

The Newport Navalog

VOL. 102 NO. 48 DECEMBER 6, 2002

SERVING COMMANDS AND ACTIVITIES, NEWPORT, R.I.



Last tribute to destroyer

Destroyermen's Day services held at the Chapel of Hope conclude a year-long observance and tribute to the Navy class of warship.

— Page 3



Evergreens on display

The 25th annual Festival of Trees, an indoor display of decorated Christmas evergreens, opens tonight at Building 80 with a Preview Party.

— Page 6



Navy helps build home

Active duty Navy personnel and civilians, on free time, join local volunteers to build a house for Habitat for Humanity.

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Fast 'cat' in Newport

The Navy's experimental wave-piercing catamaran (HSV-X1), a converted Australian ferry, returns to Naval Station Newport.

—Page 9

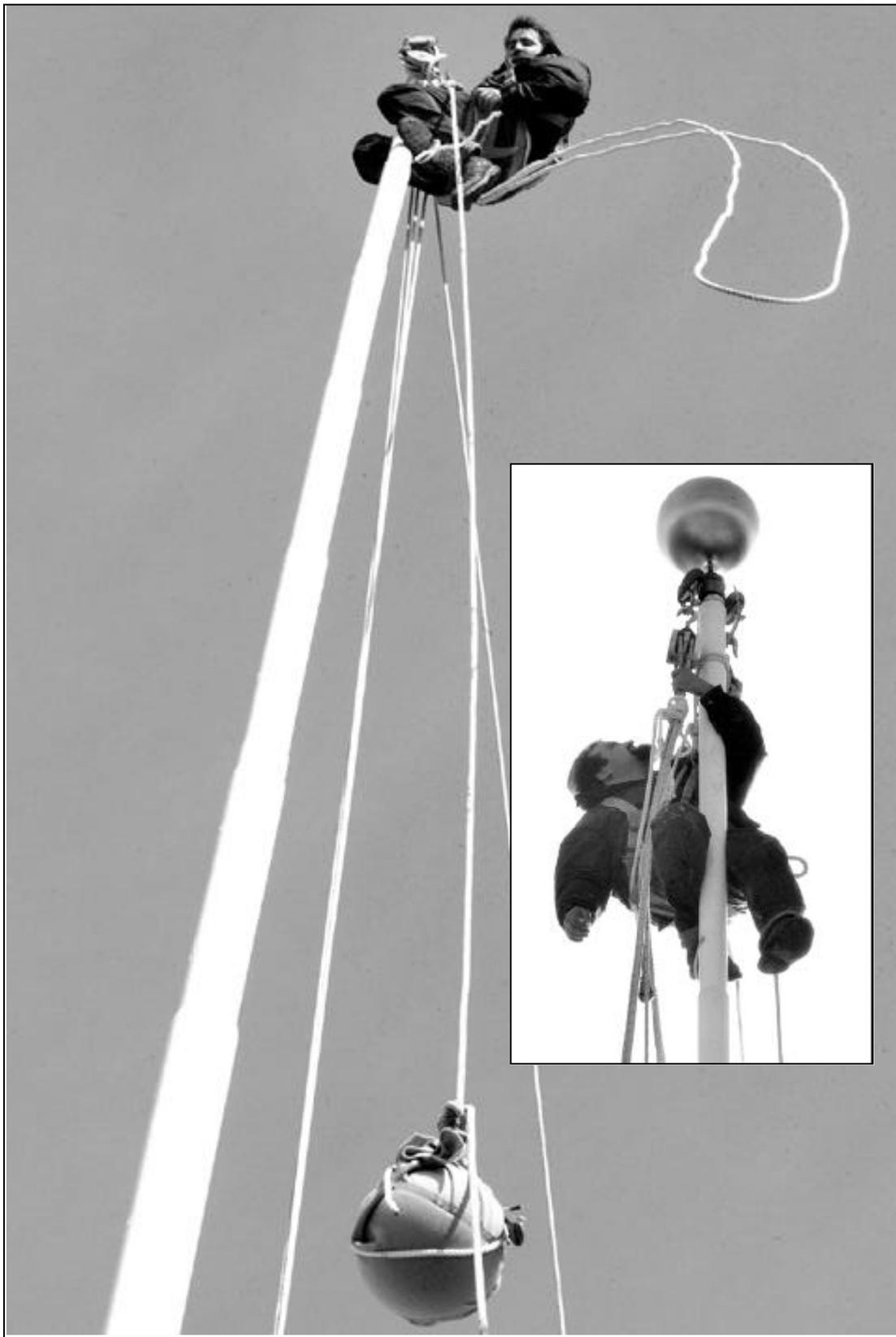
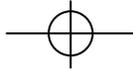
Let there be light!



Ron Fontaine/U.S. Navy photo

THE MAGIC TOUCH — Mrs. Pamela Rempt, wife of Naval War College president Rear Adm. Rodney Rempt, signals with a candy cane from a cherrypicker to light the Naval Station Newport command Holiday Tree at Dewey Field last Friday. Assisting is Fran Furtado, Public Works Department high voltage crewman.





Ron Fontaine/U.S. Navy photos

SKY VIEW — Steeplejack David Bowen of American Steeple & Tower Co., Inc., reinstalls the 15-inch gold leaf ball atop the 135-foot flagpole on Nimitz Field, Naval Station Newport, last week to complete a \$15,000 painting and maintenance contract. The pole, installed in 1967, is the second tallest in New England.

Top servicemembers wanted

Nominations are being accepted for the annual Naval Station Newport Service Member of the Year program. All area commands are eligible and encouraged to participate.

Co-sponsored by the Newport County Navy League, the program honors the outstanding achievements and contri-

butions of individuals from various sectors of Naval Station Newport.

In accordance with NAVSTAINST 1610.2D, commands should submit nominations to the Commanding Officer, Naval Station Newport, via code N01P, and electronically to:

Sandersd@nsnpt.navy.mil according to the following schedule:

Senior Enlisted Service Member of the Year, no later than Dec. 9;

Junior Enlisted Service Member of the Year, no later than Jan. 8, 2003.

Fire Dept. helps 12 families for Thanksgiving

By **JOY CHRISTMAS**
NAVSTA Public Affairs Staff

All through the year, the Naval Station (NAVSTA) Newport Fire Department ensures the safety and welfare of families and personnel who live and work at NAVSTA. This holiday season, as so many in the past, the department's scope of concern has extended to the local community with their annual Thanksgiving food drive.

Boxes were placed at the four fire stations and Fire Department headquarters in mid-October to collect non-perishable food donations.

"Through the united efforts of all the Fire Department personnel we were able to feed 12 families for Thanksgiving this year," said Phil Douglass, a fire fighter at Station 4 who helped coordinate the drive 12 years ago with retired firefighter Cliff

FIRE DEPT., Page 13

Navy Band concert offers holiday music

Navy Band Northeast will celebrate the holiday season with a special concert Saturday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m. in Spruance Hall Auditorium at the Naval War College.

The public is invited to attend the free concert as guests of the Commanding Officer, Naval Station Newport.

The concert will showcase Navy Band Northeast's full concert band, including the Northeast Navy Showband. Contemporary vocals songs will be featured with traditional holiday favorites.

The concert will also feature performances by the children's choir from the Sheffield

and Cranston-Calvert Schools in Newport. Santa Claus is expected to make an appearance for the children in the audience.

Donations of non-perishable foods for holiday food baskets and toys for the Marine Corps Reserves' Toys for Tots program will be accepted at the door. Concert-goers should use Gate One, the main entrance to the naval station.

Because of increased security measures, concert-goers who are not normally authorized to access the Naval Station must make advance reservations with the Public Affairs Office at 841-3538.

Navalog
Capt. Ruth A. Cooper

Commanding Officer, Naval Station Newport

David Sanders NAVSTA Public Affairs Officer	Bob Krekorian NAVSTA Public Affairs Staff	Greg Kohlweiss NAVSTA Public Affairs Staff
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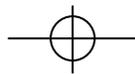
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The Newport Navallog is printed on recycled paper.





Destroyer Centennial concluded

By YNC G. DOHERTY
SWOSCOLCOM Public Affairs Officer

The U.S. Navy Destroyer Centennial observance concluded at Naval Station Newport on Nov. 24 with a Destroyermen's Commemorative Service at the Chapel of Hope.

