

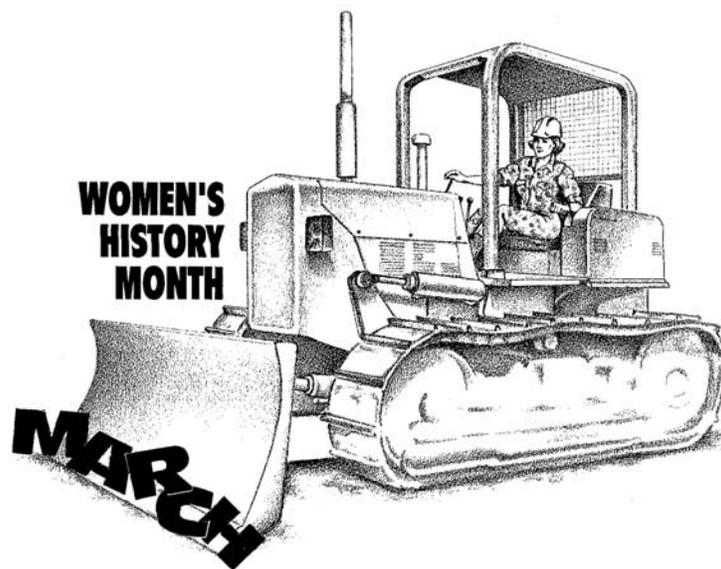
Notes 'n Stuff

selfridge (army) community service 1 mar '04

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SELFRIDGE COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS

Mar 2004					
DAY	EVENT	LOCATION	TIMES	INFO	NUMBERS
4	Newcomer's Briefing	780	0830	Kevin	307-4258
24	Coping with Allergies	780/104	1130	Anna	307-5211
25	15th Selfridge Family Forum	Vandenberg	0730	Dave	307-5903
	VA Outreach Counselor (Tuesdays)	B 780		Anna	307-5211
	Employment Counselor (every Weds)	B 780/16		Kevin	307-5949
Apr 2004					
DAY	EVENT	LOCATION	TIMES	INFO	NUMBERS
	Month of the military child				
	Army Emergency Relief Campaign	1 Apr	15 May		
1	Newcomer's Brief	B780/106	0830	Kevin	307-5949
22	Volunteer Recognition Ceremony	Vandenberg	1700	Angie	307-4475



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Editor's notes

There is nothing wrong because we skipped an edition. There were factors that prevented dedicating as much time to get NnS on the street. In May NnS will be on its old schedule of publishing on the 1st and 15th. Thanks for your understanding.

Last issue caused a change in how NnS is delivered, because the document is getting quite large, NnS is not sent to the subscription list. Only the link that you can get the latest edition. (This will be more considerate of precious server space)

COPING WITH ALLERGIES?

Selfridge Employee Assistance Center and Exceptional Family Member Programs announces a lunchtime learning with Gary Reinheimer M.D., Board Certified in Allergies and Immunology from St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. Join us from 11:30 – 12:30, Wednesday, March 24, 2004, Bldg. 780, Room 104, to learn how to prepare yourself for the pollen season and hear about the latest treatment options. Wheeze and sneeze no more. . . Contact 586 307-5211 to reserve a seat or e-mail samulska@tacom.army.mil before March 19th

VOLUNTEERS NOMINATIONS NEEDED

Selfridge activities and organizations which utilize volunteers provide Selfridge Community Service (SCS) with volunteer nominations for those who have performed any volunteer service during the period of 1 March 2003 through 28 February 2004. Schools and other organizations should submit their volunteers who have provided voluntary services that benefited the Selfridge Military Community. Volunteers who served during the above period, but have left the Selfridge military community, can also be submitted. (Each activity or organization will be responsible for forwarding certificates to their volunteers who do not attend the ceremony.) Contact Angie Kelly for nomination forms and to return nomination forms or Janet Schenk at FAX (586) 307-5593, returned through inter-office mail (AMSTA-CY-AF, Mail Stop 604, Bldg. 780), or emailed to kellyang@tacom.army.mil or Schenkj@tacom.army.mil .

