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Insider Info

Don't Catch That Bug

Annual seasonal flu vaccinations are mandatory for all active duty military personnel and Selected Reserves unless they are medically or administratively exempt. Force health protection is the responsibility of every commander and service member. Everyone must take the proper actions to protect personnel and family members against the seasonal flu. Seasonal flu vaccinations are expected to arrive at military treatment facilities throughout September.

Welcome to the Mess

Congratulations to Navy Medicine Support Command's newest chief petty officers. Twenty-two new chief petty officers will receive their anchors at ceremonies throughout the NMSC AOR Sept. 16.

IDCs in Big Demand

Attention all Hospital Corpsmen looking for a challenging and rewarding opportunity: NMSC and Navy Medicine will soon launch an information campaign for the Independent Duty Corpsman program. All eligible second and first class petty officers are highly encouraged to submit your package to join one of the corp's most elite specialties. Contact your Command Career Counselor for more information.

Suicide Prevention Month

September is Suicide Prevention Month. Look at 'From the CMC' (on page 3) for ways to identify and help prevent suicide.

The editor wants your stories

Submit your stories and photos to **The Insider** editor, MC1 Arthur N. De La Cruz, via e-mail at arthur.delacruz@med.navy.mil, or to the NMSC Public Affairs Officer, Mr. Larry Coffey, at larry.coffey@med.navy.mil. Or call **The Insider** offices at (904) 542-7200 ext. 8124 or 8215.

Deputy Surgeon General visits JAX commands Flaherty to Navy Medicine: 'Put Support Command on speed dial'

By Mr. Larry Coffey
NMSC Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Karen Flaherty's first site visit since assuming the position of Navy Deputy Surgeon General Aug. 8 was to Naval Air Station Jacksonville on Aug. 12 and 13 where she visited Navy Medicine Support Command, its Jacksonville-based subordinate commands and detachments, and Naval Hospital Jacksonville.

Admiral Flaherty visited NMSC to discuss support services NMSC and its subordinate commands provide to Navy hospitals, clinics and the fleet, as well as to tour NMSC's Jacksonville-based commands.

"The breadth of programs and services Support Command offers Navy Medicine is incredible," Flaherty said. "This is even more obvious when you have the chance to examine the services in detail. Navy Medicine leaders from commanding officers and OICs to BUMED department heads need to put Support



(L-R) Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey Stancil, NECE Assistant OIC; Rear Adm. Eleanor Valentin, NMSC Commander; Rear Adm. Karen Flaherty, Deputy Surgeon General; and Capt. (Sel) George Schoeler, NECE OIC, look over an entomology collection at NECE headquarters in Jacksonville, Fla. The collection is used to train military and civilian pest control management professionals. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (SW) Arthur N. De La Cruz

Command on speed dial."

NMSC offers many services that are of great use to Navy Medicine, the fleet and shore establishments, said Patricia Craddock, NMSC M-5 Deputy Chief of Staff.

"Admiral Valentin wanted the DSG to know that she has an exceptional cadre of subject

matter experts and capabilities beyond any one person's imagination," Craddock said. "She merely needs to call Rear Adm. Valentin, who will assemble the right team to tackle most any demand. That is what is meant by, 'Put Support Command on speed dial.' Odds are NMSC already provides such services."

Admiral Flaherty toured Aviation Survival Training Center (ASTC), one of NMSC's eight ASTCs, which are tasked to provide safe and effective aviation survival and human performance training to meet Chief of Naval Operations requirements. The tour demonstrated the training aviators receive during their time at an ASTC.

From ASTC, the DSG was taken to the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE). Capt. (Sel) George Schoeler,



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - (Left) Rear Adm. Karen Flaherty, Deputy Surgeon General, looks on as a Physical Science Technician at the Navy Drug Screening Laboratory Jacksonville, pours an aliquot of urine into a test tube as he prepares a batch of specimens for urinalysis. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (SW) Arthur N. De La Cruz

See "DSG," Pg. 2

From the Flag - Independent Duty Corpsmen Needed

Hello again Navy Medicine Support Command. Most were able to take advantage of a four-day week last week. I hope everyone was able to take time over the Labor Day Weekend to enjoy well-deserved time with family and friends. I'm thankful to report that it was a safe Labor Day Weekend with only one reported minor injury that happened in the home.

