



July 2012

# THE COURIER

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Portsmouth, Va.



Intern Class of 2012  
Graduates — Page 12

## NMCP Earns Gold in Flu Vaccination Challenge

BY MC2 (SW) ANNA ARNDT  
NMCP Public Affairs

Joint Commission Resources has awarded Naval Medical Center Portsmouth and its branch clinics the Gold Level Certificate in the Flu Vaccination Challenge for the second consecutive year, with a near 100 percent vaccination rate for the 2011 – 2012 influenza season.

The rate elevates NMCP to be among the top organizations in the country that vaccinate staff against the flu.

The Gold Level Certificate is awarded to organizations that vaccinate 95 percent or more of their employees against the flu.

More than 2,000 hospitals and medical centers across the nation participated in the challenge. The annual goal is to increase flu vaccination rates among health care workers so they don't pass the flu to their patients.

"We had 99.6 percent of our staff vaccinated," said Capt. Dexter Hardy, director of Public Health Services. "We did this under our Chief of Naval Operations pandemic influenza model and we were able to vaccinate 72 percent of the entire command in the first 48 hours."

Only 18 people were either medically or religiously exempt from the vaccination.

"We had 100 percent accountability of all staff, and for those



File photo

**An NMCP staff member receives the influenza vaccine during the annual Flu Vaccine Challenge.**

people who could not get vaccinated we had a mask policy in place for the protection of the patient," said Cherylann L. Kraft, NMCP's immunizations manager.

"The Joint Commission had facilities register regarding their hospital staff vaccination rates for influenza," Kraft added. "It is a Joint Commission requirement and a recommendation from

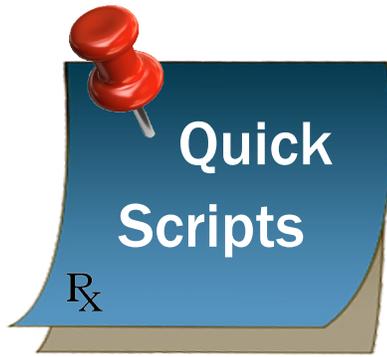
— See **VACCINE**, Page 20

## Oakleaf Club Gives Annual Gifts to Clinics

The Oakleaf Club donated and distributed more than \$6,000 in items to NMCP and its branch clinics on June 14. The club raised the funds at its annual auction in April and bake sales throughout the year, and purchased items requested by clinics to improve the morale of patients and staff. They were able to fulfill most requests – two flat screen TVs, three microwaves, a DVD player, a counter-top oven and a Keurig coffee maker. They also paid for cable TV installation at four clinics.



Photos by MC2 Nikki Smith.



## SAFE Team Seeks Examiners

Attention all active duty MDs, residents, interns, NPs, PAs, RNs and IDCs: The NMCP SAFE team is looking to add Forensic Examiners to the team.

The next class is scheduled for Aug. 27 to 30 August in the Education classrooms. The process for being approved for the class can be extensive, so all interested candidates should begin the process now.

There is no minimum rank requirement, but candidates must have at least one year of service at NMCP prior to PCS.

Please contact Michelle Ortiz, Forensic Healthcare Coordinator, at 953-0089 for more information.

## Blood Bank Sponsors Directorate Donor Challenge

The NMCP Blood Bank is sponsoring the first Directorate Donor Challenge until Sept. 30. Call 953-1717 or 1730 to

schedule a whole blood or platelet donation. Trophies will be presented to the winning directorate with the most whole blood and platelet donations.

## CONSEP Class in August

The next Career Options and Navy Skills Evaluation Program class is scheduled for Aug. 20 to 24 in the Ortho Lecture Room, Bldg. 3, 5th floor.

CONSEP allows junior Sailors to take charge of their military career and plan for the future. Topics covered are personal planning, civilian career planning, personal financial planning and Navy career planning.

To attend this course, active duty members must have 6 years or less of active duty service and route a chit through their chain of command. Please email or bring all signed chits to HM1 Tramaine Brown in the Operating Room Education Office. Point of contacts for this class are HM1

Natasha Mattocks and HM1 Tramaine Brown at 953-3282.

## Annual Radiology Conference Set for Late September

The Department of Radiology will host its 3rd Annual Radiology for the General Medical Officer & Primary Care Provider Conference Sept. 26 to 28 in the NMCP auditorium from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and from 8 a.m. to noon Friday.

CMEs are awarded for participation; a total of 16.5 for the entire conference. For more information or to register, contact Bridget Wakefield at 953-7461 or [bridget.wakefield@med.navy.mil](mailto:bridget.wakefield@med.navy.mil).

## Oakleaf Club Open to New Members

The Oakleaf Club of Tidewater is open to medical, dental, nurse, and Medical Service Corps — active and retired — officers and their spouses in Hampton Roads. The club is a charitable organization servicing those who benefit the Hampton Roads naval medical community. We are always happy to welcome new members.

For membership information, email [tidewater.oakleaf@gmail.com](mailto:tidewater.oakleaf@gmail.com)

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<http://twitter.com/NMCP1>

## NMCP Ombudsman Team Pre-Deployment Brief

The NMCP Ombudsman Team is here to help those attached to NMCP or its branch health clinics when you or a family member are preparing to deploy!

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

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

[NMCPombudsman@med.navy.mil](mailto:NMCPombudsman@med.navy.mil)  
or  
(757) 953-1973

## 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.

Those who wish 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](mailto:deborah.kallgren@med.navy.mil).

Submissions should be in Word format, with photos submitted separately from the document and in jpeg, bitmap or tiff format.

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

# EM Residents Graduate, Ready for New Challenges

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MC1 ELIZABETH ST JOHN  
NMCP Public Affairs

The Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Emergency Medicine Residency Program Class of 2012 held its commencement ceremony June 29 in front of historic Bldg. 1 with friends, family and colleagues in attendance.

The EM Residency Program prepares graduates to serve in any hospital or environment in the world, even in battlefield conditions. This year, the program graduated 11 residents.

“The goal is to prepare them to be not only emergency medicine physicians, but also prepare them to handle anything they see on the battlefield, on a ship or on any military site, to be able to handle the whole spectrum,” said Vanda Rich, Emergency Medicine program coordinator.

The demanding curriculum includes rotations in the Emergency Department, Pediatrics, Critical Care Unit, Orthopedics, Obstetrics, Anesthesia and Oral Maxillo-Facial at NMCP, and at Sentara Norfolk General Burn Trauma Unit and Riverside Regional Medical Center Emergency Department. The program culminates with Operation Capstone, a progressive initiative preparing graduates for the professional, operational and tactical situations they will face as military emergency physicians.

The program also instills students with the leadership skills necessary to be future naval officers.

“Our program is the best, because we not only develop them as physicians, but also develop their leadership skills,” Rich added. “We are actively involved in building that piece of their professional puzzle.”

The ceremony began with a stirring rendition of the National Anthem by Lt. j.g. Stephany Daniell. Cmdr. Michael Juliano, chairman, Department of Emergency Medicine, gave welcoming remarks.



**The graduates of the Emergency Medicine Residency program listen to Cmdr. Mark L. Plaster as he speaks during the graduation ceremony.**

Guest speaker Cmdr. Mark L. Plaster entertained the sweltering crowd with stories from his early days of residency, including when he tried to resuscitate a patient who had passed away the day before; her family had brought her in, but only needed paperwork signed.

During the ceremony, members of this year’s class recognized some of NMCP’s outstanding staff with the Junior and Senior Hospital Corpsman Award, Junior and Senior Nurse Award and Junior and Senior Faculty and Teaching Award. Several graduates were recognized with the Honor Graduate Award, Academic Excellence Award and Research Award.



