

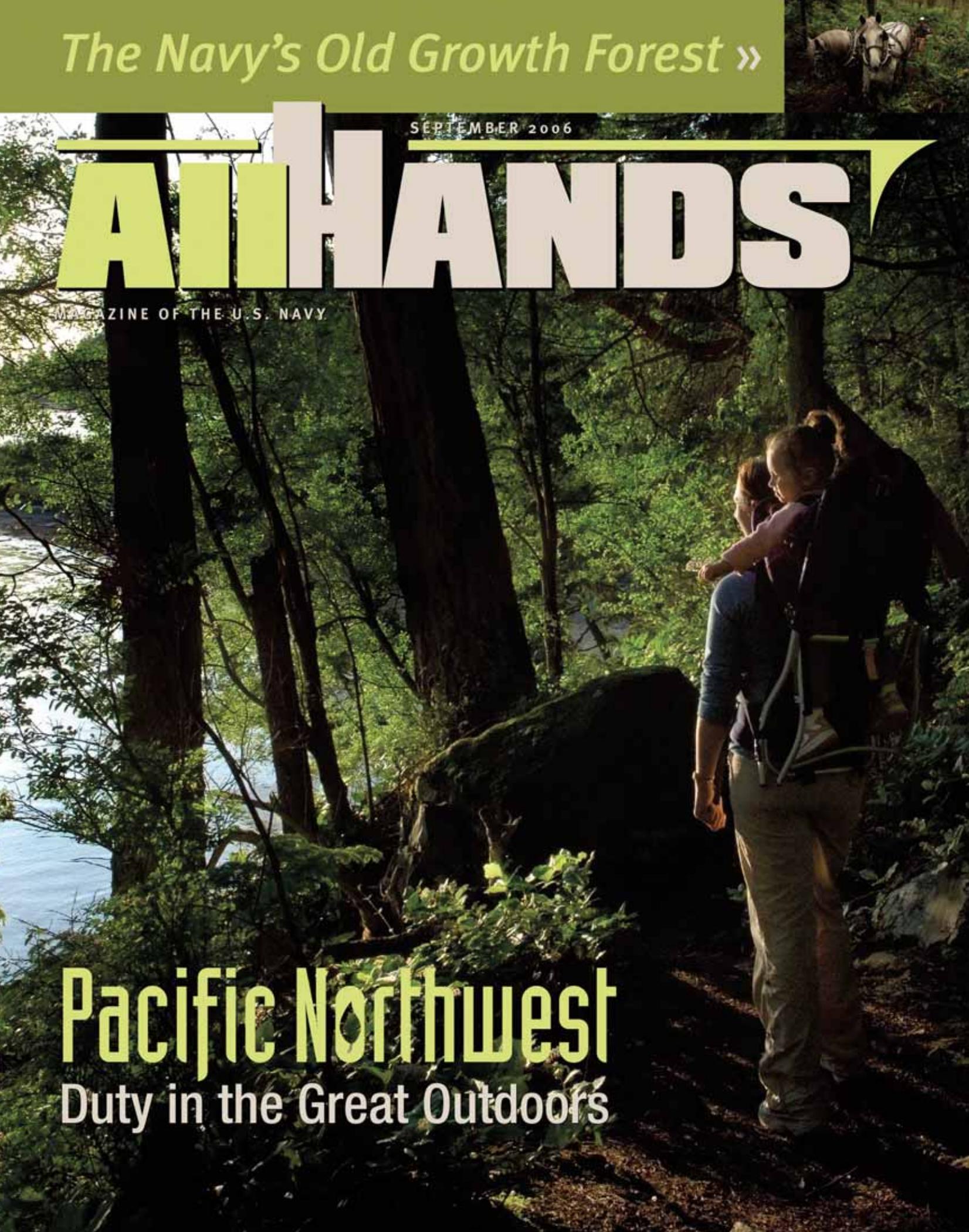
The Navy's Old Growth Forest »

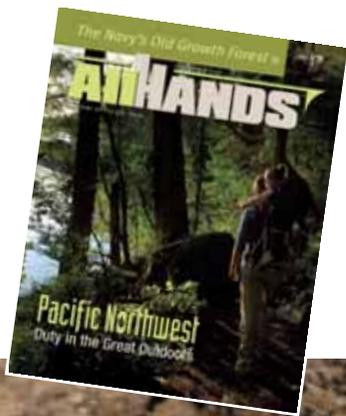
SEPTEMBER 2006

ALL HANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY

Pacific Northwest
Duty in the Great Outdoors





[On the Front Cover]

Navy family member Coleen Blake and daughter Zoey enjoy a quiet walk in the woods in Deception Pass State Park in the great Pacific Northwest.

Photo by MC2 Todd Frantom

[Next Month]

Take a long look at your Navy on any given day as seen through the eyes of the fleet in our annual edition of "Any Day in the Navy."

[Departments]

Around the Fleet — 6

Focus on Service — 38

History — 40

14 Pacific Northwest: Duty in the Great Outdoors

Sailors stationed in the Puget Sound region are blessed with beautiful waters to sail, mountains to climb, trails to ride, wildlife to watch and parks to explore. There is also Seattle, a bustling metropolis with an outdoorsy subculture, centrally located to bases in the area – all in a climate that allows year-round enjoyment.

Photo by MC2 Todd Frantom



September



22 Managing the Navy's ecosystem of the Pacific Northwest

Far from the treacherous, rocky coast and deep within the pine-scented hollows of the Pacific Northwest, a man pauses for a moment to stare at rays of light piercing through the tops of 1,000-year-old Sitka spruce. Like a Sailor gazing over the horizon during a sunset, he smiles at the beauty of it all. This beauty continues to exist because of the Navy and a forester named Walter R. Briggs.

Photo by MC2 Todd Frantom



30 Jim Creek: One of the Navy's best-kept secrets

Spruce-covered mountains located on 5,000 largely forested acres provide radio-transmitting capabilities for the Pacific submarine fleet. This "state-of-the-art" site has been one of the Navy's top secrets since the 1950s. Although, what lies among the trees is what makes this spot one of the Navy's best kept secrets still today.



Crew members aboard *USS Enterprise* (CVN 65) prepare to attach a cargo pendant to an HH-60H *Seahawk*, assigned to (HS-11) during a Vertical Replenishment in the Philippine Sea.

Photo by MC2 Marcel A. Barbeau



Speaking with Sailors

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy
MCPON (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa

MCPON Campa outlines his vision for the fleet

I am extremely honored to be given the opportunity to serve our nation as the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. Throughout the coming months I look forward to getting out and learning the issues that are posing the greatest challenges and working with our leadership to find reasonable solutions. My commitment and focus is to continue to find ways to unlock the potential of the enlisted force and for all Sailors to achieve the full measure of their capabilities – not just to make our Navy better, but also so we can be better citizens of this great land of ours.

If there is one thing I've learned throughout my career, and a theme I would like you all to recognize, is that capitalizing on opportunity is not always easy. It takes hard work, commitment, and sacrifice to take advantage of some of the professional growth and educational opportunities that are offered – especially if you are on sea duty. Finding the time and the means to participate in off-duty education is sometimes the biggest challenge of all, but it is extremely important.

Our Navy demands agile, critical thinkers who are willing to lead. I expect you to find an appropriate balance between experience and education, as the two create a powerful combination. Creating a culture of creativity and innovation within our Navy will allow us to continue to be a dominant force well into the future. Creativity and

innovation will allow us to present imaginative solutions to any number of problems. Although these solutions may not result in new ideas that always work, if you accept the challenge to think creatively and are willing to learn by trial and gain experience through occasional failure – you will grow as a leader and acquire problem-solving skills that will serve you well beyond your years in the Navy.

An additional expectation for you is to ensure the opportunities available in our Navy are realized for all. Remember that your very diversity of regional, ethnic, cultural, and religious heritage is itself, a powerful statement to those who strive to undermine the ideals you have pledged to defend. The fact that you will be judged by the success of those around you is a part of our Navy's heritage that will continue; because this is the way I expect any team to be judged. In any division that is thriving, achieving its potential, and providing a real benefit to a command and to our mission, you will find successful leadership.

It is through strong leadership in everything we do that we will achieve success in the future. With your leadership role also comes the need to understand what it means to be an outstanding mentor. Filling a mentorship role has exceptional rewards. Nothing is more satisfying to a leader and mentor than seeing the success of those around us, just as we all know how powerful the influences are of those leaders and mentors who were there for us at critical points in our career.