The service began with an opening prayer provided by Chaplain (Lt.) Richard Vidrine, command staff chaplain; followed by welcoming remarks from Capt. Ronald Brinkley, the Surface Navy Association Newport charter president and Commanding Officer, Surface Warfare Officers School Command.

Capt. Richard Callas, Surface Navy Association Newport charter secretary, read the proclamation issued by Gov. Lincoln Almond which declared Nov. 24, 2002, as Destroyermen's Day.

The Navy's first destroyer, the USS Bainbridge, was commissioned on Nov. 24, 1902.

The Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment were compared to the service of all destroyermen by the guest speaker, Rear Adm. Ronald A. Route, Commander, Navy Warfare Development Command.

Chaplain (Cmdr.) David Gunderlach, senior command chaplain, conducted the service and led the audience of military and civilian members in the singing of The Navy Hymn.

Musician First Class David Hoffman, Navy Band Northeast, concluded the ceremony with the playing of *Taps*. A reception was held in the Fellowship Hall following the ceremony.

Destroyers observe century of greatness

The USS Bainbridge, along with eight sister ships, were built to destroy powered torpedo boats (German U-boats).

Throughout the years, destroyers have been fast, alert, lethal and resourceful. They have been involved in almost every naval conflict and continue to be essential to the Navy's warfighting strategy.

"Destroyermen — a powerful term that includes so many generations, so many experiences — peacetime and war, both men and women," said Vice Adm. J. Cutler Dawson, Commander 2nd Fleet, who served as guest speaker at last spring's Destroyermen's Ball.

Although the birth date of this class of ship has been celebrat-



YNC Ginamarie Doherty/U.S. Navy photo

REAR ADM. RONALD A. ROUTE, left, Commander, Navy Warfare Development Command, Officer Candidate Benjamin Johnson, center, Naval Science Institute student; and retired Master Chief Damage Controlman Tom Lahey of Middletown, cut the Destroyermen's Day memorial service cake at the Chapel of Hope.

ed for the entire year, the actual birthday of the destroyer is in the month of November and is remembered by those to whom its birth means the most, the men and women who serve aboard them.

"On a destroyer, the crew is small, so being capable and versatile in your job and as a Sailor is very important. We are mission-ready. Intense training to build these traits in each other is of utmost importance," said Sonar Technician (SW) Seaman James M. Hughes of USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79).

Today, there are two types of destroyers: Arleigh Burke-class and Spruance-class.



MU1 David Hoffman, Navy Band Northeast, plays *Taps* at the Destroyermen's Day service for Sailors lost in the line of duty.

A number of things...

12

The number of families that had a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner thanks to the Naval Station Newport Fire Department's food drive last month. **Story, Page 2.**

135

The height in feet of the Nimitz Field flag pole that was repaired and repainted recently by American Steeple and Tower Co. Inc., of Salem, Mass. Erected in 1967, it is the second tallest in New England.

103

The number of times the U.S. Naval Academy and Military Academy will have met when the classic Army-Navy football game is played Saturday. **Stories, Page 12.**

100

The number of years since the first Navy destroyer was commissioned — the USS Bainbridge in 1902. Destroyermen's Day, capping a year-long celebration of the 'greyhounds of the fleet,' was observed at the Chapel of Hope on Nov. 24. **Story, this page.**

10

The number of wins against no losses that the Naval Reserve Readiness Command's flag football team compiled to win the Naval Station Newport Intramural championship. **Story, Page 12.**

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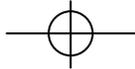
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YNC Ginamarie Doherty/U.S. Navy photo

ANSWER MAN—Capt. Ronald Brinkley, left, Commanding Officer, Surface Warfare Officers School Command, answers a question from a Navy Junior ROTC student from Wall, N.J., at Weakley Hall recently.

SWOS hosts NJROTC students

By YNC G. DOHERTY
SWOSCOLCOM Public Affairs Officer

Navy Junior ROTC high school students from Wall, N. J., visited the Surface Warfare Officers School Command (SWOSCOLCOM) on Nov. 22.

The group, escorted by Fire Controlman First Class (SW/AW) Craig Schneider and Electronic Warfare Technician Second Class (SW) Jason Berta, toured the Surface Warfare Tactical Trainer (SWTT), referred to as "Swit," and the FFG-7, referred to as the "Fig Trainer," both operated in

Evans Hall.

Capt. Ronald Brinkley, Commanding Officer, who was also a member of NJROTC during his high school years, welcomed the students, shared his experiences in both NJROTC and the Navy, and answered questions from the audience.

He explained to the students how he learned from the NJROTC curriculum the discipline that he needed at that time in his life.

When speaking of his naval career, Capt. Brinkley told the students he had the most fun

as the ship's Commanding Officer because the ship would do whatever it was that he asked of it.

The helicopters aboard his ship also gave him a spectacular view of his ship.

One member of the audience asked, "If there was one word of advice that you could give an NJROTC student, what would it be?"

"I would not offer a word, but a phrase," Brinkley said. "Do your best." No matter what it is that you are doing at the time, do your best."

Free concert honors women war veterans

Navy Band Northeast will take part in a musical tribute to Rhode Island's women veterans of World War II on Thursday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m., at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence.

The heroes tribute will include classic songs from the 1940s, and will include appearances by the Roger Williams University Pipes and Drums, the Coastline Chow Chorus, the Providence Theatrical Ballroom and Jazz Project, and For Sentimental Reasons.

Preferred seating will be reserved for honored veterans and their family members.

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Letter of Appreciation

GM1 Bobby Johnson, NAVSTA Newport, Naval Security Force, from Navy Warfare Development Command, Nov. 2, 2002
GM2 William Bowman, NAVSTA Newport, Naval Security Force, from Navy Warfare Development Command, Nov. 2, 2002
NAVSTA Newport Combined Bachelor Housing Staff, Dec. 2, 2002
Patrolman Stephanie McMahon, NAVSTA Newport Police Department, Dec. 2, 2002

Letter of Commendation

OS1 Carl Pace, NAVSTA Newport Combined Bachelor Housing, Nov. 2, 2002
MS1 Jesse Algarin, NAVSTA Newport Combined Bachelor Housing, Nov. 2, 2002
MS1 Charles Martin, NAVSTA Newport Combined Bachelor Housing, Nov. 2, 2002
MS2 Nicole Alexander, NAVSTA Newport Combined Bachelor Housing, Nov. 2, 2002
MS2 Veronica Woods, NAVSTA Newport Combined Bachelor Housing, Nov. 2, 2002
SM Daniel Smith, NAVSTA Newport Combined Bachelor Housing, Nov. 2, 2002
MASR Michelle Skolnick, NAVSTA Newport, Naval Security Force, from Commanding Officer, Navy Air Training Command, Nov. 2, 2002
BM2 Brian Lemley, NAVSTA Newport, Naval Security Force, Nov. 2, 2002
Lt. Michael Bodell, NAVSTA Newport, NAVSTA Newport Police Department, Nov. 2, 2002
Detective Frank Lema, NAVSTA Newport Police Department, Nov. 2, 2002
Officer Marie Duval, NAVSTA Newport Police Department, Nov. 2, 2002
Officer Jonathan Pare, NAVSTA Newport Police Department, Nov. 2, 2002
Sgt. William Pierson, NAVSTA Newport Police Department, Nov. 2, 2002
Officer Norman Maynard, NAVSTA Newport Police Department, Nov. 2, 2002
Mr. Ralph H. Ramsey, Director, NAVSTA Newport Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, Dec. 2, 2002
Ms. Rachel Coston, NAVSTA Newport Combined Bachelor Housing, Dec. 2, 2002

Sailor of the Quarter

NAVSTA Newport, Naval Security Force, Nov. 2, 2002
BM2 Sharelle Owens, Junior Sailor, NAVSTA Newport Port Operations, Nov. 2, 2002
CE2 Daniel Baldwin, Senior Sailor, NAVSTA Newport Port Operations, Nov. 2, 2002



WATERFRONT FITNESS

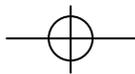
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Are you considering long term care needs?

Long-term care is a phrase heard frequently. A Navy Federal Credit Union representative will be at the Fleet and Family Support Center on Tuesday, Dec. 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., to explain what long-term care coverage is

Navy Federal Credit Union will tell you what a mutual fund is, how your money is invested, about regulations, types of funds, and more. Reservations are required.

