The Sandpaper

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El Centro, Ca

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Celebrating Women's History Month

Serving their country for 95 years

By JO2 Carmichael Yepez
Editor

March 2003 will mark the 16th annual observance of Women's History Month since the president established the proclamation in 1987. Although their participation in wars and battles goes back for centuries, it was at the beginning of the 19th century when the Navy Nurse Corps was created.

In 1908, Congress established the Navy Nurse Corps and while in the beginning no rank structure was given to them, they were accorded privileges similar to those of officers. In 1917, when the United States was preparing to enter World War I and Sailors left for war, a great shortage of Sailors in clerical positions developed. When the Civil Service Commission could not provide enough personnel to fill these vacant positions, the Secretary of the Navy, Josephus Daniels, asked "Is there any law that says a yeoman must be a man?" to his legal advisers. His advisers answered, "No sir there is not, the law does not say 'male.' Then enroll women in the Naval Reserves as yeomen," said Daniels. "We will have the best clerical assistance the country can provide."

Immediately after the United States went to war the enrollment of women was taken up on a large scale in order to release enlisted men for active service at sea.

In addition to yeoman, women served as translators, draftsmen, fingerprint-experts, camouflage

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From the Commanding Officer

By CAPT Paul M. Ziegler
CO

U.S., British and other coalition forces are now conducting battle operations in Iraq, as Operation Iraqi Freedom is underway. Many of the Sailors, Marines, aircrew and special operations forces engaged in combat right now conducted training right here at NAF El Centro over the past year. In addition to those forces currently deployed, the personnel that are here conducting training, as well as those expected to visit in the future, are also likely to soon be deployed in harms way. Our support of these individuals ability to conduct their training here has a direct impact on our forces readiness and ability to wage combat. Our mission remains critical and of utmost importance, and we can expect to see a continued normal level of detachment activity over the foreseeable future. Thank you for your support of our mission and our forces.

In March, we have seen the passing of another advancement exam cycle and anxiously await the results. Hopefully, we will soon see the addition of several new "crows" in our ranks as new petty officers are advanced, as well as continuing to see upward mobility of our current petty officers. Additionally, there are several new programs being introduced in support of the personal and professional development of our Sailors. The Perform to Serve initiative, highlighted in this issue of the Sandpaper, is an important aspect of our Sailors' futures. We are also in the process of implementing a mentorship program to help guide all of our Sailors toward productive and highly effective tours of duty.

Over the last couple of months, the Sandpaper highlighted some of the "Snowbirds" who make the NAF RV park their winter home. Most of them are departing over the next few weeks, so I want to take this opportunity to thank them for choosing NAF El Centro. I also want to thank the many visitors who, over the years, have continuously shown support for our Sailors and families via volunteer work throughout the facility. From maintaining our Thrift Shop, to assisting with various facility functions and celebrations, they have worked side by side

with many of our service members, spouses and families in providing services and assistance to all of us. We appreciate their contributions and want them to know that they will be missed. We look forward to their return later this year.

Finally, I would like every one to join me in wishing one of our NAF team members a heartfelt farewell and best wishes upon his retirement from federal service. On 1 April, our director of Naval Occupational Safety and Health Department, Mr. Ed Gamble officially retires after 50 years of federal service. Upon retiring after serving 22 years in the Air Force, Ed joined the civil service and has been associated with military and civilian safety programs ever since, serving in Guam for 21 years before reporting here to NAF in 1995. He has supported numerous safety programs here through the years not only in the area of occupational safety but also in areas of driver safety, recreational safety and home safety. Please help me in honoring his many years of service by vowing to buckle up, every time, all the time.

Top left: NAF El Centro Snowbirds who volunteer at the thrift and Navy spouses. Top right: CAPT Ziegler presented Ed Gamble with a "50 Year" service pin during his retirement luncheon.

Editorial
Public Affairs Officer
LT David Rodriguez
Sandpaper Publisher/Editor
JO2 Carmichael Yepez
CM2 Eric Magee/Staff Writer

Contributing writers
CAPT Paul Ziegler
CDR Peter Hayes
LCDR Randy Johnson
NC1 Pamela Jensen
HM3 Jason Bonney
GM2 William Donovan
Dr. Lynn Flowers
Shawn Gibson
Cathy Harper

Photography/Printing/Distribution
JO2 Carmichael Yepez

CAPT Paul M. Ziegler
CO
CDR Peter Hayes
XO
CMDCM Vince Seay
CMC

April Chapel Services

Weekly Bible Study
April 2nd 7:00pm at Community Life Center
"Holy Thursday" Special Service
April 17th 7:00pm
Base Chapel
"Good Friday" Special Service
April 18th 7:00pm

Easter Events (April 20th)
Easter Sunrise Service 0600
Sunday Service 1000
Base Chapel
"Spiritual Discipline"

Top left: HM3 Rosemary Galvan from Branch Medical Clinic is the first in her family to join the military. Her parents were skeptical about her joining, but they are very proud of her. Bottom Left: IT2 Susan Potter first joined the Air Force then the Navy and is now in the active reserves. Above: MACS Cheryl Patterson over sees the Security Department.