I need your help with an issue. Navy Medicine has a shortage of Independent Duty Corpsmen (IDC). This shortage is across all specialties, i.e. surface, submarine, Fleet Marine Force, etc. This is a Navy Medicine issue because Navy Medicine exists to support the fleet. Navy Medicine does this by providing and maintaining a fit and healthy force. This is an NMSC issue because one of Navy Medicine Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education Command's (NMMPTe) primary missions is to train our Hospital Corpsmen, from Hospital Corps School to advanced training including IDC School.

There are two key issues the Navy, Navy Medicine and NMSC must address. First, the IDC shortage is due in large part to low enrollment rates and high attrition rates at the IDC schools. Enrollment and graduation rates must increase to avoid negatively impacting Navy Medicine's mission of providing and maintaining a fit and healthy force. Second, IDC training must maintain its integrity. IDCs have enormous responsibilities, stellar reputations, and they are trusted by the fleet. So, lowering graduation requirements to push

Therefore, we must recruit a higher number of qualified IDC School applicants.

This is where you can help. We must get the word out about the amazing job and training opportunities available for IDCs. From Commanding Officers, OICs and Chief Petty Officers, to Division Officers, LPOs, and military and civilian coworkers, I ask for your help in spreading the message. We need to ensure our corpsmen and those leaders, counselors, coworkers and friends who impact the careers of the corpsmen hear about the countless opportunities available for IDCs. These opportunities are unlike any other in the Hospital Corps rating. Here are some examples:

- IDCs work independently, most often reporting directly to the commanding officer when assigned to an operational unit.
- IDCs perform a myriad of jobs - direct patient care, surgical procedures, pharmaceutical prescriptions, preventive and occupational medicine, industrial hygiene, and more.
- IDCs experience higher promotion rates than other HM specialties.
- IDCs are best prepared of all HM specialties for advanced medical college programs.
- IDCs enjoy some of the broadest varieties of assignments, work environments and skill sets in the Hospital Corps rating, ranging from ships and submarines to hospitals and clinics in the US and abroad.

You are going to see and hear more



about the IDC program in the coming months as we work with BUMED and our Navy Medicine counterparts to get the word out. We will be targeting our "Hard Charging" HM2s, HM1s and HMCs who stand out among their peers, and emphasizing the IDC program to Hospital Corps School students, the future of the IDC program.

I remain proud and thankful for all you continue to do. Be safe, and remember that you are making a difference.

RDML Eleanor V. Valentin
Senior Health Care Executive
Director, Medical Service Corps
Commander, Navy Medicine Support
Command

"DSG" from Pg. 1

NECE Officer In Charge, explained NECE's uniqueness within DoD, its global impact, and the professional work performed by NECE's 35 officers, enlisted, civilian and contract personnel.

Admiral Flaherty also visited the Navy Drug Screen

ing Lab (NDSL), one of three Navy test labs whose mission is to deter illegal drug use by Navy and Marine Corps personnel through accurate and timely forensic drug testing. The tour traced the course taken by each of the million-plus urinalysis specimens received at the laboratory annually.

During an Admiral's Call with the military and civilian staff of Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Flaherty thanked them for the dedicated work to their patients and family members.

"We must always remember that Navy Medicine's number-one covenant is to take care of each other," said

Flaherty. "I'm just five days into my new role at BUMED, and I am pleased, honored and humbled to work with all of you."

Flaherty's visit to the naval hospital included the facility's new 62,000 square-foot addition, which features state-of-the-art equipment to vastly enhance patient care at the

hospital. The new wing includes six operating rooms with fully integrated monitoring equipment as well as a floor devoted to physical and occupational therapy (PT/OT). The admiral observed the aquatic treadmill in use, which enhances the hospital staff's care of the nation's wounded warriors.

NMSC's

"The Insider"

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From the CMC

Hello Navy Medicine Support Command. Please join me in congratulating our 22 newest chief petty officers! These leaders have achieved a huge career milestone and will proudly receive their anchors at ceremonies throughout our AOR on September 16th. Bravo Zulu, Shipmates, and welcome to the Mess.