Call 841-2283.

Your Ticket to Ride—You want to buy a new car. An image of your dream car hovers in your mind—it is shiny, colorful, and purrs like a kitten.

But, standing between you and your dream car is the dreaded car dealer. How do you get the best car for a fair price?

Come to the Fleet and Fam-

ily Support Center on Thursday, Jan. 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., to find out how to gather your resources and be well informed.

Call 841-2283 to register.

Fleet and Family Support Center

and why it is important. Find out your options and some common misconceptions.

Call 841-2283 for more information and to register.

Mutual Funds—Bring your lunch to the Fleet and Family Support Center on Wednesday, Jan. 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., to learn about mutual funds.

A representative from the

U.S. Coast Guard to embark Santa for boat parade

Navy and Coast Guard vessels are expected to join the fifth annual Holiday Harbor Lights Parade of Boats and the Blessing of the Fleet around Newport Harbor on Saturday, Dec. 7.

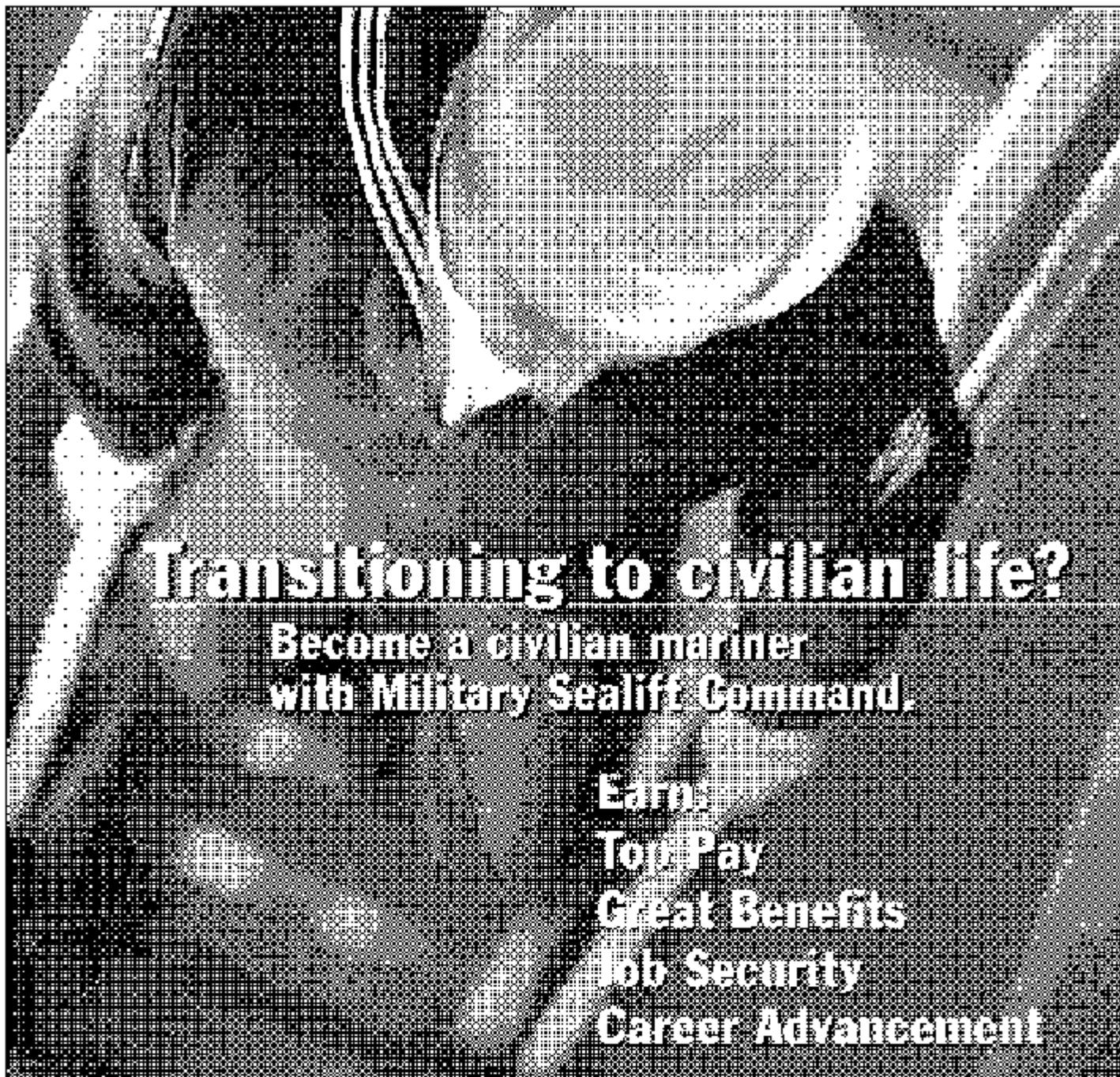
The Coast Guard at Castle Hill will embark Santa Claus aboard a 41-foot utility boat, and deliver him to the 32nd annual Bowen's Wharf Tree Lighting and Open House ceremonies at the end of the parade.

The annual event, which will include pleasure craft, commercial fishing boats, and tug boats, is part of the annual Christmas in Newport calendar of events.

The illuminated boat parade will begin promptly at 6 p.m., and will circle counter clockwise several times around Newport Harbor.

Charlie Dana, Commodore of the New York Yacht Club is this year's grand marshal.

Vessels will compete for six special prizes in the following categories: Best Holiday Team Spirit, Best Decorated Commercial Sailboat, and Commercial Powerboat in the Parade, and Best Decorated Recreational Sailboat and Powerboat.



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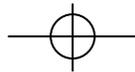
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What's going on

Evergreens dressed for the festival

The 25th annual Festival of Trees will be celebrated this weekend, Dec. 7 and 8, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Building 80, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Division Newport.

The theme for this year's festival is "The Way We Were," with a silver ornament design for the committee tree. The trees will be decked out in handmade ornaments from a number of local organizations.

The preview party will be tonight from 7 to 10 to officially open the festival. Tickets for the preview are being sold at the Officers' Club, at the door and from Cindy Vereuyesse (848-9917). Tickets are \$15 for individuals and \$25 per couple.

TODAY, Dec. 6

- Army-Navy flag football preview game, Prichard Field (outside Gate 11), 1:30 p.m.
- Lunchtime BINGO, at the Recreation Center, Building 656. Noon to 1 p.m. Also Thursdays.
- Fitness Equipment Orientation, FITNESS Plus, Building 355, 8, 9 and 10 a.m. Also, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Call 841-1474.
- Transition Assistance, Fleet and Family Support Center, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 841-2283.
- Victorian Christmas Feast, Astors' Beechwood Mansion, 7 p.m., 846-3772.

SATURDAY, Dec. 7

- Annual Army-Navy football, Giants Stadium at Meadowlands, East Rutherford, N.J., CBS Sports television, noon.
- Wreath-making workshop, Green Animals Topiary Garden, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 847-1000.
- Holiday Harbor Lights Parade, Newport Harbor, noon.
- 25th annual Festival of Trees, Building 80, Naval Undersea Warfare Command, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., 682-1888.
- Bowen's Wharf Christmas Tree Lighting and Open House, Santa Claus arrives by boat (weather permitting), 4:30 p.m., 849-2120.
- Holiday Evenings at the Newport Mansions, The Breakers, 847-1000, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Victorian Christmas Feast, Astors' Beechwood Mansion, 7 p.m., 846-3772.

- Holly Days, Norman Bird Sanctuary, Middletown, 7 p.m., 846-2577.
- Common Fence Music, Common Fence Point Community Hall, 8 p.m., 683-5085.

SUNDAY, Dec. 8

- Chapel of Hope worship services:
 - Catholic mass, 9 a.m. and noon
 - Protestant Services, 8 and 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday Bowling, Seaview Bowling Lanes, Building 656, \$7 per person, two-person minimum per lane.
- 25th annual Festival of Trees, Breakers, 3 to 4:30 p.m., 847-1000.

- Channing Music Series, Channing Memorial Church, 4 p.m., 846-0643.
- Victorian Christmas Feast, Astors' Beechwood Mansion, noon and 7 p.m., 846-3772.