Women's History Month

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designers and recruiting agents.

It has been almost 100 years since the establishment of the Nurse Corps and since the beginning to the war on terrorism today, women continue to serve with courage in the Navy. From yeoman to fighter pilots they cross all ranks from seaman to admiral embracing the same core values of honor courage and commitment.

Most recently, this was visible during the Persian Gulf where more than 37,000 military women of all services participated in the theatre making up approximately 6.8 percent of the US forces, enduring the same harsh conditions as their male counterparts.

NAF El Centro has approximately 273 permanent active duty military personnel of which 45 are female. They are in charge of departments, serving as security personnel, air traffic controllers, and bomb builders, they take care of the sick and perform clerical jobs.

Master-at-Arms Senior Chief Petty Officer (SW/AW) Cheryl Patterson has a tough job to perform. She is the Assistant Security Officer for NAF El Centro and is responsible for making sure her department, which includes 53 personnel, runs smoothly.

"She runs the department with an iron fist," said one of her security personnel referring to the fact that she runs the Security department by the book.

Phone calls and security matters are constantly interrupting her as she sits in her office going through a stack of reports she must review and sign. At the same time she is trying to answer my question as to what her experience has been like in Navy.

"It has been a challenging career," she replied. "I have been able to experience the changes women have gone through in the military. When I first joined, I was the first woman to work in a P-3 squadron. In those days men weren't used to working with women so that was a challenge of its own. We have come along way since then and we have earned our respect, but I think we still have a ways to go. Overall, the Navy has been good to me. I've earned a bachelor's degree, I have traveled all over the world and the challenge is not over yet."

Patterson joined the Navy in 1985 and plans to retire at her 20-year mark.

The reasons for joining the Navy for both women and men are the same. Some join for the travel, others for education, and others out of pride as is the case of Navy Career Counselor 1st Class Petty Officer (AW) Pamela Jensen.

"My father had been over seas and wanted to make sure we knew how lucky we were to be in this country," said Jensen. "So I joined because I love what my country stands for. My experience has been fantastic. I have seen and experienced a lot of things good and bad that otherwise I would of never seen and done. For me the military has been a good choice and if I had to do it again I wouldn't change it."

Jensen joined the Navy in 1986 and plans to make it a full career. Jensen is the Command Career Counselor for NAF.

Another big part women play in the military is in the reserves. Currently, NAF has three females who have been recalled to active duty in support of Operation Noble Eagle. Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Petty Officer Susan Potter was working as an assistant engineer drafts person in Seattle when she was recalled to duty. After she completed her first year, she volunteered for another year and was reassigned to NAF. "The military has opened my horizons to different cultures, different people, and different jobs."

Before joining the reserves, Potter served four years in the Air Force and six years in the Navy. "The military has been great," she said. "I come from a small cow town in Montana, so my options were to marry a local rancher, or work at a grocery store, so I decided to take neither and joined the military to see the world. It has built my self confidence," said Potter.

In 2001, President Bush stated, "Our nations boasts a rich history of women whose heroic achievements speak to the sense of excellence, potential and patriotism shared by all Americans. Women's History Month is an opportunity to remember, honor and celebrate the many contributions of women that helped and continue to help this great nation.

Today, there are nearly 70,000 women in the active Navy and Naval reserve comprising over 14 percent of the active force and nearly 20 percent of the reserve force.

See the Sandpaper on the web https://extra.nafec.navy.mil

Support your Navy Ball Committee

Armed and Dangerous

By CM2 Eric Magee and GM2(SW) William Donovan

Personnel from the NAF El Centro Security department recently became better qualified to safeguard and patrol NAF.

For an entire week in February, security personnel trained at the Naval Special Warfare Camp in Niland where they qualified to handle both the M-16 rifle and the M-60 machine gun.

