

Navy Information Operations Command  
Maryland, Fort Meade  
May/June 2010

# Anchor Watch



**MCPON visits NIOC MD**

Petty Officer 2nd Class Tifanii Woolfolk of the JSA and Petty Officer 1st Class Yves Michaud of the FCPOA led their teams onto the field of battle as the two groups continued the "Black and Tan Slam" sports series, April 24. The JSA chose paintball after a decisive win last month on the volleyball court. The JSA was unable to repeat the victory and walked away battered and bruised after facing the FCPOA's barrels. The FCPOA has now won the right to choose the next event in the series, and is likely going to hold a kickball match on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. next month.



**Lt. Cmdr. Gene Gallaher retired at the Westin Hotel near the Baltimore-Washington International Airport, April 23. Gallaher enlisted in the Navy in September 1986, and was commissioned as a Limited Duty Officer in May 1999. Gallaher was promoted to every rank between seaman and lieutenant commander.**

*Photo by MC3 Jesse Shuey*



**NIOC MD participated in the Fort George G. Meade's annual  
"Fun Run," April 28.**

*Photo by MC3 Jesse Shuey*



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# Anchor Watch

## ANCHOR WATCH

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**Capt. Steven Ashworth presents Chief Petty Officer Olga Levkovich with a Joint Service Commendation Medal, April 20.**

## On the cover

**3 Volunteer of the Year**  
See which command member received accolades for contributions to the community.

*Master Chief Petty Officer of the United States Navy, Rick West, sits down and talks with NIOC Sailors and Deployers of the Year.*

**4 ACE Winner**  
Read about an outstanding Sailor who stood out among his peers.

**8 Blessing of the Fleet**  
FCPOA sponsored a trip to Washington D.C., for Sailors to see the Blessing of the Fleet.

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# April Awards



**Joint Service Commendation Medal**  
Chief Petty Officer Olga Levkovich

**Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal**  
Chief Petty Officer Joshua Roundy

**Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal**  
Seaman Breyton Clifford

**Senior Sailor of the Year**  
Petty Officer 1st Class Benjamin Chester

**Senior Deployer of the Year**  
Petty Officer 1st Class Keith Rainey

**Senior Deployer of the Quarter**  
Petty Officer 1st Class Keith Rainey

**Sailor of the Year**  
Petty Officer 2nd Class James Henson

**Senior Deployer of the Quarter**  
Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Swift

**Good Conduct**  
Petty Officer 1st Class Shane Wegner  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Jennifer Thomas  
Petty Officer 3rd Class Richard Kaase

# May Awards

**Joint Service Commendation Medal**  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Brandon Desimone  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Winston Shank

**Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal**  
Lt. Nathaniel Grebb

**Joint Service Achievement Medal**  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Jennifer Miller

**Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal**  
Petty Officer 1st Class Tyrell Ferguson  
Petty Officer 1st Class Phillip McKay  
Petty Officer 1st Class Brandon Noynosoudachanh  
Petty Officer 2nd Class William Yates  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Willie Dowling  
Seaman Weston Schmall

**Senior Sailor of the Quarter**  
Petty Officer 1st Class Tiffany Jackson

**Deployer of the Quarter**  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Amanda Bryan

**Junior Sailor of the Quarter**  
Petty Officer 3rd Class Randi Martin

**Good Conduct Medal**  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Hatchell

**Meritorious Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal**  
Ensign Andrew Heil  
Chief Petty Officer David Ludlow  
Petty Officer 1st Class Melissa Lystad

**Commanding Officer Letter of Commendation**  
Yolanda Rowe



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# A Volunteer Honored

## *NIOC Sailor wins Fort Meade Volunteer of the Year*

Story and Photos by  
MC2(SW) Regina Wright

One of Navy Information Operations Command Maryland's very own was recognized for her efforts as a volunteer with "Saturday Scholars."

Petty Officer First Class Melissa Lystad was recognized as the Fort Meade Active-Duty Volunteer of the Year at a banquet held at Club Meade, April 22.

As Saturday Scholars Military Liaison Officer, she oversaw two six-week semesters in which tutoring was given for three hours per session. Lystad committed 100 duty hours and 160 off-duty hours, using her organizational skills and extensive networking abilities in the performance of the duties associated with the position.