MONDAY, Dec. 9

- Fitness Walk and Tone, 8 to 9 a.m., Gym 109.
- Intermediate Weight Training for Women, 9 to 10:30 a.m., \$10 per person.

TUESDAY, Dec. 10

- Fitness Walk and Tone, 8 to 9 a.m., Gym 109. \$5 for five weeks! Call 841-3154.
- Intermediate Weight Training for Women, 9 to 10:30 a.m., Gym 109. \$10 per person. Call 841-3154.
- Long-term Care Insurance, Fleet and Family Support Center, 11:30 to 1 p.m., 841-2283.
- Christmas at the Inns Tour, 4 to 8 p.m., 847-1811.
- Movies at Officers' Club, at 6 p.m. Austin Powers 3: Goldmember (PG-13); at 8 p.m. Signs (PG-13).

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 11

- Armed Services YMCA:
 - Parents' Time Out, 9 a.m. to noon.
 - Kids Sewing No. 4, 3:30 to 5 p.m.
- Victorian Christmas Tours, The Astors' Beechwood, 846-3772.
- Holiday Evenings at the Breakers, 6 to 8 p.m., 847-1000.

THURSDAY, Dec. 12

- Armed Services YMCA:
 - Fitness Hour, 9 to 10:30 a.m.
 - Kids Sewing No. 4, 2:30 to 4 p.m.
 - Kids Sewing No. 4, 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- Victorian Christmas Tours, The Astors' Beechwood mansion, 846-3772.
- Newport Gallery Nights, 5 to 8 p.m., 847-9977.
- An Evening with the Red Tail hawk, Norman Bird Sanctuary, Middletown, 6:30 p.m., 846-2577.



Fire Chief Wade Tate/U.S. Navy photo
SANTA VISITS NEX— Santa's elf Lindsey Trifero sits on Santa's lap at the Navy Exchange last Saturday to kick off the Christmas shopping season. Santa (alias Damian Bellamy) arrived by fire truck with lights flashing and siren blaring to a crowd of children.

- Building 80, Naval Undersea Warfare Command, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., 682-1888.
- Visit with Santa Claus, The Breakers, noon to 3 p.m., 847-1000.
- Sunday Afternoon Music, The

- Tours, The Astors' Beechwood mansion, 846-3772.
- Newport Gallery Nights, 5 to 8 p.m., 847-9977.
- An Evening with the Red Tail hawk, Norman Bird Sanctuary, Middletown, 6:30 p.m., 846-2577.



Ron Fontaine/U.S. Navy photo
SIGN ME UP — Amy Burnes, top, and Demetria Brinkley, Festival of Trees committee members, make signs to advertise the 25th annual indoor display of Christmas trees, at Building 47 last week. The festival opens tonight with a gala Preview Party.



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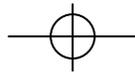
FREE Quart of
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 with the purchase of any tree



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OPEN DAILY 9 AM - DUSK





Decorate your door for holidays, win prize

Active duty and active reserve military families living in Naval Station Newport Family Housing, are invited to participate in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department's Holiday Door Decorating Contest.

Participants are asked to photograph their decked out front door (in color) and submit the picture (with name, address, command, home and work telephone numbers) to

the MWR Publicity Office, Naval Station Newport, 1121 Meyerkord Ave., Newport, R.I. 02841; or email to CourvilleA@nsnpt.navy.mil.

Emailed photos should be no larger than 8 by 10 inches, and should be submitted in .jpg format, if possible.

The contest begins on Monday, Dec. 9, and all entries must be received by close of business on Monday, Jan. 6. Incomplete entries will be dis-

qualified.

The winner(s) will be notified by Friday, Jan. 10. The grand prize is a pair of tickets to The Phantom of the Opera at the Providence Performing

Arts Center on Sunday, March 2. Second and third place winners will receive gift certificates for complimentary brunch for two at the Officers' Club weekly, all-hands, Sun-

day Brunch.

For more information, call either Amy Burnes at 841-4038 or the MWR Publicity Office at 841-4992.

Special events

Festival of Trees opens

MIDDLETOWN — The silver anniversary of the Festival of Trees opens at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division Newport gymnasium (Building 80) this weekend.

A special preview party will be tonight from 7 to 10.

Public viewing is Saturday and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

U.S. Navy Band on cable TV

The Naval Media Center in Washington will broadcast the annual United States Navy Band Holiday Concert, Sunday, Dec. 22, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Newport Naval Cable Television, channel 13.

The concert, titled *Happy Holidays*, will be cablecast live from DAR Constitution Hall.

The 90-minute broadcast will feature a wide variety of traditional and contemporary holiday music for the whole family.

Choristers to ring in holidays

MIDDLETOWN — The Newport Navy Choristers will perform their annual "Christmas in Song" concert on Friday, Dec. 13, at St. Lucy's Church, West Main Road.

The concert, scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m., will feature a variety of traditional and favorite Christmas carols, and offers a great way for the entire family to get into the holiday spirit.

Proceeds will benefit the Edward King House Senior Citizens Center.

Tickets are available from any Chorister member or at the door. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens and children under 12, or \$12 per family.

Announcements

Get in Ship Shape for 2003

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to get in shape and shed unhealthy weight, don't do it alone. The Health Promotion Department at the Naval Ambulatory Care Center is once again offering Ship Shape!

This eight week class focuses on weight loss by making healthy lifestyle changes and includes education on nutrition, exercise and stress management. The class is open to all active duty, family members, retirees and Department of Defense civilians.

For more information or to register for the class, call 841-6777/8.



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- No minimum balance requirement
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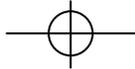


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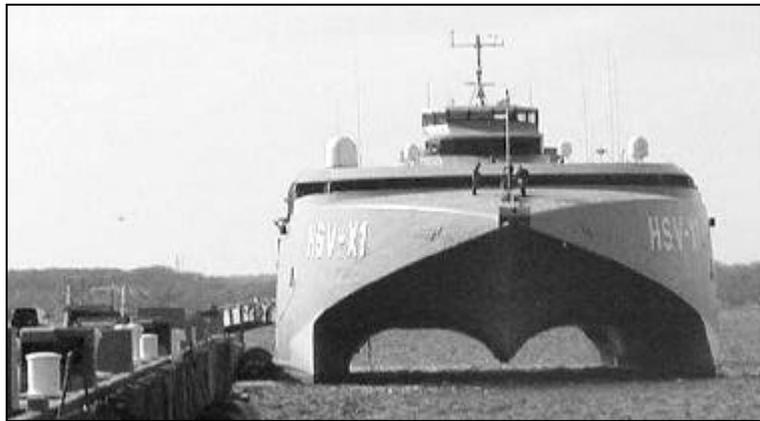
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In the fast (sea) lanes



THE TWIN hulls of the 313-foot Joint Venture (HSV-X1) show clearly as the ship berths at Pier Two, Naval Station Newport, recently. The experimental catamaran was brought to Newport through the Navy Warfare Development Command.

INVITED SPECIAL guests and crew aboard the Joint Venture (HSV-X1) watch from the Vehicle Deck as the catamaran kicks up a wake during a high speed turn in Narragansett Bay.



Ens. Jennifer Berg,
YNC Ginamarie Doherty
U.S. Navy photos

Twin-hull Joint Venture returns

By KATE HOWARD
NAVSTA Public Affairs Staff

The high speed experimental vessel Joint Venture (HSV-X1) visited Newport on Nov. 25 and gave passengers a peek at the capabilities of the wave piercing catamaran and the future of the Navy's mission capabilities.

The vessel is a combined effort from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Special Operations Command to test the possibilities of a ship that has a draft of just 12 feet fully loaded. The unique vessel first visited Newport last Novem-

ber.

The ship, a commercial car ferry leased from Incat Tasmania Pty Ltd. Of Australia, has been adapted with a helo deck, command center and berthing to be used in military operations.

"We draw only four meters of water, so we can go into places with shallow water that we couldn't before," said Operations Specialist First Class Ed Speck, one of the 30 hand-picked crewmembers aboard Joint Venture. "We've moved goods and material around the world one and a half times."

The 313-foot catamaran is

the fastest vessel in use by the Navy right now. With four 18-cylinder, 10,000 hp Caterpillar engines, it can top 40 knots.

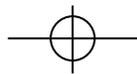
It has a high payload capacity as well as the ability to tailor the payload for optimum mission success. It has already been put into use in Marine reconnaissance missions in Somalia.

