

Jax Air News

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VPU-1 'Old Buzzards' to disestablish

From VPU-1 Public Affairs

Special Projects Patrol Squadron (VPU) 1 will hold its disestablishment ceremony April 27 at 10 a.m. at NAS Jacksonville Hangar 117.

The "Old Buzzards" trace their lineage back 40 years when the Chief of Naval Operations requested the creation of a specially trained maritime patrol unit possessing the necessary expertise, flexibility and quick reaction capability to respond to immediate tasking from the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

As a result, a unique "special projects" detachment of P-3s was formed from operationally proven aircrew and maintenance professionals.

As the demand for P-3 Special Projects assets increased, the detachment became an independent unit under the command of its first officer-in-charge. During this period, the Sailors of VPU-1 continued their proud tradition of operational maritime patrol



Photo courtesy of VPU-1

A specially equipped P-3 Orion assigned to the "Old Buzzards" of VPU-1 is ready to start its turboprop engines on the Hangar 511 flight line at NAS Jacksonville. The squadron will be disestablished on Friday.

expertise, rapid response and professionalism.

The Old Buzzards served during the Cold War, in Operation Desert Shield/Storm, as well as numerous

other military operations and crises.

In March 1996, the unit was formally established as a patrol squadron under the command of Cmdr. Walter Kreitler. For

more than 16 years the Old Buzzards upheld the highest standards of the U.S. Navy and the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force.

The squadron, flying at

least two specially equipped Orions, has operated from NAS Jax since July 2009 when they relocated from NAS Brunswick, Maine.

See **VPU-1**, Page 8



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Sanders discusses the Navy's commitment to eliminate sexual assault cases and support victims of crime during the City of Jacksonville Mayor's Victim Assistance Advisory Council Kickoff Press Conference for National Victim's Rights Week on April 23.

NAS Jax teams with City of Jacksonville for victims' rights

By Kaylee LaRocque
NAS Jax Public Affairs Specialist

Representatives from NAS Jacksonville participated in the City of Jacksonville Mayor's Victim Assistance Advisory Council Kickoff Press Conference for National Victims' Rights Week April 23.

The event held at Jacksonville's City Hall, began as Ann Dugger, executive director of the Justice Coalition, welcomed guests.

"We are here to kick off the 28th commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This year's theme is,

"Extending the Vision of Each and Every Victim." We are continuing our efforts to shed light on crime victims. No one asks to be victimized by violence but when a crime occurs, victim's need to be aware that they have rights," said Dugger. "The history of the victims' rights movement is a story of victims, victim's advocates and countless other individuals who work together to bring hope to those victims, their families and communities harmed by crime. Today we are rededicating ourselves to making

See **VICTIM**, Page 8



Photo by MC2 Greg Johnson

Gregory Snyder dispatches an emergency response from the NRSE Region Dispatch Center on board NAS Jacksonville.

RDC coverage to expand

By MC2(SW) Greg Johnson
Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs

Navy Region Southeast (NRSE) is consolidating installation emergency dispatch services - including police, fire and emergency medical - into a single 911 call center. By the end of 2013, dispatch services for 13 installations will be centralized to the Region Dispatch Center (RDC) on board NAS Jacksonville.

These efforts will include every installation throughout the region except for Naval Station (NS) Guantanamo Bay and Naval Support Activity (NSA) Orlando. The consolidation is part of a larger, Navy wide movement to consolidate each region's emergency dispatch services into a single dispatch center located at regional headquarters. According to Tom Fasanella, NRSE dispatch manager, the changes will help standardize the system.

"Previously, each installation had its own dispatch center to respond to 911 and emergency service requests," he said. "Additionally, the emergency numbers were not necessarily 911, depending on the location. As part of the RDC consolidation, a new 911 telephone routing system is being deployed."

The RDC currently dispatches for five installations, including NAS Jacksonville, NS Mayport, NSA Panama City, Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport and NAS Meridian. Residents at these locations will continue to dial 911 for emergency services after the consolidation. For those installations yet to consolidate, instructions for emergency notification procedures will be distributed prior to any changes.

In addition to standardizing the emergency notification process

See **RDC**, Page 8

Military invited to view 'Message in a Bottle' art installation

From Staff

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville announced the opening of artist Doug Eng's "Message in a Bottle" public art installation on May 2 from 5 - 9 p.m. at the downtown Main Street Park (located at the corner of Main and E. Duval streets).

More than 15,000 bottles with hand-written messages of hope and appreciation for the military were transformed into a 170 feet wide by 6 feet high wall of

light. The wall is constructed of individual empty bottles arranged in 28 uniquely designed panels. As each bottle was collected, the words were recorded and presented at: www.messageinabottlejax.com. Since November, more than 40,000 words and 3,000 phrases of gratitude have been recorded.

"A message in a bottle is symbolic of hope. It is an individual act. When combined, all of our individual messages make up an illuminated collective voice - this wall of light. It is our gift to the military. We want

to tell them they are remembered and appreciated by the people of Jacksonville," explained Eng.

"We had the enthusiastic participation of thousands of people and groups who contributed bottles to the project," Eng added.

"We want our area service members to come out and see firsthand a project that was created for them. We want them to read the messages of appreciation for what they do. Our men and women in uniform will definitely feel appreciated."

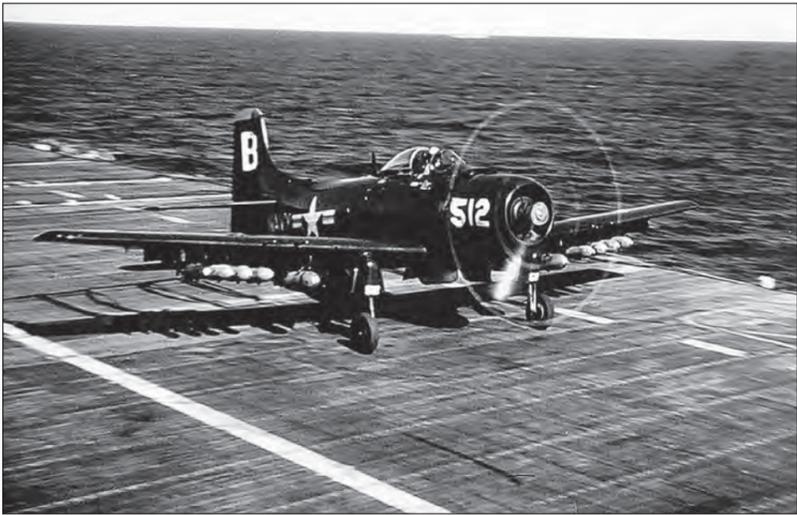
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U.S. Navy photo

A Douglas AD-4 Skyraider of Attack Squadron (VA) 195 "Dambusters" taking off from the aircraft carrier USS Princeton (CV-37) during the Korean War. VA-195 was assigned to Carrier Air Group (CVG) 19 and made two deployments to Korea aboard Princeton.



The Hwachon Dam was built by the Japanese during their World War II occupation of Korea. Eight Douglas AD-4 Skyraiders of Attack Squadron (VA) 195, assigned to Carrier Air Group (CVG) 19, attacked the dam with MK 13 torpedoes. Seven of eight torpedoes struck the dam and six exploded, removing the dam as a flood threat to military forces downstream.

This Week in Navy History

From Staff

April 26

1869 - The Good Conduct medal was authorized.
1952 - USS Hobson (DMS-26)) sinks after collision with aircraft carrier USS Wasp (CV-18) in the North Atlantic - 176 lives lost.

April 27

1861 - President Lincoln extended blockade of Confederacy to Virginia and North Carolina ports.
1865 - Body of John Wilkes Booth brought to Washington Navy Yard.