Finally, to our Sailors around the world – especially those serving in harm's way – thank you for your service to our nation. When I think of the level of commitment you have to each other and the sacrifices you make every day, I am inspired beyond words and determined to ensure you have the support and resources you need to fulfill our mission. 



AllHANDS
Number 1073 • September 2006
www.navy.mil

Secretary of the Navy
The Honorable Donald C. Winter
Chief of Naval Operations
ADM Mike Mullen
Chief of Information
RDML Gregory J. Smith
Commander, Naval Media Center
CAPT Gordon J. Hume
Chief of Production
Dennis Casaday
Chief of Publishing
LT Bill Couch

EDITORIAL

Editor
Marie G. Johnston
Managing Editor
MCCS(AW/SW) Joseph E. Dorey
Assistant Editor
Stephanie N. Collins
Photo Editors
MC1(AW) Shane T. McCoy
MC2 Todd Frantom
Editorial Staff
MC1(SCW) Jess M. Johnson
MC1(AW) Brien Aho
MC2(SW) David G. Beyea
MC2 Washington Caicedo

EDITORIAL & WEB DESIGN

R + B Design Firm
Design + Project Management
Kevin Richards
Digital Prepress Specialist
Lisa J. Smith

PRINTING

Universal Printing Company
GPO Printing Specialist
John Kennedy

AllHANDS
Recipient of the following
Awards of Magazine Excellence
for 2000-2005:



All Hands (USPS 372-970; ISSN 0002-5577) Number 1073 is published monthly by the Naval Media Center, Production Department, 2713 Mitscher Rd. S.W., Anacostia Annex, D.C. 20373-5819. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. **Subscriptions:** For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 or call 202/512-1800. Subscription prices \$45 (domestic)/\$54 (foreign); \$7.50 (single copy domestic)/\$9 (single copy foreign). **Postmaster:** Send address changes to All Hands, Naval Media Center, Production Department 2713 Mitscher Rd., S.W., Anacostia Annex, D.C. 20373-5819. **Editorial Offices:** Send submissions and correspondence to Naval Media Center Production Department, ATTN: Editor, 2713 Mitscher Rd., S.W., Anacostia Annex, D.C. 20373-5819. Tel: DSN 288-4171 or 202/433-4171 Fax: DSN 288-4747 or 202/433-4747 E-Mail: allhands@mediacen.navy.mil Message: NAVMEDIACEN WASHINGTON DC //32// **Authorization:** The Secretary of the Navy has determined this publication is necessary in the transaction of business required by law of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing Committee.



HONOR OUR FALLEN HEROES

PATRIOT DAY

Sept. 11, 2006



Federal Voting Assistance Program Gears up for Fall Election

The Federal Voting Assistance Program office is pulling out the stops to ensure all service members and their families who wish to can vote.

Polli Brunelli, the program's chief, said the program has learned from experience and has put in place a system to make it relatively painless for service members and their families to vote in 2006 mid-term elections.

And, she added, service members and their families want to vote. They generally vote in greater percentage than the general population, Brunelli said. She also stressed that these votes count. Absentee ballots decided a number of elections in 2004. "Election officials count every absentee ballot," Brunelli said.

The program covers not only military personnel, but also DoD civilians and DoD contractors. It depends on dedicated officers and noncommissioned officers at unit level. Each unit has a voting assistance officer, and they are the primary points of contact for servicemembers casting absentee ballots.

A number of changes are being implemented in this election cycle. Some states will now send ballots to requesters via e-mail. Others will fax the ballots. Each state is responsible for voting by its citizens, so the laws and programs offered vary from state to state.

Other changes include a revised Federal Postcard Application form.

"It's bigger and better and easier to read," Brunelli said. "We have several blocks on there for [voters] to put alternative addresses if they are on the move. There is also a place to

put their e-mail address. This is very important, because local election officials want to be able to communicate to voters."

This is particularly helpful for reserve-component personnel called to active duty. For instance, a Minnesota National Guardsman may go through training in Mississippi before deploying. The Guardsman can put the alternative address on the request for the ballot.

Brunelli's office is working with the U.S. Postal Service to ensure expedited mail service for ballots. This started in 2004, and they had great success with it, she said.

Ballots will arrive to service members in September or October. To be sure votes arrive on time, Brunelli is telling service members to mail in their voted ballots the week of Oct. 8 to 14.

Brunelli said the biggest problem the program confronts is outdated addresses. Folks

who have moved since the 2004 election need to submit an updated federal postcard application.

If all things work perfectly – and they usually do – service members will receive their ballots from their local election official and return them without a hitch. But problems can happen: the address is wrong; the mail can't get to an isolated area in a timely manner; and so on. In such cases, service members can use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot.

"It doesn't matter what ballot you get ... vote it," Brunelli said. "If the state ballot arrives after [submitting a write-in ballot], they should vote that, too. Local election officials will sort that out at their end."

For more information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program, visit www.fvap.gov.

Story by Jim Garamone, America Forces Press Service.

Ricky's Tour

By J01 Mike Jones



SGLI Premium Rate Changes Take Effect

Effective July 1, 2006, the monthly premium rate for basic Service Members Group Life Insurance (SGLI) increased by 5 cents per month for each \$10,000 of coverage, from 65 cents per month per \$10,000 to 70 cents per month per \$10,000. On the same date, Family SGLI premiums decreased across the board.

The most recent SGLI premium change occurred in July 2003 when the monthly premium rate for basic SGLI was reduced from 80 cents per \$10,000 of insurance to 65 cents per \$10,000. That change was made to reduce surplus reserve funds in the program. A small increase in the SGLI premium rate is now necessary for the program to remain in sound financial condition, while covering the cost of peacetime claims. It is important to note that the cost of wartime SGLI claims is borne by the uniformed services, not by service members.

As a result of this increase, members who have the maximum \$400,000 of SGLI coverage will see their monthly SGLI deduction from service pay increase by \$2 a month, from \$27 to \$29, beginning with their July 2006 pay. This monthly SGLI premium includes a \$1 per month charge for Traumatic Injury Protection coverage, which took effect Dec. 1, 2005 and provides payments of up to \$100,000 for serious traumatic injuries.

The current and revised premium rates are shown in the table posted at www.defenselink.mil/releases/2006/nr20060614-13247.html.

For more information about VA life insurance programs, visit www.insurance.va.gov. 

Story courtesy of DOD.

Navy Raises Tuition Assistance Limits for Sailors

To assist Sailors in their pursuit of higher educational goals, as well as certifications and qualifications associated with their Navy career field, the U.S. Navy is raising the limits on Tuition Assistance (TA) available to all active-duty members (officer and enlisted).

Sailors are now eligible for 100 percent of tuition costs, up to \$250 per semester hour (SH) and up to 16 SH per fiscal year, an increase from the previous limit of 12 SH.

"Sailors in today's Navy need to be highly-motivated and educated professionals," said VADM Kevin Moran, commander, Naval Education and Training Command (NETC). "The critical thinking skills developed through higher education are essential elements to the success of Sailors in the 21st century. It is our job to provide the opportunities for these highly valued and committed individuals to grow and develop in the Navy. All our programs must be responsive to this new Sailor, including Voluntary Education."

According to a Navy message sent to the fleet (NAVADMIN 166/06), TA will remain at 16 SH throughout FY07 and use will be closely monitored by NETC. If the rate of overall TA expenditures creates a danger of running out of funding prior to the end of the fiscal year, NETC may impose management controls and priorities to ensure that academic planning is not disrupted. Funding controls may include limiting TA requests of more than 12 SH to courses tied directly to degree completion.

"In addition to TA, the Navy College Program has two other significant programs to help Sailors earn a college degree," explained

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Elliot

Riley recently traveled to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md. to donate a kidney. Stationed at Global Patient Movement Reception Center, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., Riley volunteered to give a kidney to the wife of retired Navy Master Chief Hoo Ping Towner. He was a match found through an online organ donor registry, www.matchingdonors.com, and has since gotten to know Towner and his wife. "Getting to know them made me more excited at the possibility of helping," Riley said. "She has a lot of life to live."



Photo by Bob Fehringer

NETC FORCM(SW/AW/SS/PJ) Mike McCalip. "A visit to the local Navy College Office (NCO) is a logical first step for Sailors to learn about what is available to them, from the wide variety of college level examinations to the Navy College Program for Afloat Education (NCPACE). The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) Examination Program, the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and the DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST) program offer testing opportunities that can help Sailors to take advantage of knowledge they already have and accelerate their progress toward degree completion."

McCalip said through these programs and others, Sailors can take tests in a variety of subjects and receive recommended college credit for each test successfully completed.