The experimental project is being coordinated locally by the Navy Warfare Development Command (NWDC) in Newport.



CREWMEN and visitors gather around the C4I (the Command, Control, Computer, Communications and Information), which serves as the ship's main control console.





Navy lends helping hand to Habitat for Humanity

By **KATE HOWARD**
NAVSTA Public Affairs Staff

Orders for measurements and adjustments rang out with the banging of hammers and the whining of saws at 34 Beacon Court as four men toiled on the house they have volunteered to build for Habitat for Humanity since late August.

The non-profit, ecumenical Christian



Richard Alexander/U.S. Navy photos

BILL CROLL measures the roof over a bay window at 34 Beacon Court, a Habitat for Humanity housing project constructed with volunteer labor.

housing ministry organization has been helping low-income families get housing since 1976.

Every Wednesday and Saturday, weather permitting, Bill Croll and Dave Terry, who are retired Navy, plus Charlie Taylor and Jim Carreira, the site director, work on the house with help from local Middletown contractor Charles Vaillancourt.

The three bedroom, two-story house in Newport is being built for a single mother with two children, and the family often comes and aids the volunteers. They also get food and coffee donations for the volunteers



TAYLOR, left, and **Dave Terry** work together framing interior walls with 2-by-4s.

from local businesses.

“We go slow,” Carreira said. “As professionals, we’d never make money,” he joked.

The retired men have a good sense of humor about their slow pace, but they are sped up monumentally with help from college students, construction workers, and military personnel.

Since September the Navy volunteers have included 13 from the Surface Warfare Officers School (SWOS), 13 from the Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS), one from the Naval Ambulatory Care Center (NACC), one from Naval Station Newport (NAVSTA), five from the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC), one from the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) program, and four from Naval Dental Center Northeast (NDCN), for a total of 38.

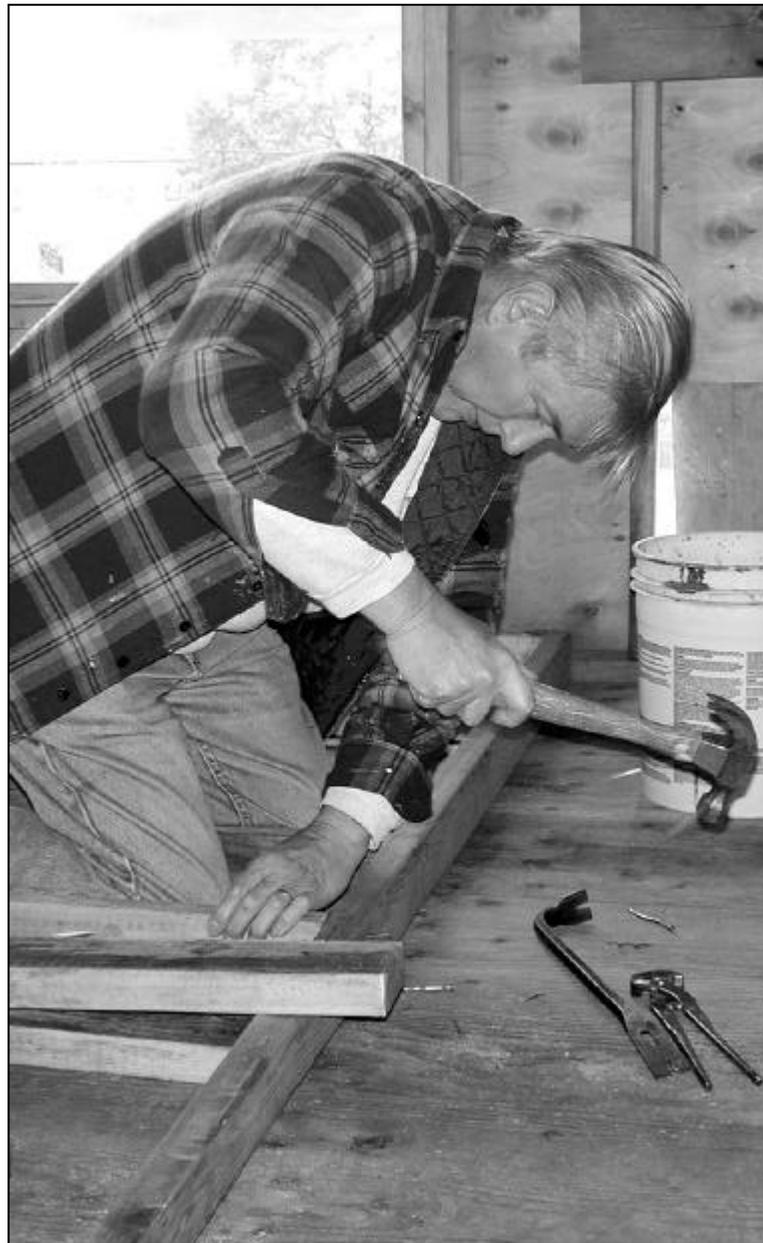
“It’s not hard work when there’s a big group working together,” said Electronics Warfare Technician Second Class Chris Eldridge of SWOS. Eldridge worked on the site every Saturday for a month.

The volunteers do not always have any construction experience and any help is welcomed.

“One day we were discouraged because we had so much work to do and we couldn’t do it alone,” Carreira remembered. “That day, 10 guys from SWOS came, and there was just wood flying everywhere,” he said with a smile.

NAVSTA personnel are supported in volunteering by an hour of administrative leave in addition to their half hour lunch break on Wednesdays, or on their own time on Saturdays.

“Just show up. We’d love to have any help,” Carreira said. “We have coffee and lunch, too,” he added.

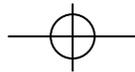


IF I HAD A HAMMER — **Charlie Taylor** connects framing studs on the second story of 34 Beacon Court.



CROLL cuts a piece of plywood for a bay window.





Naval Station Newport Dining

Officers' Club

(Building 95, Phone 841-4821, 846-7987 or 849-3693)

Today: Lunch, 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., main dining room, buffet-style selections.

Tonight: Kick off the week-end right with complimentary hors d'oeuvres in the Topside Pub every Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. As always, you can order your favorite beverages or something from the pub menu, available until one hour before closing.

Saturday: Topside Pub opens at 4 p.m. Full pub menu available until one hour before closing.

Sunday: All hands Brunch, buffet-style, main dining room, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Reservations required.

Upcoming Events:

Dec 7: The Officers' Club will carry the annual Army vs. Navy football game Saturday, Dec. 7.

Don't have tickets to the game? Don't worry! You won't miss a minute of the action at the Topside Pub!

Plus, enjoy a complimentary half-time buffet, free popcorn and peanuts during the game and 50-cent house draught beer, soda, juice or coffee — as long as Navy is winning!

Warning: Cheer Army at your own risk!
The Topside Pub opens at 11 a.m.

Dec 8: Take time out of your busy holiday schedule and treat yourself to this spectacular Shrimp-A-Peel buffet on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. If you love shrimp, then you will certainly want to get in on this special dining event!

The extensive buffet includes baked stuffed shrimp, shrimp cocktail, shrimp scampi, grilled lemon pepper

shrimp, Louisiana BBQ shrimp, three-alarm shrimp, table-served golden-fried split-tail shrimp as well as a fresh salad bar, delicious breads and homemade shrimp bisque.

Tickets cost \$29.85 for adults, \$11.45 for children (4-12), and, as always, children 3 and under are free.

Tickets, including gratuity, are \$26.40 per person and may be purchased at the O'Club gift shop or by phone with Visa/MC. Call 846-7987 to purchase tickets or for more information.

Dec 13: Thanks to patron support, the Newport Officers' Club has once again been recognized as the "busiest Navy O'Club in the World!" To celebrate, all authorized patrons are invited to lunch served at half the regular price on Friday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Bring your co-workers and make it a festive Friday! For more information, call

841-4821.

Enlisted Lounges

(Recreation Center, Building 656, phone 841-3054)

Today: Lunch served from 11 a.m. featuring sandwiches, burgers, soups and salads and creamy white New England-style clam chowder. Lunch is open to all hands and Department of Defense civilians are always welcome. Call for advance order take-out. No home delivery.

Also, enjoy complimentary unlimited use of the pool tables from 1 to 5 p.m.

