

Base Events

✿ **ACT Workshop**
March 23 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in Administration Building 255, room 265. Call 679-2473

✿ **Boating Safety Class**
March 28 at 5 p.m. at Ponta Creek. Call 679-2526

✿ **St. Patrick's Day 5k/1M Fun Run**
March 16 at 9 a.m. at Ponta Creek. Call 679-2526

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What's Inside

page 2:
Area Happenings

page 5:
Clean Hands

page 7:
Check out what's for sale

page 9:
Yes, you need an emergency fund



~ page 4 ~

Dr. Seuss's Army Career



~ page 8 ~

Women's History: U.S. Navy

RP School returns



Photo by MC1 Chris Liaghat
Naval Chaplaincy School Commanding Officer Capt. Steven Moses, left, and Senior Chief Religious Program Specialist Temeca Brown cut the ribbon at the opening of the new Religious Program Specialist "A" School inside the Naval Technical Training Center onboard Naval Air Station Meridian, Feb. 25.

Navy Religious Program Specialist (RP) training returned to Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian, Feb. 25, after about a 10-year absence.

RP training moved to Fort Jackson, South Carolina in 2009. The relocation was part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission mandated collocation of schools to design and foster closer cooperation among the three military chaplain corps.

"The Fort Jackson community was a gracious host for almost a decade; however, the return to Meridian is vital for continued professional growth which provides systematic, comprehensive leader development of our RPs," said Capt. Steve Moses, commanding officer, Naval Chaplaincy School and Center (NSCS), who was present to welcome the inaugural class. "The relocation to Meridian allows our RPs the opportunity to develop as leaders and Sailors alongside their Navy enlisted counterparts."

RP "A" School, or initial skills training following boot camp, conducts classes at NAS Meridian through an NCSC learning site. Twenty students are enrolled in the first RP class.

"The training conducted here in Meridian is an important first step in the development of our enlisted personnel," said Senior Chief Religious Program Specialist Tameca Brown, NCSC's senior enlisted advisor. "We must ensure that our religious ministry teams are agile and adaptive in ministry that supports the warfighter."

● **RP School, page 4**

YN1 Purcell named Military Citizen of the Year

Yeoman 1st Class Jennifer Purcell, left, accepts the AC2 Whitney Powell Memorial Military Citizen of the Year Award from Rick Justice, president of the Mississippi Council of the Navy, during a luncheon Feb. 28. The award is presented to an enlisted military member who dedicates much of their off time to volunteering in the community. Purcell contributed 190 hours of community service towards various community outreach projects including Northeast Elementary School Scholastics Book Fair, exam proctor at Northeast Middle School and Habitat for Humanity. She volunteered 78 clinical hours at Till-Newell Animal Hospital assisting veterinarians with day-to-day animal rescue operations. She supported the Coyote Hills Equine Rescue and Therapeutic Riding Center by assisting with routine care and handling of the horses. She supervised eight children and handled 12 horses as a camp counselor at the youth ranch during the summer. Purcell was one of four nominees that included Yeoman 1st Class Michael C. Howard, Naval Technical Training Center; Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Darius A. Latta, NAS Meridian Air Operations; and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Courtland J. Morris, Naval Branch Hospital Clinic.

Photo by MC1 Chris Liaghat



Region Southeast holds change of command ceremony

Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) held a change of command ceremony onboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida, Feb. 22.

During the ceremony, Rear Adm. Gary Mayes relieved Rear Adm. Babette "Bette" Bolivar as the region's commander. The time-honored ceremony marked an end to Bolivar's leadership of the command that she has headed since February 2017.

CNRSE supports and guides 18 installations throughout the Southeastern United States and the Caribbean.

Vice Adm. Mary Jackson, commander, Navy Installations Command, served as the guest speaker for the ceremony. She presented Bolivar with the Legion of Merit for her performance of outstanding services and achievements.

"As we evolve from a shore integrator to a shore owner, each member of the CNIC team must relentlessly examine how we operate to support maxi-

mum operational readiness. Bette and the Navy Region Southeast team have, and continue, to deliver at the highest level to this standard," Jackson said. "I have, and will always, admire your work and your tenacity. As a shipmate and a friend, you have done an exceptional job."

Born in Hawaii and raised in various locations in the Western Pacific, Bolivar graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1985, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in oceanography. She later went on to earn a Master of Science degree in management from Troy University. In 1988, following her second tour, Bolivar was accepted to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal/Diving and Salvage Community as a special operations officer. She served in various leadership positions aboard five Navy ships, as well as commanding officer of Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 1.

● **CNRSE, page 4**



U.S. Navy photo

Rear Adm. Gary Mayes, Commander, Navy Region Southeast.

Sailors meritoriously promoted during surprise ceremony



Photo by MC1 Chris Liaghat

Naval Air Station Meridian Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Horstman pins second class petty officer insignia on Aviation Boatswains Mate (Equipment) 2nd Class Stacy Johnson, during a surprise, meritorious promotion ceremony in the Air Operations building onboard NAS Meridian, March 1.



Photo by MC1 Chris Liaghat

Josephine Bivens pins first class petty officer insignia on her husband, Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Samuel Bivens. The Meritorious Advancement Program authorizes commanding officers to advance eligible personnel in paygrades E5 and below to the next higher paygrade.

Photo of Week



MC2 Samantha P. Montenegro

A toddler sits in the bell of the USS Gladiator after being christened on board the ship while it was deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in Manama, Bahrain, Feb. 24.

A DAY IN NAVAL HISTORY

~ March 6, 1991 ~



President George H. W. Bush addresses a joint session of Congress and states, "I can report to the nation: Aggression is defeated. The war is over."



~ March 9, 1919 ~

The first flight from a battleship platform is made by Lt. Cmdr. Edward O. McDonnell in a Sopwith Camel from turret No. 2 of USS Texas (BB 35) while anchored at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba 1919 - The first flight from a battleship platform is made by Lt. Cmdr. Edward O. McDonnell in a Sopwith Camel from turret No. 2 of USS Texas (BB 35) while anchored at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Area Happenings

MARCH

15: US Navy Band "Sea Chanters" in Concert at 7 p.m. at the Historic Temple Theater. The Navy Band Sea Chanters is the United States Navy's official chorus. The ensemble performs throughout the Country sharing a variety of music ranging from traditional choral music, including sea chanteys and patriotic fare, to opera, Broadway, and contemporary selections. Free tickets are available at the Temple Theatre, Meridian Star and at Ponta Creek Complex onboard NAS Meridian. Call 601-693-5353.

29: Monterey Jazz Festival at 7:30 p.m. at the MSU Riley Center. Celebrating its 60th anniversary, the revered Monterey Jazz Festival presents a stage full of young talent. These all-stars perform beloved standards as well as their own original music. Tickets are \$43 and \$37; call 601-696-2200.

29: Spring Fling Meridian Blood Drive from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at the MCC Workforce Center. Blood donors will receive special water bottles and happies from community supported sponsors. Call Gina Conner at 601-938-6409.

30: Burgers & Barks at Bonita from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Bonita Lakes. All proceeds to support the East Mississippi Animal Rescue. Attractions include: pet parade, food vendors, inflatables, pet photo booth, face painting. \$25 entry fee for the Pet Parade which includes admission into the event; \$10 entry fee for family. Call 601-938-5922.

