



The Newsletter for Navy Retirees

Colors Shift

Volume 48 Issue # 2 Navy Personnel Command April - June 2003

Need some help planning a Reunion?

By JO2 Jeffrey Nichols, Editor *Shift Colors*

Putting together a reunion can be a very large undertaking. It takes hours of planning, and above all a lot of money. Something not a lot of people have in this day and age. Well, there is help out there to take some of the burden off of you. Many organizations and companies are geared toward helping people plan for their reunions and some even have special places to hold them.

There are places that have ships to hold your reunion on and some have entertainment spots. Some take all the work out of it for you, with sending out notices, planning itineraries, group meals, and accommodations. With summer coming and the reunion season upon us, Shift Colors has decided to list many ways for you to get the help you need to plan your perfect reunion and take some of the work out of it. We have listed several companies and organizations that specialize in reunions and how you can contact them. This in no way means that there are not many more out there. All descriptions of web sites and companies come from each web site or their public affairs official -- **in their own words** and with their permission.

see 'Reunion,' page 11

Reunion Spots

Gatherings Plus

Our company specializes in all aspects of reunions. From the planning to the hotel accommodations, ticketing for shows and attractions, shuttle service, group meals and activities, optional activities and anything else you desire. We will do all the reservation mailings and take the reservations either by phone or mail. Branson and the Table Rock area has become a very popular area for all types of reunions, especially military reunions. The Branson entertainers do a great job of saluting the veterans and they always recognize groups that are in attendance. Call **(417) 338-4048** or visit our website at www.reunionpro.com

Battleship Cove

Battleship Cove in Fall River, Massachusetts is an ideal site for your next military reunion. It is home to the world's largest collection of historic naval ships which includes battleship Massachusetts, destroyer, Joseph P. Kennedy, JR., submarine, Lionfish, and two PT Boats, all of which are National Historic Landmarks. The Cove's newest addition is a Russian Missile Corvette, the only one on display in the world. You could say we're the only "armored" banquet facility in the Northeast.

Commanding the guns that fired the first and last American sixteen-inch projectiles in battle during WWII, the U.S.S. *Massachusetts* is merely one of eight historic vessels you'll explore at Battleship

Cove, the world's largest collection of historic naval ships.

Fall River is conveniently located 15 miles from Providence, Rhode Island; 25 miles from Newport, Rhode Island; 50 miles south of Boston, Massachusetts; and 30 miles from Cape Cod. The area abounds in history and unique attractions.

We offer a complete menu package with banquet seating for 75-175 people and several function rooms seating up to 130 people classroom/meeting style.

Battleship Cove offers free parking and a plethora of nearby attractions like the Newport mansions, the New Bedford Whaling Museum, and designer shopping outlets. Within walking distance of the Cove itself, you'll discover the Marine Museum of Fall River, the Old Colony Railroad Museum, the Fall River Carousel, and Heritage State Park. Contact Battleship Cove for more information at:

Battleship Massachusetts

Battleship Cove

Fall River, MA 02721

Phone: (508) 678 -1100

Toll Free:(800) 533-3194 (New England Only)

Fax: (508) 674-5597

battleship@battleshipcove.org

You may obtain information on hotels/motels, transportation, tourist information at www.bristolcounty.org.

Battleship New Jersey

'Immerse' yourself in a bit of American history without traveling a great distance with a visit to the Battleship New Jersey Memorial and Museum, our nation's most decorated battleship, located on the Camden Waterfront in Camden, NJ.

The Battleship, which arrived for final berthing in Camden in 2001, offers two-hour guided tours of the interesting components that make up the ship such as the Bridge, the Combat Engagement Center, the Officer's Ward Room, the Captain's Cabin, the Crew's Mess Hall and the gun turrets, as well as a beautiful view of the Philadelphia skyline.

In addition to daily public tours, the Battleship New Jersey offers an overnight encampment program popular with many youth organizations. This program lets organized groups spend the night on Big J and experience what it would have been like to be a sailor on board – from sleeping in the bunks and eating meals in the crew's mess hall to participating in watches and other ship activities.

In close proximity for those traveling from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, the Battleship New Jersey is open to the public seven days a week from 9 am - 3 pm through March 31. In April, the Battleship operates on its spring schedule, 9am - 5pm through September. For more information, please visit www.battleshipnewjersey.org or call (856) 966-1652.

USS Turner Joy (DD-951)

Bremerton Washington is the home of the Ex-USS Turner Joy DD-951, a Forrest Sherman class destroyer. She sits in the Sinclair Inlet as a Naval Memorial Ship Museum.

The Turner Joy was selected as a naval memorial in 1988 and is now a permanent attraction on the Bremerton waterfront.

The Navy destroyer is administered by the Bremerton Historic Ships Association; a private, self-sustaining, nonprofit organization supported by membership dues, admissions, and tax-deductible contributions and is being carefully restored to reflect the vessel during its active years (1960-82).

This memorial honors not only the men and women of our modern US Navy but also recognizes the accomplishments of those who help build and maintain the Navy's ships as well.

The public is able to tour this restored Vietnam era destroyer from the boiler room to the bridge. You

may visit the All Veterans POW Memorial along with the narrated WWII sea battles exhibit, an experience you don't want to miss!

Work is currently being done to the ship to eventually accommodate over night stays. The ship is in walking distance from the Seattle ferry and the Bremerton Naval Museum, another wonderful attraction to visit. Bremerton is in the process of building a brand new convention center that is in walking distance from the Turner Joy. The convention center will include a hotel and shopping and food areas. This will be an added bonus for all the reunions and special events held aboard the ship.

The ship is available for memorial services, reunions, special events or parties. The Turner Joy is open for tours seven days a week in the summer (May 1st - Sept. 30th) from 10:00am to 5:00pm and then three days a week in the winter (Oct. 1st - Apr. 30th) from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Tickets are purchased in the Turner Joy gift shop located on the Bremerton boardwalk next to the ship. Call the gift shop for rates and information on group rates or to schedule a private tour.

Bremerton Historic Ships Association 300 Washington Beach Avenue **360-792-2457**
dd951@sinclair.net

There are many other places you can find to help by going online. Below is a list of web sites that you can go to, to find reunion listings and list your own reunion and also get help setting up your reunion.

School Buddies

<http://schoolbuddies.com>

Military Locator and Reunion Service, Inc

<http://www.mlrsinc.com>

Reunions World

<http://www.reunionsworld.com>

Warships 1

http://www.warships1.com/reunion_index.htm

Reunions Magazine

<http://www.reunionsmag.com>

Military Connections

<http://www.militaryconnections.com>

U.S. Naval Institute

<http://www.usni.org/hrp/reunion.html>

The Reunion Network, Inc.

