several months Special Olympic athletes have been gearing up for the Maryland Cycling Competition in Sykesville at the Maryland State Police Training Academy Sept. 28 by training almost every Saturday near the Rear Adm. William A. Moffett Building here.

"This is the best place we've had to practice in three years," Drasgow said.

Volunteers from the Pax River Police Department come out on their off days to ride with the athletes, and teach them riding safety as well as techniques for changing gears. The athletes are eager to learn from the uniformed officers and frequently question the volunteers on their equipment.

"We offer them a lot of encouragement," said Patrolman Lisa Martinez. "I really enjoy coming out here."

If the officers don't appear early, the athletes wonder where they are. They look forward to seeing the police each week, and the feeling is mutual.

"I love helping them out," said Patrolman Leigh Ann Langley. "They become your friends out here."

While the athletes are practicing for their upcoming event in Sykesville, the

police volunteers ride alongside urging them as they go.

"The officers have been out here every week with us," said Mary Lu Bucci,



Patrolman Kelly Rhodes and Cpl. Steve Schuyler follow St. Mary's County Special Olympic athletes during a ride around their makeshift track in a parking lot on NAS Patuxent River. Pax police officers have been volunteering their time to help teach the athletes how to ride safe and fast.

St. Mary's County Special Olympics director, "and mainly what we've been using them for — which is very important to us — is safety, and also to teach the athletes."

The St. Mary's County Special Olympics cycling program has grown by leaps and bounds, according to Bucci. In 1999, the program had just one cycling athlete. Now it has 22 competitors. Some ride three-wheeled bikes, while others ride two-wheelers.

Asked why they participate in the cycling program, many of the athletes said Drasgow makes it fun. Brian Hargan went so far as to say that Drasgow made the program so comfortable "it feels like home."

**A "better community"
begins with you,
VOLUNTEER!**

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

The purpose of the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) is to recognize members of the United States Armed Forces, including reservists, who distinguish themselves through outstanding community service. The MOVSM is intended to recognize exceptional community service over time, and not a single act or achievement.

Any Navy active duty or reserve member whose service meets the eligibility criteria listed below may apply for the medal. The MOVSM may be awarded posthumously. To be eligible an individual's service must be:

- Voluntary support the civilian community, including the military family community;
- Significant in nature and produce tangible results;
- Reflect favorably on the Navy and the Department of Defense; and
- Be of a sustained and direct nature. The service member should normally perform a sustained, direct hands-on community service over a three-year period. Members assigned to deploying units may include deployed time in the three-year period.

The MOVSM is intended to honor direct support of community activities. Programs and activities falling under the auspices of the Navy Community Service Program qualify as appropriate activities for the award of the MOVSM.

For consideration for the MOVSM award, service members must be recommended by anyone senior to them and may be awarded only once during a single tour of duty.

Further detailed information on the MOVSM may be found in SECNAVINST 1650.1G, or contact your local Regional Coordinator.

Young Athletes Jump Start the Olympic Season

By JO2 Evelyn T. Bowie, USNR, NSA Souda Bay, Crete

The Athens Olympics are still two years away, but that didn't stop determined, young athletes from joining together for U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Crete's third annual Special Olympics recently. Approximately 128 students from five Hania schools were bused to the base for a day filled with camaraderie and good will.

Captain J. Stephen Hoefel, Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay opened the ceremonies by declaring, "Let the games begin!"

Over 130 military and civilian volunteers assigned to Souda Bay assisted with the day's events. Volunteers distributed Special Olympics t-shirts, ball-caps and fanny-packs to the athletes and performed duties as special buddies.

Upon arriving, each student was introduced to their special buddy, the person who would guide them through the day's activities, which included: bowling, swimming, basketball and a water-balloon carry.

Robbin Kapsalis, Staff Assistant, Command Support Office Supervisor and special buddy, describes the experience, "It was great for the kids, as well as the base personnel. There were no language barriers because some of the buddies are Greek-speaking and everyone was receptive to the games. We all got to be big kids that day."

Participation in the Special Olympics helps promote physical fitness and mo-

tor skills, but just as important, it encourages family support, community relations and helps develop new friendships.

Chief Air Traffic Controller, Timothy Altman, Special Olympic Committee Chairman for the event says, "The event promotes unity between the community and NSA Souda Bay. We have the resources of a pool, gym and soccer field and it's great to be able to share that with the community's children and to bring smiles to their faces. The whole event is mutually rewarding."

Preparation for the event took a lot of planning, but was well worth the effort. Yeoman First Class Monita Wood, who was in charge of organizing the food, explains, "It's not about what we did, it's about the smiles from the kids. The results out weigh all the hard work that goes into it.

This is my first time volunteering for Special Olympics, but I'd like to continue, maybe next time as a special buddy."

Athletes, special buddies, other volunteers and attendees showed their pride and encouragement through smiles, cheers, lots of hugs and applause. All the Special Olympians received medals and ribbons by the day's end.

Chief Altman plans to make this a continuing care project. "I'd like to meet once a month and plan for next year's event. This is a one-year tour of duty and I'll be gone, but incoming military personnel can take the ball and run with it. We raised enough money this year to turn some over towards next year's Special Olympics and that's a great start."



U.S. Navy photo by Paul Farley

Captain J. Stephen Hoefel, Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay awards a medal to a special athlete for his participation in this year's Special Olympics.

SUBSCHOOL Bleeds for Red Cross

Naval Submarine School students and instructors donated two hundred and thirty-five units of blood in support of the Connecticut Red Cross Regional Blood Services during a recent quarterly collection drive.

In addition, eighty-two potential donors were added to the registry of the Department of Defense Bone Marrow Program.

Submarine School remains the largest one-day collection source for the Connecticut Red Cross Regional Blood Services and the drive has been a cornerstone of the school's community outreach for well over a decade.



The right to bare arms. ET3 Darian Watson, an Exterior Communications Systems Operator Course student, grins and bares it as Matthew Skarzynski, Blood Services Nursing Technician, monitors his progress during the Submarine School collection drive.

MMSA David Fowler, a student in Machinist Mate Apprentice (MM "A") School is in the background.

Kids Learn About Navy and Science at Fair

By Naval Postgraduate School Public Affairs

Being located on California's Monterey Peninsula has long been a selling point for the Naval Postgraduate School. Particularly, in efforts to attract quality students and faculty.

Last weekend's "Oceans Fair" was proof, however, that NPS is also attracting much notice in the local community; with cutting edge oceanographic research that is both scientifically notable, and fun for children.

Oceans Fair is an annual, family-friendly event presented by the Monterey Bay Ocean Consortium. It is designed to highlight the marine sciences and entice children to learn. One day, this learning may result in a career in one of many possible Marine Science fields.

Over 200 visitors attended the event and reviewed several displays by the NPS' Oceanography department.

"We had a lot of interest in marine mammal sounds recorded by the Navy's hydrophone array at Big Sur," said Prof. Tim Stanton, who helped organize the oceanography department's programs and exhibits for the Oceans Fair. "We played these vocalizations back, through a low frequency speaker, and displayed the sound waves on computer monitors. The department's acoustic group also had a sonobuoy in the harbor which allowed people to hear the real-time sounds of snapping shrimp and boats."

Stanton noted that other displays highlighting the Monterey Inner Shelf Observatory, and observations of surface currents in Monterey Bay using low frequency radars, were also popular.

"The younger kids liked playing with expendable ocean sensors, and took part in coloring competitions and giveaways of NPS items throughout the day," he said.

Two U.S. Navy deep sea diving suits, on loan from the Consolidated Divers Unit

Dragonslayers Volunteer

Story by LTJG Teresa Ferry, HS-11 PAO

Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Eleven Dragonslayers and their family members proudly call Jacksonville home and are welcomed by the local community. The Dragonslayers show their ap-



YN2 Kevin Glover and PN1 James Reed (left to right) lay sod for a new house on the Northside while volunteering with Habijax.

in San Diego, Calif., were part of the display. NPS Meteorology/Oceanography student, Lt. Erica Museler, a graduate of the Navy's Basic Diving Officer School, spoke with many children who looked in awe of the diving rigs.

"The kids liked seeing and feeling the Mk 21 and Mk 12 displays and had a lot of questions about what it takes to be a Navy Diver," Museler said. "They seemed very interested in what we do, and how Navy Divers are asked to do things that no others in the world can do."

Museler pointed out recent salvage efforts with the Civil War ironclad USS Monitor and Japanese fishing vessel Ehime Maru, as examples of Navy Divers being called upon for their unique underwater expertise.

Other participants of Oceans Fair were Moss Landing Marine Laboratories; NOAA's Marine Sanctuaries; Monterey Aquarium Research Institute; National Weather Service; various rescue and ecological organizations; and the Naval Research Lab.

preciation by volunteering their time and efforts in local community projects. Recently, they participated in three separate community service projects; *School Scape 2002*, *Girl Scouts of America Rescue Weekend Retreat*, and *Habijax*.

Crewmembers were invited to Orange Park High School to help in *School Scape 2002*. They spent their day landscaping the school grounds in preparation for the new school year. Existing trees and bushes were trimmed, new plants were added, the grounds were

raked and all trash was removed. Orange Park High School students were able to enjoy the newly renovated school grounds upon their return to school.

Next, HS-11 aircrewmembers took some time to join with area firefighters, paramedics, and law enforcement to participate in the Girl Scouts of America *Rescue Weekend Retreat*. They taught the Girl Scouts rescue and survival techniques and basic swimming in an effort to improve their skills.

With work still to be done, the Dragonslayers volunteered their services for *Habijax*, the local branch of *Habitat for Humanity*. Volunteers landscaped, installed mailboxes, completed minor trim work and cleaned the inside of three new houses to make sure they were in move-in condition for the new homeowners. Dragonslayers worked side by side with other area volunteers and with the new homeowners of each house.

The Dragonslayers enjoyed every opportunity to help and improve the local Jacksonville community through volunteer programs. HS-11 Dragonslayers stand ready to assist wherever they are needed.

Environmental Stewardship

DULUTH Sailors React to Forrest Fires

Story and photos by LT Tom Hager, CHC, USS DULUTH

From July to August forest fires destroyed more than 62,000 acres and affected not only public lands but also private dwellings and property in the Julian, California area. When the call for help went out, the sailors stationed in San Diego, aboard the USS DULUTH answered; and because the fire damage was so extensive, the sailors went first to Julian, California.

The sailors began recovery work at Angel Resort in Julian in September. The men of the DULUTH cleared away fallen limbs, trimmed out undergrowth that would pose a problem for future fires in the vicinity of the resort, and removed burned trees.

Proprietors of the Angel Resort, Dan and Theresa Manley, lost outlying equipment and tool trailers to the fire. The cost of dam-

age amounted to thousands of dollars; and though the resort itself was spared, the forest area around the resort was badly scarred.



SN Troung Nguyen demonstrates his tractor driving skills as he positions the wagon for another load of firewood. BM3 Donohue lifts a larger log onto the wagon.

The following week, the sailors returned to the region and began work in Ranchita, CA, for a retired Navy Master Chief Jim Cavin. Again, the sailors of the DULUTH cleared away fallen trees and prepared the fence line for repair. They will return in November to complete this project.

The firefighters were able to save the home, but like the Manley's, the Cavin's lost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the trees and shrubbery on the property.

The restoration continues for the area of Julian, and the men and women of DULUTH are ready to return to the area to lend a hand.



BM3 Brendan Donohue finishes one pile of firewood in the foreground, while AA Brian Casey and RP2 Alvin Valenzuela carry logs to the wagon. The blackened hills in the distance give the observer a sense of the size of the fire. Mr. Cavin stated that the fire burned over the ridge line to the north and onto the Los Coyotes Indian Reservation, where it also did extensive damage.

NAS Pensacola Volunteers Participated in the 15th Annual Florida Coastal Cleanup 2002

Story by CTOCS Victoria Street, USNR, NAS Pensacola Community Outreach

Over 120 military volunteers including their families, cleaned 10 beaches on base for the annual event, collecting 1,590 pounds of debris from 12 miles of beachfront, filling 137 trash bags. There were 1,750 smoking-related items picked up, mostly cigarette butts and cigar tips; 1,054 cans and bottles picked up, miscellaneous pieces of metal, wood, and tires; a refrigerator, half of a surfboard, a lawn chair, and a toilet seat.

Military volunteers also took a boat, provided by MWR, over to the island of Ft. McRee and helped the National Park Service with a much-needed beach cleanup on that island located in the bay off NAS Pensacola.

Since January 2002, commands around the base have 'adopted-a-beach' and cleaned these beaches monthly, collecting 2,247 pounds of debris before the Coastal Cleanup even began.



Photos by Jeff Swager, Conservation Intern, NAS Pensacola



Environmental Stewardship

Trash is Going, Going, Gone

By Lt.j.g. Buck Herdegen, Wizards' reporter

Members of Electronic Attack Squadron 133 (VAQ-133) performed a little Wizard magic in early September at the Key-stone Ferry landing.

Funny thing. Trash just disappears whenever Wizards are around. But the secret to the trick is just good old-fashioned hard work.

Caring volunteers from all pay grades and ratings staff the Wizard Volunteer Action Team, headed by AE1(AW) Darrin Bostick. Despite having only a few weekends left until deployment, the Wizard team still found time to demonstrate the Navy's strong commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy environment

Working in partnership with the Washington Department of Ecology's Lighthouse Environmental Program and Island County Solid Waste Disposal, the Wizards and some

of their family members listened to an informative brief on the impact marine debris has on our environment. They learned that animals can be killed or injured when they become entangled in pieces of marine debris, such as nets, fishing line and six-pack holders, or when they swallow plastic bags, balloons, Styrofoam and other items they mistake for food.

One example of this seemingly innocuous waste is nylon rope. As it ages and falls apart, it is picked up by birds and used for nesting material. It actually makes great nests, but hatchlings can get tangled up in it and die.

"That was a poignant example," said Bostick. "It points out how our improperly discarded waste affects the animals around us."

Cheryl May, volunteer coordinator for the Lighthouse Environmental Program, told the group that Island County is the model for other Washington State counties to emulate. It's the only one that depends totally on volunteers to perform these beach and park clean-ups. The Wizards are proud to be a part of that effort.

Armed with this knowledge and re-



Marine debris can kill or injure wildlife. Here volunteers from VAQ-133 go after the trash.

newed sense of purpose, volunteers pulled on their gloves, picked up their trash bags and stepped off along the beach. It was tedious, backbreaking work, but when they were finished, the beach looked much cleaner and the volunteers were further rewarded with a delicious barbecue lunch.

The thoughtfulness shown by the Wizard Volunteer Action Team typifies the command's and the U.S. Navy's commitment to support our local community and preserve our natural resources and the ecology of Whidbey Island.

They Keep Beaches Clean

By AK1 Patricia Diaz

The Naval Air Maintenance Training Unit First Class Petty Officers' (FCPOA) meets at the Deception Pass West Beach parking lot once a month to pick up litter and debris on the beach and the surrounding area.

They have been volunteering in this beautification project with Cheryl May of Whidbey Island Recycling for the past two years.

The association got the recognition it has long deserved on Sept. 6 when members posted a sign proclaiming, "This beach cleaned by volunteers of the FCPOA-NAMTRAU Whidbey Island."

Thirteen of the more than 30 members showed up to enjoy the sun, scenery and camaraderie.

This was the first event sponsored by the newly elected officers of the FCPOA, who were pleased with the turn out as well as the command support.

Vice President AT1(AW/NAC) Shawn Lightfritz overheard some tourists say, "It is encouraging to see the military support in this community."



Helping with the trash pickup is FCPOA member AK1 Patricia Diaz.

Volunteer Navy Crews Come to Rescue Shipmates - Help Clear Fire Hazards in Julian

By Elizabeth Fitzsimons, Staff Writer

San Diego Union-Tribune
September 21, 2002

JULIAN – Many had never been here, knew nothing of the town's mining history or tasted its famous apple pie. From places as far away as Connecticut, Iowa, Michigan, Texas and Hawaii, many had never seen the blackened aftermath of a forest fire.

But yesterday, Navy men and women got a firsthand look at this mountain community, and learned some of its history, both recent and distant. They were among about 225 Navy personnel who volunteered for a day of difficult labor – cutting down and clearing the dense dry brush that dangerously encircles a large number of homes.

Some had never swung an ax or used a saw, but after a quick lesson from firefighters, they jumped right in.

"These guys were fighting the war; they're the experts," said Navy Chaplain Luis Garcia about a group of eight young men assigned to the frigate Jarrett, which served seven months supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Casey Cox, a gas turbine mechanic on the Jarrett, saw how the fire changed the landscape during weekend visits to Julian with his wife. "We were looking for a way to help out," he said.

Navy volunteers helped about 75 property owners and the California Wolf Preserve, which lost four wolves in the Pines fire and had some property damage. In addition to the Jarrett, the ships represented included destroyers Decatur and Elliot; the command ship Coronado; the amphibious transport dock Duluth; the amphibious ship Peleliu; and the aircraft carrier John C. Stennis.

The effort was coordinated by Christine Tuthill, a Whispering Pines resident whose home survived the Pines fire only to be damaged by a subsequent arson fire.

After the Pines fire, which started July 29 on the Banner Grade when a National Guard helicopter clipped a power line, mountain residents wanted to make sure their homes were safe. But there were so many dead trees and so much overgrown brush people didn't know where to start.

When the Navy offered its help in August, it kick-started the remedial effort.

"I think, as a whole, it's really brought the community together to work on something – something that was causing us a great deal of pain and a great deal of fear," Tuthill said.

"We know there's a lot of solutions out there, but there's a lot of politics involved and in the meantime, we're sitting here with 50 to 75 years of forest that hasn't burned."