There are also several college admission tests given through the NCOs, including the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and the American College Test (ACT) Assessment Program. The Graduate Record Exam may be taken at certain testing sites off-base and DANTES will reimburse the Sailor for the cost of the test. The Sailor must personally fund the test administration fee.

NCPACE is an important program for Sailors afloat, offering both academic skills

and college (undergraduate and graduate) courses. McCalip said, "NCPACE gives Sailors the opportunity to experience challenging education while on sea duty assignments, preparing them for personal and professional growth." He added that Sailors should take advantage of this program to enable them to continue to progress toward degree completion.

In addition, in August 2005, the Navy announced an educational initiative designed to encourage senior enlisted personnel to seek degrees to complement their Navy training and experience. Beginning in FY11, an associate's degree or equivalent that is rating-relevant will be a prerequisite for advancement to senior chief petty officer for both active and reserve component personnel.

To review the list of rating-relevant degree options from the Navy College Program Distance Learning Partnerships, access the Sailor/Marine Online Academic Advisor (SMOLAA) via <https://smart.navy.mil/smart/welcome.com> or Navy Knowledge Online at www.nko.navy.mil.

NAVADMIN 203/05 outlines this senior enlisted education initiative. 

Story by Joy Samsel, public affairs office, Naval Education and Training Command, Pensacola, Fla.

Around the Fleet

► **AN Robert Kearney shines** USS *Kitty Hawk's* (CV 63) seal on the island during cleaning stations.
Photo by MCSN Benjamin Dennis



▲ **A 21-gun salute is fired** during a burial-at-sea ceremony aboard USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72).

Photo by MCSN Brandon C. Wilson

◀ **PR1 Kevin Hedgecock**, assigned to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 123, stretches out webbing to be used as the handle strap of a tool pouch in the parachute rigger shop aboard USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65).

Photo by MC3 Marcel A. Barbeau





DOD Makes Changes to Qualifications for TRICARE Reserve Select

DOD recently announced the eligibility determination period for the new TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) program, and as a result, every member of the Selected Reserve will now have the option to purchase their health coverage from TRICARE.

Health coverage for selected reserve members who want TRS and complete all the required steps begins Oct. 1, 2006.

The new TRS program eligibility determination period runs from July 1 through Sept. 25.

TRS is a premium-based, three-tier TRICARE health plan for certain Selected Reserve members and their families that is authorized under section 1076(b) and (d) of Title 10, United States Code.

Selected Reserve members must work with their service personnel offices to determine which one of three TRS tiers they qualify for. They must have their eligibility verified by their service personnel office and complete DOD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select" before they can submit their application to purchase TRS coverage.

Only qualified Selected Reserve members may submit an enrollment form with the first month's premium payment to purchase coverage. Service members can review TRS program eligibility requirements at www.defenselink.mil/ra/.

For additional information about the TRS benefit for members of the Selected Reserve, including open enrollment dates for TRS tiers two and three, visit www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reservelect/index.cfm. 

Service Members Encouraged to Purchase Renters Insurance

With hurricane season in full-swing, military officials are encouraging service members who don't own their own homes to purchase renters insurance to protect their personal property.

"Hurricane season is now upon us. We urge you, particularly if you live in an area prone to nature's fury, to examine how prepared you are to protect your family financially," Air Force Secretary Michael W. Wynne stated in a recent letter to Airmen regarding personal financial management.

Wynne said one of the lessons learned from the 2005 hurricane season is that it's important to assess insurance needs sooner rather than later.

"Too many of our teammates, including retirees, were caught unprepared and now are bearing an avoidable financial burden," he said. "All [service] members, whether living on base or off, should consider their family's needs for adequate personal property [renters] insurance."

Wynne said [service members] should make a detailed inventory of their personal property and also should consider purchasing flood insurance, which is not part of standard homeowner or renter insurance policies. "Chance favors the prepared," he said.

As a result of hurricanes in 2005, Coast Guard members living in government housing filed more than 650 personal property claims totaling almost \$700,000 in damages. The amount paid via the Coast Guard claims process is typically a fraction of the actual cost to replace damaged items, Coast Guard officials said.

Insurance providers such as GEICO and USAA also strongly

Story courtesy of DOD.

continued on page 11

To be considered for the "Around the Fleet" section, forward your **high resolution (5" x 7" at 300 dpi) images** with full credit and cutline information, including **full name, rank and duty station** to: navyvisualnews@navy.mil

Directions on how to properly submit photos can be found at www.navy.mil/photo_submit.html

Mail your submissions to:
Navy Visual News Service
1200 Navy Pentagon, Rm. 4B514
Washington, D.C. 20350-1200

Click on the **Navy's** home page, www.navy.mil, for fresh images of your shipmates in action.

Around the Fleet



◀ **USS Frank Cable (AS 40) crew members compile** photographs of land navigation aids on the Pacific island of Saipan as the ship approaches the island.

Photo by MC1 Jeremy Johnson

▼ **BU2 Shane Murray, assigned to Naval Mobile**

Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40, receives help from some local children to build a picnic table for the Sulu Provincial Hospital in Jolo, Republic of the Philippines.

Photo by MCSN Joseph Caballero



◀ Family members look on while PRAN Sentel Williams

prepares the American Flag for presentation, during military burial honors for BMCM (Master Diver) Carl M. Brashear at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens in Norfolk, Va., July 29. Brashear joined the United States Navy in 1948 at the age of 17. He was a pioneer in the Navy as the first black deep-sea diver, the first black Master Diver and the first Navy diver in naval history to be restored to full active duty as an amputee, the result of a leg injury he sustained during a salvage operation.

Photo by MC3 Matthew D. Leistikow



▲ AW2 Randy Eaton and his “victim” are raised to an MH-60S *Seahawk* helicopter, assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Support Squadron (HSC) 26, Det. 4, during search and rescue training. HSC-26 is currently embarked aboard USS *Saipan* (LHA 2) and is underway to participate in a multi-national combined exercise with North African and European forces during Exercise *Phoenix Express*.

Photo by MC3 Gary L. Johnson III

▼ AE2 Thomas Funderburk performs maintenance on a circuit board aboard USS *Iwo Jima* (LHD 7).

Photo by MCSN Joshua T. Rodriguez



continued from page 9

recommend service members get renters insurance. Most policies cover renters of all types, including those living in apartments, dorms or base housing.

“Renters insurance has become a high priority communication for senior military leaders,” Michael Kelly, USAA executive director of military communications, said. “In addition, the Navy is now requiring those occupying military housing to sign a form stating they were advised of the need for renters insurance prior to occupying military housing.”

Renters insurance is relatively inexpensive compared to the amount of property that could be lost due to severe weather, said Judy Davis, director of GEICO’s homeowners sales department. Davis also pointed out that most renter policies are easily transferable from state to state with a simple phone call. This is especially helpful to service members since they frequently relocate, she said.

“When you move within the United States, you don’t have to take out another policy. You simply report a change of address to us and update all the information,” Davis said. “I think that’s important to military because many of them move a lot.”

Service members having personal financial safeguards, such as renters insurance, in place helps the military meet its responsibilities, because such planning prevents distractions to military members, Wynne said.

“Although we often see our professional life in a very disciplined way, we sometimes don’t realize how our personal well-being affects our job performance,” he said. “When your personal life is in order, you are a better warfighter for the joint team.”

*Story by Steven Donald Smith,
American Forces Press Service,
Alexandria, Va.*

LINK-Perspective Magazine Back in Print as LINK

After nearly two years as an online-only publication, the former LINK-Perspective, the Navy Personnel Command’s magazine for Navy members, is back in print as the new LINK magazine.

The first issue is already out and has been posted on the NPC Web site, www.npc.navy.mil.

“The new hard-copy LINK is a handy reference manual that complements our Web-based version to give Sailors the information they need to support and guide their careers,” said RADM David A. Gove, commander, Navy Personnel Command and commander, Naval Personnel Development Command. “We learned from our polls that a hard-copy version was preferred by Sailors and would be of broader benefit to them.”

LINK will be published three times per year, both hard-copy and online, and will feature articles on policies, procedures and products that will help Sailors enhance and guide their careers.

The magazine will continue to support both officers and enlisted Sailors, as well as contain informative articles that affect everyone’s career. The upcoming September issue will be a special Selection Board issue.

Feedback can be sent to linkmagazine@navymil and the magazine can be accessed at: www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/Publications/LinkPerspective/.