<http://www.reunionfriendly.com>

Military Reunion Planners

<http://www.militaryreunionplanners.com>

Classmates.com

www.classmates.com

VADM Gerald L. Hoewing

Chief of Naval Personnel

RADM Steven J. Tomaszeski

Commander, Navy Personnel Command

CDR Laurell Brault

Strategic Communications Director

Mike McLellan

Public Affairs Specialist

JO2 Jeffrey Nichols

Editor Shift Colors

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NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND
SHIFT COLORS (PERS-05)
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE
MILLINGTON, TN 38055-0500

E-mail address:

shiftcolors@persnet.navy.mil

Phone number:

(901) 874-4012

Mail all reunion notices to:

NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND
SHIFT COLORS (PERS-05)
ATTN: REUNION NOTICES
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE
MILLINGTON, TN 38055-0500

E-mail all reunion notices to:

shiftcolors@persnet.navy.mil

To submit reunion notices please use the following format:

USS Ships Name (USS 123)

Date of reunion

Contact phone number

Need to change your address?

If you are receiving pay and benefits, the only way that you can update your information is by contacting DFAS at (800) 321-1080. Only "Gray Area" Retirees and surviving spouses of Retirees that are not receiving benefits should contact *Shift Colors* to change their address. When corresponding with *Shift Colors*, please include a phone number so that we can get in touch with you, in case we have any questions.

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A message from the Chief of Naval Personnel

Shipmates,

As our ships and Sailors return home from war in Iraq, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect with you upon their incredible accomplishments and share with you my thoughts on the work they have done and the change they have enabled for both this nation and this Navy. Though only half over, this has already been an historic year — a year marked by great progress in our global war on terror. Al Qaeda is weaker, still a threat, but decidedly weaker. Afghanistan is free. And Saddam Hussein no longer rules Iraq. Thanks in large part to our joint warfighting team, those who commit terrorist acts or sponsor them know full well the United States and her allies will hunt them down and bring them to justice.

Your Navy — the one you helped build — has been a huge part of that team. At the height of hostilities in Iraq there were seven carrier strike groups, three amphibious ready groups and two amphibious task forces forward deployed — an armada of ships comprising more than half the Navy's entire fleet and nearly 80,000 Sailors. Every one of those ships deployed at or above 98% manning levels. And every one boasted a combat ready crew, setting sail with a cutlass in their teeth, ready to do this nation's bidding — on arrival. That readiness was no mistake. It was a direct result of the CNO's commitment to make manpower his number one priority, but it was also a testament to the culture of service we foster in the Navy today. Like you, our Sailors today want to serve. They are proud to wear, as Admiral Clark puts it, the "cloth" of this nation, and they show that commitment each and every day at sea and ashore — battling terror across the globe. You didn't have to look any further than your network news to see it.

Navy pilots and aircrew flew more than 14,000 strike sorties against targets hundreds of miles inland; surface ships and submarines fired over 800 Tomahawk missiles with unprecedented accuracy; amphibious forces moved countless numbers of Marines ashore and then stayed on station to support them; our doctors, nurses and corpsmen took care of the wounded and saved lives on both sides; and our "can do" SEABEES — many of whom remain in-country — built hospitals, camps and runways and are working feverishly to restore electricity and basic services to the people of Iraq.

The stories of bravery and grace under fire are still coming in, and they only serve to prove that this

generation of Sailor is every bit as dedicated to the ideals for which this country stands as those who stared down Hitler, who took the war to Japan and who helped win the Cold War. I had the privilege recently to visit with one of them — Hospital Corpsman Second Class Brian Alaniz, who lost part of his leg to a land mine while rescuing his friend and comrade, Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Eric Alva, who himself had stepped on a mine. Someone in the hospital room that day asked Petty Officer Alaniz if he felt like a hero. “I was only doing my job,” he replied, “and I want to get back to my Marines.” It was hard to swallow for the lump in my throat. Yet, even as I marveled at this young man’s humility and bravery, I marveled too at the realization that so many of our Sailors share those same qualities. They are out there standing watch as I write this, quietly, purposefully — and they are all heroes. I know you share my deep pride in them. So, when you meet one, please give them a handshake or a pat on the back, and let them know how you feel. I think you’ll be surprised at the lumps you put in their throats. All the best,

G.L. Hoewing

Straight from the source

Retired Activities Branch

Spring has sprung. Well, let’s hope so. It has been a long fall and winter for many of us. Now is the time to go outdoors and do things we have not been able to do for the last 6 months or so (yard work, outside sports, travel, etc.). So what are you waiting for ... after you and your spouse finish reviewing this issue of the “Shift Colors” get out there and enjoy the season of newness and rebirth.

The last edition of “Shift Colors” included information from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) regarding their new initiative to provide information to its clientele securely and easily via the myPay function at www.dfas.mil web site. I hope those of you with access to a computer have contacted DFAS via their site and requested a PIN to provide you access to your pay account. Many of us at the Retired Activities Branch have done so and can attest to the ease in which it works. This is a wonderful service that will allow you to do a lot of stuff (manage allotments, change tax information, view and print Retired Account Statements, to name a few of the tasks available to you). Now, there are those among you who do not have their own personal computers. If you do not want to be involved with this mode of communication and information, the public library, community computer sites or friends are a resource. Actually, for those of you with children or grandchildren nearby, that is an excellent asset. I am sure they will be glad to help you. We also included information in the last edition on one of the FY 2003 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) very important provisions regarding “Limited Concurrent Receipt”. Remember this provision is for special compensation for Purple Heart 10 percent or more disabled 20-year retirees and 60 percent or more combat related disabled retirees only. Please be patient for additional information. It will take the Services a little time to provide application forms and policy on this law. The effective date for implementation of the provision was June 1, 2003. I do not know if I have written this before, but when given the opportunity, I always tell anyone who will listen, how much I love my job. I enjoy, and for the most part, am pleased to serve and be available to assist the retiree community and their beneficiaries. You are a dynamic group of individuals. I was proud to serve with you during my 26 years of service and I do so now with pride and gratitude. Lastly, what do you think of your legislative representative’s performance last year regarding the retiree community initiatives (concurrent receipt, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) issues, TRICARE, Medicare, VA, Commissary and other entitlements and benefits)? If the results were not to your liking, make it known to them. If they supported all you thought was just and fair, let he/she know how thankful you are for their efforts. You may do this via

letter or go to <http://thomas.loc.gov> and visit the House or Senate directory. Or visit one of the retirees fraternal groups web sites to voice your opinion to your representatives. If you do not do anything, do not expect anything.

In Your Service,

Dennis Mills

Head, Navy Retired Operations Section

Navy and Marine Corps WW II POWs May be Eligible for Back Pay

A number of Sailors and Marines who were held as prisoners of war (POW) during World War II (WW II) are authorized to receive promotion back pay under the provisions of the fiscal year 2001 (FY '01) Floyd D. Spence Defense Authorization Act. The act provides for those who were selected for promotion but not available to accept the promotion because of their internment. The authorization enacted in FY '01 will expire September 30, 2003.