She coordinated with the child and youth services school liaison officer to schedule the Saturday sessions, gathered the parental permission slips, established points of contact with sister services and advertised for maximum participation at the unit levels.

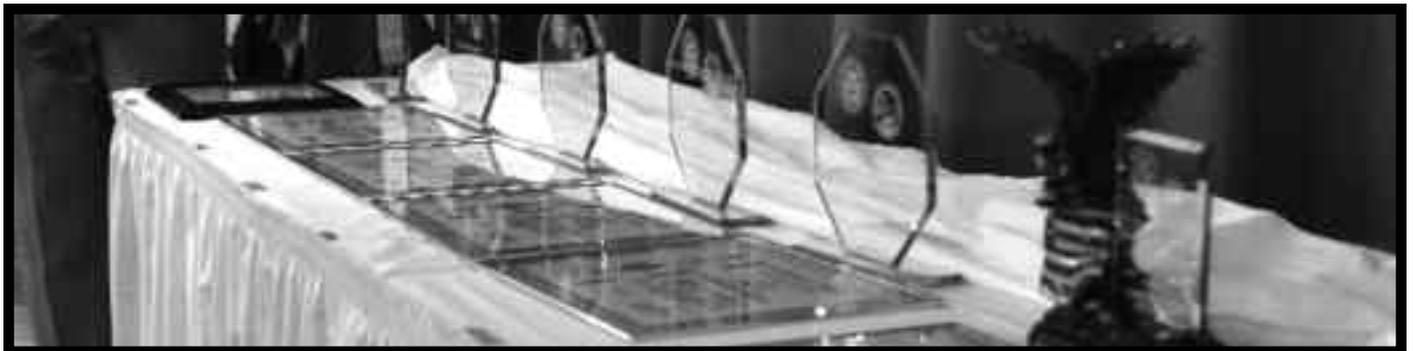
This year, the program helped 103 students bring their academics up to speed, allowing them to see their own potential. The grades of the participants were notably improved, as were their Maryland School Assessment scores.

Lystad's dedication to the program had a direct impact on the students, volunteers, tutors, the scholastic community, and future generations to come. She pulled together each semester's program smoothly.

Saturday Scholars has only been at Fort Meade since 2004, but it has been under Lystad's leadership for the past two years. Its success contributed to NIOC MD's recent nomination for the USS Bainbridge Award for military community service.



**Petty Officer 1st Class Lystad receives the Fort Meade Active-Duty Volunteer of the Year Award from Col. Daniel Thomas, installation commander, April 22, at Club Meade.**



# NIOC Chief is an ACE

Story by  
MC2(SW) Regina Wright

The Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association has named one of NIOC MD's own as this year's recipient of the Award for Cryptologic Excellence.

As a department leading chief petty officer, Chief Petty Officer David S. Hurley leads a team of 62 Sailors and civilians in all aspects of network support and solutions.

The NCVA is composed of active, retired and honorably discharged U.S. Naval Cryptologists. Known as the "On the Roof Gang," early cryptologists were trained on the roofs of the old Navy Building in Washington, D.C. These "founding fathers" made their way to China and established the Navy's first listening posts.

Hurley volunteered for a combat Individual Augmentation tour as the Field Site Lead and Electronic Warfare Officer from September 2008 to August 2009. While deployed he provided in the field Electronic Warfare support and analyzed information critical to battle space dominance. He was awarded a Bronze Star for his actions during this deployment.

Hurley was raised in a military family, and that aided his decision to enlist in March of 1989.

"My two older brothers had previously joined the Navy prior to my enlistment and they helped guide me into the cryptologic community. I was interested in electronics and direct support on submarines was a perfect fit for me," Hurley said.

Hurley was nominated by the command leadership with the Commanding Officer, Capt. Steven Ashworth, as the driving force behind the nomination.

"I was honored to be nominated by the Command, it's truly humbling given the talent of our Cryptologic community," Hurley said. "I was afforded the chance to volunteer for my IA to Iraq and I can tell you it was one of the most rewarding experiences in my career."