30: State Games of MS Net Fest Soccer Tournament from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Jaycee Soccer Complex. 3v3 Soccer Tournament: U8 B/G; U10 B/G; U12 B/G; U14 B/G; High School (Grades 9-12) B/G & Coed; Under 30 M/W Coed; Over 30 M/W & Coed. Deadline to register is March 25; cost is \$20 per player; call 601-482-0205.

31: Sucarnochee Revue Sunday Down South at 2 p.m. at the Historic Temple Theater. The show will feature a variety of talent and music from Country to Bluegrass and everything in between. Concessions available; doors open at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$10; \$1 for children under 12; call 601-693-5353.

NAVY NEWS BRIEFS

Constitution to participate in Mobile Navy Week

Sailors assigned to USS Constitution will participate in a Navy Office of Community Outreach Navy Week in Mobile, Alabama Feb. 27-March 4.

The primary purpose of the Navy Week program is to increase the public's awareness of the Navy by presenting the Navy to Americans who live in cities that normally do not have a significant naval presence. Mobile Navy Week will showcase the mission, capabilities and achievements of the U.S. Navy and provide residents the opportunity to meet with Sailors firsthand.

Constitution Sailors will kick off their participation with a historical discussion of 'Old Ironsides' at Gulf Quest Mari-

time Museum Navy Day, Boys and Girls Club - Kiwanis Branch, Theodore High School Navy Day, Boys and Girls Club - Semmes Branch, Kate Shepard Elementary, and Boys and Girls Club - Gillard Elementary Branch.

Additionally, Sailors will present the colors during the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS James E. Williams' (DDG 95) arrival ceremony, Saraland Mardi Gras Parade, Joe Cain Parade, and Order of Doves parade. Later in the week, Constitution Sailors will spend time interacting with Mobile's children at the USA Children's & Women's Hospital.

--From USS Constitution Public Affairs

TSC Great Lakes revises student handbook

Training Support Center Great Lakes announced Feb. 25 the availability of the newly revised Student Handbook (TRASUPPCENGLAKESINST 1616.1C) posted online through the Training Support Center Great Lakes website.

Lt. Cmdr. Mindie Witt noted the updates correlate with what is expected of students in the Fleet. Changes in the handbook encompass revised sections in a wide array of policies including; room standards, alcohol, mishap and safety reporting, liberty and watch standing.

"TSC's recent updates to Student Policies and procedures were initiated to realign with current Fleet policy and operate the way we would do so on a 'ship' or 'squadron' to better prepare them as a fleet ready Sailor," Witt said. "The new changes increase personal responsibility on the part of the service members to keep what they earn while conducting themselves in accordance with the Navy

values."

The Student Handbook is a document that not only assists the students on policies and what is expected of them, but it also gives Navy Military Training Instructors (NMTI) the tools they need in continuing the Sailorization process by helping the students hone training learned in boot camp applying skills they need to become a well-rounded Sailor.

"The ropes worn by a TSC NMTI signify they are qualified to oversee barracks of anywhere from 150 to 400 students," Witt said. "They are the staff members who routinely conduct inspections of living quarters and uniforms, overseeing watch standing, ensuring general health and wellness, upholding all Navy regulations and standards, holding weekly training, and personifying Navy core values."

--By Brian Walsh, Training Support Center Public Affairs

IN CASE OF TORNADO:

TORNADO WATCH

MEANS TORNADES ARE POSSIBLE

NOTIFICATION: NOAA WEATHER RADIO ALERT
ACTION: WATCH WEATHER CONDITIONS. BE PREPARED TO TAKE SHELTER.



TORNADO WARNING

MEANS A TORNADO IS DEVELOPING OR HAS BEEN SEEN

NOTIFICATIONS: NOAA WEATHER RADIO ALERT
WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT
SIRENS

ACTION: TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!
GO TO AN INTERIOR HALLWAY OR BATHROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR WITHOUT WINDOWS OR SKYLIGHTS. LEAVE GYMNASIUMS, CAFETERIAS, AND AUDITORIUMS.



NAS Meridian NMCRS Office is open on Tuesdays from 8 a.m.-noon & Thursdays from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 601-679-2504. Administration Building 255, Suite 283

The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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Hotlines & Helpful Numbers

SAPR Victim Assistance: 601-604-3037
SAPR Civilian Victim Assistance: 601-486-3122
SARC: 601-481-4274
SAFE Helpline: 877-995-5247
Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255
Military OneSource: 800-342-9647
CEAP (DoN Civilian): 844-366-2327
EAP (NAF Civilian): 800-932-0034
FFSC Meridian: 601-679-2360
Chaplain: 601-604-2015
NMCRS Duty Cell: 601-604-2206
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EEO (GS): 904-542-2802

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Seven aviators earn ‘Wings of Gold’ in February pinning ceremony

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony Feb. 22 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian.

Four U.S. Navy, one U.S. Marine Corps and two French Naval aviators received their “Wings of Gold” during the ceremony. The naval aviator designation ceremony is not prescribed specifically by U.S. Navy regulations, but has emerged as an honored product of the rich heritage of naval tradition. It marks the culmination of nearly two years of specialized training, which has prepared these officers for the rigorous demands of aerial combat and carrier operations -- earning each the title of “Naval Aviator” and the right to wear the coveted “Wings of Gold.”

● **Winging**, page 8



Anderson



Fatta



Kinnane

Golden Stick



Photo by MC1 Chris Liaghat

Mississippi Council of the Navy League member Arjen Lagendijk, left, presents the Golden Stick award to Lt. J. g. Aaron Vanada during a winging ceremony at the chapel onboard NAS Meridian, Feb. 22. The award is presented to the student aviator from a graduating class with the highest composite score.



Rubin



Streicher



Vanada



Waggoner

Command Quarters



Photo by Penny Randall

Naval Air Station Meridian Sailors received awards during the monthly command quarters at the Air Operations building onboard NAS Meridian, Feb. 23. Presented during the ceremony were four Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, one Meritorious Service Medal, and one Air Traffic Controller of the Month award.

F-35C achieves initial operational capability

The Commander, Naval Air Forces and the U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Aviation jointly announced that the aircraft carrier variant of the Joint Strike Fighter, the F-35C Lightning II, met all requirements and achieved Initial Operational Capability (IOC).

The Feb. 28 announcement comes shortly after the Department of the Navy’s first F-35C squadron, Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 147, completed aircraft carrier qualifications aboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) and received Safe-For-Flight Operations Certification.

In order to declare IOC, the first operational squadron must be properly manned, trained and equipped to conduct assigned missions in support of fleet operations. This includes having 10 Block 3F, F-35C aircraft, requisite spare parts, support equipment, tools, technical publications, training programs and a functional Autonomic Logistic Information System (ALIS).

Additionally, the ship that supports the first squadron must possess the proper infrastructure, qualifications and certifications. Lastly, the Joint Program Office, industry, and Naval Aviation must demonstrate that all procedures, processes and policies are in place to sustain operations.

“The F-35C is ready for operations, ready for combat and ready to win,” said Commander Naval Air Forces, Vice Admiral DeWolfe Miller. “We are adding an incredible weapon system into the arsenal of our Carrier Strike Groups that significantly enhances the capability of the joint force.”

Naval Air Station (NAS) Lemoore is the home-base for the Navy’s Joint Strike Fighter Wing, Navy F-35C fleet squadrons and the Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS), VFA-125 that trains Navy and Marine Corps CVN-based Joint Strike Fighter pilots.

