

THE AVENGER

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MH-60S Knighthawk's, from USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH's (CVN 77) Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 9, carry supplies during a vertical replenishment, Aug. 30. (U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Kevin Steinberg)

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From the Commanding Officer, Capt. Chip Miller



Avengers,

I want to begin by congratulating all of our Chief Selectees for their achievement. You have reached a career milestone, and in a short time you will be a valuable member of the USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) Chiefs' Mess, a time-honored fellowship of outstanding

leaders and friends, steeped in naval tradition. I know each of you will greatly contribute to the already impeccable leadership on board this vessel.

Congratulations also go out to the recently announced Lieutenant Commander Selectees: Tom Arnold from Supply Department and John Balentine from Health Services Department, as well as the promoted Chief Warrant Officers: Kenneth Wilson of Operations Department, Warren Shaw of Deck Department and Yolando Loveless of Combat Systems Department.

On the subject of advancement, the September advancement exams are just around the corner and I cannot over-stress how vital it is that we emphasize the importance of studying and maximizing study opportunities. One of our guiding principles is that we set our Sailors up for success, and we will do just that, by providing each individual with ample time and resources to become fully prepared for their exams. USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH has always enjoyed top-tier performances among the fleet when it comes to advancement, and I am certain that we will continue to excel in that area, as we do in all others.

We have almost completed another underway and I am extremely pleased with the invaluable experience we gained through our daily operations and training exercises. It is of the utmost importance that we utilize our at-sea periods as opportunities to certify equipment, qualify our personnel and conduct training, so that this warship and its crew are fully prepared for our first-ever combat deployment. Keeping this in mind, please continue to be diligent in all of the training scenarios we conduct, from General Quarters and mass casualty drills, to man overboard and

security alert drills. Remember, we train like we fight and we fight like we train, and we have already witnessed how essential that is earlier this summer.

Summer is nearing its end and Labor Day is next week, so I encourage each of you to take advantage of the weather and the time off and spend it with your families and friends. Be sure to take advantage of the numerous activities made available by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Division, many of which are free. Please use this time to unwind and take a needed break from the constant effort it takes to make an aircraft carrier operate without a hitch. Although it is a day away from the ship and work, it is still an opportunity to practice Operational Risk Management. We owe it to ourselves and loved ones to make wise decisions that will ensure our own safety and the safety of those around us.

Thank you for your continued hard work and effort, both at sea and in port. It's the people on board this ship that make it operate smoothly and serve as beacon of freedom to the world. We are...*FREEDOM AT WORK.*

Sincerely,
Capt. Chip Miller
Commanding Officer



Photo by Betsy Lynn Knapper
Aviation Boatswain's Mates (Equipment) Airman (AW/SW) Beatriz A. Alvarez, left, and 3rd Class (AW) Mark D. Jolly, both of Air Department's V-2 Division, cut an arresting gear cable to length, Aug. 24.



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CARRIER STRIKE GROUP TWO

CHANGES COMMAND

Story by MC1 (SW) Michael Tackitt

Rear Adm. Nora W. Tyson assumed command of Carrier Strike Group Two (CSG 2), during a change of command ceremony held aboard the strike group's flagship, USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77), July 29.

Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet, Vice Adm. Melvin G. "Mel" Williams Jr., presided over the ceremony, which included Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead as the guest speaker.

"I am honored and humbled to have been selected to this position, and I promise you I will give everything I have to the mission and the Sailors and families of Carrier Strike Group Two," Tyson said.

Tyson, a native of Memphis, Tenn., joined the Navy in 1979 after graduating from Vanderbilt University and completing Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I., that same year.

As a naval flight officer, Tyson's Navy career included three tours in Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 4 at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md., and Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. She also served as the commanding officer of the amphibious assault ship USS BATAAN (LHD 5). Under her command, BATAAN deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and led the Navy's relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The CNO spoke about Tyson's unique qualifications for her new role as the head of CSG 2, referring specifically to her previous assignment as Com-

mander, Task Force 73 and Commander, Logistics Group, Western Pacific in Singapore.

