



April 2011

THE COURIER

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Portsmouth, Va.



Command Egg Hunt

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Comfort Gets Underway for Continuing Promise 2011

By MC2 NIKKI SMITH
NMCP Public Affairs

USNS Comfort departed Norfolk, April 8, ready to begin its humanitarian mission of mobile, flexible and rapidly responsive afloat medical capabilities in support of Continuing Promise 2011.

Continuing Promise is an annual mission that fosters goodwill and demonstrates the United States' commitment and support to Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Continuing Promise offers training for U.S. military personnel and partner

nation forces, while providing valuable services to communities in need.

This is the sixth Continuing Promise mission; the missions so far have assisted more than 300,000 people. This is the third the Comfort has participated in since they began.

The crew of Sailors, Marines, Airmen and civilians will take the floating medical treatment facility's services to the nine partner nations in the region. Services include medical, dental, veterinary, engineering and civil action programs. The

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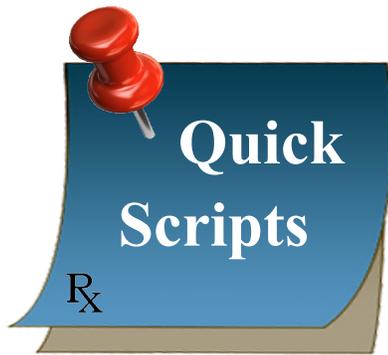
Photo by Jovantè L. Washington

Tom and Pat Modafferi, parents of Lt. Laura Modafferi, a pharmacist, wave farewell to Modafferi as she and USNS Comfort depart Naval Station Norfolk in support of Continuing Promise 2011.



Photo by MC2 Riza Caparros

NMCP Officers of the Year for 2010 were recognized during a ceremony March 28 in the Bldg. 1 foyer. Pictured from left: Lt. Cmdr. Leslie Riggs, Senior Officer of the Year-Medical Service Corps; Lt. j.g. Sheree Blackwell, Junior Officer of the Year-Nurse Corps; Lt. Shannon Toth, Senior Officer of the Year-Nurse Corps; Rear Adm. Alton L. Stocks, NMCP commander; Capt. Gregory Waskewicz, Senior Officer of the Year-Dental Corps; Lt. Cmdr. Todd Parker, Junior Officer of the Year-Medical Corps; and Capt. Timothy Porea, Senior Officer of the Year-Medical Corps. Not pictured: Lt. Cmdr. Peter Wellis (Junior Officer of the Year-Dental Corps); and Lt. Ian Waugh (Junior Officer of the Year-Nurse Corps).



Walk a Lap in Her Shoes

Find out what it's like to Walk a Lap in Her Shoes during the Sexual Assault Awareness Month event at NMCP. Walk a lap in heels April 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the helo pad course next to the Bldg. 276 Fitness Center.

For information, call HM1 William Strickland at 953-7187.

DADT Training

Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Tier 3 training is a requirement for all active duty staff and civilian staff who supervise active duty.

Five training sessions are offered in May:

May 2 from 1 to 3 p.m.; May 3 from 2 to 4 p.m.; May 10 from 6 to 8 p.m.; May 18 from 6 to 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. to noon.

All sessions will be in the auditorium. To register, go to <https://webapps.mar.med.navy.mil/classes/register2.asp>.

NMCP Ombudsman Team Pre-Deployment Brief

The NMCP Command Ombudsman Team is here to help when you are attached to NMCP or any of its outlying clinics and you or a family member are preparing to deploy!

Pre-deployment brief is held at 9:30 a.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the chapel.

Email us to join our Ombudsman email tree and learn the latest news.

NMCPombudsman@med.navy.mil
or
757- 953-1973

Skin Cancer Screening

The Dermatology Clinic is holding skin cancer screenings May 2 to 6. The clinic is in Bldg. 3, 8th floor. Appointments are available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To make an appointment, call 953-0291 and select option 3.

Hospital Corps Birthday Ball Golf Tournament

The Hospital Corps Birthday Ball Committee is hosting a golf tournament May 5 at 9 a.m. at the Bide-A-Wee Golf Course in Portsmouth.

To register, call 672-5913. For more information, contact HM1 Cason at norris.cason@med.navy.mil.

Naval Reserve Recruiter

The Naval Enlisted Reserve Recruiter will be in the Career Counselor's Office every Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. NCI Chapa will be here to discuss the Naval Reserves with those mem-

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bers who are approaching their End of Obligated Service.

Therapeutic Garden Opens

Join the festivities May 6 for the official ribbon cutting and opening of NMCP's Therapeutic Garden, located next to the Fisher House.

Occupational Therapy patients who are interested in Horticultural Therapy can call 953-5419 for information.

Safety Day Set for May 11

NMCP's Eighth Annual Command Safety Day is scheduled for May 11. The theme is "Your Safety Is Our Business." Departments can register to participate by visiting <https://intranet.mar.med.navy.mil/Safety/index.asp>.

Oakleaf Club Open to New Members

The Oakleaf Club of Tidewater is open to Medical, Dental, Nurse, and Medical Service Corps (active duty and retired) officers and their spouses in the Hampton Roads area. The club is a social and benevolent organization.

We are always happy to welcome new members. For more information on membership, contact Angela Nezat at anezat@yahoo.com.

THE COURIER

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The Courier is an authorized publication of Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, 620 John Paul Jones Circle, Portsmouth, VA 23708, and is published monthly by the Public Affairs Office.

The Courier provides an avenue to circulate all newsworthy information the NMC Portsmouth staff has to offer.

Anyone who wishes to submit an article or news information for publishing should contact the Public Affairs Office by calling 953-7986, by fax at 953-5118, or by emailing the PAO, Deborah Kallgren, at deborah.kallgren@med.navy.mil.

Submissions should be in Word format. Photos should be a separate submission from the document and in jpeg, bitmap or tiff format.

The Public Affairs Office is located in Bldg. 1, 3rd Deck, Rm. C308.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

NMCP – Ready, Willing and More than Able

Continuing in my series of articles laying out our command's strategic vision, I am choosing this month's time to focus on our Strategic Pillar of Readiness. The objective we have set is to Optimize Readiness. Now, the challenge I lay out to each of you as you read this is to think beyond what is traditionally defined as readiness.

I challenge you to look beyond simple numbers and think about readiness in terms of what we, the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth team, have committed our professional lives to ensure: our commitment to being prepared to deploy; our commitment to the warfighter, both in theater and back on station; our commitment to those who support us at home and to those who have proudly defended our nation's freedom in past conflicts; and our commitment to being ready to answer the call to local, national and worldwide requests for assistance. By ensuring these commitments are met is how I challenge you to look at Readiness.

In order to meet our objective of optimizing readiness, we have established five effects that will serve as our pathway. These are:

-Ensure the right people with the right capabilities are continually ready to deploy in support of the Navy/Marine Corps team.

-Enhance the medical readiness of our operational forces.

-Support of the past, present and future warfighters and their family members.

-Provide optimal support during the continuum of deployment.

-Be prepared to respond to any contingency.