**The Emergency Medicine Residency Program Class of 2012 after its commencement ceremony in front of Bldg. 1 on June 29.**

As the crowd observed a moment of silence, graduate Lt. Cmdr. Kylie Wainer placed flowers in front of a photo of retired Chief Religious Program Specialist Maureen Sciandra. Sciandra, the former Emergency Medicine residency coordinator, passed away earlier this year.

After the presentation of certificates, family and friends joined the graduates for a reception in the foyer of Bldg. 1.

The EM Residency Program Class of 2012 includes: Lt. Cmdr. John Alex, Lt. Cmdr. Todd Bragg, Lt. Cmdr. Mary Jo Hessert, Lt. K. Scott Koehler, Lt. Cmdr. Joseph G. Kotor, Lt. Cmdr. Michael Pruitt, Lt. Cmdr. Richard Schreckengast, Lt. Cmdr. Wayne Smith, Lt. Cmdr. Ellie Ventura, Lt. Cmdr. John Ventura and Lt. Cmdr. Kylie Wainer.

The 11 graduates are now recognized as specialists in Emergency Medicine, prepared to care for our nation’s heroes and their families when they need it most. Two of the graduates will remain at NMCP, four will serve at Camp Lejeune, with others going on to serve at Guam; Yokosuka, Japan; 29 Palms, Calif.; and Bremerton, Wash.

# Senior Chiefs Frocked during Chapel Ceremony

Four Naval Medical Center Portsmouth staff members were frocked to senior chief petty officer on July 2, with staff, friends and family in the chapel for the ceremony. After the new senior chiefs were pinned and received their frocking certificate, they were congratulated by Rear Adm. Elaine C. Wagner, NMCP commander. Bravo Zulu to NCCS Kevin Reep, YNCS Tanesha Wheeler, AOCS Andrea McCormick, and YNCS Adrain Hutcherson.



Photo by SN Nina Howard

**NCCS Kevin Reep is pinned during the ceremony**



Photo by Abigail Hancock

**YNCS Adrain Hutcherson is pinned by family during the frocking ceremony**



Photo by SN Nina Howard

**YNCS Tanesha Wheeler is pinned by her daughters and uncle during the ceremony.**



Photo by SN NinaHoward

**AOCS Andrea McCormick is pinned by family members during the frocking ceremony**



Photo by SN Nina Howard

**The newly frocked senior chiefs receive applause from friends and family members following the ceremony.**

# Fisher House Spruced Up

Home Depot employees were out in force at the Fisher House on June 14. The Home Depot Corporation donated \$500,000 to the Fisher House Foundation, of which \$9,200 came to the house at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth. The volunteers replaced fences, added new mulch in the playground, painted and sprayed weeds. They also added a storage

Photos by MC1 (SW/AW) Steven J. Weber



Home Depot employees cut new fencing to hide the garbage cans at the Fisher House.



Home Depot employees dismantled old fencing for disposal at the Fisher House.



Home Depot employees cut new fencing to hide the garbage cans at the Fisher House.



Home Depot employees volunteer at the Fisher House completing numerous projects.



Photo by MC1 (SW/AW) Steven J. Weber

# Happy Birthday, Hospital Corps

Rear Adm. Elaine C. Wagner, NMCP commander, cuts the corpsman birthday cake with the youngest corpsman, HN Israel Nolen, and the oldest corpsman, HMCM Anna Sanzone, in celebration of the 114th birthday of the Hospital Corps. Nolen was born in 1993, the same year Sanzone took her first chief petty officer exam.

# Branch Health Clinic NS Norfolk Combines Health, Dental Clinics

STORY AND PHOTO BY REBECCA A. PERRON  
NMCP Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Elaine C. Wagner, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth commander, addressed the staff of Branch Health Clinic Naval Station Norfolk July 6, officially marking the merger between the Sewells Point branch health clinic and dental clinic that began in June.

With the merger, BHC NS Norfolk is now Navy Medicine's largest branch clinic. The merger optimizes operations and staff and follows the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery's organization policy that standardizes operations, allocates resources where they are needed most and improves management decisions.

Now that the former branch dental clinic is aligned under the BHC, the combined clinic is responsible for 15,000 enrolled patients and more than 10,000 more must see/operational Sailors, providing 84,000 dental and 132,000 medical encounters each year.



**Rear Adm. Elaine C. Wagner, NMCP commander, speaks to the staff about the merger that created Branch Health Clinic Naval Station Norfolk and reminds them of the importance of their continued commitment to patient care.**

During her remarks, Wagner stressed how the merger will foster one Navy Medicine team.

"A merger like this does not happen without relentless communication, collaboration and coordination," Wagner said. "While there have been significant accomplishments, there is still work to be done. One of the most important tasks is to set strategic priorities so everyone understands what our enterprise wants to achieve.

"To that end, we must do all what we can to ensure that the health care we provide is of the very highest quality," Wagner

continued, "and that we provide that care in a safe and compassionate environment."

The mission in each clinic is unchanged, but by bringing them under the same umbrella, there are efficiencies to be gained in the merger. According to Cmdr. Sarah Neill, BHC NS Norfolk's officer in charge, that's the point of the BUMED policy.

"BUMED wants to be able, from an enterprise perspective, to compare apples and apples and oranges and oranges," Neill said. "What we had in Navy Medicine is people calling themselves a department of three people, or a department of 25 people, or maybe even 200, so it was really hard to compare efficiencies in the resource-stressed environment we are now entering into."

With 270 staff members from the dental side and 258 staff from the medical side, the now-consolidated clinic has a combined staff of 528. The merger should be a seamless transition to patients.

According to Cmdr. David Chacon, assistant OIC, it is important for staff to understand that their day-to-day work would not change, and for patients, neither would their care.

"We've explained during our OIC calls with the staff that they would continue to do that same job," Chacon said. "Right now, the biggest change would be administrative. For staff and for patients, the merger will basically be invisible."

As a result of the merger, both the medical and dental staff will benefit from increased training leading to personal and professional growth. Patients will receive more efficient, standardized care as the merger optimizes resource allocation.

"We now can shift resources easier than before," Neill said. "We don't have to go outside the directorate. We can detail them based on surge and demand. The PRT season is a pretty high-demand business for us, where on the fleet side with the mobile dental clinics, when the ships are getting ready to deploy, there's a big push to get dental readiness up for the small ships that don't have dental assets. So having that ability to leverage assets back and forth will have impact in efficiencies.

"By being able to shift them more easily to support the mission, the former dental technician or quad-zero corpsman will have exposure to more aspects within the hospital corpsman rate and expand their skills set, as well as make them more competitive for advancement," Neill added.

"As we've done our OIC calls, and have been able to explain the mission and plan, it's been favorable," Chacon said. "Some of these things, like duty section rotation, have been a positive for them as we combine clinics."

When the merger of the functions of each clinic are finalized, NMCP will have an excellent opportunity to evaluate efficiencies and promote a modernized patient care model for beneficiaries, which ultimately supports NMCP's strategic plan of quality health care, excellent customer service and professional development.

# July 4th Cookout Served Day Early

The galley crew worked hard the morning of July 3 in the heat to prepare great food for the staff. They made barbecue chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs. Tables were set up outside the galley and ready to treat diners to a true picnic.



