

The Scimitar

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U.S. Navy photo by JO3 Shawnee McKain
Forecast Duty Officer, AG2 Latoya Henderson, explains one of the weather forecasts to AG1 (SW) Tenny Sharpe, the Mobile Environmental Team's Leading Petty Officer.

NCMOC delivers crucial forecasts to war fighters

By JO3 Shawnee McKain
Force Journalist

Military operations have been dependant on weather predictions for thousands of years. In 1944, six military weather forecasters were given enough consideration by General Dwight D. Eisenhower that he delayed the planned D-Day of June 5 to June 6, 1944. Their predictions insured the success of the largest amphibious invasion in history, and the beginning of the end of World War II.

Today, the forecasters at Bahrain's Naval Central Meteorology and Oceanography Command provide meteorological and oceanographic support to all military forces operating in the Central Command area of responsibility. This includes coalition ships, special forces working ashore and any command that needs specific meteorological support. With the latest technology and tools available to them, the Sailors can forecast an oncoming storm within hours of it hitting, keeping some operations

from certain failure.

"We deploy to ships and basically give the 'go, no go' forecast for the operations in the Gulf," said Aerographer's Mate 1st Class (SW) Kenneth Davenport, a member of the center's Mobile Environmental Team. "We brief the operational planners on what to expect now and in the future and they make decisions based on our forecasts."

The NCMOC in Bahrain works around the region with less people but just as much skill and talent.

"There are 20 people dedicated to operations and 35 in the entire command, which makes us a smaller group than most regions have, but still leaves us with quite a bit of area to cover," said AGC (AW/SW) Mark Hoffman, Leading Chief Petty Officer for the Operations department.

The small staff here sets this Meteorology and Oceanography detachment apart from others because the Sailors work in a variety of fields as opposed to be-

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5th Fleet logistics task force changes command

By Lt. j.g. Josh Frey
*COMUSNAVCENT/COMFIFTHFLT
Public Affairs*

MANAMA, Bahrain –Capt. William E. Elliott, jr. completed a sixteen-month tenure as Commander Logistic Forces, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) Aug. 28 in a traditional change-of-command ceremony, at Naval Support Activity, Bahrain.

"This has been the most extraordinary, rewarding and most challenging experience

of my Naval career. I loved every second of it and wouldn't trade it for the world," said Elliott.

The commander of NAVCENT's logistics forces, Elliott was responsible for replenishing all the ships in the NAVCENT area of responsibility, as well as port facilities throughout the region, in support of Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

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CTF 53 - from front page

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, he successfully integrated U.S. and coalition naval forces into the logistics task force, providing support to more than 150 U.S. and coalition ships, including four carrier strike groups, two amphibious task forces and three amphibious readiness groups.

5th Fleet logistics ships performed more than 630 replenishments at sea, transferred 872,100 pounds of supplies and 130 million gallons of fuel.

Elliott is returning to his native home of Dothan, Alabama, where he plans to retire after a thirty-year Navy career and become a farmer. Prior to assuming command of

NAVCENT's Logistics Force, Captain Elliott was Commander, Logistics Squadron TWO in Earle, NJ.

Capt. Nori Ann Reed succeeds Elliott as Commander Logistics Forces, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.

"I am honored to be taking command of the premier logistics force of the U.S. Navy," said Reed "We're going to have a great time, work hard and be of great service to our customers."

"The logistics business is a challenge," said Elliott, "Our job is invisible and we want warfighters to be able to conduct operations transparently. The challenge in this theater now will be operating in a post-Saddam Hussein regime area. Logistics will flex with NAVCENT as

it builds its post-Saddam approach."

At his change-of-command ceremony, Elliott asked people to walk away remembering one thing.

"The men and women of Task Force 53 are the smartest and hardest working in the theater. Any credit I have received belongs to them. You have brought a unique capability to fight and support the warfighter. I have never seen such selfless devotion to duty. All honor and glory goes to you. I will miss each one of you very, very much," said Elliott.

Elliott earned the Legion of Merit Award by Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander, U.S. Fifth Fleet Vice Admiral Timothy J. Keating, for the President of the United States. 🇺🇸



Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet, is **Vice Adm. Timothy J. Keating**.