Corpsman Up! It is the call that will forever personify Navy Medicine and our commitment to go into harm's way in support of our operational forces. Certainly, we all know this commitment extends beyond our corpsmen to each one of us in uniform. To ensure that we are indeed ready to deploy when called, we have laid out a set of administrative, training and medical requirements that, when achieved, will maximize our deployment preparedness.

Of course, commitment to our nation's warfighters goes beyond what we provide on the battlefield. It extends to the incredible care we deliver here at Portsmouth each day. Our second effect focuses on ensuring the health and wellness of our fighting forces so they as individuals, and their units as a whole, are ready at a moment's notice to deploy in defense of freedom.

Our third effect may be one of the more overlooked, but may also be one of the more important aspects of readiness. Caring for the families of our deployers as well as ensuring the health and well being of our past warfighters. These commitments are key to assuring that those in harm's way can be singularly focused on their mission and not unnecessarily worried about loved ones at home.

Caring for our deployers is one of Navy Medicine's most solemn commitments, so our fourth effect focuses on supporting the war fighters through their continuum of deployment. Our support extends to the individual while on assign-



ment and continues unabated as they return, reintegrate and restored to health.

Finally, NMCP will stand ready to answer the call to respond to those in need in our community, throughout our nation and around the world. Our fifth effect focuses on our community emergency management partnerships, as well as defines our standing commitments to provide humanitarian assistance across the globe.

As you can see, being ready is truly a comprehensive and continuous obligation and one that requires the talent, skill and dedicated efforts of our entire active duty, general schedule and contract team. I have no doubt that we will meet this objective as you are truly the "First and Finest" and absolutely set the bar for Navy Medicine.

A. L. Stocks

Anderson Qualifies for Six Events in Wounded Warrior Games in May

STORY AND PHOTOS BY REBECCA A. PERRON
NMCP Public Affairs

Less than a year into his recovery from gunshot wounds received during an Afghanistan deployment, Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class(FMF) Angelo Anderson of Naval Medical Center Portsmouth's Infectious Disease Clinic was inspired to try out for the second annual Wounded Warrior Games.

Anderson was injured in July when he and a group of Marines on patrol came under fire. Two bullets hit him on the right side – one went through his arm, while the second entered his thigh, shattering his femur.

Now, he is one of 34 who made the Navy/Coast Guard team, qualifying for three sports: track and field, basketball and swimming. The games will begin May 16 in Colorado Springs, Colo., offering more than 200 wounded, injured and ill service members from all branches seven sports to compete in.

A Navy Safe Harbor member was recruiting wounded warriors for the tryouts and asked Anderson to attend the adaptive sports training camp in California, and then try out for the games. Since he had played basketball and ran track and field in high school, he was excited about the opportunity.

"The games to me is just the feeling of creating a new 'norm' for yourself, seeing a person who is capable of things you would not think," Anderson said. "So it gives me motivation to create my new 'norm' and keep pushing forward from there."

Anderson has been pushing for months to speed up his recovery, which, after returning to NMCP for care, included

several surgeries and months of physical therapy.

"At first, I could not get out of bed because of treatment," Anderson recalled. "Then, when I could finally get into a wheelchair, I wanted to get out of it quickly and walk on my own. I took every opportunity to use my arms and legs so I could strengthen them."

He began using a wheelchair in the fall, transitioning to a walker and a cane, then walking unassisted by the end of the year.

"Now I can't wait to get back in the wheelchair again so I can compete," Anderson said. "I'm not letting these injuries stop me from fulfilling my dreams."

Basketball is one of the two seated team sports that require all team members to compete from a speed wheelchair. Anderson described the chair as weighing about as much as a basketball and being difficult to learn to maneuver. He had not used a speed chair before training camp, but he learned quickly for the tryouts.

"It's harder to control the shot because you have to stop the wheelchair before you shoot, and it's harder to aim," Anderson said. "And the basketball hoop is the same height. But dribbling is the hardest, because you have to use both hands, and too much rolling is a travel."

"Two of my teammates are paralyzed from the chest down, but we all have to have our legs strapped in," he continued. "I just wanted to stop the chair and step out and dribble. You definitely have to think about the different rules and how to balance. We have

— See ANDERSON, next page



Left: HM3(FMF) Angelo Anderson strengthens his lower body during a physical therapy session at NMCP on April 7. Like many Wounded Warrior Games athletes, he will be issued his equipment at the games in May and uses other methods to train.

Right: HM3(FMF) Angelo Anderson is coached by HM1(SW/AW) Bryant K. Hare about proper form during a strength-training exercise during a physical therapy session at NMCP.



WAR Program Comes to NMCP's Wounded Warrior Detachment

BY REBECCA A. PERRON
NMCP Public Affairs

Since the Marine Corps' team won the Chief of Staff Cup during the inaugural Wounded Warrior Games in 2010, the interest in defending the title is high. The Warrior Athlete Rehabilitation Program was developed to increase functional ability so a member can either return to full duty or transition to civilian life more healthy, productive and capable. Some Marines are using the program to helping train for the games.

The program has been in full force at the Wounded Warrior Battalion-East headquarters at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and is now being implemented for the Marines of the WWBE Detachment at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth.

As the number of Marines assigned to the detachment continually increases, many want to train so they can be competitive for games, with an eye on next year's games. The program's first event will be a seated volleyball tournament against Navy wounded warriors at NMCP's gym during the last week of April. The detachment will also participate in the 30-

mile Warrior Bike Ride at Naval Station Norfolk on April 28.

"We are designing a program that everyone can participate in, from those with traumatic brain injuries to double amputees," said Staff Sgt. Michael Donnelly from NMCP's detachment. "There are a myriad of different things we want to do to help them build stamina so they can get in shape to compete in the games. We want to simulate the trials and the events of the official games."

The detachment wants to purchase kayaks soon so they can do physical training in the waters off Hospital Point. According to Donnelly, the WWBE headquarters is working to get NMCP's program fully funded so the kayaks as well as other gear can be purchased to get the program going. The plan is to be able to offer a full range of activities by the end of the summer.

The Courier will report the stories of NMCP staff at the second annual Wounded Warrior Games in the June issue. Look for stories about HM3(FMF) Angelo Anderson and members of the medical support staff for the Marine Corps and Navy/Coast Guard teams.

ANDERSON — *Continued from page 10*

to stay leaned forward so we don't tip over like a turtle, but the third wheel out front helps us balance."

Like several of his teammates, he will not receive his equipment until he gets out to Colorado, so his physical therapy sessions continue to double as training.

"My workout regime is really my rehab to continuing to get my strength and endurance back," he said. "I have rehab appointments three times a week, which includes weight training and helping my upper and lower body injuries."

Anderson also began to swim during his rehabilitation, which led to him qualifying for two swimming events: the 100 and 50 meter butterfly. He also qualified for three track & field events: the 800, 200 and 100 meter in the speed chair.

His motivation to train hard to compete comes from the person who shot him.

"I still have to strive to live my life the way I am," Anderson said. "I didn't lose my life that day. So that's what keeps me motivated."



