



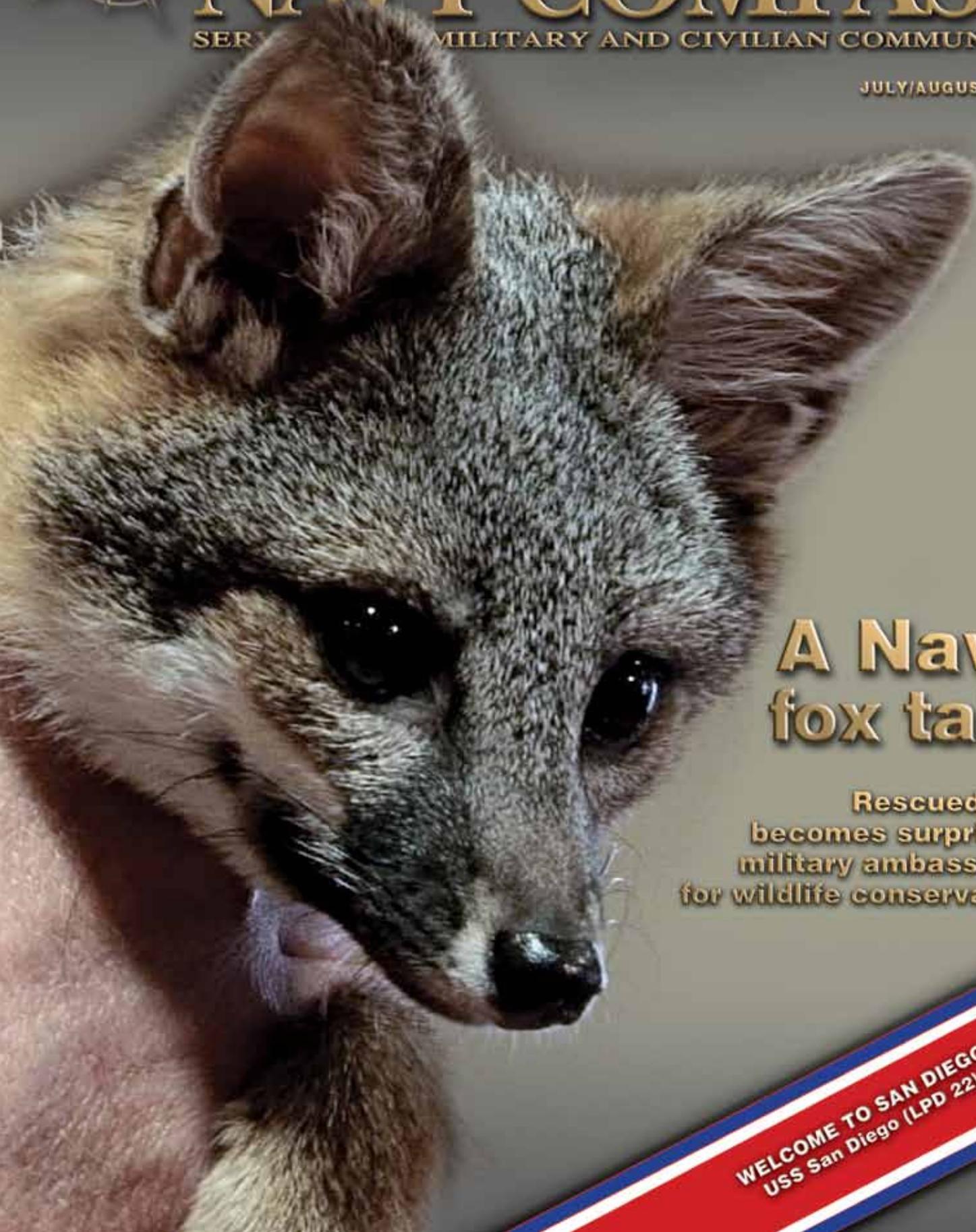
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A Navy fox tale

Rescued pup
becomes surprising
military ambassador
for wildlife conservation

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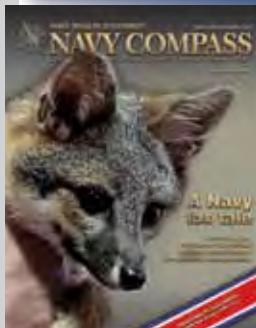


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Navy welcomes USS San Diego to the fleet

BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE

Sailor returns to Philippine orphanage for emotional homecoming

By Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class Jason J. Behnke

Thirty sailors from the amphibious dock landing ship USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) and embarked Marines assigned to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit took part in a community service project at the Children's Shelter of Cebu in Cebu, Philippines, on May 28.

During the day-long project, the group of sailors and Marines helped to clean and make improvements to the shelter as well as spend time with the 80 children who reside there.

For Seaman Joy Bonnett, a sailor assigned to Pearl Harbor, the event was more than just a community service project. It was an emotional homecoming, as she previously lived at the shelter for eight years.

"I didn't think I would cry, but I did," Bonnett said. "Once I saw my house parents that took care of me from when I was 5 years old to 13 years old, and the aunties that helped take care of me, it was heartwarming. I really felt like I was back home."

Bonnett said she has fond memories of the years she and her five siblings spent at the shelter.

"My mom couldn't raise us, and my dad passed away when I was 5," Bonnett said. "So she thought it was better for all of us to be together at an orphanage rather than being raised struggling with her."

That's how she came to know her second family at the Children's Shelter.

"We take care of kids who don't have families," said Mitch Ohlendorf, executive director of the Children's Shelter of Cebu. "The kids might be orphaned, they might be abandoned by their parents or they might be neglected to the point that their parents just can't take care of them."

Ohlendorf said Bonnett's story is a familiar one to the employees who run the shelter.



"Hers is a unique story in several ways as well," Ohlendorf said. "Most kids probably don't stay here as long as she did. It's because larger sibling groups often take longer to get adopted. There just aren't a lot of families available willing to adopt older, larger sibling groups."

Ohlendorf said luckily for her and her siblings, two young Minnesotans came into their lives.

"Her adoptive parents came here to work in our school for a couple of years," said Ohlendorf. "Joy and some of her brothers and sisters were students. They got to know the kids and fell in love with them and adopted them."

Bonnett said the couple initially got close with her autistic younger brother and ultimately fell in love with the whole family.



"They were 27 and 24 at that time," Bonnett said. "That's amazing to have six kids at 24 and 27 years old."

Bonnett said the transition from living on the tropical island of Cebu to the chilling winters of Middle America brought a few more challenges than just learning how to deal with snow.

"I'd get in trouble sometimes because I wasn't used to somebody telling me what to do," she said. "I remember feeling confined in a family situation. In the orphanage you can do whatever because there are so many kids. It was hard dealing with the rules at first, but I adjusted."

Bonnett said her family in Richfield, Minn., has grown over the years. She now has 10 brothers and sisters. Her parents adopted two more children and had two of their own.