MACS Cheryl Patterson, Assistant Security Officer stated that thanks to the newly reported Range Master, Gunners Mate 2nd Class Petty Officer William Donovan, the department is at a new readiness training level. "He is the only qualified Range Safety Officer within the department and thanks to him, 29 of our security personnel are now better qualified."

The qualification included expert marksmanship, proper care, maintenance, and safety awareness of both the M-16 and M-60 weapons.

Master At Arms Seaman Apprentice, Kimberlee Mondro said, "This was my first time firing a weapon of this caliber, and it was exciting. It really got my blood pumping."

By the end of the week, each individual came away from the training with a higher level of self-confidence and an improved ability to handle a weapon in a given situation.

Since the terrorist attacks of 9/11, many hours of training have been devoted to preparing our Sailors to protect our bases. Thanks to their efforts and constant training, we can rest assured they are prepared to handle the heightened levels of force protection required to keep our base safe.

Bottom left: Range Master GM2 William Donovan overlooks for safety during the shoot. Above MASN Michael Lynn takes aim with the M-16 riffle.

Help make our community better

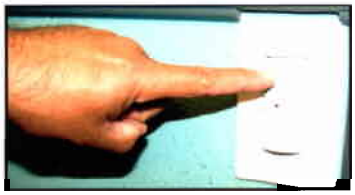
By Cathy Harper
Housing Office

The energy we save in housing will pay off in the long run by eliminating fraud, waste and abuse. Fraud, waste and abuse costs housing hundreds of dollars each year in operating funds. Funds that could be used to help improve our homes, playgrounds and neighborhoods.

As housing residents, you have a responsibility to your landlord, which is the base Commanding Officer. It's easy to neglect, put off or not really care about maintenance at a home you don't own. However, it must become a concern as the added costs for delays in maintenance and careless use of utilities, costs the government thousands of dollars each year. Some Examples…

-Unauthorized guest residing in your quarters…**Fraud**

-Windows or doors left open during operation of your AC or heat…**Waste**



-Service calls not reported in a timely manner…**Waste**

-Neglect in changing your AC/Heating filter or smoke detector batteries…**Abuse**

-Holes in walls and doors…**Abuse**

-Using high wattage light bulbs and leaving exterior & interior lights on during the day or when not needed…**Waste**

Use the services of Kellog Brown and Root Maintenance Contractor by calling the service desk at 339-2204 to report a problem with your house. They are meant for you. The cost is only a little of your time. We understand that accidents happen…honesty pays. But neglect, as it is discovered, will cost you bucks. Until next time, take care of yourselves and take care of your shipmates!

Free travel for you and your family

By LCDR Randy Johnson
Operations Officer

You and your dependents can now travel free as space available passengers on military passenger planes. Military airfields often have passenger planes with empty seats that can now be used by dependents flying with their sponsor. This program is a one year test to evaluate the expansion of space-available priveleges for dependents traveling within the U.S. The test will allow dependents of active duty and retired Uniformed Services members to travel when accompanied by their sponsors. The test began April 1, 2003 and will end 1 April 2004.

Dependents will assume the same category of travel as their sponsor. Space-available sign up for this program will be effective 1 April 2003. Retired members may sign up 60 days in advance but no earlier than 1 April 2003.

Active duty Uniformed Services members must be in a leave or pass status to register for space-available travel, remain in a leave or pass status while awaiting travel, and be in a leave or pass status the entire period of travel

NAF El Centro Sailors and dependents can check with the C-12 aircrew in Operations to help find a flight that you may be able to use. The flights are scheduled five days in advance. Besides NAFEC, MCAS Miramar, MCAS Yuma and March AFB (just outside LA) all have flights.

For additional information concerning space-available travel and sign-up procedures please review the Air Mobility Command public web site at <http://amcpublic.scott.af.mil/Spacea/spacea.htm> or contact the servicing DOD air terminal of interest.

NAF Sea Cadets receive first award

By JO2 Carmichael Yepez
Editor

Military bearing, self esteem, motivation, self confidence, pride and respect are just some of the qualities the Desert Eagle Sea Cadets have been learning for the past year since the group formed on-board Naval Air Facility El Centro.

In their first awards ceremony on Saturday March 15, Sea Cadet, Commanding Officer Douglas Morgan presented 12 Sea Cadets with their first one-year ribbon.

"This is a big day for them," said Charlotte Lindsey, Officer in Charge of the Navy Leaguers (The younger Sea Cadets in the squadron). "This presentation gives them the motivation and self confidence, that they have been able to accomplish something."