April 28

1862 - Naval forces capture Forts Jackson and St. Philip in Louisiana.
1965 - Dominican Republic intervention.
1944 - Navy LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank) attacked during Operation Tiger.
1993 - SECDEF memo orders armed forces to train and assign women on combat aircraft and most combat ships, but not to ground combat positions.

April 29

1814 - Sloop-of-war USS Peacock (22 guns) captures the 18-gun HMS Epervier.
1898 - U.S. warships engage Spanish gunboats and shore batteries at Cienfuegos, Cuba.



Image from National Archives

The battle for Saigon, South Vietnam, came to an end on April 30, 1975.

1944 - Fast carrier task force (12 carriers) commence two-day bombing of Truk.

1975 - Operation Frequent Wind, the helicopter evacuation of American citizens from Saigon, begins.

The last helicopter lifted off the roof of the United States Embassy at 7:52 p.m. carrying Marine security guards.

April 30

1798 - Congress establishes Department of the Navy.
1973 - The last Marine Corps NAP (enlisted Naval Aviation Pilot) retired. Master Gunnery Sgt. Patrick O'Neil enlisted during World War II and completed over 30 years of active duty.
1975 - Saigon falls to North Vietnamese forces.

May 1

1898 - Battle of Manila Bay, Adm. Dewey defeats Spanish at Manila, Philippines.
1934 - Lt. Akers demonstrates blind landing system at College Park, Md. in OJ-2 aircraft.
1945 - Vice Adm. Barbey lands Australian troops on Tarakan Island, Borneo, supported by naval gunfire.
1951 - VA-195 Skyraider aircraft from the aircraft carrier USS Princeton (CV-37) attack Hwachon Dam in Korea using aerial torpedoes.

1980 - 11 Navy ships begin operations assisting Coast Guard in rescuing Cuban refugees fleeing Cuba in overcrowded boats.

May 2

1975 - U.S. Navy departs Vietnamese waters at end of refugees evacuation.

Dinner with the Smileys

By Sarah Smiley
Special Contributor

From The Homefront

It's been a tasty couple of months for "Dinner with the Smileys." Before each dinner, I often wonder, "Was this a good idea? Will we have anything to talk about with the guest?"

Waiting for our 12th guest, graphic illustrator Josh Alves, to arrive was no different. Although Josh and I have lived in the same town for nearly four years, I didn't really know him. And I'd never met his wife, Amy. For someone like me — someone who hates small talk and, as a result, isn't very good at it — the dinner had the potential to be an awkward first (friend) date.

Josh and Amy and their oldest daughter arrived at the house with freshly baked cookies and a burst of positive energy. The conversation that never waned during the four-hour visit. We had a lively dinner (four kids at the table always ensures liveliness) and an after-dinner game of Pictionary on the back porch, where it was still warm and sunny at 6 p.m.

I was sad when the evening came to an end, and not just because the black permanent marker Lindell was using for Pictionary had exploded all over my white shirt. (Also not because Josh beat all of us at Pictionary.) Rather, I didn't want the Alves to leave.

Josh left the boys with copies of his comic books and a series of books he illustrated called Zeke Meeks. Ford and Owen read all three books before bedtime. It was a surprise (and comfort) when they learned the main character, Zeke, has a father who is also on deployment.

March and April brought dinners

with two school teachers (always a highlight) along with visits to a local news station, where weatherman Steve McKay taught the boys how to use a green screen (Ford: "If I cover my younger brother with a green blanket, will he disappear?") and to prove air exists (my thought: we're breathing, but that wasn't the right answer).

Later, on another unseasonably warm Maine Spring day, Dr. Scott Peterson, a baseball historian, took us out to a ballgame and taught the boys how to keep score using the method Henry Chadwick invented. We met the winning pitcher, DJ Voisine, and my youngest, Lindell, 5, dazzled him with this:

DJ: What position do you boys play?

Ford: I play second base.

Owen: I hope to play shortstop.

Lindell: I'm hungry.

Lunch, which consisted of hot-dogs and popcorn and candy, quickly followed.

One of our April dinners was supposed to be with an elderly friend who had sometimes served as a substitute grandmother for the boys. She came to their school events, sent them birthday cards and brought them goodies on Halloween and Christmas. She always waved to them on their way to school. And, on warm days, Lindell liked to sit with her on her front steps.

Our friend had moved to an assisted living facility a few months ago, so we planned to have dinner with her there.

When I called to confirm, I found out that she had passed away sev-

eral weeks earlier.

I needed time to absorb that.

Then I told the kids.

Losing our friend before we had the chance to visit her for dinner emphasized a growing theme of this project: community matters more than any "reason" we have not to invite someone to dinner:

"My house is too small."

"I don't have time."

"My house is a mess."

"I'm not a great cook."

I could have had her over when the house was a mess and the kids were misbehaving. She wouldn't have cared. She would have been happy to be included, because it's not about the house or the food. It's about being together. And, in the end, we have less time to be together than we ever could ever imagine.

At the boys' suggestion, we will honor the missed dinner and the memory of our friend through a visit with a neighbor who is 94.

As each month passes, the boys' excitement for this project, as well as their understanding of its importance, grows.

They enjoy looking at the pictures and reading your comments on Facebook. They also like to see your guesses to my hints about upcoming guests. (Some of those guesses have given us ideas and prompted us to contact new guests.)

Last week, we got permission from musician Josh Ritter to use his song "Change of Time" in a promotional video for Dinner with the Smileys.

You can see that video on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnrnJmkHrto>.

Hey, MoneyMan!

Hey, MoneyMan!

My leading petty officer (LPO) and I were discussing the best way to spend my tax refund. He thinks I should use some of the refund to pay off some revolving credit lines and to save the rest for emergencies. My plan is to use the refund to pay cash for this awesome entertainment system that I've had my eye on for quite some time. What do you think?

Moneyman says: I commend you for discussing this with your LPO. According to the IRS, the average tax refund last year was nearly \$3,000.

That is like getting an extra paycheck for simply filing your taxes! It is also like giving the government an extra \$250 per month that you could use to pay your electric bill, groceries, rent, etcetera.

If you would rather have that money go to your monthly budget — instead of the government — talk to your command financial specialist about how to change the amount that is withheld from your paycheck for federal income taxes.

It's very tempting to spend this money quickly on big ticket consumer items, but doing this can impact your family budget for the rest of the year. Your LPO gave you sound advice.

Paying off revolving credit lines is a good idea as long as you don't use the greater available credit to buy that entertainment system or otherwise max out your credit cards so shortly after paying them off.

Being in a dilemma about what to do with your refund check presents an excellent opportunity to take stock of your financial situation and develop a strategy for success.

Do you have short, medium and long term financial goals? Are you on track to meet them? Do you have a monthly budget?

If so, do you stick to it?

You are doing the right thing by seeking advice from your chain of command. If you want to take the next step to achieve financial self-sufficiency, make an appointment to talk with a caseworker at the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society at 452-3515.



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NAS Jax remembers the Holocaust

By Kaylee LaRocque
NAS Jax Public Affairs Specialist

Base personnel came together for a Days of Remembrance event to reflect on the tragedy of the Holocaust at the NAS Jax Flight Line Café April 18.

The event began as Master of Ceremonies NAS Jax Public Affairs Officer Miriam Gallet welcomed the group and introduced Rabbi Jesse Olitzky of the Jacksonville Jewish Center who gave the benediction.

"I find it meaningful that a military base is holding a Holocaust remembrance event and we pay tribute to the men and women who are putting their lives on the line to ensure that something as devastating as the Holocaust never happens again to people of any faith. This day is a reminder of how fragile life is and how easily with the gift of free will the world can turn to evil and sin," said Olitzky before giving the blessing.