Let's talk about NWUs. Do you have yours? Do you know how many sets you're supposed to have in your sea-bag? Do you know that you're required to have them by Dec. 31, 2010? Barring those Sailors who have not received their full allowances for the NWUs, everyone is required to have four sets of NWUs by the end of the year. This includes, but not limited to: four NWU blouses and trousers, one pair of NWU 9-inch boots,

two 8-point utility caps, five 100 percent blue cotton T-shirts, five pairs of black boot socks, one mock turtle neck sweater, one fleece liner and one gortex parka, per NAVADMIN 299/10. Contact your chain if you have any questions regarding the proper wear of this uniform.

Lastly, September is Suicide Prevention Month. And with the end of summer, most everyone starts looking toward the upcoming holiday season and spending times with friends and family. Unfortunately, the holiday season also brings an increase in the number of suicides and suicide attempts. If you notice a Shipmate exhibiting any of the warning signs (i.e. withdrawing from social activities, giving away cherished personal possessions, speaking fre-

quently about death, engaging in reckless behavior or abuse drugs or alcohol) remember to "A.C.T": Ask, Care and Treat! Most people who are feeling suicidal don't want to die; they just want to bring an end to the pain and difficulties they are experiencing. By showing that you care, you may just open the door to recovery that they are looking for.

Regardless of the reason for their depression, it's important that we all know that suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. It is never an acceptable solution. So, I encourage you all to ask your buddies, your co-workers and shipmates what they're doing this holiday season, and how they're doing. September may be Suicide Prevention Month, but suicide prevention is year-round. Speak Up. Be a



Hero. Save a Shipmate.

Thank you for all that you do, and I'll see you around the Deckplates!

Very Respectfully,
HMCM(SW) Tia M. Johns
Command Master Chief
Navy Medicine Support
Command

NMCPHC CO teaches UNC staff, students about Global Public Health Diplomacy

By Mr. Hugh Cox
NMCPHC Public Affairs

PORTSMOUTH, Va. – Capt. Bruce M. Cohen, Commanding Officer for the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC), Portsmouth, Va., addressed faculty and students from the University of North Carolina (UNC) Gillings School of Global Public Health, Aug. 27, on global public health diplomacy.

The presentation, which took place on the UNC campus at Chapel Hill, N.C., was a keynote lecture delivered to 50 attendees at the seminar on global public health.

"Navy public health, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief are an essential part of the CNO's Maritime Strategy," said Cohen. "Direct participation and collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations – NGO's and other international players is the way business is now done."

Capt. Cohen's participation as a guest lecturer is part of a growing collaboration between Navy public health and academia to increase awareness of global public



health issues and the role that Navy plays working with the World Health Organization (WHO) as partners in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

NMCPHC employs a diverse group of subject matter experts in various public health disciplines, making it attractive to public health students looking to work in an environment with a much broader global public health footprint.

In recent years, the growing interest in global public health has resulted in increased participation by universities and colleges with undergraduate and graduate public health programs in the annual public health conference hosted by NMCPHC.

"Close associations with academia allow for expertise and research to be shared within multiple disciplines, which in turn will make us smarter and more efficient in how we respond to whatever comes our way," said Cohen.

For more information on Navy public health, visit the NMCPHC website at www.nmcpHC.med.navy.mil.

G-Eyes offers eyewear for deployed personnel in record time

By Ms. Sheila A. Gorman
NMLC Public Affairs

YORKTOWN, Va. - The Government Eyewear System (G-Eyes) at the Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity (NOSTRA) in Yorktown, Va., provides 24-hour turnaround service on replacement glasses and inserts for all U.S. military personnel deployed to the 20 Middle East countries that make up the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility (CENTCOM AOR).

G-Eyes is a Web-based link routed through the global Spectacle Request and Transmission System (SRTS) to authorized personnel in deployed locations to order replacement eyewear. The eyewear ordered may include prescription glasses, gas mask inserts, or Military Combat Eye Protection (MCEP) prescription lens carriers that were previously ordered through a U.S. military treatment facility or U.S. military computer system.

“The need to travel through hazardous areas for personnel to re-order and pick-up eyewear has been eliminated by G-Eyes,” said Lt. Cmdr. Eric LaCross, NOSTRA’s director for administration. “Deployed service members who need replacement glasses or inserts can immediately place their order through G-Eyes and are guaranteed a push to the head of the line at NOSTRA, where every single pair of glasses is custom made for each individual. The 24-hour turnaround time is strictly adhered to when an order comes through SRTS and hits the NOSTRA production laboratory floor.”