Since many residents have complained that they have nowhere to dispose of brush, County Supervisor Dianne Jacob and the county Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures had a wood chipper temporarily placed at the California Wolf Center, off KQ Ranch Road. The chips will be used for erosion control in a new wolf pen.

By about 10 a.m. yesterday, pickup trucks loaded with cuttings were lining up. After pulling out the first load of branches from the bed of her pickup, Harrison Park resident Brenda Porter headed back home for another load. Her family had been working for two weeks to cut down trees and brush, Porter said, and before the day was done, she was hoping to drop off 20 loads.

On Woodland Road in Whispering Pines, the footprints of both the Pines fire and the arson fire can be seen from Paul Zirwes' property. By about 11 a.m. a Navy crew of seven men and one woman – all assigned to the Decatur – had cleared a wide swath around the house.

The amount of work done during the morning would have taken two people at least two weeks, said Mary Harris, Zirwes' girlfriend. Harris and Zirwes knew for a long time the work needed to be done, but it seemed an insurmountable task, and far too costly to hire someone to do it.

"Today we really want to use the strong backs while we can," Harris said as she took a break from working. "They're just great. What a wonderful, wonderful gift."

Zirwes pointed to the side of his house. "This was so thick, you couldn't walk through it," he said as Lt. j.g. Ken Gregoire trudged past, towing a large branch.

Gregoire said his crew was a bunch of friendly people who knew Julian had weathered a rough summer and needed help. That, and "it gets you off the ship for a while. It's relaxing in a way," he said.

In Pine Hills, at the home of Forrest and Dolo Johnson, eight crew members of the Jarrett were working to clear a 30-foot-wide circle around the house.

"Since the Pines fire I have been really concerned about the danger to us because we're looking down a canyon and if a fire started down there it would burn up here quickly," Forrest Johnson said as he took a break from feeding brush into his chipper.

The California Department of Forestry told him there was too much brush too close to his home.

"It was getting to be too much for me. I'm 80 years old and when you get to be 75, things get a little harder to do," he said.

Environmental Stewardship

Navy and Marine Corps TEAM Pitch-In

By HMCS Dan M. Sharrard, Assistant Public Affairs Officer, Field Medical Service School

Recently, twenty five Marines and Sailors from Field Medical Service School, Camp Pendleton, California rolled up their sleeves and lent a hand landscaping the exterior of the American Red Cross Community Center located in Oceanside, California.

The project was part of a citywide effort called Hands on San Diego, which is presented by Volunteer San Diego in Partnership with the United Way. Volunteer San Diego is committed to mobilizing over 8,000 volunteers in 2002 to complete hundreds of projects throughout San Diego. Corporate, military and other groups paint, landscape and collect items for this non-profit event.

"The Oceanside community shows us great support and this is our opportunity to return the goodwill," said Sergeant Christopher Yarbrough.

The project began early in the morning on a crisp and clear California day when the staff from Field Medical Service School began clearing out some overgrown branches from the many trees surrounding the building. The trees were trimmed back as they were intruding towards the sidewalks and were covering the signs to the building.

"Cutting down trees is not a glamorous job, but I found it kind of fun especially once you start seeing the results,"

said Captain Michael Diamond, USMC.

Next came the grounds maintenance: The crew broke out the rakes, shovels and clippers and began cleaning up the grounds and raking up the fallen debris. Over the course of the next few hours the staff of FMSS removed more than 1,140 pounds of debris.

Among the many volunteers taking part was Captain Brad L. Bennett, Commanding Officer of Field Medical Service School.

"My intent with the Hands On San Diego project was to provide my staff members a unique opportunity to provide service to our community," said Bennett. "Our impact for this American Red Cross office was tremendous. It was also my desire to have my staff consider future ways they can make a difference as volunteers in their neighborhood, city or county."

The impact to the community center cannot be summed in value, but the efforts of the Field Medical Service School staff will be greatly appreciated by the

families who utilize the Red Cross Community Center.

"This project allows the money which



Photo by HMCS Mario Alcantara

SGT Michael D. Stout, S-3 Division, Field Medical Service School prunes one of the many trees during the Hands on San Diego community relations project.

would have been expended on maintenance to be put back into projects which benefit Red Cross services," said Ken Miles, Red Cross Project Coordinator.

The hard work and satisfaction received was evident as the staff surveyed the completed project. "I would do it again, as these types of events bring us all closer," reflected HM1 Michael Gutierrez.



Volunteers from Naval Station Everett volunteer to pick up trash along Interstate Highway 5 just outside the naval station. The project was conducted as part of the national "Adopt-a-Highway" state sponsored beautification program.

U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Eli Jody Medellin.

Project Good Neighbor

Chapel of Hope Kicks-off CFA Ys Annual Sharing Thanksgiving Food Drive

By RP1(SW/AW) Glen Steward, Chapel of Hope Public Affairs

Its that time of year again for the Yokosuka, Ikego, and Negishi communities too unite during the annual "Sharing Thanksgiving" food drive, sponsored by U.S. Fleet Activities, Yokosuka's Chapel of Hope.

Last year the communities donated four hundred bags of rice and eight thousand canned food items, which were delivered to three-relief organizations in Tokyo, who administer to the homeless there. The goal this year is to double last year's donations. Kinnick High and Sullivan Elementary schools and the Navy Junior Recruit Officer Training Candidates (NJROTC), through classroom competitions, had collected 26-shopping carts full of goods.

Camaraderie was high at the schools as the competition instilled in the kids a spirit of cooperation, and taught them the importance of working together while caring for others. The command and department representatives did a great job as well getting the word out and encouraging people to donate.

"It was really exciting and a lot of hard work," said RP3 Rosa Perez, "we were making trips back and forth to commissary three, four times a day."

The commissary also got in on the action by setting out collection boxes for patrons to donate items as they exited the store. "We were making trips back and forth to commissary three, four times a day," said RPSN Todd Joyner. "It was amazing how eager and generous commissary patrons were to donate rice and

Volunteers Help Out

By JO2 Amy Warren

The chilly wet weather didn't keep volunteers inside as three days worth of food drive activities wrapped up with over 3,000 pounds of food collected for area agencies and churches with the greatest need. In keeping with the spirit of the Navy's Project Good Neighbor Flagship program, 26 Sailors, federal service employees and family members took time off from their busy schedule to provide humanitarian assistance for those less fortunate.

Volunteers came together with family and friends and passed out flyers while manning food drop-off sites at Publix, Wal-Mart and Winn Dixie. They donated 14 hours over three days to encourage the public to contribute to a good cause.

Volunteers remarked that it was a rewarding experience.

"Not only did it feel good to know I helped at least one family have a good holiday meal, but because I'm new to this area, the food drive was a great opportunity to for me to meet the community. I learned there are a lot of caring individuals out there that support our efforts to

help the less fortunate," said EN3 Anthony Murphy.

Other volunteers came out to help for more personal reasons.

"I wanted to help because I know what it is like to be in need. When I was down and out somebody gave to help me so I wanted to return the gesture," said MASR Jennifer Sutton.

"I've volunteered for Habitat for Humanity before I joined the Navy and it's fulfilling to help people in need," said MASR Eric Wilson.

Whatever the motive was for people to help, the success of the drive was due to the enthusiastic participation of all the volunteers as well as the local community.

The donated food was distributed locally through America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia (ASHCG).

"We are committed to working with the community to distribute food to hungry people in this region. We are also finalizing plans to open a branch here so agencies won't have to wait on our rural delivery trucks or drive to Savannah for food, which can take them away from performing their hometown tasks," said Natalie Alwan Jayroe, president and Chief Executive Officer of ASHCG.

America's Second Harvest is the largest domestic hunger-relief organization in the United States. The ASH mission is to feed hungry people by soliciting and distributing food and grocery products through a nationwide network of certified affiliate food banks and food-rescue programs and to educate the public about the nature of and solutions to the problem of hunger in America.

ASH's network of more than 200 regional food banks and food-rescue organizations serves all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, through distribution of food and grocery products to approximately 50,000 local charitable hunger-relief agencies including food pantries, soup kitchens, women's shelters, Kids Cafes, Community Kitchens, and other organizations that provide emergency food assistance.



Photos by PH3 Patrick Warren

ITC Robert L. Young places donated food into a collection box in front of Wal-Mart. He was one of 26 volunteers who conducted a three-day Community Food Drive to benefit local agencies.

Project Good Neighbor

Fleming Island Elementary Landing Zone

Fleming Island Elementary School students and faculty were pleasantly surprised to see two Navy SH-60F helicopters from the HS-11 Dragonslayers and the HS-3 Tridents based out of Naval Air Station Jacksonville conduct a fly-by and then land in a soccer field at their school on September 26th. Upon landing, the aircrews proudly exhibited the two "Seahawk" helicopters for more than 1100 children that attend the school. Each student and faculty member had an opportunity to view the helicopters up close and sit in the cabin and cockpit. The aircrews explained the basics of helicopter flight and the many helicopter missions.



HS-11 Dragonslayers guide students through a tour of the static display.

Lynda Braxton, Fleming Island Elementary School Principal, along with the teachers and staff, organized a timely schedule that enabled all the children who wanted to tour the helicopter the opportunity to do so. Many groups of children assembled and waited patiently in long lines for their chance to sit in the pilots' seats or cabin. Commander John D. Schoeneck, the Commanding Officer of HS-11, who piloted one of the helicopters, was impressed by the enthusiasm of the students. "We were glad to have the opportunity to fly in and the kids were happy to see us. It was a great day for everyone," he noted. The students ranged in age from Kindergarteners to 6th graders and were each provided an unforgettable experience.

"Volunteers polish up the rough spots in our communities."

Frederick Crew Gives 'Til The End

By Lt. j.g. Erin Bailey, USS Frederick Public Affairs

Just weeks prior to decommissioning, USS Frederick (LST 1184) Sailors still found time in their busy schedules recently to help out in the local community here.

A command-wide blood drive was held Aug. 28 on the ship's well deck to support Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC), the military's main medical facility in Hawaii.

Over 30 crewmembers donated blood to TAMC, marking the second blood drive held on Frederick within the past six months. The last blood drive, in February, helped supplement Tripler's critically depleted blood supply.

Later that week, five crewmembers donated over thirty command ball caps to the Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children and also to the Shriner's Hospital for Children in Honolulu in support of the "Caps for Kids" Program. Both projects benefited local Hawaii hospitals to supplement vital blood supplies and help raise morale for hospitalized children.

Personnelman 1st Class (SW) Connie Stephan said, "I try to give back to the community every chance I get. Giving blood and especially the command 'Caps for

Kids' Program are wonderful opportunities to repay my parents and role models for the things they gave me when I was a kid."

Stephan is the Leading Petty Officer of Personnel division and participated in both the blood drive and "Caps for Kids."

"Caps for Kids" is a program based at Navy Office of Information-Southwest in Dallas that encourages Navy commands to raise money to buy ball caps with their respective ship's emblem for donation to pediatric clinics across the nation. Caps For Kids coordinates Navy commands with interested hospitals in their area to participate in the program.

This gives Sailors the opportunity to interact with small children on a personal level, establishing themselves as positive role models.

"It is amazing to see how something as little as a ball cap can brighten a child's day," said Information Systems Technician 3rd Class (SW) David C. Brunelle. "We take so many things for granted and I am grateful for the opportunity to help bring happiness into their lives."



U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 2nd Class Mike Miller

U.S. Navy reservists from the tank landing ship, USS Frederick (LST 1184), visit with Tyler Upmeyer, a patient at the Portland Shriner's Hospital during community support projects in the Portland area.

Project Good Neighbor

HSO Sailors Give Sweat to HABIAX

Story and photos by JOC Bill Austin

Sailors from the Naval Healthcare Support Office (HSO), based aboard NAS Jacksonville, once again rallied together to help make a dream come true for new homeowners of a Habitat For Humanity house in Jacksonville.

On Sept. 20, eleven volunteers conveyed to the downtown brick building of Habijax, the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity International, to receive their assignments with a huge crowd that waited for the same. Afterwards, everyone joined hands and formed a circle to pray before the workday started.

Habitat for Humanity International is a non-profit worldwide Christian housing organization that invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need. The organization was founded in 1976, and has built more than 100,000 houses around the world, providing more than 500,000 people with affordable shelter. Habijax, according to the group's Community Relations Dept., has built 1000 houses in Jacksonville to date.

Habitat is not a "free ride" though. Certain criteria must be met before the first nail is driven. Habitat houses are not sold, not given to perspective

homeowners. To qualify, they must live in substandard or overcrowded housing. They also have to be able to make the mortgage payment. "Sweat equity," or several hours of work has to be given as well to either their perspective new home, or another sponsor organization to build another house.



HN Marilyn Ongoco levels the yard at the yard at Habijax.

The new unfinished house stuck out like a shining star in a neighborhood that lost its glimmer long ago. Old cars litter many front yards here, and uncut grass and tall weeds cover trash and other dirty collections lying beneath. Dahlia Greathouse is

not concerned about any of that though, she and companion Tim Syrmis are proud new owners of a house of their own, and are more than happy to tell you about it. "This is a dream come true," said Greathouse, her brown eyes dancing. "It is so nice for you all to come and volunteer your time for us," she added with a big smile. The couple has been putting in their "sweat equity" since the beginning of construction.

HSO Sailors didn't waste any time rolling their sleeves up for the day ahead. Today the task was landscaping and interior painting. "I wanted to do something to help out," said HN Kathy McBride, as she dipped her paintbrush. HM2 Wilmer Sanders spent his day outside planting flowers and trees. "This is the second time that I have volunteered for Habijax, and I think it's a great program," he said as he brushed some dirt off his hands.

Later on in the day neighbors began to peek out of their houses to look at the transformation-taking place. One shirtless man walked out of his house in the afternoon sun rubbing the sleep out of his eyes. He probably summed up the efforts of the HSO group best when he said with a serious look, "you done good."

USS De WERT takes "V" for Volunteerism

LTJG Christopher Frank, USS DE WERT Public Affairs Officer

During a recent Port Visit to Rota, Spain, USS DE WERT Sailors found out what was on the minds of our future Leaders. DE WERT's Community Relations Volunteer Team consisting of OSC(SW) Brian Loeblein, OS1(SW) Derrick Jordan, DC1(SW) Richard Drummond, STG2(SW) Robert Cole, QM2(SW) Steven Terry, FC2(SW) Eric Shaffer, OS2(SW) Jon Rotenberry and OSSN Karl Critides spent a day at David G. Farragut Elementary School at NAVSTA Rota, Spain. Each Sailor used his imagination to intrigue the children with ordinary team sportsmanship.

D.G.F. School Assistant Principal Phillis Fuglaar-Ennasri applauded USS DE WERT's arrival thanking the Sailors for the assistance with their slow progression into the second day of school.

"It was indeed a privilege to be able to work with all the children within the elementary grade levels," said OS1(SW) Derrick Jordan, DE WERT's COMREL Volunteer Coordinator.

Grades 1st thru 6th enjoyed games ranging from kickball to soccer and basketball. DE WERT Sailors also enjoyed getting into the classrooms to teach such topics as, "Respecting Others in School." DE WERT volunteers were readily available and looking forward to helping the D.G.F School Faculty mold America's future.



HM3 April Halberg prepares a window surface before painting.

Project Good Neighbor

Helping Hands... Touching Hearts Military Volunteers Help in the Community

By CTOCS Victoria Street, NAS Pensacola Community Outreach

Mix together hugs, smiles, and laughter with hammers, nails, rakes, and paint, and add children, senior citizens, sailors, and marines, and you have all the ingredients of the

10th Annual United Way Day of Caring. The largest one-day volunteer event in Northwest Florida, held on Oct. 4, combined over 1,200 volunteers from 53 companies and 20 different military commands with 31 non-profit agencies and 21 schools working together on 125 projects.

The largest contributor of volunteers to the Day of Caring is the military, 250-strong, forming 31 teams, tackling projects such as painting and scraping, roof repairs and minor maintenance, mowing and landscaping, and spending time with children. Military volunteers took children to the ZOO for Children's Services Center, built bookshelves for Campfire USA, installed landscape timbers at the Escambia Westgate Center, made jack-o-lantern pumpkins at an after-school care center, preformed health screenings at Longleaf Elementary School, painted a warehouse for United Way, fixed a fence for a senior citizen for Council on Aging, helped at a BBQ for AIDS clients, pulled countless weeds, filled trash bags with mounds of debris, and mowed acres of yards.

Hundred of volunteers started the "Day" off at the Kickoff Breakfast at the Roger Scott Athletic Complex in Pensacola. Mistress of Ceremonies Sue Straughn, WEAR TV-3, inspired the crowd, got them on their feet dancing to the electric slide, and sent them off to their projects. NAS Pensacola Chaplain

Dave Atwater gave the invocation for the event.

Gregg Hetue, Executive Director for United Way of Escambia County said "It is obvious that the military is a significant part of the Pensacola area. What is truly impressive is how members of the



MAC (SW/AW) Robert Plante, Naval Dental Center Gulf Coast (NDCGC), works with a child on an art project at a daycare center.

armed forces give so much of their time to make lives better for so many people they do not even know. We really appreciate their participation during the United Way Day of Caring. The best part is that together we have fun, make our caring count, and get to know and work with each other."

"Every time I can give back to the community, it makes me feel proud," says YN2 Jason Nelson, NAS Pensacola Admin, who helped paint the United Way warehouse, along with 12 other military volunteers from the NAS Pensacola Headquarters team.



Partners in Education Light Holiday Gift Tree

Ms. Roberta Neighbors, Public Relations for Naval Hospital Charleston

Naval Hospital Charleston "Partners in Education" with Burns Elementary kicked off the Holiday Goodwill spirit with the lighting of the seasonal angel tree. CAPT Allard, Commanding Officer, welcomed Principal Ms. Bonnie Olsen and Assistant Principal Amy Mims to help kick off the drive by lighting the tree at the hospital.