Tonight: Unwind after work at the Recreation Center with a

complimentary hors d'oeuvres buffet from 5 to 7 p.m. Or, enjoy a delicious fish and chips dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. for just \$4.75. Fish and chips are available for take out; no home delivery.

So, tell your friends and get ready to kick off the weekend at the Recreation Center.

Saturday: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Pub menu available from 1 to 9 p.m.

The Recreation Center will secure at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 for a private holiday party. Normal hours of operation will resume at noon on Sunday, Dec. 8.



THE NAVY RAM will be cheered when the Officers' Club broadcasts the annual Army vs. Navy football game Saturday, Dec. 7, at noon. A complimentary half-time buffet, free popcorn and peanuts during the game, and 50-cent house draft beer, soda, juice or coffee are featured — as long as Navy is winning!

NOTE: Gratuity is included in ticket price.

Seating reservations are required and must be made at time of ticket purchase. Call 846-7987 to purchase tickets or for more information.

Dec 12: Welcome the holiday season with a fabulous dinner show on Thursday, Dec. 12, featuring a sumptuous, traditional Christmas buffet dinner and an extra special performance of Nutmeg & Mistle-Two by Matthew Quinn and Friends.

Beginning at 6 p.m., enjoy delicious cocktails and hors d'oeuvres followed by served crab bisque and Waldorf salad. Next, you will be invited to the dinner buffet, featuring carved prime rib, clove-baked ham, fresh roasted turkey, lobster Newburg, holiday stuffing, potatoes, seasonal vegetables and more! Save room for dessert — fresh-baked holiday pies, served warm and a la mode, if you like!

After dinner, enjoy the entertaining, jazz-oriented show, Nutmeg & Mistle-two. This festive holiday event is sure to lift your spirits and get your whole body moving!

Prudential

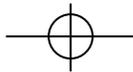
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<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>Middletown - Three bedroom, 2 bath ranch in move-in condition. Private fenced in back yard. Nice neighborhood, easy to show. \$269,900 Call Shirley Malko at 843-2800217 or 852-43-43. #216852</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>Newport - 4 bedroom, 1.5 bath, dining room, and den, off street parking, fenced yard. Well maintained throughout. \$279,900 Call Dave McCauley at 849-2800213 or 852-6206. #216849</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>Immaculate cape style home situated on corner lot in Common Fence Point. Two bedrooms, 1.5 bath, dining room, attached 2-car garage. \$269,900 Call Barbara Maravola at 849-2800225 even. #170216. #216863</p>
<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>Spacious 1167 sq. ft. townhouse condominium located on the former Mission Estate a short walk to Ewton's Beach or Bellevue Ave. Parking for 2 cars. Open floor plan, fireplace, attached green house, post and beam construction. A very unique opportunity. Alternatively priced at \$234,000. Call Paul Tobak at 849-2800233 or 852-3362. #216778</p>	<p>ON THE POINT IN NEWPORT</p> <p>Warmth, elegance, and charm describe the very unique and spacious 60 bedroom Queen Anne Colonial. Perfect for gracious living and entertaining just a stone's throw from Margarett Bay. Offered at \$1,150,000. Call Rich and Patricia Cornabe 843-2800 Ed. 226227 Even. 846-2574 #209370</p>	<p>PORTSMOUTH</p> <p>Spectacular rare waterfront lot for your dream home. Peaceful location. The land rises from shore via a winding stone driveway affording a panoramic view above the flood plain. Ready to build. All permits in place. Small summer cottage on the property. \$423,000 Call Doreen Krans at 849-2800216 even. 639-1300 #214032</p>
<p>NEWPORT</p> <p>Charming 1 bedroom condo on the floor at Huxhamk. Class 1920s Architectural detail includes fine moldings, windows, and fireplace. Hardwood floors throughout, tile in entrance and full front porch, and off street parking. Desirable location. Offered at \$249,000. Call Jane Shay at 849-2800233 even. 847-7705 or Doughnald 849-2800237 even. 846-4582. #216855</p>	<p>NEWPORT WATERFRONT</p> <p>Ereton Cove Condominium with beautiful water views of Newport Harbor. 2-3 bedrooms, 3.5 bath, fireplace, 3 deck, central air. \$650,000 Call Dave McCauley 849-2800213 or 852-6206. #212069</p>	<p>MIDDLETOWN</p> <p>Located in prestigious Ewton's Point. Small ranch with magnificent views of ocean and mountains. Up and expansion potential. \$249,000 Call Barry Clark at 849-2800222 even. 847-8206 or Art Weber 849-2800254. #103070</p>
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Leisure

Swimming

(Pool 307, 841-6628)

Swimming lessons begin Jan. 6 at Pool 307—Pool 307 is pleased to offer swimming lessons for swimmers of all experience levels. Lessons, which cover elementary swimming skills and basic water safety are available to children as young as six months of age.

Lessons will take place Jan. 6 through March 1, 2003, and cost just \$40 for eight sessions. Registration begins Dec. 9 at 3 p.m.

Lessons are available Monday through Saturday, making it easy to fit them into your schedule! Register at Pool 307 or call Jeff Cornell at 841-6628 for more information.

Parent/Tot, for six months to age 3— Parent and child work in the water with an instructor to learn basic swimming and safety skills. Class meets once a week, Wednesday 5 to 5:30 p.m.

Pre-school, ages 3 to 5 — Child learns basic water safety and swimming skills. Participants will wear floatation devices (bubbles) only when necessary. Class is once a week, and days and times available are: Monday 3:30 to 4 p.m. or 4:30 to 5 p.m., Wednesday 3:30 to 4 p.m., Friday 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday 11 to 11:30 p.m. or 12:30 to 1 p.m.

Level 1, ages 6 and up — Participants have had limited or no prior swimming instruction. Objective is to develop basic swimming and safety skills while becoming comfortable in the water. Class is once a week, and days and times available are: Monday, 4 to 4:30 p.m. or 4:30 to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, 4 to 4:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 4 to 4:30 p.m.; Friday, 3:30 to 4 p.m.; or Saturday, noon to 12:30 p.m.

Level 2, ages 6 and up — Must be able to swim front and back crawl for 15 yards. Will refine strokes and learn elementary backstroke. Class is once a week, and days and times available are: Monday, 4 to 4:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 4:30 to 5 p.m.; or Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to noon.

Level 3, ages 6 and up — Participants must be able to swim front and back crawl for 35 yards and backstroke for 15 yards. Students will learn to swim longer distances, the

sidestroke and breaststroke. Class is once a week, and days and times available are: Tuesday, 3:30 to 4 p.m.; or Wednesday, 5:30 to 6 p.m.

• Water aerobics, Tuesday and Thursday from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. Cost is \$3 per class or \$25 for 11 classes.

Bowling

(Building 656, 841-4293)

Seaview Lanes winter hours of operation follow:

Monday, 5 to 9 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday, 5 to 10 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 7 p.m. Every other Saturday night, 8 to 11 p.m. for Rock 'n Bowl.

Specials:

— Sunday special is \$7 an hour from 1 to 7 p.m. for two people.

— Bowling birthday parties available Saturdays and Sundays and include reserved lanes with or without bumpers. A party table with chairs is also included. Cost is just \$5 for each child, including shoe rental.

Special fitness activities

(Gym 109, 841-3154 or FITNESS Plus, Building 355, 841-1474)

—The adult intramural basketball league is scheduled to begin on Monday, Jan. 6, and is open to active duty, retirees, reservists, dependents and Department of Defense civilians ages 18 and over. Registration begins Dec. 9 and will be accepted Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Gym 109 until Friday, Jan. 31.

The league is divided into age categories for players 18 and over and 35 and over and games are played Monday through Friday evenings at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 on Courts 1 and 3.

There is a \$15 fee for DoD civilians and teams are limited to four DoD participants. All teams are required to pay a \$100 refundable forfeit fee, and teams must have matching shirts with numbers by the first game. The season runs through March 14.

A coaches meeting for both leagues will be Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 4:30 p.m. in Gym 109. For more information, call Jim Gauch at 841-7196.

Computer Café

(Building 656, 841-2194)

•Personal computers available seven days a week to send and receive email, surf the web, play games, etc. — all at

no charge. Open Monday through Friday at 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 8 p.m. Food menu available from the Recreation Center

kitchen. NAVSTA movies

•Officers' Club, Dec. 10, at 6 p.m., *Austin Powers 3: Goldmember* (PG-13); at 8 p.m. *Signs* (PG-13).