NOSTRA personnel on the production floor, who work on 1,800 to 2,500 eyewear orders a day, look for the yellow order forms, even those arriving toward the end



YORKTOWN, Va. — Mr. Tori Townsend, adheres a grinding pad to an eyewear lens on the production laboratory floor at Naval Ophthalmic Support & Training Activity, Yorktown, Va. G-Eye orders are tagged with a yellow cards as they process through the production line. U.S. Navy photo by Ms. Sheila A. Gorman

of the working day.

“They know that the yellow jobs represent a deployed service member,” said LaCross. “Everyone is vigilant.”

NOSTRA has photos of deployed service members who have been in combat explosions. A military combatant’s face might have suffered the effects of shrapnel, but there are big circles around the eyes where the custom-made MCEP saved a service member’s eye sight.

“The NOSTRA team knows how important our mission is,” said Capt. Penny Walter, NOSTRA’s commanding officer. Citing the NOSTRA motto, she added, “We help protect, preserve and provide the sight to fight.”

Not only is the quality eyewear put in

the hands of deployed service members in record time, it is done so at good value. Five years ago, a study was conducted to determine the efficiency and product value of eyewear leaving NOSTRA with the idea of outsourcing the product. The outcome of the study determined that “we make it quicker and cheaper,” said LaCross.

NOSTRA is the only Armed Forces ophthalmic production factory. Every pair of glasses is custom-made for individual users, wedding together the prescription of the lens of each eye, frame size and color, distance to the center of the prescription, and tinting. All glasses are made with polycarbonate lenses that are impact resistant, scratch resistant and shatterproof.



NECE holds change of charge ceremony

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Capt. (Sel) George Schoeler (right) salutes Lt. Cmdr. Craig A. Stoops while Capt. Bruce A. Cohen, MC, Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center Commanding Officer, looks on during the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE) change of charge ceremony held Sept. 7. The ceremony saw Stoops relieve Schoeler as NECE’s officer in charge. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (SW) Arthur N. De La Cruz

NEMSCOM and local union commit to promoting safety

By Ms. Sheila A. Gorman
NMLC Public Affairs

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. - Navy Expeditionary Medical Support Command (NEMSCOM) and the National Association of Independent Labor (NAIL) Local 1, in Williamsburg, Va., recently signed a Labor/Management Commitment Statement to the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).

The commitment statement was drafted and signed jointly to better represent the commitment of both labor and management to the VPP.

VPPs promote effective worksite-based safety and health. Under VPP management, the laborers and OSHA establish cooperative relationships at workplaces that have implemented a comprehensive safety and health management system.

The process began when NEMSCOM was nominated to pursue participation in OSHA's VPP by Navy Medi-

cine Support Command in 2008. NEMSCOM is one of two Navy Medicine commands nominated to pursue this participation. The other is Naval Health Clinic, Corpus Christi, Texas.

"I enjoy the challenge and have a background in environmental and safety management of almost 20 years," said Ron Samuel, NEMSCOM Director of Operations.

Samuel admitted it was a long process, but Lt. Cmdr. Liliana Flores, NEMSCOM's executive officer, has embraced the process and jumped on board.

According to Samuel, there are four major performance-based elements to address: Management Leadership and Employee Involvement; Worksite Analysis; Hazard Prevention and Control; and Safety and Health Training. These four elements are broken down into 81 sub-elements and three stages for a total of 243 elements to be

evaluated for VPP Star status.

Star status recognizes organizations that have gone above and beyond OSHA basic requirements for workplace safety and health management.

Samuel listed the key processes that NEMSCOM has achieved so far: establishing a Charter Implementation Council; developing and drafting key documents; completing a NEMSCOM Safety Manual that incorporates the VPP concept; a quarterly self-inspection program; a Trend Analysis Program that tracks hazards, not just mishaps; the implementation of Enterprise Safety Applications Management Systems (ESAMS) for management of data, records, training inspections and hazards; a NEMSCOM VPP Safety and Wellness Fair; and the implementation of the NEMSCOM VPP Passport Program.