Olitzky also lit a candle in remembrance of those who perished in the Holocaust. "This candle memorializes the 11 million people brutally killed by the Nazis. May the flicker of this flame unite a flame within all of us to remember all those who perished."

NAS Jax Executive Officer Capt. Roy Undersander also welcomed the guests and introduced guest speaker Holocaust survivor Morris Bendit. "It is an honor for us to host the first National Days of Remembrance event at NAS Jacksonville. It is important for us to remember events such as the Holocaust. It is a powerful lesson in fragility of freedom and reinforces the need for us to be engaged abroad," said Undersander.

As Bendit took the podium he thanked the military members for their service. "I salute you for all the effort you put in to keeping our nation safe. Coming here, reminds me that we have something in common - I was in the Israeli navy many



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque
Rabbi Jesse Olitzky of the Jacksonville Jewish Center lights a candle in remembrance of the 11 million people killed during the Holocaust.

years ago working on destroyers and frigates," he said.

"We will always remember the 20th century as the best and the worst in history. It was known as the best for the technology, ingenuity, science and medical advances. All of these great advances by humans were also used for evil. Many dictators used the same science and technology to carry out mass killings. In the past 100 years, more than 120 million people were killed," Bendit continued. "I hope and pray that in this new century we will learn from the past."

"Sixteen years ago when my mother passed away, I realized that the World War II generation is disappearing fast and very soon there will not be anyone left to tell about the atrocities that took place from 1939-45. The Holocaust was the systematic, industrialized annihilation of six million Jews by the Nazis," Bendit said. "But until recently, many people only heard about the Nazis. However there were others - the Ukrainians and Romanians. There will be wars between tribes and between nations but never on such a large scale as World War II."

Bendit then told his personal story of how he was born in Chernovitz, Ukraine in 1941 as the Germans were teaming up with the Romanians to oust Jews from the city. "During this



Holocaust survivor Morris Bendit talks about the massacre of millions of people in Europe during World War II and what happened to his family in Romania during this time. Bendit was the guest speaker during the Days of Remembrance event.

time, my father was forced to enlist into the Russian Army to fight the Germans. During a transport, his train was attacked by German bombers and he was killed. In July 1941, the Romanians began killing Jews. By October, 50,000 Jews were taken from their homes and herded into a ghetto. From there, they were transported by cattle cars to a territory called Transnistria that was designated for the annihilation of Jews. Many were killed on the way."

"My family including my maternal grandparents, paternal grandmother, mother, four uncles and an aunt stayed together. There were no barracks or gas chambers - just fields, killing fields. During the day, we were forced to march from village to village. My mother and grandmother carried me. At night, we looked for a place to sleep in the bitter cold. Many people died from the cold and starvation if they weren't shot," he stated. "I have no idea how I survived. Before my fourth birthday, I suffered from typhus, malaria and scarlet fever. My only nourishment was nursing from my starving mother."

In 1944, the survivors in Transnistria were liberated by the Russian Army. By then, the only surviving members of Bendit's family were his moth-



NAS Jax Executive Officer Capt. Roy Undersander thanks Morris Bendit for telling his story during the event.

er, maternal grandmother and his aunt. Of the Jews who had been deported to Transnistria, a total of 150,000, approximately 90,000 perished there.

Bendit's remaining family members returned to their home in Chernovitz. A year later, they took what they could and moved to Romania in hopes of going to Israel. In 1949, they were given permission to immigrate to the new State of Israel.

Bendit soon joined the Israeli navy at the age of 17. Shortly after finishing his military service, he moved to Montreal, Canada. In 1965, he immigrated to the United States and moved to New York where he met his wife, Hanna. They

have three daughters and five granddaughters and have lived in Jacksonville for the past 27 years. He spends his time with his family and speaks at various functions about the Holocaust.

"For many years, the older generation who survived the Holocaust did not talk about the past. I believe it should be told. Never forget because history always repeats itself. And, we cannot let those deniers win, they know what happened but they are persuading others to believe it never happened. We cannot fix the past, but we can improve the future. Living in the past is not healthy but remembering the past is essential," concluded Bendit.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF
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'Red Lancers' perform flyover for Jacksonville Suns season opener

By Ltj.g. Brett Copare
VP-10 Public Affairs

On April 5, the VP-10 "Red Lancers" helped kick off the opening day for the Jacksonville Suns with a flyover of the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville Stadium. It was a significant event for the Suns and the Red Lancers. The Sun's are celebrating their 50th season as a team and the Red Lancers their 50th year anniversary flying the P-3C aircraft.

The Jacksonville Suns defeated The Huntsville Stars in a defensive battle resulting in a 2-0 win for the Suns.

The VP-10 crew consisted of Lt. Seth Squyres, Lt. j.g. Tom Canny, Lt. j.g. Mike Enriquez, Lt. j.g. Tony Thomsen, Lt. j.g. Sam Urato, AWF1 Matthew Wells and AWO1 Chad Bowles.

Crewmembers from VP-10 are introduced on the field during the Jacksonville Suns season opener April 5 after performing a flyover of the field.

The crew was very humbled by the welcome they had received from the fans and staff that were at the game. "It was so exciting seeing everyone cheering when we flew over the field," said Enriquez.

"The warm welcome we received from the Suns' staff and fans was very much appreciated."

Like many of the crew, this was Enriquez's first time flying as part of a flyover.

After their flight, the Red Lancers landed at NAS Jacksonville and drove to catch the remaining innings of the ball game.

Each member of the crew was introduced on the field during the sixth inning and were given a standing ovation.



Photo by David Pearce



Navy and Marine Corps Relief Fund Drive Closest to the Pin

Date: April 27-28 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: NAS Jax Golf Club

Prizes: \$50 gift certificate to winner each day

Tournament Coordinators:

Lt. Matthew Malmkar - 542-8530 email: matthew.malmkar@navy.mil

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FRCSE Artisans at work T-44C Pegasus King Air Trainer



Fleet Readiness Center Southeast flight check personnel turn the propellers on a T-44C Pegasus King Air Trainer aircraft on the back flight line at NAS Jacksonville.

Trainer repair team ensures future aviator pipeline

By Marsha Childs
FRCSE Public Affairs Specialist

Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) is making depot-level repairs and modifications to the Beechcraft T-44A and C model Pegasus King Air fleet used to train Navy and Marine Corps aviators on multi-engine aircraft at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas.

The FRCSE T-44 Advanced Multi-Engine Trainer Team is overseeing a major rewire, Aircraft Condition Inspection (ACI), wing spar replacement and an upgrade to the avionics system with digital display converting the aircraft from an "A" to "C" model.

"This is a huge effort involving FRCSE production and manufacturing, our engineering and production support teams, CNATRA (Chief of Naval Air Training), NAVAIR (Naval Air Systems Command), and PMA (Program Manager Air) 273," said Bill Connelly, the FRCSE program manager for trainer aircraft. "This was not an easy undertaking."

The aging trainer fleet of 54 aircraft, each flying for more than 32 years, supports CNATRA's vital training mission.

Connelly said FRCSE provides one-stop shopping for work previously performed by multiple contractors, a situation that increased service costs and slowed down the aviator pipeline with aircraft being out of service more frequently. He credits the professionalism, skill level and work ethic of the FRCSE artisans who provide the touch labor for the trainer platform. Connelly said they are returning a high quality product to CNATRA with increasingly shorter turnaround times as the artisans gain experience and become more efficient.