Burns Elementary' 568 students are always appreciative of the Naval Hospital staff that annually spend over 150 hours a year in mentoring, tutoring and helping with special projects.

Mr. Leamon Saunders, the volunteer coordinator says "if he can make a difference for one child, it will be a good day".

The staff of the hospital always comes through to give of their time and talents whenever there is a need. This gift drive is no different. The goal is to get each of the students a small gift to let them know how much they are loved and appreciated. This year's gift drive has included many of the hospital patrons who have joined in the spirit.

The Navy Exchange was involved in the planning to have gifts available in the store in the event a patron wants to participate but does not want to go shopping. The staff members have volunteered to wrap or shop if a cash donation is made to make it as easy as possible for the giver.

With only a short time until the school break begins, "Team Charleston" has gone into overdrive for their partners. This is the first year for the gift drive and hopefully this will become an annual tradition.

L to R: Ms. Bonnie Olsen, Principal; Ms Amy Mims, Asst Principal; CAPT Allard, Commanding Officer

Photo by HM3 Gabriel A. Leyva

Project Good Neighbor

CLAWS Teaches Youth Leadership Through Community Service

Story by JO1 Teresa J. Frith, NAS Keflavik Public Affairs

Clad in green camouflage, the smaller than average size "warriors" swarmed onto the wing of the plane, ready for the next order of the day. No, the military hasn't starting recruiting a younger set; the pint-sized patriots are from Community Lending All Weekend Support (CLAWS).

CLAWS, an Naval Air Station Keflavik innovation, is a military-structured program for young people between the ages of 11 to 17 who want to learn crucial values and provide community support to support the base beautification plan. Whether painting signs or cleaning out bus stops, CLAWS is on the job every third weekend, rain or shine.

The program came into being thanks to former Marine, Jason Mollet

"CLAWS is our own creation," said Mollet, program director. "The kids come into the program either as a volunteer or through their parents volunteering them. It's not for 'bad' kids like some people think. The kids want to be here, and a lot of them return to participate every month. It's meant for any child that wants to help out in the community, and learn some crucial moral values at the same time."

Mollet isn't the only adult involved in the program. There are several military volunteers who act as instructors and provide guidance during the weekend. While military experience is a plus, anyone, military or not, can volunteer to help out.

"I volunteered to help out CLAWS, so I won't lose touch with the military," said Pvt. Bo Daniels, a member of the Army Reserve and a senior at A.T. Mahan High School. Daniels recently completed Army basic training and drills with his unit each month in Germany. He and his two partners were in charge of a group of CLAWS recruits on a mission to stock shelves and help with clean-up duties at the Navy Exchange. Daniels says he likes to see the end results of the weekend's lessons.

"I like to see the changes that happens over the weekend," he said. "They leave with something they didn't have when they started."

His partner, Petty Officer 2nd Class Mary Mota of Air Operations Department, Operational Maintenance Division, agrees. "I like to volunteer to work with the kids. They watch you, learn to follow directions and are more disciplined when the weekend is over."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Lucia Ablieu rounded out last weekend's team of instructors. "It's my first time doing this," she said. "I like to work with the kids, and see the ways they come together as a team."

The CLAWS recruits also seem to get more out of the weekend than just the satisfac-

tion of helping the base through community service work.

"I joined CLAWS because I want to join the military and thought it would help me," said ninth grader Ashley Meyer. "This is my sixth time, and CLAWS has helped me get into shape and learn to control my anger."

Seventh grader Ryan Chapman also plans to join the military. "CLAWS has taught me discipline, made me more used to physical fitness and shown me how to work with a team," he said. "I want to go to the Air Force Academy and learn to fly F-15s."

CLAWS offers more than a chance to help out in the community. It also teaches three basic values: discipline, integrity and teamwork. Each participant is required to follow these values, along with a set of strict rules and regulations that stress following directions, safety issues, non-discrimination and appropriate behaviors.

Parents must fill out an application with medical and other information on their child before he or she can attend a CLAWS weekend. The children are dropped off at the high school at 4 p.m. on Friday afternoon and bused to Barracks 2434 for the weekend. Past CLAWS weekends have included hands-on training in firefighting, tours of visiting aircraft and community service jobs painting signs and bridges, cleaning up trash and stocking at the exchange.

"We'd like to get the organizations in the habit of contacting us and asking for our help," said Mollet. "We can do anything feasible such as cleaning, painting, item removal and organizing things."

Mollet added that in the future, they hope to get off-base kids involved in the program. "I would like to see the program expanded to include Icelanders," he said. "It would help create a bond between American kids and Icelandic kids."



U.S. Navy photo by Chief Journalist (Ret.) Art Frith.

Community Lending All Weekend Support (C.L.A.W.S.) Program Director Jason Mollet barks out instructions following the 6 a.m. reveille. C.L.A.W.S. teaches children from the ages of 11-17 leadership through participation in community projects.

Project Good Neighbor

A Bridge Runs Over It

Story and photo by YN3 Elizabeth Baross

What do you do when your work center is shut down for repairs?

If you are ABH1(AW) Richard Philbrook of the NAS Fire School, you want to do something constructive.

With time on his hands, Philbrook contacted Hank Nydam, manager of the Oak Harbor Parks Department, who told him about a project that had been turned down by many other volunteers.

Ruth Cohen Park is part of a community off Heller Road in Oak Harbor, Wash., with a small but nice creek that runs along it. The problem? There is only a bridge on one side of the park. The goal was to connect the two sides.

Philbrook knew he couldn't do it alone, so he called on the Sailors of NAS Whidbey's Operations Department to pitch in with their time and old-fashioned elbow grease.

Philbrook surveyed the site and decided a new bridge was in order. ABE2(AW) Rollin Hansen helped with the design and other volunteers gathered materials provided by the Parks Depart-



ABH1 Robert Stolt works on a path at Ruth Cohen Park

ment.

Sawdust flew as they cut and nailed boards, poured concrete and installed handrails. Once the bridge was com-

pleted, they laid down a wood-chip path to make it easily accessible for bikes, wheelchairs and strollers.

"They've completed a missing link in this community," said Nydam.

When asked why he volunteered, ABH1 Robert Stolt said, "My family is part of this community and I am trying to do my part to give something back." The other volunteers all nodded in agreement.

These Sailors took it upon themselves as part of this holiday season to give back some of the continuing support NAS Whidbey receives from the Oak Harbor community.

The City of Oak Harbor thanks these Sailors for all their help.

'Tis the Season to Lend a Hand

By JO1 Mike Jones

One way to guarantee Santa doesn't leave you a lump of coal in your stocking is to do what NAS Air Operations Department's Freda Clayton did.

When Clayton came across a story in the news about a Jacksonville family who recently lost their home in a fire she decided to help.

For Clayton, the news of the fire touched some deep emotions – she experienced a similar tragedy as a child in North Carolina. "When I was about six, I went through a home fire," she said. "When it happened, my father happened to be up making coffee, and he was able to get all us kids out of the house in time. So there we were, early in the morning watching our house burn."

Understanding the material loss the Jacksonville family recently endured inspired Clayton to seek volunteer support for the family within her department. "When I saw this on the news about the family being burned out of their home, I really wanted to help because I knew they needed it," she said.

Clayton placed a call to the American Red Cross to arrange "adoption" of

the family during Christmas. "This family, a grandmother and five children, was staying in a one-bedroom home, sleeping on the floor," she explained.

A memo was quickly dispatched within the department listing all the children's clothes sizes for those wishing to donate. "I put the word out that this lady had nowhere to live, and that the family had lost everything," Clayton said.

As volunteer efforts organized, Clayton got word that insurance money from the blaze enabled the family to move into a small, two-room trailer.

NAS Jax Sailors, and Clayton's neighbors quickly came to the family's aid, Clayton noted, donating everything from clothes and food to furniture. "One of the folks here donated bunk beds, and another donated a television," she said. "Shelves and chest-of-drawers were also donated. I went to a discount store, and they gave us free pots and pans for the family. We were able to fill the entire trailer," she beamed. And the goodwill continued. "I've been snowballed with stuff donated," Clayton said. "We had a van, completely filled, make two deliveries, we had a large moving truck carrying all the furniture, and several privately-owned vehicles completely filled making several deliveries as well."

To make sure the family had the best Christmas possible, volunteers donated countless presents, and Clayton's neighbors arranged to deliver a holiday meal. "We still have presents coming in for this family," she explained.

When asked about her efforts in this endeavor, Clayton is quick to deflect much credit to all the volunteers who aided this family. "I think the folks here have been more than generous, and more than helpful. They have been so wonderful in rallying around this family – every one of them. Not once did I hear any complaints. Everybody was giving. It was the most overflowing act of generosity I have ever seen."

"I told one of the little girls that I had been talking to Santa Claus and that he said he was going to bring their presents," Clayton added. The little girl replied, "You're Santa Claus."

Project Good Neighbor

NMCB FOUR Seabees Help Distribute Food to Local Community

Story by EACS (SCW) Trai Nguyen, photos by JO1 Rich Henson

Seabee volunteers from U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) FOUR gave a full workday of their time recently to help those who may otherwise not been able to provide a Thanksgiving meal for their families.

"Last year many of our Seabees helped St. John's Health and Community Ministries of Oxnard distribute Thanksgiving meals to those less fortunate," said Chaplain (Lt.) Brandon Harding, NMCB FOUR's Battalion Chaplain. "Many of the volunteers that participated in 2001 returned this year because they wanted to help out these families again."

The day started with the loading of a rental truck at Christ the King Catholic Church in Oxnard, Calif. With more than 40 Seabees and volunteers from Oxnard's St. John's Hospital, several tons of food from the church's storeroom was moved onto the truck in less than 40 minutes.

The operation was later shifted to the auditorium of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, where the truck was unloaded and

bags of food were organized.

"Some folks thought that we were just handing out turkeys and bags of stuffing mix," said BU3 Shawn Cardenas of FOUR's Charlie Company. "We're talking about the bird, stuffing, bread, fresh vegetables, peas, rice, corn, beans, and there's even cookies and pastries for the kids to snack on."

While others were placing the groceries into shopping bags, SWCN Seth Lowe and SW3 James Muskevitch were unloading more than 300 turkeys from a delivery truck.

"These are some big birds that are going into people's ovens for Thanksgiving," Lowe said as he moved a box of turkeys into the auditorium's kitchen. The smallest one I've seen was 15 pounds and the biggest going at about 22 pounds."

Shortly before the distribution began, people began lining up in the parking lot, many with children and strollers.

"It really hits you when you see that many people waiting for food like that," said HMC (FMF) Sandra Cosico. "Some of us will have

friends and relatives over for a home-cooked meal, while others are contemplating where their next meal will come from."

"The people we are helping serve are from low-income families; many are single parents, some are elderly and others are in households where both parents are working just to make ends meet," Harding explained. "Some of the volun-

teers have been in situations like this when they were younger or knew of someone who had to resort to charity to keep from going hungry. Helping out here is great for our troops and great for the community. Seabees have a long tradition of community service and seeking to improve the communities in which they live."

Gloria Chinaea, the director of St John's Community and Health Ministries was extremely grateful to have the Seabees help with project. "We couldn't have done it with them. They are my angels. I hope they get to come back at help us at Christmas time" said Chinaea.

CECN Yancey Barnes of Bravo Company was one of many who volunteered to walk people's packages to their cars or take groceries to the nearest bus stop until transportation arrived.

"It's a good feeling when you see the smile on people's faces when you lend them a hand," Barnes said after returning from one patron's car. "I see it as one less family going hungry this holiday season."



BUCN Blanca Jimenez (foreground) helps unload carrot cake kits from a rental truck.

Sailors from aboard the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) help load food and supplies at Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka in support of "Operation Save the Holidays," a holiday meal food drive, prepared for Sailors and their families stationed at Naval facilities in Guam, who are still recovering from the destruction of the Dec. 8 Super Typhoon "Pongsona." The volunteers prepared more than 3,000 pounds of turkey and 1,000 pounds of beef and ham, including traditional holiday meal side dishes for shipping.



U.S. Navy photo by PH1 David A. Levy.

Project Good Neighbor

Sailors Build Lasting Friendships with MDA Campers

By Journalist 2nd Class Lynn Kirby, Naval Base Ventura County Public Affairs

Sailors from Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) in California and some of its tenant commands recently attended the 2002 Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) summer camp at Loyola Marymount University.

About a dozen area Sailors, some coming from as far as Arlington, Texas, volunteered to be camp counselors during the week-long camp.

For some counselors, this was the first time experiencing what MDA camp is all about. For others, it's part of a summer routine.

"This is my third year of camp and each year, it just seems to get better," said Aviation Electrician's Mate 1st Class Johnathan L. Frederick, who's stationed at Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Department at Point Mugu. "This last year, even if I could have missed it, I wouldn't. Spending time with each of these kids is a great experience. It's nearly an addiction getting back each year to give them the opportunity to enjoy themselves, and have the chance to be just like everyone else for this one week out of the year."

The counselors are responsible for the day-to-day care of the campers. The campers range from ages 6 to 21, and all have different movement limitations from one of numerous neuromuscular diseases, which are hereditary muscle-destroying disorders.

First-time counselors can sometimes be unprepared for the full responsibility of being a counselor to an MDA camper, but after adjusting, find that it's a lot of fun.

"My first year I was a little overwhelmed at the responsibility of taking care of these kids. But, I had a lot of fun and really got to know a lot of the kids pretty well. The second year I knew what to expect and since I didn't have the anxiety of the unknown, I had a chance to renew old friendships and make new ones," Frederick said.

"It's really great to see counselors come back, to know that they really care. A lot of times they come once and after realizing the responsibility of a counselor, they don't come back. So it's great to have the ones who do come back, the ones we build friendships with and grow to love," said Candis Welch, a 16-year-old camper from Palmdale, Calif.

The theme for this year's camp was "Campus Days & Nights." Campers and counselors lived in the dorms just like regular college students. They had access to all campus facilities, including the library, pool, gym and numerous other locations.

Throughout the week, special events celebrating the holidays of the year were scheduled each evening, starting with Cinco de Mayo on the day of arrival. The campers celebrated Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Day and Valentine's Day.

Another special event during the week was the balloon launch. Campers and counselors wrote messages about MDA and the friendships formed during

camp. The messages were placed in little pods on the strings of the helium balloons and released in hopes that whoever found the pod would read the message and contact MDA to learn more about camp and the life-long friendships formed there.

MDA camp is more than a summer camp. From a counselor perspective, it's more than just giving your time to help these kids. It's about giving your heart to them as well.

"It's one of the most fulfilling things in my life. Once you go to camp and experience life with these kids, it becomes an addiction and you not only want to go back each year, but you need to. Being around these kids really gives you a new perspective on life," said Marine Gunnery Sgt. Malia Morrison.

Morrison transferred from Camp Pendleton, Calif., to Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Fort Worth, Texas, a few years ago, but still travels to Los Angeles for the MDA summer camp each year.

Very Important Visitors



Photo by Greg Fischer

MA1 Mark Taylor and MA3 George Brown (left) tell the boys and girls at Oak Harbor's der Kinderhuis all about the roles played by today's military working dogs. The volunteers from NAS Security recently spent an hour at the Montessori School.

Project Good Neighbor

Ike Sailors Perform Community Service at Eisenhower Farm, Gettysburg

By Journalist 3rd Class Jessica L. Sullivan, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Public Affairs

While USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) is in dry dock in Newport News, Va, the Sailors are remaining actively involved in community relations projects in Gettysburg, Pa.

"Ike" Sailors attached to the Ike Away Team got their hands dirty helping to maintain the Eisenhower National Historic Site, in Gettysburg. The Ike Away Team is a group of Sailors that travels to Gettysburg every three months to help the historic site.

The latest group consisted of 21 Ike Sailors who worked at the Dwight D. Eisenhower's farmhouse and land, which was the retirement home and part-time presidential home of America's 34th president.

On their first day working at the Eisenhower Farm, the Ike Sailors were given an extensive tour of the farm and taught its history.

The Eisenhower Farm consists of over 600 acres, with about 200 of that adjacent to the historic Gettysburg National Battlefield Park. The farm is maintained by the Historic National Park Service and has a very small staff to keep it up, according to Ken Kine, the maintenance supervisor on the Eisenhower Farm.

"Our maintenance staff consists of four people, and with about 30 buildings to keep up, we really depend on our volunteers to help us get anything major done," said Kine.

In order to help the Eisenhower Farm staff best, the Ike Away Team was split up into smaller groups for specific tasks.

One group worked on posts and fences that had been in place for over 100 years. The concrete fence posts were badly deteriorating and the team dug up the old posts and replaced them with posts that would have been identical to those installed when the fence was first installed.

"When we finished, I was filled with a sense of accomplishment. I like to work with my hands. It makes me feel good," said Information System's Technician 3rd Class Russell Huffer, who is a native of Gettysburg.

At the farm's skeet range, another IKE team stripped and painted the range and built the frame for the 32 by 18 feet walkway. Eisenhower would use this range when the quail, pheasant and ducks he raised were out of season for hunting.

Another team moved historical artifacts out of a barn across the farm to a storage facility. Some of the items moved were antique riding tractors and golf carts that were used for transportation on the farms when Eisenhower lived there.

"Moving the antique items was really cool. It really makes you think about the man that our ship is named after and the significance of the life he lived and the impact he had on our country," said Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Justin Thomas, from Montgomery, Ala.

Along the Eisenhower driveway, which is lined with trees that were given as gifts from each of the states, another Ike team put up a wire fence along the driveway.

"This is a change of pace from working on the ship everyday," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Jonie Custer, who hails from Norfolk, Va. "It's great to be helping the community, and the people here are really hospitable."