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U.S. Navy Photo by PH1(AW) Shane Wallenda

Vice Adm. Timothy J. Keating, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/ Commander 5th Fleet presents Capt. W. E. Elliott the Legion Of Merit as outgoing Commander Logistics Forces, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/ Task Force 53, during his Change of Command.



NEW ARRIVAL!!!

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Djibouti Sailors, Marines connect with community

By JO1(SW) Dennis Herring
Editor

Every command has its mission. For Camp Lemonier in the small East-African nation of Djibouti and headquarters for Commander Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa, the mission is support for counter-terrorism operations across the region.

Sailors, Marines, Soldiers and Airmen at Lemonier recently found their own personal mission. Without much to do during their off-time, they've found a mission that takes them out to three orphanages and gives them a chance to make a difference in the lives of some children in unfortunate circumstances.

Soon after the establishment of CJTF-HOA, Lemonier's base commander asked his command to look for projects that would allow the base personnel to connect with the surrounding community. He felt getting involved with local citizens and showing them care and respect was one way to help in the fight against terrorism.

The search turned up an opportunity no one thought would turn out so successful. As many said, it was a chance to go out and make a difference.

"Looking around, we discovered there were three orphanages - a boy's, girl's and baby's," said Chaplain (Cmdr.) Charles R. Roots.

"First, we found the kids loved to play soccer," Roots said. "That was a way to get our foot in the door, so to speak."

Roots put the orphans' living conditions into perspective, explaining that most kids were playing in flip-flops or barefoot. Regardless of the kids' lack of proper playing gear, everyone agreed how good the kids were at the game.

"They were so good, we had to get smart after a few games and start dividing up the teams evenly," Roots explained.

"The kids really loved us going out and playing with them. This relationship opened the doors for the volunteers."

Looking for more than just soccer games for the kids, Roots spoke with the orphanage director about other opportunities for the volunteers.

"One thing he mentioned was possibly starting English classes," said Roots. "The director explained countries in the surrounding area have their own primary language with English as secondary.

"In Djibouti, Somali is the primary language, with French second and English third. These folks are already behind the curve with-

out much English since it is the primary language used in trade with the rest of the world."

The director explained to Roots the orphans have many problems, but learning conversational English just might give them a chance.

"Who knows, with this knowledge, some of these kids might get to go to university someday," said Roots.

In the meantime, other volunteers stepped forward with other ideas for classes such as art. The girls do pottery and sewing, so an art class would fit in easily.

Trips to the babies' orphanage are even more popular than the soccer games. The orphanage's minimal staff must bathe, change and feed more than 50 babies twice each day.

Volunteers from the camp have gone out and helped with feedings almost every day. By the time the babies are finished with their feedings, most volunteers find time to just cuddle and play with them.

Since reporting to Camp Lemonier, Roots says the projects have grown to a point where one person can't handle coordinating all events. He asked three volunteers, one for each orphanage, to step forward. Those volunteers now take care of everything from setting up visit dates to arranging transportation to each site.

With such a good response to the program, Roots says there are two reasons everyone is so enthusiastic.

"First, there isn't much for everyone on base to do once the work-day is over. This results in a great response from everyone. The locals like for us to be here, and we don't want to lose that relationship.

"Second, one of the beauties of our being a free people is we like for other people to enjoy the same freedoms we have," he explained. "Americans always respond well to the underdog and we happen to be in a very poor country."

People checking out of the base have donated items so they don't have so much to carry back home. Because of this response, when several local families' homes were destroyed by a recent fire, the chaplain's staff was able to respond quickly with clothes and bedding.

"People back home have also asked how they can help these children," Roots said. He has slowly built a network of stateside churches and individuals who have collected items and made arrangements for shipping them over. Roots hopes arrangements can be made for military transport since shipping is the most difficult and expensive part of the process.

Medical care is another problem for the children. One of the boys broke his leg recently, and it hasn't healed due to lack of proper care. An orthopedic surgeon on base has volunteered his time to perform the surgery at a hospital on a local



Cpl. Eric Ely
Marine Cpl. Jacob Laskowski kicks the ball during a soccer game at the girls' orphanage near Camp Lemonier, Djibouti.