FRCSE inducted the first T-44C trainer on April 1, 2010, which came to the depot for a left-hand wing spar replacement and Attitude Heading and Reference Systems (AHRS) relocation. Artisans relocated the AHRS box from directly behind the pilot's seat on top of the floor to four feet aft and under the floor panels. This new configuration eliminated the need to remove the AHRS boxes and mounts when pulling the cabin floorboards for routine inspection of the underlying aircraft structure. It also eliminated the requirement to re-level the box electronically by leveling the plane on jacks followed by performing a software-leveling procedure.

Relocating the AHRS box caused another troublesome issue with the aircraft. Multiple T-44C trainers were experiencing numerous failures of the AHRS on takeoff and in flight posing safety concerns requiring termination of training flights under Visual Flight Rules. Pilot and co-pilot displays were blanking out, eliminating all information without warning to the pilots.

CNATRA Fleet Support Team (FST) engineers evaluated the AHRS failures and discovered the relocated AHRS box was susceptible to propeller harmonics-induced vibrations affecting the Inertial Measurement Units (IMUs) contained within. The FST designed a mounting plate assembly to reduce the effects of rotational harmonics, a frequency problem commonly encountered with propellers. FRCSE machinists fab-

ricated the new assemblies that maintainers are retrofitting on the T-44C fleet in Texas.

Engineering Team Lead David Pfeffer said the CNATRA FST and the FRCSE T-44 production team worked closely with NAVAIR PMA 273 to bring the work back to the military depot. Pfeffer said the T-44 fleet is plagued with a similar wiring concern that has affected many Navy aircraft over the years, that being the extensive use of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) encased wiring, also known as Kapton wiring.

"The heat from the engine exhaust is causing the insulation around the wire to become brittle along the wing leading edge - creating a potential for fire," he said. "PVC smokes profusely and produces toxic fumes. It's a big concern."

The team launched an extensive reverse-engineering effort utilizing a rewired T-44C trainer provided by CNATRA with avionics upgrades already incorporated on the aircraft. They developed detailed work instructions, manufacturing and installation drawings, and bills of materials consisting of thousands of components.

Electronics Engineer Charlotte Faulk, the avionics team lead, headed efforts to reverse engineer the wiring harnesses that run the length of the airframe. She created manufacturing drawings from the existing wiring diagrams and worked closely with FRCSE Cable Shop personnel who provided real-time feedback.

"We had five sets of harnesses from the vendor," said Faulk. "The cable shop verified that the harnesses were built correctly. They worked closely with engineering and the T-44 line artisans to create rewire harnesses that ran from wingtip to wingtip."

The Avionics System Upgrade (ASU) replaces the T-44A analog steam gauge instrument panel and corresponding wire harnesses with a Rockwell Collins Pro-Line 21 avionics suite incorporating modern multifunction color displays, AHRS and an Emergency Locator Transmitter.

Additionally, the T-44 team is conducting the depot-level ACI required at 5-year intervals that includes the latest aircraft configuration updates. Parts acquisition continues to prove challenging for the team given the trainer aircraft were commercially supported for the life of the plane until 2010. Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) does not stock the parts, which causes long delays when contracting with commercial vendors.

FRCSE artisans have completed 13 aircraft involving a variety of repairs and upgrades. They are currently working seven T-44 aircraft, four of those are ASU with rewire modifications required for the "A" to "C" model conversion with two scheduled for completion in mid-April. An additional three aircraft are undergoing ACI with wiring modifications.

The FRCSE T-44 team is uncovering and correcting the effects of years of wear and tear on an aircraft that operates in harsh environments. These repairs and upgrades will not only reduce future maintenance costs and improve mission readiness of the T-44 platform, but also ensure the pipeline of Naval aviators will continue far into the future.

The trainer fleet must continue to maintain airworthiness through its planned sundown in 2025.



Trainer Aircraft Program Manager Bill Connelly (left) and Aircraft Electrician Paul Brown discuss the installation of an engine wiring harness on a trainer aircraft.



Overhaul and Repair Supervisor Tim Duncan (left) and T-44 Trainer Engineering Team Lead David Pfeffer inspect the wing butt joint and spar cap for corrosion.



Aircraft Mechanic Michael Dooley (left) and Aircraft Examiner and Evaluator Alvaro Marquez remove the cabin heater from a T-44 Pegasus King Air trainer in a production hangar.



Aircraft Electrician Robin Anderson performs a wiring modification on the glass cockpit of a T-44 trainer aircraft at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast June 9, 2010. The Avionics Systems Upgrade with digital multifunction display converts the aircraft from an "A" to "C" model.



Aircraft Electrical Worker Ronald Johnson upgrades the avionics systems in the cockpit of a T-44 Pegasus trainer aircraft at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast June 9, 2010. The upgrades convert the aircraft to a glass cockpit that features electronic digital displays.



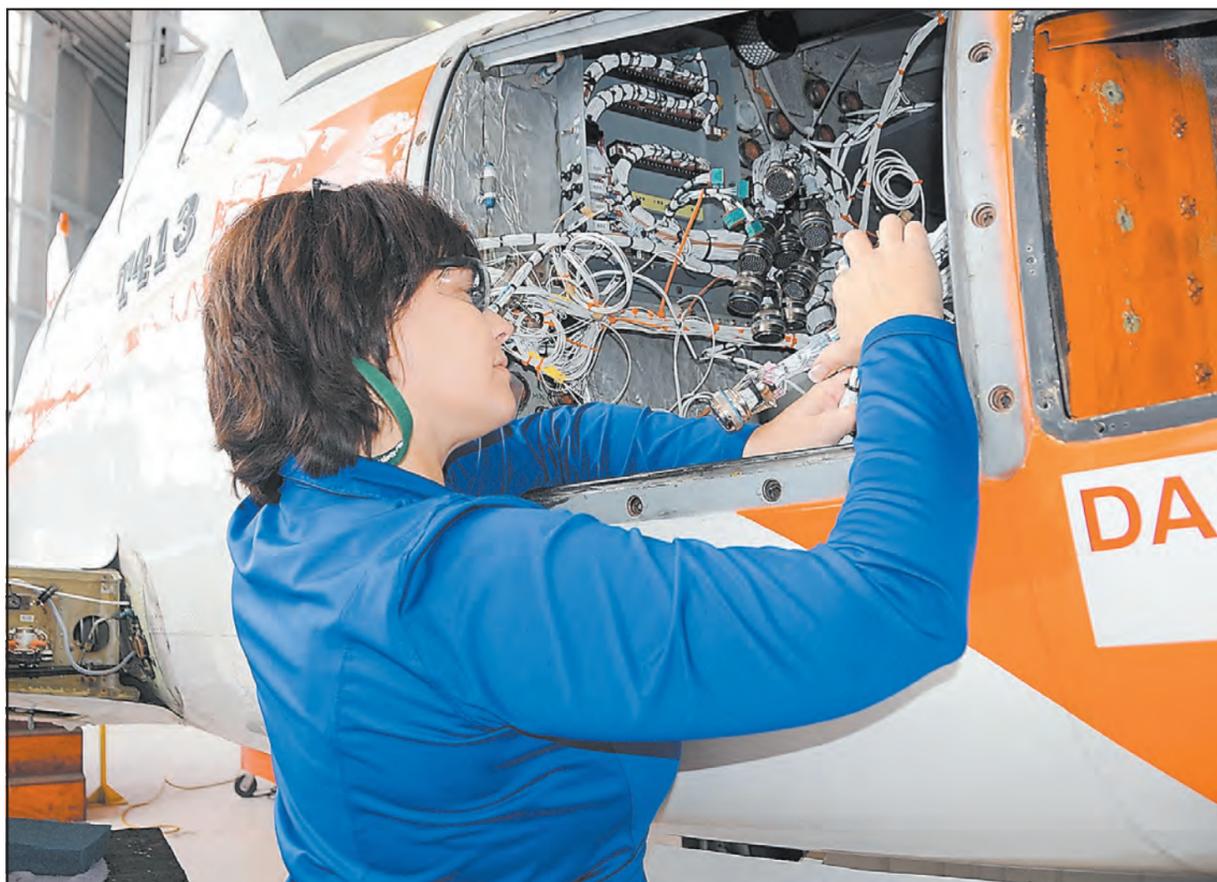
Sheet Metal Examiner/Evaluator Stan Kennedy performs a structures inspection on the interior cabin airframe of a T-44 Pegasus King Air Trainer at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast on Jan. 14, 2011.