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# Straight Shootin'

## *NIOC MD Sailors compete in All Navy Rifle & Pistol Championships*

Story by  
Lt. Cmdr. Matt Bartel

Four Sailors from NIOC Maryland traveled to Naval Air Station, Oceana at the Dam Neck Annex in Virginia Beach, Va. to compete in the 2010 Fleet Forces Command (Atlantic) and All Navy Rifle & Pistol Championships.

Over the two week period of April 16 to 30, the championships were conducted as both a training venue and match competition for the top shooters in the Navy.

Team members included Petty Officer 1st Class Stephen Lee (team captain), Lt. Cmdr. Matt Bartel (coach), Petty Officer 3rd Class Gregory Black and Seaman Jerry Velez.

Due to range availability, the matches were held a month early this year, allowing very little team training time beforehand. Lee planned, organized and executed a tailored training plan to make the most of the limited training time available. In addition to the shooters who were able to make the matches, Lee also trained dozens of NIOC MD Sailors on basic marksmanship fundamentals, including classroom instruction, dry-fire practice, and live-fire range days.

The weather cooperated fully, with temperatures in the 60s and 70s for most of the day, and thankfully no rain.

During the rifle phase, shooters competed with M-1, M-14 or M-16 rifles, with most choosing the M-16 for its light recoil, reliability and accuracy.

As a new shooter, Black found that the thrill of shooting a bull's-eye at long range for the first time made the entire experience worth it.

The Pistol Championships proved much more difficult. Shooting one handed with either a M1911 .45-caliber or M9 9mm pistol at 50 yards is difficult even on the calmest day.

Shooters this year had to deal with a blinding early morning sun because the range faces east, and also had to battle against stiff winds.

After shooting 10 shots at 50 yards, shooters then shoot timed fire, composed of two strings of five shots, fired in a time limit of 20 seconds each. After those shots are scored, targets are repaired and the rapid fire phase is shot: two strings of five rounds fired in a time limit of 10 seconds per string.

All of the sustained fire phases are shot on "turning targets," which don't face the shoot-

er until the timer begins, and then turn on edge when time has expired, preventing early or late shots.

Individual competition for both rifle and pistol provided ample opportunity to identify a team shooting strategy.

For team matches, shooters fire in pairs, with a coach able to scope the shots during a string. This is helpful in rapid fire rifle, where there were no sights allowed. During the first week, commands were able to submit teams based on command size. Commands with more than 500 military personnel compete as a Large Command, while those with less than 500 compete as a Small Command.

NIOC MD's Large Command Team shot well in the rifle competition, placing fourth behind teams from NETWARCOM, USS HARRY S. TRUMAN and NIOC Georgia.

Team performance really came through for the pistol competition, with NIOC MD placing second behind NIOC Georgia. Bartel was also crowned as the Atlantic Fleet Grand Aggregate Champion, winning by a single point.

For Velez, the high point in the competition occurred when he was squadded with one of the oldest, crustiest shooters in the entire Navy, Command Master Chief Franco Scarpino, USNR. With his heavy Italian accent and flourishing hand gestures, Scarpino educated young Velez on the ways of the long gun. When USMC range person-

nel questioned the extra attention Velez was getting, they were quickly admonished not to interrupt. Scarpino, known for his ability to bring out natural talent, took Velez under his wing and taught him as much as possible in the short time.

"I've improved every day I've been out here, and I can't wait to compete at higher levels," said Velez.

Bartel was selected for both the Navy Blue Rifle and Navy Blue Pistol Teams, both of which won first place. Bartel also won the All Navy Championship Grand Aggregate by a margin of 14 points, and was awarded the Michael W. Gorchinski Trophy, named after Chief Petty Officer Michael Gorchinski. Gorchinski was the 1979 National Long Range Champion who lost his life in the October 1983 bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. In addition, Bartel was awarded a Secretary of the Navy Trophy Rifle.

The matches provide a unique venue for training and competition unlike any other program in the Navy. Follow-on competition includes the Interservice Pistol Championships at Fort Benning Georgia, Interservice Rifle Championships at Marine Corps Base Quantico, and the National Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio.