HM3(FMF) Angelo Anderson strengthens his lower body during a physical therapy session at NMCP. Anderson will compete in six events at the second annual Wounded Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colo., in May and uses the PT sessions to train for the games.

Anderson expects a few things from his participation in the games.

"Gold medals," Anderson said. "I expect a lot of friendly competition. Regardless of the gold, I will leave there with good memories."

Zaycek Joined Marines' Wounded Warrior Trials Medical Staff as Nurse

BY REBECCA A. PERRON
NMCP Public Affairs

More than 150 Marines participated in the wounded warrior training camp and trials at Camp Pendleton, Calif., in February, hoping to be one of 50 Marines to earn a spot in the second annual Wounded Warrior Games that will be held in Colorado Springs, Colo., in May. The 10-day training camp and trials required the assistance of two dozen medical staff personnel, who were on hand to provide medical care, especially in the case of injury.

Lt. Amy Zaycek, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program coordinator, was asked to be the nurse on the Marines' medical staff in February and during the games in May.

"We were on call 24/7 during the training camp and trials," Zaycek said. "The team included about 20 corpsmen from Marine units at Camp Pendleton who every day were stationed at each of the seven events. We had a primary aid station set up, and I would also liaison with the corpsmen at the events so I would know where there was an athlete in need of my care."

The athletes received one-on-one attention during each day's events from coaches for college sports teams, the Olympics and Special Olympics, and Olympic athletes. During the rigorous 12-hour-a-day training regimen, some of the athletes needed care.

"We treated blisters, muscle aches, body aches, shoulder injuries, and some needed wound care, one even had trouble with his prosthetic," Zaycek said. "But these athletes have endured a lot – treatment for combat-related injuries, traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder or they are multiple-limb amputees. So they are tough and want to compete. They were motivated and continued to get back out there."

"The trials were a huge success," she continued. "It was a gratifying and amazing experience, and they are a great team. It was great to see the continuity of care these warriors receive, from the hospital setting to post-hospital care to now athletic care."

Zaycek will be in Colorado from April 27 to May 22 for the two-week pre-games training camp and during the games, which kick off May 16. Three corpsmen from NMCP will also travel to Colorado to be on the medical staff for the Marine Corps team, and an NMCP sports medicine technician will be part of the medical staff for the Navy/Coast Guard team.

Meet Our New Ombudsmen

Melissa's husband works in NMCP's lab. During his Command Orientation, Shari Craig made the presentation seeking volunteers in the Ombudsman Office. "He volunteered me!" she said. "But it's great. I'm fresh to the Navy — it's all new to me. I've gone through training, and while I'm learning, I'm helping others learn." Melissa also learned that ombudsmen are not only spouses of officers, but enlisted as well. She said, "It's a real eye-opener.

The ombudsman manual is several hundred pages. It shows me that the Navy takes it seriously for us to be an advocate for the Sailor."

Melissa Vaughan



With an active duty Navy background and an active duty Navy husband, Shari Craig knows how to "navigate the military highway." She added, "The Navy has always been home and I have a strong need to give back. My experience makes it easy to let families know what the military expects. It's said, 'We recruit Sailors, but we retain families.' I want our families to know there is always a voice out there for them, and I will be your champion."

Shari Craig

The Life Aquatic in NMCP's Pediatric Ward

BY MC2 RIZA CAPARROS
NMCP Public Affairs

There's something fishy going on in the Pediatric ward at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth.

After nearly six months of coordination and preparation, the Pediatric ward unveiled three new murals on March 21 which now decorate their walls. Donated by Lincoln Military Housing in early March, the artwork was a result of a team building event they held for their employees.

"Our community services director came to me with the idea for a team-building event," said Connie DeFour, Lincoln Military Housing training and marketing director. "We used that opportunity to serve the military families, especially the military children, in a very unique and heart-warming way."

"The idea of leaving a lasting impact on a community, or in this case a hospital, has always been important to our employees," said Susan Burns, Lincoln Military Housing Community services director.

Burns learned about the

Foundation for Hospital Art while attending a community relations meeting last year. The organization is dedicated to involving patients and volunteers worldwide to create colorful, soothing artwork, which are then donated to hospitals as a way to help soften the often stressful hospital experience.

"These paintings help them feel comfortable and safe, while in an unfamiliar and scary setting," she said. "The fun artwork with the sea horse and the underwater life makes the ward feel less scary and helps them feel welcome, encouraging them to heal better and faster."

"It's a great feeling to think we



Photos by MC2 Riza Caparros

Members of the NMCP's Pediatric Ward and Lincoln Military Housing stand in front of a mural donated to the ward on March 21. Each of the three murals are made of six separate panels that were painted by employees of LMH during a team-building event.

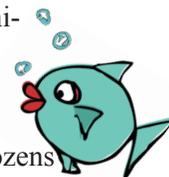
"The murals are a perfect addition to the ward," said Chris Brogan, NMCP's child life specialist. "We have an aquatic theme adorning the walls and ceiling panels, and these bright and cheerful murals are a welcoming sight to the environment that brings smiles."

Lt. Jennifer Dennison, in-patient Pediatrics Department division officer, said the artwork definitely helps the kids who are being cared for there.

are able to help the kids get better," said Jim Brady, vice-president and general manager of Lincoln Military Housing. "Our team is dedicated to military families. When we had this opportunity presented to us, to make a difference in children's lives, we had dozens of people interested to help with the project."

The three murals are made up of 18 panels that complete three separate scenes. Each is pre-drawn and labeled on the panels so the artist can paint the spaces with the appropriate color, "just like paint-by-number activities that we did when we were small," said DeFour.

"It was a lot of fun," she added. "Until I got into this project, I forgot how fun it could be."



Lt. Jennifer Dennison, Pediatric Ward division officer, right, helps Connie DuFour, Lincoln Military Housing Regional Training and Marketing director, reveal a mural LMH donated to Naval Medical Center Portsmouth's Pediatric Ward March 21.

Spine Surgeon Presents Research at Global Spine Congress in Spain

BY MCI ELIZABETH ST. JOHN
NMCP Public Affairs

Lt. Cmdr. Roland Kent, orthopaedic spine surgeon at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, was selected to present his scientific abstract (research) at the Global Spine Congress in Barcelona, Spain, from March 23 to 26.

His abstract "Continued Experience with Decompression and Lumbopelvic Fixation for Sacral Fracture-Dislocations with Spino-pelvic Dissociation," is based on his treatment of patients with the rare injury spino-pelvic dissociation during his fellowship at the

Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. The treatment produced a 100 percent healing rate.

"This topic represented a void in the spine trauma literature," Kent said. "While it is uncommon, almost all spine surgeons have been exposed to this difficult injury at some point in their career."

Kent said the knowledge he gained at the conference will be of great benefit to his patient care.

The Congress, a multidisciplinary meeting that gathers spine surgeons and researchers each year, provides an opportunity for attendees from six continents to compare treatment strategies from around the world.

"The range of topics presented at the meetings represented a broad handling of all of the spine surgical subspecialties," Kent said. "Exposure to these topics on a world-wide scale will increase my exposure and better prepare me as a surgeon to meet the needs of the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth patient base."