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CEREMONY

The week of 18-24 April 2004 has been designated National Volunteer Recognition Week. The US Army Garrison-Michigan (Selfridge) Community Volunteer Recognition Ceremony has, therefore, been scheduled for 22 April to honor volunteers who have supported the Selfridge Military Community from March 2003 through February 2004.

AER CAMPAIGN

(Editor's note The local AER office is located in Bldg 780, room 13. The number to contact the office is (586) 307-4514)

This year's Army Emergency Relief fundraising campaign is scheduled for 1 Apr through 15 May. The campaign starts with a kickoff ceremony on 23 March. AER does not receive any federal funds and depends solely on contributions. AER provides soldiers and their families with no interest loans or in extreme situations, grants for emergency needs. AER also operates a scholarship program annually. Over 90 cents per dollar goes directly to help soldiers, retirees and their families. For additional information contact your AER campaign worker or surf the web to <http://www.aerhq.org/>

SELFRIDGE FAMILY FORUM (SFF)

The 15th annual SFF will be held on 25 Mar from 0800-1700 at Vandenberg Conference Center (Bldg 780)

SFF is a process where community delegates get a chance to identify major issues affecting the Selfridge Community and the military lifestyle. The delegates along with subject matter experts develop solutions to resolve these issues. Some can be resolved at the U.S. Army Garrison-Michigan level. Some require new legislation or a change in a regulation. The later are forwarded up to the next higher conference, and if necessary to the Department of the Army level. Over 50 pieces of legislation were enacted because of past issues from the Army Family Action Plan (the highest level conference)

Locally, SFF has produced changes such as; Retiree Affairs Office, Summer shuttle for youth between Seville Manor and Selfridge, the MWR "Has It All" newsletter, priority for family friendly activities at the bowling center, consideration of a car wash on Selfridge, a Burger King fast food outlet, and supplying sheds to specific housing areas. See the results of last year's SFF at www.selfridge.army.mil on the SCS home page.

NEW COMMANDERS: CONTACT US

If you have taken command or charge of a unit within 50 miles of Selfridge, SCS has a requirement to present some training on their Family Advocacy Program. Its designed to give unit leaders some powerful tools to do their job better. Contact Ms. Cecelia McPherson for an appointment for this training. Ms. McPherson can be contacted at (586) 307-5611 or at SCS@tacom.army.mil (this applies to any branch of the service)

SURFLANT SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE NEARS

From Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- Money for college is available to dependent family members of active-duty or retired Navy service members who have served a minimum of three years (since 1975) in a unit under the administrative control of Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Completed applications for the SURFLANT Scholarship must be postmarked by March 15 to be considered for the following school year. All information provided is kept confidential within the Scholarship Selection Committee.

Applicants must intend to work toward a B.S. or B.A. degree full-time and may be high school seniors or college students in an accredited school or equivalent educational institution. Students are selected on the basis of academic proficiency, extracurricular activities, character and all-around ability, and financial need.

All information about this scholarship and how to apply can be found online at www.cnsl.spear.navy.mil/scholarship or through the mail at the following address: SURFLANT Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 9535, Norfolk, VA 23505. When mailing, please include the sponsor's name, rank, a list of qualifying COMNAVSURFLANT commands, ship types, and service dates plus student's name and a self-addressed 60-cent-stamped envelope.

The SURFLANT Scholarship Foundation was chartered in 1980 by the Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Officers' Spouse Club to provide financial assistance to deserving, college-bound children of Surface Force personnel. Through increased donations over the years, the support of the fleet, and successful fundraising events by various spouse clubs, Chief Petty Officers Associations and ships' wardrooms, the Foundation has awarded an

average of \$30,000 in scholarship grants each year since 1994. Last year alone, the foundation awarded 28 scholarships totaling \$48,500. This number was double the scholarships given in 2002.