"Singapore is a place I know well and have much affection for," said Roughead. "But that job comes with all the challenges of providing logistics and operational coordination in an area of key strategic interest that happens to encompass 51 million square miles of sea space. It should come as no surprise that I do not assign officers there by chance."

Tyson spoke of how proud she is to take on the latest and most challenging role of her career, leading a strike group consisting of the Navy's newest aircraft carrier, the ships of Destroyer Squadron 22, and the squadrons of Carrier Air Wing Eight. As CSG 2's 69th commander, Tyson talked about the critical role of the Carrier Strike Group in the nation's warfighting arsenal.

"As we all know, these are challenging times to wear our uniform and serve our nation," Tyson said. "Demand for our naval forces will only grow, putting increasing pressure on the finite resources available to us."

She went on to say that the Strike Group would "leverage our collective experience and creativity to do whatever is necessary to defend our nation. We will be ready to respond effectively and efficiently to any tasking we might receive. Our leadership, and our fellow countrymen, expect nothing less from us," Tyson added.

CSG 2 is scheduled to deploy in 2011. †



Photo by MC3 Brent Thacker



Photo by MC3 (SW) Nicholas Hall



Photo by AWS3 Joshua K. Horton



Photo by MCSN Kevin Steinberg

1. Commander, Carrier Strike Group Two Rear Adm. Nora W. Tyson cuts cake with Capt. Jeffrey A. Hesterman after the change of command ceremony, July 29. 2. Tyson speaks during a change of command ceremony in the hangar bay of USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77). 3. Tyson salutes Hesterman during a change of command ceremony in the hangar bay. 4. Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations, speaks during a change of command ceremony for Commander, Carrier Strike Group Two.

SAILOR PHONES

Story and design by MC2 (SW) Nathan A. Bailey

USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) has installed 20 "Sailor Phones" throughout the ship, and they are ready for use beginning Aug. 20.

According to Ensign Jason VanPelt, GEORGE H.W. BUSH Communication Maintenance Officer, Sailor Phones are pay-per-minute, satellite telephones put on ships to enhance the morale of the crew.

The phones will be located in common spaces throughout the ship. Four of the pay-phone style phones will be installed on both the aft and forward mess decks. Three will be near the barber shop and two near "Little Texas," the 02-level ship's store. The rest will be placed in crew lounge areas on the 03 and 01 levels.

According to Command Master Chief (SW/AW/FPJ) John Heck, the Sailor Phones located near berthing compartments will be available for use from reveille to taps, but the phones located on the forward and aft mess decks will be available at all hours. However, according to Heck, all Sailor phones will be secured during cleaning stations, general quarters and man-overboard evolutions. Heck also said that the time limit for phones will be 15 minutes per call.

All calls placed from the ship are approximately 45 cents a minute, regardless of the ship's geographic location, according to Master Chief Ship's Serviceman (SW/AW) Kenneth Carter. However, if the ship were to be in a foreign port and the Sailor were to use the phone cards out in town, the host nation's rates would apply.

Carter said there will be two machines available to pur-

chase phone cards: one at each ship's store. Carter added that he will have enough cards on board for each Sailor to purchase at least six cards per month. The phone card machines only take Navy Cash cards, he said.

According to VanPelt, the cost is based on the service provided by the phone and satellite companies.

As with all off-ship communication, the phones are subject to monitoring, said VanPelt.

The lines are not secure and operational security should be carefully considered when engaging in conversation, he said.

According to VanPelt, when the ship is away from home port, some delay may be experienced when utilizing satellites to transmit the signal.