Photo by MC1 Elizabeth St John

**CS2 (SW) Victor Nunezmarte is one of the grillmasters for the galley's cookout July 3 celebrating the 4th a day early.**



Photo by Red Cross Volunteer Brianna Tucker

**CS1 (SW) Abidel Rivera prepares the barbecue chicken for the grill prior to the July 3 cookout.**



Photo by MC1 Elizabeth St John

**CS1 (SW) Micah Lee lights up the grill in preparation for the cookout July 3.**

# CFC Representatives Treated to Appreciation Breakfast



Photo by MC2 Nikki Smith

Combined Federal Campaign representatives were thanked at an appreciation breakfast in NMCP's galley June 15 to officially close CFC's 2011 fundraiser. The campaign was the most successful in NMCP history – exceeding its goal by 25 percent, with a total of \$261,967 raised.

During the breakfast, Rear Adm. Elaine C. Wagner, NMCP commander, thanked everyone who participated and presented letters of appreciation to HM1 Tiaira Williams and HM2 Lindsay Gray. John Catron, CFC director, presented a trophy and CFC coin to Wagner for the hospital's fundraising total.

# Rolling Thunder Rides Again, Bringing Presents, Christmas in July to NMCP Pediatric Patients

BY NEELUM KORPE  
Station Manager, American Red Cross

“You’ll hear them before you see them,” explained an American Red Cross volunteer on July 15, anticipating the arrival of several motorcycle clubs at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth for the annual celebration of Christmas in July.

And indeed they were heard. The roar of the motorcycle engines alerted those awaiting the group’s arrival to stand tall and cheer as the visitors made their way through the front gate as Santa Claus led the way, dashing through the heat of the day on a one-Harley open sleigh.

Twice a year, Rolling Thunder riders make a special trip to the medical center to deliver toys to the pediatric patients. Rolling Thunder is a non-profit organization and gifts are personal donations made by members of the group. Growing in popularity, Rolling Thunder does at least two events each month. Even with increasing commitments, Rolling Thunder remains devoted to the service members and families of NMCP.

About 82 riders arrived for the event and brought nearly 200 new toys gathered through in-kind donations.

Accompanying Rolling Thunder

Chapter 5 were the American Legion Riders Crispus Attucks Chapter Post 5, American Legion Riders 2 Rivers Post 146 Hopewell, Colonial Heights American Legion Post 284, Southern Virginia American Legion Riders, Rolling Thunder Maryland Chapter 1, The Blue Knights, and the Christian Motorcyclists Association Wings of Eagles Chapter.

Handshakes and hugs were exchanged, creating a light-hearted and jolly atmosphere for all. Santa was front and center as he saluted Capt. Mary Beth Neill, chief of staff for Navy Medicine East, who attended on behalf of Rear Adm. Elaine C. Wagner, NCMP commander. Supporting the event were Red Cross volunteers, along with NMCP staff, wounded warriors and members of the Chief Petty Officers Association, First Class Petty Officers Association, and Junior Enlisted Association.

Neill recognized the group’s efforts through heartfelt remarks.

“Rolling Thunder is a shining example of what is right about America,” Neill said. “Service to others bounded by a common cause, giving of your time and talents so others may enjoy a better quality of life – putting your fellow citizen ahead of yourself to bring a smile to a seasoned veteran’s face or laughter to a child and their family who are meeting the challenge of illness or injury.



Photos by MC1 (SW/AW) Steven J. Weber

**Members of the motorcycle associations prepare to bring toys into the medical center.**

“Christmas in July is so important to this hospital, not only for the wonderful toys and gifts you bring to the children, and the joy you bring to the families, but for the reminder to us as health care professionals that we are partners in this healing business together,” Neill added.

The crowd beamed with pride as they visited the Emergency Room first. Toys were given to children in the waiting area, and Santa and a few members of the group went into the patient care area where two more children were being treated.

The group eagerly proceeded to the Pediatrics Ward and Pediatrics Intensive Care Unit – excited by the opportunity to bring a smile to a child’s face.

“This is my 12th year. We do it to bring toys to the kids, to see the expressions on their faces,” said Mike Walton, president of Rolling Thunder Chapter 5. “Once you see the joy and excitement on their face it makes you want to come back.”

— See PRESENTS, next page



**Santa leads the group of 85 motorcyclists to NMCP during Christmas in July, which brings toys to children who are being treated at NMCP.**



**Santa hugs Capt. Mary E. Neill, chief of staff for Navy Medicine East, as she welcomes the bikers participating in Christmas in July.**



**Santa visits mother Lakisha Egleton and 20-month-old Avery to give him a gift. Avery seemed to enjoy the visit as he could be heard from down the hall saying “hi” to the visitors.**

### **PRESENTS** — *Continued from previous page*

According to Walton, more and more posts are becoming interested in this event and the number of riders is expected to increase.

In the Pediatrics Ward, 20-month-old Avery looked up at the visitors with wide eyes and a welcoming smile. He surprised the group with his friendly chatter, heard through the halls of the ward.

His mother, Lakisha Egleton, said, “Avery was excited about the visit. He liked it a lot. He was not afraid. He was a little curious at first when all the people came in, but when they gave him the gift he was very happy. He has not put the toy laptop down since; it’s been in the crib the whole time.”

The gratitude from children and their families makes the journey to NMCP worthwhile for the motorcyclists. One young woman made the trip, despite admonitions from her doctor concerned about her recovery from knee surgery.

“I just really wanted to be here!” she exclaimed to the group as she smiled and replaced ice packs on her knee. Her resolve and dedication to the event displayed the passion for the cause

shared by every rider in attendance.

After spreading Christmas cheer to 15 children and families at the hospital, the visitors went to the galley to enjoy a wide array of refreshments provided by the FCPOA and JEA.

Longtime American Red Cross volunteers Kenneth and Charlotte Beard shared their gratitude for the group.

“Most of the riders are military veterans,” Charlotte said. “The toys provided by these wonderful, generous, caring people are given out throughout the year. The Red Cross is very grateful for the support of the many people who are willing to give so selflessly of their time and donations.”

“The American Red Cross station at NMCP not only hosts the event, but gives out the extra toys to children through the course of the year through their Personal Services program,” said Chris Brogan, NMCP’s child life specialist. “This program is often staffed with our own wounded warriors and is a great way for them to contribute to the well-being of others during their own recovery. It is truly a gift to have our wounded warriors sharing toys from a toy cart with the patients.”

“We know we do something good for the children,” Walton added. “And it lets the mothers and fathers – the veterans – know that we care about them and their children.”

Most riders pledged to make their way back to NMCP next summer, but many of them will be back before then. The next event for the motorcycle clubs at NMCP is Operation Bright Light in December.

**Santa thanks members of NMCP’s First Class Petty Officers Association and Junior Enlisted Association for providing refreshments in the galley after the toys were passed out.**



# Salty Dawgs Motorcycle Club Donates \$10K to NMCP Fisher House

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MC1 (SW/AW) STEVEN J. WEBER  
NMCP Public Affairs

Members of the Salty Dawgs motorcycle riding club donated a check for \$10,527 to the Fisher House at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth on June 29, the largest so far of six annual donations. Loretta Loveless, Fisher House manager, and Cmdr. David Collins, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth acting deputy commander, accepted the check during a ceremony at the Fisher House.



**Salty Dawgs president and Command Master Chief for VAW 120, Patrick "Gearhead" Holden, presents the big check, in the amount of \$10,527 to Loretta Loveless, Fisher House manager, and Cmdr. David Collins, acting deputy commander, NMCP, surrounded by staff of NMCP, the Fisher House as well as members of the Salty Dawgs on June 29.**

The funds will go toward the general upkeep of the house, which includes purchases such as food and paper products, including paper plates and napkins, and laundry supplies.

"You guys and your support are unbelievable," Collins told the Salty Dawgs. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart!"

"They already know how I feel about them," Loveless said. "They not only donate, they also come at Thanksgiving and Christmas and have cooked for the families. They do not know how to do anything small!"

