

Summer 1995

Navy  
Housing

# Today

Ideas for the Bachelor and Family Housing Professional.

SOLVING THE GARDEN PUZZLE~  
Focus on Summer

BQ IMPROVEMENTS~  
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION IS NOT THE  
ONLY ANSWER

WARM HEARTS OF THE SOUTH~  
A Whirlwind Tour of Corpus Christi,  
Jacksonville, Kings Bay, Kingsville,  
Mayport & New Orleans



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On the cover: SUBASE, Kings Bay, Ga.

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# FAMIS Testbeds

## Putting the databases through the paces

by Deborah Ann Hanson

In the pursuit of handing every sailor a set of keys to a desirable home on arrival to a new duty station, FAMIS provides an easy way to assign and track government requirements and resources.

There is more to property management than mowing lawns. Running a miniature city is a better description of what housing offices do, say many of the managers interviewed in the nation's Southland for this summer edition of *Navy Housing Today*. That's where the proverbial "rubber meets the road" and a sophisticated database and networking system are needed. That's what the Family Housing Activity Management Information System (FAMIS) provides.

In the pursuit of handing every sailor a set of keys to a desirable home on arrival to a new duty station, FAMIS provides an easy way to assign and track government requirements and resources. At this time, four major functions are built into FAMIS, Version 2.0, which includes: (1) Facilities Management, (2) Family Information Management, (3) Housing Inventory, and (4) System Administration. Financial Applications and Decision Support modules are under development and will be included in the next version of FAMIS. Meantime, several of the testbed locations have been exploring ways to customize and fine-tune FAMIS to meet their specific needs.

### Training Must Be Timely

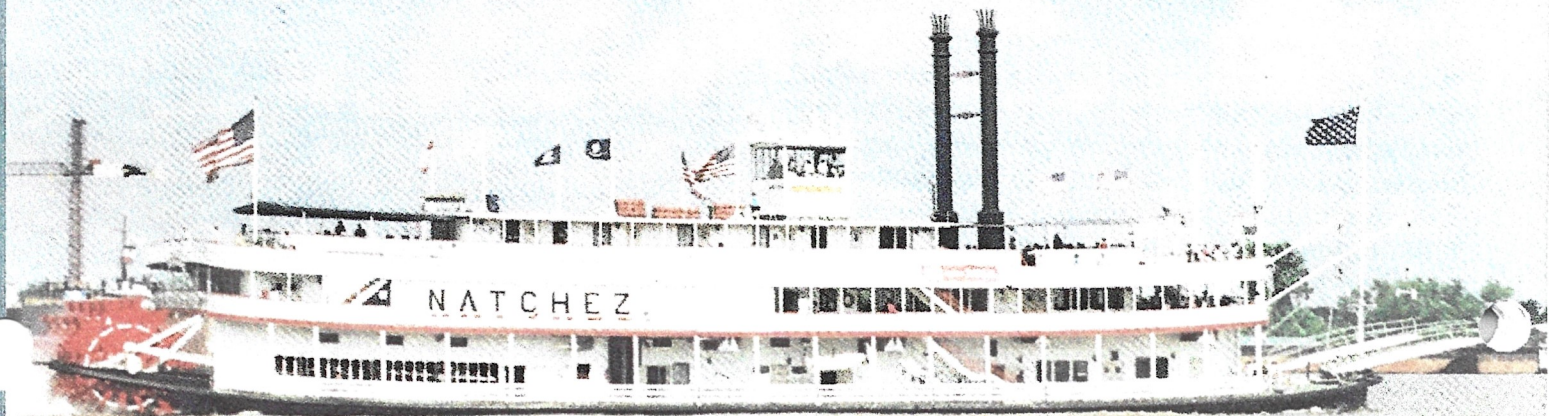
Billie Nance and Joyce Wells, Mayport, Fla., have been using FAMIS in its original and current versions for over five years and both stress the importance of training that is prompt and timely. "If you're allowed to flounder around too long without any help, it makes setting up and learning the system too difficult," said Billie. "And if the training is too early, before you have the system online, there is a tendency to forget some things," said Joyce. Billie and Joyce went on to agree that they have requested some changes to the FAMIS format, "There are some limitations in the referral section, for example, such as not allowing changes to the (address only) window...you have to change the whole listing," said



# Warm Hearts

## A WHIRLWIND TOUR

*by Deborah Ann Hanson*





# of the South

*H*armoniously blending residents' needs with government requirements is how housing managers make communities work. Management staffs, large and small, are finding they can improve their bottom line spending and make their residents happier and more involved in their communities, by reengineering their living environments.

## A TALE OF SIX COMMUNITIES

Among the list of managers who are re-creating the housing community of the future is Housing Director Mollie Ballay at the Naval Personnel Support Activity, New Orleans. Ballay is understandably proud of her New Orleans birthplace and 37 years of government service, 30 of which have been spent in housing. "I worked my way up from a GS-3 trouble service clerk and have seen government operations from all levels. These experiences have really taught me about persistence and making sure plans are carried through to their completion," said Ballay.

Ballay and her staff are doing just that with several current projects, most notably the installation of vinyl siding and patio covers to a majority of the homes. They also completed installation of ceiling fans in many homes, just in time for summer and an entryway sign with tropical landscaping for the Riverview Housing Area Complex. Ballay provided additional examples of their initiatives. "We are very proud of our community's half-mile walking path and the positive response has been overwhelming. When we see or hear of a need, we try to respond to what our customers want and need," said Ballay.

Mollie also showed some of the historic sites, homes, and communities of New Orleans. She is especially proud of the flag quarters for each of the three service officers. "We have some of the finest old antebellum homes and the Admiral's

*Photos (l-r) of French Quarter, flag quarters, antebellum-style home, and new New Orleans juxtaposed behind the old New Orleans are inset in a photo of Mississippi River with paddlewheel boat "rollin' down the river."*