"It is enjoyable and flattering to be asked to present at any conference, but having the opportunity to present at an international conference brings with it the excitement of traveling to a different part of the world and comparing ideas with colleagues from many different nations," Kent said.

"It is an opportunity to benefit from the world's wealth of knowledge," he added.

Broom Receives 2011 Major David Berry Award

BY REBECCA A. PERRON
NMCP Public Affairs

Lt. Cmdr. Matt Broom, a Naval Medical Center Portsmouth pediatrician, received the 2011 Major David Berry award at the 45th Annual Uniformed Services Pediatric Seminar during the American Academy of Pediatrics Section luncheon on March 13.

The award is named after an Army pediatrician who was an expert in pediatric infectious diseases. While

filling a pediatric position in South Korea, Berry was killed in 2000. In 2001, the AAP Section on Uniformed Services created the annual award in his honor.

The award recognizes the qualities and characteristics that Berry embodied and encourages the development of promising junior staff pediatricians in military medical education. Board-certified or board-eligible staff pediatricians ranked 0-4 to junior 0-5 are eligible.

"Receiving the award is a tremendous honor," Broom said. "To even be considered among the company of Maj. Berry, given his reputation of being an outstanding clinician and teacher, is quite a compliment."

Characteristics considered include academic excellence and career potential; ability to be a role model during physician/patient and parent interactions; and balance in personal and professional life.

"Being a Navy physician has truly made me a better pediatrician, as the medical care that we are involved in, the patients we take care of and the places we go are very unique," Broom said. "The award is really a compliment to my colleagues. Without the tremendous support from my wife and children, I most definitely would not be where I am today."

Broom joins two other NMCP pediatricians who have received the award — Cmdr. Anthony Delgado and Cmdr. Michael Carr.



Photo courtesy of Capt. Tim Shope

Lt. Cmdr. Matt Broom, left, receives the 2011 Major David Berry from Capt. Tim Shope during the 45th Annual Uniformed Services Pediatric Seminar March 13.

ASD for Health Affairs Tours NMCP, Visits Wounded Warriors

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) Dr. Jonathan Woodson visited Naval Medical Center Portsmouth for the first time as ASD(HA). He toured the hospital, visited wounded warriors from NMCP's Wounded Warrior Battalion-East Detachment and observed classes taught in the Simulation Center. He met with doctors and patients from the Orthopedic Ward and ate lunch with nine staff members who had recently returned from Afghanistan.



Cmdr. (Dr.) Peter Roberts, director of Surgical Services, speaks with Dr. Jonathan Woodson, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), about NMCP's operating rooms.



Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), observes while Lt. (Dr.) Elizabeth Dubil practices a surgical procedure in the Simulation Center.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) Dr. Jonathan Woodson speaks with Cpl. Christopher Alban and other wounded warriors during his visit with Marines from the NMCP's Wounded Warrior Battalion-East Detachment.

PHOTOS BY MC2 NIKKI SMITH



Command Egg Hunt

About 150 children hunted for 4,000 candy-filled eggs hidden by the Oakleaf Club during the annual Command Egg Hunt on April 16. The children were entertained by the Easter Bunny, Beebop the clown, games, inflatables and face painting.

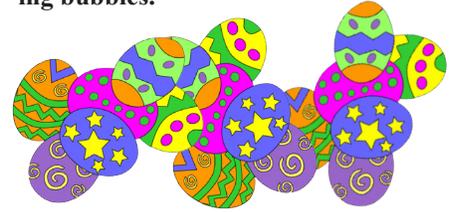
The event was sponsored by the Oakleaf Club, Chief Petty Officers Association, First Class Petty Officers Association, the Junior Enlisted Association, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and Navy Federal Credit Union.



Above: The 3-to-5-year-old group searches for eggs hidden in the grass on Hospital Point during the annual Command Egg Hunt April 16.



Left: The inflatables were one of several activities that kept the kids busy, in addition to meeting the Easter Bunny, playing mini golf, getting their face painted and blowing bubbles.



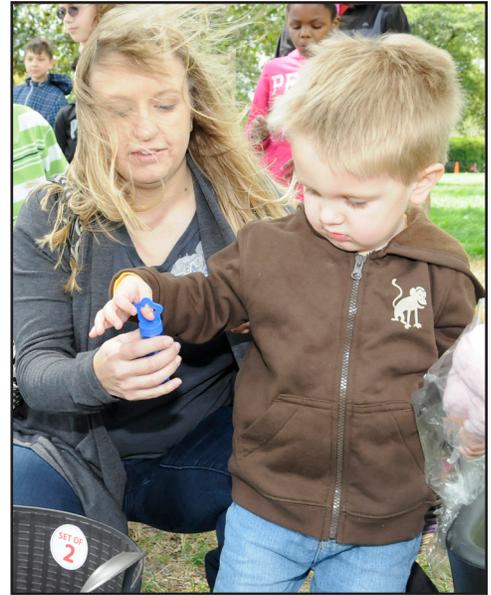
Rear Adm. Alton L. Stocks, NMCP commander, and Capt. Darin Via, NMCP deputy commander, with the Easter Bunny.



Ashley Sherman, 2, daughter of an NMCP pediatric endocrinologist, Air Force Maj. Eric Sherman, hunts eggs with her mother.



Members of the Junior Enlisted Association cook hamburgers and hot dogs during the Command Egg Hunt. The JEA sponsored a concession table where they also sold drinks and candy bars.



Justin Lamb, 2, picks out a prize after playing a game.



Above: Sisters Akela Sheche, 7, and Tamari, 1, meet the Easter Bunny.



The 9-to-12-year-old group was the last — and the fastest — of the age groups to hunt for eggs.



Right: Lt. Shawn Morris of Patient Administration, and his wife, Lara, enjoy time with their daughters, Miriam, 12, Amelia, 4, and Fiona, 2, after egg hunt is over.

COMFORT — *Continued from Page 1*
medical and dental element includes 480 Navy personnel who will work with more than 30 nongovernment organizations among the nine countries to treat patients both ashore and on board ship.

The ship has a total capacity of 1,000 patient beds, including wards designated for limited, light, intermediate and intensive care, as well as recovery wards. Surgical services are available through 12 operating rooms.

Preparing the ship for such a deployment is a challenge, since *Comfort* is staffed by civilians and only sees full staffing when deployed. The preparations are different and, according to Sailors on board, more difficult than preparing other ships for more traditional deployments.

Spaces have to be set up, operating rooms and clinics need to be equipped, and the pharmacy has to bring all the medicines on board and ration them out for each country. The ship keeps some supplies on board at all times, but it is stocked specifically for each deployment just prior. That means a lot of work and spaces that need to be readied for care.

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth staff makes up nearly half of the embarked crew. To help get the ship prepared, 55 NMCP deployers arrived on the *Comfort*

in mid-March. The ship then departed its Baltimore home port March 17 for a stop in Norfolk to pick up the rest of the crew from NMCP — an additional 150 staff members — and staff from other military treatment facilities throughout the country.