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# Hanging out in his backyard

*MCPON Rick West visits NIOC MD*



**MCPON Rick West incites NIOC MD Sailors to a resounding group “hooya,” March 31.**



**West shows off a photo of the NSA building that Petty Officer First Class Benjamin Chester presented him.**

Story and Photos by  
MC2 (SW) Regina Wright

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Rick West made time to visit the Sailors at NIOC MD.

West began his visit by meeting with each of the Sailors of the Year and Deployers of the Year, and expressed how proud he was of them for being selected to such a prestigious title.

Once West discovered that the Junior Sea Sailor of the Year, Petty Officer 2nd Class Justin Hoover, was raised near his hometown in Georgia, the conversation turned to wrestling and high school rivals.

After West answered a couple of questions about uniforms and regulations, the Senior Sailor of the Year, Petty Officer 1st Class Benjamin Chester, presented West with an embroidered NIOC MD ball cap and a picture of the NSA building. Hoover presented him with his department's very own coin.

After leaving the Sailors of the Year, he strolled over to the barracks. West was met by Chief Petty Officer George Keene, who led the tour around the barracks. He met Petty Officer 3rd Class Alexander Pototsky, who had won room

of the month.

Traveling over to Fort Meade's base theater, West met with all chief petty officers. He answered a question about the rising rate of commanding officers, executive officers and command master chiefs being relieved of their duty. He stated that any indiscretions would not be tolerated from individuals who are supposed to be leaders and mentors to Sailors. He also answered questions about the continuation board.

After the chiefs were dismissed, the theater filled with junior Sailors and officers. West's cool and calm demeanor put Sailors at ease as he opened the floor for questions.

West spoke briefly to the standing room only crowd and then opened the floor to questions from the NIOC MD Sailors.

He responded to questions on a variety of topics ranging from uniform regulations to veteran's benefits.

After the question and answer portion was over and all Sailors dismissed, West stayed behind, meeting with Sailors and answering more questions.

Overall, the visit proved to be both informative and enjoyable for the MCPON and NIOC MD Sailors.



**West meets with the Room of the Month awardee, Petty Officer Third Class Alexander Pototsky.**

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# Armed Forces Week hits the target

Story by  
Chief Petty Officer Virgilio Tumaneng  
Photos by  
MC3 Matthew Jordan

This year marked the 61st anniversary of the first Armed Forces Day. It was created in 1949 to honor Americans serving in the five U.S. military branches – the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard – following the consolidation of the military services in the Department of Defense.

President Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for Americans to come together and thank our military people for their patriotic service in support of our country. It also reminds us that we are all on one team, and our strength lies in bringing our different strengths to our joint missions.

NIOC MD kicked off the Armed Forces Week celebration, May 10, with the traditional flag-raising ceremony. One of our most revered traditions, the flag-raising ceremony honors our nation's flag as a symbol of our country's hard-won freedom.

This year's theme was "America's Heroes Serving in Silence."

In celebration of Armed Forces Week, the military services hosted a variety of activities to highlight the capabilities, patriotism, pride, and skill of our heroes.

It is a unique opportunity for civilians to honor and pay tribute to our brave men and women in uniform who continually answer the call to duty to protect and defend our great nation.

Joint service activities during the week offered a unique opportunity for the military and civilian communities to come together and show off their talents.

The rest of the week was devoted in highlighting each military branch. The week's activities culminated in the Armed Forces Week Gala, a chance for the military and civilian community to celebrate together. All events were open to military and civilian employees.



**Top: Petty Officer 1st Class Stephanie Harris and Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Kivi, join in an assault against their opponent during the Armed Forces Field Day dodgeball tournament, May 13.**



**Left: Petty Officer 2nd Class Regina Wright, Petty Officer 3rd Class Brian Burrows and Seaman Joshua Harshman prepare for a serve from Team Army during the Armed Forces Field Day volleyball tournament, May 13.**

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Clockwise from top: The U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard prepares to pour water from the Seven Seas and the Great Lakes into the surrounding fountains to charge them to life for the spring season.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Richard Allmon and Petty Officers 1st Class Heather Fay and Stephanie Harris observe the Cherry Blossom Parade, April 10.