Aircraft Electrician Demetrius Henderson replaces a circuit breaker panel in the cockpit of a T-44 Pegasus King Air trainer at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast.



The Fleet Readiness Center Southeast T-44 Advanced Multi-Engine Trainer Team completes the first depot-level repairs and modifications including a major rewire, avionics systems upgrade with digital display, Aircraft Condition Inspection (ACI) and configuration updates to an aging trainer aircraft on Nov. 8, 2011. The T-44 Trainer fleet supports the Chief of Naval Air Training mission of training Navy and Marine Corps pilots on multi-engine aircraft.



Electronics Engineer Charlotte Faulk, the T-44 avionics team lead, checks the nose wiring harness for an avionics systems upgrade on a Beechcraft T-44 Pegasus King Air Trainer at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast. Faulk headed efforts to reverse engineer wiring harnesses that run the length of the aircraft.

Photos by Victor Pitts

Aircraft Electrician Al Lambert inspects an engine control wiring harness from a T-44C Pegasus King Air aircraft at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast on Jan. 14, 2011. The facility is implementing a rewire change, along with avionics upgrades, to the aging trainer fleet.



Aircraft Electrician Bruce Arthur installs wiring on a T-44 turbo-prop trainer aircraft undergoing an upgrade from an "A" to "C" model at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast.

Photo by Marsha Childs

VICTIM: Awareness week gets support

From Page 1

victims' rights, protection and services a reality."

Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown also addressed the importance of supporting victims of crimes. "There are a number of people to thank and acknowledge today from the law enforcement personnel in our community on the front line to elected officials who work policy to protect us, said Brown.

"But this is also about the victims who we should be focused on. We're not here to honor you or put you on a pedestal, we're here to support you because you are people, fellow human beings negotiating a nightmare. Even when an arrest was made and the headlines say 'guilty,' we know your journey will continue. We know that crime hurts and threatens but together we remain strong."

NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Sanders was also in attendance to stress how the Navy supports crime victims and educates military personnel on sexual assault prevention.

"Throughout the month of April, the Navy is making an all-out effort towards promoting sexual assault awareness. The number of sexual assaults in the Navy is unacceptable. As part of this campaign, we are also addressing vic-

tims' rights," said Sanders.

"The Navy Victim and Witness Assistance Program is designed to ensure victims and witnesses of crime are treated with fairness and dignity and afforded their rights throughout the criminal justice process."

"At NAS Jax, victims always have support from their chain of command, legal system and Fleet and Family Support Center. Our counselors are fully trained to assist victims and witnesses and ensure they receive comprehensive care and counseling and are treated with dignity and the utmost respect," continued Sanders.

"The Navy has a zero tolerance policy on sexual assault and sexual harassment."

City of Jacksonville Victims Rights Week Chairperson and NAS Jax Fleet and Family Support Center Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate Latresa Henderson echoed Sanders' remarks.

"At the NAS Jax FFSC, we have sexual assault response coordinators who are responsible for training advocates in every command on the installation. They provide support to victims of sexual assault. We also have numerous partnerships with Naval Hospital Jacksonville and outside agencies. We are here to help victims with any services they might need," said Henderson.

RDC: Coverage to include 13 installations

From Page 1

throughout the region's installations, the consolidation will also provide some technological advantages, according to Fasanello.

"The RDC also has an advanced computer-aided dispatch system that automates the exact response recommendation based on the nature and location of the emergency.

It also provides a mapped location of the caller. In addition, RDC dispatchers

are certified to administer emergency medical instructions prior to the arrival of emergency medical technicians to the scene," added Fasanello.

"While the time frame for the consolidation will vary depending on location, the RDC will make public awareness a priority," Fasanello said.

"At about two months out, we will begin to work very closely with the installation and coordinate an aggressive public awareness campaign," he said.



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VPU-1: 'Old Buzzards' disestablishing

From Page 1

Squadron personnel have earned seven Joint Meritorious Unit awards, six Navy Unit Commendations, seven Meritorious Unit Commendations, seven Navy Battle "E" awards and various other unit, service and campaign awards.

Several "Old Buzzards" alumni are in town for the disestablishment events that include the Buzzard Ball, a golf tournament and Buzzard Night at the Jacksonville Suns Ballpark.

As part of the Friday ceremony, Cmdr. Lee Boyer, the last "Old Buzzards" commanding officer, will lower the command pennant and dismiss the squadron for the final time. "It's definitely going to be a bittersweet ceremony. On one hand, it is sad to see such a great squadron being retired

- but on the other hand, disestablishment has renewed the bond between every generation of Old Buzzards. I have truly been humbled by the support and the obvious attachment that former and retired 'Old Buzzards' have for this squadron," Boyer stated.

Cmdr. Chris McDowell, the former VPU-1 executive officer and now commanding officer of VPU-2 at MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii had these thoughts on the events.

"The 'Old Buzzards' of VPU-1, and the dedicated professionals, families and friends who support us, repeatedly accomplished some amazing things over the past 40 years. With several current 'Old Buzzards' destined to continue our fine tradition of mission accomplishment as members of our sister squadron, VPU-2, I look forward to carrying our unrivaled capabilities forward."



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The Players to honor motherhood

41 military moms-to-be will celebrate Operation Shower

THE PLAYERS

From the PGA Tour

They may not be golfers, but 41 local military moms-to-be will enjoy a special experience during the PGA TOUR's 2012 THE PLAYERS Championship at TPC Sawgrass.

The women, whose spouses are deployed members of the U.S. Navy and Army National Guard, will be honored during an Operation Shower group baby shower presented by *Birdies for the Brave* and the PGA TOUR May 6, at 11 a.m. in the *Birdies for the Brave Patriots'* Outpost located on THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.

"For military wives who are expecting a baby and whose spouses are deployed or soon to be deployed, the impending arrival of a child can be both exciting and stressful," said Operation Shower Founder and Chief Shower Officer LeAnn Morrissey.

"Operation Shower was created specifically because typically military moms are the ones who hold it all together at home. Without their spouses by their side, deployed to another part of the world, these moms deserve our support, our thanks, our love and an opportunity to celebrate together."

During the "Celebration Fore Baby"-themed event, the moms will enjoy lunch and an opportunity to share stories and gain comfort from other military moms-to-be in the same situation, as well as the highlight of the event – the presentation of Operation Shower's signature "Shower in a Box."

Each mom will receive an array of unique, high quality products and gift items for mothers and babies that have been donated by numerous companies.

The Operation Shower event is just one of many military and community outreach activities that will be held before and during THE PLAYERS, May 7-13.

In addition to providing active duty, retired and Reserve members of the military and their dependents with

complimentary tournament admission all week as well as discounted tickets for veterans, THE PLAYERS will host a military job fair May 7, as well as Military

Appreciation Day May 9, featuring a ceremony beginning at 5:30 p.m. with military pageantry; a flyover by F-15 fighter jets from the 125th Fighter Wing of the Florida National Guard; and a performance by country music artist Luke Bryan.