To accommodate the F-35C program at NAS Lemoore, several facilities were built or remodeled to facilitate specific F-35C requirements with regard to maintenance and training, including a Pilot Fit Facility, Centralized Engine Repair Facility, Pilot Training Center and a newly-remodeled hangar. Future projects are planned as additional Navy squadrons transition into the F-35C. The Marine Corps plans to transition four F-35C squadrons that will be assigned to Carrier Air Wings for deployments.

● **F-35**, page 7



Photo by MCC Shannon E. Renfro

An F-35C Lightning II attached to the “Argonauts” of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 147, assigned to Commander, Joint Strike Fighter Wing, completes a flight over Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Feb. 1. Commander, Joint Strike Fighter Wing, headquartered at NASL ensures that each F-35C squadron is fully combat-ready to conduct carrier-based, all-weather, attack, fighter and support missions for Commander, Naval Air Forces.

Public Works Hard at Work...



Tom Herrington checks for electrical hazards during a maintenance action at the electrical vault on the north runway onboard NAS Meridian, March 4. Herrington – along with Public Works employees Eric Ross, Merrilu Hurtt, Jerome Clemons, Kline Gressett and Andrew Waters – identified and corrected service issues; averted a lengthy electrical outage; and allowed the airfield to continue normal operations.

Photo by Brandon Maxwell



Photo by Joe Parry

A Public Works team works on a large water line project designed to improve flexibility and redundancy to the base housing water supply system. Team members include: Greg Freeman, Matt Singley, Benjamin Carpenter, Joshua Maxwell, Joe Parry, Eric Ross and Merrilu Hurtt.



Courtesy photo

Theodor Seuss Geisel -- Dr. Seuss -- joined the Army in 1943.

Dr. Seuss' Army career

By Katie Lange

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

Dr. Seuss is a story-writing legend in America. It's hard to find anyone who hasn't read "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," "The Cat in the Hat," "The Lorax" or "Horton Hears A Who!"

But well before those iconic books were written, Dr. Seuss joined the World War II effort on the home front using his real name, Theodor Seuss Geisel.

At first, he drew posters for the Treasury Department and the War Production Board. But by 1943, Geisel wanted to do more, so he joined the U.S. Army. He was put in command of the animation department of the 1st Motion Picture Unit, which was created out of the Army Signal Corps. There, he wrote pamphlets and films and contributed to the famous Private Snafu cartoon series.

Private Snafu — which stood for situation normal, all fouled up — was a series of adult instructional cartoons meant to relate to the noncareer soldier. They were humorous and sometimes even raunchy. According to the National Archives' Special Media Archives Services Division, Geisel and his team believed that the risqué subject matter would help keep soldiers' attention, and because the Snafu series was for Army personnel only, producers could avoid traditional censorship.

Geisel's cartoons were often featured on Army-Navy Screen Magazine, a bi-weekly production of several short segments.

One of Geisel's most significant military works, however, wasn't animated. It was called "Your Job in Germany" and was an orientation film for soldiers who would occupy Germany after the war was over. Geisel, who was German-American himself, was assigned to write it a year before the Germans surrendered.

According to Geisel's biography, "Dr. Seuss and Mr. Geisel," Geisel said he was sent to Europe during the war to screen the film in front of top generals for approval. He happened to be in Belgium in December 1944, when the Battle of the Bulge — Hitler's last big counteroffensive in Belgium's Ardennes forest — erupted. According to his biography, Geisel was trapped 10 miles behind enemy lines, and it took three days before he and his military police escort were rescued by British forces.

According to National Archives staff, it's possible that the snafu cartoons influenced Geisel's career as Dr. Seuss. Throughout Snafu, Geisel started using limited vocabulary and rhyme — something noticeable in his later works like "The Cat in the Hat," which used only 236 words but is one of the best-selling books of all time.

Geisel left the Army in January 1946, having attained the rank of lieutenant colonel. He stayed in the filmmaking industry for a few years, even working on documentaries and shorts that earned Academy Awards, but he eventually switched to using his pen name, Dr. Seuss, to start writing children's books.

And the rest, as they say, is history!

Punked by my GPS

Last week, I hobbled over our frozen lawn toward my salt-encrusted car, balancing a to-go cup of coffee and two bags slung over each shoulder. It's a hassle running errands during the doldrums of winter. Opening the gritty driver's door, I set my coffee in the center console's cup holder, then decided to hurl my purse and tote bag across the driver's side into the passenger's seat. Of course, my purse strap caught the handle of the to-go cup as it flew over the console, splattering coffee on the seats, windows, dashboard, floor mats, and my white winter coat.

"Gimme a break," I mumbled, subconsciously referencing the spring getaway that would get me through the God-forsaken winter.

This year, Francis and I are taking trip to the British Isles to see our daughter who is spending a semester abroad. A rented London apartment will serve as home base during most of our trip, but we will also explore the Irish countryside for four days, with only a rental car and a GPS to guide us.

Though excited, bad memories of relying on a GPS during a spring break trip in Italy ten years ago have me worried.

I was driving our kids from our German duty station to Venice, to board an Italian cruise ship for one final hurrah before we moved back to the states.

In Austria, I stopped on the side of a winding mountain road because Lilly was carsick, hoping our GPS would lead us to our hotel soon. We squealed around three more hairpin turns before spotting our Tyrollean guest house. "There it is!" I yelped with relief.

The owner showed us to two rooms at opposite ends of the hall. After eating the dinner I'd packed for us, we were snug in our respective rooms.

Anna and Lilly's huge bed looked like a giant coconut crème pie mounded with feathery white cotton. I drifted off in the room I shared with Hayden, thinking of the fun we would have during the days to come.

"Mom, Lilly threw up in our bed!" Anna

COLUMN



Molinari

startled me in the darkness. I stumbled to my feet and followed her down the hall.

Opening their door, I found complete carnage. The marshmallow white bed had turned into a veritable crime scene. The half-digested dinner of turkey subs, sour cream and onion chips, and M&Ms. was pooled in the center of the crisp white linens.

In an attempt to mitigate the damages, Lilly had dabbed the mess with a bath towel, managing to slop it on herself, the carpet, the bathroom floor, and two light switches.

I stood for a moment, unable to contemplate a solution. Obviously, Lilly wasn't carsick. She had a stomach virus. For two hours I scrubbed, scraped, rinsed, dipped, and squeezed away the horrific mess. I found clean linens in a hallway closet and put poor Lilly back to bed.

In the morning, I left an apology note and some extra cash on the stained mattress, and set the GPS to take us the "fast route" straight to our cruise ship in Venice.

But instead of sending us to the nearby freeway to the south, our GPS directed us east, into the snowy mountains. Believing that our GPS knew better, I did exactly as instructed.

An hour later, we were 2,000 meters above sea level. Another hour later, police signs directed us onto a dirt detour around an avalanche covering the road. Then, after making it through the Alps, we crossed into the Dolomites.

Was this a sick joke?

After four hours of zigzagging mountain roads, our GPS finally released us onto a straight highway toward Venice. I snatched the ticket from the toll booth and gunned the engine, racing at illegal speeds. Every time our smug GPS warned, "Beware!" and flashed the speed limit, I gritted my teeth and pressed the gas pedal harder.

I arrived in Venice frazzled, but satisfied that I'd taken two full minutes off our GPS's estimated time of arrival. Take that!

Technological advances in the last decade make another GPS-related spring break incident unlikely in Ireland, but I'm bringing a map, just in case.

Lisa Smith Molinari's self syndicated columns appear on her blog, www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com and she recently co-authored Stories Around the Table: Laughter, Wisdom, and Strength in Military Life Follow Lisa@MolinariWrites.