Band members perform at this year's annual Cherry Blossom Parade, April 10.  
Photo by PO2 David Allmon.

A Sailor from the Ceremonial Guard pours water from the Seven Seas and Great Lakes into one of the fountains at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., charging it to life and ushering in the spring season.



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# FCPOA witnesses the *'Blessing of the Fleet'*



United States Navy Band plays prior to the start of the Blessing of the Fleet ceremony at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Story and photos by  
MC3 Matthew Jordan

The First Class Petty Officer Association is an organization for first class petty officers, created to mentor junior Sailors as well as build a community of senior Sailors; thereby, helping them advance and better its members as leaders.

"I would say the mission of the FCPOA is to build unity and morale for all the First Class Petty Officers so they make a difference for the betterment of the junior Sailors and to do good in our community," said Petty Officer 1st Class Shane Wegner.

The association offers a great way to get involved in your community and to network with fellow first class Sailors. It presents many other benefits to its members.

"You will probably get to do a lot of things you would not have done on your own," said Wegner. "You get to make a difference for other people, and best of all, you get to know Sailors. People who

looked like strangers to you before, start looking familiar, and the networking the FCPOA brings to its members really pays off in ways you'd never expect."

First Class Petty Officers are encouraged by the command to get involved with the FCPOA, and joining is made easy by its board members.

"Getting involved at any level whether it is the JSA, FCPOA, or Chief Petty Officer Association - it's as simple as showing up to a meeting," said Wegner.

The association organized a trip down to Washington, D.C. to support the annual Blessing of the Fleet, April 10, at the United States Navy Memorial. The trip gave many Sailors a chance to see the sights and to get to know some of their fellow shipmates.

Sailors from the U.S. Navy's Ceremonial Guard marched across the Memorial Plaza's "Granite Sea" to pour water from the Seven Seas and the Great Lakes into the surrounding fountains, charging them to life and ushering in the spring. The tradition is passed down through generations of Sailors, fishermen, merchant mariners, and navies

around the world. The centuries-old "Blessing of the Fleet" ceremony is intended to safeguard fishing crews and ships from the danger of the seas through a traditional blessing given by a clergyman at the water's edge.

"We saw the Smithsonian, the Blessing of the Fleet and the Washington Memorial," said Petty Officer 1st Class Heather Fay.

While in D.C., they were also able to attend the annual Cherry Blossom Festival.

"I'm glad I got to go to the festival and see the cherry blossoms on a nice sunny day and build some camaraderie with Sailors I didn't know too well before," said Wegner.

The United States Navy Memorial hosts its annual Blessing of the Fleet ceremony each Spring as a tribute to our nation's rich maritime heritage and to the men and women who have contributed to its growth and success. It is free and open to the public and is an official event of the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

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# AROUND NIOC



Sailors involved in Brilliant on the Basics observe morning colors, April 6.

*Photo by MC3 Jesse Shuey*



Lt. Tony Garcia hits a double during the Wardroom vs. FCPOA softball game, April 16.

*Photo by MC2(SW) Regina Wright*



Brilliant on the Basics participants held a group physical fitness session led by Petty Officer First Class Stacey D'Alessio, April 14.

*Photo by MC3 Jesse Shuey*



Commanding Officer, Capt. Steven Ashworth speaks at the sexual assault awareness training, April 1.

*Photo by MC Matthew Jordan*



The NIOC MD Color Guard posted the colors at the Baltimore Orioles game, April 11.



Executive Officer, Cmdr. John Myers inspects the chiefs and officers ranks during a command wide uniform inspection, April 14.

*Photo by MC2(SW) Regina Wright*

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# NIOC MD Strikes Gold!

## *Navy Retention Excellence Award*



Story by  
Chief Petty Officer Larry Steagall

NIOC MD was awarded the Navy Retention Excellence Award, also known as the "Golden Anchor," for 2009.

The annual award recognizes commands that meet or exceed retention goals for the year. For 2009, the goals were as follows: 48 percent retention for personnel with up to six years of active service (Zone A), 58 percent for personnel between six and 10 years active service (Zone B), and 82 percent for personnel with more than 10 years of active service (Zone C), while maintaining an attrition rate of less than 6.2 percent. NIOC MD had three UICs which met these requirements.