"I was amazed that this is what we raised," said Patrick "Gearhead" Holden, Salty Dawgs president and VAW 120 command master chief. "We always do better (than the previous year). We hope to do better every year."

The Salty Dawgs raised the money through a combination of

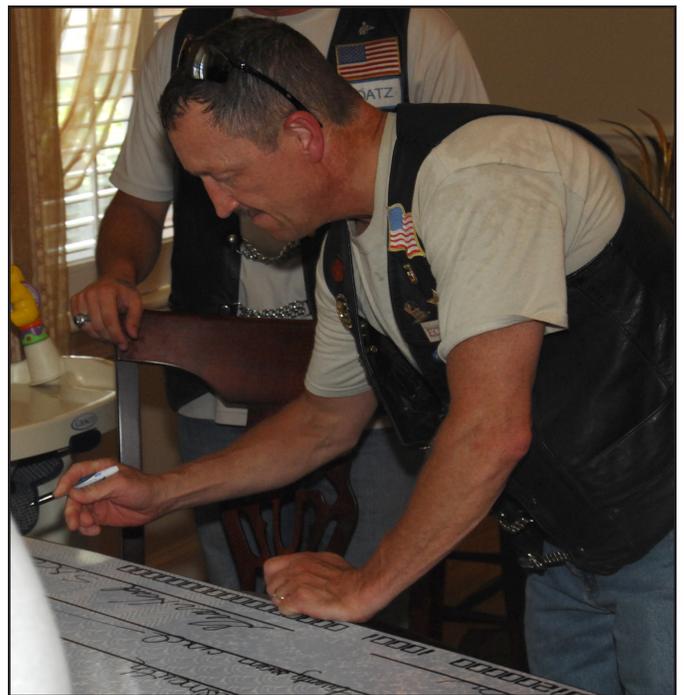
activities, including soliciting donations from local businesses and from their annual Fisher House Poker Run and auction held the first Saturday in May. The poker run is an organized event where participants, usually using motorcycles, snowmobiles, boats or horses, visit five to seven checkpoints and draw a playing card at each one. The object is to have the best poker hand at the end of the run.

"This is a family we have chosen to be a part of," said Kaye Fryery-Lyytinen, a Salty Dawgs member. "We try to make the people here feel at home even though they are far from home. We interact with families of our injured service members to help them."

In fact, the need for the Fisher House at NMCP is so great, that this year, NMCP was approved for a second house. The additional house is in the design phase and will be built next to the existing Fisher House, with a completion date in a few years.

The Salty Dawgs motorcycle riding club of Virginia is a family-oriented Navy Veterans motorcycle riding club, composed of active-duty, retired and honorably separated men and women who have at least a few things in common: family, camaraderie, service to the country and a passion for riding motorcycles.

Fisher House Foundation donates comfort homes built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to stay free of charge to support their service member or loved one when hospitalized for an unexpected illness, disease or injury.



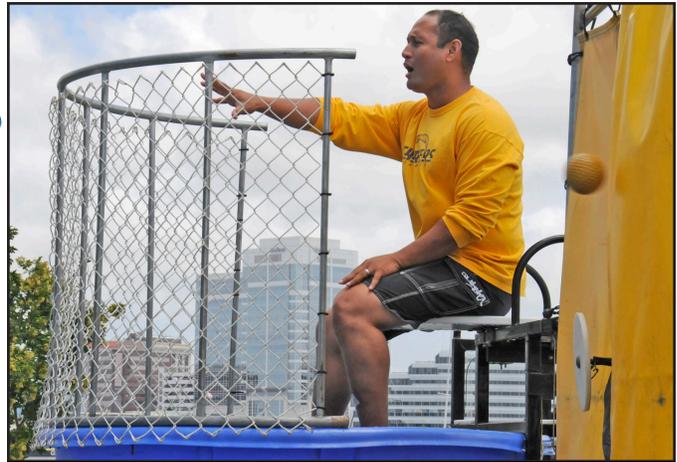
**Salty Dawgs President and Command Master Chief for VAW 120, Patrick "Gearhead" Holden, signs the big check before the presentation to Naval Medical Center Portsmouth's Fisher house on June 29.**

# CORPSMAN BALL DUNK TANK FUNDRAISER

June 14 was a soaking good time. There were many who paid \$5 for three chances to dunk the leaders, raising approximately \$400 for the Corpsman Ball Fund.



HM3 Jereldarvey David makes an attempt to dunk HMC Fealofani Peau.



HMC Fealofani Peau heckles the crowd, confident no one will dunk him. He was wrong — he was dunked several times.



Above: HMC M Christopher Cain is dunked after HM1 Duane Paquette pushes the trigger with his hand.



HM1 Sajata Taylor after getting dunked.



Right: HM2 Latoya Small braces for the dunk as the ball heads for the trigger.

# NMCP's 88th Navy Graduate Medical Education Program Graduates 88

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MC2 (SW) ANNA ARNDT  
NMCP Public Affairs

The Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Intern Class of 2011-2012 graduated 88 interns from their first year of post-graduate training on June 29. During the 88th consecutive year of the Graduate Medical Education program at NMCP, the program graduated one of its largest classes of interns, and they are now fully licensable physicians eligible to serve the fleet around the world.



**The graduating interns listen to guest speaker Rear Adm. Colin Chinn, Chief, Navy Medical Corps.**

The ceremony opened with an introduction by Capt. James Hancock, acting commander.

"This is a great day," Hancock said. "You all have been the top one percent of everything you have done in your lives, whether it's high school, whether it's college, or whether it's being here at Portsmouth, because at Portsmouth you are looking at the 'First and Finest.' Half of you graduating today will be out in the fleet tomorrow; the other half is going into training to further your education. You will take care of our wounded warriors who come back, and there's nothing more important than that."

Family members listened as the guest speaker, Rear Adm. Colin Chinn, Chief, Navy Medical Corps, praised the class for their achievements and offered a few words of wisdom.

"It truly is an honor to be here as your guest speaker to help celebrate this very special day for the intern class of 2012," said Chinn. "I don't know when the dream started to become a physician. It could have started when you were very young, it could have started in high school, but to get to this point, you have had to endure a lot."

"Four years of undergraduate college, four very grueling years at medical school, now this very difficult year they just completed in internship," Chinn said. "You're about at the midpoint in the journey

of becoming a physician – it's not over yet. You still have to complete your residency training. For some of you, fellowship training. And then there's the board certification exam. So you're about halfway through the journey, but today is a significant point in that journey."

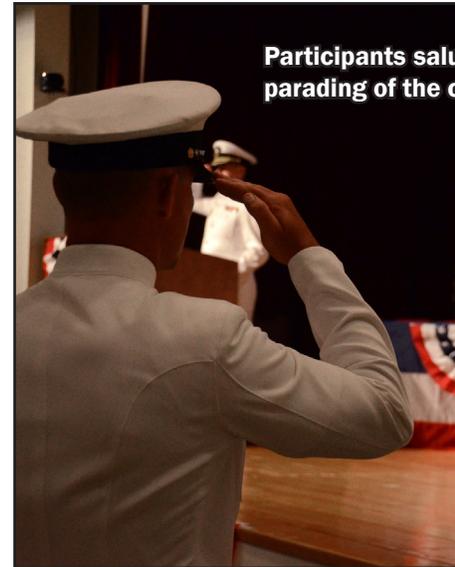
Chinn then asked family members to rise to be acknowledged.

"The spouses, the children, the parents, the grandparents, the siblings, the aunts and uncles – your love and support during the many years of study and training of your loved ones has been essential for this day to occur," Chinn said. "On behalf of the Navy and the medical community, I thank you."