Since *Comfort* primarily relies on medical staff to accomplish its mission, hospital corpsmen are a large part of that. The corpsmen's duties range from taking vital signs to drawing blood and from dispensing medication to taking X-rays.

X-ray technician Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Melecia Reid volunteered for the deployment since she was born in Jamaica. During the ship's planned visit there, she hopes to see her dad.

"I want my father to see what I do and how proud I am to do it," Reid said. "I want him to be proud."

Reid explained that although *Comfort* is a floating hospital, its mission is different. It provides medical and dental care that's needed in the countries the ship visits. Often that care seems "basic" compared with what Americans are used to. *Comfort* does not offer all the specialty services found in a large medical center like Portsmouth, and that can be challenging for the crew. In many cases, they are introduced to equipment they have never used.

"We definitely need to think outside the box," Reid said. "It's going to be a little difficult to be away from what we are used to, but it allows us to do our job in different ways and really hone our skills. I know that this working environment and deployment will make me a



Photo by MC2 Nikki Smith

Lt. Laura Modafferi, a pharmacist deployed with USNS *Comfort*, pre-packages medication that will be distributed to patients during Continuing Promise 2011.

better X-ray technician."

Cmdr. Tiffany Nelson, staff pathologist, and her laboratory staff had been busy getting the ship's lab up and running. Since much of the equipment has not been used since *Comfort*'s participation in humanitarian assistance in Haiti a year ago, it required time and maintenance.

"We've been getting instruments ready, getting supplies on board and working to get the staff ready for the mission," Nelson said.

Despite the long hours and hard work, Nelson is looking forward to the deployment.

"We are working with a smaller staff, which means we all get to be more involved in each element of the lab," Nelson said. "We are all expanding our knowledge, and I know I have a great team that will be able to handle the high demand



Photo by FC3 Jovanté L. Washington

Hospital ship USNS *Comfort* pulls away from the pier at Naval Station Norfolk in support of Continuing Promise 2011.



**After servi
deployment**

that will be required of them.”

The ship lab functions like a hospital lab, performing pre-surgery tests and other microbiology services. The lab staff will also work ashore when Comfort pulls into a port, drawing blood and performing other routine services.

“We’re trying to provide a range of laboratory services to help our patients as much as possible,” Nelson said.

Just like with the lab, the pharmacy also had a lot of pre-deployment work. They had to separate the medications into portions for each country to make sure each gets the appropriate amount. Pre-packaged medication will be sent ashore with doctors to care for patients off the ship.

Lt. Laura Modafferi, a pharmacist, has found the ship environment to be very different from that of NMCP.

“Pre-packing the medication is something that is unique to me. I’m used to having patients walk up to the window and get their medications,” Modafferi explained. “Here, we will work with such limited supplies that pre-packing is essential. We will also work more collaboratively with the doctors, which is great. They helped us decide which medications we need and how much of each for the countries.”

The Comfort’s deployments were well known to Modafferi even before she became a pharmacist.



Photo by FC3 Jovanté L. Washington

Dave Foxhoven, along with daughter, Linda, waves goodbye to his wife, HM2 Paola Foxhoven, leading petty officer, Intensive Care Unit, as USNS Comfort gets underway from Naval Station Norfolk on April 8 to support Continuing Promise 2011.

“The mission is awesome. I heard a lot about the ship before I was in the Navy and now being on board is really exciting,” Modafferi said. “As a pharmacist, this is my only opportunity to deploy. I volunteered to experience a different side of my job and the Navy.”

Although the crew from NMCP is mostly doctors and corpsmen, other jobs are an integral part of the ship’s operation as well, including masters-at-arms and culinary specialists.

Stationed at NMCP for more than a year, Master-at-Arms Seaman Nash Theofanos jumped at the opportunity to serve on Comfort.

“I think this mission is one of the most important the Navy does,” he said. “It allows the world to see the good we do, and to see that the military isn’t just about war.”

A southern California native, Theofanos is most excited about the travel and the chance to see Peru and Jamaica.

As the ship departed from the pier, Theofanos,

Modafferi, Nelson and Reid were ready to go and excited about the mission.

“This is very exciting and certainly going to be interesting to see these different countries and cultures,” Nelson said. “We really want to help these countries meet the needs of their people. We’re looking forward to learning from them just as much as we’re hoping to teach them and share with them any knowledge we can. It’s a wonderful opportunity on every front.”

Comfort will participate in Continuing Promise until August. For more information about the operation, visit www.southcom.mil.



Photo by MC2 Nikki Smith

ing at NMCP for a year, MASN Nash Theofanos sees the at as an opportunity to travel.



Comfort will visit Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua and Peru during Continuing Promise 2011.

We will post updates from NMCP staff in future issues as they send us “postcards from the Comfort.”

St. Baldrick's Raises Funds, Awareness for Kid's Cancer

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY MC2 NIKKI SMITH
NMCP Public Affairs

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth participated in the annual St. Baldrick's Day fundraiser March 26 in the hospital barbershop, with 16 who volunteered to have their head shaved raising more than \$14,000. NMCP's event was one of nearly 900 across the country.

St. Baldrick's Day began in 2000. It is a fundraising event that raises money for childhood cancer research and patient care. Volunteers, or shavees, raise funds by committing to shave their heads in exchange for donations.



Pete Wilson shaves the head of his son, Charles Wilson, during the annual St. Baldrick's Day celebration at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth March 26. Charles is a cancer survivor and former pediatric oncology patient at NMCP who empathizes with and supports kids with cancer.

This is the third year NMCP has held the event, well surpassing its 2011 goal of \$3,000 by more than \$11,000. More than \$18 million has been raised nationwide so far this year.

The 16 shaved at NMCP's event included three doctors. The others were family members of children who have survived childhood cancer, former patients or families participating in remembrance of a lost child. They all showed their support by getting their heads shaved, shaving their loved one's head or donating money.

Traditionally, current and former patients of NMCP's Pediatric Oncology Ward shave the heads of their doctors and family members or get their heads shaved again.

"I've been participating since I was 17," said Charles Wilson, 19, a cancer survivor and former pediatric oncology patient. "I want to support others who are going through what I had to and show them they aren't alone."

The top fund raiser was Dave Smith who raised \$3,000. Smith participated in remembrance of his grandson, Walker Gorney, who was a patient at NMCP. Walker's father, brother and mother came to the event and dad, Charles



David Smith gets his head shaved by his daughter, Laura Gorney. Smith was the top fundraiser at NMCP's event, raising more than \$3,000.

Gorney, and brother, Mason, had their heads shaved.

"This is very emotional for us," said Laura Gorney, Walker's mother. "It's great having my family out here to support the cause."

The event saw more than one family participate together. Brothers Evan and Ethan Lantry sat down to get their heads shaved, along with dad, Jim. Their mother, Michele, took the clippers and gave at least one buzz to each of her family members.

"They look great," Michele said. "And it's for a great cause. We're really enjoying it."