The NEMSCOM VPP Safety and Wellness Fair was, "beyond what I even thought,"

said Linda Ittner, who, as the NEMSCOM VPP Program Chairperson, coordinated the Aug. 5 event. "I fell in love with the idea of VPP. It involves the whole command as a team; everyone is part of the process."

All the tenant military commands located at the Cheatham Annex military complex were invited to participate in the safety fair.

The NEMSCOM VPP Passport is a booklet of various occupational safety and health related activities. It is completed by each NEMSCOM non-supervisory civilian or military personnel with incentive for completing the Passport. Military personnel could earn a 24-hour liberty pass and civilians can also earn time off, or a cash award not to exceed \$100.

"The contest is on," said Carol Williams, Operations Administration Assistant, referring to the Passport Program. "The [VPP] process is good and gets everyone on board. It's not just for the safety officer but allows everyone to understand and take ownership of the process."

Williams, who is also on the VPP Implementation Council, was so motivated by the program that she completed safety courses that allow her to pursue her goal of a new career as a full-time safety specialist.

There are still elements of the VPP that need to be addressed before certification of Star status is achieved, according to Samuel. But he said he is pleased with the progress and anticipated VPP Star status in the near future.



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. - Navy Expeditionary Medical Support Command (NEMSCOM) Executive Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Liliana Flores, attempts to walk a straight line while wearing 'drunk goggles' in front of the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) booth at the NEMSCOM Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Safety and Wellness Fair held on board the Cheatham Annex military complex in Williamsburg, Va.

U.S. Navy photo by Ms. Sheila A Gorman



FORT DETRICK, Md. — (L-R) Ms. Louise McClucas, Naval Medical Logistics Command (NMLC) inventory management specialist and Vaccine Information and Logistics System (VIALS) program administrator; Cmdr. DR Mary Seymour, NMLC executive officer; David Jacobson, one of two web developers who created the VIALS database; and LCDR Daniel Kachenchai, NMLC director of Medical Equipment and Logistics Solutions, discuss a VIALS issue. U.S. Navy photo by Ms. Sheila Gorman, Naval Medical Logistics Command Public Affairs Officer

VIALS can now process, generate flu vaccine requisitions

By Ms. Sheila A. Gorman
NMLC Public Affairs

FORT DETRICK, Md. – Naval Medical Logistics Command (NMLC) announced Aug. 26 that the Vaccine Information and Logistics System (VIALS) can now process and generate seasonal influenza vaccine requisitions for ashore and afloat Navy activities.

“VIALS is an internal database developed to process vaccine program requirements accurately and timely,” said Cmdr. Mary Seymour, NMLC executive officer. “Creating the automated database enhances our ability to process and manage centrally funded vaccine programs such as the 2010-2011 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Program.”

VIALS is being developed incrementally. The initial working model became available in February 2010 and was used to capture Navy-wide requirements for the FY 10-11 seasonal influenza program. As a result, requirements from ashore and afloat activities have now been turned into requisitions and sent to the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP).

As the vaccine becomes available, DSCP will ship it to the requesting activities to fill orders in accordance with the NMLC release plans that reflect priority guidance directed by the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

“Getting VIALS up and running opens doors to using this type of database for all commodities that NMLC manages,”

said Seymour. “It is a great use of our resources and another example of our commitment to providing our customers with quality medical logistics support requirements throughout the enterprise.”

Easy to use, VIALS will provide the Navy with an efficient accounting of vaccine requirements, purchases and deliveries. It will also have the capability to provide executive reporting on program status, while providing field-level activities with status and tracking information on their specific requirements.

“The value of sharing information across Navy Medicine and with our Fleet customers reduces variability within the supply chain,” said Lt. Cmdr. Daniel Kachenchai, director for Medical Equipment and Logistics Solutions (MELS). “VIALS will allow NMLC to virtually manage the supply chain while offering real-time reporting metrics to support our customer base.”

The MELS Directorate’s effort to provide detailed documentation of the existing seasonal influenza vaccine process was critical to developing the VIALS database. Their coordination with the Operational Forces Support Directorate ensured the needs of both ashore and afloat activities were met.

Influenza can be a life-threatening disease that annually results in more than 30,000 U.S. deaths. Receiving an annual influenza vaccine immunization protects many people from getting the disease or

becoming severely ill and helps protect entire communities by preventing and reducing the spread of the disease.