The Desert Eagles have come along way since the group formed in July of last year when they stood at attention for the first time.

Jesse Martinez, one of the first to join the Sea Cadets received his first award.

"Company. Ahhh-ten-tion!" These words were confusing for the original 12 Sea Cadets at first, as their drill instructor had to explain what this meant. Today, with almost 40 Sea Cadets in the squadron, these words have become very familiar to them.

During their meetings, the Sea Cadets learn Basic Military Requirements (BMRs), perform drilling instruction and physical fitness training at the Base Gym. "It is a great learning experience for them," said Lindsey. "Especially after they attend boot camp."

"It was great," Said 14-year old David Rodriguez Jr., who was one of two to attend the two-week long Sea Cadet Boot Camp in Port Hueneme, CA last year. "It was the hardest challenge I've ever had. The physical part and having to wake up at 4 a.m. every day to be at chow by 5 a.m., was a challenge, but in the end, it was worth it. It helped me to understand the values of the Navy."

This summer the rest of the cadets will attend boot camp. Children interested in joining the Sea Cadets may do so by attending one of the meetings. They meet from 7:30 a.m. To 3 p.m., on the first and third Saturday of each month in Building 401 (Housing Office). There is a registration fee of $135.00. This covers uniforms, insurance and registration.

NAF Sailors volunteer in regional track meet

Photos by: CM2 Eric Magee

To the left with stripped shorts, AOAN Justin Hall from Weapons assisted in the long jump. Below: AO2 Michael Finney measures each distance jumped.

By CM2 Eric Magee
Reservist Staff Writer

Sailors from NAF El Centro answered the call to volunteer at the 46th Annual High School Track & Field meet at Central high School on Saturday March 15.

Over 800 student athletes from 15 different high schools came from as far as Yuma and San Diego to participate in the regional event.

For six Sailors from NAF El Centro, this was the prefect opportunity to help out in the community as they volunteered to help officiate several of the events.

"We really appreciate the Navy for helping us out," said Head coach Ron Shane from Central High School during his opening remarks to the gathered athletes. "Their help and support means a great deal to us."

As the student athletes raced and jumped in competition, the Sailors marked, time and measured distances as athletes leaped through the air.

Master-at-arms Seaman Elizabeth Hoppman judged the girl's discus event and Aviation Ordanceman Second Class Michael Finney measured distances in the long jump.

"The students were very enthusiastic and showed a lot of teamwork, which is one of the trademarks in the Navy." Hoppman remarked. "I am glad I volunteered and I really enjoyed working with the students."

"The boys gave it their best," said Personnelman Seaman Jason Taylor from PSD who assisted in the shot-put event.

The sky was overcast and rainy but that didn't dampen the spirit of competition for the athletes. According to Shane, the boy's from Cibola High School in Yuma took first place overall in the mens's events and the girls from Yuma High School took first place overall.

Before the event was over, Shane personally thanked each Navy volunteer.

"Thank you for doing a great job and thank you for your service to our nation." That day each Sailor walked away with a sense of accomplishment knowing that a little volunteer work goes a long way.

The Blues give their final performance

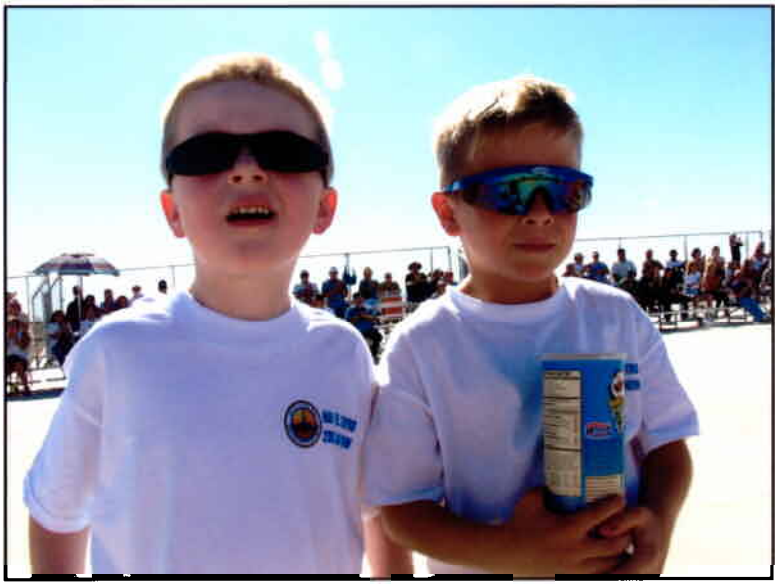


Photo Feature by JO2 Carmichael Yepez

for 2003 at NAF El Centro

Perform to Serve (PTS) Initiative is now in full force

By NC1 Pamela Jensen
Command Career Counselor

The Perform to Serve (PTS) Initiative went into effect on 1 March 2003. PTS is a centralized reservation system, which requires all first term Sailors to get permission from the Bureau of Personnel before they can re-enlist. Also, if acceptance of a set of PCS orders would require additional obligated service, an approved PTS quota is required prior to negotiating orders.