NAS Meridian Volunteer Income Tax Assistance 2019

A self-service tax assistance center



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! Tax Time.

Two options:

(1) Military OneSource MilTax 24/7 Self Service

All tax filing is self-service, so you can file taxes from the comfort of your own home using MilTax through Military OneSource. You can talk with a trained MilTax consultant free during tax season (January through April 18) seven days a week from 0700 to 2200 EST or EDT at 800-342-9647.

(2) NAS Meridian Self-Service Tax Assistance Center

Location: Andrew Triplett Library, 220 Fuller Road

Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed: 1000-1600 and Thurs: 1300-1800

Dates: January 28 – April 18

Who can use the Tax Assistance Center and MilTax??

Active duty, retirees, dependents, reserve on active duty >30 days or pre-mobilization, 20/20/20 spouses/dependents.
*Priority to E-6 and below at the Tax Assistance Center.

INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED

- Valid photo identification.
- Social Security number.
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents.
- Your wage and earning forms, such as Forms W-2, W-2C, and 1099-R.
- Interest and dividend statements (Forms 1099).
- Last year's Adjusted Gross Income. Copy of last year's federal and state tax returns, if available.
- Routing and account numbers for direct deposit of your tax refund.
- Total amount you paid for day care and the day care provider's identifying number. This is usually an Employer Identification Number or Social Security number.

For questions, contact the NAS Meridian Legal Office at 601-697-2340.

Free full tax services available near NAS Meridian

United Way of East Mississippi
4817 North Park Drive, Suite B, Meridian, MS 39305
Through April 15; Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-noon.
Appointment only. Call 601-693-2732

AARP East MS Elec Power Assn
2128 Highway 39 N
Meridian, MS 39301
Thursdays 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Through April 11. Call 601-692-2758

AARP RSVP
4817 N Park Dr., Meridian, MS 39305
Tuesdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Reservations required
Through April 10. Call 601-482-0512

For more locations, visit:

<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/find-a-location-for-free-tax-prep>
If you have questions, please contact the RLSO SE BROFF Millington Legal Assistance Office at 901-874-7379.

• CNRSE

Within the Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) enterprise, she has served in numerous positions including a tour as the CNIC chief of staff, as commander, Navy Region Northwest, as commander, Joint Region Marianas, and then in her current position as commander, Navy Region Southeast.

Bolivar's next assignment will be in San Diego, California, where she will take the helm of commander, Navy Region Southwest in March.

She thanked the installations, the community, and the Navy Region Southeast staff.

"It has been an absolute pleasure being part of this team," Bolivar said. "The combination of our installations, tenant commands, other Department of Defense services, and governments and communities across our region enable us to execute CNIC's mission to support the fleet, the fighter and the family. These are the can-do professionals who continue to make it happen for our region."

Following the striking of Bolivar's flag and the raising of Mayes' flag, the new commander of Navy Region Southeast addressed his team for the first time.

"What an honor and a privilege it is for me to again assume the mantle of command

in this great Navy," Mayes said.

"After spending the past few weeks with many of the professionals on the staff and the various commands that make up this region, I observed your infectious unity, your enthusiasm, your synergy of effort and I am happy to say I am absolutely thrilled and proud to be here serving alongside the men and women of Navy Region Southeast."

Mayes graduated from Purdue University in 1987, earned his commissioned as Aviation Officer Candidate School in 1988, and was designated as a naval aviator in 1989.

He is familiar with the Jacksonville area having flown with Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 48 and 46. He served as the executive officer and commanding officer of HSL-44, and as the officer in charge of a combined East and West Coast HSL/Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) detachment of 16 helicopters conducting rescue and humanitarian relief missions in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

His previous flag assignments include commander, Navy Region Northwest and, most recently on the staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics.

--From Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs

• RP School

Almost 200 RPs graduate from NCSC residence courses each year to prepare them to deliver professional religious ministry to the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Merchant Marine. Another 300 RPs receive professional development training annually through mobile training teams.

RPs play a critical role in helping the Department of the Navy achieve and maintain a ready force. Religious ministry teams are agents of individual spiritual readiness and unit cohesion. They encourage communication, help to resolve inner struggles, highlight strategies for personal and family harmony, and contribute to a ready spirit. They promote the character qualities that empower individuals to overcome adversity and help build the esprit of our Navy and Marine Corps team. RPs are embedded within commands operating at sea and ashore to ensure 24/7 availability for service members and their families.

--From Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Pfc. Devin Davis
 MATSS-1 Student
 Hometown: Savannah, Ga.

OOORAH!

Pfc. Jessica Pineda
 MATSS-1 Student
 Hometown: Bloomingdale, Ill.

Pfc. Davis joined the Marine Corps Oct. 8, 2018 wanting to challenge himself and find a good career.

He plans to stay Marines until retirement and hopes to attain the rank of warrant officer.

Davis is looking forward to receiving orders overseas. "I want to experience the world outside of the U.S.," he said.

His favorite Marine Corps tradition is the boot camp graduation ceremony. "The whole ceremony does a great job explaining the Corps values and history while showcasing brand new Marines," Davis said.



Pfc. Pineda joined the Marine Corps July 17, 2018 wanting to be a part of something great and to join her brothers (also Marines) in service of our country.

She is looking forward to travelling the world, meeting new people, learning her job in the fleet and pursuing a degree in Forensic Science.

Her most memorable experience from boot camp was the EGA ceremony. "I remember my Drill Instructor (Staff Sgt. Rebollar) came up to me and said 'It's alright Pineda, you can smile now -- you're a Marine.' It was one of the proudest moments of my life," Pineda said.

Marine with Mounted Color Guard tagged as NCO of the Year

By Keith Hayes
 10th Marine Regiment

Sgt. Emily Rowe is the 2018 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California.

Rowe, a stableman for the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard, was also NCO of the Quarter twice in 2018.

The Billings, Montana, native was presented a certificate acknowledging her selection as the NCO of the Year during the Quarterly Awards Breakfast Jan. 29, at the Major General James L. Day Conference Center aboard MCLB Barstow.

She also was presented plaques and gifts by William Ponder, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars post 12039 and Stacey McCray, the manager of Frontwave Credit Union.

The military occupational specialty-trained flight equipment technician sought the job of stableman because of her lifelong familiarity with horses. Usually, Marines are assigned to the Mounted Color Guard, regardless of their riding ability or MOS.

"The Color Guard has been mostly what I expected when I joined, but there are some aspects I didn't expect," the sergeant said. "Having to learn the Color Guard's way of riding was something that

didn't occur to me, but the MCG has also made me a better rider."

"I like meeting the people who attend our events," Rowe said. "Being around the horses makes most people more relaxed, especially the children."

Rowe has enjoyed her tenure with the last remaining MCG in the Marine Corps, visiting 10 states and performing in more than 100 events during her tenure.

She has learned about leadership as well when dealing with the Marines assigned to the Color Guard.

"The people I work with are motivated to do a good job," Rowe said. "There may be some coming to the unit who think 'I get to ride around all day on horses,' but that's just actually a small part of the job. There is a lot of preparation and just plain chores that have to be done before you ever even get in the saddle. If you don't think you can handle it, then you're probably not going to be very happy here."

Rowe has some advice for someone undecided about doing a stint in the military.