Inside the Eisenhower home, another team consisting of Damage Control Master Chief Petty Officer Daniel Krum, of Trenton, N.J., and Electrician's Mate 1st Class David Mangiovi, of Lancaster, Pa., installed a baseboard heating system in the basement. The basement is currently used as an administrative office for some of the employees of the Eisenhower home.

"I feel like I really made a difference," said Mangiovi. "I really feel like an electrician. I'm glad I got to use my skills to help these people."

Although the Ike Away Team worked hard at the Eisenhower farm, they also had a chance for a tour at the Gettysburg National Battlefield. The team saw several displays of battlefield artifacts at the visitor center and watched an electronic-map, light show explaining some of the war tactics used in the battle of Gettysburg.

When the week came to an end, the Ike Away Team was reluctant to leave but eager to show their thanks for their experience.

"We want to thank you for hosting us and providing us the opportunity to do a little work, get out in the sun and breathe some fresh air, get a great tour of the battlefield and the surrounding area here and listen to this....(silence). I don't know how long it's been since I've heard it that quite," said Cmdr. Mike Morris, the Air Boss on Ike, as he thanked the staff at the Eisenhower Farm and presented them with IKE logo coffee mugs and pictures of the ship.

The Ike Sailors also presented to American Legion Post 202 a plaque, a commemorative Ike 25th anniversary Pepsi can, and a picture of the previous Ike Away Team to Post Commander Mr. George Burkett. Following the presentation, the Sailors mingled with the Legion members.

Whether volunteering at a childrens' hospital, helping to build a battered-women's shelter, or painting a fence at the Eisenhower Farm, Ike Sailors help out the community in any way they can.

"It's not just knowing that you helped, or being able to say 'I was there,'" said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Jennifer Kraus, from Bristol, Conn. "It's the feeling you get inside that makes it all worthwhile."

Project Good Neighbor

SEABEE Excellence Shines at TWA Flight 800 Memorial Dedication

by JO2 Joseph Holstead, USNR, NR NAVINFO-East Det. 102 * Ensign James McCue, USNR, NR NAVINFO East 102, contributed to this story.

Amid joy, sorrow and reflection – and stops and starts in the construction plans — the TWA Flight 800 International Memorial was recently dedicated at Smith Point County Park, Shirley, N.Y. Seabee Reservists from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 21, Lakehurst, N.J., were praised for being a fundamental player in its completion.

TWA Flight 800 exploded over the ocean on July 17, 1996, 10 miles out from Smith Point Park, killing all 230 passengers and crew. Family members of the victims worked for years to create a memorial there as a place to remember their loved ones. But, as the dedication date approached, the site was incomplete and funding was running critically short.

Just in time, Department of Defense and Navy Innovative Reserve Training funding came through to support the project. This allowed the Seabee craftsmen of NMCB 21's Detachment 11 from Naval Reserve Center, the Bronx, to complete much of the remaining work in a real-time training exercise.

"It wouldn't have happened without them," said New York Governor George Pataki, who joined family, friends and rescue workers at the seaside monument.

"A wonderful job, a heroic job," added former New York City Mayor Rudolph Guiliani of the Seabees' work after touring the uniquely designed site.

"They were like the cavalry coming over the hill," said John Seaman, president of the Families of TWA Flight 800 Memorial Association. "They did anything necessary to meet the deadline. We're very honored that the end of the story is being written by the Navy," Seaman said.

The story had a personal element for the Seabee contingent that drove home the importance of their work. Equipment Operator 1st Class Douglas Rupert lost a cousin in the tragedy.

Everything from electrical, plumbing and drainage work to laying tile, granite

and concrete to paving, landscaping and cleanup was accomplished by Seabees in less than 90 days — often in 90 degree workday temperatures.

Their alternate officer-in-charge and on-site project supervisor was Chief Builder (SCW) Al Daub, who lives in Lindenhurst, N.Y., not far from the memorial site.

Daub said his Seabees' "Can do!" efforts reaffirm that they can overcome all obstacles and accomplish anything when called upon. His men readily signed up for duty, he said, for periods ranging from two weeks to 90 days, to ensure that the families of those who perished



U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Gina DeJesus

Members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 21 remove the veiling covering the TWA Flight 800 International Memorial during the July 14th dedication of the Long Island site in Shirley, N.Y.

could dedicate their memorial on time.

Daub credited the TWA project, which required massive manpower and multiple skills, with increasing the readiness of the Reserve's construction command.

"My guys learned and taught so many skills over these 90 days that I am confident we can bring our trades anywhere in the world, whether on the home front or to foreign shores, for the war on terrorism."

Since their arrival in April, the Seabees formed the core of the labor pool

creating the memorial. They constructed the site's drainage system, cut, shaped, put down 2,400 square feet of granite slate for a floor, and implemented last minute design changes.

Ultimately, the Seabees contributed some 1,200 man-days of work.

"It's a privilege to work with the community here and do something for the families," agreed Construction Electrician 3rd Class Sean Messmer of Bellmore, N.Y., also an electrician in his civilian life.

On the TWA Flight 800 International Memorial is written, "A labor of love for all those lost and those who must remember still...find comfort here". The memorial features a black granite wall with the names of each victim on one side and a wave of birds flying into the sky, with a bird for each person killed, on the other

The memorial, oriented toward the water where the plane went down, includes inscribed granite stones, a cedar trellis, gardens, and 14 flags representing each nation that lost citizens on Flight 800.

Adding a final touch to their efforts, the Seabees of NMCB 21 pulled the curtain from the memorial's granite wall centerpiece during the unveiling. They handed each family member a flower as they entered the completed memorial site for the first time.

In a ceremony before the memorial dedication and standing on the floor that his troops laid, Rear Adm. Jim McGarrah presented 13 Seabees with Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. McGarrah thanked them for taking time from their civilian jobs to work on the important project. McGarrah acknowledged such projects contribute to readiness.

"Although not all of you might have been on the front lines, this work is also preparation to serve if we're called on," he said.

Project Good Neighbor

Sailors & DEPPers "Rebuild Together"

By JO1 Michael J. Owen. Photos & contribution courtesy of Barry McCabe, WWII Navy Veteran

Navy Recruiters and DEP personnel, in the Navy's Delayed Entry Program awaiting basic training and Navy schools, are doing more than just building careers these days; they're rebuilding houses for charity. Under a program called "Rebuilding Together," volunteers from Navy Recruiting District Buffalo's Zones Five and Seven are working with various "Friends of the Navy" organizations such as the Recruiting District Assistance Council (RDAC) and the Navy League to expand beyond their Navy recruiting mission.

Rebuilding Together, the successor to "Christmas in April," is an annual community-based national outreach program in which volunteers work together to rehabilitate houses of low income homeowners, particularly the elderly and disabled. A major goal is to keep them living in warmth, safety and independence. Referrals of needy homeowners come from churches, synagogues, social service agencies, community organizations, neighborhood associations and private individuals. The NRD volunteer team likes to concentrate on military veterans.

According to Captain Andrew Bisset, USNR, the local program's organizer and Chairman of Zone Seven's RDAC, the experience also builds character. "Our Rebuilding Together program not only helps veterans and Navy family members, but it also teaches these DEPPers the importance of such Navy core values as teamwork, leadership, commitment and hard work. It's also an excellent opportunity for all of us to give something back to the community," added Bisset.

On Saturday, April 27th, volunteers of the Rebuilding Together Stamford/Greenwich program helped renovate the Stamford home of Julia Cicarelli, an 88-year old widow and mother of a Navy Veteran. Volunteers included Navy SEALs and SEAL candidates, Navy League members, veterans, RDAC members, local recruiters and their DEPPers. "This encompasses the total force concept with recruiting in the center," said Bisset.



FUTURE SAILORS - Young people enrolled in the Navy's Delayed Entry Program, recently helped renovate a house working side-by-side with Recruiters and Navy Seals as a part of "Rebuilding Together."

One of those recruiters, IT1 Lawrence Miller, served as House Captain for the project. Working under Capt. Bisset, Miller helped organize personnel, equipment and materials needed for repairs. Miller said he draws on his shipboard experience as a BM and time spent with the Seabees to get the job done.

"When I heard about this, I got excited," said Miller. "It brought back some great memories and created new ones." During the rehabilitation project Miller and his team chipped paint, sanded, filled holes, caulked windows, fixed the plumbing and most of all, brought out the smiles. "The Navy taught me these skills and it's great to put them to work, but the real joy is working with RDAC, Navy League and seeing the excited look on the faces of those we help," he added.

The New Haven recruiter's spouse, Zone Seven Ombudsman Sheri Miller, also played a major role in the event. "She served as Public Affairs Liaison be-

tween the homeowner and the Navy group," he said. "She's just like a recruiter supporting the team effort."

Another recruiter, AE2 (AW/NAC/SAR) Shawn Tarasuik of NRS Bridgeport painted and repaired the kitchen, but also found helping others the best part of the job. "It was just great to do something for the older generation," he said. "It's a real high."

According to Barry McCabe, an RDAC volunteer and a coordinator for the SEAL team test, the Rebuilding Together project is a good team builder. "It's a great exercise in teamwork that's so vital to the Navy SEALs' mission," said McCabe. A Navy Veteran, McCabe served with Underwater Demolition Team 21 in WWII. "Having the SEALs involved in our house project also builds interest in Navy SEAL programs among the DEPPers," he said.

McCabe said of the 49 states and 480 municipalities involved in Rebuilding Together, the Connecticut program, originated in 1991, is the first one in the nation supported by a Navy organization. Since its inception, the Stamford/Greenwich program has enlisted more than 8,300 volunteers who have donated over 65,000 hours of their time and talent to rehabilitate 333 homes in this area.

"This year we had about 50 volunteers from the Navy apply their skills, energies and enthusiasm to renovate Julia Cicarelli's home and yard and she is ever so grateful," Bisset said. This included sanding and painting most of the home's interior, cleaning and raking the entire yard and flower beds, pruning trees and shrubs, cleaning out the garage, minor plumbing and carpentry, and building a small greenhouse. "You could see the satisfaction in the faces of the volunteers out shined only by the smile on Julia's face," he said.

All the volunteers agreed they'd be back next year for more community projects and Navy Recruiters from Zone Five said they'll also expand the project into their zone. "That's what we call the magic of rebuilding together," concluded Bisset.

Project Good Neighbor

NMCB FOUR Supports Habitat for Humanity

Story by CEC Doug Heiner and photos by JO1 Rich Henson

Twenty Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) FOUR, led by Lt. (j.g.) Ajay Joshi, recently volunteered for a community housing project through Habitat for Humanity of Ventura County.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit housing organization that provides new, affordable homes for families in need of adequate shelter. Homeowners and volunteers build the houses under the supervision of trained Habitat personnel, helping to keep the housing cost low.



SW2 (SCW) Andrew Palmer (left) and SW3 James Muskevitch prepare forms prior to a concrete pour.

Since 1976, Habitat for Humanity has built more than 100,000 houses in 60 countries, including 30,000 homes in the United States. Some of Habitat's most famous volunteers are former President

Jimmy Carter and his wife, former First Lady Rosalyn Carter. Other celebrities include actor Michael Keaton and former New York Mayor Rudolph Guiliani.

The Ventura County Habitat site is located in Piru, about 30 miles east of Ventura. On a recent Saturday morning at Naval Base Ventura County, NMCB FOUR volunteers received last minute instructions, driving directions and loaded their equipment onto their own privately owned vehicles.

Once there, the Seabees began working on two houses in the local area. The set foundation forms for one home to prepare it for a future concrete placement; then they placed 50 yards of concrete for the foundation and pad of another house with the use of a concrete pump truck. They enjoyed a free lunch and the opportunity to make a difference in some else's life.

"I believe it's a good thing to come out to Piru and help some folks out for a change," said EACN (SACW) Nowell Abratique of NMCB FOUR's Headquarters Company. "There were people that have done this before and a few people doing it for the first time, but when the concrete truck showed up, we were like little kids chasing the ice cream man down the street."

"Right," added CE3 Giovanni Perichi of Bravo Company with a laugh. "But instead of waving money and yelling 'ice



CE1 Alan Reyes (foreground, in white shirt) guides the discharge hose pumping concrete while CE3 Giovanni Perichi (right, with shovel) spreads fresh concrete into the forms.

cream,' we were running with shovels yelling 'concrete!'"

These volunteers showed their true Seabee "Can Do" spirit of compassion in lending a helping hand to two deserving families. Through this and other volunteer opportunities, the personnel of NMCB FOUR continue to foster a positive relationship in the local community. The efforts of people working together toward a common goal can accomplish many things.

Vikings Volunteer at Museum of Flight

By Lt. Carlos Medina VAQ-129 reporter

The Museum of Flight, home to 54 authentic historical aircraft and one of Seattle's top attractions, sought out the experts at Electronic Attack Squadron 129 (VAQ-129) for help on the recent renovation of a Grumman A-6E Intruder.

Members of the Viking Maintenance Department, led and organized by Lt. Cmdr. Casey Meuer and AOCS(AW) Rex Spencer, prepared the Intruder for public display by painting, assembling,

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transporting and loading 22 Mk-82 inert 500-pound bombs to match an actual wartime ordnance load. They also helped museum staff repaint and refurbish the external markings of the aircraft.

The A-6E was donated to the museum after the decommissioning of the Attack Squadron 52 (VA-52) Knightriders in 1995. Markings were changed to match those of an aircraft flown from the USS Kitty Hawk by pilot Lt. Roderick Lester

and Bombardier/Navigator Lt. Harry Mossman in August 1972.

The flight, call sign "Viceroy 502" (VA-52's original call sign), never returned from its night reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam. Crash site wreckage was not recovered until 25 years later, and will be displayed with the aircraft to serve as a lasting tribute to its crew and other naval aviators lost in the conflict.

NAVY Volunteer! 2003

Project Good Neighbor

Windjammers Build 'Habitat' Homes

By Lt. Cmdr. Daniel E. Smeller, VR-51 Public Affairs

Shelter is usually considered a basic human need. The Windjammers of VR-51 have found a way to help provide that need through a program called "Habitat for Humanity."

The Windjammers made a positive impact in Habitat for Humanity's effort to build homes in the local communities. Manned with volunteers from the Fleet Support Logistics Squadron based in Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) at Kaneohe Bay, the Leeward Habitat for Humanity Chapter received a much-needed boost in their project in Nanakuli, completing the construction of the home ahead of schedule.

The new home was dedicated in July to the delight of the Keaulana family of Nanakuli.

"We're so appreciative of the help that VR-51 and the other volunteers have provided our ohana", said Cynthia Keaulana, mother of three children.

With the pride of a new homeowner, Cynthia and her family happily accepted the keys to their home and are enjoying the culmination of their work and other Habitat volunteers.

Every Saturday for the past few weeks, the Windjammers of VR-51 have provided the work force necessary to help

an underprivileged family in need of a home.

"This is a great opportunity for me to get out in the community and contribute my skills to someone in need," Aviation Storekeeper 1st Class Brent Geist, a regular volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, states. "I learn a lot about building homes too."

There are thousands of homeless families in Hawaii, and many more who live in crowded and substandard conditions.

Of the 40 families Honolulu Habitat has built homes with, some were living in parks, beaches, tents, vans, crates or old houses falling down around them. Others were part of the hidden homeless - families that have doubled-up or tripled-up in the homes of relatives or friends.

Habitat for Humanity International is dedicated to eliminating poverty housing around the globe. From its inception in Georgia in 1976, it has expanded exponentially to include 1,600 affiliates in the U.S. and 300 affiliates in 79 other nations.

Habitat for Humanity International is now the 15th largest home-builder in the United States. Every 45 minutes around the clock, another house is completed by Habitat. The homes are more affordable than any others produced by non-profit or governmental agencies in the United States.

The VR-51 Windjammers are currently involved in a home project in Waimanalo. The groundbreaking ceremony was completed in August and the home is scheduled for completion in approximately four months.

NSCS Honors Those Who Served First

Story and photo by Camille Branch, Navy Supply Corps School Public Affairs Correspondent

Though it is not Decoration Day 1868 at Arlington National Cemetery, the birthplace of the first celebration of what we now call Memorial Day, there are still many memories and celebrations that bring all branches of the service together.

At the Iris Place Assisted Living Retirement Home in Athens, Georgia, Ensigns Sean Black, Keith Copper, and Jeramie Jones of the Naval Supply Corps School shared in bringing back



ENS Sean Black, ENS Keith Capper, and ENS Jeramie Jones participate in a flag folding ceremony at a local retirement home

the residents themselves. The highlight of the morning was the solemn flag raising ceremony that was proudly carried out by the three officers. The flag was

lowered to the playing of taps, folded ceremoniously and then put away. A new flag was unfolded and run up the flagpole as the crowd looked on. Most of the veterans that viewed the ceremony were noticeably emotional.

National observance of the holiday still takes place at Arlington National Cemetery with the placing of a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. For those who cannot make pilgrimages to the national cemeteries and memorials it was done at Iris Place with great pride and patriotism.

those memories as they celebrated with those who served our country by joining in on a Memorial Day Breakfast and American flag raising ceremony.

The morning began with the young officers joining the retirees for breakfast and listening to old sea and war stories of those who had served. After the breakfast, they were treated to an a cappella version of the national anthem sung by

"We should give as we would receive, cheerfully, quickly, and without hesitation; for there is no grace in a benefit that sticks to the fingers."

-Seneca

Project Good Neighbor

Saipan Sailors Put Community 1st

By JOSA Timothy Niehay

Children have freshly painted hallways and newly remodeled classrooms at Brighton Elementary School (Portsmouth, Va.). The piers at Nauticus (Norfolk, Va.) are also a little brighter following the renovation of USS Justice (YP-678), a former U.S. Navy Yard Patrol training boat that now serves as a drug rehabilitation center for wayward teens.

What do these two things have in common?