VanPelt asked that Sailors treat the phones as one would treat their own property so they will last and be available to other shipmates. †

Nearly 2,000 USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH Sailors spend day helping Hampton Roads

By USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Public Affairs



Commanding Officer, Capt. Chip Miller, speaks at a kickoff for the ship's second "1,000 Points of Light" community service event, Aug 17. Photo by MC3 (SW) Nicholas Hall

USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) Sailors participated in a seven-city community service project entitled "1,000 Points of Light" Aug. 17. Nearly 2,000 Sailors from the Navy's newest aircraft carrier took part in almost 95 projects across the Hampton Roads area.

The day began at 6 a.m. with an event kick-off at Naval Station Norfolk's Pier 14. Lt. Sunny Mitchell, one of the event coordinators and a chaplain aboard the ship, spoke to the Sailors about serving as a global force for good in the local community and exemplifying former President George H.W. Bush's dedication to service.

"All across the world our Navy is engaged in helping people," said Mitchell, mentioning Sailors who responded to the earthquake in Haiti and those preparing to deploy to Pakistan to assist flood victims. "It's part of who we are as a service, and it's just as important that we carry that message to our neighbors right here in the Hampton Roads area."

From there, the crew spread out across the Tidewater

region. The individual projects were coordinated by the ship's Command Religious Ministries Department. The ship's crew, coordinating with local government and non-governmental volunteer agencies, volunteered their time helping out Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation, Newport News Recreation and Tourism, Portsmouth Parks, the Norfolk Zoo, and other organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the Hampton Clean City Commission. Members of the crew also volunteered with the Hampton Public School system to read to children.

Crews of volunteers ranging from 10 to more than 100 spread out to a wide variety of projects. While 20 Sailors cleaned up a cemetery in Virginia Beach, another 50 Sailors cleaned the goat shed and bison yard at the Norfolk Zoo. Nearly 150 Sailors installed surfacing at five different elementary schools in Newport News, and 60 Sailors assisted with various projects for Habitat for Humanity. More than 100 Sailors stripped and waxed the floors of nine schools in Portsmouth.

“As the crew of USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH, we are also members of the Tidewater community,” said Mitchell. “We live in Norfolk, Suffolk, Portsmouth, Hampton, Newport News, Chesapeake and Virginia Beach. Our children go to school here. We take our families to the beaches and parks here. It’s important to show our neighbors that we’re not just stationed here, we live here too.”

Twenty Sailors went to Red Wing Park in Virginia Beach, where park supervisor Jim Kucenski, said the GEORGE H.W. BUSH Sailors completed more than 100 hours of work that would have taken weeks to complete otherwise, ranging from digging ditches and trimming shrubs to painting and pressure washing picnic areas.

“This is one of the best groups I’ve seen,” said Kucenski. “Great enthusiasm and great attitudes, and they’re getting a lot of work done.”

“We live around here, and we all use this park. It’s great to be able to give back,” said Senior Chief Cryptologic Technician (Technical) (SW/AW) Craig Bar.

“It feels good to be outside in the fresh air working hard and making a difference,” said Logistics Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Jilienne Commerford.

This is the second “1,000 Points of Light” community relations project conducted by GEORGE H.W. BUSH. More than 1,000 Sailors participated in the inaugural project in June 2009, assisting the community in over 20 volunteer projects. †



1

Photo by MC3 Kasey Krall



4

Photo by MC2 (SW) Eric S. Garst



5

Photo by MC2 (SW/AW) Jennifer L. Jaqua



6

Photo by AWS3 Joshua K. Horton



7

Photo by MC3 Brent Thacker

1. Chief Personnel Specialist (SW/AW) Charles Hamilton, of Administration Department, distributes gravel around the goat pen at the Norfolk Zoo. 2. Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Handling) Airman Adam G. Willis, left, and Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Brittney N. Taylor build shelves at St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church in Newport News. 3. Damage Controlman Fireman (SW) Ben Vangen, top, and Damage Controlman 1st Class (SW/AW) Kenneth N. Alexander, of Engineering Department, add a handrail to the front steps of the Samaritan House in Virginia Beach.