"You really should take a couple of years of your life and do some public service to pay back what America has given you. It doesn't have to be the military, but if you do join you will gain skills and develop bonds with people that will stay with you the rest of your life."



photo by Jack J. Adamyk

Sgt. Emily Rowe, stableman, was awarded Noncommissioned Officer of the Year by Col. Craig Clemans, Base Commander, and Sgt. Maj. Sergio Martinez Ruiz, Base Sergeant Major, during the quarterly awards breakfast aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., Jan. 29.

OKINAWA, JAPAN



Photo by Cpl. Austin Weck

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. William Burkle, with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force sweeps the area for explosive devices with his K-9 partner Baldur at Combat Town, Okinawa, Japan, Feb. 21. U.S. Marines utilize K-9 units to help sniff out possible bombs in the area as well as swiftly take out a target on command.

PARRIS ISLAND, S.C.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Shane Manson

Recruits with Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, complete swim qualification training at the pool at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., Feb 5. The swim qualification is a graduation requirement for recruit training and can be an annual training requirement for Marines.

Safety & Energy Efficiency is Our Duty

CLEAN HANDS SAVE LIVES
 Protect patients, protect yourself

Alcohol-rub or wash before and after EVERY contact.

hand hygiene saves lives



NAS Meridian, MS • Morale, Welfare and Recreation

On the Web: www.navywmrmeridian.com Facebook: www.Facebook.com/MWRMeridian

Facility Phone Numbers

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|---------------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| Fitness Center | 679-2379 | Library | 679-2326 | P.C. Golf Course | 679-2526 |
| Liberty Center | 679-3760 | Rudders Pub & Grill | 679-2780 | MWR Admin. | 679-2551 |
| Tickets | 679-3773 | CDC/CDH | 679-2652 | MWR Jobs Line | 679-2467 |
| McCain Rec Center | 679-2651 | SAC | 679-5252 | | |
| Equipment Rental | 679-2609 | SLO | 679-2473 | | |



Coming Attractions

McCain Rec Center

- Thursday, March 7**
5 p.m., E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, PG
7 p.m., Bohemian Rhapsody, PG13
- Friday, March 8**
5 p.m., Coco, PG
7 p.m., Robin Hood (2018), PG13
- Saturday, March 9**
1 p.m., Goosebumps, PG
5 p.m., Creed II, PG13
7:30 p.m., Robin Hood (2018), PG13
- Sunday, March 10**
1 p.m., E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, PG
5 p.m., Bohemian Rhapsody, PG13
7:30 p.m., Creed II, PG13
- Monday, March 11**
5 p.m., The BFG, PG
7 p.m., Instant Family, PG13
- Tuesday, March 12**
5 p.m., The Angry Birds Movie, PG
7 p.m., Men of Honor, R
- Wednesday, March 13**
5 p.m., The Little Mermaid, G
7 p.m., The Mummy (2017), PG13
- Thursday, March 14**
5 p.m., The BFG, PG
7 p.m., Instant Family, PG13

NAS Meridian ACT Workshop

March 23 • 0900-1500 • Room 265 (Admin Building #255)


Agenda

Workbook Overview • ACT Format • Content for English, Reading, Math and Science
Time Management and Pacing • Practice Tests • Understanding Your Score

The ACT is the leading college admissions test to determine academic readiness for post-secondary education. There is a direct correlation between scores and college admission/scholarship opportunities for students. Research indicates that students who attend face-to-face test preparatory workshops score an average of two points higher than those who do not.

The School Liaison Officer will offer an additional free ACT Workshop for high school students who are Dependents of Active Duty military personnel, Retirees, Reservists and DoD Civilians. The pre-registration deadline for this workshop is Wednesday, March 13. Refreshments and a lunch will be provided. Participants will need to provide their own workbook and personal calculator.

For additional info, or to register, please call (601) 679-2473.



Coming Attractions

McCain Rec Center

- Friday, March 15**
5 p.m., The Angry Birds Movie, PG
7 p.m., Men of Honor, R
- Saturday, March 16**
1 p.m., The Little Mermaid, G
5 p.m., The Mummy (2017), PG13
7 p.m., Men of Honor, R
- Sunday, March 17**
1 p.m., The BFG, PG
5 p.m., Instant Family, PG13
7 p.m., The Mummy (2017), PG13
- Monday, March 18**
5 p.m., Cars, G
7 p.m., Mortal Engines, PG13
- Tuesday, March 19**
5 p.m., Cars 2, G
7 p.m., Holmes & Watson, PG13
- Wednesday, March 20**
5 p.m., A Bug's Life, G
7 p.m., Bumblebee, PG13
- Thursday, March 21**
5 p.m., Cars, G
7 p.m., Mortal Engines, PG13
- Friday, March 22**
5 p.m., Cars 2, G
7 p.m., Holmes & Watson, PG13

2018-2019
Big Buck Contest
Oct. 1, 2018 - Jan. 31, 2019





1st Place: Skylour Tatum



2nd Place: Bryan Jones

BOATER SAFETY CLASS

March 28 • 1700 • Ponta Creek Complex



START SMART PROGRAM

The Start Smart program teaches children sports mechanics, and is a great way for parents and kids to have fun and learn basic skills. Each program meets once a week for six weeks.
For children ages 3-5 • Cost: \$25.00 • Sign up at the School-Aged Care Center

BASKETBALL
Apr 1 - May 3
Registration: Mar 1 - Mar 22



GOLF
Sept 2 - Oct 11
Registration: July 29 - Aug 23



Make a Rainbow
Story Time at the library
March 13 • 1000



www.NAVYMWRMERIDIAN.COM



Liberty Movie Night
MOVIE IN THE BARRACKS
Friday, March 15



USAA



Sports

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
5K/1MI FUN RUN**
MARCH 16 • 0900 • PONTA CREEK COMPLEX

CFL Certification Course March 25 - March 29

The Fitness Center will offer a MWR Navy Fitness course that provides guidance on the facilitation and instruction of the Command Fitness Leader Certification. Certified CFL instructors, under the direction of OPNAV (N17) and CNIC N924, will facilitate the five-day course to meet the needs of commands across the Navy enterprise. The course covers the administrative actions and duties of a CFL, basic exercise physiology and nutrition, injury prevention, basic PRIMS training and daily physical workouts. Upon completion of the course, CFLs will be tested and certified to run the Physical Readiness Program for their respective commands.

Call (601) 679-2371 for more information.



Group Exercise Schedule



Group Exercise Classes are held in the Multi-Use room (or outside, weather permitting). All classes are FREE to Active Duty personnel, Retirees, Reservists, DoD Civilians, their Dependents and Guests, and Contractors working full-time on the installation. For more information call (601) 679-2379.

PERSONAL TRAINING AND NOFFS/COMMAND PT SESSIONS ALSO AVAILABLE. CONTACT FITNESS CENTER FOR MORE DETAILS.