Additionally, military guests attending THE PLAYERS will enjoy complimentary food and beverages all week in the *Birdies for the Brave Patriots'* Outpost military hospitality chalet, located on the hill between the No. 16 and No. 18 fairways.

The Players honors military with free tickets and events

From the USO

THE PLAYERS will continue its policy of providing free or affordable access to the tournament for men and women of the Armed Services.

There are two military ticket policies:

- All active-duty, retired, and Reserve military personnel along with their dependents receive complimentary admission to the tournament all day, every day. Free tickets are available online via a link to TicketMaster from THE PLAYERS website (PGATOUR.COM/THEPLAYERS); these are print-at-home tickets and military personnel and their dependents will be asked to present the paper ticket and valid military ID

at the gate for free admission.

- THE PLAYERS is proud to partner with Veterans Advantage to distribute discounted tickets to military veterans and their families. Available to those carrying the Veterans Advantage VetRewards Card, discounted tickets can be purchased online through a special link, and then redeemed at the admissions gate with proof of a valid Veterans Advantage VetRewards Card. Visit PGATOUR.COM/THEPLAYERS (click on 2012 Tickets) for more information.

- On site parking is free (for all fans) Monday-Wednesday, but parking passes must be purchased in

advance for Thursday through Sunday.

Once again in 2012, THE PLAYERS will offer hospitality to active, Reserve and retired military and dependents at the *Birdies for the Brave Patriots'* Outpost, located on the hill between No. 16 and No. 18 fairways.

The *Birdies for the Brave Patriots'* Outpost, provides complimentary food, beverages and interactive activities and is open Wednesday-Sunday.

Military ID is required for admittance. USO Centers do not have tickets or sell parking passes, which are available online.

Navy's first fire marshal honored

By Kaylee LaRocque
NAS Jax Public Affairs Specialist

NAS Jax Acting Fire Chief Mark Brusoe and Fire Training Chief David Rickel traveled to Deltona, Fla. April 13 to notify the Navy's first fire marshal, Douglas Thomas that he had been inducted into the Navy's Fire and Emergency Hall of Fame. They also presented him with a firefighter's helmet as his wife, Renna, looked on.

Thomas began his fire service career in 1941 as a firefighter at the Washington Navy Yard. After joining the U.S. Marine Corps in 1942, he was stationed at Beaufort, S.C. and Quantico, Va. and then

served in the Pacific Theatre at Iwo Jima with the 5th Marine Division. The unit fought from Feb. 19 to March 18, 1945 where 1,098 Marines were killed and 2,974 were injured.

After the war, Thomas returned to the NAS Anacostia Fire Department and where he eventually advanced to assistant fire chief. In 1963, he was appointed fire chief of a consolidated Navy fire department for NAS Anacostia, Washington Navy Yard and the Naval Research Laboratory. In 1976, Thomas became the first Navy Fire Marshal Program administrator, serving in the position until he retired in 1976.



Photo courtesy of the NAS Jax Fire Department

NAS Jax Acting Fire Chief Mark Brusoe (left) and NAS Jax Fire Training Chief David Rickel (right) present former Navy Fire Chief Douglas Thomas with a firefighter's helmet as his wife, Renna, looks on at their home in Deltona, on April 13.



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NMCRS Jacksonville volunteers honored

By Kaylee LaRocque
NAS Jax Public Affairs Specialist

NAS Jax Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) volunteers were honored during a spring tea event for knitters April 12 and a luncheon for office volunteers April 19. "Thank you all for coming today. I especially want to thank Kathy Sanders for hosting our tea event this year. It's an honor to be here today to celebrate those who volunteer and do so much for our military members and their families," said NAS Jax NMCRS Director Dave Faraldo.

Better known as "Blanket Babes," these women donate their time knitting and crocheting baby blankets for the baby seabags that are distributed to new parents attending the NMCRS Budget for Baby classes.

The following volunteers were recognized: Ayako White, 350 hours; Priscilla Bellefeuille, 360 hours; Frances Dalton, 1,112 hours; Genevieve Brynildsen, 2,265 hours; Marilyn Nielsen, 3,945 hours; Bridget Russell, 5,174 hours; Margaret Wright, 11,886 hours; and Delores Leisy, 25,304.

NAS Jax NMCRS Chairman of Volunteers Amanda O'Connell coordinated the event.

During the awards luncheon many new volunteers were recognized, including: Alison Craig, Arica Goulet, Ryan Goulet, Sheila Stevens, Kathy Sanders, Kristen Hager, Daniela Hines, Maddie Stevens and Lindsay Yager.

Volunteers were also presented with tokens of appreciation for donating their time to support service members and their families. Those recognized were: Ryan Goulet, Stephanie Gruber, Virginia Leary, Arica Goulet, and Laura



Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society volunteer Chris Scorby (left) presents NMCRS employee Monika Woods with a certificate of appreciation for completing five years of faithful service to the organization during a volunteer award luncheon on April 19.



NAS Jax Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society Chairman of Volunteers Amanda O'Connell presents an award to NMCRS Chair of Layettes Francis Dalton as Delores Leisy looks on during a luncheon for volunteers.

Tucker for 100 hours; Diane Eastman, Pauline Ebersole, Virginia Leary, Kim Seligman, Chuck Tamblin, Gi Teevan,



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

NAS Jax Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society volunteers gather during a volunteer awards luncheon. The society is run primarily by volunteers who donate hundreds of hours of their time to help military members and their families.



Photo courtesy of Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society

NAS Jax Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society volunteer Bridget Russel happily accepts her award for her contributions to the society.

and Delores Wise for 300 hours; Pauline Ebersole, Alicia Merlino, Kim Seligman, Delores Wise, Denise Foster, and Chuck Tamblin for 500 hours; Denise Foster, Pauline Ebersole, Alicia Merlino, and Ashley Dostie for 600 hours; Melissa Schade and Chris Scorby for 1,000 hours; Melissa Schade and Amanda O'Connell for 1,500 hours.

NMCRS employee Monika Woods was also recognized for being with the soci-

ety for five years.

"These are the most awards that we've ever presented. We welcome our new volunteers and thank this outstanding team for donating their time to help our military members in need and for everything they do each and every day!" said O'Connell.

If you are interested in volunteering at NMCRS, please call 542-3515 or e-mail mandivoc@gmail.com.

Take care, with conditions favorable for wildfires across North Florida area

From the NAS Jax Fire Department

In the past couple of weeks, Jacksonville area residents have experienced the effects of brush fires in North Florida.

Whether it's the decreased visibility as we transit between home and work or our activities have been hampered as a result of the quality of air we breathe.

The area is currently in a drought and the dryness of the soil and duff layers increase each day without rain (the amount of increase depends on the daily high temperature) and decreases when it rains.

The range of the index is determined by assuming that there are eight inches of moisture in a saturated soil that is readily available to the vegetation.

During a drought, conditions are favorable for the occurrence and spread of wildfires, but drought is not by itself a prerequisite for wildfires.

Other weather factors, such as wind, temperature, relative humidity and atmospheric stability, play a major role in determining the actual fire danger.

It is estimated that approximately 1,000 wildfires per year have their origins traced to an improperly discarded cigarette.

Most of these wildfires are relatively small and controlled easily.

However, a few quickly expand into multi-million

dollar events causing widespread destruction of property and sometimes loss of human lives.

Combine the current drought indexes in North Florida with the breezy conditions we've been experiencing and an improperly discarded cigarette; a simple mulch fire could easily evolve into a dangerous, fast moving major wildfire.