French military base.

Many stationed at Camp Lemonier told Roots they expected to just come to Djibouti, do their time and get back home, but are glad they have found something rewarding to do.

"When you think about it, maybe no one here would have asked to come here," Roots replied. "There is nothing here in Djibouti that resembles anything you would experience back home.

"After giving your time to these children, you realize you have found a great opportunity to give back time and talent to a people far less fortunate than yourself."

Roots added one more benefit everyone has agreed upon.

"When you go out there and see Marines, Sailors, Soldiers, Airman and even civilians who work along with us spending their free time to go out there and cuddle and feed these little babies; guys with high-and-tight haircuts; warriors who have that compassion inside, it just makes you proud. It makes you realize there is a silver lining in all of this and maybe we are going to come away from all of this a better people." 🐾

NCMOC - from front page

ing focused on one thing every day.

“We get to see the combination of duties in our job,” said AG1 Dwayne Tinney. “We make sure everyone who needs support receives it. We put out message traffic, keep the ships in the region updated and distribute weather briefings to the pilots.”

To facilitate with their multi-pronged mission, the NCMOC in Bahrain is divided into two departments, Operations and the MET.

The Operations department develops local weather forecasts for every command in the region.

“Our job out here is not forecasting how cloudy it’s going to be,” Hoffman jokes. “Clouds are usually not that much of an issue out here, especially during the summer. Our main mission is to plan what the weather is going to be. We need to make sure the operators out there have enough time to react accordingly.”

During almost any military operation, Mother Nature will affect it in one way or another. The center plans around when it’s going to be too dusty, cloudy or windy, or whether the seas are going to be too rough for some operations.

“The dust and visibility here is a challenge,” Hoffman said. “We need to figure out how dusty it’s going to be and how low the visibility will get. We also need to figure

out how long it’s going to persist. There are real complications when the dust picks up over here.”

If the military weather forecasters were not available to provide timely and accurate environmental predictions, then a mission’s success might be jeopardized.

While the Operations department provides meteorological services for all Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander, FIFTH Fleet commands, the numerous temporary units in the area are in need of the same services as well. This is where the MET comes into action.

“We can do weather support or oceanography,” said AG1(SW) Tenny Sharpe, Leading Petty Officer for the MET. “We can do pretty much anything they throw at us.”

The Bahrain team is flexible, mobile and ready to deploy at a moment’s notice. Some ships entering the region have their own weather personnel already aboard, but those that don’t can request assistance from MET members.

When they deploy, members of the MET brief a variety of customers including maritime interception teams and pilots on what conditions to expect in the area they will be operating.

“Our main duty on a deployment is to forecast. We discuss with the Staff METOC officer onboard what we’re forecasting for the

next five days,” Davenport said.

They highlight any weather conditions that may impact air strikes, Tomahawk Land Attack Missile strikes, amphibious assaults, helicopter operations and small boat operations.

“We also have the capability to see how far the ship’s radar would be able to pick up enemy targets,” Davenport said.

The MET uses a Joint METOC Viewer, the computer program used to view the Navy’s weather models, and it’s built in maps.

“Infrared and visible satellite shots are a great tool because you can see a picture of what’s actually going on,” Davenport said. “I use the JMV to see where the ship would be operating and lay weather maps on top to predict the weather.”

The maps also show what could possibly be coming, like a cold front, dust storm or thunderstorms. This also leads into one of the main challenges faced by these Sailors.

“Our biggest challenge is trying to get the forecast right,” Davenport said. “It’s not like forecasting on land because a ship is always on the move. The weather can be totally different 20 miles away.”

“Our job can be rather challenging at times, but everyone needs to know how the weather impacts their job,” Davenport said. “We’re the guys who make sure that information gets to them.”