WEB-BASED HELPLINE GIVES VITAL INFO

(Editor's Note The Army also has a "One Source" help line

Air Force One Source is a live 24-hour-a-day helpline for airmen and their families implemented by the Air Force in an expanded effort to take care of its own. The beyond-the-gate support and referral service will address personal and family support needs from agencies that offer support with child care, finances, legal matters, deployment and other related issues. Certified counselors are available to answer questions, provide information or guide airmen and their family members to the appropriate resources.

Air Force One Source is available anytime by phone in the United States at (800) 707-5784, internationally at (800) 7075-7844, internationally collect at (484) 530-5913 or at www.airforceonesource.com. The Web site will require customers to log on by using "airforce" as the user ID and "ready" as the password. From Commander's Call Topics, March 2004

SHOPPING SPREE

Register to win a commissary shopping spree and other great prizes Log on to <http://www.militarylifestyle.com> today.

Militarylifestyle.com is the premiere website for military personnel and their families. As a registered user you will have access to many resources, including original articles, weekly commissary sales, on-line base guides, late breaking DoD news, great travel deals, great contests, prizes and much more. This service is FREE to all military members and their families. To register FREE, go to <http://www.militarylifestyle.com> From Armed Forces News Issue Friday: January 30, 2004

NEW USAF WEB SITE TO MAKE MOVES EASIER

To ease the strain of relocation, Air Force officials recently launched "AF Move," a Web site designed to put as much moving-related information as possible at one location. This site aims to give people Air Force-level guidance. The site links users to everything from making permanent-change-of-station moving arrangements to tracking a personally owned vehicle shipment. The user can also see local laws on certain items that may be restricted.

The site also contains links to a toolbox full of technical information that Air Force personal property specialists can reference. The next time PCS orders drive Air Force members to pack up personal property and head for a new base, <http://afmove.hq.af.mil> can help keep the headaches and hassles to a minimum.

HELP FOR CHILD TAX CREDIT ON IRS.GOV

WASHINGTON - The Internal Revenue Service today reminded taxpayers claiming the Child Tax Credit that they cannot claim the full \$1,000 per child if they received an advance payment check last year. When figuring the credit, they must subtract the amount they got in advance. Failure to do so will reduce and could delay the tax refund claimed.

Taxpayers can get the amount of their advance Child Tax Credit payment by visiting IRS.gov. Information is available by clicking on "1040 Central" or "Your 2003 Advance Child Tax Credit."

Taxpayers must put the amount of their advance payment check on line 2 of their Child Tax Credit Worksheet. Taxpayers use this worksheet, found in the instructions for Forms 1040 and 1040A or in IRS Publication 972, to figure the amount of credit they can claim on their 2003 tax returns.

Taxpayers can find their advance payment amount on IRS Notice 1319, which they should have received just before the payment checks. Those who do not have this notice can get the amount through IRS.gov or by calling the toll-free IRS help line, 1-800-829-1040.

Last year's payments were an advance on the credit's increase for 2003, when the maximum per-child amount rose from \$600 to \$1,000. Taxpayers will subtract the advance payment they already received from their \$1,000-per-child total, then figure the remaining amount of credit, if any, to claim on the tax return.

Taxpayers claiming the Child Tax Credit who did not receive an advance payment will get their entire benefit from the credit on their returns. Taxpayers whose advance payment was larger than the amount of their credit will not have to repay the difference and will not claim any Child Tax Credit on their 2003 returns.

If the advance payment was reduced because of past-due taxes or certain non-tax debts, the taxpayer must use the full advance amount - before offset - in the worksheet. This is because the person received the benefit of the advance payment amount that was used to pay the past-due amount.

