Summer fun close at hand with MWR facilities, activities, events

By Donna Cipolloni
NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs

Want to enjoy summer fun and activities without having to go far? Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) is the answer.

From a few hours to overnight, Active-duty military and their dependents receive free pool passes during the entire swimming season, and other patrons may purchase seasonal, monthly or daily pool passes on-site.

The center also offers basic pool parties, karaoke and more. The facility is also available to host private birthday parties. The Daily Leisure Pass is an ideal way to spend the day at Solomons, allowing unlimited admission to the facilities; or another option is the Daily Activity Pass available for guests who choose to use only one recreational facility.

Lodging can be comfortable or rustic. RV sites and hookups are available as are cottages, a variety of cabins, bungalows, apartments, primitive and group camp sites, and even yurts.

There are pavilion rental options for family reunions or groups of all sizes, and Club 9 — an air conditioned indoor venue good for pested in learning to swim or just need to hone your skills? American Red Cross swimming lessons are offered in both group and one-on-one sessions.

Available for the entire family, the Adventure Zone features an air-conditioned TV lounge with an arcade and gear issue. Just outside is an 18-hole miniature golf course, billiard tables, ping pong, and a 300-yard driving range. Events transpire year-round and include dances, outdoor movie nights, karaoke and more. The facility is also available to host private birthday parties.

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Net Gain from NAWCAD’s Cargo and Special Operations Team

By Jeff Newman
Naval Aviation News

The Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division’s (NAWCAD) cargo and special operations team successfully demonstrated March 22 a new cargo net that could go a long way to help Marines survive a crash.

Following several incidents in recent years in which loose bags have injured Marines or, in the case of a water crash, blocked egress from the aircraft, the Navy tasked the NAWCAD cargo team with coming up with a more effective way for Marines to secure their gear.

The cargo team’s solution is the Common Cargo Net, an altered version of a net that is already available but mostly unknown and unused by the fleet.

Designed to quickly and easily secure up to 2,500 pounds of cargo in the MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor and CH-53 heavy-lift helicopters, the net promises to keep bags from flying loose regardless of how the fuselage is oriented. The current standard method of securing cargo bags calls for strapping them down, but sea bags—the standard duffel used by Marines—and day packs can still easily become dislodged from beneath straps in the event the fuselage rolls over during a violent crash.

The cargo team showcased as much during a unique demonstration at the Aviation Survival Training Center (ASTC) at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland.

One of eight Navy training centers dedicated to aircrew water survival, the ASTC houses a large pool used to train Sailors and Marines on how to evacuate an aircraft in the event of a ditching. A crane is used to lower a 6,400-pound “dunk tank” designed to replicate a fuselage-externally known as a Modular Egress Training