2

Photo by MCSN Sandi Grimnes



3

Photo by MCSN Michael Smevog



8

Photo by MC3 Brent Thacker

4. Sailors pick up trash at the Virginia Zoological Park in Norfolk. 5. Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SW) Bradley Melton buries rocks to form a stone path at Red Wing Park in Virginia Beach. 6. Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class (AW/SW) Paul Armstrong, of Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department, participates in the construction of a portable storage building at Habitat for Humanity in Norfolk. 7. Legalman 3rd Class (SW/AW) Tiffany L. Williams, of Legal Department, paints a pavilion at Anderson Park in Newport News. 8. Machinist’s Mate 2nd Class (SW) Paul M. Lutz of Reactor Department, left, and Electrician’s Mate 3rd Class Bryan C. Baker of Engineering Department, clean up trash at Anderson Park in Newport News.

1,000 Points of Light across Hampton Roads



1 Photo by MC2 (SW) Eric S. Garst



2 Photo by MCSN Sandi Grimnes



3 Photo by MCSN Kevin J. Steinberg



4 Photo by MC3 Brent Thacker



5 Photo by MC3 Kasey Krall



6 Photo by AWS3 Joshua K. Horton

1. Yeoman Seaman Clifton Powell, of Administration Department, pulls weeds from a flower bed at the Virginia Zoological Park in Norfolk. 2. Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Maria T. Hutchinson, of Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department, cuts potatoes at St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church's soup kitchen in Newport News. 3. Quartermaster Seaman Courtney Hursey, of Navigation Department, spreads mulch at Red Wing Park in Virginia Beach. 4. Ship's Serviceman Seaman Tyshanna E. Smith, of Supply Department, reads a book to elementary school children in Hampton. 5. Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 2nd Class Sherron T. Cardwell distributes gravel around the goat pen at the Norfolk Zoo. 6. Sailors lend a hand at the local Habitat for Humanity in Norfolk.

COMMAND SUMMER PICNIC

AUGUST 11, 2010



Photo by MC3 (SW) Nicholas P. Hall



Photo by MCSN Kevin J. Steinberg



Photo by MC3 (SW) Nicholas P. Hall



Photo by MC3 (SW) Nicholas P. Hall



Photo by AWS3 Joshua K. Horton



Photo by MCSN Sandi L. Grimnes



Photo by MC3 (SW) Nicholas P. Hall



Photo by MCSN Leonard Adams



Photo by MCSN Kevin J. Steinberg



Photo by AWS3 Joshua K. Horton



Photo by AWS3 Joshua K. Horton



Photo by MC3 (SW) Nicholas P. Hall



Photo by MC3 (SW) Nicholas P. Hall



Photo by MCSN Kevin J. Steinberg



Photo by AWS3 Joshua K. Horton

MCPON Sends 2010 Labor Day Message to the Fleet
 Special from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West
 Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following Labor Day message to the fleet Aug. 27.

"Shipmates and Navy Families,

As we enjoy the last few weeks of summer, I would like to take this opportunity to remind our Sailors and their families to keep safety in mind especially during what is considered to be the unofficial last weekend of summer, Labor Day weekend.

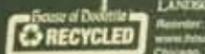
We all need to think about off-duty risk management while planning our Labor Day weekend activities, and not try to cram in too many activities into one weekend which could lead to injury or fatality.

While we have seen success in summer risk management, the loss of even one trained and ready Sailor is unacceptable, and last Labor Day weekend we lost two. As of Aug. 6, 2010, eight Sailors have died this summer during off-duty hours: four in four-wheel motor vehicle mishaps, two on motorcycles and two during recreation mishaps. Based on an average of the last five years, nearly twice as many Sailors are killed on motorcycles during Labor Day weekend than any other weekend. Remember, proper personal protective equipment is a requirement year round, on or off base. Keep in mind that if you are going to play, play it safe ... summer sports cause numerous minor injuries every year and 12 Sailors were injured participating in sporting activities last year.