With less than a year in the Navy, Bonnett found it surprising that she was able to accomplish one of her life goals of going back to visit the shelter.

"I was pretty shocked. Out of all the islands or places we

could visit, we pull into Cebu," Bonnett said. "I was pretty excited to go back; I've always wanted to go back. That's why I joined the Navy—to get money to go back to the Philippines. I'm grateful for it."

Bonnett said she had hoped to visit her birth mother during the visit as well but was not able to due to her mother living on a different island.

"I'll probably go back someday to visit her," Bonnett said. "My family back in Minnesota is my real family now, but I'd still like to meet her someday."

By day's end, the group of sailors and Marines had trimmed a row of overgrown hedges and performed other maintenance at Bonnett's former home. However, the real impact of the visit came from the time they spent with the children.

"Everyone interacted really well with the kids. The kids were having a lot of fun," Bonnett said. ■



Behnke is assigned to USS Pearl Harbor.

OPPOSITE PAGE AND ABOVE:

Seaman Joy Bonnett was reunited with many of the caregivers she knew from her eight years at the Children's Shelter of Cebu.



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Brian O'Rourke, **Managing Editor**
brian.orourke@navy.mil

MC1 Bill Larned, **Assistant Editor**
william.larned@navy.mil

PHOTOGRAPHY

U.S. Navy

Mike Shows, **Advertising Manager**

Jamie Rogers, **Editor**

Patricia Cross, **Creative Director**

Bryan Caron, **Art Director**

Ginger Owens, **Advertising Manager**

Jodi Curl, **Communications**

Matt Cline, **Webmaster**

Chris Skopec, **Tech Integration Specialist**



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Matt Benedict, **President, CEO**

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Garth's excellent Navy experience

Rescued fox assigned new mission as ambassador for wildlife conservation

By **Sharon StephensonPino**

PHOTOS: OFFICIAL U.S. NAVY PHOTOGRAPHS

Navy installations aren't ordinarily thought of as animal rescue shelters, but San Clemente Island, a live fire bombardment range 68 nautical miles off the coast of San Diego, is home to a few animal species, including the island fox. This is the story of how one abandoned young fox became the furry face of the Navy's wildlife conservation program.

In March, an infant fox was found curled up, helpless and alone, beside a San Clemente Island road. The pup would not

have survived in the wild at such a young age, so Navy wildlife biologists took him in to care for him.

"At his age, he should not have been on his own," said Daniel Biteman, a Navy biologist for the Institute for Wildlife Studies. "After consulting with our veterinarian and other senior staff members, we decided to put him back out in a cage for the night with some food and water. We placed three trail cameras around him, to take video clips when motion-triggered. We returned the next morning and checked the video clips and did not





find that the parents returned for him. We again checked at noon that day with the same findings."

Melissa A. Booker, who also is a Navy wildlife biologist on San Clemente Island, said that it is normal for parents to return for their pups. But after 23 hours with no sightings during the surveillance, they knew that the fox pup had probably been abandoned.

The pup measured little more than the size of a hand when he first arrived and weighed 460 grams (about 1 pound). After a few months of care, his size tripled to 1.6 kilograms (3.5 pounds), and he had developed a playful personality.

"He has really taken to people and constantly wants to be played with," Biteman said. "He has a number of toys, little tennis balls, and a stuffed rabbit he likes to throw around. If he sees us walking near his pen and we don't immediately stop to play with him, he makes a little whooping call noise and looks up at us with these big cute eyes."

The pup isn't the first fox rescued by biologists at San Clemente Island. A few years ago an abandoned and injured pup was nursed back to health; he now serves as a "wildlife ambassador" on the island. Newly reporting troops to the island meet Wayne, named for the

canyon area he was found near, to get a close, friendly look at the kind of wildlife they'll be sharing the facility with. The new pup was given the nickname Garth in kinship with Wayne, a play on the "Saturday Night Live" and "Wayne's World" characters played by Mike Myers and Dana Carvey.

The island fox species eats insects, rodents, fruits and plants. Biteman said Garth plays with the crickets he is served for meals before he eats them. Now that he is bigger, a new staple, mice, has been added to his diet. He doesn't understand the mice are for eating and doesn't know how to kill them, so he plays with them also.

"I'm surprised how gentle he is. It is entertaining to watch him play. He will go underneath a sheet lining in his cage until we pull him out. He likes to put both his paws in his water dish and splash around like a little kid and he makes quite a mess," Biteman said.

Garth has also become acrobatic, performing impressive back flips in his cage. The fox pup is also becoming sly; he lowers himself during play as if he is stalking prey.

"He is adding the playful element to his predatory technique when playing with my hand," Biteman explained. Garth also wags his tail, something wild foxes do not do.

Biteman said Garth exhibits behaviors common to both dogs and cats, but though island foxes are usually the size of cats, "they are their own category of species."

One of the ways that the Navy has executed its mission to protect the natural and cultural resources on San Clemente Island is by working closely with the Santa Barbara Zoo. The Navy has established a relationship where animals like Garth, not good candidates for release back into the environment, are transferred to the zoo.

"We transferred other foxes to the zoo back in the late 1990s, and that population has gotten a lot older now with only a few left in captivity," Booker said. This Navy has re-initiated the transfer program with the zoo so that specialists there can maintain and exhibit the foxes.

"The Santa Barbara Zoo is incredibly thrilled to continue partnering with the Navy to conserve the Channel Island fox," said Sheri Horiszny, director of the zoo's animal programs.

The San Clemente Island fox, a state-protected species, is the largest mammal native to San Clemente Island. Because of the Navy's protection and conservation efforts, there are more than 1,000 foxes on the island today.

Continued on page 10

Biteman, the main biologist who raised Garth, said he is negotiating visitation rights with the zoo and hopes to be allowed to see him. "I'm going to miss this little guy, I hope he remembers me," Biteman said.



Continued from page 9

"The Navy has done a very good job of managing the fox species," Booker said. "It's important for people to understand that and have an appreciation for this fox, which is the smallest of the foxes found in California's Channel Islands."

Now that he is 3 months old, the Santa Barbara Zoo, which already has a Channel Island fox

enclosure, is the best place for Garth. The zoo has an outreach and education program that will feature Garth as the ambassador of his breed to help educate people. A previous outreach fox passed away only months ago, so Garth is the replacement.

Garth was given a traditional Navy send-off by Cmdr. Walter Glenn, the officer in charge of San Clemente Island, who said Garth is moving on to bigger and better things.