Currently, the program is limited to first term Sailors in CREO 3 (over manned) ratings. Eventually, PTS will be expanded to all ratings for both first and second term members. Onboard NAF El Centro, the affected ratings are AC, AD, DK, PH, PN and AG.

DKSN Jason Taylor is one of many Sailors who will be affected by PTS. He is in a CREO three rating and plans to cross-rate to a CREO one.

The goal of PTS is to improve advancement opportunities by encouraging members to convert to ratings less well manned and simplify the conversion process. Affected members who are within 15 months of either their PRD or EAOS will be screened and provided guidance to make the best choices for their careers. Members may request to re-enlist in-rate or change to another rate they are qualified for. This data will be submitted to BUPERS where the members will be ranked and a quota assigned. BUPERS will review member applications up to six times at one-month intervals until either a quota is assigned (in-rate or to a requested conversion rate), or the member is advised no quota is available and will be released from active duty. The NAVADMIN message that establishes CREO levels will now be issued quarterly to better reflect manning levels. Additional information can be found at the StayNavy website www.staynavy.navy.mil, NAVADMIN 050/03,NAVADMIN 042/03, or from members of the command retention team.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

By Dr. L Flowers
Fleet and Family Support Office

Prevention of child abuse is everyone's responsibility. Both adults and children should feel safe and appreciated. When we suspect that a child is being abused, we should take action to help that child.

Fortunately, most children are not abused. But, it is unacceptable for any child to be abused or neglected. The Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Human Services provided statistics regarding child abuse for calendar year 2000. In the year 2000, approximately three million referrals concerning the welfare of approximately five million children were made to Child Protective Services (CPS) agencies throughout the United States.

Professionals, including teachers, law enforcement officers, social services workers, and physicians, made more than half of the reports of child abuse. Family members, neighbors, and other members of the community made the other reports of child abuse.

Almost one-third of the CPS investigations resulted in a finding that the child was maltreated or at risk of being maltreated. The remaining investigations resulted in a finding that child maltreatment did not occur, that the child was not at risk of maltreatment, or that there was insufficient information to make a determination.

In the year 2000, approximately 879,000 children in the U. S. were found to be victims of child maltreatment. Maltreatment categories include neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and psychological maltreatment. Almost two-thirds of child victims suffered neglect; 19 percent were physically abused, 10 percent were sexually abused, and 8 percent were psychologically maltreated. Approximately 1,200 children died of abuse or neglect in the year 2000.

The child victimization rate was 12.2 per 1,000 children in the year 2000. Younger children were victimized more frequently than older children. Rates of abuse were similar for male and female children.

Child abuse occurs in all races. Half of the child victims were Caucasians, 25 percent were African American, 15 percent were Hispanic, 2 percent of victims were American Indian/Alaska Natives, and 1 percent of the victims were Asian/Pacific Islanders.

Child abuse and neglect continues to be a significant problem in the United States. Unfortunately, some children in Navy families are abused or neglected. If you suspect child abuse or neglect, take action. Contact the NAF El Centro Family Advocacy Representative at 339-2241 for information and assistance. You can remain anonymous Also, referrals to CPS can be made by calling 337-7750.

From Dolphins to Flying Fish

Photos by: JO2 Carmichael Yepez

There is no starting age limit to join the NAF El Centro "Flying Fish" swim team. Last year they were know as the Desert Dolphins, but there were already 5 other teams with the same name. Their goal this year is to win the Imperial Valley Regional Championship.

By JO2 Carmichael Yepez
Editor

They were the Desert Dolphins, but now they are called the Flying Fish. With a new name, the NAF El Centro swim team is in full force and ready for this year's swim season.

According to Assistant Pool Manager Tammie Wetzel, the change of name came about as the swimming league in which they compete has five other swim teams named Desert Dolphin. "The name was Nicky Lopez' concept," said Wetzel. "She actually found out there was such a thing as a flying fish and since we are a naval air facility, the name flying fish sounded great."