Peer pressure on our shipmates for improper disposal of cigarettes will greatly reduce the likelihood of a wildfire aboard the installation and our surrounding communities.

Please help us, help you stay safe!

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Infant immunizations save lives

By **Capt. Joe McQuade**

Naval Hospital Jacksonville Director for Public Health

Ask Dr. Joe

National Infant Immunization Week is April 21-28. It is a week set aside to help parents everywhere understand the importance of protecting infants and toddlers from vaccine-preventable diseases. Myths and misinformation about vaccine safety often confuse parents. To be clear, vaccines save lives. And the United States currently has the safest, most effective vaccine supply in history.

Years of testing are required by law before a vaccine is licensed and they are continually monitored for safety

and effectiveness. Like any medication, vaccines can cause side effects. It's important to know that serious side effects are extremely rare. And the benefits of getting vaccines far outweigh possible side effects for almost all children.

Vaccines can protect infants and children from 14 diseases. And thanks to vaccines, some diseases are almost gone in the U.S. The elimination of polio and smallpox in the U.S. are powerful examples of why we vaccinate.

Immunization can also save fami-

lies time and money. Children with vaccine-preventable diseases may not be allowed to go to school or daycare. Some vaccine-preventable diseases require hospitalization, cause permanent disabilities and can also really take a financial toll.

Immunization also protects future generations. Birth defects associated with rubella—German measles—are no longer seen in the U.S. By continuing to vaccinate now, some of today's diseases will no longer be around to harm our children . . . our grandchildren . . . and their grandchildren.

What happens if we stop vaccinating? By taking away this protection, more and more people would be infected,

become sick and spread disease to others. We would undo the progress we have made over the years with the elimination of diseases.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a 2010 outbreak of pertussis—whooping cough—killed 10 infants in California. And measles takes the lives of more than 100,000 children around the world each year. Pertussis and the measles are among the 14 vaccine-preventable diseases.

More information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/infants-toddlers> or by calling the CDC Contact Center at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

Commissaries announce coupon policy changes

By **Rick Brink**

DeCA Public Affairs Specialist

Changes are on the way in how commissaries handle coupons and product returns without receipts, among other things, as the Defense Commissary Agency enacts customer service policy changes to protect the commissary benefit.

"The average coupon user might not notice the policy changes because they are aimed at preventing possible misuse of the commissary benefit - primarily using coupons to get large amounts of cash back," said Joseph Jeu, DeCA director and CEO.

Commissary shoppers are big users of coupons, as evidenced by DeCA's consistent ranking among the top 10 grocery retailers in coupon redemptions over the past several years. Commissaries welcome coupon usage, and to acquaint customers with the changes in the coupon acceptance policy, it has been posted on the agency's website at http://www.commissaries.com/inside_

[deca/publications/directives/DeCAD40_6_PC_3.pdf](#) and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/YourCommissary.

Key changes, which go into effect May 1, include:

- Gift cards will be issued to a customer, in conjunction with cash, whenever a transaction total reflects \$25 or more is owed to the customer due to coupon "overages" (when the face value of the coupon exceeds the selling price of the item purchased and the transaction results in a negative balance).

- Gift cards will be issued to customers, in conjunction with cash, for refunds of \$25 or more when a receipt is presented showing the merchandise was originally purchased with gift cards.

- Gift cards will be issued to customers, in conjunction with cash, for refunds of \$25 or more when a receipt is not presented

- Clarification for instances of suspected privilege abuse.

- Update to the coupon acceptance policy that clarifies dot-scan barcode requirements and

pin requirements for unique numbering, that photocopies and counterfeit coupons are not accepted, and that coupons must be printed in English.

The changes harness the scope of the new commissary gift card, which has been in use since last summer. Available only in denominations of \$25 and \$50, issuing gift cards as an

alternative to paying out large sums of cash brings DeCA in line with other retailers' practices and ensures DeCA's cash flow is not adversely impacted. Amounts under \$25 will be in cash.

"Commissaries are providers of a benefit that sell groceries at cost, and using the gift cards to cover certain refunds and

coupon 'overages' discourages practices contrary to DeCA's mission," Jeu noted.

"We value coupon usage because it helps our customers boost their savings," Jeu said.

"These changes are in the best interest of all concerned to help ensure that coupons continue to be a great source of savings for our customers."



Photo by Victor Pitts

CFC volunteers recognized

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Loaned Executive Earl Vinson (center left) and Charlene Shettel (center), a CFC volunteer for 30 years, cut a cake on April 17 at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast to recognize the coordinators and key workers whose efforts raised \$201,000 during the 2011 campaign. Commanding Officer Capt. Robert Caldwell (center right) thanked the CFC volunteers for giving back to the community. He said the Southeast Region raised \$2.1 million during the 50th anniversary campaign.

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Photo by Shannon Leonard

A group of youngsters and their parents participate in a huge tug of war competition during the carnival.

'Month of the Military Child' celebrated with annual carnival

By Kaylee LaRocque
NAS Jax Public Affairs Specialist

Laughter and excitement filled the air as hundreds of kids and their parents came out to enjoy the annual Month of the Military Child Carnival Saturday at the Allegheny Softball Fields.



Daylin Depappa, 5, demonstrated his batting skills during the carnival.

The free event is put on each year by the NAS Jax Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Department's Youth Activities Center (YAC) to show military children how much they are appreciated.

"We're here today to recognize military children and the sacrifices they make. This our way of saying 'thank-you' for all they do and to show how much we appreciate them," said YAC Director Aaron Long.

The event featured numerous inflatables that provided lots of jumping, sliding and bouncing, a rock climbing wall, jousting, games, face painting by the staff of the Fleet and Family Support Center, free popcorn and cotton candy.

"Before every event, we review what attractions



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

Elijah Freeman, 4, practices his ball throwing skills as Jady Stevenson, 4, retrieves his ball during the Month of the Military Child Carnival on April 21.



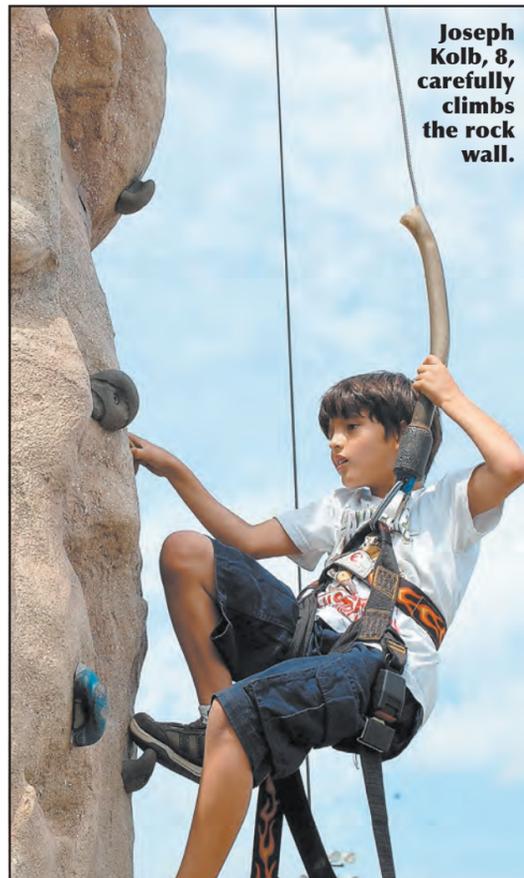
Abby Hansen (right) and Javen Zoerner try to knock one another over while jousting.



Earl Godoy of the NAS Jax Fleet and Family Support Center uses a stencil to create a design on Janaya Francis' face at the carnival.