Commands also receive a yearly assessment on career related programs and must meet minimum standards to be considered

for the award. NIOC MD received a grade of "Excellent" on last year's assessment, which played a major role in receiving the Golden Anchor. NIOC MD conducted 157 re-enlistments in fiscal year 2009 for a total of over \$1,000,000 in Selective Re-enlistment Bonus money. NIOC MD also had 11 affiliated re-enlistments with the Navy Reserve which is considered towards retention.

The NIOC MD career development team is led by Chief Petty Officer Larry Steagall, Petty Officer First Class Stacy D'Alessio and Second Class Petty Officer Larry Eldridge. Onboard NIOC MD, the team has 12 departmental career counselors and over 30 divisional career counselors who are involved in providing career advice to a command of over 1000 Sailors on a daily

basis. The departmental career counselors are the backbone to a successful program because they provide the day-to-day guidance and knowledge to the Sailors via formal career development boards and everyday personal interaction, helping Sailors to be well informed on Navy programs and opportunities.

"Any command's success in retention is directly contributed to the hard work of the command and departmental career counselors," said Steagall. "In my 9 years as a career counselor, the departmental career counselors at NIOC MD are the hardest working, most dedicated DCCs I have ever worked with."

NIOC MD has been awarded the "Golden Anchor" four of the last five years.

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# Water Safety Tips

Story by  
MC2 (SW) Regina Wright

Memorial Day weekend is when most area pools, lakes and beaches are open for business. Recreational time spent at these locations is popular for children and adults all over the country.

Whether relaxing by the pool catching some rays, exercising, playing water sports or teaching children to swim - everyone needs to be mindful of the potential for accidents and drownings at area waterways.

The average number of drowning accidents per year in America is around 300; however, in 2009, the nation's average nearly doubled.

The most common drowning victims are children under the age of five. There are many ways that tragedies like these happen. Many times, it is a neighbor's child that will climb the fence or wander through an unlocked gate. Other times, there are multiple adults around, generating a false sense of security because everyone thinks someone else is watching the kids. Alcohol is another major factor in water accidents.

There are many things each person can do to prevent water accidents and drownings.

## Drownings are silent

Most drownings are quiet because the victim has water in his or her lungs and cannot cry out for help. Also, there are many times when there is no one around to respond even if the child is able to cry out for help.

As a preventive measure, there are pool alarms residents can purchase that will be activated if anything over eight pounds enters the pool. This is a great option. Even if you have a fence, children can open gates.

## Layer up on your protection

Layering up on your pool protection is a great idea. The more protective measures you take to protect yourself, your children and your neighbors, the better. Having pool alarms, pool covers, pool fences and door alarms installed is well worth the money. Also, if you are going to have a party, invest the \$20 an hour to have a trained lifeguard on duty.

## Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation

Knowing CPR is an invaluable asset to anyone. Correctly administering CPR could be the difference between life and death. Also, make sure that all of your family and friends know the proper way to administer CPR.

## Do not dive into lakes or rivers

Every year, diving accidents result in more than 8,000 spinal cord injuries. Five thousand deaths occur from diving accidents even before the victims reach the hospital. All too often, hidden dangers lurk beneath the surface of the water, including rock outcrops or shallow water.

## Do not drink and swim!

It's a fact. Alcohol and water do not mix! Intoxication is not necessary for alcohol to threaten safety. Just one beer can impair your balance, vision, judgment and reaction time - making you a potential danger to yourself and others.

## Boaters, have your checklist

- Check your boat for all required safety equipment.
- Consider the size of your boat, the number of passengers and the amount of extra on-board equipment. **DON'T OVER LOAD THE BOAT!**
- If you are in a powerboat, check your electrical system and fuel system for gas fumes.
- Follow manufacturer's suggested procedures **BEFORE** starting up the engine.
- Wear your life jacket - don't just carry one on-board.
- Leave your alcohol behind. Work to increase your safety, not increase your risks!
- Check the weather forecast.
- File a float plan with a member of your family or friend.