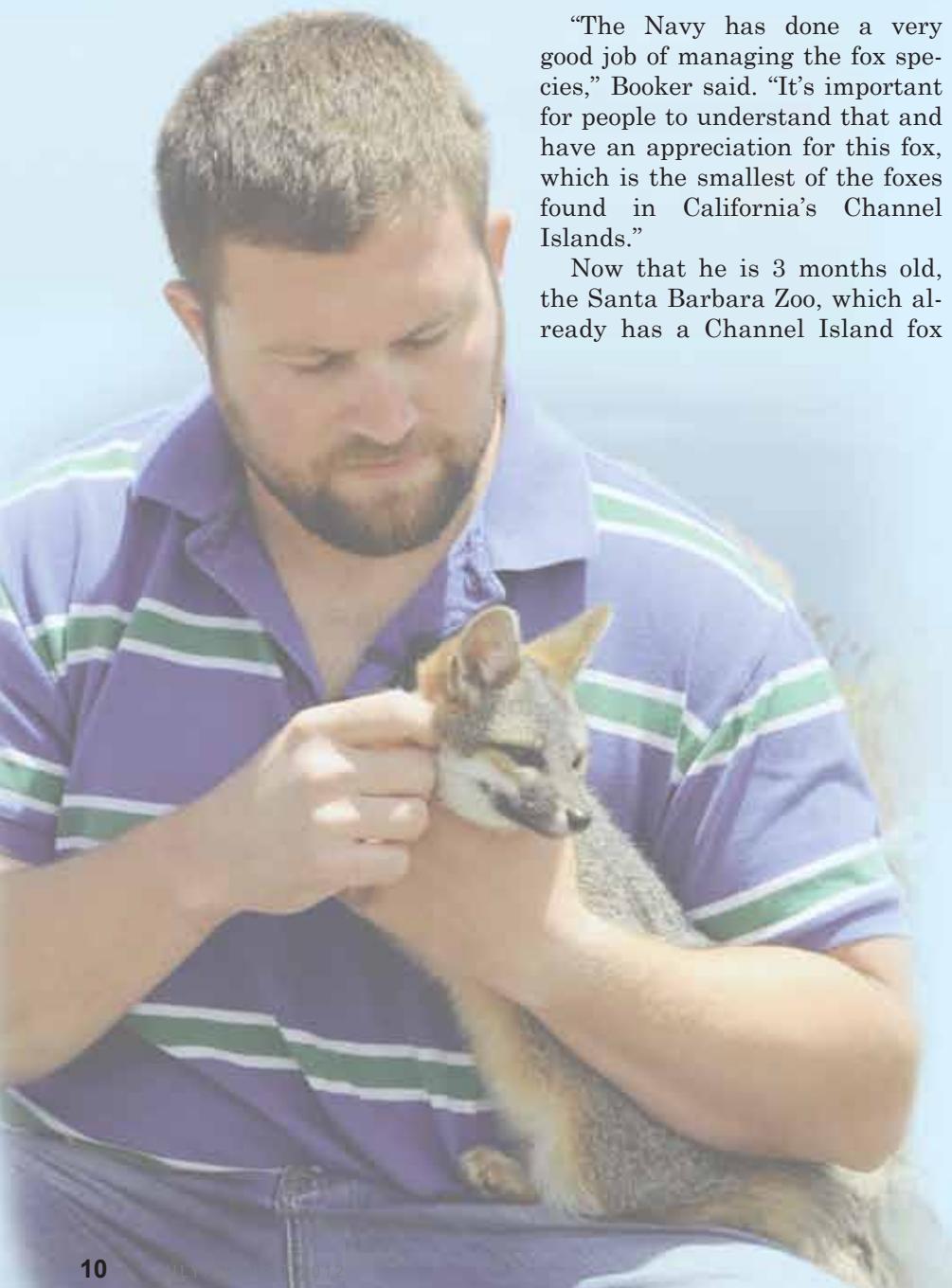
"Do us proud, be a good ambassador," Glenn said.

Biteman, who helped raise Garth in the critical weeks after rescue, said he is negotiating visitation rights with the zoo and hopes to see him soon.

"I'm looking forward to seeing his new home and seeing where he's going to go. I'm going to miss this little guy," he said. "I hope he remembers me."

Booker said that Garth had been kept isolated the entire time he was cared for by the Navy, but there is hope that in the future there will be a little girl fox in a similar predicament to be the first fox to interact with him and hopefully breed some little Garths.

"I think he will be a joy for everyone who gets to meet him." ■



StephensonPino is a public affairs specialist at Region Navy Southwest.

Nicknamed Garth, the infant fox was found curled up, helpless and alone on the side of a road and was promptly rescued.

Garth was a little more than the size of a hand when he first arrived, weighing just 460 grams (about 1 pound).



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Lasting Impressions

Makin Island sailors extend helping hands during ship's first visit to Malaysia

By Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class Alan Gragg

Sailors and Marines deployed aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) volunteered their time with children at the Bukit Harapan Therapeutic Community children's home in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, on May 19.

A group of Makin Island sailors, along with Marines assigned to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, interacted with children in the home and cleaned a drainage trench on the property.

"The kids are always very excited to have the U.S. Navy come here," said Audra Keyworth, the Bukit Harapan administrator. "We were also happy to host the U.S. Marine Corps too."

"Even though there is a language barrier, the kids always enjoy themselves when (U.S. military members) visit, and the yard work is a big help too," she added.

After briefly greeting the children, half of the volunteers split away from the group to take on the task of removing mud from a drainage trench.

For one of the trench workers, Operations Specialist 3rd Class Byron Reynolds, the event was his first community service project overseas. He said he didn't know what to expect but was told to wear his Navy Working Uniform because he might get a little dirty.

"It was a laborious time, but it was well worth it," said Reynolds, whose lower body was covered in mud after the project was completed. "If I have a chance to do another event like this, I will."

"I will definitely remember this day for all the hard work we did, but I don't mind putting in the effort because it feels great to help people, and it feels even better to help kids who are less fortunate than us," Reynolds added.

Bukit Harapan provides medical care, education opportunities and a caring home for handicapped and orphaned children, as well as abused single women.

While the trench work was going on outside, the other half of the group was inside the home playing games with the children.

"First we played Duck, Duck, Goose, then I colored with them and took pictures with them," said Fire Controlman 3rd Class Thao Miller. "I had a really good time, and I will definitely try to do something like this again, especially if it involves kids."

To conclude the day, representatives from Makin Island's First Class Petty Officer's Association presented a \$500 donation to Bukit Harapan.

This is the first time Makin Island has visited Malaysia. The ship and its crew, along with the embarked 11th MEU, deployed from San Diego Nov. 14, 2011.

Makin Island is the first U.S. Navy ship to deploy using a hybrid-electric propulsion system. By using this unique propulsion system, the Navy expects over the course



AT LEFT: Cpl. Andrew Klimczak lets a girl try on his blouse and cover during a community service project at the Bukit Harapan Therapeutic Community children's home in Kota Kinabalu. For the project, sailors and Marines, deployed with the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) volunteered their labor and spent time with children at the home. Makin Island and embarked Marines assigned to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit are deployed in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.

