The Emblem

Vol. 49, No. 17 | Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga. (Web site: *www.ala.usmc.mil*) | May 4, 2006

Weather

Friday
Isolated T-Storms
88/64

Saturday
Scattered T-storms
80/58

Sunday
Isolated T-storms
78/58

Force Protection level

MCLB Albany is currently at FP Level - A. An increased or more predictable threat of terrorist activity exists.

MCLB Update

Clinic closing

Naval Branch Health Clinic Albany will be closed for a command function May 12 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.; this also includes the Pharmacy. In the event of an emergency, contact the duty at 395-5619.

Golf tourney set

Marine Corps Logistics Command is holding an Inaugural Golf Tournament May 24 at the Flint River Golf Course. The event will be a two-man scramble with a shotgun start at 11 a.m. The event costs $40 per person and lunch is provided. To sign up, call Monty Clark at 639-5019 or see Roy at the golf course.

Buddy fishing tourney

MCLB Albany is hosting a Buddy Fishing Tournament June 3 at Covella Pond. Registration starts at 7 a.m. Fishing begins at 8 a.m. Tournament is for children 15 and younger. For more information call Eddie Parramore at 639-6261.

Mother/Daughter Banquet

The Base Chapel is hosting a Mother/Daughter Banquet May 13 from 4-6:30 p.m. Bring your favorite ethnic dish. R.S.V.P. by 4 p.m. Wednesday by calling 639-5283.

Lap swim

The MCLB Base Swimming Pool is now open for lap swim for active-duty military only from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday - Friday. The pool will begin normal hours at the end of May. For more information call Dan Daniels at 639-5246.

Tricare information

The after hours/holidays Tricare Prime beneficiaries service line is 800-444-5445 to get authorization for emergency or urgent care. All active-duty members seen in the emergency room or urgent care center are required to report immediately to Military Sick Call at the Branch Medical Clinic for follow-up. After hours, report the next business day.

Commissary offers great savings

Individuals who shop at the MCLB Commissary save 30% on groceries.

New medical record system installed

Pat Fisher
Emblem Staff

Medical records for military members are moving quickly into the computer age, and that means paper medical records may soon be a thing of the past.

A new automated medical information system for the Department of Defense is now in place at more than 700 DoD hospitals and clinics worldwide, including here at Albany.

The electronic medical record network is called the Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application, according to DoD health care officials. The system, formerly known as the Composite Health Care System, has been under development since 1998 and has not yet been implemented at all DoD installations.

The name change was announced in a recent ceremony at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., attended by Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt and Assistant Defense Secretary for Health Affairs Dr. William Winkenwerder who stated, This new health care information system called AHLTA is a major accomplishment in military medicine.

Pat Fisher

Petty Officer 3rd Class Oziea Wallace, Naval Branch Health Clinic, enters patient information into the AHLTA data base. AHLTA is designed to make a patient's medical information available to military medical facilities worldwide.

According to Lt. Cmdr. Cynthia Granby, officer-in-charge, Naval Branch Health Clinic, Under the system, all medical history information on a military member - including medications, radiology, lab results, diseases and treatments - is entered into a database.

DoD health care officials say AHLTA will eventually hold the health records of more than 9 million military personnel, family members and retirees and will be one of the largest and most advanced health information technology systems in the world.

Winkenwerder added that one of AHLTA s distinctive features is its support for structured notes on a patients condition and treatments. When a doctor or nurse enters notes in a medical record, they are presented with options and can avoid typing much of the information.

Defense officials are now incorporating the system into combat support hospitals and clinics to further clarify and capture the injury and treatment record accurately throughout a patients medical evacuation from the battlefield back to the medical center in the United States. AHLTA is also accessible from a laptop used in the Iraqi desert to a large military medical facility, with its contents available to military medical personnel worldwide.

Also, military beneficiaries who relocate or get treatment outside their normal health facility will have their medical records virtually follow them to any other military medical facility that uses AHLTA.

Once fully in place, this secure electronic medical record network will be of particular benefit to military members who permanently change duty stations.

For now, military members will still have to take their paper medical records with them when they transfer, but even that may soon become a thing of the past.

Pat Fisher

Chambering rounds...

Members of the Ambassador Committee of the Albany Chamber of Commerce engage in simulated weapons training at the Individual Simulated Marksmanship Training - Enhanced center. The visit included a maintenance center tour and a base tour focused on MCLB's logistics and training support capabilities. "This was an excellent opportunity for the base to showcase its depth in both support to its tenant's missions and Marine training," said Col. John P. Lopez, MCLB commanding officer.