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## *USO and FFSC host 5th Annual Military Spouse Career Fair & Expo*



**Military Spouse Models from left to right: Andrea Fernandez, Yolanda Rowe, Leticia Fusilier, Paul Thompson, Carmen Waga, Doretha Evans, Fatma Carl, and Wanda Elorm.**

Story by  
Joyette Weber

The 5th Annual Military Spouse Career Fair & Expo was held at the McGill Training Center at Fort Meade, May 8.

This was the first time that Fort Meade hosted this event, which was supported by USO and the Joint Employment Transition Services Team, composed of employment program managers throughout Naval District Washington from every branch of service.

This free event incorporated an on-site job fair, fashion show, one-on-one career counseling services and on-site workshops and seminars supporting military spouses entering the workforce.

The NIOC MD Color Guard opened the event with the Presentation of Colors, and Aryn Spry, an Annapolis Area Christian High School junior, sang the National Anthem.

This year was a special event because USO World funded a spouse's business fashion show which featured military spouses from NIOC MD and Fort Meade. The business casual attire was provided by Kohl's of the Bowie Town Center. The fashion show highlighted what to wear in the business world and was narrated by R.C. Fisher, a career counselor at the Soldier & Family Assistance Center.

The event was a major partnership with the Navy Fleet & Family Support Center

and Army Community Service. Julie Yates, the Family Employment Readiness Program Manager from FFSC, took the lead of the opening ceremony, fashion show and many of the behind the scenes events.

In addition, she also taught an on-site Stress Seminar. Vikki Torrence from ACS, enlisted the guest speaker, Sue Hoppin, founder and president of the National Military Spouse Network, and also coordinated many administrative tasks.

Club Meade provided the free lunch, and the Fort Meade Beauty Salon provided free hairstyles for all the models. This event was a huge success and provided invaluable support and services to our military spouses.

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# Naval History

## The Battle of the Coral Sea

May

Story by  
MC3 Jesse Shuey

The Battle of the Coral Sea, fought from May 4 to 8, 1942, was a major naval battle in the Pacific Theater of World War II. The battle was the first fleet action in which aircraft carriers engaged each other. It was also the first naval battle in history in which neither side's ships sighted or fired directly upon the other.

The battle started as a result of a Japanese amphibious operation which intended to capture Port Moresby, on New Guinea's southeastern coast. The city was home to an important Allied base and thousands of troops were stationed in the area as the last Allied bastion on the island and last defense between the Japanese onslaught and Australia. During the attack, a Japanese air base there would threaten northeastern Australia and support plans for further expansion into the South Pacific,

possibly helping to drive Australia out of the war and certainly enhancing the strategic defenses of Japan's newly-enlarged oceanic empire.

Although several of their supporting warships were surprised and sunk or damaged by aircraft from the U.S. fleet carrier Yorktown, Japanese forces successfully invaded and occupied Tulagi, a small island in the Solomon Islands, May 3 to 4.

Aware of the presence of U.S. carriers in the area, the Japanese fleet carriers then entered the Coral Sea with the intention of finding and destroying the Allied naval forces.

Good communications intelligence allowed the U.S. Pacific Fleet to prepare to meet the planned Japanese takeover against Port Moresby, though available resources provided little margin for error.

The freshly overhauled carrier Lexington, rushed out from Pearl Harbor, joined the Yorktown in the estimated attack area May 1, doubling Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher's carrier forces. These carriers and their con-

sorts engaged in several days of refueling from the oilers Neosho and Tippecanoe, while awaiting the arrival of two Australian cruisers to reinforce the six already on hand.

Both the American and Japanese carrier commanders spent May 6 moving westward, unaware just how close they had come to each other. At one point, they were only about 70 miles apart.

Beginning May 7, carrier forces from both sides exchanged airstrikes over two consecutive days. The first day, U.S. forces sank a Japanese carrier Shoho, while the Japanese sank a U.S. destroyer and damaged one of their fleet oilers. The next day, the Japanese fleet carrier Shokaku was damaged, and the U.S. fleet carrier Lexington was scuttled as a result of heavy fire from the enemy.

Both sides suffered heavy losses in aircraft and carrier damage; the two fleets disengaged and retired from the battle area. Because of the loss of carrier air cover, Admiral Shigeyoshi Inoue recalled the Port Moresby invasion fleet, intending to try again later.