BACKGROUND PHOTO: Fire Controlman 3rd Class Thao Miller draws in a coloring book with a girl at the Bukit Harapan Therapeutic Community children's home in Kota Kinabalu.

of the ship's lifecycle to see fuel savings of more than \$250 million, proving the Navy's commitment to energy awareness and conservation.

This initiative is one of many throughout the Navy and Marine Corps that will enable the Department of the Navy to achieve the Secretary of the Navy's energy goals to improve energy security and efficiency afloat and ashore, increase energy independence and help lead the nation toward a clean energy economy.

Makin Island is the flagship of the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group that is currently deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.

The 7th Fleet area of operations includes more than 52 million square miles of the Pacific and Indian oceans, stretching from the international date line to the east coast of Africa and from the Kuril Islands in the north to the Antarctic in the south. ■

Gragg is assigned to USS Makin Island.

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We remember

Battle of Midway ceremony honors veterans of Pacific victory on 70th anniversary



By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class (SW) Carla Ocampo

Active duty, retired service members and their families commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Midway aboard the USS Midway Museum on June 2 in San Diego.

The Battle of Midway took place June 4-7, 1942. During the battle, U.S. Navy carrier strike forces defeated an Imperial Japanese strike force, pre-

venting them from capturing Midway Island. The Battle of Midway is an important marker in naval heritage because it is considered to have changed the course of the war in the Pacific within just a few days.

“When we face our darkest hours, we must always remember Midway — the resiliency of our sailors in the face of such odds, the power of decisive leadership and most of all on

this night, as their numbers dwindle, the distinguished service of those who valiantly fought and brought honor to the Navy and the nation,” said Adm. Mark Ferguson, vice chief of naval operations and guest speaker for the event.

During the commemoration, 15 surviving veterans of the battle were acknowledged for their sacrifices and actions during that time.

"It's important to remember our history because we wouldn't be here without those who fought before us," said Information Technician 2nd Class Stephany Sherman, an attendee. "I am honored to be able to be here to support and thank the Midway veterans."

While delivering the keynote address, Ferguson spoke of the importance of the Pacific region to the United States during the battle and its importance today.

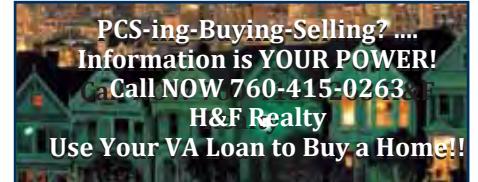
"We are again focusing on the Pacific — this time not in war but in recognition that our long-term economic and security interests are inextricably linked to developments in the Asia-Pacific region," Ferguson said. "Our new defense strategy underscores our continued commitment to our allies and partners in the Pacific. We are proud to count among our allies today Japan, Australia and many other partner nations that recognize that security and stability are forged in these partnerships."

AT LEFT: U.S. Navy leadership and veterans of the Battle of Midway gather for a group photograph on the flight deck of the USS Midway Museum prior to a ceremony June 2 to honor the 70th anniversary. The event paid tribute to the sailors and Marines who fought at the decisive World War II battle.

As part of the commemoration, a special Battle of Midway documentary was presented. The video featured interviews with the Midway veterans recounting the events of those four days in battle.

"We should never forget their sacrifice and service and hold ourselves to the standard of Midway when our moment comes," Ferguson said. ■

Ocampo is attached to Navy Public Affairs Support Element West.



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AT LEFT: Retired Lt. Cmdr.

Jeff Blackman, a Battle
of Midway veteran, speaks
with a fellow veteran of
the battle, retired Rear
Adm. Eugene Farrell on
the flight deck of the
USS Midway Museum prior
to the commemoration
ceremony.



U.S. NAVY PHOTOS BY MASS
COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 3RD
CLASS CARLA OCAMPO



AT LEFT: Capt. Ronald Oswald speaks with a veteran of World War II during the Spirit of '45 event held Memorial Day weekend at Atria Los Posas, a senior group living home in Camarillo, Calif.

Naval Operational Support Center

Port Hueneme military personnel honored members of the "greatest generation" for their service during the event.

PRAISING the GREATEST GENERATION

Memorial Day event honors service, memories of WWII veterans

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kim McLendon

Naval Operational Support Center Port Hueneme military personnel honored World War II veterans during a Spirit of '45 event that kicked off Memorial Day weekend at Atria Los Posas, a senior group living home.

Spirit of '45 represents the generation of men and women who served during World War II and are the nation's oldest group of veterans.

"It was such an extraordinary honor to meet and say, 'Thank you for your service.' These cherished soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and WAVES of America's 'Greatest Generation' inspire our generation to be better servicemen and servicewomen," said Capt. Ronald Oswald, commanding officer, NOSC Port Hueneme.

The NOSC Port Hueneme Color Guard Detail presented colors, and Oswald led the Pledge of Allegiance. Personnel Specialist 1st Class Zachery Easterling sang the national anthem and was followed by Makayla, 5-year-old and daughter of Yeoman 1st Class Shannon See from NOSC Point Mugu, who sang "America the Beautiful."

"To be able to (be) present for those who have served before us is an honor. I feel that all events with veterans are very important," See said about her and her daughter's attendance. "It is always nice and fun to hear parts of history and see what they experienced while serving."

Oswald pinned flag pins on the veterans, and Master of Ceremonies Lyndsey Hale, the veterans' community liaison for VITAS Innovative Hospice Care, gave the veterans certificates of appreciation for their service. Hale is descended from two generations of military service, both her father and grandfather, and she is a Navy spouse whose husband is deployed.

"It means a lot to our World War II veterans to have the young local military troops here to support and honor them," Hale said.

"Being able to shake hands and share stories with World War II veterans was an honor and a privilege, and I salute each and every one," said Personnel Specialist Seaman Taylor Perry. "I proudly serve and will continue serving as my heroes (before me) served to protect my freedom."

During an intermission, veterans had a chance to tell some of their stories to the sailors from Hueneme. Men from all branches of the service were in attendance, and two female veterans represented the Navy WAVES and one female veteran from the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

Beneva Larcher, a member of the WAVES, said she supported the war effort by serving at home so other sailors could go forward into harm's way. She spoke of the way everyone on the home front supported those overseas. She talked about the everyday sacrifices that people took pride in because they knew what it meant to "our boys" in North Africa, Italy and Germany.

Retired Lt. Cmdr. Larry Mullen, recalled his Navy memories from NAS Point Mugu and NAS Alameda, flying the Martin JRM Mars, a four-engine, cargo transport seaplane. He was considered a "mustang," someone who rose in rank from enlisted to officer.

"I spent most of my time as a chief (petty officer)," Mullen said. "Then I flew the Mars."

U.S. Navy nurse Mary Eileen Madigan said that she simply loved to serve and deeply cared for every sailor or soldier she saw. In her 80s, she speaks clearly and stands taller as she tells the story of her time healing wounded servicemen on a U.S. Navy hospital ship in the Pacific.