Parade honors military children

Michelle Stewart
Emblem Staff

Since 1986, the secretary of defense has designated April as the Month of the Military Child. Some say being a military spouse of a Marine is one of the hardest jobs in the Marine Corps, but the stresses of military life affect a Marines entire family.

The children of Marines must also learn to handle deployments and the constant moving that comes with the responsibility of being a Marine.

The following is part of a letter saluting military children from Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

You are patient and understanding when duty calls and your mom or dad cannot attend a soccer game, music recital, birthday party, or other important family or school activity. You are heroes in a quiet, thoughtful way, and I am grateful for the unconditional love you give your mom and dad. Many of you have experienced the sad and sometimes frightening experience of having your mom or dad far from home, serving around the globe in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. Through your personal courage and support, you serve this nation too and I am proud of you.

At Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, military children were celebrated April 27 with a parade that began at the Child Development Center and ended at Boyett Park. The event provided an opportunity for the bases Children, Youth & Teen Programs to bring awareness to the needs of military children.

Children, CDC staff members, parents and helpers dressed in colorful T-shirts and themed wear along with decorated buggies

See PARADE — Page 3

Michelle Stewart

Dale Land of the Officers' Spouses Club paints faces of the children in attendance at the parade.

Anglers can't get hooked without proper permits

Pat Fisher
Emblem Staff

Great fishing opportunities are plentiful aboard base, but before you cast that worm or artificial lure, you first need to be aware of the base fishing regulations.

A Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany fishing permit is required but the potential angler must first possess a Georgia state fishing license, which costs $9 and can be purchased at most stores that stock fishing gear.

A base fishing permit costs $5 and can be obtained at the game wardens office in Building 5501 weekdays from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. A valid DoD ID card is also required.

Several wetlands on board the base are available to fish including Indian Lake (the largest), the adjacent Horseshoe Pond and Covella Pond located closer to the main gate. Covella Pond opens for anglers after June 3. The pond on the golf course is off limits to fishing at all times.

Boats are allowed on Indian Lake but fishermen can only use oars or electric trolling motors.

Strict limits are enforced on the base and are as follows:

¥ Bass, limit three per day with a 14-inch size minimum

¥ Catfish, limit seven per day with a 10-inch size minimum

¥ Brim, limit 50 per day with no size restriction

¥ Crappie, limit 15 per day with no size minimum

According to the base game warden, Sgt. William Cheers, one of the most popular and productive locations to catch supper is the floating dock on Indian Lake.

The bass are biting on artificial black lizards with red glitter. The catfish will bite on

See FISHING — Page 3

Open House reaches out to retired military community

Pat Fisher
Emblem Staff

Military retirees in the area are invited to the fourth annual Retiree Open House here May 10 — 13.

The event is sponsored by the Retired Activities Office as part of the Marine Corps Community Services on base. It is to recognize the service of our retirees and their families and the role they continue to play on the base and in the community.

Activities planned include several guest speakers, special sales at the Marne Corps Exchange and commissary, a cookout, photographic displays and a luncheon.

The four-day event is a great opportunity for retirees to get together and share common interests as a group. They also thoroughly enjoy the camaraderie, said Carey Snipes, Retired Activities Office coordinator.

The sale opportunities at the exchange and commissary will start on Wednesday and continue through May 13.

The cookout is scheduled for May 13 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the commissary parking lot.

Among the guest speakers at the base theater on the morning of May 12 are Cmdr. Katherine ONeill Tracy of the Military Officers Association, who will speak as a benefits consultant. Alen Marsh, of the education department at the Andersonville National Historic site will speak about the Civil War prison site and its activities and eligibility requirements for burial at the National Cemetery. Following the speakers, a luncheon will take place at the Crossroads Restaurant. Attending the speaking event is free but there will be a charge for the luncheon.

The retired activities office is also constructing a display of photos from area retirees highlighting the diversity of military service and a special memorial display of friends and relatives who died while serving our nation. Anyone wishing to contribute photos should contact Snipes at 639-5277. Photos will be scanned and originals returned to their owner.

Retires attending are permitted to bring guests, however exchange and commissary shopping will be limited to those possessing a valid military ID card.

Save money, use your MCCS Gas Station! Gas prices: Regular - $2.64, Mid-grade - $2.73, Super Unleaded - $2.82. Prices subject to change.

Compassion and anger

Lt. Cmdr. Anthony B. Headrick
Command Chaplain

Is it ever possible to balance compassion and anger? Most of us, I think, would say no. The reason is that when we get angry we arent thinking about being compassionate. We are thinking about the irritation or wrath we feel. It is all about ourselves. It is never about the needs of someone else. This makes our anger too volatile for compassion and most often it is harmful, both to ourselves as well as others.