Sailors from USS Saipan (LHA 2) took the time to pay back their community and make the world a better place. Saipan's Command Master Chief (SW/SS) Abe Jackson recently accepted the Virginia Partners in Education Community Outreach Award for the ship's dedication and effort to assisting both Brighton Elementary School and USS Justice.

"It was a pleasure and an honor to be allowed the distinction of representing the command for our award," admitted Jackson, who accepted the award in Washington D.C. on Nov. 20. "I am so proud that our Sailors went out and did the work that was desperately needed."

Winners of the award were selected based on various criteria, including: community involvement; consensus building; continuous improvement; overcoming challenges; and evidence of success.

Electrician's Mate 1st Class Nicholas Clemmons gives blood at the blood drive sponsored by the fast attack submarine USS Santa Fe (SSN 763). The demand for blood donations remains constant and volunteers were able to give the "gift of life" last week at the command sponsored blood drive.

U.S. Navy Photo



USS Saipan's (LHA 2) Command Master Chief (SW/SS) Abe Jackson (left) accepts the Virginia Association of Partners in Education Community Outreach Award.

After serving the local community for 45 years, Brighton Elementary School had fallen into a state of disrepair. Located in a low-income, high-crime area, the school didn't have money for needed

repair work like making electrical wiring up to code and painting the walls. That's when Saipan's Sailors stepped in. They came with such determination and motivation that they made over \$25,000 worth of renovations during the summer and into the school year.

"Sailors helped provide assistance after the initial need was fulfilled," explained Jackson. "They tutored the students and acted as positive role models."

During Saipan's partnership with Brighton in March 2001, another opportunity arose. The Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice needed assistance in renovating one of its private-provider correctional facilities – USS Justice (YP-678.) The ship is used by the Tidewater Environmental Program to assist non-violent male juvenile offenders (age 16-19) requiring substance abuse treatment.

Working in conjunction with the Chief Engineer of the Justice, Sailors from Saipan's Deck Department volunteered over 500 manhours sanding, painting and polishing the 80-foot vessel.

The men and women serving aboard USS Saipan look forward to giving something back to their surrounding neighbors and in a way, to each other.



NAVY Volunteer! 2003

Project Good Neighbor

A Day to Remember... A Day to Give Back

Story by Ellen Barker, Naval Hospital Charleston PAO and photos by HM2 Eric R. Rembert and HM3 Anthony A. Agard

After 9/11 there was a patriotic fervor, and Americans everywhere were giving their blood, their time, and their compassion to other Americans in need. That atmosphere of benevolence has always been present at Naval Hospital Charleston, but perhaps was intensified as a result of the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

Naval Hospital Charleston has several established programs that regularly provide services to the community. On the September 11th anniversary, 48 of the "usual" volunteers from Naval Hospital Charleston staff rolled up their sleeves and joined 4,300 other volunteers in the Charleston area to give back to the community. The Trident United Way sponsored this activity in which two hundred thirty one community projects across the city were completed in that one-day. Their mission was to take the raw emotions everyone felt and turn them into something positive for the community.

After an inspiring program at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center, the hospital volunteers split up to tackle two projects around the city. This diverse group of volunteers included nurses, corpsman, secretaries, administrators, facility maintenance workers, cooks, security guards, computer specialists, active duty, civilian, male, and female with one common goal: to give back to the community.

One group of 20 hospital volunteers spent the day deep cleaning the local Ronald McDonald House, a ha-

ven for families of seriously ill children. Kyle, the Program director, praised the volunteers for their hard work and noted what a great job they did at getting the house spick and span. She said the families would be "so happy to walk back into such a clean house."

The second group of 28 volunteers spent the day painting a historic wall around Memminger Elementary School

dampen their enthusiasm for the task at hand.

Several business leaders in the community had been renovating the "dirt" playground at the school to something much more aesthetic and functional for the children. Some of the volunteers even built new picnic tables on this day to add to their playground.

The principal, Ms. Ann Olinger said, "Naval Hospital Charleston did such a great job that we would love them to come next year and help again. The kids and teachers are so grateful for you painting the wall around our new playground. It really makes the playground stand out."

One of the local business leaders heading up the playground transformation said he's going to specifically ask for the Navy next year when September 11th rolls around. "You guys are the best"! Perhaps the finest praise came late in the

morning when a very young schoolboy tugged on the sleeve of one of the painters and said, "Ms. Lady, thank you for painting our wall. It looks really nice."



Volunteer Staff, Naval Hospital Charleston

in downtown Charleston. This wall was built in the late 1700's around the first Municipal Library in the Southern Colonies. The sweltering 95-degree heat didn't seem to slow down the volunteers or

Naval Hospital Charleston Staff volunteers painting the Historic Wall around Memminger School in Charleston, SC.



Project Good Neighbor

Marines Show Holiday Spirit in Washington City

Story and photos by Tony Popp, Community Relations

The downtown city of Oak Harbor, Wash., is decked out in green and red for the holidays thanks to the Marines here from Marine Aviation Training Support Group 53.

Over 30 Marines and some of their families volunteered recently to tie up fresh cedar garland and red bows in what has become a local tradition.

of the Marine Corps EA-6B Prowler community.

“Oak Harbor is grateful for the contributions, of not only their time in service, but their commitment to country and community,” said Todd Martin of the city’s Operation Decoration committee.



PFC Rebecca Jobe (left) ties up garland, while Cpl. Jesus Rivera (foreground at right) and Col. Steven Keim, MATSG 53 Commanding Officer, thread wire through red bows.

“Operation Decoration,” a committee of business leaders, received help from Marines with Electronic Attack Squadron 129, Naval Air Maintenance Training Unit and Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department. These Marines all come under the umbrella of MATSG 53 as part

The Oak Harbor Sunshine Rotary and Papa John’s Pizza showed their appreciation by donating coffee and donuts in the morning hours and pizzas for lunch.

Within four hours, the Marines had transformed downtown into a festive display. According to Martin, the committee’s goal is to “present a pleasant and enjoyable holiday atmosphere for our citizens and our visitors.” Over 40,000 people live in the Greater Oak Harbor area.

“Oak Harbor treats Whidbey Marines wonderfully, and this is a way we can give back to the community,” said Maj. Ken Devero, MATSG 53’s Executive Officer.



Downtown Oak Harbor is bedecked with fresh cedar garlands and red bows along Pioneer Way by NAS Whidbey Island Marines on Nov. 23. Volunteers pitching in are (from left) Staff Sgt. Rodney Watson, Staff Sgt. Benjamin Griffin (on ladder) and Staff Sgt. Darin Brown.



Benefits of volunteering

We all benefit

When you become part of our team, you have an opportunity to:

- support a cause you truly believe in
- apply your current skills and gain some new ones
- meet new people, make new friends and develop professional contacts
- feel the personal satisfaction of helping others
- make a difference in your own community

The rewards are as unique and personal as your reasons for wanting to volunteer.

Campaign Drug Free

Red Ribbon Tying Ceremony

Story and photo by JO2 Amy Warren, Kingsbay Public Affairs Office

Wearing red shirts and ribbons, students from Camden County schools met at Mary Lee Clark Elementary School to celebrate their pledge to live drug-free lives.

Joining the students to kick-off the 12th annual Red Ribbon Week, were representatives of the community, area law enforcement and Naval Submarine Base (NSB) Kings Bay.

As part the week-long drug prevention and awareness campaign, NSB and Navy Police sponsored a poster contest for 1st through 5th graders. This year's poster theme was "How I Stay Drug Free," and students at each grade level competed for first through fourth places. Navy Police personnel acted as judges and chose four winners from each Camden County school.

"Servicemembers are role models for the nation's youth and it's our responsi-

bility to be involved in these events, to set an example," said Kevin Andersen, Crime Prevention Coordinator. "We've



Red Ribbon poster contest winners from six Camden County Schools showed their awards in front of Mary Lee Clark Elementary School at a ceremony kicking-off Red Ribbon Week.

been involved in the poster contest for three years. It's a good way to communicate to the kids our anti-drug message. When a child hears our message and

sees our role models and decides, 'I'm not going to use drugs', that's important. That's a life we potentially saved and they are our future."

During the ceremony, NSB executive officer Cmdr. Mark Davis presented award certificates to the poster winners. Navy Police also provided a 'goody-bag' filled with anti-drug gear to each of the winners.

The annual poster contest is just one activity in the week-long anti-drug awareness campaign sponsored by NSB and Navy Police to educate kids on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

Red Ribbon Week, commemorates Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Camarena, who was kidnapped and murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico in 1985. It has since evolved into a broad national anti-drug awareness week involving thousands of schools, law enforcement and community organizations.

Free Program Helps Youth DEFY Drugs

By Ensign Paul Noel, Drug Education for Youth

In a time when many of our military members are forward deployed for Operation Enduring Freedom, our young Navy and Marine Corps family members more than ever are feeling the stress of having one or both parents placing themselves in harms way to protect our way of life. That stress can be one contributing factor in a youth's decision to experiment with illegal drugs or alcohol.

The Department of the Navy's Drug Education For Youth (DEFY) works to reduce the negative impacts of that stress. DEFY strengthens youth by providing them with the resistance and life skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs and crime. The free program also provides other important lessons on study skills, violence prevention, personal safety, diversity, conflict resolution and Internet safety.

"We greatly exceeded our goals

for expansion last year, and expect to have an even larger increase in the number of bases that provide the DEFY program this year," said DEFY Program Manager Timm Bentley. "In order to reach more youth, we need the help of military members, their spouses and civilian employees, who have the time and desire to make a difference in a child's life."

DEFY is offered at no cost to Navy and Marine Corps bases. The Department of the Navy funds both supplies and training for the program. Bentley said anyone interested in initiating the DEFY program on their base should contact the program office at (202) 433-3113 to learn how to get started.

DEFY provides positive role-model mentoring and community outreach to improve the quality of life of military personnel and their families. It is designed to produce graduates with character, leadership and confidence to engage in positive, healthy lifestyles as drug-free

citizens.

The year-long program includes a one-week summer leadership camp followed up by a year of mentorship. Both phases combine education on health, physical fitness, citizenship and life skills. It gives children the skills they need to grow up smart and strong in a world that can present them with a confusing array of choices.

DEFY also relies heavily on the involvement of parents, who receive information and resources such as referrals to other youth organizations and Internet safety.

"DEFY is not a replacement for parents," Bentley said. "It's a tool for parents to use to help their children realize their potential."

Since its beginning in 1993, more than 30,000 youth have graduated from the DEFY program. The DEFY website is located at www.hq.navy.mil/defy/.

Children Get DEFY-ant Attitude at NS Mayport

By JO1 Christopher E. Tucker, Naval Station Mayport Public Affairs

The problem of how to lower juvenile crime rates is one that most cities face, and Jacksonville is no exception.

The Florida State Attorney's Office, in cooperation with the Navy, established the DEFY (Drug Education For Youth) program in 1993 to help educate at-risk children about the dangers of drugs, crime and provide positive mentorship in their lives.

Naval Station Mayport was the site of this rigorous leadership camp for 40 Jacksonville inner-city youth recently as part of the DEFY Leadership Camp. The camp teaches conflict resolution, team-building exercises and leadership development to children between the ages of 9 and 12.

This is the fourth year NS Mayport has hosted a DEFY summer camp.

During the opening ceremony on July 15, Naval Station Mayport commanding officer Capt. Matthew Schellhorn offered the children words of encouragement.

"You are learning the same things the Navy teaches its Sailors and junior officers — discipline and leadership. You will be the future doctors, lawyers, teachers and commanding officers. I want each and every one of you to do the very best you can this week and listen to your mentors," Schellhorn said.

"The program is designed to give these children the tools necessary to deal with the things they will face next week, next month or even next year," said Ken Jefferson, a patrol officer with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

Jefferson served as the DEFY coordinator along with five patrolmen and correction officers who served as mentors for the camp. "These kids live in neighborhoods where there are needles. They go to sleep hearing gunshots, and some of them have parents who are incarcerated," he said. "They have a lot of negative influences in their lives. If we can save one of them, then we've accomplished something."

The DEFY program's track record shows that the program is saving more than just one child. Jefferson said the nationwide success rate is more than 50 percent.

During the week, children woke up at 6 a.m. to begin their daily routine of physical training, classroom instruction and participation in discussion groups. The children were also given a tour of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 44 and the Harbor Operations' C-Tractor.

"Captain Matthew Schellhorn has opened his arms to us. The DEFY program received overwhelming support from the Navy. We made use of the gym and the pool," said Jefferson.

Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Billy Williams, an NROTC instructor, taught the children how to march in formation and follow drill commands.

Similar to military training, children who weren't paying attention or were unfocused at any time during the camp ran laps around the gym or did push-ups.

Jefferson said after their children have spent a week at the leadership camp, parents are often stunned by the transformation.

"Monday morning these children were raw. Now they're a little more structured and disciplined. This was a good group of children. On Monday and Tuesday they hated my guts, but by Wednesday some of them were actually asking me when they could come back," Jefferson said.

This recent leadership camp is only Phase I of the DEFY program. Jefferson said the mentors stay in contact with the students throughout the year and encourage them to continue to set and meet personal goals.

They meet with the children and their parents at least once a month to follow their progress and check out their school grades.

"We get attached to them," Jefferson said. "This camp was only the beginning. We will be with them for the whole year. When the children get comfortable with their mentors, that's when we can work with each child on a personal level and teach them how to handle the things that are specific in their lives."

Jefferson said the DEFY Program is always looking for volunteers to help mentor and teach children.

DoD Honors Anti-Drug Fighters

Andre Hollis speaks at the opening ceremonies held at the Pentagon for Red Ribbon Week 2002. Hollis, deputy assistant defense secretary for counternarcotics, helped honor programs from all the services that worked to cut drug abuse in their local communities. Joining Hollis are (seated from left) Miss USA Shauntay Hinton, Peggy Sapp from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, and Texas Rep. Sylvestre Reyes.



Photo by Jim Garamone, AFPS.

DEFY says goodbye to 'The Flag Man'

By Ens. Paul Noel, DEFY Public Affairs

After seven years of dedicated volunteer service, the Department of the Navy's Drug Education For Youth (DEFY) program is bidding fair winds and following seas to one of its longest active volunteers.

Known to most as "The Flag Man," Chief Petty Officer Tony Zilar is passing on the torch to prepare for his own retirement next year.

The 37-year-old chief corpsman, stationed at Naval Submarine Base Bangor, Wa., will be leaving behind a long — and lasting — legacy with the DEFY program, said Navy/Marine Corps DEFY Program Manager Timm Bentley.

"The 'Our Flag' presentation that Chief Zilar developed has always been a very popular presentation," Bentley said. "No one else has made such a contribution to the DEFY curriculum."

DEFY is a two-phased prevention program for 9-to-12-year-old military dependants. It deters at-risk behaviors by giving youth the tools they need to resist drugs, gangs and alcohol.

Zilar became known as The Flag Man of DEFY in 1995 after he developed a presentation outlining the history and significance of Old Glory. The 30-minute inspirational presentation is being developed into a video that will be added to the curriculum of DEFY programs throughout the world.

"It will be nice to leave a legacy," Zilar said. "I can't think of anything nicer to be one to continue to teach kids about the American flag and what it is to be an American."

Zilar developed the presentation as an assignment in his local DEFY team

leader training. "We were given a topic to research and deliver to the other team leaders," he said. "I've always had an interest in, and have been involved in researching the history of Old Glory."

After he made his presentation, one of the volunteers raised her hand and gave Zilar his title. "So I became The Flag Man," Zilar added.

Today, Zilar delivers the "Our Flag" presentation more than 30 times a year



HMC Tony Zilar, also known as the "Flag Man," help instruct children during a summer DEFY program.

at formal gatherings, retirements, community association meetings and many other events.

"It's probably one of the strongest pieces that promotes citizenship," Bentley said. "It gives an understanding of how we got where we are and the sacrifices made along the way. I hope youth continue to see the sacrifices we have to make and learn that most never stop making sacrifices to keep our country free."

In his seven years of service, Zilar has had a lasting, positive effect on hundreds of children and is often recognized by parents and youth on bases throughout the world.

"I'm amazed at how many times I've come across familiar faces," he said. "I can't always remember the names, but I

always remember their faces."

Three of Zilar's five children have also graduated from the DEFY program. Two have gone on to become junior staff members.

Zilar said DEFY has been worth setting aside much of his off-duty time to be involved. "It's been thousands of hours really," he added. "That's as close as I can come is to say 'thousands.'"

Bentley said Zilar has consistently been a leader in the efforts of DEFY.

"He's always strived to make sure every program he's been involved with has been exceptional," Bentley said. "Tony has made many sacrifices and spent a considerable amount of time away from his own family to help other families stay strong and ready for the future."

Zilar adds that he has been greatly rewarded for his efforts.

"DEFY has been very much a challenge to me, but one of the most rewarding challenges I've ever done," he said. "It gives opportunities for growth as a Naval leader and opportunities for sailors to have a dramatic impact on children throughout the world. If anyone wants to give to their community, DEFY is No. 1 in my book."

Since its beginning in 1993, more than 25,000 youth have graduated from the DEFY program. The DEFY website is located at www.hq.navy.mil/defy.

Do It Now.
I expect to pass through this world
but once.
Any good thing, therefore, that I
can do or any
kindness I can show to any fellow
human being let
me do it now.
Let me not deter nor neglect it; for I
shall not pass
this way again.
Stephen Grellet

Navy Sailors Build Future for Filipino Students

By Lt. Leslie Hull-Ryde

Students at the San Miguel Elementary school located in San Miguel, Philippines, learned some of life's lessons while children swayed to the sounds of a U.S. Navy band, and bees – Seabees that is – swarmed the campus.

The school of almost 350 needed major repairs to a three-room classroom area and to the bathroom facilities. So a combined U.S. and Philippine Navy team of almost 50 construction men, known as Seabees, marched onto the schoolyard and started refurbishing the facility.