Chinn then asked the teaching staff to rise.

"Likewise, another group that has been vital to the current and future success of our graduating interns is the teaching faculty here at NMCP," Chinn said. "Every year, you train, mentor and produce outstanding junior physicians and naval officers for the fleet, the Marine Corps and naval medical treatment facilities throughout the world. You are the reason the graduates of our Graduate Medical Education programs lead the nation in board certification examination pass rates and why our GME programs receive the highest levels of GME accreditation."

"Your reputation for clinical, academic and research excellence is the reason we are able to recruit the best students from the top tier



Participants salute during the parade of the...



**Guest speaker Rear Adm. Colin Chinn, Chief, Navy Medical Corps, addresses the interns during their graduation.**



ate during the  
colors.

of the graduate colleges and universities throughout the nation to join the military as medical student staff,” Chinn continued. “So Bravo Zulu to all of you.”

The graduates consisted of Navy, Air Force and civilian interns.

“I also want to recognize members of the U.S. Air Force who are present today as members of the graduating class, and who are also present in the audience,” said Chinn. “After 11 years of war, all four services have learned to work together in a combat theater and have collectively made

record-breaking advancements in combat casualty care and patient movement. So what you are seeing today is a new commitment to bring that spirit of cooperation and collaboration between the Navy and the Air Force that was forged overseas at war, to our training programs here in the United States.”

“Congratulations on completing one of the most difficult, time-consuming and stressful years of your professional career,” Chinn added. “However, with the passage of time, I am confident that the hard times you experienced this past year will fade from your memories and, in the future, you will be able to recall with great fondness the long lasting friendships you have developed with your fellow classmates, the residents and the staff.”

Over the past year, interns worked about 80 hours a week, starting the morning preparing for and then completing rounds, and then their day is either a clinic or operating-room day. The workday is finished after re-rounding the floor patients preparing for the next day’s patients.

“The most important things I learned are how to manage patient care of both inpatients and outpatients in a variety of venues and specialties,” said Lt. Erin Spadaro, whose specialty is Otolaryngology and will be assigned as a general medical officer with Maritime Expeditionary Security Group 2 in Portsmouth. “I also learned how to truly accept and take on the role of physician, to make sound medical decisions and to be my patient’s advocate.”

Some graduates will begin residencies and continue their training at NMCP, while others will go to commands such as Undersea Medicine in Groton, Conn., Flight Surgery in Pensacola, Fla., and Marine Units in Camp Pendleton, Calif.



Guest speaker, Rear Adm. Colin Chinn, is presented with a photo of the graduating class by Lt. Timothy Dockman, the associate senior intern.



Capt. James Hancock, acting commander, gives the welcoming remarks at the intern graduation ceremony in the auditorium.

# NMCP Welcomes New Intern Class, Their Spouses



Photo by MC2 (SW) Anna Arndt

**Above: Capt. James Hancock, acting NMCP commander, welcomes the 80 members of Intern Class of 2013 on June 12.**

**Right: Rear Adm. Elaine C. Wagner, NMCP commander, along with her husband, Greg, addresses the spouses of the Intern class of 2013 during the spouse orientation June 15.**

**Wagner explained the importance of connecting with others, as well as encouraging them to get involved with programs to learn what the military can do for them and their families.**



Photo by SN Nina Howard



**The class photo for the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Intern Class of 2012-2013 on the front Steps of Bldg. 1.**

Photo by Daniel Benton

# Force Master Chief Port Visits Wounded Warriors

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SN NINA HOWARD  
NMCP Public Affairs

Force Master Chief (AW/SW/NAC) Jon D. Port, Navy Personnel Command, expressed his gratitude to the hard working service members during his visit with the Wounded Warrior Battalion East-Detachment Portsmouth on June 29. This was Port's first time visiting the wounded warriors at NMCP, as well as his first time in the area since assuming the duties of Force Master Chief in May 2010.

Port chose to visit wounded service members in Portsmouth, noting that because Norfolk is a major fleet concentration area, service members across the river may not always be thought of for visits.

"I want to focus my attention to all the small outlying areas where there is pocket of Sailors who may never get attention," Port said. "It felt right to set aside the morning to come over here to see these true patriots."

During his tour of the Patriots' Inn, he shook hands and recognized the service members' dedication to duty with praises of appreciation and gave many of them.

"I'm inspired by them," said Port. "They are heroes to me."



**FORCM (AW/SW/NAC) Jon Port, Navy Personnel Command, slips HM3 Darrell Butler a coin during his visit with the Sailors from the Navy Fleet Liaison office and Marines of the Wounded Warrior Battalion East-Detachment Portsmouth.**



**FORCM (AW/SW/NAC) Jon Port, Navy Personnel Command, chats with HM2 Ryan Yohn, Navy Fleet Liaison leading petty officer, during his visit to NMCP.**



**FORCM (AW/SW/NAC) Jon Port chats with Marines of the Wounded Warrior Battalion East-Detachment Portsmouth during his visit to NMCP.**

Tickets can be purchased at the Quarterdeck from HM1 Beltre or during NMCP Command MWR food sales and events.

**OTHER TICKET SELLERS**

- HM1 Ricardo Beal 847-848-3025
- HM1 Brigitte Coates 953-5705
- HM2 Antoinette Saunders 953-5492
- HM2 Cleora Copeland 953-9249
- HM2 Asia Robinson 953-1433

## Command Picnic 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

**Adults: \$6**  
**Children 4 – 12: \$4**  
**Children under 4: Free**

MWR will provide food, music, pie in the face and dunk tank. The FCPOA will provide the Kids Corner.

**THE MENU**

Pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers (buns and condiments included). Assorted chips, chopped cole slaw and baked beans. Drinks are bottled water and canned sodas.

# Magicians Brighten NMCP Pediatrics Patients' Day

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MC2 (SW) ANNA ARNDT  
NMCP Public Affairs

Four members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians visited Naval Medical Center Portsmouth's Pediatrics Ward to put on a magic show for the patients and their families July 3.

Two of the magicians were from Virginia and two came from Canada to perform for the children while in Norfolk for the International Brotherhood of Magicians annual conference. They performed card and coin tricks, the never-ending handkerchief and many other sleight-of-hand tricks that kept the audience enthralled.

"Every year, we try to go to a children's hospital or a hospital with a children's ward and do a quick show for the kids, to take away some of the normal hospital routine," said Scott Hood, one of the Canadian magicians and the I.B.M. director of Hospital Shows. "It takes their mind off what they're going through. It's something different; they get a bit of a laugh, a bit of a giggle. They get to see something they may have not seen before or may have only seen on television. And we have fun doing it!"

"I love doing magic," said Joan Caesar, the other Canadian. "I especially love doing magic for children, and this was perfect – to perform for kids who are in the hospital and maybe need a little smile on their face."

Eight children as well as their parents attended the show, with each magician performing for approximately 10 minutes.



**Army Staff Sgt. Ezekiel Jump, a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, performs a trick for Amanda Sweeten, 9, during a performance in the pediatric ward.**

"I can't imagine what it's like to be a kid stuck in the hospital, especially around the 4th of July," said Army Staff Sgt. Ezekiel Jump, one of the local I.B.M. members. "I hope it brings joy to their lives. Some of them were shy when they first came in but by the end their eyes were big and they were smiling, and that's why I do magic – for that look."



**Scott Hood, Director of Hospital Shows for the International Brotherhood of Magicians, signs Brandon Grier's cast after the show.**

The parents of the patients seemed to enjoy the show as much as their children.

"We had a great time," said Tara Sweeten, whose daughter is a patient. "I think it was such a blessing to all the kids, especially to my daughter, who is not in the hospital very often. We didn't expect anything like this, and it really cheered her up, so we really appreciate it."