Command Religious Program Naval Support Activity Bahrain



Weekly Schedule of Events

Monday	1200 - Catholic Mass, Chaplain's Office Chapel Annex 1700 - Gospel Choir Practice, Chapel/Training Facility
Tuesday	1200 - Catholic Mass, Chaplain's Office Chapel Annex 1830 - Gospel Bible Study, Chaplain Parker's flat
Wednesday	1200 - Catholic Mass, Chapel/Training Facility 1630 - Catholic Choir Practice, Chapel/Training Facility 1730 - Protestant Choir Practice, Chapel/Training Facility 1830 - Gospel Choir Practice, Chapel/Training Facility 1830-2000 - Alien Youth Group Bible Study (grades 9-12), Bahrain School Room NTC 2000 - Gospel Praise Dancer's rehearsal, POC Elder Sorrells
Thursday	1200 - Catholic Mass, Chaplain's Office Chapel Annex 1630-1700 - Confessions, Chapel/Training Facility 1730 - Catholic Vigil Mass, Chapel/Training Facility 1830 - Gospel Intercessory Prayer Ministry, POC Miller
Friday	0930 - Catholic Mass, Chapel/Training Facility 0930 - Protestant Adult Friday School II in the CPO Lounge at the Dome 1100 - Protestant Worship Service, Chapel/Training Facility 1130 - Gospel Friday School Class, Navy College Classroom #2 1300 - Gospel Service, Chapel/Training Facility 1330 - Gospel Children's Church ages 5-10 in the CDC, POC Mrs. Fulson 1800 - Protestant Evening Worship/Fellowship/Potluck at Chaplain Parker's flat
Saturday	0730 - Protestant Single and Geo-Bachelor Men's Study in the Dome Conference room
Sunday	1200 - Catholic Mass, Chaplain's Office Chapel Annex 1800 - Protestant Evening Worship Service, Chapel/Training Facility 1900 - Gospel Praise Dancer's rehearsal, POC Elder Sorrells

- Laypeople:**
 Muslim- CTCIM Young
 Latter Day Saints- Cmdr. Hansen
 Jewish- Lt. j.g. Frey
 United Pentacostal- CW3 Moody
- NSA Chaplain Staff:**
 Capt. Parker, Command Chaplain
 Lt. Borger, Catholic Chaplain
 RP1(SW) Jefferson-Brooks
 RP2 Harris
 RPSN McCalister
- NAVCENT Chaplain Staff:**
 Capt. Tidd, Command Chaplain
 Cdr. Parisi, Catholic Chaplain
 RP2 Mosqueda

Questions regarding Command Religious Programs, please contact NSA Bahrain Chaplain's office at 439-4235/4303 or 724-235/303, Sunday - Thursday.

Event participation contingent upon Force Protection Conditions

USCG PATFORSWA's engineering department supports OIF

By PA3 Kyle Niemi, USCG

Coast Guard Forces Southwest Asia
Public Affairs

Amid operational responsibilities, there is a plague of occupational hazards facing the Coast Guardsmen assigned to four 110-foot Island Class patrol boats deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Besides the obvious physical extremes—the blazing sun and blinding dust, the heat and sweat, they also face an increased patrol and operations tempo than similar units operating in the United States.

Upon return from a patrol, the crews desire nothing more than to rest and communicate with loved ones at home via emails or phone calls. They leave the care and maintenance of their ship in the capable hands of Coast Guard Patrol Forces Southwest Asia's Engineering Department.

The PATFORSWA Engineering Department consists of about two-dozen members led by Chief Warrant Officer (Eng.) J.R. Markham who provide the shore-side engineering support for the four patrol boats in theater.

"The cutters pull into port and we perform repairs, correct CASREPs (casualty reports), perform PMS (preventative maintenance scheduling), and, basically, we allow the crew to get some well-deserved rest and downtime," said Markham, who lives in Gloucester Point, Va.

In this capacity, his department, consisting of active duty and reserve electrician's mates, damage controlmen, and machinery technicians, "are very similar to a MAT (Maintenance and Assistance) Team," the engineering officer said.

Chief Electrician's Mate Scottie Hudson, of Warwick, R.I., says that when a ship pulls into port, he and his department, "take care of any and all mechanical discrepancies."

"It allows the ships' crews to be able to pull in, fuel up, and step off the cutter," he said. "It allows them to get some much needed downtime," he continued.