Only Navy and Marine Corps POWs held between WW II, Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946, are eligible. If the service member is deceased the surviving spouse is entitled to the back pay. The amount of the back pay will be determined using the amount the member would have been paid calculated using WW II pay rates and not adjusted for inflation.

Department of the Navy will determine eligibility for back pay by researching each individual's request. This will include obtaining and reviewing the member's archived personnel and pay records.

Applications post marked September 30, 2003 and earlier will be processed.

Navy personnel should send application to:

Bureau of Naval Personnel

Attn: World War II POW Back Pay (PERS-62W)

5720 Integrity Drive

Millington, TN 38055-6200

Marine applications should be sent:

Headquarters, U. S. M. C.

2 Navy Annex, RFL-F7

Washington, DC 20380-1775.

Additional information regarding the program and application procedures may be obtained by calling **(800) 762-8567**. USMC point of contact can be reached at **(866) 472-7139**. Application information and forms are available on the Internet at www.persnet.navy.mil/pers62/WWIIPOW/WWIIPOW.html.

Dependency determination for full time students (under age 21)

Students who are enrolled full time in an accredited institution of higher learning must have a dependency determination approval form from the Dependency Claims Division Defense Cleveland before

obtaining an Uniformed Services Identification (ID) and Privilege Card (DD form 1173) prior to their 21st birthday.

In order to make a dependency determination for you dependent, the following documentation is required from the retired sponsor:

- DD Form 1172, "Application for Uniformed Services Identification Card"
- Letter from school registrar certifying enrollment in a full time course of study leading to an associate degree or higher, and anticipated graduation date.
- Documentation showing the sponsor is providing at least 50 percent or more support; if deceased, a statement in block 89 of the DD Form 1172 that the sponsor was at time of death providing at least 50 percent or more support.

Submit the above documentation at least three months prior to the student 21st birthday to Defense Finance and Accounting (DFAS), Dependent Claims Division, Code PMMACB, 1240 East Ninth Street, Cleveland, OH 44199.

For questions regarding the status of your application, you can contact DFAS at **216-580-5567**. For additional questions or assistance, please contact Mr. Bill Weaver, Supervisor, Benefits Eligibility Section, Pers 312D, **(901) 874-4653** or **(800)-443-9297**.

What happens at Retiree Seminars?

Photo by JO2 Jeffrey Nichols

Military retiree seminars provide updated information on benefits and entitlements from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), TRICARE and the Social Security Administration. Additionally, information about base activities, renewal of Military ID Cards, special MWR offers, legislative updates and other helpful information are presented.

To top it off, you have an opportunity to meet other military members and Retirees. So, the next time you receive a card or letter from the Retired Activities Office (RAO) advertising an upcoming seminar, please consider attending it with your spouse.

Combat-Related Special Compensation

Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) is an entitlement created by Section 636, Public Law 107-314 effective 1 June 2003. CRSC provides benefits to certain retirees with combat-related disabilities that qualify under the criteria of this law. The CRSC Branch of the Naval Council of Personnel Boards, on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy, will process applications and make eligibility decisions for Navy and Marine Corps Retirees.

Basic eligibility requirements:

Be in receipt of retired pay for a 20+ year retirement and one of the following:

- Have a current VA rating of 10% or more for injuries associated with a Purple Heart award; or
- Have a current VA rating of 60% or more for combat-related injuries

Applications

The Department of Defense maintains a website at www.dmdc.osd.mil/crsc/. This website contains precise definitions of retired, combat-related, and more detailed eligibility information to assist you in determining if you may be eligible. It also contains a downloadable application form with instructions and an address to send the application. Although the website is recommended for accessing applications because of the additional information the website contains, applications may also be obtained by writing

to the following address:

**Department of the Navy
Naval Council of Personnel Boards
Combat Related Special Compensation Branch
720 Kennon Sreet SE STE 309
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5023**

Tips

This section contains information relevant to Navy/ Marine Corps retirees. It is meant to supplement the DOD website.

- The DOD website applications are required to be on line/available by May 31, 2003. DOD estimates the website and applications will be available mid to late May 2003. CRSC Branch is required to be operational and available to process applications in early June 2003.
- You will not be penalized, in terms of the amount of CRSC you ultimately receive, if you delay applying or if your application is delayed. The law provides that CRSC will be paid for any month you were eligible, but in no case prior to June 2003.
- The CRSC branch will forward approvals to you and DFAS. DFAS will compute and enact the exact pay change. Specific pay issues, once approved by the CRSC Branch, will remain the domain of DFAS.
- The DOD application will encourage you to provide as much documentation as you have and provide info on what types of documentation is appropriate. The more of this documentation you can provide, the better off you will be in the application process. If you do not have some of the required documentation, we will still process your case - it will just take (much) longer as we send out to different archival agencies to attempt to retrieve it.
- We expect a high volume of cases starting June 2003 for approximately two years as we process cases for our current retirees. As a result, we will be unable to directly respond to telephone or e-mail inquiries. If your application is accepted for processing you will be notified by mail with estimated timeframes and procedures for obtaining a status update should we exceed the estimates we provide you.
- The CRSC Branch is in the process of establishing a toll-free information line at 1-877-DON-CRSC (1-877-366-2772). This line will provide basic eligibility requirements and information on how to obtain an application. Please be aware that this is an information line only and will not connect to CRSC Branch personnel.
- The Naval Council of Personnel Boards (NCPB) maintains an information website. The CRSC Branch page of this website will contain information similar to this article. The NCPB website is <http://www.hq.navy.mil/ncpb>.

Itemized Billing Streamlines TRICARE Outpatient Care Payments

The Department of Defense (DoD) Military Health System (MHS) converted to “itemized billing” a few months ago to streamline the process for billing uniformed services beneficiaries, third-party payers and persons not eligible for TRICARE for outpatient care received at military treatment facilities (MTFs). The new billing approach does not change access to care for TRICARE beneficiaries. It does, however, change the way those who have other health insurance (OHI) are billed for outpatient care received at a MTF.

Previously, outpatient bills were calculated using an allinclusive or “single rate” per visit. The single rate covered not only the provider’s fees but also fees for laboratory, radiology and pharmacy services received during an outpatient visit. Under itemized billing, each outpatient service or treatment provided is clearly annotated on the claim form (billing statement for non-DoD patients,) along with all associated

charges. In addition to the itemization of charges for services received during an outpatient visit, MTFs are now also able to bill third party payers for prescriptions filled from orders received from physicians within the MTF.

The move to itemized billing came as a result of the 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) that required the MHS to conform to industry billings standards; the Fiscal Year 2000 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that required DoD apply reasonable charges when billing third-party payers and non-DoD beneficiaries; and from concerns expressed by beneficiaries and third-party payers that the all-inclusive single rate was too ambiguous for use in processing claims.