Also attending the event was husband and wife Jay and Millie Holmes, who have been married 69 years. Jay Holmes was a U.S. Marine, and Millie Holmes was in the WAVES.

"I thought they were going to throw me overboard," Millie Holmes said about being in the Navy and married to a Marine. She modestly described her service as "just doing paperwork" during the war.

"It is humbling to listen as they recount their experiences on the sands of Iwo Jima, over the skies of France, on the deep waters of the Western Pacific, in the forests of Germany and on the hills of Korea," Oswald said.

Hale said that the youngest of this generation of soldiers, sailors and Marines are now in their mid-80s and this summer VITAS is trying to honor as many local World War II veterans as possible as nationwide. "We are losing them at a rate of over 1,000 a day." As a part of Spirit of '45, VITAS is archiving World War II veterans' recollections so their stories will not be lost.

"They paved the way, showing us true honor, courage and commitment, values that we hold forever dear today," Oswald said.

The event included the reading of a true story turned children's book, "Eddie and Bingo," by Connie Halpern, owner of local bookstore Mrs. Fig's Bookworm. It is a war story about a U.S. Navy photogra-

pher and the ship's mascot, Bingo, as told by Photographer's Mate Ed McDonald, USS Hornet, to his daughter, Kathleen Taylor, before he died a few years ago.

Co-author of the book with Taylor is her mother-in-law, Katherine Taylor, of Camarillo, Calif., who shared her family experience from World War II. She described the sobering statistic of submariners. "Twenty percent of the submarines did not return from battle," Taylor said. Her uncle/godfather, Electrician's Mate 3rd Class John Patrick King, U.S. Naval Reserve, stationed on USS Grayback, was part of that percent.

"We have our freedom today literally because (all veterans) chose to offer up their lives as a potential sacrifice to ensure that freedom. There are plenty of service personnel who never made it back from many conflicts and wars, who paid the ultimate sacrifice," said Builder 2nd Class Douglas Hoffman, NOSC Port Hueneme. "It is my humble opinion that if we fail to respect and recognize those who did return, it would be as if those who didn't return sacrificed in vain."

The event concluded with taps played by former U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Joe Saenz of the local volunteer Military Honor Detail.

"This is the best opportunity for us to celebrate our Memorial Day. We should thank our heroes or love ones when they can still appreciate our gesture," said Master Chief Petty Officer Terry Delacruz, command master chief, NOSC Port Hueneme. ■

McLendon is assigned to Navy Public Affairs Support Element West.

AT LEFT: Oswald speaks with another female veteran from World War II. "It was such an extraordinary honor to meet and say, 'Thank you for your service.' These cherished soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and WAVES of America's 'greatest generation' inspire our generation to be better servicemen and servicewomen," said Oswald, commanding officer, NOSC Port Hueneme.

PHOTOS BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS KIM MCLENDON



USS San Diego (LPD 22)



Sailors and Marines man the rails of the newest San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS San Diego (LPD 22) during the commissioning ceremony, May 19. San Diego will provide improved warfighting capabilities including an advanced command and control suite, increased lift capability, increased vehicle and cargo carrying capacity and advanced ship survivability features. San Diego will be homeported in its namesake city as a part of the U.S. Third Fleet.

FINEST COMMISSION

**Navy welcomes
USS San Diego to the fleet**

**By Mass Communication Specialist
3rd Class Shawnte Bryan**

The U.S. Navy commissioned the latest San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS San Diego (LPD 22) during a ceremony May 19 in San Diego.

The ship is named for the city of San Diego, principal homeport of the Pacific fleet, and honors the people of "America's Finest City" and its leaders for their continuous support of the military.

Continued on page 21

USS San Diego
(LPD 22)



The official party salutes during a 17-gun salute in honor of Adm. Mark Ferguson, vice chief of naval operations, during the commissioning ceremony of the newest San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS San Diego (LPD 22).



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 3RD CLASS SHAWNTÉ BRYAN



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS DENNY CANTRELL

Continued from page 19

The ship will be homeported here. It is the only ship in the Navy homeported in its namesake city. San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders presented the commanding officer of San Diego, Cmdr. Kevin P. Meyers, with the key to the city, saying it was, "in honor of welcoming America's finest ship to America's Finest City."

Adm. Mark Ferguson, vice chief of naval operations, delivered the ceremony's principal address. He said that San Diego and her crew are coming into the Navy at an important time.

"Our expectations for this ship are very high," Ferguson said. "It arrives at a time when nearly half of our ships are underway on a given day, when we are surging forces to the Middle East to deter the threat of aggression, when we are rebalancing our forces to the



Pacific; and when we face increasingly complex and global security challenges in an uncertain fiscal environment.

"Take a good look at this ship because she will be very busy," Ferguson said. "Her time will be consumed fulfilling the tenets of our Navy. She will focus on war fighting, she will operate forward and she will spend her time being ready. This is our charge to the fleet and the expectation of our nation that our Navy be ready to answer the call to defend freedom on the seas."

Vice Adm. Richard W. Hunt, commander Naval Surface Forces, said he admired the work the crew put into making this ship a reality.

"Thank you for the dedication, professionalism and perseverance you have displayed over the years as you brought this ship to com-

Sailors cross the brow to man the ship and bring her to life during the commissioning ceremony of the newest San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS San Diego (LPD 22).



missioning,” Hunt said. “USS San Diego ... always keep warfighting first. I promise that you will operate forward. I charge you to always be ready. It is demanded by the surface warfare profession and a mandate for a ship with this incredible capability.”

The ship’s sponsor, Linda Winter, wife of former Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter, gave the order to the ship’s approximately 377 officers and enlisted personnel to “man our ship and bring her to life.” With that order, the crew began a spirited charge up the brow to take responsibility for the Navy’s newest warship. Marines from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Camp Pendleton, Calif., soon joined the sailors to man the rails of the ship, as a show of the Navy/Marine Corps team that will serve aboard.

After his ship was manned and brought to life, Meyers told the audience that the San Diego memorabilia donated to the ship by the city, including street signs, was

proof that “the city has open its heart to us and we are truly, truly appreciative.”

Boatswain’s Mate 2nd Class (SW) Joshua Cuevas said he was proud to be part of the ship’s first crew, traditionally known as a “plankowner” because they were present as the ship was being built.

“It took a lot of hard work in building this ship, so to be a plankowner is an overwhelming achievement,” said Cuevas, a Miami native.

Cuevas added that having a ship named for San Diego is fitting.

“The city has always supported the Navy, and having a ship named for the city of San Diego in San Diego is a way of giving back,” he said.

Built by Huntington Ingalls Industries in Pascagoula, Miss., San Diego is 684 feet long, has an overall beam of 105 feet, a navigational draft of 23 feet, displaces about 24,900 tons and is capable of embarking a landing force of about 800 Marines. Four turbo-charged diesel engines power the ship to sustained speeds in excess of 22 knots.