"I really enjoyed all the magicians coming here and giving the kids a show," said Mischelle Ducusin, mother of six-year-old patient Mikaella. "My daughter had a lot of fun, and it just made her day."

For Jump and Michael Heckenberger, the other local magician, magic is a passion they have cultivated for many years.

Jump's interest in magic began when he was 12 years old and his parents bought him a magic kit, and his interest grew when he moved to Branson, Mo., where he worked in a magic shop and performed regularly.

"The more I learn, the more I want to learn," Jump said. "I love this art with a passion. There is nothing more satisfying than watching the moment the spectator realized that what you just did is not possible. That face, the pure moment of astonishment, is something that fuels me."

Jump's day job is as a doctrine writer in the Individual Training Division of the Directorate of Training and Doctrine for the U.S. Army School of Music, stationed at Joint Expeditionary Base-Little Creek. He also performs magic tricks on the boardwalk in Virginia Beach, part of BeachStreetUSA, when he has time in the summer. After the military, he would like to own his own magic shop or magic-themed restaurant.

Heckenberger, who retired as a major after a career in the Air Force as a B-52 navigator, became interested in magic as a teenager

— See **MAGIC**, next page



**Army Staff Sgt. Ezekiel Jump, a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, performs for patients in the Pediatric Ward on July 3.**

**MAGIC** — *Continued from previous page*

when he started learning card tricks. His interest waned a little when he joined the Air Force, but after he had children and met another magician at one of his duty stations, he got back into it.

“I love doing stuff like this,” said Heckenberger, “I love the kids, I like entertaining people, and I like making them feel better. I know it’s a tough world we live in. I especially like coming out here for the military children. I know it’s tough being raised in the military, with all the moves and making new friends, especially if you’re not feeling well and especially around the holidays. It gives them something to look forward to – some entertainment.”

He is president of Assembly 226 (Williamsburg, Va.) of the Society of American Magicians and is also a member of Ring 103 of the I.B.M.

He has performed for several children’s birthday parties, at magic club meetings, at office picnics and Christmas parties, and three times a year at his church during the Children’s Sermon Ministry.

Like, Jump, Heckenberger’s favorite aspect of performing is the look on the audiences’ faces.

“I think it helps get their minds off what going on here,” Heckenberger said. “Magic is an escape from reality, a chance to believe in something special. It’s the ultimate escape for me.”

“I sure hope I can come out again,” Jump added. “I’m a Soldier, and it’s nice to be able to come out to a naval hospital and perform for military children.”

About 1,500 members of the I.B.M. came to Norfolk for the five-day conference. The organization has been in existence for 90 years and has thousands of members from 88 different countries. There are about 300 branches, known as Rings, all over the world.

**Right: Pediatric patient Mikaella Ducusin, 6, helps magician Joan Caesar perform a trick during the magicians’ visit.**



**Left: Mikaella Ducusin, 6, and magician Joan Caesar don clown noses following the magicians’ performance for pediatric patients July 3.**

**Below: Magician Michael Heckenberger performs a magic trick for the Pediatric patients July 3.**



# Diabetes Marathon Helps Kids Connect the Dots

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MC2 (SW) ANNA ARNDT  
NMCP Public Affairs

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth helped 21 pediatric diabetic patients “Connect the Dots” at the 7th annual Diabetes Marathon on July 17. The event brought school-aged kids together to obtain their updated Diabetes Medical Management Plan and gave the kids a chance to learn more about their disease in a fun environment.

“It’s called the Diabetes Marathon because when you’re running a marathon, you have to have endurance and perseverance and just keep going and going, like with diabetes management,” said Linda Gottlick, Pediatric Endocrinology Clinic certified diabetes educator. “These kids have to do it every single day, every single meal. We ask them to look at their blood sugar and identify the trends and make adjustments in their medications or their meal planning or their exercise – these are the three main things that affect their blood sugar and then evaluate that and then do it all over again, it never ends.”

Dealing with a chronic illness is difficult for adults, and even more so for children. NMCP schedules the marathon in the middle of summer so kids can attend during the day and learn coping strategies for when they are back in school. They also learn how to deal with peer pressure, and how to fit in with their classmates while having to manage their blood-sugar levels. Marathoners ranged from toddler to teenager.

Each pediatric diabetic patient received a passport when they



**During the Back-to-School Diabetes Marathon, pediatric diabetic patients took the “connect bus” to different stations, where they received information about TRICARE, the Exceptional Family Member Program, Population Health and the pharmacy.**



**Lt. Col. Kirk Jensen from the Pediatrics Endocrinology Department acts out a scene showing what not to do when counting carbohydrates during the Back-to-School Diabetes Marathon on July 17.**

checked in for the marathon; they hopped on the “connect” bus and took a trip to “dot stops” which were tables containing information about TRICARE, the Exceptional Family Member Program, Population Health and the pharmacy. They had a hole punched in their passport at each table.

The final stop was the “Mayor’s Mansion,” where they were given their updated Diabetes Medical Management Plan, which is a document stating their own personal diabetes plan including information on checking blood glucose and administering insulin and is required for school.

The children also played games with diabetes management scenarios. Twister was modified so each color stood for hyperglycemia, hypoglycemia, insulin or glucose and the children were asked diabetes trivia questions, with those words as the answers.

For the matching game, Lt. Col. Kirk Jensen, a staff endocrinologist, came out dressed in pajamas and helped himself to a heaping bowl of cereal as his mother, played by Gottlick, asked him if he has checked his blood sugar. The children were given a chance to say what Jensen was doing wrong in the scenario, like pouring too big of a bowl of cereal, not measuring the carbohydrates and not giving himself insulin.

“Breakfast is an especially difficult meal for kids,” Gottlick said. “You give insulin based on how many carbohydrates you eat and if you don’t measure your cereal, you might not give yourself the right amount of insulin. Cereal really makes your blood sugar go up really fast.”

Gottlick showed the kids what tools to use to accurately determine the amount of insulin they need. She put out a variety of measuring cups, a calculator and a clock, and then asked the children to share tips on what they do to make the process easier.

— See DOTS, next page



**One of the stops is a game of Twister, which teaches pediatric diabetic patients information about hypoglycemia, hyperglycemia, insulin and glucose.**

**DOTS** — *Continued from previous page*

“We think this is important because some of the kids may have never met another diabetic,” said Gottlick. “For most of

them that’s not the case, but we think it’s really important that they meet other kids with diabetes so they know they’re not the only kid going through this, and they really learn a lot from other people who are going through the same thing. We may teach them the physiology and about how insulin works, but they’re the ones who really get to know how their own body reacts to all these different factors.”

While the children were going to the “dot stops,” their parents were able to chat with each other and talk to the representatives from each table.

“I think it’s a wonderful support group for children with diabetes,” said Kim Fisher, whose child is diabetic. “It lets them know that they are not alone, there are other children just like them and they have a great support system with all the doctors, the teachers, the diabetes educator, along with the podiatrists and nutritionists that help them. The best part is having other children around and seeing that there’s a place they can come and get help and feel great about how they manage their diabetes.”

“It was very informative,” said Deja Fisher, a 13 year-old member of the “polka dot patrol” who was diagnosed in 2006. “It’s fun to meet other people who also have diabetes.”