Overall, the transition to itemized billing is a win-win situation. Beneficiaries who have OHI and receive care at a MTF can now receive an explanation of benefits (EOBs) and bill that clearly identify the health care services received and their associated cost. DoD benefits from the collections received, which can be put toward resources to support medical services and other patient-related initiatives at MTFs. Third-party payers also receive a benefit. Claims submitted by DoD are now similar to claims submitted by civilian providers, which creates assurance for payers third-party payments made to DoD mirror established industry practices. While DoD's initial efforts have focused exclusively on outpatient care, plans are underway to convert billing practices for inpatient care to itemized billing later this year.

Beneficiaries who have questions or concerns about an itemized bill or EOB from a TRICARE authorized civilian provider should contact their regional managed care support contract claims processor or TRICARE service center representative. A list of local and regional toll-free telephone numbers is available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/regionalinfo/.

Beneficiaries and third-party payers with questions regarding an itemized bill received from an MTF are encouraged to contact the billing office of the MTF submitting the bill. General DoD medical billing information is also available by submitting questions by e-mail to the DoD Uniform Business Office at ubo@tma.osd.mil or by calling **(866) STI-4UBO** or **(866) 784-4826**.

Retired Vets have much to share with the community

By Doug LeMere, AFRH-Gulfport, Miss., Public Affairs

Residents of the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Gulfport are an excellent source of wartime experiences that can be shared with the local community. The 577 veterans at the retirement home have served during one or more of the last three wars, lived firsthand with the hardships, sacrifices and experiences of war, and would like the opportunity to share these experiences.

Several weeks ago, an article appeared in a local paper about the Foss Institute, a program that brings war veterans to schools across America. The mission of the Foss Institute is to connect one million elementary and high school students each year with veterans willing to speak about patriotism and their wartime experiences.

About midway through the great article, the organizers of the Foss Institute indicated that local chapters would open across America and Mississippi would be scheduled for a chapter in 2005. With that program in mind, residents of the home want to reach out to South Mississippi schools now. In the past, many residents have enjoyed speaking at many of the local schools and other community venues. Pete Carter, resident and retired Air Force master sergeant, has been to several schools in South Mississippi. "We're ready," he said. "Where do you need us to go?"

Tapping into this resource of information, through the eyes of these witnesses, is an opportunity we cannot let slip by. Having visitors to the retirement community is another option. Last year, more than 400 active duty military personnel came to the retirement home for tours and to visit residents.

Recently, 25 men and women from the 338th Training Squadron at Keesler Air Force Base were part of a new "Visit-A-Vet" program.

The program was conceived and implemented by instructors assigned to the 338th Training Squadron and the public affairs office at AFRH-Gulfport. It is intended to introduce today's young veterans to veterans of yesterday. The retirement home community was a perfect place to start.

"The people here are easy to talk to," said Airman Thomas Rich, native of Seymour, Conn. "The residents came up to me and shared their stories - it was cool."

Visiting the retirement community, sharing stories and learning about veterans is a win-win situation for active duty personnel. "There's a lot more history here than I learned in school," said Airman Kenneth Sell, a native of Germantown, Md.

The students and veterans of today can learn so much from our veterans of our past. The opportunity to share experiences either in our schools or by the "Visit-A-Vet" program is here at the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Gulfport. It's your firsthand opportunity.

For more information about the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Gulfport write to:

Armed Forces Retirement Home-Gulfport

Resident Affairs Service

1800 Beach Drive

Gulfport, MS 39507-1597

or call 800-332-3527

www.afrh.com/index.html

Navy tradition strong at AFRH-Washington

By Sheila Abarr, AFRH-Washington DC PublicAffairs

The Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, D.C. runs rich in military history. Originally established as an asylum for soldiers, the AFRH-W has evolved into a top notch retirement community for eligible enlisted retirees and veterans from every branch of the armed services. The campus is located on 320 acres in northwest Washington, DC and the home to more than 1,000 American heroes.

Despite the historic name of the "Old Soldiers' Home," the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Washington, has adopted some Navy traditions to make our Navy residents feel at home. Today the Navy's presence is seen in every corner of the Washington campus. Everyday at 11:40 a.m., Anchor's Aweigh is played throughout the campus along with the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corp hymns. It's not unusual to see several residents turn to the U.S. Flag and stand at attention when they hear their service song playing. A Navy propeller and ship bell was installed on campus during the mid 1990's upon the request of the Navy residents living at AFRH-W. After the AFRH-W celebrates the Navy birthday in October, Navy residents and employees join together to polish and shine the bell. This is just one more tradition the Navy residents have brought into our community.

The U.S. Navy retirees and veterans make up eight percent of the overall population at AFRH-W. In 1991, Congress mandated that eligible retirees and veterans from the Armed Services may resided at either the Gulfport or Washington campuses.

One of those Navy residents, Harris Bircher has called AFRH-W home since August 2001. He is one of 82 sailors who live at AFRH-W.

At a young age, Harris decided that working on a farm in Iowa was not what he wanted to do with the rest of his life, thinking the Navy might be a good option. But when asked if he was of age when he enlisted, he always gives me a slight smile and says, "Well maybe my father signed the paper work." After 20 years of service, he retired in 1957 as a Chief Boatswain Mate. He spent most of his Navy career in the South Pacific and on the west coast of the U.S. Harris is one of the few Pearl Harbor

survivors that reside at the Washington campus. He served aboard the U.S.S. West Virginia, which returned to Pearl Harbor on Friday, Dec 5, 1941 after maneuvers with other ships in their division.

Harris was on the U.S.S. West Virginia on the morning of December 7th and was listed as killed in action for approximately two weeks after the attack. Even though their battleship took six torpedo hits in its hull, Harris and several shipmates survived this devastating attack. Harris continued his service aboard the U.S.S. San Francisco at Midway and Guadalcanal before the war's end.

"I'm very proud of my military service and especially my service in the U. S. Navy."

The AFRH-W is committed to offering a retirement lifestyle to eligible sailors, soldiers, airmen and Marines. Our campus has been the home to military heroes in the past and present and will be the home of heroes long into the future.

For more information about the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Washington DC write to:

Armed Forces Retirement Home-Washington

Public Affairs Office

Washington, D.C. 20317

or call 800-422-9988

www.afrh.com/index.html

NAF Key West Offers Low Cost Vacation Options

By Ingrid Mueller, Navy MWR Communications Group

Interested in fishing, diving or snorkeling? Recreational boating or sailing? Walking on the beach? Imagine swimming in crystal-clear waters that display a living tapestry of undersea life. Maybe you want to learn about the history of the Florida Keys first hand, through its many museums, historic sites and architecture. Or partake in the world-famous Sunset Celebrations in Key West's Mallory Square, where artists, musicians and merrymakers introduce a nightlife that offers something for everyone.