*Story by MCC Teresa J. Frith,
Navy Personnel Command
Communications Office,
Millington, Tenn.*

Around the Fleet



▲ **EODC Lyle White (right)**, assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group (EODGRU) 1, signals to Able Seaman Adam Hubbard from Australia's Clearance Diving Team 1 as he prepares to rappell from an HH-60H *Seahawk* helicopter.

Photo by MC2 Rebecca J. Moat



▶ **GMC Karl Ziegler**, assigned to Naval Special Clearance Team (NSCT) 1, takes advantage of his down time at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF),

Photo by MC2 Jennifer A. Villalovos





◀ **AW2 Gregg Williams**, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 9, fires rounds from an M-4 carbine assault rifle during a weapons familiarization exercise.

Photo by MC1 Eric J. Benson

▼ **A corpsman assigned** to 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, Regimental Combat Team (RCT) 5, conducts a medical exam with the Iraqi Army at a schoolhouse in Fallujah, Iraq.

Photo by Marine Corps Sgt. Adaecus G. Brooks



USS San Francisco Sailor Meritoriously Promoted in Afghanistan

Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Matthew P. Julian, assigned to USS *San Francisco* (SSN 711), never expected his tour to include a rotation in the mountains of Afghanistan as an Individual Augmentee.

Pulled from his normal job to directly support Operation *Enduring Freedom*, more than 8,000 feet above sea level and half a world away from his boat's homeport of Bremerton, Wash., Julian found that out of sight doesn't mean out of mind.

Early this summer, Julian was selected for the Command Advancement Program (CAP) by CDR Dave Ogburn, the commanding officer of USS *San Francisco*, and was promoted to CS2.

Upon learning about his CAP advancement, Julian said, "It's an honor to be the only submariner CAP-ed in Afghanistan and recognized at such a high level. I am ecstatic about the promotion ... and grateful for the crew of *San Francisco*."

According to Ogburn, "When we sat down and reviewed his performance onboard, we saw that he was the right choice. 'He's a Sailor who takes responsibility and takes charge. When I talked with CDR Varney in Afghanistan, that confirmed his performance is continuing out there.'"

CDR Michael Varney, commanding officer of the Sharana Provincial Reconstruction Team in the Paktika Province of Afghanistan, performed the ceremony and pinned on Julian's second class petty officer crowns.

"I think it is fantastic that *San Francisco* recognized the importance of the job CS2 Julian is doing for his country, a job completely outside a normal submariner's lane," Varney said. "That [his CO] is willing to use a CAP-in-absentia sends a strong message to the rest of the force and the Navy."

Julian is the first Sailor to be meritoriously promoted through the Command Advancement



▲ **CS3 Matthew P. Julian is** promoted to 2nd Class Petty Officer in a ceremony held at Afghanistan Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Sharana, Paktika Province. Julian is the first Sailor serving in a boots-on-the-ground billet, to be meritoriously promoted through the Navy's Command Advancement Program (CAP). Under CAP, commanding officers at sea are allowed to promote just one of their Sailors to the next pay grade each year.

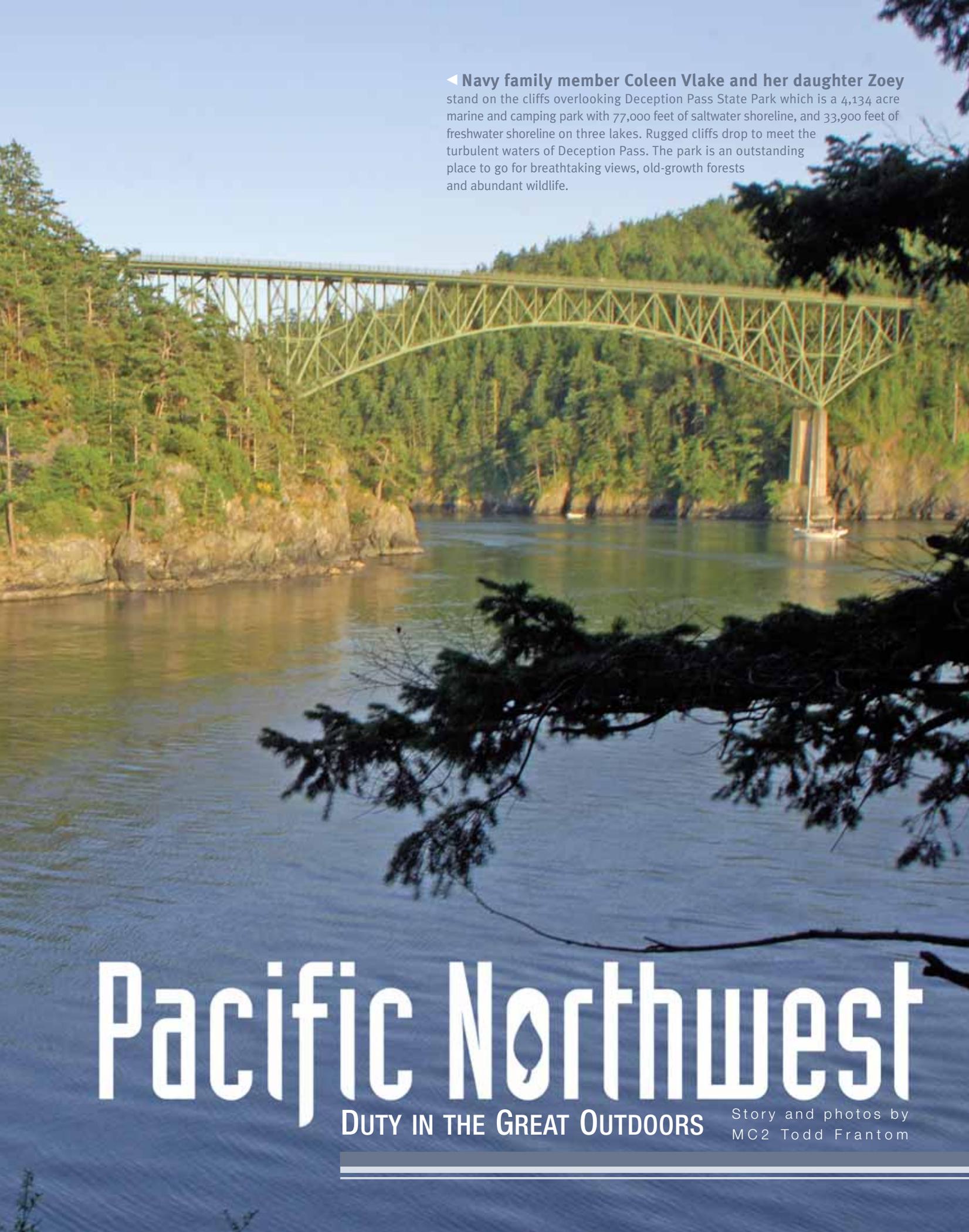
Program while serving in a boots-on-the-ground billet away from his home ship. Since August 2005, 50 Sailors have been meritoriously promoted under the Combat Meritorious Advancement Program for their leadership and heroism during combat.

At a recent all hands call with Sailors stationed at NAS Whidbey Island, Chief of Naval Operations ADM Mike Mullen said he wanted all Navy leaders to make sure good performance as an IA was properly reflected and recognized in a Sailor's career. "This is very vital work our IAs are doing at an incredibly critical time in our nation's history, and I am committed to making sure the Navy gets it right when it comes to recognizing that fact," said Mullen.

Sailors who would like to serve in an augmented billet can indicate their desire through the Navy Knowledge Online website at <https://www.nko.navy.mil>, and should contact their chain of command. 📧

Story by LT Trey Brown, Navy Office of Information, Washington, D.C.





◀ **Navy family member Coleen Vlake and her daughter Zoey** stand on the cliffs overlooking Deception Pass State Park which is a 4,134 acre marine and camping park with 77,000 feet of saltwater shoreline, and 33,900 feet of freshwater shoreline on three lakes. Rugged cliffs drop to meet the turbulent waters of Deception Pass. The park is an outstanding place to go for breathtaking views, old-growth forests and abundant wildlife.

Pacific Northwest

DUTY IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Story and photos by
MC2 Todd Frantom



▲ Sailors enjoy road trips through the snow covered peaks of Mount Rainier National Park. Even during the summer months, sledding is popular in this white wonderland.

Zoey is 16 months old but according to her Mom, Coleen Vlake, she won't forget the natural beauty of growing up among the great outdoors of the Pacific Northwest, in the Puget Sound region of Washington state.

"I took her on a whale watching cruise around the San Juan Islands north of Whidbey Island," said Vlake. "Her eyes lit up when she saw her first Orca, it was like sitting in a front row seat at Sea World. The whales breached the surface and really put on an impressive show for us. I don't think she will ever forget watching their amazing acrobatics."