The Department of Defense has mandated a policy of annual seasonal influenza vaccinations for all active duty military personnel and selective reserves. With the goal of 100 percent immunization compliance by December 1, 2010, Navy Medicine will be monitoring the influenza virus carefully over the coming weeks and months.

Rich Schlegel, NMLC director for Operational Forces Support, said VIALS is another way NMLC is directly supporting the DoD mandate, Navy Medicine and the fleet.

“Providing the same level of visibility seasonal flu vaccine requisitions that fleet customer’s are accustomed to for their equipment purchases will ensure accurate reporting and forecasting of medical readiness for those Sailors at the tip of the spear,” Schlegel said.

NMLC’s rapid development of VIALS is designed to keep pace with the seasonal influenza program and be fully capable of processing vaccine distribution data. For additional information or help with VIALS, contact NMLC-VialsHelp@med.navy.mil.

NMLC is the center of logistics expertise for Navy Medicine, designing, executing and administering individualized state-of-the-art solutions to meet customer’s medical materiel and healthcare support needs.

Navy takes part in honoring Asian American leaders

By Lt. Laura K. Stegherr
Diversity Directorate Public Affairs

DULUTH, Ga. – The Navy took a key role in the annual Who's Who in Asian American Communities (WWAAC) Alliance Conference in Duluth, Ga., Aug. 28.

Rear Adm. Eleanor Valentin, director of the Navy's Medical Service Corps and commander of Navy Medicine Support Command Jacksonville, gave the luncheon keynote at the event, which featured educational workshops and panels on issues of interest to the Asian American community.

"As a group, Asian Americans have a strong sense of responsibility to each other," said Valentin. "Whether in aid to recent immigrants, or as experienced workers, they mentor and help the young get established. Asian Americans have a legacy of strength in family, community and helping their own."

"I stand in front of you today because I am an example of a positive outcome of people who fought hard to ensure Asian Americans and women had equal opportunity in this country," continued Valentin. "I am an example of a world that will allow you to work without obstruction to achieve your personal and professional

goals."

The conference culminated that evening with the annual WWAAC Leaders & Legends Awards, a ceremony honoring Asian Americans who serve as leaders and role models in their communities.

The awards were established in 2005 and have recognized more than 100 distinguished Asian Americans across the nation. Honorees have included government officials, entrepreneurs, artists and community servants.

Five individuals received awards this year, including Lt. Gen. Joseph F. Peterson, Deputy Commanding General and Chief of Staff of the United States Army Forces Command. Peterson, recipient of the WWAAC 2010 Community Spirit Award, is the Army's first officer of Hawaiian ancestry to achieve the rank of lieutenant general.

"I'm very proud to represent all of my cultures - Hawaiian, Chinese and Japanese," said Peterson. "I just hope I can serve as an example for others and show others that Asians can be successful regardless of their chosen profession and do well in this society."

Valentin, one of the Navy's nine Asian American flag officers, explained the sig-



DULUTH, Ga. – (Center) Rear Adm. Eleanor V. Valentin, MSC, Commander, Navy Medicine Support Command, stands with attendees of the 2010 Who's Who in Asian American Alliance Conference luncheon held in Duluth, Ga., where Valentin was the keynote speaker. Photo courtesy of Ms. Eleanor Mae Pascual

nificance of recognizing the contributions of the WWAAC award winners.

"Recognition of the achievements of those in the Asian American community is a tribute to those who have paved the way for their success," said Valentin." In addition, the Asian American honorees serve as role models for segments of our society. Seeing a successful person who has a similar cultural background to yours, or who comes from the same socio-economic background as yours, serves as an inspiration for who you can be and what you can achieve in your lifetime."

The Navy has strong ties

to many Asian Pacific American affinity groups, and each year the Navy's sustained outreach efforts reach a variety of diverse populations.

Valentin explained the importance of this outreach.

"If the Navy is to be a true microcosm of the citizens of this country, we must ensure that we include the many diverse citizens from all communities in this country," said Valentin. "Diversity outreach allows us to teach and talk about the Navy to the people of our nation."