"By the beginning of March, 25 swimmers had already joined the team," Wetzel said. "There is no starting age limit. Anybody can join," she added. "Those that can't swim, we teach them as we go along, and those that swim like fish we divide into different swimming levels."

According to Pool Manager Nikie Lopez, last year's swimming competition was a success. "We won so many trophies it wasn't funny," she said. "I am very proud of how well our team did. Not because of the amount of trophies we received, but because of all the effort the team put in to it."

Last year the team participated in competitions throughout the Imperial Valley, Mexicali and made it to the biggest competition in Southern California where the top teams compete, the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation swimming championship in Long Beach, CA.

"Last year our team did outstanding," said Lopez. "But our goal for this year is to win the Imperial Valley Championship, which is the biggest competition here in the valley."

If you are interested in signing up your child, or teen for the Flying Fish, stop by the small pool any time during the week. Practice runs Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m. Starting in May, the first practice will run Monday through Friday from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Each group practices for one hour depending on which group they're in. For more information contact Nikie Lopez at (760) 339-2582.

The prescription refill process

By HM3 Jason Bonney
Medical Dept.

If you need a prescription refilled, be aware, it will no longer be processed at the El Centro Branch Medical Clinic. All refills are now processed through the Balboa Hospital pharmacy. In the event of an emergency, a 7-10 day supply may be given from the El Centro pharmacy for appropriate situations.

To order your refill, the number to call is (619) 532-8414. This number is also posted on the top left corner of your medication label. If you are unable to contact the refill line, contact the El Centro Clinic pharmacy at (760) 339-2631.

The refill line is an automated service that will require a touch-tone phone. First listen for a pick-up site (El Centro) and corresponding number. After picking your location, you will be asked to either refill, check hours of operation, talk to a representative or choose a different pharmacy site. Once you make your selection, you will be required to enter the last four numbers of your sponsor's social security number and the numeric portion of your prescription. If your particular medication is available for mailing, you will be asked if you want to use that option. Please verify your address with the El Centro Branch Clinic before utilizing this option. Also, be aware that mailed items may be delayed. Generally, items sent to the clinic arrive between 3-5 business days. Mailed items can take up to 10 days. Critical medications should be sent to the clinic to avoid such delays.

Be aware that if you have more than one prescription to process, after a brief pause you will be asked for any others. Be advised that on Fridays the clinic is closed at noon and the duty driver does not usually arrive with Friday's medications before the clinic is closed.

El Centro Celebrates its 95th Mid-Winter Fair and Fiesta

By JO2 Carmichael Yepez
Editor

The two-week long Imperial Valley Mid-Winter Fair and Fiesta concluded its 95-season on Sunday March 9 with more than one hundred thousand attendants.

The theme for this year was 'Celebrate the kid within!' Opening February 28 the fair ran for two weeks during which El Centro residents enjoyed the glittering lights and excitement of the fair.

"I've been going to the fair since I was a teenager in high school," said Martha Gutierrez, CO Secretary for NAF. "Now that I have my children, we've been taking them since they were small. My daughter loved the petting zoo, and my son had a blast trying to win prizes."

The Imperial Valley Fair is the biggest attraction in the valley. Second is the week long Cattle Call Rodeo Celebration in Holtville, and third is the El Centro Air Show, which due heightened security conditions was cancelled this year.

Even for those who didn't attend the fair, the nightly spectacle of lights was a pleasant view to enjoy. The fair could not be missed since it is located close to one the busiest shopping centers in town where the local Wal-Mart is located.

Limited by height, four-year old Brandon Yepez still found a few rides to ride on. He attended with his two sisters Manee, Erin and brother Michael.

For Store Keeper 1st Class Petty Officer Robert Smeltzer and his family, the fair was a perfect welcome to the valley.

"We just moved here from Guam," said Smeltzer. "This is the first event we attend in the area. I've been to bigger fairs, but this one was perfect for the children. We walked through the animal barns and my children were especially impressed with the rabbits. They had seen rabbits before, but they had never seen giant jackrabbits."

Admin Supervisor, Gabrielle Steinau attended the fair with her husband and said her favorite part was seeing the animals. "I liked the pygmy goats the best, they were so adorable."