The U.S. Navy band, Orient Express, from Yokosuka, Japan performed while Seabees from Mobile Construction Battalion 1 out of Gulfport, Miss., worked with their host nation counterparts. Together, they installed new windows, a new roof, laid new tile and put in new toilets.

"The Philippines is in dire need of school buildings. Only American can support with materials," said Builder Chief Reynoldo Morales, of the Philippine Navy.

While the two navies buzzed around making the improvements, the students and faculty expressed their gratitude.

"We are lucky to have the Seabees here," said Lina R. Pascasio, principal. "If the children are in a beautiful classroom, the learning is more pleasant, lasting and comfortable."

But English, math and science aren't the only lessons the students are learning.

Pascasio says that before the United States closed its naval base in Subic Bay, approximately 45 minutes from the school, Americans donated some supplies. Since then the students haven't seen Americans on the campus.

"They are now so happy and excited to see Americans," she says. "They are instilling in our pupils the value of hard work. They are working so neatly and



Photo by PH1 Kim McLendon, USNR

CM2(SCW) Mike Williams holds a board in place while CECN(SCW) Gregory Pomorski nails it in for a dropped ceiling at To God be the Glory orphanage in the Philippines.

orderly, and they start so early. Our students can see the dignity and the cooperation between the U.S. and Philippine Navy."

The Seabees sailed into the Philippines mid-July for an annual exercise known as Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training. CARAT takes place in six Southeast Asian nations every summer. The Philippines is the last stop in the series.

The Navy's premier bilateral exercise series aims to increase interoperability, enhance regional cooperation and strengthen military-to-military ties. It also gives United States Sailors and Marines the chance to learn from their shipmates in the Western Pacific Region.

"It's good to do something for the kids but it helps me learn about different cultures and how different Seabees operate and do construction," says SW3 (SCW) Kevin Green from Monroe, N.Y.

"The Seabees here are a lot like us. They're big on safety. They use masks and gloves and wear hard hats. And they are very thorough and don't cut corners."

A 35-year veteran Seabee in the Philippine Navy says he's grateful for the CARAT exchange which exposes his team of 30 to modern techniques and equipment that "are vital for the improvement of our country."

Builder Chief Reynoldo Morales studied in the States with some of his American counterparts. He says he's learned a lot but believes the Americans can take something back to Mississippi with them.

"Filipinos are innovative. Even if they don't have modern tools and equipment, they can do the work because of their innovations. We can teach that."

Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.

~ Adlai Stevenson

Overseas Diplomacy

LINCOLN Sailors' Smiles Touch Little Ones

Story by Lt. Vic Lopez and Lt. Leslie Hull-Ryde.
Photos by PHC T.V. Kelly

The uniforms had to go. So they shed their dungarees and coveralls for more outrageous clothing.

At least a couple of them did.

More than 20 Sailors aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) volunteered to spend their off-duty time with some of Singapore's youth.

On a regularly scheduled port visit to the Lion City, the crew introduced Pockets, their shipmate, to youngsters at Gracehaven Children's Home here.

ABH1 Jeff Taylor normally spends his time moving aircraft while underway. But in port, he's part of the crew's clown troupe and entertains locals with his antics.

"This is my second time visiting Gracehaven. The first time was in 1995," said Taylor. "I was serving aboard the Lincoln then as well. I specifically redeployed aboard the Lincoln because of the clown troupe."

While on deployment, the shipboard showmen have visited thousands of children in Hong Kong, Singapore and Kuwait. Right now, the entertainers have 10 Sailors who volunteer for the goofy group.

"We all want to make some sort of impact that would be of a positive nature," said Taylor.

The troupe brought smiles to children, ages 2 – 17 at Gracehaven. The Salvation Army manages the facility funded by the Government of Singapore. The staff at Gracehaven gives almost 200 kids a safe living environment, meals and counseling.

Most residents come from broken homes. Some have been physically or sexually abused.

"We especially appreciate visits from the U.S. Sailors, because it gives the children a chance to experience mature people from a different country," said Philip Chua, operations manager. "Such interactions also help impart good moral values, build rapport and create friendships that provide our residents a well-balanced perspective on what's beyond these walls."

The carrier clowns and their shipmates played games and entertained the folks at Gracehaven Children's Home for more than four hours. Their fun approach brought laughs from even the shyest resident.

"Port visits are more than just shopping sprees and local eateries. Through community relations projects, we meet more people and

have a chance to interact with them.

"It's part of really seeing the world through another's eyes," said SK3 Sanna Masanz.

Community outreach programs like the visit to Gracehaven give Sailors a chance to spend time with kids who are often the same ages as the Sailors' little ones back home.

When on deployment, active duty members miss out on sharing special moments with their families. Children like those at Gracehaven help fill the void.

Lt. Cmdr. William Milan, Lincoln's chaplain, is a foster parent for youngsters very much like those at Gracehaven. He and his wife adopted 16 children in the United States.

"When my wife and I get a chance to settle down for a few years, we definitely want to get back to being foster parents again. The need is tremendous and all these children want is someone to give them attention and above all love."



ABH1 Jeff Taylor, also known as Pockets, puts on his makeup as a child from the Gracehaven Children's Home watches while in port visit in Singapore. Taylor is a member of a Sailor clown troupe aboard the Lincoln. The group has entertained children in Hong Kong, Singapore and Kuwait.



A clown troupe made up of Sailors off USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) volunteer to entertain youngsters at the Gracehaven Children's Home while in port visit in Singapore.

UNITAS Sailors Volunteer at Brazilian School

By Lt. j.g. Ligia Cohen, COMUSNAVSO Public Affairs

There is a unique sense of duty in the character of Sailors who, after pulling into premiere tourist destinations around the world, make it a priority to volunteer for a community relations project.

Not surprisingly, this trait also is common among the crews of USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51) and USS Simpson (FFG 56) who, after spending more than three weeks at sea, volunteered their time to help improve a Brazilian school where more than 4,000 children attend.

"We had more volunteers than we could transport," said Lt.j.g. Alyssa Farrell from the staff of Commander Destroyer Squadron Six, based in Pascagoula, Miss. "The 45-passenger bus was packed, and some of the volunteers had to remain standing for the ride."

At the community relations site, the crew promptly organized into teams and distributed tasks. The goal this time was to paint eight classrooms and install new doors at the Municipal School Georg

Pfisterer. The school, located in the heart of the popular Leblon neighborhood, is undergoing a large renovation, and the school officials were glad to receive the extra help.

"I do it (volunteer) in every port I can," said Stoorkeeper 3rd Class Luis Chaves, a Thomas S. Gates crewmember from New Orleans. "It's a great way to mingle with local people and learn about them, while at the same time helping out."

Community relations projects all over Latin America are sponsored by Commander, U.S. Naval Forces South (COMUSNAVSO) as a way to foster friendship and understanding between U.S. service members and the communities they visit. The U.S. ships visited Rio de Janeiro as part of UNITAS, the largest naval exercise in the region.

During the exercise, U.S. Sailors have the opportunity not only to sharpen their military skills and improve interoperability with neighboring naval forces, but also to become goodwill ambassadors.

"This is my first community relations project," said Quatermaster 3rd Class David Berrios, a Bronx, N.Y., native serving aboard Simpson. "I became interested in participating in a community relations project, because I always heard my peers' positive comments when they came back from one. I wanted to experience that same feeling."



QMSN Aurora Rodriguez and FC3 Michael Coker join the students playing traditional Brazilian music.

When the volunteers took a break for lunch, they were surprised by their host's hospitality. They enjoyed a generous lunch with all the local treats and the music of the school percussion group.

"It was great to share their food and listen to the kids play traditional Brazilian tunes," said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class David Garey from Queens, N.Y.

Other Sailors like Quartermaster Seaman Aurora Rodriguez from Homestead, Fla., and Fire Controlman 3rd Class Michael Coker from San Antonio, decided to try their skills at the drums, joining the musical group.

After the break, the crew returned to their brushes and rollers to complete the project. With a new coat of paint, the classrooms became a more inviting place for the students.

At the end of the day, these Sailors had the satisfaction of a job well done and the reward of a better understanding of the rich Brazilian culture. In a country where material goods are not abundant, the keen generosity and friendliness of locals was a wonderful gift.



NC1 (SW) Lejeune D. Chute of Myrtle Beach, S.C., holds the ladder as DK3 Christopher Glass of Dallas trims a classroom wall at the municipal School Georg Pfisterer.

Overseas Diplomacy

Hawk/5 Sailors Give Back to Hong Kong Community

By Lt. j.g. Nicole Kratzer, Carrier Air Wing 5 Public Affairs

For most Sailors, a port call is a great opportunity to experience local culture, shopping and entertainment.

Some, however, prefer spending their time giving back to the community they are visiting. Many of the Sailors from USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5 did just that Dec. 2 at the Hong Kong Ronald McDonald House.

According to Airman Patrick Farmer, of Hawk's Weapons Department, performing community service in port makes deployments worthwhile.

"After all the stress you've been through on cruise, being able to give someone a hand helps you put things back into perspective," said Farmer.

The Sailors spent the day doing various tasks including raking leaves, trimming garden plants, sweeping an outside play area, cleaning the industrial-size kitchen, washing windows, scrubbing walls, painting ceilings and reorganizing an outside storage area.

The Hong Kong Ronald McDonald House, operated by a not-for-profit organization, only has a small staff of five and needs the help of volunteers to keep the house running smoothly. Katy Lo, the house manager, noted that she relies heavily on the local community and the Navy to provide volunteer services.

"We get groups from the Navy about every two to three months. They are such a big help to us and work so efficiently," said Lo. "They are able to do big jobs that our other volunteers can't do on a daily basis."

The Ronald McDonald House acts as a "home away from home" for the families of children receiving long-term care at the Prince of Wales hospital in nearby Shatin.

The 20-bedroom facility gives the families a private bedroom equipped with air-conditioning and a private bathroom. There are also several common areas, including a living room, kitchen, laundry room, library and game room. Any child under the age of 18 receiving care is eligible for a room at the house. Families pay only a nominal fee of HK\$70 a night, which is equivalent to approximately US\$9.

After all of their hard work, the Sailors were able to have a little playtime with the children. A heavily contested game of balloon volleyball was followed by some one-on-one instruction on an Etch-a-Sketch and hand-held fishing game.

"I love being able to play with the kids," said Dental Technician 3rd Class Kadia McKenzie. "It's so rewarding to give someone a better place to live."

Second Class Effort, First Class Success

By Journalist 1st Class Catherine Roberts, Naval Media Center Broadcast Detachment Souda Bay

The hard work and generosity of Souda Bay's 2nd Class Petty Officer's Association (POA) is making winter more comfortable for needy families in Chania, a city located near Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay in Crete.

Boxes placed in a variety of locations on base provided a place for Souda Bay personnel to drop off non-perishable food items and gently-used clothing. In approximately two months, supplies were gathered by the association and then donated to the Chania Red Cross.

"We're not at home, but you have to make a home where you are," said Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (FMF) John Richardson, the president of NSA Souda Bay's 2nd Class POA. "Times are tough everywhere, at home and abroad, and it's times like this when those who can should step up and give of themselves."

Georgia Papadakis, the director of the Chania City Red Cross, was appreciative when POA members were loading the donations into the Red Cross' storage areas.

"These supplies come at a wonderful time," said Mrs. Papadakis. "Many new migrant families have been found on the outskirts of Chania and are in dire need of food, clothing and medical attention."

Richardson said he hoped the people of Crete see these actions as a way to build a more cohesive relationship with Americans.



Photo by PH1 Kim McLendon, USNR

Cpl. Patrick Tippett, left, and Cpl. Ryan Tatum, both from the Marine contingent, known as Landing Force CARAT, volunteer their time to work on the roof of the Special Education Center for the Gifted School in the Philippines.

Overseas Diplomacy

Blue Ridge Sailors Volunteer in 'Awesome' Community Project

By Lithographer's Mate 2nd Class Christopher I. Bush, USS Blue Ridge Public Affairs

More than 40 USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) volunteers joined forces with South Korea residents recently for a beach and shoreline environmental clean up.

The community service project began in Chinhae with Sailors presenting 28 boxes of Project Handclasp clothing to donate to the Chinhae City Volunteer Center.

City hall and local community leaders greeted and commended the Sailors for their selfless efforts.

"We are happy to see you here," said Park In-Sook, the Chinhae Volunteer Center's director. "Your donations help the poorer members of our community more than you will ever know, and the clean up helps our coastline stay beautiful."

Following the clothing presentation, the Blue Ridge volunteers joined community center member volunteers for a Chinhae city shoreline cleanup. Yeoman 3rd Class (SW) Jesse Seward said the interaction with the Korean volunteers was a great opportunity for Sailors to show they care.

"This is great," said Seward. "The cleanup work is hard, but the opportunity

to talk to the Koreans and show them what being a U.S. Sailor is really all about — that is what makes community service awesome."

After removing debris and collecting trash from over a mile of Chinhae city coastline, the Sailors got together to share water and talk with the community volunteers. Mr. Lee Yong-Ho, a Chinhae Lion's Club representative who coordinates many of the community service projects with U.S. service members, was impressed with hard work of all the volunteers.

"I always enjoy seeing the smiling faces of service members when they come here to help," Mr. Yong-Ho said. "They make us feel so special and we (Sailors and city volunteers) both believe these activities are so important for our countries."

Blue Ridge volunteer Chief Dental Technician (SW) Leroy James said the community service and Project Handclasp activities help all involved.

"Through the collective efforts of our Sailors and Korean volunteers, the city has been given a new lease on life," James said.

"It may not be something that has an immediate effect, but will have some impact in the future. The Project Handclasp items donated to the center will help someone in need and make the quality of their life better," said James. "The environmental clean up helps future generations of Chinhae citizens enjoy a safer and cleaner city. The Sailor volunteers can take pride in saying Blue Ridge Sailors helped make these things happen."

Sailors assigned to the amphibious command ship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) volunteer with local Korean nationals in an Environmental Cleaning Campaign as part of a community relations (COMREL) project conducted during Exercise Ulchi Focus Lens (UFL) 2002.

U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Crystal Brooks.



Seabees Return to Senegal

Story and photo by SW2 Bernard J. Raynor

On April 9th Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVEN (NMCB-7) sent 32 Seabees to Dakar, Senegal on a Deployment For Training (DFT). This is the first time the Seabees have been to Dakar since 1996. The DFT departed for Senegal on behalf of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and the SECOND Naval Construction Brigade. These good will ambassadors were tasked with the construction of a 3,000 square foot clinic for the local community and with a 5,000 square foot exercise reception and staging facility.



BU3 Larry Hayes places the first course of masonry block for a humanitarian Clinic being constructed in Senegal, Africa.

The humanitarian clinic included the demolition of an existing structure. The Seabees teamed with Senegalese Army Engineers and the clinic project proved to be a learning opportunity for both. This was in part because Senegalese construction methods differ in many ways from U.S. methods. Examples included unfinished lumber and concrete masonry unit blocks that were never alike. Seabees also overcame abnormalities with local material types. Additionally, the French and Wolaff language barriers were among more challenging experiences. Neither these nor the many other hurdles DFT Senegal faced were insurmountable and the crew delivered quality facilities to our friends in Senegal ahead of schedule.

Sailors and Marines provide humanitarian relief to Ecuadorian school

By JO1 Phil Beaufort

The coastal mountains lining the Pacific Ocean in Ecuador bear a striking similarity to central and northern California. As with California, the continental rift shelves quickly and the dark blue waters absorb much of the tropical heat along the coast.

Situated on a mountainous portion of the coastline sits the small fishing village of San Lorenzo. Most of the roughly 500 residents are subsistence fishermen and farmers, constructing their homes out of a mixture of bamboo slates, thatch roofs and cinder blocks. Domestic pigs, chickens and donkeys wander the dirt streets and truck gardens, while villagers complete their daily tasks.

At the village's elementary school, Escuela Fiscal Mixta Teodoro Wolf No.72, four teachers devote their time to the education of close to 200 students. The school relies heavily on the local community for all its teaching supplies and building maintenance, which is why the school's director, Enrique Zenon Rivera was pleased to find out that his school had been chosen for humanitarian assistance from the military.

"Anytime we need help fixing, or building something for the school, we have to go to the parents for it," said Rivera. "The government only pays the salaries of the teachers and contributes a small portion for the children's school meals."

When an Ecuadorian Naval officer came to the school and asked what type of help he could use around the school, the idea that American service members from Little Creek, Va., and Camp Lejeune, N.C., were arriving to repair his school was the last thing in his mind. It wasn't until USS PORTLAND (LSD-37) arrived in Manta and sent an advance team to the project site that Professor Rivera learned American Sailors and Marines would be conducting all the work.

Close to 30 Navy and Marine Corps volunteers spent the day making critical electrical repairs and painting the exterior of the entire school. While the buildings were made of concrete and structurally sound, the school didn't have the funding or the manpower to take care of those specific problems.

According to Petty Officer 1st Class Todd McIntire, an electronic warfare specialist from Ceresco, Neb., the biggest issue was electrical. "The electrical circuit breakers really needed replacing. There were scorch marks from previous electrical flare-ups and a lot of the wiring was obviously done by someone without electrical training," he said.

After spending the morning making electrical repairs Chief Petty Officer Leonard Watrin, an electronics technician from Riverside, Calif., assisted one of the instructors teaching English.

"We didn't have very much time, and the lesson was very basic, but the kids were very responsive and willing to learn," said Watrin. "To be honest, I would have enjoyed spending the entire day teaching. It was a rewarding experience and I hope to have similar opportunities in the future."

"This is the second project I've been on since we left on deployment, and I'm looking forward to any others the ship has planned," said Cpl. Andrew Hunsicker, a member of the II Marine Expeditionary Force.