SAN DIEGO

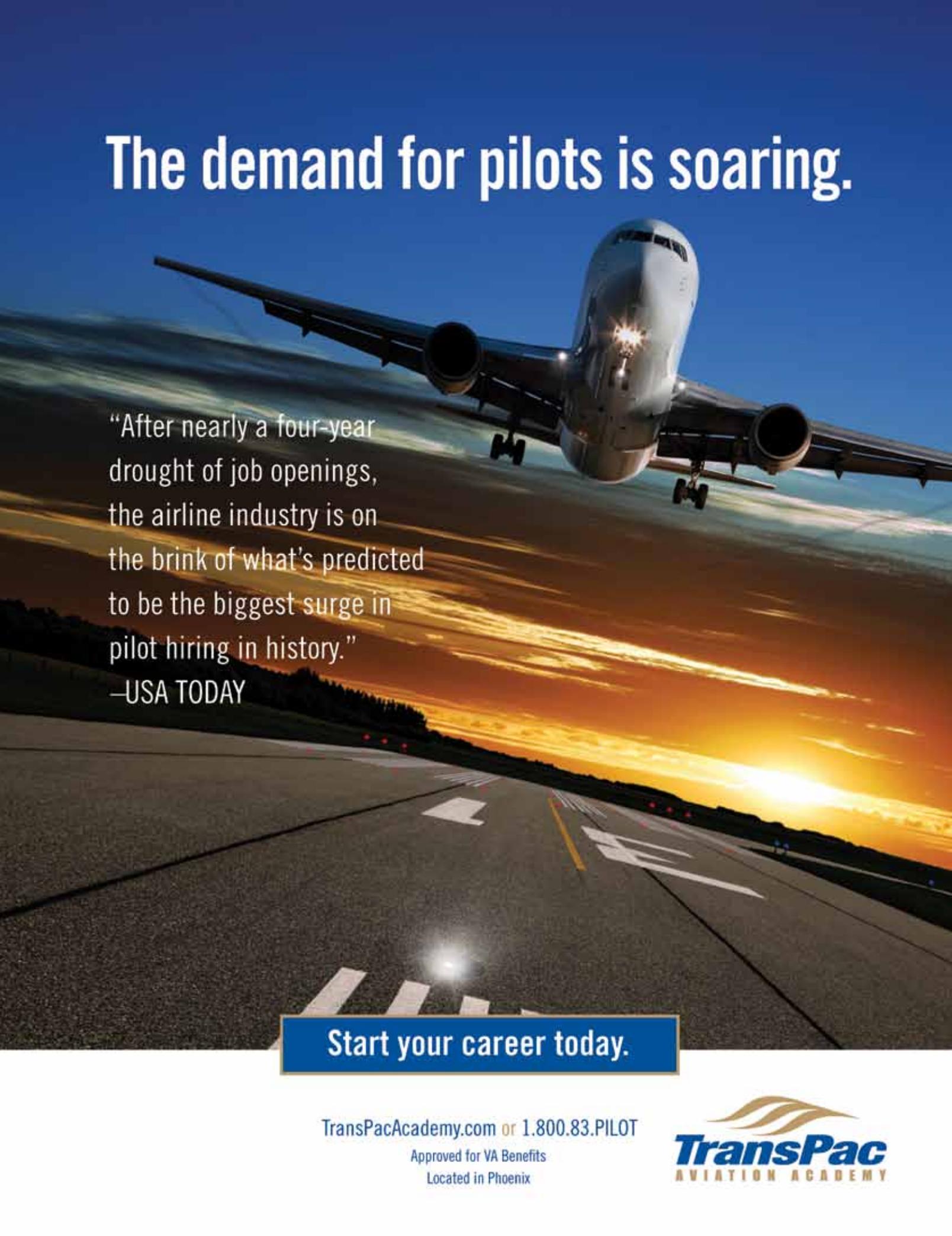
is the fourth ship named
for the city and the first to be
homeported in San Diego.

San Diego is the sixth amphibious transport dock ship in the San Antonio class and the fourth ship to carry the name. Her principal mission is to deploy combat and support elements of Marine Expeditionary Units and Brigades. With the capability of transporting and debarking air cushion or conventional landing craft and augmented by helicopters or MV-22 vertical take-off and landing aircraft, these ships support amphibious assault, special operations and expeditionary warfare missions. The ship will provide improved warfighting capabilities including an advanced command-and-control suite, increased lift capability increased vehicle and cargo-carrying capacity, and advanced ship survivability features. ■

Bryan is assigned to Navy Public Affairs Support Element West.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 3RD CLASS SHAWNTÉ BRYAN

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Ride safely

Seabee unit serious about reducing motorcycle risks



By Construction Mechanic 1st Class Jason R. Poole

Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303 recently conducted its second quarterly command motorcycle safety ride since the program's inception. The ride, which took place throughout San Diego County, is intended to raise awareness of safety protocols and minimize risk while enhancing riding abilities and promoting safe operation of two-wheeled vehicles.

The rides are required components of the Navy's Motorcycle Safety and Mentorship Program and were established by CBMU 303 in August 2011. These critical training rides not only raise awareness and minimize risk but also serve to improve rider morale and emphasize positive behavior while operating two-wheeled vehicles.

As with any Navy command, the priority at CBMU 303 is safety. The command's goal is to decrease the number of motorcycle- and ATV-related mishaps.

"Riding a motorcycle fundamentally exposes its operator to risks not associated with operating a car. With proper training, operational risk management and safety precautions, these risks can be mitigated and even eliminated to some extent," said Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Bartlett, the Seabee unit's commanding officer.

Strict guidelines have been implemented for all personnel who either own a motorcycle or are thinking of purchasing one. It starts when each member of the command receives a motorcycle safety brief at Command Indoctrination and then signs a Page 13 stating that they either own a motorcycle, do not own one but wish to or do not own and do not plan to own

a motorcycle. In all cases, the Page 13 states what training is required to own and operate a motorcycle as a member of the Navy. Lastly, all CBMU 303 sailors and Seabees are expected to be familiar with and follow the Navy Traffic Safety Program guidelines while signing up for the command's Motorcycle Safety and Mentorship Program.

Construction Mechanic 1st Class (SCW/EXW) Jason Poole recently led a group of on-road riders on a six-hour safety ride throughout San Diego County. On the same day, and as an extension to the command's motorcycle safety program, Construction Mechanic Chief (SCW) Ian

CBMU 303

The command's goal is to decrease the number of motorcycle- and ATV-related mishaps.



Youngs led a small group of off-road riders on a safety ride of their own.

The off-road group started in Lakeside, Calif., where they met and convoyed to the Plaster City Off-Highway Vehicle Area. The area provided ample opportunities to test individual riding skills over a variety of terrain.