I like the illustration C.S. Lewis uses about Jesus in his book, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Susan and Lucy are talking with Mr. and Mrs. Beaver about Aslan, a lion who symbolizes Jesus:

Is he quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion, says Lucy.

That you will dearie and make no mistake, said Mrs. Beaver, if theres anyone who can appear before Aslan without his knees knocking, theyre either braver than most or else just silly.

Then he isnt safe? said Lucy.

Safe? said Mr. Beaver. Dont you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? Course he isnt safe. But hes good. Hes the King, I tell you.

This illustrates how Jesus is both gentle and strong, humble and powerful. Jesus embodies for us a tender warrior.

What we see in Jesus is one who never got angry when others hurt him. He shows remarkable humility when others treated him with disrespect. What he does get upset with is hypocrisy and injustice. He was concerned about other peoples welfare. He also got angry with anything that inhibits faith such as when the disciples themselves tried to block the faith of children with Jesus. Paul Miller is quoted as saying, Jesus anger is powerful and yet, always controlled. It never spills out on the innocent bystander.

Jesus anger always does good a man gets a new hand, children get hugged, money changers get ejected and the temple gets quiet.

CHRO News

News you can use from the Civilian Human Resources Office

NSPS update

CHRO-SE
Office of the Director

The initial conversion of 4,300 Department of Navy civilian employees to the National Security Performance System occurred April 30. In this update, the performance management system under NSPS will be covered.

Performance is the accomplishment of work assignments or responsibilities and the contributions to achieving organizational goals, including an employees behavior and professional demeanor as demonstrated by his or her approach to completing work assignments. The Department of Defense recognizes the value and increased importance of performance in making compensation and retention decisions. As a result, many design elements of NSPS promote a culture of high performance where the performance and contributions of the DoD civilian workforce can be more fully recognized and rewarded.

Performance-based pay is the linkage between pay (base salary and/or lump sum bonus) and measures of organizational, team, and/or individual performance. Its success depends on performance planning, measurement and linkages to organizational strategic goals and objectives. The concept of linking an employees compensation directly to the employees job performance and results achieved is a major shift away from the General Schedule construct of longevity or time on the job to determine pay increases.

Under the new performance management design, the primary focus is on the objectives; the what an employee does on the job. The objectives should communicate specific responsibilities and expected contributions with related outcomes and accomplishments; they must be measurable, results-oriented, and aligned with the organizations mission.

Subsequent to rating the what, the how must now be considered. Contributing factors are attributes of job perform-

See CHRO — Page 4

Crossroads Restaurant Menu

Thursday
Sliced Turkey Breast w/gravy
Meatloaf w/gravy
Cornbread Dressing
Peas w/mushrooms
Broccoli Casserole
Butter Corn

Tuesday
Fried Chicken
Sliced Roast Beef w/gravy
Oven Roasted Potatoes
Steamed Rice
Black eyed peas
Green Beans

Wednesday
Homemade Beef Stew
Sliced Pork Loin w/gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Buttered Noodles
Lima Beans w/ham
Okra Gumbo

Friday
Grilled Trout
Chicken Wings
Mashed Potatoes
Cheese Grits
Collard Greens
Chef s Choice Vegetables

Monday
Liver and Onions
Beef Fritter w/gravy
Steamed Rice
Mashed Pototoes

Monday - Thursday: Salad Bar and Hot Lunch prices vary by item • Wednesday: Hot Lunch Buffet with tossed salad, dessert and drink $5.95.

Marine Corps Training

Rifle range
Ranges for 2006 will be held at Parris Island, S.C. Dates are as follows May 8-12; June 26-30 and Sept. 26-30.

Snap-in will go the week prior at the Battalion armory daily starting at 1 p.m. For more questions or information, call 639-5130.

Pistol range
The ranges scheduled for 2006 are as follows: May 8-12; June 12-16; July 10-14; Sept. 11-15 and Oct. 1-6

The range safety brief will go on the Friday prior to firing on the range. Please plan accordingly. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Bernard Cooks at 639-5131.

Weapons cleaning
Weapons must be cleaned by the 15th of every month. The Armory is located in Bldg 7121 next to Base Property. Weapon cleaning days and times are: Monday - Friday 8:30 — 11: 30 a.m. and 1 — 3:30 p.m. Sections are encouraged to schedule appointments for section cleaning by calling Cpl. Christopher Marsh at 639-5108. After the 15th of the month, Armory hours will vary. Please call 639-5108 for assistance.

MCCS test
Marines can arrange to take the Marine Corps Commons Skills Test by filling out a training request via the Military/Ops and Training Section. Contact Staff Sgt. Bernard Cooks at 639-5131 to schedule an appointment.