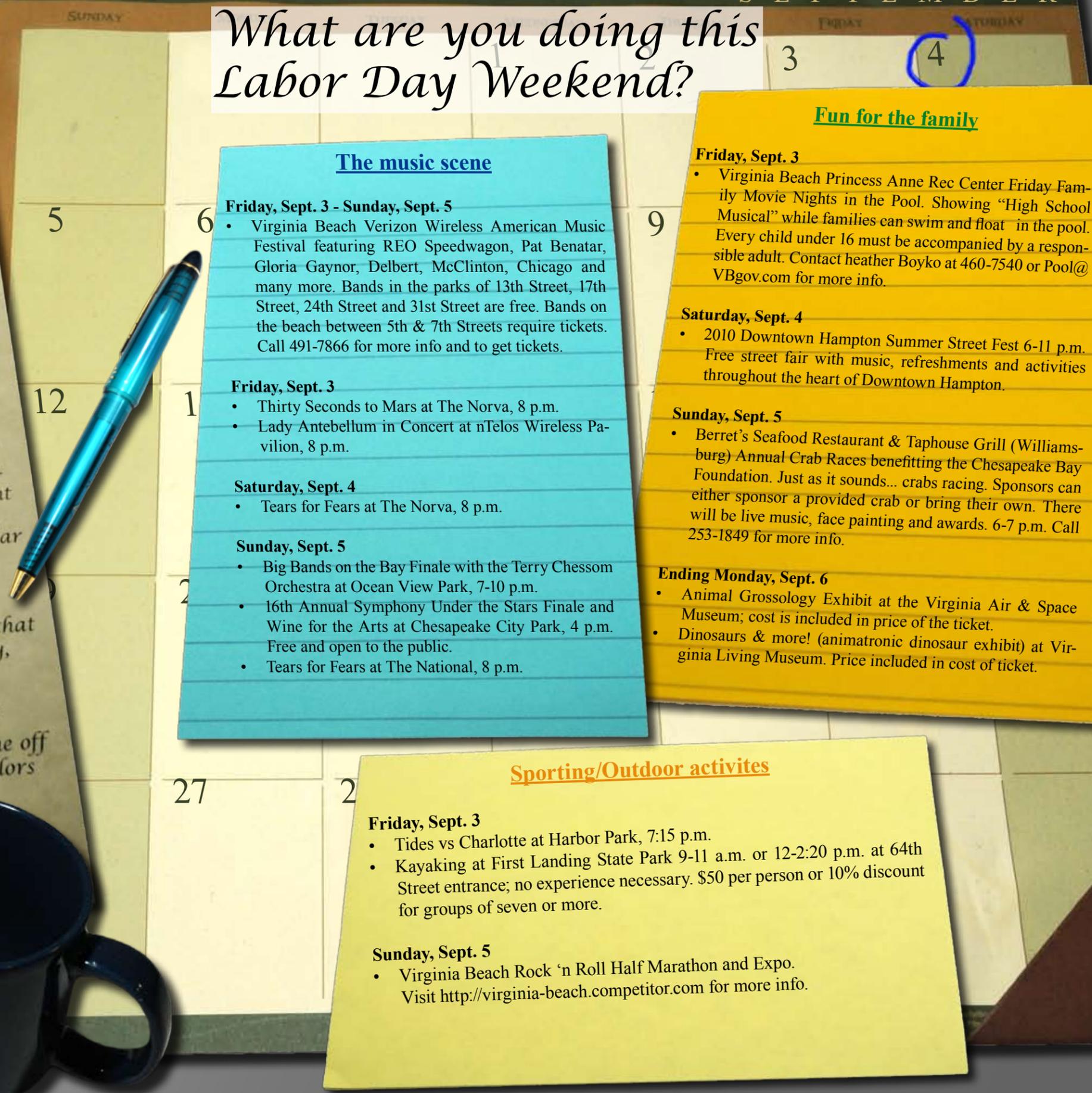
I issued a challenge to the Fleet during Fourth of July weekend and that was to keep up the success rate of zero fatalities from Memorial Day, and I'm giving you the same challenge for this Labor Day weekend.