"This is why we're here," Hudson added.

"We give the crew a chance to unwind," said Machinery Technician 1st Class Damian Russo, from Milford, Mass.

"They're out there on the line, while we're in the rear with the gear," Russo said of his department's responsibilities and role in the operations.

"Foremost," Markham admitted, "I'm very fortunate to have been blessed with the level of talent and experience in this department."



USCG photo by PA3 Kyle N. Niemi

Machinery Technician 3rd Class Brian Meadowcroft tests the port side pyrometer in the engine room of CGC Adak, inport in the Arabian Gulf. The members of U.S. Coast Guard Patrol Forces Southwest Asia's Engineering Department are crucial to promoting the good working order of the ships operating in the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I rely on them 100 percent," he added.

Hudson is proud of his crew as well, citing that, "these guys do a hell of a lot considering the working conditions. Their attitudes are excellent."

"I'm very proud to work with and for these guys," Russo said.

The permanent party crewmembers aboard the ships are grateful as well for the assistance that the Engineering Departments provides.

"They are appreciative of all of our efforts and are glad that we're here, but no one is more impressed with the efforts of the Engineering Department than myself," Markham said.

"They're going well above and beyond the normal call of duty," he said.

"We've gotten quite a few 'kudos' from the boats for what we've accomplished for them," Hudson said.

"The most difficult part of this job is dealing with the heat which only allows a certain window of time to perform work while ensuring the safety of the crew," Markham said.

Russo agreed that the major obstacles his team faces are, "the heat and working conditions," and the fact that there are no utilities on the pier at which the cutters moor when in port.

"Whether it be compressed air or running water, everything needs to be trucked down the pier," he said.

"Most Coast Guard repair units are lo-

cated in the same vicinity of the pier. We're located over a mile from the secured pier facility," he added.

Markham said that luckily, "the operational tempo has slowed down and our people are keeping up with the work."

Additionally, actions have been taken to make the heat a little more bearable.

When not in an internal engineering space aboard the cutters, the engineers remain on the ship's fantail, usually covered by a camouflage net, which restricts the sun and heat and makes life on the deck a little bit more comfortable.

The recent purchase of a set of high-powered fans that spray a fine mist of water cool the covered fantail where much of their work is done and the engineers await new job assignments.

Markham said that the acquisition of these valuable cooling-aide products was thanks to the great research by Senior Chief Machinery Technician G. L. "Roc" Della Rocco.

Besides a formidable health hazard as well as a possible hindrance to work progress, the heat is also the reason for much of the required repairs and maintenance.

Many shipboard components run with the aid of seawater to cool their systems, according to Russo.

"Air conditioning units seem to give us

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the most trouble. The seawater here in the Arabian Gulf is 20-30 degrees warmer than the average water temperature these boats are used to running in in the United States," he said.

These units, along with the engines themselves that are also cooled with seawater, require much monitoring and maintenance because of the increased water temperature, he said.

"Along with the stress to meet deadlines, the heat and the climate, it's even harder to be without family and loved ones," Russo

admitted.

Machinery Technician 3rd Class Jeffrey Foley, from Canton, Mass., one of the junior-most engineers on the team appreciates the teamwork displayed by all.

"Working alongside chiefs and first class petty officers gives me the ability to learn leadership first hand," he said.

"And the fact that they are willing and not afraid, regardless of rank, to get as sweaty and dirty as the rest of us brings us closer as a team," he added.

The patrol boat crewmembers have been very cooperative and helpful as well—creating work lists for the engineers and as-

sisting whenever possible.

"The rapport that we have established with these crews has been amazing," Markham said.

"Everybody is working together as a team to help accomplish the mission. However, no unit is successful without a strong engineering department," he admitted.

Hudson agreed that the engineers aboard the ships play an important role in fixing and correcting engineering casualties as well as his department.