PFT
PFTs can be scheduled by filling out a training request in the Military/Ops and Training Section. PFTs are subject to the Military/Ops section approval. PFTs will not be taken on days that begin a 96-hour holiday. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Bernard Cooks at 639-5131.

CHRO Training Classes

On-Site training
Anyone interested in attending these courses should contact their supervisor. Nominations for on-site courses must be coordinated through Department/Center Training Coordinators. They have course catalogs, course announcement letters, and quota allocations and can answer most of your questions. For more information call 639-5297.

June 12-14: Business Process Re-Engineering, Bldg. 3010.

June 19-21: Microsoft Front Page, Bldg. 3010.

June 20-21: Mid Career Retirement Planning, Bldg. 3010.

June 26-28: Microsoft Project, Bldg. 3010.

July 10-11: Power Point Level 1, Bldg. 3010.

July 17 & 18: Power Point Level II, Bldg. 3010.

Read and use *The Emblem* classifieds, they work!

MCCS MARINE CORPS Community Services Albany

It's All For You!

The Week Ahead

Fri May 5	Sat May 6	Sun May 7	Mon May 8	Tue May 9	Wed May 10	Thur May 11
Tonight's Movie *She's The Man* PG13 7 p.m. 639-5166 **ALL** **Cinco De Mayo Party O' Club** 6 p.m. $5 for members; $10 non-members Mexican Buffet, DJ, Door Prizes 639-5234 **Parents' Night Out** 6 p.m.—12 a.m., CDC. $3 per hour per child. Register at 639-5199. **ALL**	**Tonight's Movie** *V for Vendetta* R 7 p.m. 639-5166 **ALL**			**Albany Tech rep** 11:30 a.m. —1 p.m. Bldg. 3010 639-5162 **ALL** **Saving & Investing** 5:30— 7 p.m. Bldg. 7200 FREE 639-5279 **ALL**	**Nutrition Forum** 12 noon Daniels Family Fitness Center FREE 639-6234 **ALL** **Tonight's Movie** *Inside Man* R 7 p.m. 639-5166 **ALL** **MCX Parking Lot Sale for Retiree Open House** through May 13. 888-6801	**Cookout at Commissary for Retiree Open House 11 a.m. — 2 p.m. 639-5277 ALL** **Buying & Selling a Home** 6 — 8 p.m. Bldg. 7200 FREE 639-5278 **ALL**

Mother's Day Gifts at ITT 639-8177 **ALL**

Thinking about pursuing a college degree? **COLLEGE 101** Friday, May 12 9—10 a.m. Base Education Bldg. 3010 639-5162 **ALL**

Retiree Open House
May 10-13, 2006

- Exchange Parking Lot Sale
- Commissary Case Lot Sale
- Cookout at Commissary, May 11
- Luncheon, May 12

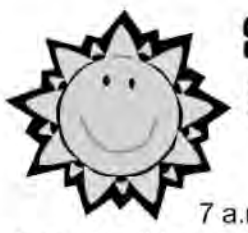
All military retirees are invited to attend. Call 639-5277 for more information or to register for the luncheon. **R**

Bring Mom to
Mother's Day Brunch at the O' Club
Sunday, May 14 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Everyone is invited!
Buffet includes: Breakfast items (eggs, French toast, bacon, hash browns, more) and lunch items (fried chicken, roasted pork loin, vegetables), desserts and beverages. Complimentary glass of champagne for all mothers.

$7.95 per person. Reservations required by Wednesday, May 10. Call 639-5234 for reservations. **ALL**

Men's Deadlift Competition
Tuesday, May 16
Fitness Center
11:30 a.m.
No Entry Fee.
Sign-up at the Fitness Center.
Spectators welcome!
639-6234 **ALL**

Anger Management Class
Tuesday, May 16
10 - 11 a.m.
Bldg. 7200
Free & Open to all.
Learn skills to help you stay in control.
639-7935 **ALL**



Summer Camp Starts May 22
Ages 5-12
CDC will be open 7 a.m.—6 p.m. daily (excluding federal holidays.) Swimming, bowling, games, field trips. Enroll full-time or drop-in. Call for a Summer Activity Calendar. 639-5199. **ALL**

Bring Mom Bowling!
Saturday, May 13; 1-11:30 p.m., Pin City Bowling Center
Mom's first 3 games are FREE! 639-5233 **ALL**

ELIGIBILITY LEGEND

ALL Open to all Active Duty, Retirees, DoD Civilians, Contractors, Reservists and their family members
AD Active Duty and their family members
R Retirees and their family members
C DoD civilians and their family members
N Contractors and their family members
V Reservists and their family members

MCCS Marketing Hotline 639-5268
MCCS Web site *www.ala.usmc.mil/mccs*

The Emblem

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Outdoor Adventures can help with camping, party gear

PAT FISHER

Angelia Daniels, MCCS recreation specialist, models one of the A-line campers available to rent from Outdoor Adventures, which has a large variety of items to rent for outdoor parties or weekend camping trips.