"The cities we've pulled in to have been really nice, but you don't get a real feel for these countries unless you're able to get away from the ports and visit these small towns," added Hunsicker. "It's like a foreign ship pulling into New York Harbor; yea you'll see New York, but that's not the heartland of America."

When these Sailors and Marines return home, they will have gained not only some valuable training but also the experience of touching many lives as they circumnavigate South America.

ET1(SW/SS) Craig Daniel Elstak of USS Vincennes volunteers his time to speak about life in the Navy and uses his uniform as a prop for the children at the Special Education Center for the Gifted School in the Philippines. He and 1,400 other Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen were in the Philippines for the annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training exercises. CARAT, the Navy's premier bilateral exercise series, takes place in six Southeast Asian nations. CARAT aims to increase interoperability; enhance regional cooperation and strengthen military relationships.

Photo by PH1 Kim McLendon, USNR



Overseas Diplomacy

USS Champion Paints Puerto Vallarta "Red"

By LTJG Grayson Burnette

USS Champion (MCM 4), currently deployed to the Eastern Pacific, recently conducted a port visit to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Although the port is a well-known tourist spot, it wasn't all fun and games. Eleven Sailors from Champion helped a local elementary school renovate their playground.

"We painted 30 play tires with bright colors, 2 slides, 2 swing sets, a play area perimeter wall, a flower bed border and a wall area with white wash and sealer," said Champion's Command Chief, MNC Cecil Fish. Even though it was hard work, "the guys had a great time. At first we thought we were going to have kids with different bright colors all over their white school uniforms, but we cut them off at the pass," managing to keep the children at a safe distance until the paint had an opportunity to dry.

Community relations projects such as the one Champion undertook in Puerto Vallarta has been an important part of the U.S. Navy's port visit policy.

"There is no better way to foster camaraderie, friendship, and good will between the U.S. Navy and the local community than through this type of program," says LCDR Phil Roos, Champion's Commanding Officer. "The community opens their door to you and you get to give something back."

Navy Region Lends Hand South of the Border

By Journalist 2nd Class David Van Scoy, Navy Region Southwest Public Affairs

Since 1962, Project Handclasp has allowed Sailors to give gifts to disadvantaged people of foreign countries while representing the citizens of the United States.

Although most Project Handclasp efforts are conducted overseas, more than 80 Navy Region Southwest (NRSW) Sailors made the short journey to Tijuana, Mexico, last week to give medical and school supplies, toys, food and other gifts to the Casa Hogar Belen A.C. Orphanage.

"The (children) are very happy," said Antonia Barajas, the orphanage director, "This is like an early Christmas."

After giving the supplies to the orphanage, Sailors rolled up their sleeves and painted the building and planted sod. Because grass is very scarce in the area, the sod seemed to be a hit with some children.

The rest of the yard is concrete, with the exception of a small playground with a rusty swing-set, slide and monkey bars.

Many Sailors couldn't grasp the idea of people living in such impoverished conditions so close to home.

"It saddened me to think people actually could live in these conditions, considering the conditions I grew up in were much, much better," said Storekeeper 2nd Class Nicole Japp.

The children played with their new toys, as the Sailors worked hard at trying to get the orphanage back into shape. When the work was done, it was time for the Sailors to play. The children were eager to share their new toys and talk.

Although many of the Sailors didn't speak Spanish, it was easy to communicate with the children. After all, they didn't need to be bilingual to kick a soccer ball or show the children how to rollerskate or skateboard.

After the three-day event was complete, the Sailors and children enjoyed a carne asada barbecue and quality play time.

Capt. Jessie Tate, Navy Region Southwest chaplain, traveled to the orphanage to lend his support. He said the Navy's spirit of giving doesn't only happen around Christmas time.

"I think it's an all year thing," said Tate. "I believe once you put the word out that a need exists, the people of goodwill and intentions will roger up."

NRSW Command Master Chief Kevin Licursi said the relationship with the orphanage has just begun.

"What we're going to do is continue this process," he said. "Navy Region Southwest's intentions are to adopt the orphanage. We will come down here quarterly to continue to do community relations projects."

SERVICE PROJECT IDEAS: Everyone Can Do Something

- Volunteer at a local food bank or food preparation organization to prepare meals for those in need.
- Deliver meals to homebound seniors or individuals with disabilities.
- Organize a community discussion between various religious or ethnic groups to promote cross-cultural dialogue and understanding.
- Offer volunteer support to local fire, police, and health departments.
- Visit a nursing home or homebound elder. Give those that might be living in isolation an outlet for discussion and support.
- Take a First Aid/CPR course to prepare yourself to respond in an emergency. If you are already trained, organize a course at your place or work, neighborhood center, or house of worship to teach others these life saving skills.

Cowpens Sailors Help Typhoon Cleanup Efforts in Korea

By Lt. j.g. Douglas Thompson, USS Cowpens Public Affairs

The relief effort to help clean up from the devastation of Typhoon Rusa in Tonghae, South Korea, received a lift when 75 Sailors from USS Cowpens (CG 63) volunteered to help the cause.

The typhoon, which dropped more than 27 inches of rain in the region, caused nearly \$1.5 million in damage to the small coastal town.

When the call came for help, Cowpens Sailors were more than ready. The response was so overwhelming that additional transportation was arranged so that more Sailors could attend.

"I was amazed at the response that I received from the crew," exclaimed Lt. Ronald Pettigrew, Cowpens' command chaplain, who was responsible for coordinating the event. "It was wonderful to see how much our Sailors want to help."

The effort concentrated on helping to restore the many houses in the Tong Ho Dong area of Tonghae that were damaged by the extensive rains and floods. The storm drove more than 14,000 people from their homes.

"The damage was very extensive," said Storekeeper Seaman George Haymons. "The locals seemed very glad to have our help."

The efforts gave the Sailors a chance to work side-by-side with the Republic of Korea Navy. During the cleanup, a great sense of teamwork and camaraderie formed between the two groups of Sailors, with some trading hats with one another and an impromptu soccer game breaking out during the lunch break.

"It was fun to meet and work with the Sailors from Korea," said Cryptologic Technician 1st Class Jody Wilson. "They were really friendly and very happy to have us there."

The day ended with Rear Admiral Kwon, Commander, 1st Fleet, Republic of Korea Navy visiting the area.

After surveying the area and the work of the Korean navy and Cowpens crew, he embraced Chaplain Pettigrew and stated: "Please relay to your captain, your crew and your Navy, our thanks. It is in times like this that you find out who your friends are."

"Words cannot express how happy it makes me to see the American Sailors here to help us," said a tearful Mr. Won Jae Yeong, a local resident, through an interpreter, "it was wonderful to have you all here."

CPO Selectees Lend a Hand, Ease a Burden

By Journalist 1st Class Janet M. Davis, USS Kitty Hawk Public Affairs

Armed with lawn mowers, rakes and plenty of sunscreen, the 38 USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) FY-03 chief petty officer selectees braved the weeds and underbrush recently at nearby Misono Orphanage in Yokosuka, Japan to help ease the burden of yard work and construction projects for the resident staff.

"We are so thankful to the Sailors who come to do this work," said Sister Kasugai Kazuko, as translated by Yeoman 3rd Class Ted Uyeno, of Hawk's engineering department. "We are obligated to accomplish this work as well as take care of the children. When the Sailors do this work for us, we can put our focus on the children."

The work at the orphanage included repairing a wooden safety rail along a path leading up a steep hill, as well as clearing brush and mowing the large hilly area surrounding the orphanage. This is the first time the orphanage has been part of the selectees' initiation process, but not the first time Hawk Sailors have volunteered to help here.

"Sailors volunteer to come out here

annually through the chaplain's community service program," said project coordinator Chief Aviation Maintenance Administrationman (AW/SW) Martin Snowden, of Hawk's aircraft intermediate maintenance department.

"Most of these guys have done this before. But for the small percentage that haven't, this will help them understand what their junior personnel want to do when they volunteer. This is some serious work," he said.

In addition to understanding why community involvement is important for their Sailors, many of the newly selected chiefs also gained personal fulfillment.

"This gives us a chance to show that there are Sailors who do care about this community and want to help out in any way we can," said Chief Operations Specialist select (SW/AW) Kenneth Debnam, of Hawk's operations department. "We get a chance to make a positive difference."



U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Jo Wilbourn.

(From left to right) Operations Specialist Chief (Selectee) Michael Burslie, Electrician's Mate Chief (Selectee) Cesar G. Lopez and Electrician's Mate Chief (Selectee) Jose L. Santos from USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) trim and discard excess vegetation at the Misono Orphanage playground.

USS McClusky Refurbishes a Church in Lima, Peru

By Lt.j.g. Brandon D. Clements

In the Navy, service to the United States frequently takes a form recognized often enough as an operational function of the military. However, just like landing aircraft, just like launching missiles or just like hunting subs - helping others less fortunate than those of us is a viable, active operation of today's Navy.

Onboard the guided missile frigate USS McClusky (FFG 41), home ported in San Diego, Navy Sailors openly embrace this strategic mindset. Service to communities around the world in need of assistance has become a hallmark of the frigate's current deployment to the Eastern Pacific. The McClusky sailors not only welcome opportunities to serve others in need - but seek them out. It takes a person of special internal makeup to sacrifice valued liberty time - especially while deployed - and answer a society's call for help. When the call came from the United States Embassy in Lima, Peru, once again McClusky sailors were anxious to answer with an emphatic "we will be there."

Overcast skies coupled with a dusty haze surrounded the McClusky volunteers as they arrived at their objective. Before them stood a church, in an impoverished district of Lima - a church that had yet to be completely constructed, was lacking paint, and generally, was in a state of disarray. As the volunteers included no prior stonemasons, roofers or construction workers of any kind, a thoughtful pause came over the group. Perhaps the task may exceed the resources of the group?

Trepidation quickly faded as Cmdr. Gary Parriott, McClusky commanding officer, and Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Hesser, executive officer, led their excited group of volunteers out of the van and armed themselves. The few available rollers and paintbrushes coupled with leadership and infectious, abundant enthusiasm was more than a match for the task at hand. Fortunately for the McClusky volunteers, stonework was not part of their tasking,

but painting and refurbishing a classroom, office space, and several outer walls were. A perfect mission for those well versed with painting and cleaning - as most sailors are.

Another fortunate factor in the success of the project was the presence of painting experts. When Lt. Ben Allbritton, operations officer, and BM1(SW) Allen Cordova emerged with a talented group of boatswain mates and deck seamen - those poor, unpainted church walls and classrooms didn't stand a chance. There may be no group of men better suited for such a project than a group led by boatswain mates - who, some say, happen to know a thing or two about painting. Seaman Apprentice Darkis Vaughn, and Seaman Apprentice Kenneth Wilburn, were two of the stand-out sailors who offered their talents to McClusky's COMREL (community relations project). Painting consumes their daily lives so their choices of liberty activities typically do not involve a paintbrush, but the duo agreed the experience was fun and satisfying - especially since they were not using "haze grey."

BM2 Michael Nelson also offered his time and expertise to the cause. This was not his first COMREL project, but it was as memorable as his efforts to rebuild a storage house in Italy a few years ago.

"I'm very proud of the work we did in Lima," said Nelson. "This kind of project supports the U.S. Navy's mission of being a forward presence around the world."

"Even though I ended up covered in paint, working on this project was a great experience for me," said Seaman Apprentice Darvel Connell, an operations specialist. "The COMREL not only strengthened the volunteers' personal friendships - but also the friendship between the United States and Peru. It made me feel good to know the children would come to school the next day, and feel better about their classroom as well as their church."

Every sailor involved hoped this was to be but one of many opportunities to serve others. The experience left a lasting impression not only on the citizens of the community - but more importantly, instilled a sense of pride in the participating sailors that will ensure their continued participation.

COMREL projects provide opportunities for sailors to share their service with other communities.

"Serving overseas communities changes misconceptions, and improves the United States' - as well as the Navy's - image around the world," said ENC(SW) Anthony Taitague. "Small contributions can make dramatic impacts in the eyes of a less fortunate society."

In a few short hours, McClusky sailors not only refurbished classrooms and a church, but also the hearts and minds of children and families witnessing their service. Many of the Peruvians at the event expressed a renewed sense of respect for the efforts of McClusky, and the United States. Serving in the United States Navy is a gateway to serving those in need, through defense of borders, humanitarian missions, and even painting a local church. Efforts such as these, whether large or small, continue to add to the United States' contributions to the worldwide human family.



Overseas Diplomacy

IF CARAT Doctors Make World of Difference to Malaysian Village

Story and photos by: Cpl. Glen R. Springstead, Combat Correspondent, III MEF

Marines and Sailors from Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training conducted a medical and dental civic action project with members of the Malaysian Army Medical Corps at Paloh Nilai, Malaysia.

From the moment the U.S. trucks rolled into the small village, curious townspeople peered out of their homes. As the servicemembers began off-loading supplies and setting up a makeshift hospital, a small crowd started to form, consisting mostly of children acting as the village reconnaissance team. Realizing that the Marines and Sailors meant no harm, the kids began inspecting the large green supply crates and the camouflage clad workers, eager to gain knowledge of the town's new visitors.

The weathered faces of the townspeople told the story of the long days spent working tirelessly in the fields to bring food to the families' tables. The small isolated village is nestled within the rolling hills of Malaysia, where the townspeople collectively work the palm tree fields and collect the trees' nuts, which are processed to produce palm oil.

As U.S. and Malaysian servicemembers worked side by side to finish off-loading their vehicles, the build-

ing that was once known as town hall was in minutes transformed into a fully functional medical facility before the waiting patients' eyes.

"We had a really good interaction between the U.S. Navy medical side and the Malaysian Army," said Tacoma, Wash., native Petty Officer Isidoro Dacquel, U.S. Navy corpsman, L Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division. "It reflected good relations with the community. A lot of people don't have any idea why we are here, or how the U.S. military functions, and I think this said a lot for us."

The new 'hospital for a day' included three dental stations, examination tables, a patient recovery section, a pharmacy, and a waiting room for the patients to relax until it was their turn to be seen.

Immediately upon completing the setup of their stations, the docs went to work examining patients for their upcoming procedures. The screened dental patients were seated down in a dentist chair and their teeth were thoroughly cleaned. During the cleaning their problem areas were recorded by the dental technicians for the dentists to study and plan the needed procedures.

Pulling teeth and drilling and filling cavities, the dentists worked through patient after patient expediently leaving townspeople with gauze-filled smiles.

On the medical side, doctors sat down with patients and reviewed their medical histories and current health problems and prescribed medication. No medical procedures were required with the towns-



Manhattan, N.Y., native Navy Lt. Emme Wong, dentist, LF CARAT, applies Novocain to a local Malaysian youngster's mouth before removing a decayed tooth at a medical and dental civic action project in Paloh Nilai, Malaysia.

people, just prescriptions of antibiotics, ointments, vitamins, and over-the-counter medications to help with minor injuries, aches and sore muscles and joints from long days of working the fields.

In the end, the combined team of Malaysian and U.S. doctors treated more than 150 townspeople and built a strong friendship with the people that will last for years to come.

"Most of these people don't get to see the real U.S. military, all they know is what they have seen on television," Dacquel explained. "The U.S. military has amazing medical capabilities, and I think this opened a lot of eyes to a different side of our military."

"The most important outcome of the event was the happiness everyone receive from the interactions," he concluded. "Everyone left with a smile, and that was what really mattered most."



Brooklyn, N.Y., native Petty Officer 3rd Class Hernan Truque, U.S. Navy dental technician, LF CARAT, teaches a Malaysian youngster how to properly brush his teeth at a medical and dental civic action project in Paloh Nilai, Malaysia.



Overseas Diplomacy

Valley Forge's Volunteer Spirit knows no Borders

PN2(SW/AW) Richard Greenlee

Seventeen Valley Forge Sailors volunteered their time, expertise and labor at Grupo Los Pargos during a recent port visit to Mazatlan, Mexico. Grupo Los Pargos is a school for handicapped children that started in 1980. The school's principal is a nurse who began with eight students and no facilities. These original students came up with the school's name, which refers to the locally caught Red Snapper fish. The children have a sense of humor, because the phrase "Pargos" is a local Mazatlan saying that, loosely translated means, "because you are doing nothing."

The principal had to conduct classes by rotating between the children's homes until the Governor of Sinaloa and the Mayor of Mazatlan donated their present land to them. American families from various rotary clubs donated the money to build the school buildings. At the time the land was donated, it was in an undeveloped area on the outskirts of Mazatlan. A mall soon popped up near the school and has attracted many other businesses, including a new Wal-Mart. The city is building new roads and sidewalks with bus stops right in front of the school. The principal is very proud of these new developments and the prosperity this influx of money might mean to the children and their school.

The volunteers from Valley Forge helped install a playground slide, painted exterior walls and book shelves, hanged bulletin boards and curtains, and cleared away grassy areas. Of particular note, was the expertise shown by three Sailors who installed the electrical wiring for a classroom's light switches and overhead lighting and another Sailor's troubleshooting of computers to determine what was needed to get them up and running. The principal was overjoyed with the electrical work because it had been incomplete for some time.

Approximately 20 of the students showed up and watched the Sailors working. When it was time to leave, Sailors and students assembled for a group photo. After the photo, the principal led the children in a song of thanks, sang in Spanish and written by the students. A particularly strong sense of pride and accomplishment was evident on the faces and in the voices of the Sailors who left the school that day.



EN2 Esteban and SN Sanders pour concrete for a playground slide.

The principal is very proud of these new developments and the prosperity this influx of money might mean to the children and their school.

The volunteers from Valley Forge helped install a playground slide, painted exterior walls and book shelves, hanged bulletin boards and curtains, and cleared away grassy areas. Of particular note, was the expertise shown by three Sailors who installed the electrical wiring for a classroom's light switches and overhead lighting and another Sailor's troubleshooting of computers to determine what was needed to get them up and running. The principal was overjoyed with the electrical work because it had been incomplete for some time.