Sailors stationed in the Puget Sound region are blessed with beautiful waters to sail, mountains to climb, trails to ride, wildlife to watch and parks to explore. There is also Seattle, a bustling metropolis with an outdoorsy subculture, centrally located to bases in the area – all in a climate that allows year-round enjoyment.

Taking duty in the Northwest region might just be the best experience a Sailor and their family could ever have, according to many stationed there. Most never want to leave.

"If you love the outdoors, this is the place to be," said CMDRCM Robert Cooley of Patrol Squadron (VP) 40 at Naval Air Station (NAS), Whidbey Island. "This is my third duty in the area and I am doing everything I can to stay. There is no other duty station in the Navy like it."

Navy Region Northwest is the U.S. Navy's third largest fleet concentration area behind Norfolk and San Diego. Bases in the region include Naval Base Kitsap (NBK) Bremerton, Naval Base Kitsap (NBK) Bangor, Naval Station Everett and Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

"I enjoy hunting and fishing," said Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class Bryan Ryan. "Some of the best is right here in our back yard. I grew up in California fishing on Nevada's Shasta Lakes with my father and two older brothers. What a benefit it is to continue my love for the outdoors here at my duty station on Whidbey Island. I have stayed in the area for the last 14 years."

"What a contrast to southwest," Ryan continued. "I grew up in 110 degree temperatures of eastern California. I couldn't help but notice how nice the



weather is [here] compared to the hot, dry air I was used to. During the summer it only gets about 65 to 70 degrees – and it doesn't rain as much as most might think."

"My wife and I fell in love with the area," Ryan said. "All my children have been able to grow up here."

Ryan has been able to spend more time with his family than most Sailors because of the various squadrons at shore to sea commands that call the Pacific Northwest home.

"I cut orders to go to Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VAQ) 133, NAS Whidbey, then jumped from squadron to squadron to stay here," said Ryan. "I have just done what I can to secure my time in the Navy and spend as much of it in the great outdoors with my loved ones as permitted. It's been a privilege that the Navy has allowed me to stay here and raise my family in such a warm and welcoming environment."

When a Sailor enters a convenience store, restaurant and command on any base in the Pacific Northwest there might be a rack or table with many leaflets on it.

These little slips of paper are menus to outdoor adventure and might be worth looking into, especially if the letters "MWR" are written anywhere on them.

"Pamphlets are everywhere," said Ryan. "No Sailor should ever be sitting indoors when they are stationed up here."

Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) might be the answer to the boredom that all too often overcomes a Sailor who might otherwise stay among the safe confines of

▲ Bases on Kitsap are easily accessible

from the greater Seattle area by a number of routes of the Washington State Ferry Service, from the west by the Hood Canal Bridge (the world's longest floating bridge over tidal water), and by highway from the south.

▼ A family of orca or killer whales

glides through the water of San Juan Islands. Groups or pods with up to 50 family members use the islands as their core range.





the base. In the Pacific Northwest, the surrounding beauty takes hold sooner or later and MWR just may have the perfect escape.

There is no dodging the beauty of Puget Sound.

“Flying in the region has to be the most picturesque in America,” said ENS John Valloredis, a pilot for VAQ-133. “These are the best low-level routes in

the United States. They meander through the Cascade Mountains where you fly through 10,000-foot-high, snow-capped mountains covered in glaciers. Even the air navigation flights take you over Mt. Baker, Glacier Peak, Mt. Rainer, Mt. Hood, and the always-active Mount St. Helens. It’s like taking part in a National Geographic expedition every time we

leave the ground,” continued Valloredis. “This makes it hard to avoid the adventures that await on the ground and water.”

Sailors stationed in the Puget Sound should check out www.navylifepnw.com, covering all quality of life questions and more.

“There are always tickets available for live music in nearby Seattle which has an



▲ **Four Navy ships participated in the 99th annual Portland Rose Festival** this summer. Sailors from USS *Preble* (DDG 88), USS *John Paul Jones* (DDG 53), USS *Rentz* (FFG 46) and USS *Ingraham* (FFG 61) enjoyed their port visit and eagerly shared their Navy experiences with civilians and tourists.

◀ **James Fry, a Navy vet, says he enjoys taking his son to Mariners baseball games at Safeco Field in Seattle.**

▼ **The Dungeness crab is the only commercially important crab in the state** of Washington's territorial waters and was the first shellfish harvested commercially on the North Pacific Coast. The common name "Dungeness" is derived from a fishing port near Puget Sound, Wash. "Dungeness crab is the tastiest crab I have ever eaten," said AM1 Bryan Ryan.



awesome band scene, said Valloredis. "We also take the short drive – about 90 minutes – into Seattle to catch a Mariners [baseball] game at Safeco Field."

Bases on Kitsap are easily accessible from the greater Seattle area to the east by four routes of the Washington State Ferry Service, from the Olympic Peninsula to the west by the Hood Canal Bridge (the world's

longest floating bridge over tidal water), and by highway from the south.

For those Sailors who prefer to keep to the easygoing life on the bases and neighboring cities, their families are in good hands.

“I am a firm believer that growing up in a small-town atmosphere is the best way for a family to stay strong and close knit,” said Ryan. “It’s how I was raised and I want the same for my children. The people in the Pacific Northwest are very friendly, not only where I live in Oak Harbor, which is on Whidbey, but around the entire region. The first time a Sailor drives their vehicle into a gas station, they will notice the difference in attitude.”

Road trips to some great outdoors adventure are what most Sailors enjoy during leisure time from the busy Navy world on the bases.

“My wife and I enjoy photographing

animals,” said Cooley. “We’ll just jump in the car and start driving. It doesn’t matter what direction, there is always a park, mountain or coastline to explore. Killer whales, black-tailed and white-tailed deer, elk, eagles, coyotes, wolves, to name a few. It’s like ‘Wild Kingdom.’ You can get a picture of just about anything in the book here,” continued Cooley. “Mt. Rainer National Park is an outstanding place and only takes about three hours to get to from Whidbey. You better use a digital because you can’t shoot enough film in such an awesome place.”

Spectacular natural beauty smothers every direction of Puget Sound, and the Navy bases sit right in the middle of it all.

“When John is out on assignment, I enjoy hiking with Zoey near Deception Pass,” said Vlake. “It is located right outside

NAS Whidbey and is absolutely gorgeous. Cliff Side Park, at the Pass, is where the horror movie, “The Ring” was filmed. I can definitely see why they chose this location,” continued Vlake. “The spooky and eerie feeling I get from the large trees just looks scary. Although, it is also pretty in a weird sort of way.”

The old-growth forest here is just a taste of what is lurking further inland, ready to be explored by a Sailor in the great outdoors of the Pacific Northwest. **ES**

Frantom is a photojournalist assigned to Naval Media Center

Website Exclusive

Find more photos online at www.news.navy.mil/media/allhands/flash/ah200609/feature_1/

▼ **Mount Rainier National Park was established March 2, 1899, and encompasses 235,625 acres of land ranging in elevation from 1,610 feet to 14,410 feet above sea level. The mountain is an active volcano encased in more than 35 square miles of snow and ice. It is surrounded by old-growth forest and stunning wildflower meadows.**





▲ **The Portland Rose Park is a quiet place to take the family or for a quick break during lunch to stop and smell the roses and get away for awhile.**

▼ **Kayak tours along San Juan Island offer Sailors close up and personal views of the wildlife in and around Puget Sound.**