MONDAY

SPIN
1100 w/ Courtney

TUESDAY

HIIT
1100 w/ Courtney

WEDNESDAY

NOFFS Strength
1100 w/ Courtney

THURSDAY

**Bodybuilding/
Strength**
1100 w/ Courtney

FRIDAY

HIIT
1100 w/ Courtney

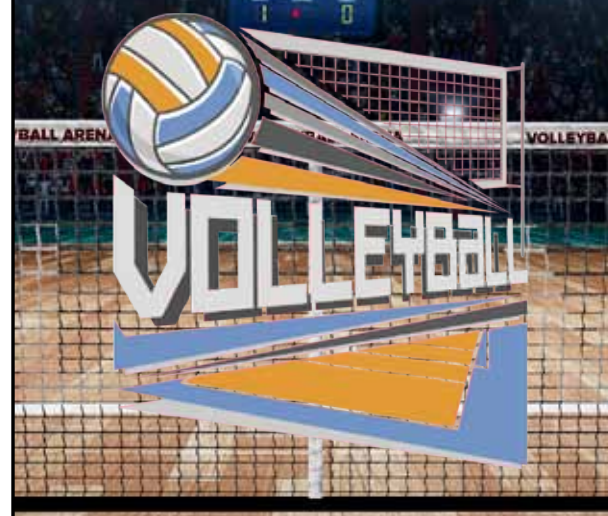
NOFFS

Navy Operational Fitness and Fueling System

INDOOR VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

REGISTRATION: MARCH 4 - APRIL 2
LEAGUE PLAY: APRIL 10 - JUNE 19

Visit NAVYMERIDIAN.COM/FITNESS for registration.
Contact Tim Lockey @ (601) 679-2367 for more information.



**When
Thunder
Roars
Go Indoors!**

STOP Activities
Seek shelter in a
substantial building or a
hard-topped metal vehicle.

● F-35

"We're very proud of what our Sailors have accomplished in the Joint Strike Fighter community," said CAPT Max McCoy, commodore of the U.S. Navy's Joint Strike Fighter Wing. "Their commitment to mission delivered fifth generation capability to the carrier air wing, making us more combat effective than ever before. We will continue to learn and improve ways to maintain and sustain F-35C as we prepare for first deployment. The addition of F-35C to existing Carrier Air Wing capability ensures that we can fight and win in contested battlespace now and well into the future."

Meanwhile, Rear Admiral Dale Horan, director, USN F-35C Fleet Integration Office said, "The F-35C will revolutionize capability and operating concepts of aircraft carrier-based naval aviation using advanced technologies to find, fix and assess threats and, if necessary, track, target and engage them in all contested environments," adding "This accomplishment represents years of hard work on the part of the F-35 Joint Program Office and Naval Aviation Enterprise. Our focus has now shifted to applying lessons learned from this process to future squadron transitions, and preparing VFA-147 for their first overseas deployment."

The mission-ready F-35C is the latest addition to U.S. Navy's Carrier Air Wing. With its stealth technology, state-of-the-art avionics, advanced sensors, weapons capacity and range, the aircraft carrier-based F-35C provides unprecedented air superiority, interdiction, suppression of enemy air defenses and close-air-support as well as advanced command and control functions through fused sensors. These state-of-the-art capabilities provide pilots and combatant commanders unrivaled battlespace awareness and lethality. The F-35C is the final U.S. Joint Strike Fighter variant to declare IOC and follows the USAF's F-35A and USMC's F-35B. IOC declaration is a significant milestone.

--From CNAF Public Affairs

Sale... Or

BOATS/CAMPERS/TRAILERS

2017 Keystone Avalanche 365MB (5th wheel) motor home. Sleeps eight; great living quarters; includes cables, hoses and septic lines. Asking \$49k. Call 586-899-6429.

2018 Mallard M185 Travel Trailer. Sleeps 4 with 1 queen bed/2 bunks. Easy to tow at 3,575 lbs; only selling because military member is moving overseas. Great living quarters with lake view. Hooked up and ready to live in, including cables, hoses, septic lines, plus the \$500 towing kit. Asking \$17,000. Call 360-434-3035

MOTORCYCLES/GEAR/ATV

2010 Ultra Classic Harley Davidson 29K miles 96cc Screaming Eagle Engine. Excellent condition. Asking \$10,500. Call 601-527-4981.

2010 Polaris Ranger 800XP Browning Edition, camo color. roof, windshield, winch, extra set of wheels/tires, and dual gun scabbard. Asking \$7,800. Call Pete at 601-678-3458.

2013 Harley Davidson Switchback, Asking \$8,000; only one owner; still under warranty; all maintenance done by Harley Davidson. Call 505-658-1675.

1982 Harley Davidson FLHS, 80 C.I. Shovelhead Engine w/4-Speed Transmission. Nice Antique Bike -- just can't ride anymore. Call 601-527-9756/601-986-8378

2004 Honda TRX450R four wheeler \$2,600; **2005 Honda TRX250EX** four wheeler \$1,600; **2002 Yamaha TTR-125L** dirt bike \$800; and **2006 50SX-F** dirt bike \$2,200. All in good shape ready to go. Overseas move forcing sale. Make offer ready to deal! Call Ben at 843-597-4221.

AUTOMOBILES, ETC.

New! 2010 Black Honda Accord EX-L, 133K miles, automatic, sunroof, heated leather seats \$8000. Call/text 601-616-1833.

2017 Camaro Gen6, 4k miles, 50th anniversary limited addition; like-new condition. \$38,500. Call 601-686-1027.

2012 Honda Civic, 47k miles, \$9,200. Call 601-490-3835.

HOMES/APARTMENTS

New! For Rent: 2BD/2BA home on the water in Dalewood. Washer, dryer, kitchen appliances included. Asking \$900 per month -- tenant responsible for power, water and yearly dues. Call Maynell at 601-595-5382.

For Sale: 4BD/2BA home close NAS in Daleville! Perfect for hunting, fishing, horseback riding, or ATV's; Ideal weekend getaway house with huge shop with electricity and

covered parking. North-east School District. Call Jenny Ziemba at 601-480-5969 or 601-282-5261.

For Sale: 4BD/2BA, 249 sq.ft home, Southern Oaks Subd, NE Lauderdale School District, 12 ft ceilings, gas heating (new unit), new dishwasher, alarm system, quiet and safe neighborhood, walkway to soccer and softball complex in subdivision. Asking \$310,000. Call 601-917-0379.

For Sale: 3BD/3BA, spacious home 15 minutes from NAS, quiet neighborhood, 424 Windover Circle, 2900 ft. Call for private showing. Owner is relocating for job will consider leasing, open to all offerings. Call 601-686-0277.

For Sale: 3 BD/1 BA home on Edgewood Dr. in Meridian. Asking \$33,500. Call 601-880-1168.

For Rent: 3 BD/2 BA home in Collinsville. Located in West Lauderdale

School District. Call Joseph at 504-421-8757 or email at Petersjoseph54@yahoo.com.

For Rent: 3 BD/2 BA home 15 minutes from NAS; pets allowed with deposit. \$1,200 per month; \$1,000 deposit with option for 3-year lease at \$1,100 per month. Call 334-654-0571.

MISCELLANEOUS

New! Bose A20 Aviation Headset w/Bluetooth like new barely used (2 hrs max usage) in perfect working condition. Paid \$1,103.90 have original receipt and all original boxing and case. Asking \$700 OBO. Call Kim at 601-480-7181.

Two medium-large size dog kennels. \$35 each; clean, never used. Call 601-482-2276.

Two horse trailer, needs painting, but has a good floor, pulls good and has 2 new back tires. Asking \$900 or best offer.

Call Nancy at 601-462-9312

Remington Model 700 in .270 cal with a Custom Boyds Multi-colored Laminated Wood Stock and a Leupold VX3 4.5-14 x40mm Scope. Price \$700. Call 601-462-8097

Two Black storage trucks all brass closures; \$10 each. Call 601-482-2276.

Woman's Converse Composite Toe Trainer Safety Shoe Size 10, brand new in box, \$65. White with gray & teal trim. Call Teresa 601-616-9251 (Please no calls after 8 p.m.)

To submit an item to the "Sale...Or" column, e-mail adam.prince@navy.mil. Deadline is the Thursday prior to publication.