Pat Fisher
EMBLEM STAFF

Whether youre planning a backyard party or a weekend camping trip, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albanys Outdoor Adventures should be the first place you visit.

Outdoor Adventures rents everything from outdoor cookers and smokers to fishing boats and sleeping trailers. Daily and weekly rates are available.

Angelia Daniels, Marine Corps Community Services recreation specialist, says eligible patrons include active-duty military, reservists, DoD civilians and contractors with a valid government ID card.

Say, for instance, youre planning a childs birthday party. Outdoor Adventures has available inflatable jumpers that resemble small castles. The adults, meanwhile, can share in the fun with horseshoe or volleyball setups. And the eating can all be done under large rentable canopy tents. Even tables, chairs and coolers are available to rent.

Some items like the inflatable jumpers need to be reserved at least a month in advance because of limited quantity, explained Daniels.

And for those wishing to rent a fishing boat, Anyone wanting to rent a boat needs to have a boater s safety card which they can get from the Internet site ***www.boat-ed.com***, Daniels said.

Outdoor Adventures also offer special package rentals each quarter which typically include canopies, tables and grills.

Daniels warns, though, that all items must be returned in the same condition they left in. We will go over a checklist with the patrons when they return the items, she said.

As for payment, Daniels explains that if paying by check, the check must be from an authorized patrons account. We can not accept outside checks, just those from authorized patrons.

Two locations are available to arrange rentals including the Outdoor Adventures Building 1215 near the Johnson Road gate Mondays and Fridays and at Thomason Gym Tuesdays through Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and from 7:30 a.m - 5 p.m. on Fridays.

Tornadoes: staying aware could keep you alive

Keith Houston
PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION

Each year about a thousand tornadoes touch down in the U.S. Only a small percentage actually strike occupied buildings, but every year a number of people are killed or injured. One of the most important things you can do to prevent being injured in a tornado is to be alert to the onset of severe weather. Most deaths and injuries happen to people who are unaware and uninformed. Young children or the mentally challenged may not recognize a dangerous situation. The ill, elderly or infirm may not be able to reach shelter in time. Those who ignore the weather because of indifference or overconfidence may not perceive the danger. Stay aware, and it will help you stay alive.

If you dont regularly watch or listen to the weather report, but strange clouds start moving in and the weather begins to look stormy, turn to the local radio or television station to get the weather forecast.

If a tornado watch is issued for your area it means that a tornado is possible. If a tornado warning is issued it means that a tornado has actually been spotted, or is strongly indicated on radar, and it is time to go to a safe shelter immediately.

Be alert to what is happening outside as well. Here are some of the things that people describe when they tell about a tornado experience:

¥A sickly greenish or greenish black color to the sky.

¥ If there is a watch or warning posted, then the fall of hail should be considered as a real danger sign. Hail can be common in some areas, however, and usually has no tornadic activity along with it.

¥A strange quiet that occurs within or shortly after the thunderstorm.

¥ Clouds moving by very fast, especially in a rotating pattern or converging toward one area of the sky.

¥A sound a little like a waterfall or rushing air at first, but turning into a roar as it comes closer. The sound of a tornado has been likened to that of both railroad trains and jets.

¥ Debris dropping from the sky.

An obvious funnel-shaped cloud that is rotating, or debris such as branches or leaves being pulled upwards, even if no funnel cloud is visible. If you see a tornado and it is not moving to the right or to the left relative to trees or power poles in the distance, it may be moving towards you. Remember that although tornadoes usually move from southwest to northeast, they are capable of moving in any direction.

Encourage your family members to plan for their own safety in many different locations. It is important to make decisions about the safest places well before you ever have to go to them.

Wherever it is, the shelter should be well known by each member of the family. If you and your family will conduct annual emergency drills (fire, tornado, etc), everyone will remember what to do and where to go when a tornado is approaching automatically and without panic.

Mobile homes

Most tornado deaths occur in cars and mobile homes. If you live in a mobile home park, you should find out from the manager where you should go in the event of a tornado but dont wait until you really need the information ask him in advance. Mobile home parks may have a designated tornado shelter, or a steel-reinforced concrete laundry room. If they dont, you need to find another substantial structure that you can reach very quickly. You may have only seconds to get to it.