NAVY

Forest Steward

Story and
photos by
MC2 Todd
Frantom

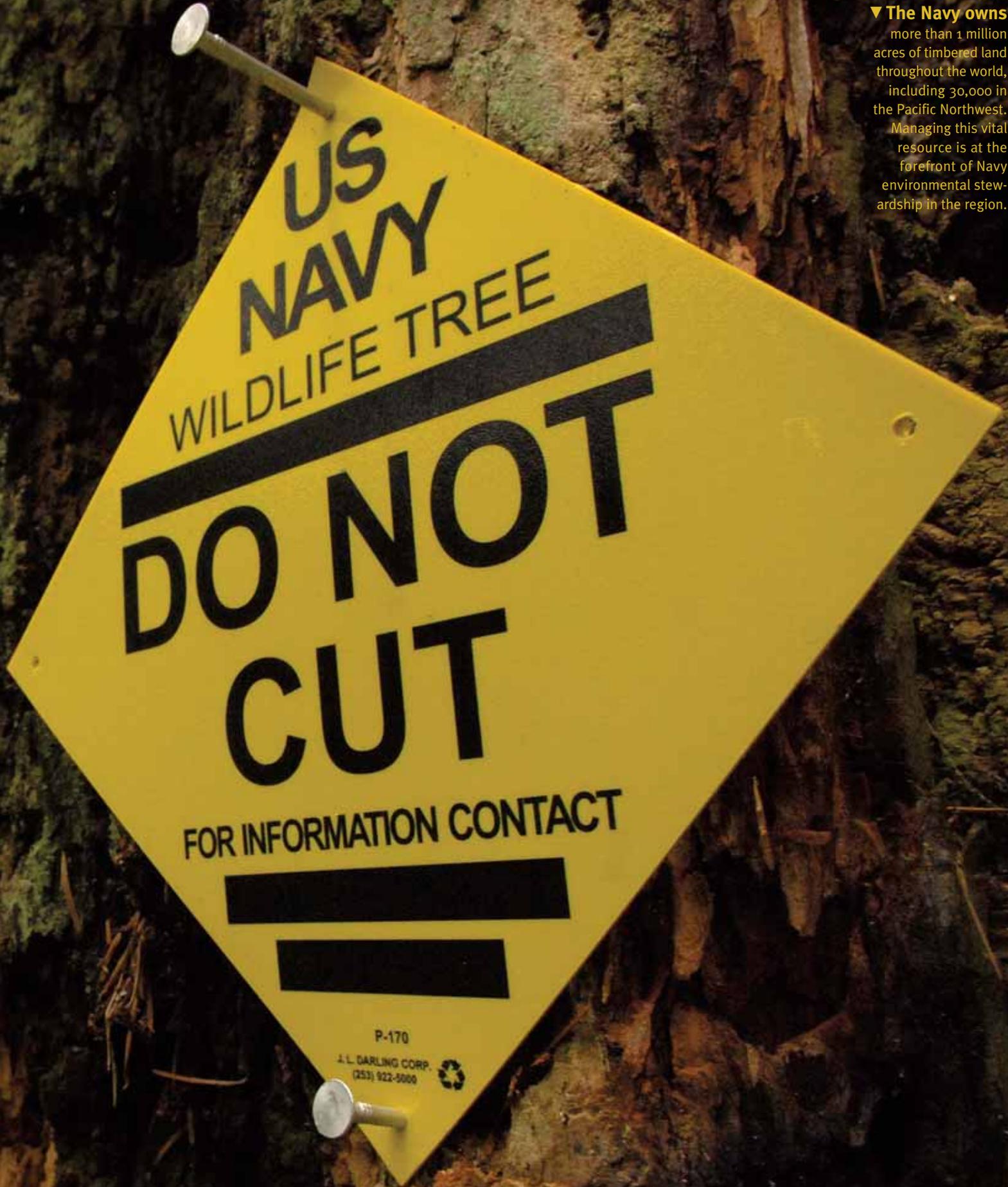
◆ MANAGING THE NAVY'S ECOSYSTEM OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST ◆

FAR FROM THE TREACHEROUS, ROCKY COAST and deep within the pine-scented hollows of the Pacific Northwest, a man pauses for a moment to stare at rays of light piercing through the tops of 1,000-year-old Sitka spruce. Like a Sailor gazing over the horizon during a sunset, he smiles at the beauty of it all.

“This magnificent view is here because of the Navy,” said Walter R. Briggs, forester for Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Northwest Engineering Field Activity, in Poulsbo, Wash.

When the Navy is the topic of conversation, most Sailors automatically think of oceans; however, there is another ecosystem to be considered here – the forest.

▼ **The Navy owns** more than 1 million acres of timbered land throughout the world, including 30,000 in the Pacific Northwest. Managing this vital resource is at the forefront of Navy environmental stewardship in the region.







The Navy owns more than 1 million acres of timbered land throughout the world, although it's how and why this other valuable resource is managed that has established the Navy as a leader in wilderness conservation in the Pacific Northwest.

These forests are an environment that Sailors use for training, recreation, and work. Although, an equally important reason to have the forest is as a lasting example of the Navy's role in preserving natural resources.

The change that has occurred within the Navy in the last 20 years regarding stewardship of the environment, and the emphasis now placed on accomplishing the Navy's mission while also protecting limited natural resources is encouraging according to RADM Len Hering, then-commander, Navy Region Northwest, who spoke at the dedication ceremony for the naming of the Walter Briggs Old-Growth Forest.

◀ Horse logging is the preferred

technique used at Naval Magazine Indian Island north of Bangor, Wash., where trees are being harvested in a way that protects the natural re-growth of the forest. Here, logger Jerry Harpole carefully guides horses Tom and Jerry through the dense forest.

"Sailors are the guardians of the forest and the animals that inhabit land where naval activities take place," said Briggs, "It is our responsibility to be caretakers in this shared ecosystem."

What is the right thing to do with the trees on our Navy land? Navy officers sailing on the ocean or sitting at the Pentagon do not make that decision alone. This decision takes a specialist, someone who really understands the Northwest forest and Navy stewardship. Briggs is that man.

Since he was a young child, Briggs liked to walk in the woods. It is his love and passion for the natural wonders that keeps this Navy region in the limelight of environmental stewardship.

Briggs is responsible for natural resource management on hundreds of thousands of acres of Navy land, including more than 15,000 acres of commercial-grade timberland stretching from Arizona to Alaska.

Naval Magazine Indian Island, near Port Townsend, Wash., supports some of the Navy's most modern and sophisticated weapons. But it's also home to a remarkable forest and some even more remarkable forest practices.

▲ **Tom and Jerry, two Percheron horses,** drag out a newly cut tree with Jerry Harpole at the reins. The logs are placed in a small clearing while awaiting transport to local saw mills for processing.

"This is a gentler way of logging," said Briggs, describing Tom and Jerry – close to two tons of raw horse-power muscle doing what they were bred to do: pull stuff. And these Percheron horses pull whatever their driver Jerry Harpole tells them to.

"Horses are very powerful animals," said Harpole.

He is a logger who knew there was a better way than mechanized logging. He walked away from the giant machines that rule modern forestry over 20 years ago in favor of Tom and Jerry.

"Now there are no smoky exhausts, loud engines or nasty looking clear cuts," said Harpole.

All he hears are the working sounds of his team of horses and the rustling of the logs gliding through a nearly silent forest.

"You can do good work with machinery," said Harpole. "I have a lot of friends who



are machine loggers and do an excellent job, much faster. But it's also hard to do a bad job with horses."

Horse logging is the preferred technique of Briggs, whose sole effort is doing

One of the big concerns in the deep woods is the damage that can be done to the surrounding trees and the trails when machines drag out the big logs.

"The only thing left behind are the

used horses to log it the first time.

"It's like guiding the Navy's future forests down a path through history," said Briggs.

There is such a place on Navy land where the trees have never been logged. A place where a Sailor can stand under the same trees that pioneers might have made a camp around more than a century ago.

This place exists because of Walter Briggs' tenacious efforts, and consequently, he became the first living person to have a Navy forest named after him. These enormous trees survive at Jim Creek Radio Station recreational area, located inland along the foothills of the Cascade Mountains, less than an hour drive from Naval Station Everett.

"The first time I stood in the midst of giant Sitka spruce, I thought, 'This must be saved,'" Briggs said.

"I am humbled to have my name attached to such an awesome natural wonder." —WALTER BRIGGS

things with an eye toward stewardship, especially when his precious trees are involved.

"These heavy horses seem more a part of the forest than a great big yellow machine," Briggs said. "Despite their size and power, these strong horses tread lightly on the soil and leave few scars on the forest floor."

horses' tracks and a drag line that looks like someone pulled a large stick across the ground," said Briggs. "And we don't have tire tracks with a lot of weight compacting that soil – which then inhibits future growth."

Briggs' plan is to selectively thin the Navy's overgrown patches to create a more natural, diverse forest that could someday grow into what it was when the pioneers

◀ Forester Walter R. Briggs is

responsible for natural resource management of hundreds of thousands of acres of Navy land, including more than 15,000 acres of commercial-grade timberland stretching from Arizona to Alaska.

“It’s rare to name any Department of Defense facility for a living person,” said Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for the Environment Donald Schregardus, who presided at the dedication of the forest preserve on June 18, 2005. “But Briggs’ ceaseless efforts to save the forest prompted a rare exemption to government policy.”

Briggs explained that when the Navy acquired the site from Soundview Pulp Company in 1950, only the land was purchased.