You want to go but can't afford it? Think again, because the Navy's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facilities and lodging at Naval Air Facility (NAF) Key West, Fla., are some of the best the Navy has to offer, and their MWR professionals are standing by to provide top-notch services and programs at reasonable prices.

"We have many MWR-sponsored trips, as well as discounted prices on local attractions, which can save visitors a lot of money," said Sue Renner, marketing director for NAF Key West. "We know all the local merchants that love the military, and those who offer specials on everything from deep sea fishing charters to sky diving," she said.

Located within walking distance from downtown, the lodging available through Navy MWR at Key West has been totally renovated. Vacation rentals include 41 three- and four-bedroom townhouses, as well as 36 two-bedroom mobile homes.

"Tourists pay three to four times what an eligible MWR patron would pay for comparable accommodations," explained Renner. "It's a wonderful tropical island where the lifestyle is very laid back, and the military retiree can visit for a price that is unbeatable for a vacation destination like ours," Renner added.

Active duty and retired military have the advantage of making their reservations up to five months in advance.

The three-and four-bedroom townhouses feature 1 ½ baths, wicker furniture, screened-in porches with tropical foliage, a breakfast and dining area, cable television, bedrooms complete with linens, and fully-equipped kitchens that include a coffee pot, dishes, and a microwave. Some townhouses also have

a washer and dryer. Stay is limited to two weeks, and pets are not allowed. You may also want to bring your cell phone along, as the units do not have telephones.

The mobile homes, which are in the process of being renovated, are also fully equipped, clean and very nice for short-term stay. The units feature two bedrooms, one bath, with cable television. Laundry facilities are available nearby, on the Sigsbee Park annex. Pets are not allowed in these units. If you're into the RV lifestyle, there's plenty of room at the NAF Key West RV park, which offers 93 full hook-ups, more than 350 dry camping areas, and four bathhouses; three of them include laundry facilities.

"We welcome over 400 RV's each year at NAF Key West and look forward to that number increasing every year. We have some retirees who spend the winter months with us," said Renner.

Nestled in the aqua blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean, NAF Key West's Boca Chica Marina, completed in November 2002, has 105 fixed slips and 20 moorings for sailing enthusiasts. Some of the other features include a white sand beach, kayak rentals and a volleyball court. The Navigator Bar & Grill there offers great food, a friendly, helpful staff and entertainment.

"Our sailing marina has a large number of retirees who love to sail from our homeport down to the other islands south of Key West, many only a one-day trip from here," she added. Sigsbee Marina is a full-service powerboat marina located on Sigsbee Park, a short three minutes from the vacation rentals. A variety of boats are available for rental to satisfy even the most serious fishermen, along with rods and reels, life jackets, coolers, and everything else you may need to spend the day out on the water.

Navy MWR dining facilities are available on all three annexes and the main NAF Key West base. They include the Navigator Bar & Grill; Striker's Café, located in Air Lanes Bowling Center on Boca Chica; Sunset Lounge at Sigsbee Park; Beach Patio Grill at Truman Annex; and the Trumbo Palms Restaurant at Trumbo Point.

NAF Key West also has a Navy Exchange, state-of-the-art gymnasium, Commissary and a new Navy medical complex. To take advantage of Navy MWR lodging and vacation opportunities at NAF Key West, please call **(305) 293-5000** (or send an e-mail to roneyde@naskw.navy.mil).

For RVPark interest, send your e-mails to waitedo@naskw.navy.mil you may also call the NAF Key West Information, Tickets & Tours Office, at **(888) 539-7697**, and ask to be transferred to vacation rentals. Normal working hours for the reservations office is 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., EST, Monday through Saturday.

Stars and Stripes to Deliver Personal Messages from Home

U.S. troops deployed to the Persian Gulf region, as well as other overseas locations, will soon receive personal messages from family members, friends, neighbors, colleagues and supporters via the pages of Stars and Stripes.

Messages of Support — a daily section debuted March 17, 2003 — will feature greetings, words of encouragement and announcements, free of charge to family and friends of deployed service members.

"In the past few weeks, we've received a significant number of email messages from spouses, parents, friends and others trying to get in contact with their loved ones serving in the Persian Gulf region. Running messages from folks on the home front seemed like a natural extension of our mission," said Stars and Stripes Publisher, Thomas Kelsch.

Stars and Stripes, the daily newspaper distributed overseas to U.S. troops and their family members, is currently increasing its Middle East circulation, with the goal of providing one paper for every three persons stationed there.

Messages of Support can be emailed to Stars and Stripes 24 hours a day at messages@estripes.com,

are limited to 50 words or less and will be printed on a first come, first run basis. Stars and Stripes reserves the right to omit any ad determined inappropriate and to screen and edit all messages.

Centenarian Sailors

Vice Admiral Wallace B. Short was born on May 18, 1903. In 1920, he was accepted to the Naval Academy and graduated in 1924.

A review of his career:

1924 - assigned to USS Texas as the assistant division officer and assistant gunnery officer.

1925 - attended the Naval Academy Postgraduate School.

1927 - attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He then spent six months as the assistant public works officer at the Marine base at Quantico, VA.

1929 - spent four months at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard in charge of the power plant.

1930-1934 - Naval Training Station, Newport, RI. Promoted to Lieutenant senior grade.

1934 - assigned to Fleet Air Base, Pearl Harbor as Public Works Officer.

Unknown - became the Assistant Public Works Officer at Naval Air Station, Pensacola. Promoted to Lieutenant Commander.

1940-1942, assigned to Naval Ammunition Depot, Crane (formerly Burns), Indiana.

1942 - Spent nine months working at the Naval Ammunition Depot in Hastings, Nebraska. Promoted to Commander.

1943 - Promoted to Captain.

1944 - Stationed at Manus, Admiralty Islands as the Commander of the Fourth Naval Construction Seabee Brigade. After a short stay in Honolulu, Captain Short was sent to Okinawa and promoted to the rank of Commodore (temporary) and was the commander of the Eleventh Naval Construction Seabee Brigade.

1946-1950 - Returned to the Bureau of yards and Docks in Washington D.C. "I was reverted to rank of Captain during this period and was Assistant Chief for Administrative Management for military personnel, civilian personnel, administrative services, labor relations and management engineering.

1952 - 1953, served as District Civil Engineer, Sixth Naval District, Charleston, S.C.

1953 - 1955, Commander Naval Construction Battalions (Seabees) Atlantic Area HQ, Davisville, Rhode Island.

1955 - 1957, promoted to rear Admiral CEC, Director of Construction for the Spanish bases program in Madrid. 1957 - 1959, stationed in Honolulu as Director, Pacific Division, Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks; Commander Pacific Seabees; Civil Engineer for Pacific Service Force and for Commander in Chief Pacific and Pacific Fleet. He retired from the Navy on November 1, 1959 with the rank of Vice Admiral, CEC.