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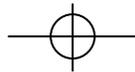


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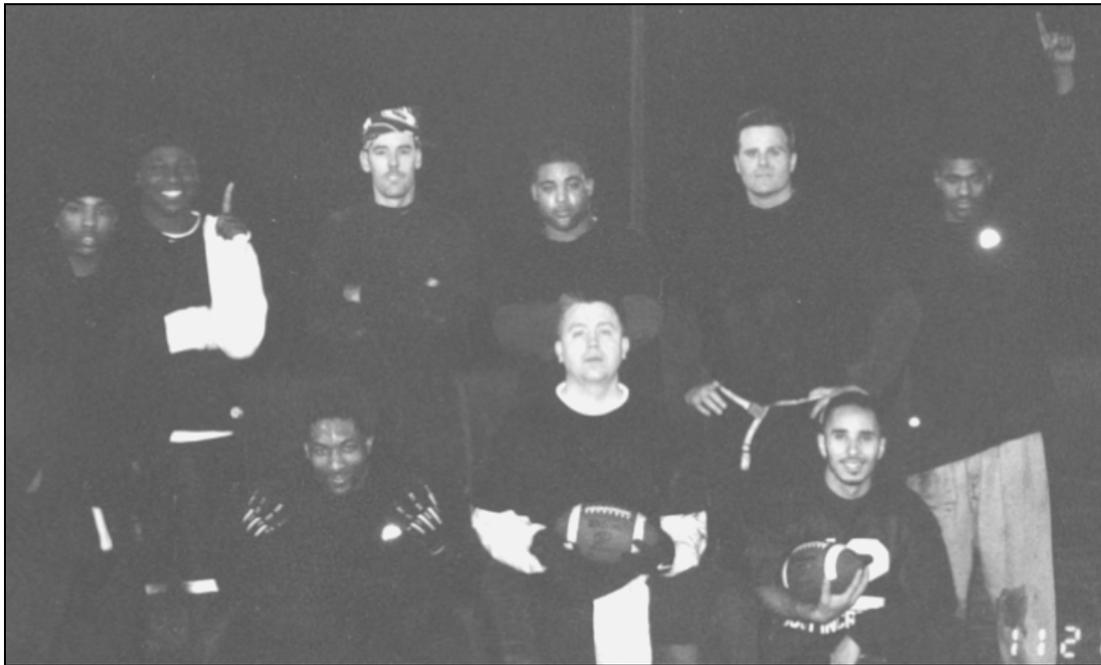
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Sports



THEY'RE NUMBER 1 — The Naval Reserve Readiness Command, Northeast, flag football team, Rhaydaz, poses after winning the 2002 Naval Station Newport Intramural Flag Football Championship last month. Front row, from left, are Frager Martin, Stephen Graham and James Vargas. Back row, Diddy Davis, Sean Lee, Matthew Stratton, James Deaver, Tim Dowden and Dewan Tutson. Missing are Harold Topping, Lamar Wyche and Chris Lynch.

'The Game' puts pride on the line

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.— With identical 1-10 records for 2002, the Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. will be playing for pure pride tomorrow at the 103rd Army-Navy game at Giants Stadium in the Meadowlands.

"The Game" will be carried over *CBS Sports* television with preliminary ceremonies at noon. The kickoff is about 12:20 p.m.

Navy is coming off a heart-breaking 30-27 loss at Wake Forest, while Army is coming off a 38-10 loss at Memphis.

Navy head coach Paul Johnson took over a program that had won just one game in the last two years (1-20) — the worst two-year record in the 122-year history of Navy football.

Army leads the all-time series, 49-46-7, including a 26-17 victory at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia last year. Navy's last win in the series was in 2000, a 30-28 triumph over the Black Knights at Ravens Stadium in Baltimore.

Navy is 2-1 all-time against Army at Giants Stadium, including a 39-7 whipping in 1997, the last time the game was held at Giants Stadium.

Prelude today to 'The Game'

Army students and faculty will face a team of Navy-Marine Corps students and faculty in a game of flag football today at 1:30 p.m. at Prichard Field opposite Gate 11.

A spokesman from the Navy camp talked of the team's outlook on today's game, a prelude to The Game tomorrow at Giants Stadium at the Meadowlands.

"We have prepared ourselves extremely well, our coaching staff has solidified the Navy game plan and our men are prepared for battle," said the spokesman. "We are very confident in the unit we have developed over the last several weeks."

Newport's Army-Navy game will feature a traditionally high-powered Navy offense. The passing attack, led by former Annapolis quarterback John Hensel, should quicken the pace of this afternoon's game and provide Navy with plenty of scoring opportunities.

Undefeated REDCOM rules flag football turf

By **STEVEN GRAHAM**
REDCOM Northeast

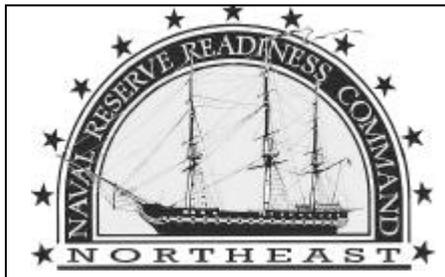
In the most hotly contested game of the season, the Naval Reserve Readiness Command, Northeast's Rhaydaz defeated the Junior Officers Association (JOA), 21-20, Nov. 20 to capture the 2002 Naval Station Newport Intramural Flag Football Championship.

Both teams reached the title game with victories earlier in the evening. Though it was a crisp clear evening for football, the game was played on very muddy field lending to a defensive struggle.

JOA was first to receive the ball, but its initial drive was stymied by an interception by REDCOM's Matthew Stratton.

However REDCOM could not capitalize against the stingy JOA defense which forced a turnover on downs after two near misses in the end zone for REDCOM.

The Rhaydaz eventually got on the board first with a trick



Flag football Tournament

The Naval Station Newport Intramural Flag Football League final tournament standings follow:

Quarterfinals

Round 2, Nov. 19

- JOA def. S-Birds, 19-12
- SWOS def. Helmets, 26-18
- REDCOM def. NUWC Nerds, 1-0
- SWOS Alpha def. NACC, 13-12

Semifinals

Round 3, Nov. 20

- JOA def. SWOS Delta, 21-19
 - REDCOM def. SWOS Alpha, 33-6
- Final Nov. 20**
REDCOM def. JOA, 20-19

play. Dewan Tutson took a reverse handoff and threw down field to Frager Martin for the TD.

The drive was previously kept alive by a Tim Dowden fourth down catch. The conversion failed, but Rhaydaz led, 6-0.

A resilient JOA squad came right back to take a 7-6 lead going into half-time. REDCOM opened the second half utilizing short passes to linemen James Vargas and James Deaver.

The drive culminated with a TD scamper by quarterback Stratton. REDCOM went for 2 point and was successful with a completion to Stephen Graham. He crossed the goal line just before his

REDCOM, Page 13

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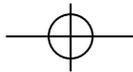
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Sports

Rams sputter in opening tilts

By **LT. JAMES HAMILTON**
NAPS Public Affairs Officer

The Naval Academy Prep School men's basketball team has launched its 2002-03 season quickly with seven games and two scrimmages last month, for a 3-4 start.

The Rams opened against Roxbury Junior College from Boston, last year's runner-up in the national Junior College Tournament. After a 38-33 lead at the half, the Rams continued their horrid free throw performance into the second half, shooting 18 for 30 from the stripe. That became the deciding factor as Roxbury won, 76-72.

The Rams' then absorbed a second loss, this time at Mitchell College, 91-77, in New London, Conn., as the Rams again shot poorly from the charity stripe (17 for 40).

The NAPSters snapped their two game losing streak by defeating the Hanscom AFB All Stars, 83-63, in Bedford, Mass., then the Harvard Uni-

versity junior varsity, 73-70, in Cambridge, Mass.

Massasoit Junior College visited Gym 302 on Nov. 23 and left with a 86-84 win, thanks to NAPS' poor 14 for 27 free throw performance.

Johnson & Wales Junior College took its Thanksgiving break in the Northeast coming back to Newport to avenge last year's double overtime loss to the Rams. They put in a great performance slamming the NAPSters, 78-52.