Use caution when driving, participating in water activities, and if drinking, have a plan. Stay safe and enjoy your much-deserved time off with your family and friends, and as always, keep in mind our Sailors who are deployed and can't be with their loved ones.

Enjoy your Labor Day weekend and HOOYAH!"



What are you doing this Labor Day Weekend?



The music scene

Friday, Sept. 3 - Sunday, Sept. 5

- Virginia Beach Verizon Wireless American Music Festival featuring REO Speedwagon, Pat Benatar, Gloria Gaynor, Delbert, McClinton, Chicago and many more. Bands in the parks of 13th Street, 17th Street, 24th Street and 31st Street are free. Bands on the beach between 5th & 7th Streets require tickets. Call 491-7866 for more info and to get tickets.

Friday, Sept. 3

- Thirty Seconds to Mars at The Norva, 8 p.m.
- Lady Antebellum in Concert at nTelos Wireless Pavilion, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 4

- Tears for Fears at The Norva, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 5

- Big Bands on the Bay Finale with the Terry Chessom Orchestra at Ocean View Park, 7-10 p.m.
- 16th Annual Symphony Under the Stars Finale and Wine for the Arts at Chesapeake City Park, 4 p.m. Free and open to the public.
- Tears for Fears at The National, 8 p.m.

Fun for the family

Friday, Sept. 3

- Virginia Beach Princess Anne Rec Center Friday Family Movie Nights in the Pool. Showing "High School Musical" while families can swim and float in the pool. Every child under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Contact heather Boyko at 460-7540 or Pool@VBgov.com for more info.

Saturday, Sept. 4

- 2010 Downtown Hampton Summer Street Fest 6-11 p.m. Free street fair with music, refreshments and activities throughout the heart of Downtown Hampton.

Sunday, Sept. 5

- Berret's Seafood Restaurant & Taphouse Grill (Williamsburg) Annual Crab Races benefitting the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Just as it sounds... crabs racing. Sponsors can either sponsor a provided crab or bring their own. There will be live music, face painting and awards. 6-7 p.m. Call 253-1849 for more info.

Ending Monday, Sept. 6

- Animal Grossology Exhibit at the Virginia Air & Space Museum; cost is included in price of the ticket.
- Dinosaurs & more! (animatronic dinosaur exhibit) at Virginia Living Museum. Price included in cost of ticket.

Sporting/Outdoor activities

Friday, Sept. 3

- Tides vs Charlotte at Harbor Park, 7:15 p.m.
- Kayaking at First Landing State Park 9-11 a.m. or 12-2:20 p.m. at 64th Street entrance; no experience necessary. \$50 per person or 10% discount for groups of seven or more.

Sunday, Sept. 5

- Virginia Beach Rock 'n Roll Half Marathon and Expo. Visit <http://virginia-beach.competitor.com> for more info.

CONTINUATION BOARD KEEPS BEST SENIOR SAILORS IN THE FLEET



By MC1 (AW) LaTunya Howard, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

The Navy announced the fiscal year 2011 (FY-11) performance-based board for continuation, which will convene Sept. 20 to review senior enlisted (Active/Reserve) personnel with more than 19 years of service.

The focus is performance within the last five years or since advancement to current grade (E-7 through E-9), whichever is later. According to NAVADMIN 276/10, an amplified update to NAVADMIN 180/10, documented misconduct, sub-standard or marginal performance will be the primary reason board-eligible Sailors will not be continued in the Navy past the 20-year mark. Among the specific performance indicators the board will consider are:

- * Documented misconduct involving either Uniform Code of Military Justice (non-judicial punishment) or civilian offenses.
- * Moral or professional dereliction

such as relief for cause or detachment for cause.

- * Continuity gaps in evaluation/fitness report of greater than 90 days.
- * The Sailor's evaluation/fitness report during the period reviewed includes marks showing sub-standard or marginal performance of duty.