USS MASON HOSTS MOVIE PREMIER CEREMONY

By Journalist 1st Class (SW) Athena Blain, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- Sailors from one of the Navy's newest guided-missile destroyers, USS Mason (DDG 87), hosted two Sailors from the World War II destroyer escort USS Mason (DE 529) and author Dr. Mary Pat Kelly Feb. 25 at Nauticus, The National Maritime Center located in downtown Norfolk.

The ship was the centerpiece for ceremonies surrounding the local premier of the movie "Proud," based on Kelly's book "Proudly We Served," depicting the heroic story and struggles of Sailors from DE 529. In addition to hosting tours of their ship, current Mason Sailors joined local civic and military leaders to view the special movie presentation inside the Nauticus theater.

Sailors from the World War II ship have a largely unknown but epic history as the only predominantly black enlisted crew of a U.S. Navy ship. The current Mason crew members have had many opportunities to meet their predecessors since their ship's commissioning in Port Canaveral, Fla., April 12.

"It's such an honor for me to meet these guys," said Gunner's Mate 1st Class (SW) Stephen Scribner, 42, of Baltimore, Md., who met a few of the original Sailors during a dependents day cruise the ship hosted specifically to honor the veterans.

The story of the Mason crew was virtually unknown until Kelly accidentally stumbled on the subject while researching material for a documentary of American troops in World War II. Through 12 years of persistence, Kelly's determination to tell Mason's story was finally realized in a Public Broadcasting Service documentary "Proudly We Served," and a book identically titled and published by the Naval Institute Press.

"We were a part of American history," said Lorenzo DuFau, a retired signalman from the World War II ship. "I hope someday to see our history taught in public schools. Rather than being taught one month a year, let it be a part of American history."

"Those Sailors paved the way for us," said Scribner. "They stared ignorance right in the face and won. They proved all the myths false. I can't imagine the pressure they felt."

DuFau and Kelly were greeted by the ship's commanding officer, Cmdr. David J. Gale, prior to a ship tour and the movie presentation.

"It's amazing to see the advances that have been made," said DuFau, speaking about the current Mason and its Sailors. "We had hoped to make a dream come true about one nation under God--that was our dream. Now it's up to you young people. You've got to carry that ball, and I wish you the best of luck."

OFFICIALS STRESS NEED TO UPDATE DEERS

Release No. 02-13-04 Feb. 25, 2004

Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) officials emphasized this week the importance of updating records when personal eligibility information changes, and noted several ways to make the changes.

Eligibility changes include changes in military career status and family status such as marriage, divorce, birth and adoption. Beneficiaries may update their DEERS address, telephone number, and e-mail address through several methods:

- ◆ DEERS Web site at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/address/index.jsp>. It's quick and easy and the best time to update is during non-peak hours.

- ◆ Visit a local personnel office that has a uniformed service ID card facility. To locate the nearest ID card facility, visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/. Call ahead for hours of operation and for instructions to update a record for someone who is housebound.

- ◆ Fax address changes to 1 (831) 655-8317.

- ◆ Call the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO) Telephone Center at 1 (800) 538-9552 or for the Deaf (TTY/TDD): 1 (866) 363-2883. Hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Pacific time), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

- ◆ Mail the changed information to the DSO, ATTN: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771.

Updating Information other than addresses. Beneficiaries need to provide important pieces of documentation, such as marriage, birth, or death certificates; DD 214s; DD 1172s; etc. Beneficiaries should contact the nearest military ID card facility to find out what documents are needed.

Once beneficiaries have the necessary documents, they can present them at the ID card facility or send a letter or fax to the DSO at the address and number noted above.

Unremarried former spouses should note that they are now listed in DEERS under their own Social Security number and not that of the sponsor. For more information and links to related sites, please go to <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm>

From Air Force Retiree News Service (AFRNS).