St. Baldrick's Day has become a habit for Capt. (Dr.) Timothy Porea, pediatric oncologist. He sat down in the barber chair for the third year in a row. He raised more than \$2,000 through family and friends across the country. Porea said the great part about the event is seeing his patients outside of a clinical setting.

"It's good for kids and families to see their caretakers aren't just

— See **BALDRICK**, next page

Women’s History Celebration Empowers Women

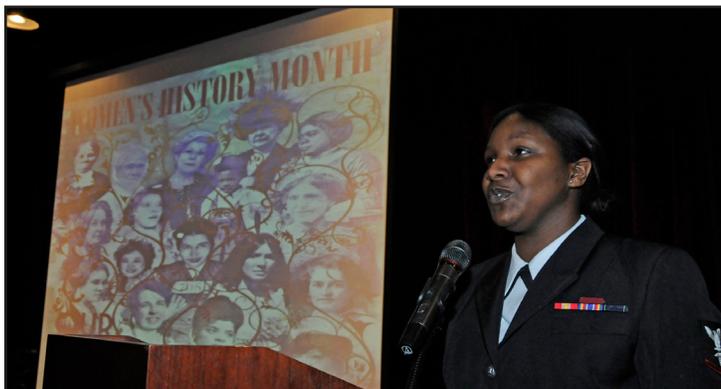
STORY BY MC2 NIKKI SMITH
 NMCP Public Affairs

The Diversity Committee held a celebration at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in honor of Women’s History Month on March 25. The focus of the service was to empower women while featur-

ing accomplishments of military and civilian women. The ceremony featured an all-female color guard, invocation by a female chaplain and a reading of Maya Angelou’s “Phenomenal Woman.”

“I think it’s important to celebrate Women’s History Month and show how much women’s

roles have changed over the years,” said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Latasha Williams, a psychology technician and Diversity Committee member. “Women have been doing, and are doing, outstanding things. It was really amazing to look back on all of our accomplishments.”



Photos by MC2 Riza Caparros

Above: HM3 LaRanda Holt sings the National Anthem during NMCP’s annual Women’s History Month celebration.

Left: Capt. Denise Johnson, Navy Medicine East, and Lt. Joanna Krause, command diversity officer, cut the cake during NMCP’s Women’s History Month celebration.



Dakota Bowers, left, and Charles Wilson shave Capt. (Dr.) Timothy Porea’s head during the annual St. Baldrick’s Day celebration at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth on March 26. Porea is a pediatric oncologist who helps plan and participates in the event every year. Bowers is a current pediatric oncology patient, and Wilson is a former patient.

BALDRICK — *Continued from page 14* prescribing medication and performing tests,” Porea said. “We are here to show them we are interested in them on a personal level as well. It’s a blast, and it makes all the effort worth it to see them happy.”

An important facet of the St. Baldrick’s Foundation is not only to raise funds, but also to raise awareness.

“Eighty percent of children with cancer will survive,” Porea said. “These types of activities raise those odds. The money not only goes to research, but to the social support of families suffering and trying to improve their lives as they endure these illnesses.”

For more information about the St. Baldrick’s Foundation or to donate, visit www.stbaldricks.org.

Galley Staff Assists with New Navy Video

STORY BY REBECCA A. PERRON
AND FC3 JOVANTÉ L. WASHINGTON
NMCP Public Affairs

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth's newly renovated galley served as the backdrop for a segment in a new Navy and Marine Corps general military training video to promote healthy eating. A team from the Visual Information Directorate of Navy Medicine Support Command visited several locations in Hampton Roads, spending three days – April 5 to 7 – at NMCP to videotape scenes with command staff participating as actors and production assistants.

The new video, “Fruits & Veggies: More Does Matter” will replace the old “5 A Day the Easy Way” video that was shot at NMCP in 1999. Last year, members of NMSC and the Bureau of Navy Medicine and Surgery determined that information in the old video was outdated. With the help of the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center, they wrote a new script and

scouted shooting locations, which included several at Naval Station Norfolk and Camp Allen.

Sally Vickers from NMCPHC used her expertise in nutrition to help write the script, and then recruited actors from NMCP's staff. Cmdr. Connie L. Scott, NMCP's department head for Combined Food Operations, coordinated the production efforts of the galley staff with the NMSC team. Some scenes were shot in NMCPHC's break room in Bldg. 3, but most of the taping was done in the galley between breakfast and lunch.

“It is an honor and privilege for NMSC to utilize our galley,” Scott said. “It feels good to know that we



Photos by FC3 Jovanté L. Washington

Lt. Johana Perez, an environmental health officer in Preventive Medicine, chooses a fruit cup during the taping of the new “Fruits & Veggies: More Does Matter” training video at NMCP on April 5.

contribute to ensuring our Sailors are provided the right fuel to support a healthy and fit force.”

About a dozen galley staff contributed to the shoot, setting up the food displays with healthy items such as fruit cups and a salad bar. Some then got to step in front of the camera.

“It was a team effort for us to come together and make sure everyone and everything was in the right place,” said Culinary Specialist 1st Class Abdiel Rivera, leading petty officer of Combined Food Operations. “Being in front of the camera was a good feeling. I wasn't nervous at all. It felt good being on the other side of the serving line and representing the culinary specialist rate.”

Some of the staff portrayed galley customers selecting healthy food in the service lines and at the salad bar. They were also videotaped eating in the dining room.

“They all did an outstanding job and were very professional,” Rivera said. “The entire galley staff, from the most junior enlisted



Culinary specialists and hospital corpsmen select food from the salad bar in Naval Medical Center Portsmouth's galley during the videotaping of the new “Fruits & Veggies: More Does Matter” training video.

Jordan Recognized for 30 Years Federal Service

Barry Jordan Sr. was recognized for 30 years of federal service March 28 when he was presented his service pin and certificate by Rear Adm. Alton L. Stocks, NMCP commander, in front of co-workers and friends of the Nuclear Medicine Department.

Jordan joined the Air Force in 1979 and, after nine years of military service, he entered the civilian work force in the field of nuclear medicine. He has worked at NMCP since July 1990.

“Hard work and dedication to the job have enabled me to give 30 years of service to our federal government,” said Jordan. “It is a great honor to be recognized for this achievement, but the satisfaction I get doing my job and mentoring young Sailors around me has made it very easy for me.”



Photo by MC2 Riza Caparros

VIDEO — *Continued from previous page* to the department head, did their part well.”

Tom Webster, the video’s project officer, also praised the staff and complimented the command on the attractiveness of the renovated galley.

“I didn’t realize the NMCP galley had been updated,” Webster said. “So when Cmdr. Scott showed us around during the scouting trip, I was very happy. It looked great, like a production set.

“I’m always impressed with how organizations and departments, like the NMCP galley, are so helpful and supportive of our Navy Medicine video projects,” Webster added. “As much planning and experience as we have in producing videos, our videos are only as good as the commands we work with. With the help and support we received at NMCP, this will be another good and informative video for Sailors and Marines.”

The video is expected to be completed in August and will then be distributed around the fleet.



HM2 Adrian Dowden, a laboratory technician, gets tips on how to act in a scene during the videotaping of the new “Fruits & Veggies: More Does Matter” training video in the galley.