1960 - served as a member of a study group for General Services Administration in Washington, D.C., and Public Buildings Service for in depth study of problems and deficiencies in operation of \$350 Million dollar major building program with resulting recommendations for improvements.

In May 1961 he went to Karachi Pakistan for an Engineering study for Pakistan for the ports of Karachi and Chittagong, for the purpose of making the Indus River navigable.

"I was offered a job in Afghanistan once, but turned it down. I didn't care for the climate or eating camel burgers. I did work in Pakistan for five months and my stomach suffered from eating roast pepper. My two Pakistani contacts were most friendly and cooperative. They even loaned me a mine sweeper to visit four sites on the Makran Coast."

1962 - 1963, worked in Bangkok, Thailand on an economic and engineering study of four SOUTH

THAILAND ports CHAI-SON, SONG KHLA, PHUKET, and PATTANI.

1963 - 1964, San Jose, Costa Rica World Bank Project for Engineering and Economic transportation study of the central corridor of COSTA RICA, C. A., which included the ports of LIMON and PUNTARENAS together with connecting highways and railroads.

1964 - 1964, called to active duty to study and make recommendations for the Navy Reserve Program, and again to head up the Selection Board for officers qualifying for REAR ADMIRAL. To serve on this board is considered quite an honor among his peers.

1966 - Present, resides in Washington, DC.

Be Prepared Before the Storm

By *Emily Luce, LifeLines*

Note: This article is about how to prepare for weather emergencies before they occur. If you are looking for information about what to do during or after an emergency has occurred, your best bet on the net is the American Red Cross.

If you are reading this to get your family and your home storm safe, with lots of time to plan and prepare, you're in the right place.

Let's reminisce: It was 1986, and my family was living in military housing. Rain was coming down so hard that we couldn't see out the windows. Obviously, we couldn't play outside, so all of the kids from the neighborhood were at our house watching videos. Having heard no television or radio news alerts or warning sirens, nobody in the house was aware that a tornado had touched down just a half-mile away. Luckily for us, a frantic mother ran across the courtyard through wind and pouring rain to let us know that we all should probably take cover.

Had we done everything right, this would be the part of the story where we grabbed the family emergency kit, ran to the nearest basement and start drinking bottled water. Unfortunately, that is not the way it happened in real life. We kids ran straight to the window to see if we could see the tornado. My mother herded us to the hallway with numerous doorframes and support beams, and told us to sit there together and be quiet. She gave us some blankets. Fortunately, the tornado passed without any damage to our neighborhood.

In so many ways, the events of that afternoon could have turned out differently. This article will cover the basics of storm preparedness.

The Key

Simply stated, preparedness is presence of mind during an emergency - doing what you must to stay calm and take logical action. One recommended approach is two-fold. First, create the mental exercise of going through a disaster and anticipating any potential problems and their solutions. Second, reinforce the mental practice with physical preparations that you can keep on hand and ready for any emergency. With these precautions taken, you will be as prepared as possible.

In General

Make sure all family members know what to do in emergencies. Go over procedures for specific emergencies that are particular to your area, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, etc. Establish a family meeting place and an out-of-town phone contact just in case. Have a daytime plan and meeting place for instances when families may become separated.

Know your neighbors.

Keep track of them. Let them keep track of you. Include pets in your emergency planning. Teach and reinforce to children the importance of emergency preparedness. This will help you remember what to do, as well. Keep a general emergency kit stocked with flashlights, extra batteries, battery-powered radio, candles and/or lantern, first aid kit, knife, blankets, can opener, a three-day

supply of bottled water and canned food, medications, suitable clothes and sturdy shoes, and important documents, including medical records, insurance, and proof of identity. Don't forget a list of important phone numbers.

Because your emergency kit is for emergencies, don't bury it under a bunch of stuff in a closet or put it in a dark corner of the attic or basement. Keep it in an easily accessible area where you can grab it should the need arise. Obviously, you should tailor your emergency kit for your family's needs. For instance, if you live in an area where winter weather exists, your automobile should be outfitted for winter emergencies as well.

If you live in an area where emergency evacuations are possible, make sure that you are aware of the local evacuation procedures. Know your particular evacuation route and test drive it. Make arrangements in advance to stay with a relative or a friend, or if that's not feasible, identify a suitable hotel.

Keep the outside of your home "storm safe." Notice what's around your house in terms of wiring and large objects such as telephone poles and trees. Keep dead trees and limbs cut back and away from the house. Make sure wiring is in good order.

Know where your power supply originates, and while you're at it, where your circuit breaker is and how to use it. Know how to turn your water off and on. If you have gas lines into your house, know where those are, too, and how to tell if there's a leak (smell of gas or a hissing sound) and what to do (open window immediately). If you don't think you'll remember, write it all down, fold it up, and stick it in a waterproof sandwich baggie in your emergency kit, along with the phone number of your power company.

You should also be prepared for secondary disasters that could occur after the storm, such as foundation instability due to home damage, chance of fire, flood, etc.

Loss of Power

If you know a storm is coming and there is a chance you'll lose power for a while, there are several things you can do to prepare. Think energy conservation: Don't open the refrigerator; keep outside doors closed if it's excessively cold or hot. Block heating vents and make sure your home is well insulated. Have a plan: keep a no-cook meal on hand, know how to manually override your garage door, and think about activities you can do without lights, television, or a computer. Don't forget about preplanning for temperature or power-reliant issues for kids and elderly, as well as for pets, fish, birds, etc.

Financial

In the case of damage to your home, inventory and insurance coverage are the resounding "dos" for storm preparedness. Take inventory of your material belongings and record them using videotape, photographs, or written records. If there is damage to your home or belongings, take an after-the-fact inventory to document the damage. Secure your valuables while you're at it.

Make sure you have adequate insurance coverage. Most homes, for instance, do not have flood insurance. Check your insurance policy. If it does not cover disasters that are typical for the area in which you live, you may want to consider the additional coverage.

For further, storm-specific information, visit the tried-and-true Red Cross web site www.redcross.org. Additional information can be found at the FEMA website, www.fema.gov.

FRA Priority Legislative Issues for 2003

FRA Public Relations

As the 108th Congress begins its first session, the Fleet Reserve Association's (FRA's) legislative team has identified the priority issues for Sea Services retirees and active duty/reserve personnel to be

addressed by the Association in 2003.

Reform of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) tops the list of priority retiree issues. This includes elimination of the Social Security offset provision of the SBP and shifting the effective date for paid up coverage from 2008 to 2004.

Funding for concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation (as set forth by Rep. Mike Bilirakis in H.R. 303) in the FY 2004 budget also remains a high priority and was cited as an area of concern among active duty personnel responding to a recent Association web survey.