For families trying to get the most for their money, the best time to attend was during the week when wristbands could be purchased for $15 a piece giving unlimited access to rides. The wristbands were not sold during the weekend and purchasing tickets became very pricey at four to five tickets per ride and each ticket costing .85 cents. Discount tickets for the fair were available at VONS. This year the food store sold discount tickets for $4.75 for adults, $2.25 for children and senior citizens instead of six and four dollars at the fair.

Whether fair goers attended during the week, or over the weekend, for some, like the Smeltzer family, it was the ferris wheel they enjoyed the most, because they could see everything from a high vantage. For others like the CO's secretary it was the corn dogs with lots of mustard she had to eat before her and her family left, but whether it was the food, the rides or the entertainment, this year's Mid-Winter Fair turned out to be a worth while experience for the entire family.

"The fair has become a tradition for us to attend," said Steinau.

Making life easier at NAF

By LT Michael O'Beirne
Public Works Dept.

Here's what the Public Works Department has been working hard during the month of March.

At the small pool, a slab of cement was put in place for the construction of a small storage shed. BU1 (SCW) Michael Oliphant and BM3 Michael Valadez worked the concrete to a smooth finish. At the bus stop next the car wash, a prison labor crew from Calapatria State Prison worked under the supervision of CM2 Philip Benedicto to pour an 80-foot section of sidewalk that connects to the bus stop located on D Street. The large pool is undergoing an intense restoration project. All joints are being sealed to ensure watertight integrity. To rejuvenate the plaster coating of the pool, crews are pressure washing chalky deposits and sealing the plaster with a special coating that will prolong the life of the pool.

The restoration project at PSD has been completed and PSD is now open for business in their "new" renovated spaces. The Admin Department in building 214 is currently undergoing a facelift. When completed, it will look as good as the new PSD office, complete with energy efficient dual paned windows, to keep the spaces cool just in time for the sweltering summer. In Officer housing, on Gila Bend, a new playground is 90 percent complete, expect a ribbon cutting ceremony in April 2003.

Photos by: LT Michael O'Beirne

The Computers Are Coming!

By Shawn Gibson
NMCI Base Operations Manager

NAF El Centro will soon be receiving new Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) workstations to replace the aging computers currently in use. But the success of this "migration" will depend largely on the work individual computer users will be asked to do ahead of time. Here are some things that users can do to prepare for a trouble free change-out.

Shawn Gibson is the new NMCI Base Operations Manager.

First, users need to clean out their current hard drives by deleting unnecessary files. Then copy or move files and folders that they wish to keep to the "Migdata" folder, located on their D:\ drive.

Second, users should read the "Ready, Set and Go" guides, which will soon be posted on the NAFEC website. The guides will include useful information, such as how to transfer Internet Explorer "Favorites" and other files.

Just before migration, users need to remove all personal items, such as pictures or notes from their computer equipment, and clear an electrical outlet so that both the old and new computers can be run simultaneously during the file transfer process.

Here is what users can expect on migration day:

-The hardware delivery technician will deliver workstations to the hallways, corridors, and/or other available space immediately outside the destination office.

-A desktop installer will carry the NMCI workstation into the destination work area.

-The desktop installer will have the user logon to the existing computer if they haven't already.

-The desktop installer will copy the "Migdata" folder from the old computer to the NMCI workstation. This folder should include documents, Favorites, Bookmarks, email, mapped network drive info (such as public/private folders in use), etc.

-The NMCI workstation will then be configured to connect to all servers running software programs that the user currently accesses.

-In most cases, the old computer will then be removed from the user's desk and the NMCI workstation will take its place. If, however, the user requires the use of one or more programs that cannot run in the NMCI environment, the old computer may have to remain until a solution can be reached. Department Heads may consider reducing the number of old computers by having these "legacy" programs loaded on one, centrally located computer for users to share.

-The desktop installer will then configure the system so that the

workstation can connect to all needed network drives and use any peripherals, such as printers or scanners that may be attached.

-Once the installation is complete, the user will be asked to log on to the new system, set their password, and verify that all of the necessary programs have been installed and are working satisfactorily.

-The installer will also give a brief explanation of the new workstation and the NMCI environment.

-And finally, the user will be asked to sign a User Acceptance Sheet and an electronic User Acceptance Form, acknowledging verification of the software and connections.

While no migration of this magnitude is likely to go without a hitch, the process will go much smoother if each individual user is adequately prepared for the event.