"WHERE'S MY REFUND?" SERVICE UP SHARPLY

IR-2004-29, March 4, 2004

WASHINGTON - Taxpayers have made about 9.8 million visits to the "Where's My Refund?" service so far this tax season, almost twice as many as a year ago, according to the Internal Revenue Service. This reflects activity through Feb. 29.

Taxpayers who file electronically can use the service within 72 hours of submitting their returns. Paper filers can use "Where's My Refund?" three to four weeks after their returns are mailed.

"Taxpayers have discovered that 'Where's My Refund?' is a fast, easy way to check on their refunds," said IRS Commissioner Mark Everson.

The "Where's My Refund?" service is accessible from the IRS.gov home page. Instructions guide individual taxpayers through a process that asks for three pieces of information from their returns: Social Security Number, filing status and refund amount.

Once the information is submitted, "Where's My Refund?" notifies the taxpayer whether the return was received and is being processed, and, if processed, the expected mailing date or direct-deposit date for the refund. The service will also notify a taxpayer if a refund has been returned to the IRS as undeliverable.

In cases where a refund is delayed because of a math error or other issue, "Where's My Refund?" will advise the taxpayer on steps he or she can take to resolve the problem.

Taxpayers can ensure a successful experience by entering the requested information exactly as it appears on their tax returns filed with the IRS. The "Where's My Refund?" service debuted nearly two years ago. It handled more than 18 million electronic inquiries in 2003.

NAVY ASSIGNMENT INCENTIVE PAY

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy expanded the Assignment Incentive Pay (AIP) pilot program in March to include most enlisted shore billets in Guam, as well as those billets aboard afloat units based in Sasebo, Japan.

Qualifying jobs have been posted on the Super Job Advertising and Selection System (JASS) for Guam billets in the pay grades of E-4 through E-9, with the exception of those in the aerographer's mate, legalman and most cryptologic technician ratings. Cryptologic Technician (Technical) rating billets will qualify for AIP.

The bid maximums for Guam range from \$400 for petty officers to \$500 for chief petty officers. In Sasebo, the bids range from \$300 for petty officers to \$450 for chiefs.

The enlisted type duty code for Guam has been changed from overseas remote land-based sea duty (type 3 duty) to overseas shore duty (type 6 duty) to facilitate the expansion.

AIP has been very successful since the program's start in June of last year. More than 2,400 AIP bids have been received, resulting in 644 Sailors receiving an average of \$245 in extra pay each month. . .

To apply for AIP billets, Sailors simply log on to Super JASS to view current jobs, hot jobs and fill dates. Sailors then select the amount of AIP they would be willing to accept from the pull down menu. . .

Detailers will make the final selection based on the range of qualified bids, relocation costs and additional factors pertaining to each job. Sailors rotating to sea duty must bid for sea billets and follow their proper sea/shore rotation.

For additional information on this update to the AIP program, please see NAVADMIN 052/04 on the Web at www.bupers.navy.mil/navadmin/nav04/nav04052.txt.



GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM MEDALS

Special release from the U.S. Department of Defense

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Defense Department announced Feb. 26 the final approval of the Global War on Terrorism Medals. These medals recognize the significant contributions members of the armed forces bring to bear in combating terrorism in all forms throughout the world -- for both current and future operations.

Presidential Executive Order 13289 previously authorized the medals, which come in expeditionary and service versions. The expeditionary medal is for those who deploy to designated combat areas, and the service medal is for those who serve in support of operations to combat terrorism.

Service members authorized the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal must have deployed overseas for service in the global war on terrorism operations on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and to a future date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense. Initial award of the expeditionary medal is limited to personnel deployed abroad in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The area of eligibility encompasses the United States Central Command area of responsibility (less the lower Horn of Africa); Middle East; eastern Turkey; Philippines; Diego Garcia; and all air spaces above the land and adjacent water areas. . .

Each military department will prescribe appropriate regulations for processing awarding and wearing of the medals and ribbons for their service members, to include application procedures for veterans, retirees and next-of-kin.