WE WANT YOU — TO DONATE BLOOD!

Due to current world events, there is a higher demand for all blood products. NMCP is looking for as many donors as possible to help meet this increased need for our shipmates.



You can call the Blood Bank at **953-1717 or 1730** to schedule an appointment to donate.



Your donation will count as volunteer time and platelet donations will be awarded with snacks, a free meal pass at the galley, and a chit for ½ day off work, to be used at chain of command’s discretion.

The Greatest Show on Earth Circus Clowns Entertain at NMCP

STORY AND PHOTOS
By FC3 JOVANTÉ L. WASHINGTON
NMCP Public Affairs

Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus brought “The Greatest Show on Earth” to children and staff members at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth on April 13.

Sean “Muscles” Davis and Kyle Barker, who have both served in the military, visited the Pediatric Ward,

Pediatrics Intensive Care Unit, Pediatrics Clinic and Specialty Clinic, a general military training session in the auditorium, and Marines of the Wounded Warrior Battalion-East Detachment.

“It really is a great job,” said Davis. “Coming out here and seeing the smiles on the kid’s faces is always worth the trip.”

Chris Brogan, child life specialist in the Pediatric Ward, helped to coordinate this year’s visit.

“It is interesting to see the different dynamics of interactions between children and clowns versus older adults and clowns,” Brogan said. “No matter the perspective, there is always an excitement in the air when the clowns are here.

“Children, their families, and even staff are caught up in the fun and antics,” he added. “For a few minutes, the anxiety related to health care is often replaced with laughing and wonderment.”

The clowns have visited patients at NMCP annually since 2006.



Above left: Sean “Muscles” Davis and Kyle Barker visit Luke Carrol and his mom, Christine, in the Pediatrics Ward on April 13.

Above: Squadron Leader Joe Rushton of the Royal Air Force and his wife, Tracy, watch their son, Charlie, 1, interact with the clowns.

Left: Hayden Weber, 2, plays with Sean “Muscles” Davis and Kyle Barker in the dayroom of the Pediatrics Ward during the clowns’ visit to NMCP on April 13.

Mayor Visits NMCP to Meet Wounded Warriors



Portsmouth Mayor Kenneth I. Wright speaks with Lance Cpl. Kevin Murphy and other wounded warriors.

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth hosted the new mayor of Portsmouth, Mayor Kenneth I. Wright, March 31 for a tour of the medical center. Wright met with NMCP's commander, received a command brief and met with several wounded warriors. During his tour, he also attended a Purple Heart award ceremony and visited the Fisher House.



Photos by MC2 Nikki Smith

Rear Adm. Alton L. Stocks, NMCP commander, and Portsmouth mayor Kenneth Wright discuss the amenities the Fisher House has to offer with Patricia Jones, a Fisher House staff member, and Lt. Cmdr. Angela Bailey, a command nutritionist.

Olalde, Dobay Awarded Purple Hearts



Photo by MC2 Nikki Smith

Gunnery Sgt. Jorge Olalde was awarded the Purple Heart on March 31 by Rear Adm. Alton L. Stocks, NMCP's commander, during a ceremony that Portsmouth Mayor Kenneth I. Wright attended. Olalde was wounded after stepping on a pressure plate IED in Afghanistan while deployed with the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines.



Photo by FC3 Jovanté L. Washington

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth commander Rear Adm. Alton L. Stocks congratulates Cpl. Daniel Dobay after he awarded Dobay the Purple Heart on April 11. Dobay sustained wounds from an IED blast while serving with Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division (Forward) in Afghanistan.

Patient Satisfaction Spikes at NMCP

STORY AND PHOTO
BY MC2 RIZA CAPARROS
NMCP Public Affairs

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth's Patient and Guest Relations Department released statistics April 7 that measured patient satisfaction during March, indicating a sustained satisfaction rating of more than 90 percent for three months in a row. This first quarter rating is an increase of more than 70 percent when compared to December's patient satisfaction rating.



AS2(AW) Joseph Forbes uses the Pediatric Ward's Interactive Customer Evaluation Tray, a portable laptop used for customer service surveys available in various clinics and wards throughout the medical center.

Customer input was provided through the Interactive Customer Evaluation (or ICE) kiosks, written and telephone feedback, and the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery's Navy Medicine Monitor, a satisfaction survey mailed to beneficiaries following treatment.

The feedback is taken seriously by command leadership. In January, NMCP's Command Executive Board developed six strategic priorities, one being Customer Service.

"It is our honor and privilege to provide health care to the world's most deserving patients," said

Rear Adm. Alton L. Stocks, NMCP commander. "Our patients judge us from the very first contact they have with our command. We must put our best foot forward at all times."

"Our new strategic plan makes customer relations come to the forefront," said Rebecca Hernandez, Patient and Guest Relations department head. "We want to recognize the good and take care of the not so good. Through customer feedback, we can assess ourselves and our quality of service, so we can exceed their expectations and keep them

coming back to us for their medical needs."

The customer satisfaction rate is reported monthly to NMCP's CEB. Since the ICE kiosks have been installed, the number of customer feedback cards has risen. Because of this, the Patient and Guest Relations Department is able to identify and recognize

departments and individuals who go above and beyond the scope of their job.

"My role is to ensure that we are providing the best services to our customers, through data collecting," said Robert Van Natta, customer service training specialist, ICE site administrator, and BUMED Navy Medicine Monitor administrator. "I address concerns and attain resolutions for those concerns as soon as possible."

In addition, Van Natta identifies

and recognizes departments and individuals who go above and beyond.

"Understanding customer service is truly important is a big component to a successful operation," Van Natta said. "The better our service, the happier our customers will be. They are a reflection of our care."

"NMCP staff receives training when checking into the command," said Hernandez. "By constantly encouraging a positive 'culture of service,' rewarding those staff members with All-stars, Bravo Zulus, time off or letters of appreciation, we are telling them to keep up the good work, spread the wealth around and train counterparts so we can continue to provide that quality service across the board."

Both Van Natta and Hernandez believe marketing is a key component to the rise of customer satisfaction reports. There has been a steady increase in feedback over the past year. In May 2010, there were 199 customer comment cards submitted. By contrast, in January, there were 1,064 cards submitted.

"We want our customers to know they are empowered to make a difference," said Hernandez. "If they have a complaint, our job is to make sure the behavior causing their dissatisfaction is changed. If they have a compliment, we will recognize the individual or individuals who made them happy."

Patients are encouraged to use one or more options to voice their opinion of NMCP's quality of care. Three of the ways to comment are the 10 ICE kiosks located throughout the medical center and its outlying branch health clinics, customer comment cards available at all outpatient clinics and BHCs, and the paper surveys mailed home by BUMED. Patients can also access NMCP's web site at www.med.navy.mil/SITES/NMCP and click on the ICE link at the bottom of the page.