The board will consider these factors and others within the entire record and use its judgment to select Sailors for continuation whose service is in the best interest of the Navy. NAVADMIN 276/10 contains the complete list of board consideration factors.

"This is a performance-based board, and I have extreme confidence that the senior enlisted leadership who sit the board are focused on fairness and proper adherence to standards," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West. "This is a move in the right direction, so we are retain-

ing the best people possible for our Navy."

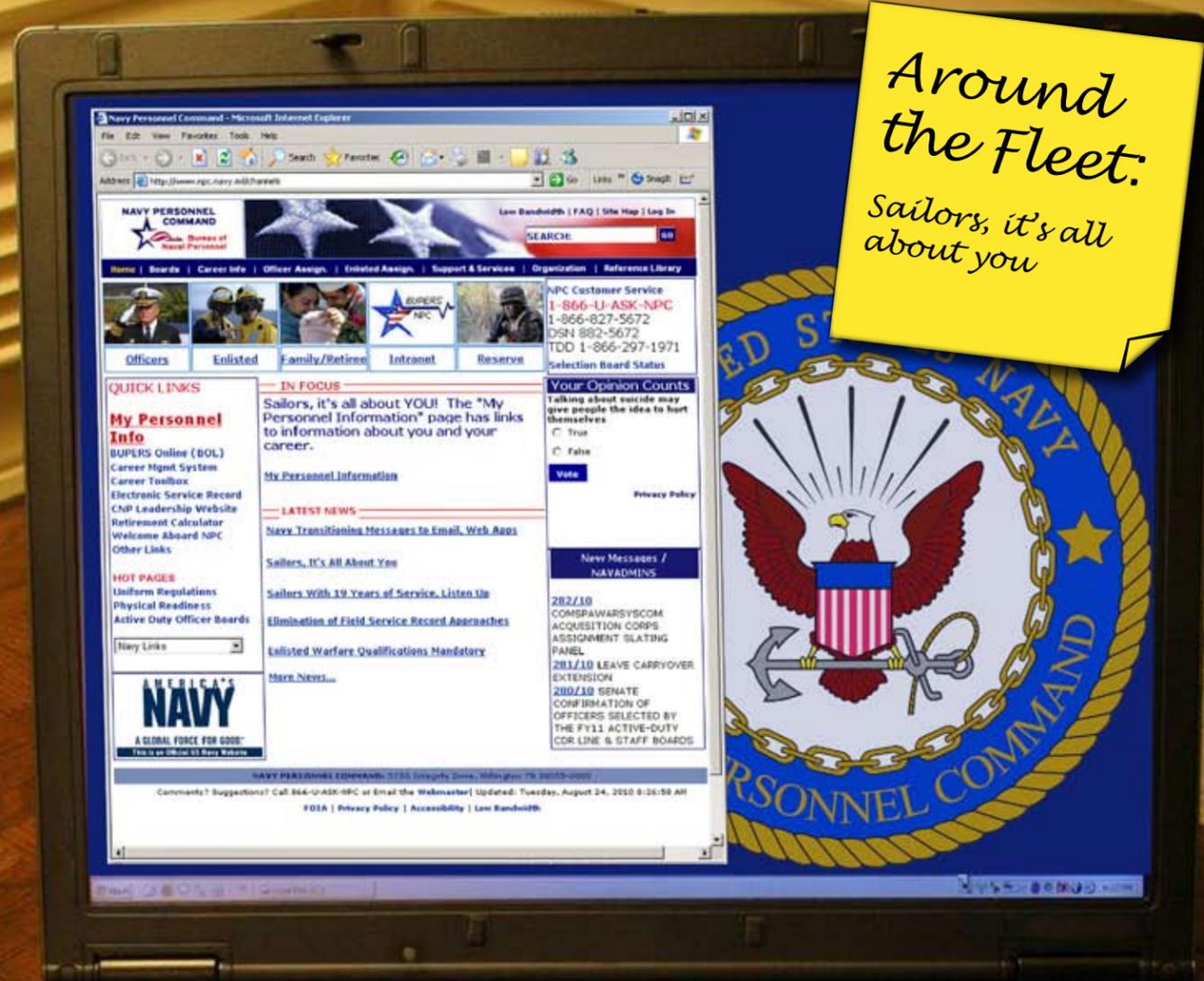
Commands may re-verify their FY-11 enlisted continuation board eligibility listings weekly until Sept. 1.