## USS Ranger (CV-4)

June

Story By  
MC2(SW) Regina Wright

The USS Ranger (CV-4) was the first ship of the U.S. Navy to be designed and built from the keel up as an aircraft carrier.

Then-Secretary of the Navy, Charles F. Adams, assigned the ship a name to commemorate five U.S. warships that had previously borne the names, "Ranger."

The Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company was ordered by the U.S. Navy Nov. 1, 1930, to build the Ranger. The keel was laid Sept. 26, 1931 and was sponsored by Lou Henry Hoover, the wife of outgoing President, Herbert Hoover. During the commissioning ceremony, June 4, 1934, Lou Hoover broke a bottle of Prohibition-era grape juice over the bow of the ship in place of the traditional champagne.

Ranger carried out her initial flight operations, June 21, 1937 off the Virginia Capes, then departed Norfolk, Va., for training that took the ship to Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires,

and Montevideo, Aug. 17, 1934.

After a one-year stint in the dry docks for after-trial repairs, she headed off towards the Pacific, and made her way to San Diego, Calif., April 15, 1935. For nearly four years after that Ranger participated in fleet problems reaching to Hawaii.

Ranger participated in World War II and also served as the flagship to Rear Admiral A. B. Cook, Commander, Carriers, Atlantic Fleet.

She departed from Pearl Harbor Oct. 13, 1944 to train new naval pilots for combat duty. Operating out of San Diego under the Commander, Fleet Air, Alameda, Calif., Ranger continued training air groups and squadrons along the California coast throughout the remainder of the war. Ranger was the only U.S. carrier in existence prior to the start of the war that never engaged the Japanese in battle.

Departing San Diego on Sept. 30 1945, she embarked civilian and military passengers at Balboa and then steamed for New Orleans, La., arriving on Oct. 18, 1945.

After calling at Norfolk, she entered the

Philadelphia Naval Shipyard on Nov. 19, 1945 for overhaul. She remained on the eastern seaboard until decommissioned at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard on Oct. 18, 1946. Struck from the Naval Vessel Register on Oct. 29, she was sold for scrap to Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Chester, Pa. on Jan. 31, 1947.



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# Alice Springs

## *Honors fallen military*

Story by  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Matt Kilby

Australian and New Zealand Army Corps Day is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand. The date is commemorated by both countries on April 25. Originally, ANZAC day honored members of their military who fought at Gallipoli in Turkey during World War I. Now, the celebration commemorates all those who died and served in military operations for their countries.

NAVIODET Alice Springs joined with other U.S. and Australian services to remember and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. Military and civilian groups gathered in downtown Alice Springs to march through the town and to the top of ANZAC Hill.

The weather was warm and sunny, and

the Australian and American flags waved in a cool, relaxing breeze.

Air Force Master Sgt. Clay Besse led the entire U.S. military section of the parade. As the parade made its way through the town, the rhythm of the band's beat and the participants' march were synced to perfection.

Upon arriving at ANZAC Hill, the band and civilian participants separated while the Australian and American forces marched to the top. The view at the top overlooks the entire town of Alice Springs and displays some of the most unique and breath-taking scenery in the area.

After reaching the top of the hill, everyone gathered around the tall cenotaph to carry out the ANZAC Memorial Service. Military members were brought to attention, children gathered in front of the service members, and civilians stood

on the opposite side of the circular memorial grounds. The town hierarchy called for a moment of silence and all that was heard was the wind lightly blowing through trees.

While wreaths were laid upon each memorial, bagpipes played a hymn throughout the wreath laying, which was followed by the playing of "The Last Post," a bugle call played to commemorate those who have fallen in war.

ANZAC Day is a day of remembrance for every person. It is a day to remember freedom and that security costs a great deal. It is also a day to remember that no matter what nation you pay homage to, we are all part of the same world. It is a day to honor those who did not forget they were part of a greater cause.

**Right: The view of Alice Springs atop the ANZAC Hill.**

**Below: Petty Officers 2nd Class Greening and Kilby, Petty Officer 1st Class Jenaye, and Lt. Cmdr. Cone before the celebration.**