Experts suggest that you assemble a disaster supplies kit that you keep in your shelter area. It should contain:

¥A first aid kit with essential medication in addition to the usual items.

¥A battery powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.

¥ Canned and other non-perishable food and a hand operated can opener.

¥ Bottled water.

¥ Sturdy shoes and work gloves.

¥Written instructions on how to turn off your homes utilities.

For more information, contact Keith Houston, Public Safety Education officer, at 639-8400, or by e-mail at ***keith.e.houston@usmc.mil***.

SGT. MAJ. STEPHEN MARTIN

Exhibiting skills…

Alphonso Baisden, a member of Dougherty Comprehensive High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program, won the individual armed exhibition drill award during the Conyers Classic Drill Competition recently. In addition to this award the unit won first place in the armed male drill competition with a co-ed platoon.

PARADE ——— ***from Page 1***

carrying smiling children traveled the route waving at onlookers they passed.

As part of the parade, a buggy and wagon decorating contest was held. The judges, Bobbie Williams, Col. Anthony Ardovino and Sgt. Maj. Randall Kennedy had the fun task of choosing the winning buggy.

The winners were:

1st Place : Tina and Ruben Chatfield and Trudy, Noah and Jacob Clark.

2nd Place: Chasity and Emma Begg

3rd Place: Nicole and Gabrielle Bohannon

Other activities included face painting by the Officers Wives Club, games, a military working dog demonstration, pony rides, animals from Chehaw Wild Animal Park and base and local vendors handing out books and goodies.

I was pleasantly surprised with the participation and turnout, Ardovino said. Having a military child, I take every opportunity I can to appreciate that aspect of her life. Its important that we do that. Military children bear a unique burden being children of servicemembers.

The event provided the perfect opportunity for base and family members to show military children that they are appreciated and to acknowledge the contribution they provide to the Marine Corps family.

MICHELLE STEWART

"The Cat in the Hat" themed buggies took first place in the Month of the Military Child Parade April 27.

Health clinic focuses on customer service

Pat Fisher
EMBLEM STAFF

If you receive care at the Naval Branch Health Clinic Albany anytime soon, dont be surprised if you get a phone call from a clinic staff member later in the day.

Its part of a patient-centered quality health care program recently established by an executive steering council made up of representatives from Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Fla., and its seven branch health clinics and further enhanced by the staff the clinic here.

The ambitious initiatives established last year and now being implemented include juggling operational readiness commitments with patient-centered care. Those initiatives emphasize improving customer services and include staff members greeting customers, follow-up phone calls and passing out customer service surveys.

The measures are designed so that the patient has a voice in their care, said Lt. Cmdr. Cynthia Granby, officer in charge, NBHC Albany.

The guiding principles of the program are:

¥ To be prepared to respond to all contingency mission requirements. This includes quality health and dental care to ensure military forces are continuously ready to deploy.

¥ Delivering timely, quality health care within a safe and welcoming environment.

¥ Continuing to promote operational, professional and personal growth for their staff.

¥ Optimizing resources to provide high quality, cost-effective health care services.

Granby adds that embracing the philosophy, the customer comes first, is a high priority. During an encounter at our clinic, the patient, visitor or family member will know that they are welcome and that it is our privilege to serve them, she said.

Continuously improving the quality of health services will not just be a slogan at the clinic here but, according to Granby, will be an overriding pledge. These goals will become a way of life here and will be continuously monitored for improvement. We have empowered our staff to treat all our customers with courtesy, compassion and respect. She added, By keeping our promises, we will continuously strive to be a most efficient organization.

PAT FISHER

Petty Officer 3rd Class Aaron Pitts, Naval Health Clinic here, interviews Veronica Oakes prior to being seen by the clinic staff. It's part of improved customer service initiatives being implemented by the clinic.

Employee Spotlight

Employee: Burnie D. Anderson
Organization: Transportation Voucher Certification Division
Billet: Freight rate assistant
Job Duties: Certifying vouchers
Hometown: Dawson, Ga.
Hobbies: Shopping and playing the lottery
What I like most about my job: My co-workers
One of the most significant achievements since youve been here: Contributing to the 2005 Team of the Year award.
Have you ever served in the military: Two years in the Air Force.
Time stationed at MCLB: 20 years

Energy Tip

Dont set your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool faster. It will cool to a lower temperature than you need and use more energy.

FISHING ——— ***from Page 1***

any stink bait, especially liver. Worms are good too, Cheers said.

And what about the gaters? Cheers says hes counted all three sizes in base waters. We ve got two small, two mediums and one large.