Listings in the "Sale...Or" column are free for anyone who works at NAS Meridian. You can purchase an ad for a business or organization in "The Skyline," by calling The Meridian Star at 601-693-1551 -- ask for Advertising or email: advertising@themeridianstar.com

Celebrating Women's History: Women in the U.S. Navy

The first women to serve in the U.S. Navy were nurses, beginning with the "Sacred Twenty" appointed after Congress established the Navy Nurse Corps on 13 May 1908. The first large-scale enlistment of women into the Navy met clerical shortages during World War I, and the second came months before the United States entered World War II.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Public Law 689 creating the Navy's women reserve program on 30 July 1942, which paved the way for officer and enlisted women to enter the Navy. On 7 March 1994, the Navy issued the first orders for women to be assigned aboard a combatant ship, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69). Today, women serve in every rank from seaman to admiral and in every job from naval aviator to deep-sea diver.

--From Navy History and Heritage Command



DoD photo

Upon returning from harrowing service in the Philippines at Bataan and an evacuation from Corregidor on USS Spearfish (SS-190), LTjg Bernatitus of the Nurse Corps, received a hero's welcome from her hometown in Pennsylvania, complete with parade and dinner at the local high school.



DoD photo

About 37,000 American women took part in the Persian Gulf War, the largest deployment of women in history. Ten percent of these women were Navy personnel. They served on support ships - ammunition, supply, tenders, and oilers - and in Military Sealift and Combat Logistics Force vessels.

The first large-scale employment of women as Naval personnel took place to meet the severe clerical shortages of the World War I era. The Naval Reserve Act of 1916 had conspicuously omitted mention of gender as a condition for service, leading to formal permission to begin enlisting women in mid-March 1917, shortly before the United States entered the "Great War." Nearly six hundred Yeomen (Female) were on duty by the end of April 1917, a number that had grown to over eleven thousand in December 1918, shortly after the Armistice.

DoD photo



•Winging

Those earning wings include:

- ✓ Lt. j.g. Jacob George Anderson, USN, carrier qualified in the T-45C onboard the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Dec. 8, 2018. Anderson completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.
- ✓ Ensign Quentin Fatta, French Navy, earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He carrier qualified in the T-45C onboard the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Dec. 8, 2018 and was named VT-7's "Top Hook" for that carrier qualification evolution. Fatta completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.
- ✓ Lt. j.g. Joshua Kelsey Kinnane, USN, earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He carrier qualified in the T-45C onboard the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Dec. 8, 2018. Kinnane completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.
- ✓ Ensign Eric Antoine Rubin, French Navy, was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training and earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He carrier qualified in the T-45C onboard the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Dec. 8, 2018. Rubin completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.
- ✓ 1st Lt. Christopher Alan Streicher, USMC, earned one Navy "E" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He carrier qualified in the T-45C onboard the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Dec. 8, 2018. Streicher completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.
- ✓ Lt. j.g. Aaron Dale Vanada, USN, was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training and was VT-9's Student of the Month for August 2018. During Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. He carrier qualified in the T-45C onboard the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Dec. 8, 2018. Vanada completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.
- ✓ Lt. j.g. Joshua David Waggoner, USN, earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He carrier qualified in the T-45C onboard the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Dec. 8, 2018. Waggoner completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

MLT Dinner Theatre set for March 21-24

The Meridian Little Theatre is gearing up again to put a little mystery into their dinner theatre event. An Inheritance of Murder. Colonel Klaus Von Strudel has died at the tender age of 94 and his friends and relatives have been gathered from far and wide, along with some unexpected guests, to hear the reading of his will. Someone is going to inherit the Colonel's money and huge estate, but who will receive the lion's share? Will it be his young, gold-digging wife, Fredericka? Or will his sons, Brick and Egbert, get any money? Or is there possibly a third party that we don't know about? A traditional drawing-room murder mystery that will have you guessing whodunit right through dessert! The show features audience participation that allows audience members to actually be in the play. If they so choose, attendees can take a "character script" and when prompted, stand and "act out" their parts.

In addition to a devious murder, audiences will enjoy a delicious 3-course meal served in between acts. At each performance, the last act allows the audience to guess who the murderer is. One name will be drawn from all the correct guesses and be selected as "Best Detective". And among all the audience members who selected a character, one of those will be chosen as the "Best Actor". Each best detective and best actor at each performance will receive special recognition.

The performers for this year's murder mystery dinner theatre are Sidney Covington who was part of last year's dinner theatre, Murder at the Long Branch Saloon. She also recently lit up the MLT stage in The Red Velvet Cake War, Rex's Exes, Honky Tonk Angels, and Steel Magnolias. She can be heard on the Friday edition of Mornings in Meridian on WALT. Sidney's co-star is Clint Brown whose last performance at MLT was in A Good Old Fashioned Redneck Country Christmas. And in MLT's season finale last year, Clint portrayed Igor in Mel Brooks' masterful musical - Young Frankenstein.

Tickets are \$45 per person that includes a delicious meal and a devious murder! It all adds up to a delightfully good time. The performances will take place at the Meridian Little Theatre in the ballroom on March 21-23 at 6 p.m. with a final performance on March 24 at 12:30 p.m. To purchase tickets stop by the MLT box office Monday - Friday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Or call the box office during regular business hours at 601-482-6371.

2nd Annual Meridian Little Theatre Golf Tournament

April 20, at Briarwood Golf & Swim Club
4-person scramble

\$75 per person/\$300 per team
Includes cart, breakfast,
lunch, great prizes, door
prizes and more.

Sign up forms are available at the MLT office. Call
601-482-6371 or email nancygmyers@hotmail
All proceeds benefit MLT.

IT'S YOUR TURN...

This week we asked, "What do you enjoy most about being stationed in Meridian?"

By MC1 Chris Liaghat



YNSN Marissa Checo
NTTC Student

"I liked the history behind the carousels."



YNSN James Weber
NTTC Student

"I enjoyed crawfish season in Meridian."



YNSN Cathleen Traskos
NTTC Student

"I liked all the wildlife on base. It's an adventure every day."



YNSN Andrew Crane
NTTC Student

"The galley food is great, especially the eggs."



YNSN Elden Flora
NTTC Student

"I enjoyed working with Mr. B and all of my classmates."

Fleet & Family Support Center

Yes, you need an emergency fund

Unexpected expenses come in many forms. Car breakdowns. Home repairs. Unexpected travel. Medical bills. Job loss. The list goes on and on. These unexpected expenses can quickly get you into debt or put you further into debt, especially if you rely on credit cards or loans to pay for them. A good way to help prepare for unexpected expenses is to build an emergency fund.

What is an emergency fund?

Basically, an emergency fund is money you have saved that is only to be used to pay for unexpected expenses. For example, it can be used to fix your car's radiator, but should not be used to buy shiny new rims for your car.

Set a goal. How much should you have in your emergency fund?

It is recommended that you have \$500 to \$1,000 in an emergency fund to start with. Once you have this established, keep on saving. You should try to save from three to six months of your living expenses that can be used only in case of job loss, illness, natural disaster, or other emergencies.

Make a plan. Start small.

If you don't have a emergency fund already established, you need to start building one, now. Strive to save that \$500 to \$1,000 as quickly as possible. Even small deposits will add up quickly over time. Save, save, save.

Increase savings contributions when you can. For example, when you receive pay and longevity increases, federal income tax refunds, gift money and rebates, consider putting some or all of this additional money toward your savings goals.