Navy had six players out for the night for academic obligations and it really showed as they were not ready to go as a team.

The Rams traveled to Springfield, Mass., for one last game before the Thanksgiving break on Nov. 26. After getting stuck in traffic, the Rams arrived about 75 minutes late and only got to play a 30 minute game.

The Rams won the game, 42-41, and hurried back to Newport to go on leave the next day.



PHC (AW) Jon Hockersmith/U.S. Navy photo

RUSSELL WOOTEN, Naval Academy Prep School Rams, springs for a layup against Massasoit Junior College on Nov. 23.

NAPS wrestlers test mettle

TRENTON, N.J. — The Naval Academy Prep School wrestling season got underway Nov. 17 at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) here, to take on the best in college wrestling.

Competing for the first time at the college level, the Rams were well prepared, and it showed. Leading the way for NAPS, was the team captain, John Cox.

Cox, at 149 pounds, of Grand Haven, Mich., showed quality leadership and technique on the mats. In his first match he defeated Chris Wright of the University of Pennsylvania by a fall in the second period, defeated Mike Gallivan of TCNJ by a technical fall, 20-4. He lost a close match to Pat Luknaich of the U.S. Naval Academy, 5-0, but defeated Robert Kerzow of TCNJ by a fall in the first period, to place third.

The Rams' David Cortney at 165 pounds, of Richmond, Va., defeated Matt DeNichilo of Princeton, 15-7, in his first match. He dropped his second match to Frank Edwards of the Naval Academy, 6-2. But Cortney regained his composure and went on to place fifth, defeating Chigosi Lazzo of UPenn by technical fall, 21-5; Frederick Waage of Military Academy Prep School, 11-3; and Luke Lazzo of the Naval Academy by forfeit in the finals, to place fifth.

Chester Lauchner at 197 pounds of Vinita, Okla., wrestled tough after losing his first match to Tanner Garret (Naval Academy), 11-2; and went on to place fifth by pinning his next two opponents, Ian Roncoroni of Princeton by a fall in 1:12; and Dan Reed of Army Prep by a fall in 5:25 in the finals.

Chris Rossi at 149 pounds,

of Pittsburgh, Pa., defeated Jason Chacon of TCNJ by a fall in the first period, before dropping his next two matches to Adam Brochetti of the Naval Academy by a fall in 1:25, and Kyle Nasdeo of Middlesex Community College by a fall in 3:00.

Tom Bouchard of Arlington Texas, lost his first match to Mike Bannon of Gloucester, by a technical fall, 18-2. He then came back to beat Adam Ewoldson of Army Prep, 9-3, securing a clean sweep for NAPS wrestling over Army Prep.

Bouchard lost his next match to Matt Ennis of Lehigh University in a technical fall, 22-7.

The NAPS wrestling team coaching staff is led by Lt. Cmdr. Troy Bauder, Ens. Brian Forster and Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate (SW) Jim Marron.

REDCOM

Continued from Page 12

flag was pulled.

With Rhaydaz holding a 14-7, JOA stormed right back to tie the game at 14. With three minutes left in the game and the Rhaydaz usually potent offense struggling against a fired up JOA defense, REDCOM seemed to put the game away when Stratton hooked up with the speedy Tutson on a 60 yard bomb for the score.

A successful conversion reception by Deaver gave REDCOM a 21-14 lead with just minutes to play. But with its season hanging in the balance JOA responded as they have all season.

Despite a fierce pass rush from REDCOM's Vargas and Deaver, and blanket coverage by corners Dowden, Martin, and linebacker Graham, JOA willed themselves down field, twice converting huge fourth downs. With only 20 seconds

Fire Dept. —

Continued from Page 2

ford Fiola. "We supplied everything from soup to nuts."

Douglass said local agencies such as the Florence Gray Center, New Visions for Newport County, and Winslow Place are contacted with how many baskets will be available. The agency then identifies the families to receive food baskets.

Family sizes range from three to five people.

Non-perishable food items were brought to a central location and divided into individual baskets. Fire fighters then topped off the baskets with fresh perishables and turkeys.

Douglass said there was 100 percent participation from the 62 personnel department-wide.

The fire department personnel looked beyond supplying just the Thanksgiving meal. Each basket, packed according to the size of the family, contained enough to feed the family for a week.

Every day staples such as cereal, coffee, soups, peanut butter, rice and snacks for the children also were included.

Surplus foods were given to local food pantries for distribution to those in need throughout the year.

to play, JOA scored, bringing them within one point.

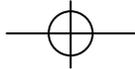
The junior officers decided to go for a two point conversion.

On a play to decide the game, JOA's quarterback rolled right and threw back across the field. But Stratton intercepted to seal the victory and the championship, setting off a jubilant celebration.

The win capped a perfect 10-0 season in which the Rhaydaz outscored its opponents by a whopping 327-91.

The REDCOM team was composed of Stephen Graham, Sean Lee, Harold Topping, James Vargas, Matthew Stratton, Frager Martin, Dewan Tutson, Tim Dowden, Lamar Wyche, James Deaver and Diddy Davis. For Martin and Stratton this was their fourth consecutive base title.





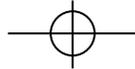
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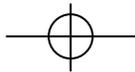
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National Geographic boards USS Tarawa

ABOARD USS TARAWA, At Sea (NNS) — Heads turned and eyes darted towards a film crew aboard USS Tarawa (LHA 1) recently, as the amphibious assault ship's Sailors and Marines became the major focus for the video cameras of a National Geographic television document-

ary team.

Navy-wide news

The four-member film

crew came aboard Tarawa from Nov. 14-21 during Fleet Exercise operations, the second-to-last phase of the Tarawa Amphibious Ready Group's training exercises in conjunction with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, off the Southern California coast.

Throughout the week, various crew members allowed the *National Geographic* team to look at their daily lifestyle, as well as their roles in a variety of training exercises, including a mass casualty drill, well deck and flight deck operations, and a search-and-rescue drill.

"We do this because we want to, not because we have to," said Aviation Structural Mechanic Third Class Michael Garcia, one of Tarawa's search-and-rescue swimmers.

Test SM-3 fired from cruiser

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and the U.S. Navy completed a successful flight test in the continuing development of the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System Nov. 21.

Flight mission-4 (FM-4) involved the firing of a developmental Standard Missile 3 (SM-3) from the Aegis ballistic missile defense cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) to engage a ballistic missile target launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility on the island of Kauai, Hawaii.

"The success of this flight test utilizing the FM-4 configured SM-3 missile is a major milestone for our naval team and the work we are doing to protect our fleet, country and allies from the threat of attack," said Secretary of the Navy Gordon England. "Working together, planners, contractors, and the crew of USS Lake Erie successfully demonstrated the

Aegis BMD system's capability to effectively engage a ballistic missile target."

"This is a watershed success in the continued development of a layered ballistic missile defense program."

The primary objective of this test was to demonstrate the Aegis BMD system's capability to engage the bal-

listic missile target on ascent.

Military Star Card offers reduced rate

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (NNS) — The Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) wants to remind Navy personnel they might qualify for the Military Star card's reduced interest rate.

Under the special program, Navy personnel assigned to contingency areas for at least 90 days are eligible for a reduced interest rate of either 6 or zero percent on their account.

"This program is a great benefit for certain deployed Sailors," said Rear Adm. William J. Maguire, commander of NEXCOM.

"This plan meets my goals in life: simplify, simplify, simplify."

"Uniformed Services Family Health Plan makes it easy to get the care you need. Once, when I received a bill by mistake, I just called them up and they took care of it — right there on the phone. No problem at all."

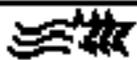
- Major Fred Ritvo, US Army Ret.
US Family Health Plan member;
Brewster, MA

At US Family Health Plan, we've been providing health care for military families for over 20 years, earning high patient satisfaction ratings for care and service.



- You get additional benefits at no extra cost. We cover everything that TRICARE offers, plus annual physicals, routine eye exams, and more.
- You save over 66% on prescriptions with our mail-order pharmacy service.
- It's simple — no claim forms, no deductibles, very little paperwork.

Enrollment is open all year, to military beneficiaries of all ages. For more information, visit www.brightonmarine.org or call 1-800-818-8589.



US Family Health Plan is the Uniformed Services Family Health Plan, a permanent part of the military health system.