"Because of us and the guys on the ships, these boats sail on time every time!" he said. 🐾



NSA Paradise Theater

THURSDAY

- 4 1530 The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG)
- 1730 Down with Love (PG-13)
- 1930 Catch 22 (R)

FRIDAY

- 5 1530 Batman (PG-13)
- 1730 It Runs in the Family (PG-13)
- 1930 Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13)

SATURDAY

- 6 1530 The Lizzy McGuire Movie (PG)
- 1730 Down with Love (PG-13)
- 1930 Bulletproof Monk (PG-13)

SUNDAY

- 7 1730 Reversal (PG-13)
- 1930 View from the Top (PG-13)

MONDAY

- 8 1730 A Man Apart (R)
- 1930 8 Mile (R)

TUESDAY

- 9 1730 It Runs in the Family (PG-13)
- 1930 Catch 22 (R)

WEDNESDAY

- 10 1530 Drumline (PG-13)
- 1730 Rent Control (R)
- 1930 Antwone Fisher (PG-13)

MALIBU'S MOST WANTED (PG-13) Jamie Kennedy & Anthony Anderson: Malibu's most unwanted rapper maintains a hip-hop lifestyle that is seriously hindering his father's bid for governor. When his dad's campaign manager tries to neutralize the problem and teach him a lesson, the rapper proves he is for real. (86min)

BULLETPROOF MONK (PG-13) Chow Yun-Fat & Seann William Scott: For many years, a mysterious monk with no name has zig-zagged the globe to protect an ancient scroll which holds the key to unlimited power. He mentors a street-wise young man whose only interest is himself. When the young man saves the monk from capture, the two become partners in a scheme to protect the scroll from a thief. (104min)

A MAN APART (R) Vin Diesel & Larenz Tate: Two men who grew up on the streets of L.A. and later join the DEA to fight the ever rising plague of drug traffic coming into the U.S. from Mexico, go to war when a major new player known as "Diablo" orders a hit on them that results in the death of one cop's wife. Now, consumed by revenge, nothing will stop them from getting their man. (109min)

IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY (PG-13) Michael Douglas & Kirk Douglas: Alex Gromberg is a man caught in the middle trying to avoid the mistakes his father made while coming to terms with the ones he's already passed on to his own sons. Alex is navigating the tricky role of father, son and husband. It's a story about the loving, frustrating, reassuring, insane, and inescapable bonds of family. (109 min)

ANTWONE FISHER (PG-13) Derek Luke & Denzel Washinton: With the help of a psychiatrist, an angry Sailor on the verge of being kicked out of the Navy decides to embark on a search for the family that abandoned him as a baby. Along the way, he finds the courage to change his life dramatically. (113min)

DRUMLINE (PG-13) Nick Cannon & Zoe Saldana: Set against the high-energy, high-stakes world of show-style marching

bands, Drumline is a fish-out-of-water comedy about a talented street drummer from Harlem who enrolls in a southern university expecting to lead it's marching band's drumline to victory but discovers that it takes more than talent to reach the top. (119 min)

8 MILE (R) Eminem & Kim Basinger: A young rapper from Detroit who uses music to struggle with his anger finds that he can use the hate in his heart to transcend his meager beginnings and eventually attain mega-star success. (111 min)

REVERSAL (PG-13) Danny Mousetis & Kelly Vint: The seven-year-old son of a wrestling coach knows just how to win his father's approval by keeping his weight down and winning every match. Now, ten years later, he's the high school wrestling champion but his destructive striving for perfection will soon threaten his relationship with his girlfriend, his family and possibly his future. (109 min)

VIEW FROM THE TOP (PG-13) Gwyneth Paltro & Christina Applegate: A young woman from meager beginnings with high hopes for her future, dreams of living the glamorous life of an international flight attendant and will do anything it takes to make that dream come true. The path to success is rarely smooth and she soon encounters more turbulence than even she expected. (87 min)

RENT CONTROL (R) Mellissa Joan Hart & Ryan Browning: In overcrowded New York City it's almost impossible to find a cheap apartment. When two young actors move in with a relative, they think they've got it made, at least until she dies. Now the apartment will no longer be subject to rent control unless they can fool their nosy neighbors and the landlord. (90 min)

DOWN WITH LOVE (PG-13) Renee Zellweger & Ewan McGregor: Set in the early 1960's, an advice columnist finds herself flustered by a playboy journalist. (96 min)