Other retiree priorities include equity amendments to the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act (USFSPA); retention of the full final month's retired pay by the surviving spouse for the month in which the member was alive for at least 24 hours; and expanding active, reserve and retiree access to health care.

FRA's active duty and reserve priorities were influenced by input from FRA's online survey, and in addition to health care access include additional annual active duty pay increases that are above the Employment Cost Index (ECI) to help close the pay gap between active duty and private sector pay; improved education benefits for active duty personnel, reservists, and their spouses; and payment of dislocation allowances to members of the Armed Forces retiring or transferring to an inactive duty status in the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Reserve as part of their final compensation package.

"The Association remains steadfast in its commitment to proactively represent enlisted concerns on Capitol Hill with regard to compensation, health care, and other quality of life issues affecting our active duty, reserve and retired Sea Services personnel," explained Joe Barnes, FRA's National Executive Secretary.

FRA will address the aforementioned issues in meetings with members of Congress and staff and in testimony presented and/or submitted to key congressional committees in the coming months.

The federally chartered FRA is the oldest and largest military association representing the concerns of enlisted Sea Service personnel. As it has done for 78 years, FRA serves as the premier watchdog organization for safeguarding and enhancing military pay, health care and benefits by representing the concerns of its 135,000 members before Congress and appropriate federal agencies.

For more information visit the Association's Web site at www.fra.org.

RETIRED ACTIVITIES OFFICES PHONE LISTING

Arizona

Phoenix, AZ

(N&MCRESREDCEN)

(602)353-3033

0830-1500(Mon-Fri)

Tucson, AZ

(N&MCRESCEN)

(520)228-6277/89

0930-1500(Tue-Fri)

California

China Lake, CA

(NAVAIRWPASTA)

(760) 939-2054

0900-1100 (Mon-Fri)

Lemoore, CA

(NAS)
(559) 998-4042
0800-1630 (Mon-Fri)

Monterey, CA

(NAVSUPPACT)
(831) 656-3060
0800-1500(Wed)

Point Mugu, CA

(NBVC)
(805) 982-1023
0800-1600 (Reg. work
days)

San Diego, CA

(CORONADO - NAS)
(619) 437-2780
0900-1200 (Mon-Fri)

San Diego, CA

(NAVSTA)
(619) 556-8987
0800-1600 (Mon-Fri)

Seal Beach, CA

(NWS)
(562) 626-7152
0900-1500 (Mon-Fri)

Sunnyvale, CA

(ONIZUKA AIR
STATION-FORMERLY
MOFFETT FIELD)
(650) 603-8047
0930-1530 (Mon-Fri)

Connecticut

Groton, CT

(SUBASE)
(860) 694-3284
0900-1500 (Mon-Fri)

Delaware

Wilmington, DE

(N&MCRESCEN)
(302) 998-5194
0800-1630(Mon-Fri)

Florida

Jacksonville, FL

(NAS)
(904) 542-2766 Ext 124
0900-1500 (Mon-Fri)

Mayport, FL

(NAVSTA)
(904) 270-6600 Ext 137
0730-1600 (Mon-Fri)

Milton, FL

(NAS WHITING FIELD)

(850) 623-7177

0900-1200(Tue/Wed)

1200-1600(Thu)

Orlando, FL

(DFAS BLDG)

(407) 646-4204/4259/

4260

1000-1400 (Mon-Fri)

Pensacola, FL

(NAS)

(850) 452-5990 Ext 111

0900-1300 (Mon-Fri)

Georgia**Atlanta, GA**

(NAS)

(770) 919-6735 option 8

1000-1200 (Tue&Thur)

Kings Bay, GA

(SUBASE)

(912) 673-4509

0730-1600 (Mon-Tue-

Wed-Fri)

0900-1600 (Thurs)

Hawaii**Pearl Harbor, HI**

(NAVSTA)

(808) 473-4222 Ext 231

0800-1500 (Mon-Fri)

Illinois**Great Lakes, IL (NTC)**

(847) 688-3603 Ext 118

0900-1500 (Mon-Fri)

Louisiana**New Orleans, LA**

(NAVSUPPACT)

(504) 678-2134

0900-1200 (Mon-Fri)

Massachusetts**Quincy, MA**

(NAVRESCEN)

(617) 753-4636/26

1200-1600(Wed&Fri)

Maryland

Annapolis, MD

(USNA)

(410)293-2641

0900-1200(Wed)

Bethesda, MD

(NNMC)

(301) 295-4120

0930-1530 (Mon-Fri)

Patuxent River, MD

(NAS)

(301) 342-4911

0700-1700 (Mon-Thur)

0700-1630 (Fri)

Maine

Brunswick, ME

(NAS)

(207) 921-2609

0900-1200 (Mon-Fri)

Michigan

Mt. Clemens, MI

(SEL ANGB)

(586) 307-5580

0900-1500 (Mon-Fri)

Minnesota

Minneapolis, MN

(NAVAIRRESCEN)

(612) 713-1578

1000-1400(Tue/Thu)

Missouri

St. Louis, MO

(N&MCRC)

(314) 263-6443

0930-1400(Tue, Thur, & Fri)

Mississippi

Gulfport, MS

(NCBC)

(228) 871-3000 Ext 35

0900-1200 (Mon-Fri)

New Hampshire

Portsmouth, NH

(207) 438-1868
1000-1400(Tue-Thu)

New Jersey**Lakehurst, NJ**

(NAVAIRENGSTA)
(732) 323-5099
0900-1500(Wed/Thu)

Nevada**Fallon, NV**

(NAS)
(775) 426-3333
0730-1600 (Mon-Fri)

New York**Amityville, NY**

(AFRESTRGCEN)
(631) 842-6620
0930-1500(Tue & Thur)
0930-1200 (Wed)
0930-1400(Fri)

Oregon**Central Point, OR**

(NAVRESCEN)
(541) 857-4988
0900-1200 (Tue-Thurs)

Eugene, OR

(N&MCRESCEN)
(541) 686-9266
1000-1500 (Mon-Fri)

Portland, OR

(N&MCRESCEN)
(503) 285-4566/9587
Ext 548/532
0900-1300(Tue-Thur)

Pennsylvania**Willow Grove, PA**

(NAS JRB)
(215) 443-6033
1-800-773-1569
1000-1500 (Mon-Fri)

Rhode Island**Newport, RI**

(NAVSTAMPT)

(401) 841-4089
0900-1200(Mon-Fri)

South Carolina

Charleston, SC

(NAVWPNSTA)
(843) 764-7480 Ext16
0800-1630 (Mon-Fri)

Greenville, SC

(NMCRC)
(864) 277-9775 opt 4
0900-1100 (Tue, Thurs&Fri)

Tennessee

Millington, TN

(NAVSUPPACT)
(901) 874-5195
1000-1400 (Mon,Wed)