NMRC doc named military's malaria research coordinator

By Ms. Doris Ryan
NMRC Public Affairs

SILVER SPRING, Md. – Capt. Thomas Richie, MC, the Navy Medicine director for the Navy's Malaria Vaccine Program, has been appointed as the Research Coordinator of the U.S. Military Malaria Vaccine Program (USMMVP), replacing Army Col. Christian Ockenhouse. Richie will serve in this position for up to three years.

The USMMVP consists of scientists and technicians from the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and the Naval

Medical Research Center, co-located in Silver Spring, Md. Jointly they are working to develop vaccines to protect military forces against the debilitating infectious disease malaria.

The importance of malaria to the U.S. military was illustrated by the mission-altering evacuation of 43 Marines from the West African country of Liberia in 2003. Five of these Marines required intensive care before recovering, and in December 2009, a Seabee also deployed to Liberia died of malaria. U.S. military forces are at

great risk of developing malaria while deployed in endemic areas. A warfighter with malaria can be incapacitated for one to three weeks, and some malaria infections can rapidly become life threatening if not promptly diagnosed and treated. In addition, warfighters can be exposed to more than one malaria species in today's complex military operations. Despite having very effective drugs to treat individuals suffering from malaria, the most cost effective measure to fight this disease is to develop preventive malaria vaccines.

FISCJ CO speaks at NMSC's Women's Equality event

By Ms. Daphne Cassani
NMCPHC Public Affairs

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., – Capt. Joyce Robinson, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Jacksonville (FISCJ) Commanding Officer, spoke at the Navy Medicine Support Command's (NMSC) Women's Equality Day event held Aug. 26 at NMSC headquarters.

The small gathering of about 25 NMSC military and civilian employees included Rear Adm. Eleanor V. Valentin, Commander, Navy Medicine Support Command.

Using humor and an eloquent but conversational tone, Robinson shared personal insights on her career and how she overcame hurdles during her journey from Naval Academy midshipman to commanding officer of a major supply command. Robinson focused primarily on what it takes to succeed.

"The Navy has provided me fabulous opportunities," she told the group. "I'm glad I was willing and able to meet the challenges these opportunities offered and ultimately benefit from them."

She advised the junior officers and young Sailors to "go for it. If you want something, ask for it. Somebody might just say yes," Robinson said. She also encouraged them to take on any task and not shy away from big ones.



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - (R) Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Jacksonville (FISCJ) Commanding Officer, Capt. Joyce Robinson, speaks to attendees at the Medicine Support Command's (NMSC) Women's Equality Day event held Aug. 26 at NMSC headquarters in Jacksonville, Fla. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (SW) Arthur N. De La Cruz

"If you need help, ask for it. Nobody knows everything about anything. It is OK to ask questions," she said.

Robinson emphasized the importance of being proficient in written and verbal communication skills.

"It's also important to listen, especially when you advance to leadership positions. Listen to those who aren't too shy to tell you the truth," she said.

She finished by touching on work-life balance. "You

have to be able to rest up and come back fresh. It can't be work all the time. Family helps keep that balance, helps prioritize what's really important," Robinson said.

After answering a few questions Robinson thanked everyone for their warm reception. Rear Adm. Valentin then presented Robinson with a Certificate of Appreciation and thanked her for speaking at the event.

Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Jackson-

ville, one of seven supply centers under Commander, Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers (COMFISCS), provides operational logistics, business and support services to fleet, shore and industrial commands of the Navy, Coast Guard, Military Sealift Command, and other Joint and Allied Forces.



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - (L-R) ENS Leslie A. Fiala and Rear Adm. Eleanor V. Valentin, NMSC Commander, cut the cake at NMSC headquarters in Jacksonville, Fla., as participants look on.

Happy 63rd Birthday MSC

Medical Service Corps officers throughout Navy Medicine Support Command's area of responsibility celebrated the corps' 63 birthday Aug. 3.

"It's a time to honor the Medical Service Corps' rich history, tradition, and dedication to the Navy," said Lt. Cmdr. Dan Maley of Navy Medicine Information Systems Support Activity (NAVMISSA.)

The Medical Service Corps was formed by the Army-Navy Medical Service Corps Act of 1947 and was originally comprised of four specialty areas. Today's MSC is comprised of 31 specialties.



SAN ANTONIO - Lt. j.g. Jeremy Landvater (center) and Lt. Joseph L. Granado cut the birthday cake at NAVMISSA in San Antonio.