



PRINCE

Resident is host on Navy day

By Lorraine Frazzini
Special to the Pilot

SAN DIEGO -- As cities across the country saluted the U. S. military May 16, Fireman Michael W. Prince spent the day where he usually spends duty days: aboard the USS Cowpens homeported here. But, duty on that Saturday took on a special meaning as Naval Station San Diego opened its gates to visitors to celebrate the holiday.

Visitors had the opportunity to board four different small craft and three Navy ships including the Cowpens, a Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser.

The ship's primary mission is anti-air warfare, said Prince, the 22-year-old son of Lacy and Jean Prince of Southport.

The Cowpens's multi-mission capability is due to the Aegis weapon system. Designed to identify, track and destroy air, surface and submarine threats, the system can perform search, track and missile guidance functions simultaneously while monitoring more than 100 targets. The ship can carry both Tomahawk and Harpoon missiles.

Cowpens has a complement of 33 officers, 33 chief petty officers and 339 enlisted men.

"I work in engineering, operating and maintaining the ship's propulsion system," Prince said. "Usually, the crew spends Saturday preparing for the coming week. On Armed Forces Day, we took time out to give tours to visitors from the community."

"Visitors enjoyed learning about the propulsion system, weapons systems and all the ship's capabilities," he said.

Navy participation in the event also included a fighter jet flyover, a performance by the precision parachute team, the Leapfrogs, and operations demonstrations by special warfare forces.

Forty-five military components conducted demonstrations and provided exhibits saluting their comrades in arms.

In service

Basic training

Navy Seaman Recruit Philip P. Brooks, son of Samuel P. Brooks of Leland, recently completed basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the cycle, recruits are taught general military subjects designed to prepare them for further academic and on-the-job training in one of the Navy's 85 occupational fields. Studies include seamanship, close-order drill, naval history and first aid.

The 1990 graduate of North Brunswick High School joined the Navy in January.

Achievement medal

Spec. Matthew Pope has been decorated with the Army Achievement Medal, awarded to soldiers for meritorious service, acts of courage or other outstanding accomplishments.

Pope is a wheel vehicle mechanic. His wife, Miranda, is the daughter of Al Potter of Rt. 5, Winnabow, and Margaret Potter of Wilmington. He is a 1990 graduate of New Castle (Ind.) Chrysler High School.

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