Staying fit

By CDR Peter Hayes
Executive Officer

Fellow Military Members,

The Navy has a policy that service members are to be physically fit and to help ensure that we stay that way conducts the PFA twice a year. The next PFA starts 21 APR and is a military requirement that service members must complete. If an individual is seeking/gets a medical waiver for 2 PFAs in a row for the same reason, we have a responsibility to do a medical board on the individual. If in the span of 6 months your medical condition has not gotten better and still prevents you from taking the PFA, then we need to determine exactly what you need to ensure that you get better or if your medical condition is such that it impacts your ability to be in the Navy. As you already know, individuals who are not physically fit and/or can not meet military standards are subject to separation, not being allowed to advance or not being able to reenlist.

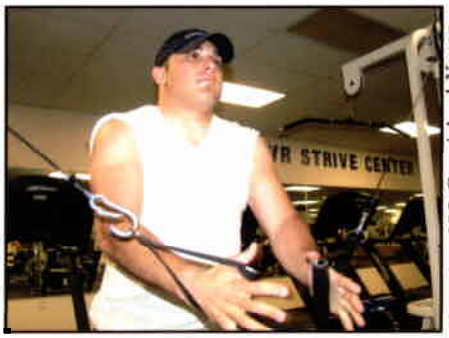


Photo by: JO2 Carmichael Yepez

IS2 Timothy Souza's Physical fitness routine includes visiting they gym five times a week.

We all want the same thing, to live long healthy lives. Please make sure that you are getting enough exercise to pass the PFA, which is two weeks away. If you have a true medical condition, see medical so that we can get you the medical treatment to get you well. We don't want anyone getting injured as a result of physical conditioning; however, we do want everyone fit. We will get you whatever you need, including information on nutrition/physical fitness or medical treatment, to make sure that you are physically prepared to serve in the military.

PFA April 21, 22,23 0700 at the Base Gym

Weigh-ins April 7, 8 0700 to 0900 at the Base Gym

Attention to Quarters

Quarters was held on Thursday March 27 at the base gym. CAPT Paul M. Ziegler presented the following awards. MM1 (SW) Darlene Degonzague received a Flag LOC, NC1 (AW) Deitrich Jones received a NAM, AO3 Misty Darden received a Flag LOC and AO3 Tiant Foreman received the CO's LOC for being selected as NAF El Centro Junior Sailor of the Quarter for February 2003.

Welcome Aboard

Welcome Aboard to our new Sailors and their families.

From left to right top row: MASN Tavon Cooper (Security), AMAN Luke Robinson (Strike), ATAA Dontae Benton (Strike), AMEAN Jeremy Smith (Strike), ADAR Adrian Anderson (Strike).

Bottom row: ATAA Jason Meyers (Strike), SK1 Robert Smeltzer (Supply), AMAA Shawn Nette (Strike), ATAA Jake Crew (Strike) and GM2 William Donovan (Security).

MWR April Movie Schedule

Harry Potter: Chamber of Secrets (PG)	Fri	Apr 4
Maid in Manhattan (PG-13)	Sat	Apr 5
Red Dragon (R)	Sat	Apr 5
The Santa Clause 2 (G)	Fri	Apr 11
Antwone Fisher (PG-13)	Sat	Apr 12
8 Mile (R)	Sat	Apr 12
Never Say Never Again (PG)	Fri	Apr 18
Drumline (PG-13)	Sat	Apr 19
Analyze That (R)	Sat	Apr 19
Groundhog's Day (PG)	Fri	Apr 25
Extreme Ops (PG-13)	Sat	Apr 26
Empire (R)	Sat	Apr 26

Movies begin at 7 p.m. on Fridays and 5 p.m. on Saturdays

Spotlight Sailor

DKSN Erica Madrid
PSD

Hometown: Long Beach, CA.
Enjoys most about job: "I enjoy helping out people."
Hobbies: "I like to dance, talk on the phone and take care of my little brothers."
Looking forward to: "Advancement in rate."
Time at NAF: "10 months."
Outlook: "Take it one step at a time."
Favorite Restaurant: "Burgers and Beer."

Spotlight Civilian

Lance Harris
NMCI

Hometown: West Morland, CA.
Enjoys most about job: "I enjoy working with people."
Hobbies: "I enjoy off roading and sports."
Looking forward to: "An easy transition for NAFEC personnel to NMCI."
Time at NAF: "2 months."
Outlook: "Its never as bad as it seems."
Favorite Restaurant: "Palm Garden Chinese restaurant in Calipatria."

Navy Marine Corps Fund Relief Drive

Thanks to your support,
The NAF El Centro Navy Marine Corps Fund Relief Drive has achieved its goal of $ 5,000.00 and is still climbing.
"Great job NAF"