“The commercial timber company kept the rights to harvest the trees on the land, and by 1954, more than 99 percent of the timber had been logged,” said Briggs. “The remaining narrow band of trees was pristine, old growth forest covering 225 acres.”

It consists of Douglas fir, western red cedar, Sitka spruce and Pacific yew trees. Some of these conifers are up to 10 feet in diameter. Many are more than 300 feet tall and have tree-rings showing ages up to 1,700 years.

“I couldn’t believe my eyes when I saw the size of the trees,” said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Ronnie Delosantos, stationed at Oak Harbor Naval Hospital on Whidbey Island. “They are enormous in comparison to the other trees that have obviously been cut earlier. You can really get a sense of what it must have looked like back when the settlers were first entering the region. It is also sad to think this is all that is left,” continued Delosantos. “But, these enormous trees could be a wonderful example of what to do with our forest in the future.”

The best part of having these gigantic trees on Navy land is that I am able to share this amazing beauty with my family and they are able to gain an appreciation for this rare forest.”

“There’s no way to recreate a tree like this,” Briggs said, pointing to a Western Red Cedar. “When William the Conquerer became King of England at the battle of Hastings in 1066, this tree was already more than 100-feet tall.”



▲ “The first time I stood in the midst of giant Sitka spruce, I thought, ‘This must be saved,’” said Briggs.

▶ **Walter Briggs has a unique style** that is fitting for a man who gracefully strolls over countless logs with the help of metal-spiked shoes. His frayed, oiled pants keep moisture from irritating his skin and a wool vest regulates his body temperature.





► **Sailors from nearby commands such as Naval Air Station Whidbey Island** and Naval Base Kitsap (Bangor, Bremerton and Keyport) use the Navy forest such as Walter Briggs Old Growth and Naval Magazine Indian Island during training evolutions that teach survival in the wilderness.

Thanks to the Navy, this 225-acre stand of trees is the only remnant of the mighty forests that once stretched from the foothills of the Cascades in eastern Washington state to the shores of the Puget Sound, and home to a nesting colony of marbled murrelets (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), a bird listed as threatened in the Pacific Northwest. Here these protected birds find sanctuary among the large branches of the Navy forest.

According to an article written in 2005 by Briggs and Carolyn Lackey, a natural resources specialist at Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Chesapeake

Engineering Field Office, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., entitled; “Navy Saves Old Growth for Murrelets,” the forest is vital for this species of birds’ survival in the region.

In 1992, through the DOD Legacy Resource Management Program, the Navy purchased the remaining timber in this old-growth forest to preserve it for the future. In 1995, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognized the importance of this forest by designating it as critical habitat for the marbled murrelet.

“The murrelet is about the size of a robin

and the only seabird to nest in old-growth forest,” wrote Briggs. “Since the size of its wings does not allow it to create an air cushion to slow itself down like most other birds, the murrelet goes into a dive, turns upside down, and stalls when it wants to land.

At the moment it stalls in flight, it must be located next to a tree limb that is at least seven inches (17 centimeters) in diameter in order to land,” continued Briggs. “Marbled murrelets do not build nests; instead, they make shallow depressions in the moss that grows on large, old limbs, and lay a single egg.”



Marbled murrelets have continuously nested in this old-growth forest since they were first detected there in 1993.

And the Navy's conservation efforts will allow the rare birds to continue as an integral part of this ecosystem.

"I feel great personal and professional satisfaction in playing a part in preserving this magnificent forest and the animals that live here," said Briggs.

"There's no better example of our pride in preserving the environment than the Walter Briggs Old-Growth Forest," Hering said. "It's been the work of decades to

accomplish this, but now the effort of one determined individual has become a shared treasure for all of us to pass down to future generations."

"I am humbled to have my name attached to such an awesome natural wonder," Briggs said. 

Frantom is a photojournalist assigned assigned to Naval Media Center

For examples of environmental stewardship around the fleet, visit www.navy.mil/local/n45 and click on 'View Story Archive,' www.nelp.mil and CURRENTS website at www.enviro-navair.navy.mil

Website Exclusive

Find more photos online at www.news.navy.mil/media/allhands/flash/ah200609/feature_2/

Jim Creek

One of the Navy's best-kept secrets

Story and photos by MC2 Todd Frantom



Spruce-covered mountains located on 5,000 largely forested acres provide radio-transmitting capabilities for the Pacific submarine fleet. This “state-of-the-art” site has been one of the Navy’s top secrets since the 1950s. Although, what lies among the trees is what makes this spot one of the Navy’s best kept secrets still today. This is Jim Creek.

“If you are stationed in the Pacific Northwest, Jim Creek is a must visit,” said Ryan Kimball, a recreation site manager. Tucked in the foothills of the North Cascade Mountains just outside of Arlington, Wash., Naval Radio Station Transmitter Jim Creek Recreation Area, with mostly untamed acres of land is a wilderness oasis that offers an unforgettable experience and many of the comforts of home for any Sailor who loves the great outdoors.



▼ **“Jim Creek is a perfect setting for the family,”** said IT1(AW/SW/NAC) Dorothy Moore. Navy families can use Jim Creek by simply checking in at the gate with an ID. There is a minimal cost to use the lodging facilities such as 16 RV sites (12 with electricity), Jim Creek Lodge (11 rooms that can sleep up to 50 guests), 18 cabins and more than 25 tent sites.



“Jim Creek is a perfect setting for the family,” said Information Systems Technician 1st Class (AW/SW/NAC) Dorothy Moore. “This is our first time here and Makenna, our 7-year-old daughter, is having the best time. She loves exploring the woods; it’s a whole new world to her.”

Moore works and lives with her family on Whidbey Island, which is a 90-minute drive from the station.

“Mathew, my husband, and Makenna went fishing on one of the lakes this morning, while I lay next to the shore in the soothing grass reading magazines,” continued Moore. “It is incredibly peaceful, and the sights are amazing. There are large trees and wildlife in all directions. I was raised to appreciate nature and the outdoors, and that’s what I am trying to

▲ **Dakota Kinonen, a Navy family**

member, watches birds through the powerful binoculars in place for visitors to use at Twin Lakes. Jim Creek is home to bald eagles, osprey and other migrating species of birds because it is an undisturbed wilderness.

► **Dinner simmers on the fire at one**

of Jim Creek’s cabin locations. Cabins include two small beds and a wood burning stove to keep warm.

bestow to my daughter. Jim Creek is a perfect setting for this.”

The station is located within a two-hour drive of most bases in the Puget Sound area including Naval Base Kitsap (NBK) Bremerton, NBK Bangor, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and Naval Station Everett.

“Jim Creek’s Twin Lakes are one of the





◀ **Nesting bald eagles can be viewed at Jim Creek.**

Military bases such as Jim Creek are a prime example of what the Navy does to protect such a valuable resource. These birds of prey use the site's large trees for nesting and feed on the abundant wildlife.

▼ **White-tailed deer are commonplace in the fields**

surrounding the lodge at Jim Creek. They can be seen grazing there, usually at dusk.



few locations in the Northwest where year-round fishing is possible," said Kimball.

Each lake offers about 35 acres of natural fresh water trout fishing and provides a pristine habitat for wildlife, including beaver, deer, river otters, waterfowl, osprey and bald eagles. Rowboats, kayaks, canoes and fishing gear can also be rented there.

"The trout and salmon in these waters are special," said Kimball. "They are stocked in the lakes and are part of a cooperative fish hatchery effort with the local Indian tribe. In this project, the Navy, which is responsible for managing the forest resources of Jim Creek, approached the Stillaquamish Tribe located in Arlington, Wash., for some help."

Together the Navy and local Indian tribe have established a healthy number of salmon that can once again migrate down

the treacherous mountain streams to the ocean and back up again to spawn. Sailors also volunteered their time to convert a rustic-looking water treatment plant that is on the site; a fish hatchery took its place.

"I really don't think many of the Sailors who visit know the history of the place," said Kimball. "I believe their only concern is to get away from it all. Whatever the reason, there's an incredible amount of activities here for Sailors, children, friends and relatives."

In a recent article in the *Northwest Navigator*, (Navy Region Northwest's base newspaper) Dave Hymer, Jim Creek's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) coordinator, stated, "If you make the children happy, you make mom and dad happy."

This is the sentiment among all staff members at the site.

"Boredom gets checked at the door," wrote Hymer as he described one of the many planned events for the family at Jim Creek.

It's "Fun Night," in Bldg. 4 where children are playing, laughing, creating and most of all having fun.