Where should you keep your emergency fund?

Keep your emergency fund in a safe and accessible place like a savings account. The fund should be low risk and liquid, so the money is available whenever you need it. As this fund grows you may consider putting a portion of your savings into another account that may earn higher interest.

Save automatically.

Automatically transfer a portion of your pay to your emergency fund as soon as it is deposited. That way, you may have less temptation to spend the money.

Get started.

Unexpected expenses can happen at any time. So get started building your emergency fund now to help you stay out of debt in the future.

Debt repayment.

Paying off debt can be an important savings goal. An unexpected expense could derail your debt repayment goal if you do not have an emergency fund established. Remember as you plan your debt repayment, to include your emergency fund as part of the overall plan. savings goals.

Military Saves is sponsored by the nonprofit Consumer Federation of America and is part of the Department of Defense Financial Readiness Campaign. For more information, tips and resources visit www.militarysaves.org. We encourage you to Set a Goal. Make a Plan. Save Automatically. for Military Saves Week. Take the Military Saves Pledge at <http://militarysaves.org/for-savers/savings-tools-and-resources/take-the-pledge>. The USAA Educational Foundation, a nonprofit organization, does not endorse or promote any commercial supplier, product or service..

--From FFSC

FFSC Briefs

To register for any of the following workshops, please call the FFSC at 601-679-2360. The class may not be presented if no one registers, so make sure you call if you're interested! Can't make the scheduled time? Call anyway - the workshop facilitator may be able to work with you one-on-one, give you materials, or let you know when the class will be offered again. All classes held at FFSC (Building 405) unless otherwise noted

Using Credit Wisely

March 13 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Americans have a love/hate relationship with credit and debt. The average American household currently owes over \$7,000 in credit card debt alone. And over one million Americans filed personal bankruptcies in 2012. If you want to learn how to establish and maintain good credit and avoid excessive debt, attend this workshop to increase your credit IQ.

Positive Parenting: Handling Behavior Problems

March 14 from 3-4 p.m. or
March 28 from 10-11 a.m.

Why do some children sail through childhood with few behavior problems while others seem to have constant struggles with behaving well? Both good and bad behaviors are shaped by the rewards the child receives from parents and other authority figures – and, sometimes, parents accidentally reward bad behavior. Attend this workshop to learn strategies to help guide your child to improved behavior.

Transition GPS Seminar

March 18-22 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Military personnel who are voluntarily or involuntarily separating or retiring and are within 180 days of separating are required to attend this seminar, held at the FFSC. It is highly recommended that spouses attend. You may also attend if you're up to 24 months away from your separation or retirement date. The following topics will be covered: résumés, job search skills, job interviewing, employment (state & federal), veterans' benefits, pay & travel, movement of household goods, TRICARE, emotional transition to separation, financial planning, forms & documents, benefits & services, military obligations, and more. You must see your Command Career Counselor or Admin Officer before attending Transition GPS to obtain several documents that are required for the seminar.

Time Management

March 27 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. or
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Do you often think that there just aren't enough hours in the day to get everything done? Do you frequently feel harried and stressed as you run from place to place and task to task? If so, you might need to learn some new ways to manage that precious resource – TIME! This workshop will focus on learning to maximize use of your time and how to better schedule all the things going on in your life so you don't feel so crunched. Make sure to schedule time for "Time Management."



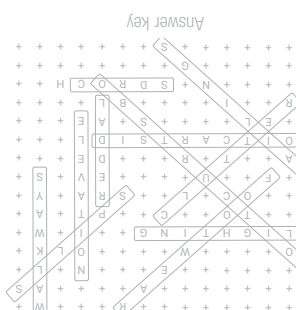
FALL PREVENTION WORD SEARCH

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- CLUTTER
- DISTRACTION
- ELEVATION
- FOOTWEAR
- LADDER
- LIGHTING
- OBSTRUCTION
- RAILINGS
- SPILLS
- WALKWAYS



NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH 2018



New Pentagon MWR program offers Sailors leisure travel savings

By Stephen Clutter and MCC Brian Morales

Commander, Navy Installations Command Public Affairs

When Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanical) Third Class Kayla Pomroy was considering taking leave to travel from Japan to be with family in Pennsylvania this past Christmas she checked out a new website called American Forces Travel.

She had heard about American Forces Travel from a family member and was impressed the moment she logged in. "The website was very easy to navigate," said Pomroy, who is stationed on the Yokosuka-based guided missile destroyer USS Stethem (DDG-63).

American Forces Travel is open to all military and military-affiliated personnel who are eligible to use Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs. First-time users will be asked to verify their eligibility through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES). The verification process is secure and requested information will not be retained.

Priceline Partner Network (PPN) was selected as the vendor to run the military MWR online leisure travel service, which was rolled out in late January, but was live for testing starting in November, when Pomroy booked her travel.

Pomroy, who is from Philadelphia, traveled from Tokyo on Dec 14, 2018 for two weeks of leave. Her route took her through Los Angeles, Atlanta and finally, Harrisburg, Penn., where she surprised her family when she arrived.

"The day I landed, I went straight to my neighbor's house for their holiday party," Pomroy said. "My mom had absolutely no idea that I was coming home. My neighbor asked my mom to come over early to help set up, and so she did. When I heard the doorbell ring my stomach dropped, but it was in a good way."

When her mother walked in the door, Pomroy peeked around the corner and saw her mother in the kitchen. Then the Sailor who has been in the Navy for a little more than two years ran into her mother's arms.

"The feeling was absolutely amazing," she recounted. "There was so much emotion, but all we could do was hug and cry. My mom is my best friend so being away for even a month is hard let alone months and months and years at a time like I am."

Pomroy said she was surprised by how much she saved by using American Forces

Travel. "All the sites that I looked on the fares were well over \$1,500 most were close to \$2,000," she said. "After taxes and the protection plan I only spent \$941 on the ticket round trip to come home all the way from Japan. American Forces Travel was an extremely good deal!"

That's the kind of experience that the Navy MWR team likes to hear. "American Forces Travel wants to provide the best value and opportunities for access to the world's most exclusive travel deals," said Leslie Gould, Navy MWR Recreation Program Manager.

Although not all savings are as good as Pomroy experienced, Priceline does at least match the best rates offered by airlines and other travel sites. "We have a best price guarantee for all product lines, not just airfare," said Debbie Phillips, Technology Manager for the Commander, Navy Installation Command's Fleet Readiness Division.

American Forces Travel is unprecedented as the only leisure travel site sponsored by the U.S. military, Gould noted. It was a result of a year-long joint service initiative among the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Forces, and Coast Guard to provide exceptional deals on flights, hotels, cruises and rental cars.

Priceline was selected among many online travel agencies as the vendor because of its experience in negotiating special deals with travel brands worldwide and their 20 years of online travel expertise.

Pomroy said she was grateful for her experience using the new American Forces Travel website.

"Coming home like that is not a moment that everyone gets to have," she noted, "but people need to savor those little moments. Because years down the road, I will look back at all the pictures and videos of surprising them and I will be so thankful that I got to do that."

Another important feature to American Forces Travel is all transactions generate a commission that will support Quality of Life programs within each service branch.

Gould notes that the American Forces Travel site is in keeping with MWR's goals to provide recreation pursuits that ultimately support resiliency, readiness, and retention.

"By providing quality and value through a leisure travel program, service members and their families can enjoy experiences and travel opportunities for rest and relaxation, which helps reduce stress and improve morale," Gould said.

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