The on-road motorcycle group started their ride from Naval Base San Diego and rode east to Lakeside, Calif., and visited the Barona Speedway. Poole observed that the track can provide a place for riders and drivers to safely and legally drag race. His intent was to discourage illegal street racing by demonstrating that there are safe alternatives. As the group continued their ride northward and stopped in Julian to refuel, Poole took the opportunity to talk about proper riding techniques and touched on proper riding gear in different weather conditions.

These rides were coordinated to include skilled and experienced

riders to demonstrate safe motorcycle and off-road vehicle operations to junior riders. Riders were able to get hands-on training about lane sharing, riding around curves, and traffic safety. Not only were these rides for training benefits, but they were also organized to place a positive image of the command's motorcyclists to the local populace.

The clear message to riders from CBMU 303's Motorcycle Safety and Mentorship Program is: "You are an irreplaceable defender of the freedoms we enjoy in this country. To your friends and family, you are absolutely unique and priceless. Therefore, we are offering you an opportunity to pledge your commitment to safely operate your motorcycle and other vehicles in every situation, watch out for your fellow riders and come back alive." ■

Poole is assigned to CBMU 303.

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Healthy environment, healthy people

Seal Beach fair promotes sustainability, fitness

By Mass Communications Specialist
1st Class Eli Medellin



M

ore than 200 sailors, Marines and Navy civilians participated in the Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach fifth annual Environmental Sustainability and Wellness Fair on May 24.

The fair promoted environmental awareness as well as personal health and fitness.

More than 30 local environmental organizations and fitness centers set up booths to exchange ideas and opportunities in the area.

“Our main goal is education,” said fair organizer Marcelle Miller, a base environmental protection specialist. “I want everyone to take away from here a way that they can change their lives, either at work or at home, to make a difference for the environment or for their health and fitness.”

McGaugh Elementary, a local school, also sent their kindergarten and third grade classes to show their knowledge of environmental awareness.

“That’s my favorite part of this event,” said three-time attendee Mineman 3rd Class Courtney Sutphin. “Every time I come to this event they have different fun displays. This year they recycled old T-shirts into pillows, they made trash bags for cars and even made a diagram to show how pollution affects the beach.”

Mineman 2nd Class Mathew Brewer explained that it was a “win-win” situation for his family. Seeing the local venues made him more aware of the local support available for military personnel and their families in the community.

Brewer, whose wife and 5-year-old daughter also attended the event, said he enjoyed the fitness booths the most.

“I always try to help my daughter be more active and show her that being active is good,” he said. “That’s how I want her to live.” ■

ABOVE: Mineman 3rd Class Courtney Sutphin listens as McGaugh Elementary School kindergartener Mily Verdugo shows off her display during the fifth annual Environmental Sustainability and Wellness Fair aboard Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach.

BETWEEN: Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Jessica Reed and her husband, Kyle, check out an environmental display created by a third grade class from nearby McGaugh Elementary School during the fifth annual Environmental Sustainability and Wellness Fair aboard Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. More than 200 sailors, Marines and civilians viewed displays from the school and more than 30 vendors and environmental groups during the event.

U.S. NAVY PHOTOS BY MASS COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS ELI MEDELLIN



Medellin is assigned to Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach.

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Weapons and warfighters

**Seal Beach missile shop
celebrates 20 years of
fleet support**

By Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Eli Medellin

Navy Munitions Command CONUS West Division Unit Seal Beach employees reached major milestone June 9 with the 20th anniversary of the command's Standard Missile Intermediate Level Maintenance Facility.

The missile shop, which officially opened on June 9, 1992, marked a significant improvement in the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station's ability to support the Standard missile. The Standard is the Navy's primary area air defense weapon.

"Prior to 1992, the propulsion dock, production, testing and quality assurance were all in different locations," said Richard Danner, an employee at the base since 1979. "They would truck missiles from the old production building across the street to test them here then truck them back."

The introduction of vertical launch systems into the fleet necessitated a more modern building, and having a much larger space brought all departments together into one building, consolidating the work at one location. The layout for processing also became more effective.

Since the opening of the missile shop, the missiles have evolved from Standard Missile 1 to Standard Missile 2, and now the facility is starting to take on Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile maintenance. The ESSM is the Navy's newest medium range self defense weapon and is capable of using the same test sets already in place for the Standard missile.

"In the past few years we have upgraded to an improved test set, which simulates flight," said test set operator Vinh Nguyen. "The



The missile shop at Navy Munitions Command CONUS West Division Unit Seal Beach has processed close to 20,000 weapons for the U.S. Navy and allied navies since it opened 20 years ago.

OFFICIAL U.S. NAVY PHOTO

sophistication of the test set has evolved with the weapons."

"Production and maintenance data is now electronically processed where it used to have to be hand-written," added Missile Division Head Mike DeLuna, a 21-year employee at the base. "It has now become a robust data system which was created here. This is a key to quality and response time in returning weapons to the fleet."

In the 20 years since the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the missile shop has processed close to 20,000 weapons for both the U.S. Navy and many allied navies who also use the Standard missile. "We are pushing the weapons out as fast as we can get a hold of them," said Diane Fodness, the command's Missile Department Head.

"The civilians who work here are 89 percent former military,

and a majority have been here for more than 20 years, giving you a more established expertise," Fodness said. "We have a very low supervisor-to-employee rate and we're spread out through several missile programs which keeps us cost effective, and that's a winning combination." ■

Medellin is assigned to Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach.



Music mentors

Musicians from Navy Band Southwest taught, mentored and performed with students from the Mark Keppel High School Aztecs band at Naval Base San Diego May 25. The students participated in specialized group clinics for brass, woodwind and string instruments. Later, the high school band performed patriotic pieces by John Philip Sousa and a New Orleans-style jazz concert with the Navy band. Mark Keppel High School is in the Los Angeles County city of Alhambra, Calif. ■

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CALENDAR of Events



Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake

www.navylifesw.com/chinalake/events

JULY 4

Fourth of July BBQ

Noon, Oasis Pool

First 50 patrons get a free hot dog, chips and water. Barbecue available while supplies last. Pool fees apply.



Naval Base Coronado

www.navylifesw.com/sandiego/events

AUG. 16

Military Parent Resource Night

6-7:30 p.m., Burress Auditorium

South Bay Union School , District Office
601 Elm St., Imperial Beach

Enjoy an evening of fun with fellow military families, the Commanding Officer of Naval Base Coronado and your SBUSD superintendent, all while learning about the military resources in your area. Free refreshments and prize drawings make the evening more fun. Free childcare will be available. Reserve a space by emailing kelly.donahue@navy.mil.



Naval Air Facility El Centro

www.navylifesw.com/elcentro/events



Naval Air Station Fallon

www.navylifesw.com/fallon/events



Naval Air Station Lemoore

www.navylifesw.com/lemoore/events

JULY 4

Fourth of July Celebration

4-6 p.m., Gym & Fitness Football Field

The whole family will get a kick out of free games, entertainment and other activities. Picnics, coolers, blankets and chairs are welcome. Food and drink concessions provided by NAS Lemoore commands and organizations. Fireworks will start at about 9:30 p.m. Live music by The Trip.