Approximately 20 of the students showed up and watched the Sailors working. When it was time to leave, Sailors and students assembled for a group photo. After the photo, the principal led the children in a song of thanks, sang in Spanish and written by the students. A particularly strong sense of pride and accomplishment was evident on the faces and in the voices of the Sailors who left the school that day.

Reach Program Touches Naples Community

By Journalist 1st Class Joseph Kane, NSA Naples Public Affairs

When ships pull into foreign ports, a community service project is usually arranged for the time they visit. Unfortunately, for people assigned to a shore command, such a program is not always available for those who want to volunteer in the neighborhood.

According to Joyanne Johnson, a Navy spouse in Naples, the Reach Program was created to fill the need for community relations projects for military members here.

"It began as an opportunity for 'shore duty' military personnel to participate in community relations projects, much like those I observed when [USS] LaSalle (AGF 3) made port visits throughout the Med," said Johnson. "We began with Casa Materna in Portici. Whether painting a wall or raking the garden, our volunteers worked enthusiastically and seemed to enjoy the camaraderie."

Most of the volunteers are from the collaboration of the Allied Forces South 1st Class Petty Officers Association (FCPOA) and the Naval Support Activity FCPOA. Last

week, nearly 30 volunteers spent two days at Suore Di Jesu Redentore in Naples, which is a "casa familia" facility for children of broken or abusive homes.

Personnelman 1st Class Charles Dungan, who is the president of the Allied Forces South FCPOA, said the day was a great success and a lot of work was accomplished.

"We ended up with eight volunteers on Tuesday and about 15 Friday," Dungan said. "We removed two layers of wallpaper from one of the rooms, which had water damage and is going to be used as a bedroom for children. Then we patched, sanded and painted it on Friday. We also trimmed bushes and trees, pulled weeds, used a weed eater, raked leaves and grass, and filled lots of trashcans and bags."

Dungan said the work was truly a combined effort of many different people. Several of the nuns who run the home helped out, along with some of the children. In addition to the Allied Forces South FCPOA and the NSA FCPOA, there were also several

volunteers from the U.S. Army element who helped out.

"It was a productive and rewarding day," said Dungan. "The word is getting out and the interest is growing."

Johnson said currently, three different sites are helped on a continuing basis, and she is working to identify more.

"There is certainly no shortage of locations in the greater Naples area," said Johnson. "Our volunteer base continues to grow as well. My current goal is for the Reach program to become a clearing house, connecting people and places."

Johnson said giving back to the community is an important aspect of good citizenship.

"In this case, it is an opportunity to extend our American compassion beyond our own country. It is such a 'win, win,' Johnson said. "I am so proud of each of the volunteers for their capacity to reach out beyond themselves and for their service to our country."

Tortuga Sailors Spend Liberty Helping Others

By Ensign Justin Cole, USS Tortuga Public Affairs Officer

With world events limiting the amount of ports Navy ships pull into these days, the liberty days a crew does see are considered extremely valuable.

So when USS Tortuga (LSD 46) pulled into Malta for a well deserved break, Sailors were expected to take some time off and relax. Instead, many of the crew members decided to spend their time volunteering to help people they had never met.

"I was really impressed with how many people wanted to volunteer," said Lt. Lynn Christensen, the ship's chaplain and community relations (COMREL) coordinator. "It was great to see all of the positive attitudes and excitement they felt. These are some of the most noble Sailors I have ever come into contact with."

The first project was led by the wardroom, as a group of seven officers visited the Saura House, a home for elderly citizens of Malta. The group visited with residents before heading outside to begin yard work. Branches needed trimming, weeds needed pulling and rocks needed moving, and the group was happy to oblige with a smile on their face.

"I had a blast," said Lt. Phil Cimo, the ship's dentist. "It was great to get out there, stretch my legs, and help someone else in the process. It gave us all a chance to see the countryside and interact with the citizens of Malta. That's the real reward."

After working up a sweat all morning, the officers were treated to a home cooked meal of gigantic proportions. "The meal was easily the best part. We ate like kings!" Cimo said.

A second COMREL project was led by Tortuga's First Class Petty Officer Association. The group visited Sacred Heart, a shelter for battered families. They spent their time visiting with the families and providing physical and organizational ser-

vices. Some participants received quite a workout, lugging washers and dryers up and down several flights of stairs. Others stuffed envelopes and helped out with paperwork.

"It was amazing to see my shipmates working so hard for these people," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW) Ernesto Mosley. "Malta is a wonderful, exciting place, but this experience just reminded me that there are people that need help everywhere you go. It was important for us to be able to give something back."

The crew left Malta with renewed energy, ready for their next challenge at sea. However, they also left with something else - greater pride in themselves and their country.

"Americans do great things like this time and time again," said Christensen. "This is what makes our country what it is today - lending a helping hand."

Wizards Bring Smiles to Children Half a World Away

Story and photo by Lt.j.g. Buck Herdegen

Who can resist the opportunity to reach out to someone in need, especially when that someone is a child with no living relatives?

The hearts of more than 20 Wizards of Electronic Attack Squadron 133 (VAQ-133) were stirred during a recent trip to an orphanage in Mersin, Turkey. The base chapel has established a relationship with this orphanage and regular visits are scheduled that include volunteers from many commands stationed here.

Volunteer groups come with gifts and candy for the children and often make physical improvements to the facilities. But what the children love most is the kindness and attention they bring.

"You can see it in their eyes when you arrive," said Lt. Cmdr. Robert

Johnson, VAQ-133's flight surgeon. "They are hungry for attention."

The images that most Americans have of orphanages come from movies or classic tales, such as "Oliver Twist" and "Annie," in which orphans are dirty and depressed. This image can keep many away from the opportunity to serve.

Some volunteers are hesitant to go at first and are apprehensive, wondering what to expect and what will be expected of them. Many of the volunteers are single, without children of their own, and are afraid they won't know what to talk about or what games they like to play.

Their apprehension quickly vanishes when they meet happy, clean children who are eager to interact with the adults. Their faces radiate energy and optimism as only a child's can. Without families of their own, they long for adult role models.

From the moment the volunteers arrive, the children soak up the attention, playing games, sharing smiles, reading or just having a conversation. When it's time to leave, those who were at first reluctant to come want to return.

The hours donated by military volunteers have benefited both the orphanage and the children. It's just one of the ways the men and women of VAQ-133 are leaving a good impression here, making sure they perform a few simple acts of kindness as well as doing their regular Navy jobs.



HUNGRY FOR ATTENTION ... Curious children gather around Wizard volunteers.

Overseas Diplomacy

Tactical Support Center Sponsors Special Party

Story by CTA2 Carole Adsit

When most of us think of Christmas, we think of a time of happiness when family and friends get together. For some, the holiday season is a time of sadness, especially children from broken homes. Tactical Support Center, Sigonella, hosted a Christmas party for a local orphanage from Catania.

Twenty-nine children, ages 4-10, three sisters, along with two assistants, piled into a

US Navy bus and made the hour-long trip to Naval Air Station Sigonella. Their bus pulled up to a cement building surrounded by fence and barbed wire, hardly the place you would expect to have a party. Inside however, they were greeted by the smiling faces of TSC personnel and their families in a festively decorated conference room.

The children were delighted when the guest of honor announced his arrival with a jolly "Ho, Ho, Ho!" Santa sat down while the children surrounded him anxious to meet the jolly old elf and receive a candy cane. The children were impressed by Santa's belly and enjoyed tickling him. Santa passed out presents to both the American and Italian children.

While Santa had a little trouble pronouncing some of the children's names, one of the sisters helped as the children clapped when each name was called. The children were delighted to receive toys such as soccer balls, dolls, and action figures. While the adults sometimes struggled with the language barrier, the American and Italian children played together happily.



Photo by STGCS Mark Powell

Santa hands out Christmas gifts to excited children.

Of course, the day wouldn't be complete without a meal of American hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, and sodas. The children were so full from their lunch, they barely had room for a piece of cake provided by TSC MWR. Other activities included coloring, which was proudly displayed on the walls of TSC building, and watching typical American Christmas movies including Charlie Brown Christmas.

After two and a half hours of fun, the Italian children applauded the TSC personnel and family members, said their farewells and climbed back aboard the bus for the trip home. All of the planning and work that went into the party had resulted in a wonderful time for all. The smiles of the children melted hearts and made us all that

much more thankful and appreciative of our families and friends.

Sailors lend a hand in Malta

Story by JO2 Alyssa Batarla, Sixth Fleet Public Affairs

"The United States Navy has a reputation for caring about the people," said Sixth Fleet flagship, USS La Salle (AGF 3) Commanding Officer Capt. John Haley of Irving, Texas during his first port visit with La Salle since assuming command



Sailors from Commander, Sixth Fleet and the Sixth Fleet flagship, USS La Salle (AGF 3) paint a staircase at the Ursaline Sisters Children's Home in Valletta, Malta during a recent port visit. The Sailors painted two three-floor staircases and washed cars during their liberty time.

June 20. "It's important for the people we visit to know we're not only in the area to take the fight to the enemy, but we're also here to help people."

During a recent three-day visit to Valletta, Malta, 19 Sailors stationed aboard La Salle, along with Capt. Haley and his family, spent a Saturday at the Ursaline Sisters Children's Home working on renovations.

"The bottom line is, when you do something like this, everybody feels good," said Haley. "You feel really good, because you've done something good for someone, and they feel good because somebody helped."

The Sailors exchanged their liberty for labor, painting two three-floor staircases and washing several cars for the home that cares for 60 local children.

"I always enjoy doing this type of work," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Jeff Medlin of Statesville, N.C. "It helps Navy relations and community relations, but more importantly, it lets people see that someone really cares about them."

"And there's another advantage," added Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handler) Airman Angela Maxwell of Salt Lake City, who has attended every COMREL since arriving on board La Salle in January 2001. "You get to interact with the culture. You can interact with the people when you work and have lunch, and see how they are. You can talk to them and see how they work and live."

After Sailors wrapped up their morning of painting, they took a tour of the home and met some of the children who live there. Afterwards, the Sisters presented them with a large lunch, before they headed out to wash the Home's vehicles and wrap up their afternoon.

"Ever since I've been in the military, I've done community work," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Lucy Lopez of Chicago, on her first volunteer project with the Sixth Fleet/La Salle team. "It's something I've done since I was in high school. It doesn't matter if we're Sailors or not, we're all human beings helping each other."

Joint Navy and Marine Corps team repairs Colombian school

By JO1 Phil Beaufort

For many of the Sailors and Marines currently deployed in support of UNITAS 43-02 aboard USS PORTLAND (LSD-37), entering the coastal city of Cartagena, Colombia was reminiscent of entering many European ports. Spanish fortifications guard the entrance to the bay of the strategically located, 450-year-old walled city, which is a warren of tourist boutiques, restaurants and internet cafes.

While a number of the crew were debating the merits of investing in Colombian emeralds, 45 Sailors and Marines boarded buses for a different kind of joint exercise to a destination that hasn't made it on anyone's top-ten holiday resort list for several decades. There, they volunteered their free time to a worthy cause.

Roughly 10 miles north of Cartagena is what remains of the beach resort area of Boquilla. Thatched-roofed, open-air restaurants dot the sand for several miles, many in disrepair or abandoned. Almost 20 years of civil unrest have taken their toll on the town's infrastructure and seriously have impacted the local tourism industry.

Sitting two blocks off the beachfront is the local high school, the Technical Education Institute of Boquilla. A prestigious sounding name for a building with a leaking roof, few working lights and only two serviceable toilets for the 1,125 students who attend in three separate shifts.

According to Manuel Avendano



Thanks to prior experience two Marines are able to make short work of a leaking roof the Boquilla High School a few mile from Cartagena, Colombia.

Montero, Regional School Director, in May of 2001 a United Nations commission touring the area identified the school as needing humanitarian aid. Due to the internal Colombian political unrest, the



A Marine spends his day at Bocilla High School repairing chairs while a group of local children look on.

project was postponed for more than a year. That is until USS PORTLAND arrived in Cartagena to begin naval amphibious exercises with the Colombian Navy.

Each of the Sailors and Marines who volunteered to work on the project did so for their own reasons, but for Marine Corps Capt. Winston Jimenez, the chance to contribute his time was very personal. "I grew up about an hour north of here, so this project has a lot of meaning for me," said Jimenez.

While his parents established themselves in the United States, Jimenez lived with his grandparents until the age of seven. He said he's been back several times since moving to America and has seen the situation decay over the years.

"Twenty years ago this was a popular resort. Europeans, North Americans and affluent South Americans would vacation all along the beaches here," said Jimenez. "Now many of the people living here are displaced Colombians, forced from their homes due to the conflict. In this area alone I've heard regional dialects from all over the country."

During a two-day period, the Sailors and Marines rebuilt over 50 damaged chairs and 15 desks, re-hung shutters on windows, reframed two exterior doors, installed ten overhead light fixtures, re-wired 16 fans and fixed the plumbing on 12 toilets and sinks. They also made major structural repairs to the roof, sealing it against the frequent tropical showers.

School Director Montero said they really needed the help.

"The timing couldn't be better," said Montero. "Our school needs a lot of work and right now there isn't very much money available for these types of repairs." He also added that watching the American's work was an education. "Seeing the way the Americans arrived at the school, organize themselves and begin repairs was very impressive," Montero said.

Montero said the Navy and Marine Corps team efforts will have a positive impact for years to come, and he hopes that they will continue their efforts wherever they go.

"There are so many places that need help," he said. "Anytime the American military can go to a school like this and help improve the lives of the children in that area, they should."

According to Lt. Cmdr. Alan Kuss, USS PORTLAND's chaplain, getting American service members to volunteer isn't a problem.

"I couldn't begin to guess at the number of hours our men and women donate each year. Just about every ship that deploys lines up some type of community relations project in almost every port they pull in to," he said.

Kuss added that apart from volunteering overseas, America's military members from all branches of the services devote an incredible amount of their free time to the communities they live in while stationed in the United States.

"I think we have one of the most proactive volunteer programs of any organization in the world and the impact they make on communities at home and abroad can't be measured."

At Your Service

AMERICA "CELEBRATES VOLUNTEERS!" DURING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK, APRIL 27- MAY 3, 2003

By Kimberli Meadows

The nation will commemorate the 30th annual National Volunteer Week, April 27-May 3, in recognition and celebration of volunteers at the local, state and national level. The Week's theme, "Celebrate Volunteers -The Spirit of America!" reflects Americans' resolve to maintain the tradition of neighbor helping neighbor.

Coordinated by the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer

Center National Network, and sponsored by AT&T and AMS, the national week of service is designed to increase the number of volunteers throughout the nation by connecting citizens to service projects in their communities. During National Volunteer Week, millions of volunteers of all ages will participate in local community service projects and ceremonies honoring our nation's men, women and young people for their outstanding contributions to their communities over the past year.

"Volunteering isn't simply nice to do; it's necessary for the health of our democracy. America runs on the spirit of

volunteering," said Robert K. Goodwin, president and CEO of the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network. "Without the efforts of millions of men, women and children who give their time to help others in their communities, our country would be a different place."

This year, National Volunteer Week marks the completion of a special initiative of the Foundation, called Unity in the Spirit of America (USA).

Signed into law by President George W. Bush on January 10, 2002, the USA initiative called on citizens to conduct volunteer projects in honor of those whose lives were lost as a result of the September 11 terrorist attacks. As of February 2003, more than 4,000 projects have been registered as tributes to the nearly 500 victims listed on www.USA.Pointsoflight.org.

For more information on National Volunteer Week, sponsored events, or to get involved in local activities, call 1-800-VOLUNTEER or visit www.1800volunteer.org.



NETC Hosts 2002 Community Service and Outreach Conference

The recent NETC 2002 Community Service and Outreach (CSO) Conference was held at the Conference Center, NAS Pensacola Florida. Participants representing thirty NETC activities were "Welcomed" to this year's conference by RADM John W. Townes III with words of encouragement and support.

The conference started with Mr. Honor M. Bell, Director, NETC's CSO outlining the agenda and providing a background and historical overview of Navy's Community Service Program. After which, he polled participants for thoughts on their expectations for this year's conference.

"To know what you expect, is my assurance that you get information to make a difference in your program," said Mr. Bell.

The attendees took an active part throughout the conference by presenting brief overviews of the programs currently in operation at their respective activities/commands. This year's conference also featured two special presentations from Ms. Myra Brown, Navy South Central Regional Coordinator and JOC Sherri Onorati, Navy's Community Service program manager.

The final presenter, VADM Alfred G. Harms addressed the conference participants with words of encouragement and unwavering support. As he acknowledged everyone for their efforts, he reiterated that volunteering makes a real tangible difference in people's lives and there is no better group of professional than Sailors, Marines and military/civilian members to impact the lives of America's citizens. VADM Harms pointed out how ironic it was that the world's most powerful military is made up of all volunteers. So, it does not surprise him when Sailors, Marines and members of the other services answer the call to volunteer their time, skill or talents to those in the community.

SEASONS OF SERVICE

April

April 11 - 13, 2003 - National Youth Service Day - The Power of Youth Serving Youth. To empower young people, highlighting their ongoing contributions to their communities and mobilizing their energy, commitment, and idealism through sustainable service. For more information visit <http://www.ysa.org/nysd/>

April 27-May 3, 2003 - National Volunteer Week. Celebrate Volunteers -

The Spirit of America! To recognize and celebrate the efforts of volunteers at the local, state and national levels. Contact 1-800-VOLUNTEER for more information.

June

June 21, 2003 - Join Hands Day

Youth and Adults Volunteering Together. To bring young people together with adults to create new and better relationships by working as a team within their own neighborhoods. Visit <http://www.joinhandsday.org> for more info.