In consideration of new military roles in a post-Sept. 11 environment, the department developed these awards for military members to provide flexible and tangible recognition for those serving in the current war against terrorism, a war that spans the globe and includes many diverse campaigns. For more Department of Defense News, go to www.defenselink.mil.

LOSING TRICARE ELIGIBILITY

The Department of the Department of Defense Military Health System has begun automatically issuing a Certificate of Creditable Coverage to any former uniformed services sponsor or family member who loses eligibility for health care benefits under TRICARE. The new procedure started Feb. 1.

In the military retiree community, this affects those individuals who lose eligibility because of divorce or a dependent child reaching age 21 (23 for full-time students).

For persons no longer eligible for TRICARE, the certificate serves as proof of previous health care coverage and limits the time another health care plan may exclude them from participating in a health care plan due to a preexisting medical condition. . .

Sponsors or family members needing to expedite receipt of a certificate may mail or fax a request to the DSO. The request should include the sponsor's name and Social Security number, name of family member(s) for whom the certificate is needed, reason for the urgent request, name and address of the person or organization where the certificate should be sent, and finally, signature of the requester.

The request may be faxed to the DSO at (831) 655-8317 or mailed to Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO), Attn: Certificate of Creditable Coverage, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771.

Sponsors or family members who have questions regarding the certificate may contact the DSO at (800) 538-9552, or TTY/TDD at (866) 363-2883. Additional information is also available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/certificate/index.cfm.
From Air Force Retiree News Service (AFRNS).

FISHER HOUSE GIVING FREE AIRLINE TICKETS

Through Operation Hero Miles, the Fisher House plans to give away hundreds of free airline tickets to help reunite service members hospitalized due to their service in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and their family members. Foundation spokesman Jim Weiskopf said the tickets, donated by Anheuser-Busch, are available to service members undergoing treatment, as either in- or outpatients at military and VA medical facilities as a result of their service in Iraq, Afghanistan and the surrounding area. Round-trip tickets may be used either for qualifying service members to visit their home (if not eligible for government-funded airfare), or for family members or close friends to visit them at the medical center. Weiskopf emphasized that the service member must originate the request for tickets at the medical center in form of a fax to the Fisher House Foundation (301) 294-8562. Armed Forces News Issue Friday: February 13, 2004



REFRIGERATOR MATERIAL

“Appearing on a refrigerator door near you” This is a new feature, here are some things that you might use some day.

USEFUL WEBSITES

SELFRIDGE

U.S. Army Garrison-Michigan	www.selfridge.army.mil
Garrison activities calendar	http://www.selfridge.army.mil/calendar_page__6_month.htm
MWR	http://www.selfridge.army.mil/mwr.htm
Selfridge Community Service	http://www.selfridge.army.mil/SCS.htm
127 th Wing	http://www.miself.af.mil/
927 th ARW	http://www.afrc.af.mil/927arw/
MWSG-47	http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmaw/mwsg47/cmd/

BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY

Army	http://www.army.mil/
Michigan National Guard	http://www.michguard.com/
Reserves	http://www4.army.mil/USAR/home/index.php
Michigan Air National Guard	http://www.mibatt.af.mil/default.htm
Marines	http://www.usmc.mil/
Reserve	http://www.marforres.usmc.mil/
Navy	http://www.navy.mil/
Reserve	http://www.navalreserve.com/ps/
Air Force	http://www.af.mil/
Reserve	http://www.afrc.af.mil/
Coast Guard	http://www.uscg.mil/USCG.shtm
Reserve	http://www.uscg.mil/hq/reserve/reshmpg.html

WORTH REPEATING

"Leadership is a combination of strategy and character. If you must be without one, be without the strategy."

-Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf

CAPTION CONTEST

The only caption submitted this time was

“John thought he could be the new
Statue of Liberty!”
by Brad Brumm, TACOM



Editor Dave Colangelo
U.S. Army Garrison-Michigan

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