Naval Support Activity Monterey

www.navylifesw.com/monterey/events

JULY 10

Travel/New Student Information Fair

11 a.m.-1 p.m., Barbara McNitt Ballroom

Stroll through the Travel/New Student Information Fair and visit with more than 60 vendors who will share exciting and fun opportunities for local leisure time. Lots of giveaways and fabulous prizes. For more information, call (831) 656-3223 or email itt@nps.edu.



2012 Naval Base Point Loma

www.navylifesw.com/pointloma/events



Naval Base San Diego

www.navylifesw.com/san diego/events

JULY 14

NBSD Auto Skills Monthly Training: Oil Change & Under Car Inspection

9 a.m., Auto Skills Shop

Learn general preventive vehicle maintenance from a certified mechanic on the second Saturday of every month. The free workshop includes refreshments. No vehicle needed to attend, just bring a pen and notebook and dress accordingly with closed-toe shoes. Call (619) 556-7009 to reserve your space.

JULY 21

Olde Gym Strength Challenge

9 a.m., Olde Gym

The free Olde Gym Strength Challenge consists of a tire flip, hex bar hold, drag medley and truck pull. For more information, call (619) 556-9509.

JULY 26

The RECYARD Luau

5 p.m., Bldg. 221

It's a tropical get-away in our own backyard, featuring authentic Hawaiian dishes and Polynesian dancers. Open to junior enlisted and guests, 18 and older. For more information, call (619) 556-5085 or email soli.lawson@navy.mil.

NOTE: For events at Naval Base Coronado, Naval Base Point Loma, Naval Air Station Lemoore and Naval Air Facility El Centro, visit www.navylifesw.com.



Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach

www.navylifesw.com/sealbeach/events

JULY 4

4th of July Freedom Festival

4-10 p.m., Navy Golf Course, Cypress

The festival is the Navy's primary local 4th of July event thanking and honoring the contributions and sacrifices of military personnel and their families. More than 1,500 sailors, DoD civilians, military retirees, community members and their families will celebrate an All-American Independence Day.



Naval Base Ventura County

www.navylifesw.com/ventura/events

JULY 16-AUG. 3

Junior Lifeguard Program

The NBVC JR. Lifeguard Program is for youths 10 and up. Instructors will introduce students to fundamental lifeguarding skills, including first aid and CPR, rescue swimming skills, lifeguard fitness training and more. For more information about the course and registration fees, call the NBVC MWR Aquatics Department at (805) 982-4752 or (805) 989-7788.

AUG. 2

Heat of the Summer

5K/1K Kids Run

10:45 a.m., registration; 11:15 kids run; 11:30 5K; Picnic Pavilion, Point Mugu

Stay active even during the dog days of summer with this 5K and 1K fun run. This event is free to all hands, with no pre-registration necessary. For more information, call (805) 989-7378.

AUG. 18-19

NBVC Point Mugu Surf Contest

7 a.m.-5 p.m., Surfer's Beach, Point Mugu

One of the most secured surf spots in America will once again be open to the public. For two days in August, NBVC Point Mugu will allow public visitors to see and surf the famous break of Point Mugu. This annual event benefits NBVC Quality of Life Programs for service members and their families stationed at NBVC. NBVC hosts this community engagement event to highlight its award-winning environmental stewardship of the sensitive wetlands and beach areas within the base's gates. Garnering worldwide attention from the surf community, this event should not be missed. In addition to the surfing, visitors will enjoy live music and an extensive surf vendor village.

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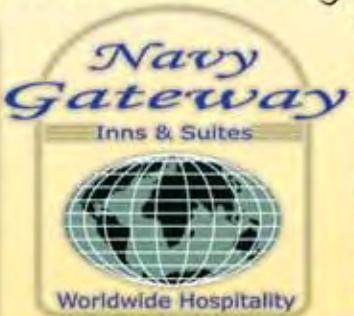
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JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 COL 12:10	2 ARZ 6:40	3 ARZ 6:40	4 ARZ 6:40	5 CIN 7:05	6 CIN 7:05	7 CIN 7:05
8 CIN 1:05	9	10 ALL-STAR GAME	11	12	13 LAD 7:10	14 LAD 6:10
15 LAD 1:40	16 HOU 7:05	17 HOU 7:05	18 HOU 12:35	19 HOU 7:05	20 COL 7:05	21 COL 5:35
22 COL 1:05	23 SF 7:15	24 SF 7:15	25 SF 12:45	26	27 MIA 4:10	28 MIA 4:10
29 MIA 10:10	30 CIN 4:10	31 CIN 4:10				

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AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 CIN 4:10	2 CIN 9:35	3 NYM 7:05	4 NYM 5:35
5 NYM 1:05	6 CHI 7:05	7 CHI 7:05	8 CHI 3:35	9	10 PIT 4:05	11 PIT 4:05
12 PIT 10:35	13 ATL 4:10	14 ATL 4:10	15 ATL 4:10	16 ATL 4:10	17 SF 7:05	18 SF 1:05
19 SF 1:05	20 PIT 7:05	21 PIT 7:05	22 PIT 3:35	23	24 ARZ 6:40	25 ARZ 5:10
26 ARZ 1:10	27 ATL 7:05	28 ATL 7:05	29 ATL 3:35	30	31 COL 5:40	

2012 PADRES MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHTS

- July 8: U.S. Marines Appreciation
- July 22: California National Guard Appreciation
- Aug. 5: U.S. Coast Guard Appreciation
- Aug. 19: Salute to Veterans
- Sept. 9: Military Family Appreciation
- Sept. 16: U.S. Air Force Appreciation
- Sept. 30: Military Salute; POW/MIA Appreciation

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 COL 5:10	
2 COL 12:10	3 LAD 5:10	4 LAD 7:10	5 LAD 7:10	6	7 ARZ 7:05	8 ARZ 5:35
9 ARZ 1:05	10 STL 7:05	11 STL 7:05	12 STL 3:35	13	14 COL 7:05	15 COL 1:05
16 COL 1:05	17	18 ARZ 6:40	19 ARZ 6:40	20 ARZ 12:40	21 SF 7:15	22 SF 6:05
23 SF 1:05	24 MIL 5:10	1 MIL 5:10	2 MIL 5:10	3 MIL 5:10	27 LAD 7:05	28 SF 7:05
					29 SF 5:35	

REGULAR SEASON

HOME GAMES - Petco Park

ROAD GAMES

All times are Pacific Time. All elements of this schedule are subject to change.

For more information about the Padres' military appreciation efforts, visit <http://sandiego.padres.mlb.com/sd/military/outreach.jsp>

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