For Sailors being reviewed, the board correspondence submission deadline has been extended to Sept. 1. Board-eligible Sailors must submit any correspondence to the board with a postmark by this date.

West said this is the second year of the Senior Enlisted Continuation Board, but the first year Reserve chiefs will be looked at.

"The continuation board has expanded from last year," West said. "More people are being looked at across the Navy's Total Force including reserves and some communities that were exempt last year."

For more news from Navy Personnel Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/npc/.



Story by MC1 (AW) LaTunya Howard
Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs
Layout by MC3 Brian M. Brooks

Navy Personnel Command (NPC) has an all-new "My Personnel Information" link on the NPC homepage, directing Sailors to a single grouping of web links for personnel information and career management.

"This is all about the individual Sailor," said Capt. Hank Vitali, director of the Personnel Services Delivery Transformation Office at the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

"The 'My Personnel Information' page (the first listing under quick links) is a first step in response to requests from the fleet for a single self-service-online site for personnel service delivery capabilities," Vitali said. "We've heard the fleet loud and clear and are working to develop an enhanced 'portal' that provides Sailors direct access to the most commonly used applications and sources of career information."

The "My Personnel Information" page has four main functions; personnel records, self-support, training and education, and Customer Service Center support. Sailors can access their official military personnel file, their physical readiness information, submit an electronic-leave request, enter the Defense Travel System or request a Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript.

"There are 20 links to personnel records information, self-service and support sites, training and education, customer service – even post-incident personnel accountability via the Navy Family and Accountability System," said Vitali. "We'll leverage the feedback and lessons learned from the 'My Personnel Information' page into the requirements for the future Navy Human Resources Portal under development for our active and Reserve Sailors."

For more information or to provide direct feedback on "My Personnel Information" visit www.npc.navy.mil (quick links to the left), or contact NPC Customer Service Center at CSCMail@navy.mil or 1-866-U-ASK-NPC.

Fleet and Family Support Center September 2010 Calendar

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

		1 Operation Prepare Newport News 9-11 a.m.	2 Career Planning Norfolk 1-4 p.m.	3
6	7 Interview Techniques Norfolk 8:30-11:30 a.m.	8 Retirement Planning Norfolk 1-2:30 p.m.	9 Dads and Discipline Oceana 2-4:30 p.m.	10
13 Art of Money Management Oceana 8 a.m.-4 p.m.	14 Building Healthy Relationships Norfolk 6-8:30 p.m.	15 Welcome to the Military Oceana 5:30-8:30 p.m.	16 Consumer Awareness Oceana 2:30-4 p.m.	17 New Parent Resource Awareness Workshop Norfolk 8-noon
20 Credit Management Oceana 2:30-4 p.m.	21 Effective Resume Writing Oceana 9-noon	22 Parenting in the Military Oceana 2-4:30 p.m.	23 Parenting in the Military Oceana 2-4:30 p.m.	24 Home Ownership Little Creek 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
27	28 Federal Employment System Norfolk 1-4 p.m.	29 How to Survive the Holidays Financially Norfolk 1-2:30 p.m.	30 Children and Divorce Northwest 1-5 p.m.	

To Register, contact: FFSC Oceana: 443-2923, FFSC Norfolk: 444-2102,
FFSC Yorktown: 887-4606, FFSC Northwest: 421-8770, FFSC Little Creek: 462-7563,
FFSC Newport News: 688-6289 or register online at www.cnic.navy.mil