Texas

Corpus Christi, TX

(NAS)
(361) 961-3113/2372/3722
0800-1230(Mon/Tue/
Thur&Fri)
1300-1500(Wed)

Ft. Worth, TX

(NAS JRB)
(817) 782-5442/5287
0800-1600 (Mon-Fri)

Houston, TX

(N&MCRESCEN)
(713) 795-4109/4068
0900-1300 (Mon-Fri)

Ingleside, TX

(NAVSTA)
(361) 776-4551
0800-1630 (Mon-Fri)

Kingsville, TX

(NAS)
(361) 516-6105/6333
1300-1500 (Mon,Wed & Fri)

San Antonio, TX

(NAVRESCEN)
(210) 225-2997 Ext 119
1000-1400 (Mon-Fri)

Virginia

Dahlgren, VA

(NSWC)
(540) 653-1839/3291
1-800-500-4947
0930-1530(Mon/Wed/Fri)

**Hampton Roads Regional
Office Norfolk, VA**

(NAVSTA)
(757) 462-9105
1-800-372-5463
1000-1400 (Mon-Fri)

Little Creek, VA

(NAB)
(757) 462-7763
1-800-372-5463
1000-1400 (Mon-Fri)

Norfolk, VA

(NAVSTA)
(757) 322-9113
1-800-372-5463
1000-1400 (Mon-Fri)

Oceana/Dam Neck, VA

(FCTC)
(757) 492-7150
1-800-372-5463
1000-1400 (Mon-Fri)

Washington

Bangor, WA

(SUBASE)
(360) 396-4115
1-800-562-3301
1300-1600 (M, Tue, W, & F)

Bremerton, WA

(NAVSHIPYD
PUGETSOUND)
(360) 476-5113/5116
1-800-634-4100 (WA Only)
0900-1500 (Mon-Fri)

Everett, WA

(NAVSTA)
(425) 304-3775
1-888-463-6697 opt5 ask for
RAO
1000-1300 (Mon-Fri)

Whidbey, Island, WA

(NAS)
(360) 257-8054/55
0900-1500 (Mon-Fri)

Wisconsin

Milwaukee, WI

(N&MCRESCEN)
(414) 744-9766
0900-1500(Mon-Fri)

OVERSEAS

LOCATIONS

Guam

(NAVACTS)

(671)339-7635/333-2056/7/8

Italy

La Maddalena, IT

(NAVSUPPACT)

011-390-789-73-6161

DSN: (314) 623-8205

24HRS (Mon-Sun)

Naples, IT

(NAVSUPPACT)

011-39-81-568-4857

DSN: (314) 625-4393

0730-1600 (Mon-Fri)

Japan

Atsugi, JA

(NAF)

Local: 0467-78-5015 Ext 264-4190

011-81-311-764-4190 (fm conus)

DSN: (315) 264-4190

0900-1200 (Tue/Fri)

Sasebo, JA

(COMFLEACT)

011-81-611-752-3108 (fm conus)

DSN: (315) 252-3108

1300-1500 (Wed)

Yokosuka, JA

(COMFLEACT)

Local: 046-821-1910 Ext 243-9626

011-81-6160-43-9626 (fm conus)

DSN: (315) 243-9626

0800-1630 (Mon-Wed/Fri)

0800-1500 (Thurs)

Puerto Rico

Roosevelt Roads

(NAVSTA)

(787)865-3369/4566

0800-1500 (Mon-Fri)

Spain

Rota

(NAVSTA)
011-34-956-82-3232 (fm
conus)

DSN: (314) 727-2850
1100-1700(Mon/Wed/Fri)
1100-1500 (Tue/Thurs)

United Kingdom

London

(COMNAVACT)
Local: 01895-61-6500
001-44-1895-61-6500 (fm
conus)

DSN: (314) 235-6500
0730-1630 (Mon-Fri)

(Unofficial RAOs)

The following Independent RAOs are not officially sponsored by the U.S. Navy, however these offices may be able to provide valuable assistance to retirees and their family members

California

San Diego, CA

(619)524-5301

New Mexico

Clovis

(CANNON AFB)
(505)769-1458
0800-1200 (Mon/Wed/Fri)

Philippines

Baguio City

011-63-74-445-6786 (fm conus)

Manila

United Seaman Service Center
011-63-47-527-2585
(fm conus)

Metro Manila

LAS PINAS
011-632-825-9434/8811/9176
(fm conus)

Subic Bay

011-63-45-323-5843
(fm conus)

Satellite RAO List

011-63-45-323-5843

(fm conus)

Angeles City

Baguio City

Cebu City

Iloilo

San Fernando

South Carolina

Charleston, SC

(843)963-5123

Thailand

Jusmagthai

205-4000/287-1036

662-675-0316-9/Ext 105

1000-1400 (Mon-Fri)

SECNAV's Retiree Council Seeks Members For 2004

If you would like the opportunity to serve the retired community, please consider applying for one of the vacancies on the Secretary of the Navy's Retiree Council (SECNAV RC). RC members are expected to be available to assist their area Retired Activities Officers (RAOs) throughout the year. They are also expected to work closely with regional or area commanders to gather input and concerns from retirees and to provide this input at the annual council meeting, which is held in the Spring. The council maintains a broad cross-representation of retirees. Volunteer service in an RAO is an excellent credential; however, retirees with specific background and experience in the fields of retirement services, medical, military compensation, and legal should also consider applying. Application letters must be received at Retired Activities Branch by Sept 01, 2003. Beginning this year, applicants for membership on the Retiree Council will be required to provide a one (1) page bio/resume with the following:

Name, mailing address, phone, FAX, email address (both home and business for each) and Social Security number.

One paragraph highlighting your military career to include highest rank achieved, military specialty, total years on active duty, total years of reserve service (if applicable), service entry date and retirement date.

One paragraph highlighting post military civilian career to include current civilian position held and number of years spent in civilian career. Additionally, provide information on involvement with the retiree community.

Education (Associate degree, bachelors degree, masters degree, PHD and field of study as appropriate).

A recent snapshot photo.

All submissions will be carefully reviewed and nominations will be selected based upon a number of factors, including the applicant's subject matter expertise in a particular area, experience with issues affecting retirees, previous or continuing service to the retired community, retiree status (sometimes there are specific slots open for reserve retirees, for example), geographic location, etc.

Those nominees who are selected for appointment to the RC will be notified by mail from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), which is the office responsible for coordination of the RC. The term of office for RC members is normally three years. RC members

are brought back on special active duty orders for the duration of the weeklong annual meeting, which is held in Washington, DC. Applicants for the 2003 SECNAV RC are encouraged to reapply using the above criteria. For more information, call **800-255-8950**, extension 4410. Send applications to:

**Navy Personnel Command
Retired Activities and GI Bill
Programs Branch (PERS-664)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-6640**