## Staff Member Published in ‘Nature’ Magazine

STORY AND PHOTO BY MC1 (SW/AW) STEVEN J. WEBER  
NMCP Public Affairs

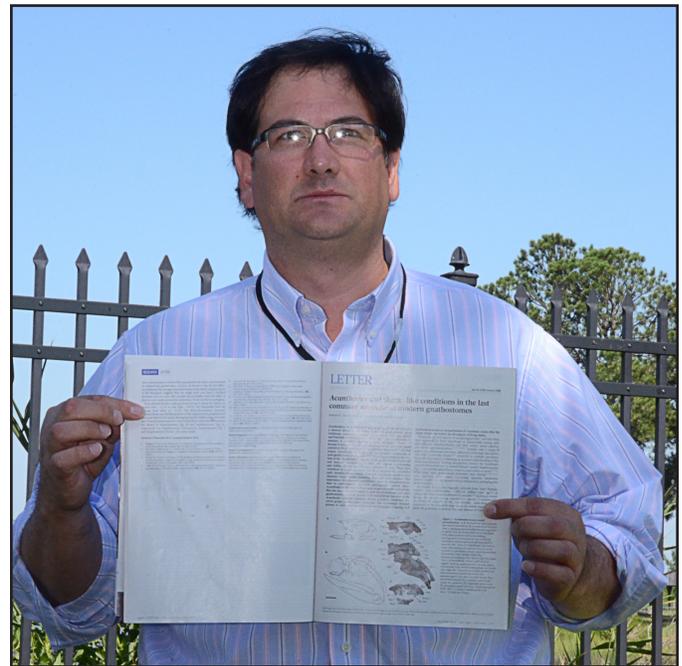
Samuel Davis, research grants manager for the Clinical Investigations and Research Department at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, was published in the June 14 edition of the journal “Nature.”

The article, “Acanthodes and shark-like conditions in the last common ancestor of modern gnathostomes,” was based partly on Davis’ doctoral thesis at University College London where he attained his Ph.D. in palaeo-ichthyology and systematics. Acanthodes, meaning spiny base or thorny base, is an extinct genus of spiny fishes.

Davis studied the braincase of the *Acanthodes bronni* to help elucidate the relationships between acanthodians, sharks and bony fishes. Gnathostomes represents jawed animals with backbones which include acanthodians and humans. This textbook-changing research even has some people pondering their own evolutionary connection with sharks.

“I remember this moment clearly,” Davis said. “After extracting a single-piece of silicone peel of the endocranium of Acanthodes (a milestone in itself) in my lab at UCL, I discovered that there were whole sections of the internal skull of Acanthodes that were unlike any of the published accounts,

many of which go back over a century, of this iconic spiny fish using the same exact fossil specimen. I felt my discovery was groundbreaking, and with further analyses, would challenge long-held theories of primitive jawed-vertebrate relationships. So where better to announce anything groundbreaking in science than the top journal Nature,” said Davis.



**Samuel Davis, research grants manager for the Clinical Investigations and Research Department, shows off a copy of his published article in the journal, “Nature.”**



Photo by MC2 (SW) Anna Arndt

## CSADD Offers Information for Fun, Safe Events

Members of the Coalition for Sailors Against Destructive Decisions at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth set up a table near the Navy Exchange on June 22 to remind staff what activities were going on locally over the weekend.

CSADD is a peer-to-peer mentoring group targeted toward junior officers and enlisted age 25 and below. Their goal is to bring problems in the command to light and to provide support to shipmates. This benefits Sailors by addressing their issues and getting them the resources they need without putting a spotlight on them.

### VACCINE — *Continued from page 1*

the (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), because, as health care providers we come into contact with our most high-risk patients, and it is known that we can, as health care providers, transmit influenza to our patients. So the best protection is vaccination to prevent us from inadvertently giving our patients influenza.”

The pandemic vaccination exercise ran from mid-August to Oct. 1, 2011, in preparation for flu season, which is Oct. 1 to May 1 each year. The CNO-mandated exercise helps identify how to best vaccinate a lot of people in a short amount of time.

In an actual pandemic, vaccinating thousands of people quickly would outpace the medical resources available, including the number of doctors, nurses and corpsmen who would have to be diverted from patient care, as well as ensuring there were enough doses of vaccine available. Some non-medical staff members were trained to administer the vaccine to augment the medical teams and large batches of the vaccine were shipped to the medical center.

“We had (staff get organized into) Vaccination Strike Teams; we had four teams for the region, and each team had 20 people on it,” said Kraft. “We actually ran a team during the day and a team at night and the hospital staff trickled down (to get vaccinated) in between their patients. We had a wait time of less than two minutes. People were able to come in, get their shot done, get it documented and get out of there fast.”

NMCP tracks staff vaccinations all year and works diligently to maintain this 99.6 percent vaccination rate.

“The CDC defines a health care worker as anyone who has the possibility of coming within six feet of a patient,” Kraft said. “That means almost everyone who works here is required to get vaccinated. Our patients deserve to have that level of comfort that we’re doing everything to protect them and their health. And we protect them first by making sure we don’t pass them a disease.”

The Flu Vaccination Challenge was launched in September 2008 as a result of low health-care-worker vaccination rates.

“A few years ago, the national average for hospitals was 40 percent of health care workers vaccinated,” Kraft said. “It is quite an achievement that we’ve moved from 40 to 60 to 80 to 90, and now above 90 (percent) – which is the CNO’s mandate – and above 95 is Joint Commission’s mandate. We’re at 99.6 percent, and that speaks to the commitment of our health care workers and everybody on the team, knowing it is important to protect our patients first.

“I’m so impressed with NMCP and the dedication of our health care workers,” Kraft added. “It is definitely a testament to the dedicated staff who works here. It’s only by their commitment and their participation that we were able to achieve this goal.”

Joint Commission Resources is a not-for-profit affiliate of The Joint Commission and an expert resource for health care organizations, providing consulting services, educational services and publications to assist in improving quality and safety and to help in meeting the accreditation standards of The Joint Commission.

# Girl Scout Donates Backpacks, Posters to Wounded Warriors

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MC2 (SW) ANNA ARNDT  
NMCP Public Affairs

Independent Girl Scout Caitlyn Guthrie and her friend, Mishay Harris, both 11, donated 25 backpacks full of toiletries, snacks and other items to the Marines of the Wounded Warrior Battalion-East Detachment at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth June 13.

They also presented 14 posters they painted, with the help of Guthrie's mom, Lt. Col. Christina Schweiss of the Joint Forces Staff College, and another friend, Hannah Marin. The posters will hang on the walls of the Patriots' Inn.

The girls received a certificate of appreciation for their donation, which was presented by Capt. James Hancock, acting commander, and Maj. Steve Miller, Marine Corps Liaison officer in charge.

Guthrie came up with the idea with the help of her mother, and they collected the items from Schweiss' co-workers, their neighbors and other local Girl Scout troops.

"I was trying to think of something to do, and my mom said 'you really like art; why don't you try to do something for the wounded warriors,'" said Guthrie. "I thought it was a really cool idea. Then I said we can bring backpacks to them and put everything they need in them."



Caitlyn Guthrie, an 11-year-old independent Girl Scout, left, and her friend, Mishay Harris, with the Marines of the Wounded Warrior Battalion-East Detachment Portsmouth after they donated 25 backpacks full of toiletries, snacks and other items.

Her decision to donate to wounded warriors comes from her ties to the military.

"I'm really proud that my mom is in the Army, and I'm really proud I'm in a military family," said Guthrie. "I just really wanted to do something to help."