But dont worry famous Australian crocodile hunter Steve Irwin says, unlike crocs, alligators are usually spooked pretty easily.

Thats comforting to know.

PAT FISHER

Jerome Lowrey hopes today is his lucky day as he puts his line in the water at Indian Lake on board the base. Lowrey, a Maintenance Center Albany employee, is carrying his required base fishing permit as well as his Georgia state fishing license.

Proper procedures required to process information queries

Michelle Stewart
Emblem Staff

The Freedom of Information Act was enacted in 1966 and took effect July 4, 1967. It is a law that gives people, foreign or domestic, the right to request and obtain information they might need from the U.S. government, within reason of course.

The Privacy Act, an attachment to FOIA under sections 552 and implemented in 1974, made it possible for individuals to keep their most important personal information, such as their social security number, as secret as possible.

According to the law, the purpose of FOIA is, To ensure an informed citizenry vital to the functioning of a democratic society, needed to check against corruption and to hold the government accountable to the governed.

For Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, FOIA is used in conjunction with the Privacy Act to ensure that classified information and material remains classified and the personal information of base employees remains personal.

However, FOIA is also used to provide information to an individual, which they have the right to receive.

The main purpose of FOIA is to inform the public while protecting the government.

A written request for information should include specific information pertaining to the nature of the request. The request should state what information is needed, where it might be found and that the request it being submitted under FOIA and agree to pay when it is given to the Office of General Counsel.

Even if someone is looking for a phone number for a specific worker on base, to be on the safe side, the employee should take a message and have the individual call them back.

Despite an employees government phone number not being a personal phone line that is protected under FOIA, it is proper procedure to not disclose the phone number to prevent unwanted solicitation or harassment from an outside agency.

Protected or sensitive information includes:

¥ National Security or classified information.

¥ Internal personnel rules in which the information is trivial or violated a legal agreement.

¥ Information, which is protected by the other agency-specific statues.

¥Trade secrets protected by patents and so forth.

¥ Classified inter or intra agency letters or memorandums.

¥ Personal information affecting a persons privacy.

¥ Investigation records used for law enforcement purposes.

¥ Reports and statements used by an agency to regulate financial institutions.

¥ Geographical and geophysical information concerning wells.

If a person or organization were to make an information request under the Freedom of Information Act, the Office of the General Counsel has the responsibility to process the request.

Individuals should keep in mind that FOIA is not only supposed to be used by persons to obtain information, but is used to protect the U.S. government, the Marine Corps and base employees.

Employee leave donation requests

The following base employees are currently approved as leave recipients under the Annual Leave Transfer Program.

Sally J. Anderson, an employee of Supply Chain Management Center, needs leave donations to care for spouse. Call Diane L. Bradley at 639-7351.

Terry A. Bogadi, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations for recovery from a massive heart attack. Call Sherry Robinson at 639-6326

James Phil Bush, an employee of Supply Chain Management Center, needs leave donations for recovery from surgery. Call Eddie Watson at 639-6465.

Stacey L. Carter, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations to care for spouse. Call Sherry Robinson at 639-6326.

Henry E. Folds, an employee of C-4, needs leave donations for biweekly chemotherapy treatments. Call James Mitchell at 639-6761.

Dottie Tucker, an employee of Supply Chain Management Center, needs leave donations to care for spouse during illness. Call Elaine Frierson at 639-8257.

Judy Reynolds, an employee of Supply Chain Management Center, needs leave donations to care for a spouse during illness. Call Walter Meeks at 639-7895.

Cedric P. Robinson, an employee of Command Support Division, needs leave donations for recovery from an illness. Call Virginia Williams at 639-6622.

Willie E. Walker, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations for recovery from a stroke. Call Mary Fields at 639-6361.

For further information on an individual need, please call the point of contact listed.

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ance that are significant to the accomplishment of individual job objectives. The factors are behaviors that indicate how well each job objective was performed; applicable contributing factors are selected and assigned to each job objective. The NSPS contributing factors are:

1. Technical Proficiency
2. Critical Thinking
3. Cooperation and Teamwork
4. Communication
5. Customer Focus
6. Resource Management
7. Leadership

These factors are standard across DoD and are evaluated using benchmark descriptors appropriate for the employees pay schedule and pay band.

A supervisor can adjust an employees rating by 1 based on his assessment of the performance level for each contributing factor being Enhanced or Expected. Hence, the contributing factors can influence the rating assigned to each job objective. The contributing factor descriptors serve as a guideline for supervisors assessing the impact of a contributing factor.

For each performance objective, the supervisor will assign an adjusted rating. The average or weighted sum of all the adjusted ratings is what drives the performance payout.