Civilian in the Spotlight

Police Lt. Pearl Yvonne Simmons

Hometown: Norfolk

Years of Civilian Service: 22 years (6 years at NMCP)

Work Center: Security Department (Watch Commander)

What do you like most about your job? I feel a tremendous sense of duty whenever I am able to assist anyone in need. The most rewarding feeling a person can have is the willingness and compassion to lend a helping hand when they are able. The people here at NMCP are why I get up every morning and are my motivating force. As a police officer, I want to always set and be an example.

What do you do in your off duty time/hobbies? I perform community service with the elderly at Sentara Nursing in Virginia Beach as well as the Food Share program. I also volunteer at my grandson's school and volunteer at the battered shelter home.

Favorite movie: Temptations



Favorite food: Seafood

Why were you nominated as Civilian in the Spotlight? Police Maj. McGuinness of the Security Department submitted Simmons and said, "LT Simmons is an outstanding supervisor and employee of NMCP, a consummate professional who treats every customer with respect and dignity and constantly delivers excellent service."



Sailor in the Spotlight

HM3 Joi Patrice Everhart

Hometown: Flint, Mich.

Years of Naval Service: 5 Years (1 year at NMCP)

Work Center: MILPERS/DHMRSi Coordinator

What do you like most about your job? I enjoy assisting customers with resolving problems and meeting new people.

Favorite movie: Love Jones

Favorite food: Crab legs

What do you do in your off duty time/hobbies? I spend time with my daughter, reading, and watching movies. I also love amusement parks and roller coasters.

Why were you nominated as Sailor in the Spotlight? HM1 Jason Hamilton of MILPERS submitted Everhart and said, "As LPO of DMRSi, Everhart consistently provides outstanding customer service to NMCP staff while assisting them with work center assignments. She effectively supervises two Sailors in the processing of more than 200 manpower change requests. She also performs quality assurance audits and ensured data was accurately and promptly reported to BUMED. She maintains genuine concern for her customers, shipmates, and strives to excel personally and professionally."

Civilian of the Quarter



Toby A. Brown
Category I Administrative

Toby A. Brown, pass and decal supervisor, ensures those assigned to Naval Medical Center Portsmouth receive a proper check-in, complete background check, fingerprinting and vehicle decals quickly.

Thanks to his skill and hard work, Pass and Decal is consistently recognized for outstanding compliance. He recently ensured all department records were prepared for the Joint Commission and Virginia State Police inspections, which received recognition from the State Police as “the best records they had ever seen.” Brown always puts responsibilities ahead of his own interests, epitomizing of “Service Before Self.”



Michael Keeling
Category I Clinical

Michael Keeling is the only psychiatric mental health technician working independently as part of a multidisciplinary team in the Psychiatric Intensive Outpatient Program. He manages patient care for those in PIOP and facilitates psycho-educational, experiential and interactive groups.

Arriving here in January, he volunteered to become a critical program contributor. His streamlined the referral process between inpatient units and PIOP. He increased booked appointments by 50 percent.

Keeling is a contributing member of the Special Psychiatric Rapid Intervention Team, DMH MWR and the Drug Education for Youth Program. While his time at NMCP has been brief, his contributions are mission focused and directly translate to quality patient care.



Sidney F. Ryan
Category II Administrative

Sidney F. Ryan directly supervises three civilian employees and indirectly supervises 10 pharmacy supply technicians, providing guidance pertaining to pharmacy purchasing and inventory management. He oversees pharmacy supply operations for NMCP and nine branch clinics while providing fleet support to deploying units.

Ryan provides critical insight to higher echelon commands on matters pertaining to pharmaceutical purchasing policies and procedures. Managing a budget of more than \$72 million, he ensures all pharmacy orders are placed in accordance with all requirements, policies and guidelines. Ryan is critical to the smooth operation of all 11 NMCP pharmacy locations in the Tidewater Region.

Photos by FC3 Jovanté L. Washington

APRIL AWARDS

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Cmdr. Reginald Ewing
Cmdr. James Grimson

HMC(SS/SW/FMF) Troy Haynes
HM1(SW) Maria Decena

JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL

HM2 Dallas Burelison

NAVY & MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL

Capt. Cynthia Joyner
Capt. Kevin Kennedy
Capt. Timothy McCullough
Capt. Timothy Porea
Cmdr. Joseph Clem
Cmdr. Christopher Ellingson
Cmdr. Kathleen Hinz
Cmdr. John Nelson
Lt. Cmdr. Eric Lacross
Lt. Cmdr. Buddy Kozen
Lt. Cmdr. Peter McGowan
Lt. Cmdr. Leslie Riggs
Lt. Cmdr. Kerri Browne
Lt. Sarah Ledford
Lt. Michael Lucrezio
Lt. Darion McCullough
Lt. Shanon Toth
SHCS(SW/AW) Alonzo Moore
MAC(SW) Keysha Cole

NAVY & MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Lt. Cmdr. Laura Dinneen
Lt. Cmdr. Todd Parker
Lt. Sheree Blackwell
Lt. Angel Perez
Lt. Ian Waugh
Lt.j.g. Amy Balke
Lt.j.g. John Benefield III
HM1 Stephani Crosby
HM1(FMF) Bradley Dudding
HM1(SW) Rex Mangosing
HM2 Sheena Ancho
HM2 Koleea Flagg
HM2 Danielle Lowe
HM3 Natanael Constanzo
HM3 Tereca Harris
HM3 Lauren Schmidt

NAVY MERITORIOUS CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

Ronald Hartman
Wanda Richardson
Paula Strickland
Steve Yevich



Uyen Le-Jenkins Category II Clinical

Uyen Le-Jenkins, a pediatric nurse practitioner at Adm. Joel T. Boone Branch Health Clinic, is responsible for 1,300 of NMCP's youngest beneficiaries. She frequently is sought after for her pediatric expertise.

Le-Jenkins identified the need for a resource manual for all providers. She then researched, created and implemented a Pediatric Resource Manual for all providers in Primary Care, setting the standard for others to follow.

She is flexible and accommodating, seeing walk-ins and scheduled appointments with a positive attitude and caring demeanor. She has quickly become a strong member of the team and a provider who patients ask for by name. Averaging the highest productivity, Le-Jenkins sees about 22 patients per day. She receives many compliments on her delivery of patient education.

SHIPMATE OF THE MONTH



Photo by MC2 Riza Caparros

HM2(FMF) DANIEL GUILLEN, DSS
HM3 EDUARDO ESTRADA, DPHS
HM3 DUSTIN HARVEY, DPE
HM3 WILLIAM PATTERSON, DNS
HM MIRANDA STRINGFIELD, DDS
HN JAMES BOND, DPC

HN ARYA GOHARI, DMH
HN DANIEL SHANAHAN, DCSS
SN SARAH VARGAS, DFA
HA JARVIS FRANCOIS, DMS
FC3 JOVANTÉ L. WASHINGTON, COMMAND SUITE

Bravo Zulu to March's Award Recipients



Photo by FC3 Jovanté L. Washington

During the command awards ceremony at the gym on March 17, 31 awards were given out. They included two meritorious service medals, a defense meritorious service medal, a joint service commendation medal, two Navy commendation medals, 10 Navy achievement medals, 10 good conduct medals and a 10-year federal service certificate.