"Family Fun Night is about getting out of the house on a Friday night and just spending some quality time together with your family," said Mike Petrowski, Jim Creek's recreation programmer. "We have the game room open, a bouncy house, bingo, movies, crafts, hayrides and all the pizza you can eat."

Planned events like this one are meant to bring families together, and that is exactly what it does.

"We're trying to create an atmosphere where families





▲ Osprey are amazing fishermen and a spectacle to watch. Many mating pairs migrate to Jim Creek every spring to raise their young. Thanks to Navy conservation areas like Jim Creek, these predatory birds are well established in the Northwest region of the United States.

◀ “I enjoy boating with my family,” said Scott Kinonan, whose dad is in the Navy, stationed at Whidbey Island, Wash.

▼ Makenna Moore marvels at a fish her dad caught during her first fishing trip on the Twin Lakes at Jim Creek.



can come out and enjoy a wholesome environment,” Hymer continued. “It’s an ideal setting for families. The night is geared toward kids, and even the movies are G-rated.”

For all other days on the site Sailors and their children have opportunities to test their skills on the Alpine Tower. It is a raised jungle of climbing obstacles with swing cables, including a large realistic climbing wall that was donated by the Navy Recruiting Command, Millington, Tenn.

“The wall is one of a kind [around here],” said Petrowski. “There are only four like it throughout the world that the Navy has donated to MWR facilities. The opportunity to test your climbing abilities, alone, makes Jim Creek worth the visit,” continued Petrowski. “What a sight to behold when a



“If you are stationed in the Pacific Northwest, Jim Creek is a must visit.”

— Ryan Kimball | Recreation Site Manager



▲ **The memories captured among the** pristine beauty at Jim Creek will last a lifetime.

◀ **Jack Spates, 9, enjoys rapelling**

off the 50-foot climbing wall at Jim Creek. The wall is one of only four that MWR was given as a donation from Navy Recruiting Command, Millington, Tenn.

40-year-old chief is flying through the air on the zip line.”

Petrowski spends most of his time helping youth and Sailors hone their skills along with teaching proper scaling

techniques on the 50-foot tower challenge.

For those Sailors more interested in spending time alone with their loved ones, remote backwoods tent sites and cozy cabins are situated throughout the site. There is also a lodge in a rustic setting that will put any Navy family at peace with nature.

“This is the perfect place to spend quality time with the family,” said Moore. “We will definitely come back.”

So, the secret is out. This is the place for Sailors and families stationed in the Pacific

Northwest who love the outdoors and need time away from their haze grey environment. ❧

Frantom is a photojournalist assigned to Naval Media Center.

Website Exclusive

Find more photos online at www.news.navy.mil/media/allhands/flash/ah200609/feature_3/

High on the Job

Story and photo by MC1(AW) Shane T. McCoy

So there you are hiking in the mountains just outside of Reno, Nev., when you realize you have no idea where you are. You're thirsty; you finished your water earlier in the day under the hot desert sun. Now, the sun is setting, it's getting cold and your hand-held GPS is useless since you used the batteries to listen to your CD player. The last people you would expect to rescue you would be the U.S. Navy, but they are exactly who you get.

"[While] we're here to save the military," said Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 2nd Class Melissa Stone, "we gladly save civilians because that means our Sailors are fine."

Stone is one of the AWs assigned to the "Longhorns" Search and Rescue Team at NAS Fallon, Nev., who routinely risk their own lives to save the lives of people they don't know. Putting her own life or life of one of her teammates on the line is always on Stone's mind and keeps her focused on safety.

"I know that when I send someone out the door, I need to bring him back in safely," Stone said.

Flying UH-1N *Huey* helicopters, the Longhorn Search and Rescue team is responsible for providing emergency rescue service for the Fallon area, and more often assists local law enforcement rescuing lost

or injured hikers. The unit trains every day to ensure their skills are sharp, but actual rescues are why Stone loves the job.

"Often aircraft at sea are so well maintained you would rarely get to do the job you are trained in," said Stone. "To be able actually to perform rescues and do my real job is incredible."

The real-world training of rescuing civilians is keeping the Longhorns and Stone in top form to rescue one of NAS Fallon's pilots if the need arises and also provides them a natural high for the job. ✍

McCoy is a photojournalist assigned to Naval Media Center.

Focus on
Service



History

DEAR GENERAL WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON:

We have met the enemy and they are ours. Two ships, two brigs, one schooner and one sloop.

Yours with great respect and esteem

COMMODORE OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

On Sept. 10, 1813, nine small, out-gunned ships defeated a Royal Navy fleet of six heavy vessels in the Battle of Lake Erie. That feat of courage proved to be yet another morale-building stepping stone for a U.S. military trying to put a successful end to the bloody War of 1812.

The United States quickly discovered that it was not at all prepared for military action after declaring war. Attempts to overwhelm Canada at Detroit, Niagara Falls and Montreal were quickly repelled by the British. By contrast, Britain's forces had taken Detroit, Mackinac, and Fort Dearborn (Chicago).

With successful advances by the British slowly taking control of the upper Great Lakes and putting the Northwest Territory in unpredictable peril, America had to do something, and fast.

While maintaining naval control over Lake Erie for more than a year, the British were now experiencing heavy pressure. Great Britain's water supply route from Fort Malden to Port Dover had been disrupted by the presence of Perry's fleet on the lake. It quickly became a simple choice for the British: Either fight or abandon Fort Malden and the Old Northwest.

By September 1813, construction of the massive British flagship HMS *Detroit* was complete and she was ready to sail. With *Detroit*'s guns capable of firing 22-pound cannonballs a half mile farther than an American ship, the British opted to fight. With their ships manned mostly by poorly-trained British soldiers, Canadian militia and home-grown mariners, the British ships floated down the Detroit River and into western Lake Erie.

The British squadron consisted of six ships with 63 cannons, while the American squadron consisted of nine vessels and 54 guns. A quarter of the recruited American Sailors during the Lake Erie campaign were black.

British Commodore Robert Heriot Barclay, in his flagship *Detroit*, met Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry near Put-in-Bay, Ohio. Barclay's six ships were magnificently massive, outweighing and out-gunning Perry's nine vessels, including his flagship *Lawrence*.

Mother Nature began to fill Perry's flagships' sails with a favorable wind. He and his crew proceeded towards the British flagship. *Detroit* fired a 24-pound ball from an extreme distance at *Lawrence*, causing nothing more than a big splash. A few minutes later, a

second 24-pounder was launched, but this time it plummeted

through the bulwarks of *Lawrence*. The impact of the second cannon ball caused boat debris and flying splinters to puncture lungs and inflict numerous fatal wounds upon the Americans.

Lawrence's cannons were still out of range, so Perry issued orders to his ships *Scorpion*, with one long 24-pounder, and *Ariel*, with four long 12-pounders, to open fire. Thirty minutes of unrelenting British bombardment slowly ticked away, while Perry struggled to get within range. The whole British fleet had made successful cannon strikes against *Lawrence* and she was now dead in the water.

For the Americans, *Niagara*, still out of range and relatively undamaged, was their last chance at victory. Collecting four of the last remaining able-bodied men, Perry manned the flagship's rowboat and rowed a mile through a barrage of explosions to the seaworthy *Niagara*. Perry then furiously prepared *Niagara* for immediate action and sailed toward the British line. Although the British had wreaked havoc on *Lawrence*, Barclay had sustained a horrible wound; the captain and first lieutenant of every British vessel also were severely wounded.

When the greenhorn sailors observed *Niagara* closing water against them, they attempted to turn to expose unused cannons. The result was devastating for the British; the already battered *Detroit* and another British ship *Queen Charlotte* collided and became hung up, dead in the water.

The British threw down all their arms; the four largest vessels surrendered one by one. The last two British gunboats attempted to escape, but were quickly chased down and captured. The British fleet in Lake Erie was now a thing of the past.

Perry won the battle on *Niagara*, and received the official British surrender on the deck of *Lawrence* to allow the British to witness the terrible price his men had paid.

The Battle of Lake Erie proved to be one of the most telling encounters of the War of 1812. The American victory secured control of the lake, forcing the British to abandon Fort Malden and retreat up the Thames River in Canada.

Gen. William Henry Harrison's army clinched the naval victory by decisively defeating the small British army and its allied Indian force on Oct. 5, 1813, at the Battle of the Thames. Later, after the Battle of Plattsburgh, British and American peace talks were initiated, which ensured that the states of Ohio and Michigan were to be forever United States property. ❧



U.S. Navy painting

Identity theft

Paranoid someone will steal your identity?

For more information on identity theft prevention
go to www.consumer.gov/idtheft/