The performance process and all other elements of NSPS are described in a new course called NSPS 101 which can be found at ***http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/***.

Summer hire program about to launch

Lucy Cason
Supervisory Human Resources Specialist

In the spring of each year, the Civilian Human Resources Office canvasses all Marine Corps Logistics Command organizations for Student Temporary Employment Program quotas, better known as the Summer Hire Program. Positions to be filled are laborer, WG-3502-01, and office aid, GS-0303-01. Announcements will open and close Wednesday, and applications will only be accepted on this day.

STEP can provide a meaningful employment experience for students during the summer break from school/college. CHRO has provided the STEP announcement and applications to the Department of Labor and all academic institutions in the Albany area and surrounding counties. Applications are also available at CHRO, bulding 3010, and the Marine Corps Logistics Base Web site, under anticipated vacancies at ***http://www.ala.usmc.mil/hro/***.

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen student who is at least 16 years of age, and currently pursuing a High School Diploma or General Equivalency Diploma; vocational/technical certificate; associate degree; baccalaureate degree; graduate degree; or professional degree. Verification of student status is required and must be submitted with the application. Failure to submit all required forms will result in an ineligible rating and no further consideration will be given to your application.

Returning high school students must provide a letter from the school counselor s office verifying current status and intent to return in the fall. (Sample letter provided with application.)

Graduating high school students must provide a letter of acceptance or pre-registration form to attend a post-secondary educational institution (college, university, or technical school).

Current post-secondary education students must provide a letter of acceptance or verification of pre-registration for the fall semester/quarter.

Male applicants born after Dec. 31, 1959, and are 18 years of age or older, must submit certification of Selective Service Registration Status.

Point of contact for this year s program is Donna Johnston at 639-5232, Staffing and Classification Advisory Division, CHRO.

Use *The Emblem* classifieds, they work!

Base and Local Happenings

Elvis/Patsy Cline Show

Dougherty Lodge Number 591 of Albany is hosting the Tribute to the King and Patsy Cline show 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Albany Municipal Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Reserved seats are $20 and general admission seats are $15. Tickets are available at all local Homerun Foods, Lake Park Barbershop or Parker Music. Tickets can also be obtained by calling Bill Baker at 446-9120. Discounted general admission tickets are available at MCCS ITT Office for $10 each.

Air show

Robins Air Force Base is hosting an air show May 13 and 14. Military aircraft enthusiasts will have the opportunity to see the Air Forces newest aircraft, the F-22A Raptor, perform a fly-by. The B-2 Spirit and F-117A Nighthawk are also scheduled to fly over the base. Gates open at 9 a.m. and the opening ceremony begins at 10:30 a.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 478-222-SHOW or visit ***www.robins.af.mil.***

Law enforcement golf tournament

The Annual Law Enforcement Memorial Golf Tournament takes place May 19 at the Flint River Golf Course. The four-person scramble begins with a shot-gun start at 8:30 a.m. The fee is $50 per person/$200 per team. For more information or to pre-register call the course at 430-5267 or Capt. Ernest Williams at 431-3265. On-site registration will be available between 8:30 — 8:15 a.m. on tournament day.

Senior citizen prom

The Albany Recreation and Parks Department is holding the 2006 Senior Citizens Prom June 16 from 7 — 11 p.m. at the Albany Civic Center. Tickets are available at Tift Park and at the Lockett Station Community Center. Tickets are $10 for individuals and $15 for couples. For more information call Tee Taylor at 430-5222.

Logistics conference

An American Defense Acquisition & Procurement Transformation Conference is scheduled for July 18-19 at the Westin Arlington Gateway in Arlington, Va. The 2006 ADAPT conference provides employees with the right tools to link the global network military through acquisition and procurement transformation initiatives. Hear from acquisition and procurement leaders from across the services and the DoD who are leveraging the best business. For more information, call 888-482-6012 or 973-812-5153 or visit ***www.adapt2006.com***.

Marathon searches for fastest units

Military.com

Think your platoon is the fastest in the military? Prove it by creating a team of nine to 13 active-duty military members and entering the Marine Corps Marathon Squad Challenge, which will be held in conjunction with the 2006 Marine Corps Marathon Oct. 29. Individual and team registration is required. Log on to ***http://www.marinemarathon.com*** to download the active-duty military discount application. Fill out the form, follow the special instructions, and return to the MCM by May 16 for a guaranteed spot. One member of each team is required to download and submit the Squad Challenge Team Roster form, available for download on the MCM Web site beginning in June. There is no additional fee to register a squad.

Do you know of an upcoming event or do you know someone who deserves recognition? Please contact *The Emblem* at 639-5216.