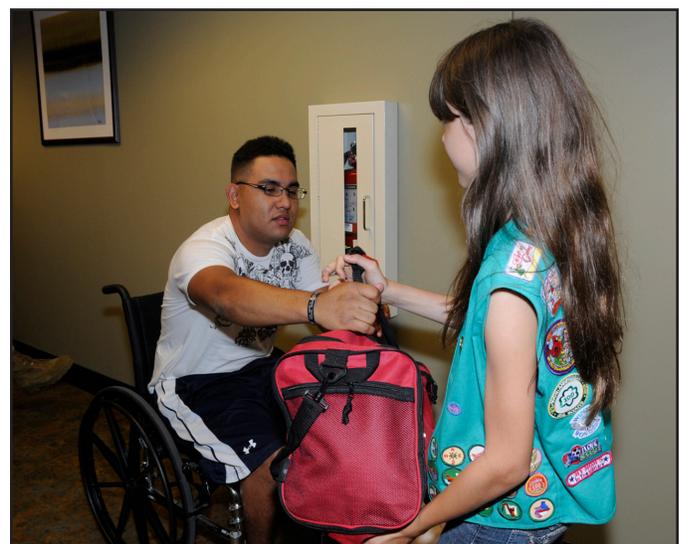
"She's so much more empathic than most kids her age," said Schweiss. "The first time she came up here with cookies, she met a couple of the guys and started crying. She is really is a humanitarian in the making."

The wounded warriors who received the paintings and bags said they appreciated the support.

"It felt really good that there are still people out there that will come out and show their appreciation for everything that we do," said Cpl. Ryan Garza, a Marine attached to the Wounded Warrior Battalion. "It was very sweet of them, and I know everybody who got the bags today and everybody that's going to be coming in who's wounded. We all appreciate it, and we thank her very much."



One of the 14 paintings Caitlyn Guthrie and Mishay Harris made to donate to the wounded warriors. The paintings will hang on the walls of the Wounded Warrior Patriots' Inn.



Caitlyn Guthrie hands a Marine one of 25 backpacks she donated to the detachment.

## Civilian in the Spotlight

**Juanita Maria Blackmon**

**Hometown:** Pine River, Minn.

**Years of Service:** 5 years at NMCP, 8 years active duty

**Job:** Faculty and Residents executive assistant

**What do you like most about your job?** I love coming to work knowing that I'm part of something greater. Being part of a wonderful team/family brings me great satisfaction, and I'm proud to be part that. Most importantly, I enjoy being a helper.

**What do you do in your off duty time/hobbies?** I love spending time with my family by watching movies and playing family games. I also love to read and do outdoor activities.

**Favorite movie:** My Fair Lady

**Favorite food:** Lasagna

**Why was she nominated as Civilian in the Spotlight?** "Ms Blackmon not only performs her normal duties exceptionally well, she also took on the duties of the residency coordinator for Emergency Medicine, becoming the executive administrative assistant to all 28 emergency medicine residents," said Cmdr. Mike Juliano, department chair for Emergency Medicine. "She maintains the training files for the residents and is the primary point of contact for all rotating medical students and interns the department. NMCP emergency department hosts, on average, four medical students and six interns per month. This entails multiple levels of communication and coordination, particularly with scheduling issues. She also took on the duties of the executive assistant to the Emergency Medicine senior medical officer and Fast Track directors, effectively doing three full time jobs herself."



Photo by Red Cross volunteer Jaynie Yoon

## Sailor in the Spotlight

**HN Robert Roberson**

**Hometown:** Miami

**Years of Naval Service:** 1 1/2 (1 year at NMCP)

**Job:** General duty corpsman, Gastroenterology Clinic

**What do you like most about your job?** Making patients smile, doing my best to make things happen and having a sense of accomplishment at the end of the day.

**What do you do in your off duty time/hobbies?** Write poetry, watch movies and play sports

**Favorite movie:** Finding Nemo

**Favorite food:** Chicken Parmesan

**Anything else interesting about yourself that you would like to tell us?** Big University of Miami fan; performed open mic night poetry in college; love going to art galleries.

**Why was he nominated as Sailor in the Spotlight?** "He was the first corpsman to obtain his GI Tech certification," said Chief Hospital Corpsman Rebecca Estridge, Gastroenterology Clinic leading chief petty officer. "He has an excellent bedside manner and is a true team player. He loves his patients, co-workers and is proud to serve in the world's finest Navy."



Photo by Rebecca A. Perron

# JULY AWARDS

## DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Lt. Peter Cole

## MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Capt. Timothy Clenney  
 Capt. Thomas Craig  
 Capt. Rick Freedman  
 Cmdr. Melissa Ferrin  
 Capt. Dexter Hardy  
 Capt. Kevin Kennedy  
 Cmdr. Judith Walker

## NAVY & MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL

Capt. Philbrook Mason  
 Cmdr. Jared Antevil  
 Cmdr. Michael King  
 Cmdr. Deborah Kumaroo  
 Lt. Cmdr. Rebecca Fay  
 Lt. Cmdr. Gregory Koontz  
 Lt. Robert Bartholomew  
 Lt. Margaret Bush  
 Lt. Elizabeth Corales  
 Lt. Vanessa Dunn  
 Lt. Timothy Hall  
 Lt. Jesse Schmidt

Lt. j.g. Sheree Blackwell  
 CSC (SW) Alvaro Mazuera  
 HM1 (SW) Valarie Boyd  
 HM1 (SW) Sean Buckley  
 HM1 (FMF) David Cousar  
 HM1 (SW/AW) Lucretia Organ

## NAVY & MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Lt. Eric Bischoff  
 Lt. Daniel Bowers  
 Lt. Gretchen Coady  
 Lt. j.g. James Jeff  
 Lt. j.g. Keith West  
 HM1 (SW) Elizabeth Malone  
 HM2 (EXW) Cheung Chung  
 HM2 (EXW) Mercedes George  
 FT2 (SS) Jason Jones  
 HM2 (SW/AW) Martha Madrigal  
 HM2 (SW) Lakesha McLeod  
 HM2 Vanessa Shaw  
 CS3 (SW) Daniel Hammerstone

## NAVY MERITORIOUS CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

Kari Jackson

## Command Logo Mural Updated at BHC Oceana

Branch Health Clinic Oceana command logo was repainted recently by Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Steve Gallan, who spent his personal time after work to complete the mural.

The completed logo was unveiled in June and Gallan was awarded a letter of appreciation by the officer in charge of the clinic.

In the LOA, Gallan was given "sincere appreciation for your superior performance in replacing Naval Air Station Oceana's command logo mural. By devoting your personal time, the physical beauty of the clinic has enhanced immensely. The clinic staff greatly appreciates your hard work and consideration in replacing the mural."

**AT2 Steve Gallan stands next to the mural after its unveiling at Branch Health Clinic Oceana.**



Photo by MC2 Nikki Smith

# SHIPMATE OF THE MONTH



Photo by MC1 (SW/AW) Steven J. Weber

OS2 DIONNE LAMB, DQM  
HN BRYCE BOOTH, DPHS  
HM2 MARCOS RIDGEWELL, DPC  
HN MATTHEW SMITH, DNS  
HM3 THEO DELOREY, DPE  
HN JUNE MONTFALCON, DSS

HN ALYSSA VALIMENTO, DCSS  
HN CLARENCE LUNDIN, DMH  
HN ROBERT ROBERSON, DMS  
SN AUSTIN TURNER, DFA

## Red Cross Welcomes Teens to Summer of Volunteering

The volunteers assembled June 20 on the front steps of Bldg. 1 for a group photo at the beginning of the annual summer program.

The American Red Cross Volunteer Program began with the group completing orientation June 20, and each of the 34 teens, age 14 to 17, began volunteering June 25 at clinics and offices throughout NMCP.

They will each be here a minimum of four hours a week during the two-month program. Most will experience a clinical setting firsthand and can use the experience to help decide if they want to pursue a medical career.



Photo by MC1 (SW/AW) Steven J. Weber