



Multi-tasking
Folk performer Christine Lavin talks about singing and knitting.
CapeWeek

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Next Otis fight: Save CG air station

By ERIC GERSON and KEVIN DENNEHY
STAFF WRITERS

The state's top political leaders were successful in a months-long struggle to keep Otis Air National Guard Base from closing, but they are now struggling to keep the Coast Guard air station there.

While Otis stayed open, the

A busy Coast Guard air station

From July 2004 to July 2005, 283 search and rescue missions were launched from Air Station Cape Cod.

Air National Guard's 102nd Fighter Wing and its F-15s are moving to western Massachusetts. The guard unit maintains the runways and other airport

infrastructure at an annual cost of \$17 million to \$20 million, and Coast Guard officials say they cannot afford the cost.

In a meeting hosted by U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., in Washington, D.C., yesterday, he and Gov. Mitt Romney reassured Coast Guard officials that they would try to land a new military mission for Otis that would bear the cost of runway maintenance. U.S. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., and U.S. Rep. William Delahunt, D-

Mass., also attended.

Air Station Cape Cod is home to four Falcon jets, four Jayhawk helicopters, and 400 military and civilian employees. The aircraft are used for search and rescue missions, homeland security and drug interdiction efforts. It is the fifth largest Coast Guard air station in the country.

During a 12-month period beginning in July 2004, 283 search-and-rescue missions were launched from Air Station Cape Cod.

The new military mission for Otis is expected to be revealed on Dec. 1, but most of the options under consideration

Please see AIR STATION /A-6

LIFE AFTER IRAQ

Back from the war, a new generation of Americans learns what it is to be a vet

By KEVIN DENNEHY
STAFF WRITER

DENNIS - Twice already in recent weeks Matt Emery has taken his friends to see "Jarheads," the new movie about Gulf War-era Marines and the bonds they formed in battle.

Veterans from the Vietnam era had their own movies, like "Platoon," says Emery, a Marine from "why I joined it was going to nit me, but afterward I called my friends from the Corps," he said. "We're all friends, and all have brothers over there."

"It's not a joke over there."

For the first time since the Vietnam era, a sizable percentage of an American generation tested in combat is returning from war, and now readjusting to life at home.

More than 430,000 living veterans of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan have returned from active-duty service already, with many more still in the service at home or overseas.

A good part of this new generation was born in the 1980s, and is just a few years removed from high school graduation.

"I don't even think of myself as a veteran," said Michael Amster, a 23-year-old Marine from Hyannis who returned last year from a tour spent largely on the outskirts of Fallujah.

"I think of veterans as those guys in their 70s, somebody like my grandfather, who hangs out at the VFW and chats with the other guys."

"I just think of myself as a guy who did his job."

Please see VETERANS /A-6



PAUL BLACKMORE

Marine Lance Cpl. Matt Emery of Dennis, 22, has taken up glass blowing while he assesses his future. Injured by a grenade in Iraq, he is classified by the VA as 80 percent disabled. An attempt to attend college ended when he suffered a seizure in class. But he remains optimistic. "I'm enjoying life right now," he says.



Photo courtesy of Michael Amster

The 20 months Michael Amster of Hyannis served with the Marines were among the bloodiest for U.S. troops. He was almost killed twice, but there was no time to worry, he says. Now, as he eyes his future, he has time in abundance.

Inside

WWI vets dwindle to the very few /A-2

Veterans Day events around the Cape /A-6

Romney, in D.C., asks U.S. to delay wind farm review

By KEVIN DENNEHY and DAVID SCHOETZ
STAFF WRITERS

Gov. Mitt Romney yesterday called for a timeout on the Nantucket Sound wind farm review.

During a meeting in Washington, D.C., Romney asked Interior Secretary Gale Norton to freeze review of the ambitious offshore plan until a detailed framework for such reviews is complete.

Norton's answer has not yet been made with a final decision expected by January of 2007.

"There has been an indica-

For more on the proposed wind farms see our special online resource site for recent stories, graphics and related links: www.capecodonline.com/special/windfarm/

tion that Cape Wind would shortcut the eventual process and proceed on an accelerated timeline," Romney said in an

In a hand-delivered letter to

Please see WIND FARM /A-11

Georges Bank drilling cut from House bill

By MICHAEL HARTIGAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
WITH WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON - Georges Bank off the New England coast and Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will remain protected from oil and gas drilling, at least for now.

House leaders agreed to remove sections overturning federal drilling prohibitions from the deficit reduction bill likely to be voted on next week.

The section affecting Georges Bank would have made individual states responsible for continuing or cancelling the federal freeze on offshore drilling that was put in place in 1998 under President Clinton.

What's ahead

- The House is expected to take up the spending reduction bill next week without the oil and gas drilling proposals.
- Any House passage measure will have to be reconciled with the Senate bill, which would permit the drilling.
- A final compromise bill thus could still allow drilling, but that now seems less likely.

Republican leaders also agreed to remove the hotly contested plan to allow drilling

Please see DRILLING /A-14

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Please see **DRILLING /A-14**

Drilling: Changes cut from bill

continued from **A-1**

in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), where geologists believe more than 10 billion barrels of oil rest beneath a strip of coastal tundra.

Had the offshore drilling proposal remained, it could have been a first step in opening Georges Bank to oil and natural gas drilling.

"We are relieved and glad that the House of Representatives had the good sense to take these important ocean treasures off the development block," said Priscilla Brooks, director of the Healthy Oceans Program at the Boston office of the Conservation Law Foundation. "We believe that oil and gas exploration and development will be harmful to the marine mammals and other ocean life."

Georges Bank has circular currents that would prevent any spilled oil from dissipating and moving out to sea, Brooks said. She also said the acoustic impact of drilling would be a threat to whales because of

their sensitivity to underwater sound waves.

Brooks said she does not believe there is anywhere in New England that is appropriate for drilling, especially on Georges Bank, where, she said, the expected amount of oil and gas does not justify the environmental risks.

The Senate version of the bill includes the offshore and ANWR drilling proposals.

Once the House version of the bill passes, it will go to a committee of House and Senate negotiators for differences between the chambers to be reconciled. The committee can restore the drilling amendments, but the recommended compromise will still require approval by the full House and Senate.

"It's a small victory, because the Senate version of this bill actually contains all this language," said Steven Broderick, aide to Rep. William Delahunt, D-Mass., whose district includes Cape Cod and the islands.

Broderick said Delahunt

would vote against the bill anyway.

Much of the opposition is unrelated to drilling issues but stems rather from deep cuts the bill would make in social programs, including food stamps, Medicaid and student loans.

Democrats already were on record in unanimous opposition to the budget cuts. So GOP moderates - those opposed to the entire bill and others opposed only to the oil and gas drilling sections - had more leverage than they ever dreamed.

"Our voice is being listened to now more than it has in the past," said Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, R-N.Y., a moderate.

The House in various forms passed authorization to drill in the refuge five times, but each time the measure died in the Senate, where drilling supporters couldn't get the 60 votes needed to overcome a filibuster.

But the strategy this time was to push the drilling measures through as part of the budget bill, which is not subject to a filibuster.