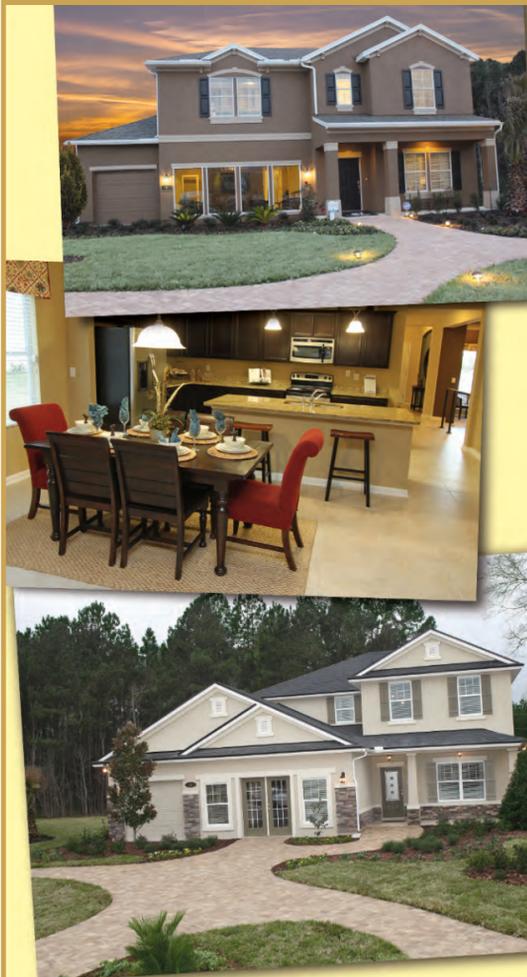


Austin Drawdy, 8, bounces down a slide after completing an obstacle course on the other side.



Joseph Kolb, 8, carefully climbs the rock wall.

See **CARNIVAL**, Page 14



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Law change increases insurance coverage

From Department of Veterans Affairs

Some veterans covered under the Veterans Group Life Insurance program (VGLI) now have the opportunity to increase their coverage to the current maximum coverage under the Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program.

"Currently, 70 percent of the veterans covered under VGLI are under age 60, have less than \$400,000 of coverage, and will greatly benefit from this law change," said Allison Hickey, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) under secretary for benefits.

Under the Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010, enacted on Oct. 13, 2010, veterans can increase their coverage by \$25,000 at each five-year anniversary date of their policy to the current legislated maximum SGLI coverage, presently, \$400,000.

The VGLI program allows newly discharged veterans to convert their SGLI coverage they had while in the service to a civilian program. Before enactment of this law, veterans could not have more VGLI than the amount of SGLI they had at the time of separation from service.

For example, those who got out of the

service prior to Sept. 1, 2005, when the maximum SGLI coverage was \$250,000, were limited to \$250,000 in VGLI coverage.

Now on their first five-year anniversary, these veterans can elect to increase their coverage to \$275,000. On their next five-year anniversary, they can increase the coverage to \$300,000, and so forth.

The additional coverage can be issued regardless of the veteran's health. To be eligible to purchase this additional coverage, the veteran must:

- Have active VGLI coverage,
- Have less than the current legislated maximum coverage of \$400,000,

- Request the additional coverage during the 120-day period prior to each five-year anniversary date, and

- Be less than 60 years of age on the five-year anniversary date of his or her coverage.

Eligible veterans are notified of this opportunity a week before the start of the 120-day period prior to their anniversary date, and twice more before the actual anniversary date.

For more information about VA's Insurance Program or other VA benefits, go to www.va.gov or call 1-800-827-1000.

CARNIVAL: Celebrating military children

From Page 13

and activities have worked in the past and what are not so popular. We come up with new ideas and try to bring in things that will keep the children and families entertained. And, through the generosity of our sponsors, we keep adding to the event," continued Long.

Long also commended those who assisted to bring the event together by setting up, manning the booths and games and would help with the clean up. "Nothing beats the heart of our volunteers who came out to help us even when we thought the weather was going to be bad. It speaks true to their characters and we certainly appreciate them," he said.

Luckily, despite the forecast for thunderstorms, the weather held steady and contributed a hefty amount of sunshine for the event as the families spent some time enjoying the different activities.

"We've come to this event every year,

since I've been stationed here. It's a great opportunity to let the kids have some fun and it's free. It's really a great event put on by MWR," said OSI(SW) Rollin George of Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Eleven who brought his two young boys to the event.

"This is really fun because they have bouncy houses and I get to eat cotton candy and popcorn," added eight-year-old Karla Mill, who was a bit nervous as she waited in line to climb the rock wall.

This year's sponsors were VyStar Credit Union, USAA, Allied American University, Navy Mutual Aid Association, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, First Command Financial Services, University of Phoenix and Everest University.

Neither MWR, nor the U.S. Navy or any other part of the federal government officially endorses any company, sponsor or its products or services.

Recreational Safety Rodeo

Tuesday, May 8
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Commissary Parking Lot

• Recreational & home safety exhibits to include, hurricane readiness, bicycle safety, vehicle safety, summer safety, off-road safety and more

• JSO drill team demo, JSO race car, jaws of life demo, NO ZONE truck and rollover vehicle

• Recreational vendors & merchandise

• Entertainment and prizes

• Food & beverages on sale

• NAS Runway motorcycle ride
(contact your motorcycle safety rep for more details)

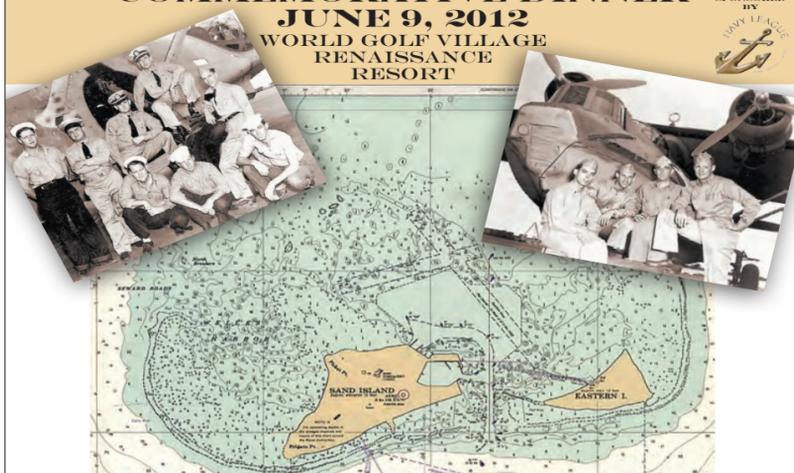
• Participation meets GMT requirements



For more information call 542.2584

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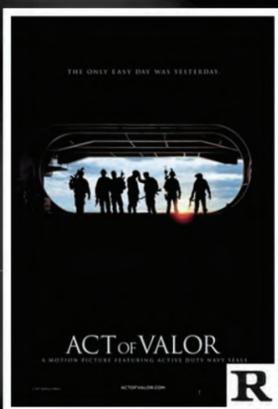
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Wednesday

Free bowling for active duty
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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4 - 10 p.m. - All you can bowl for \$5.95
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Saturday Night Extreme Bowling
7 p.m. - midnight
\$11 per person for two hours of bowling
Shoe rental included

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Mon. - Fri.
5:30 - 8 a.m.

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

4:30 - 8 p.m.

Weekend hours
11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Command Circuit Training
Tuesday & Thursday
8 a.m. in the base gym
45-minute, high-intensity group training

Family Fitness Center (located above the Youth Center Gym)
Open Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For more information please contact Melissa Luehrs at (904) 542-3518/4238.

Family Fitness Bootcamp with Ashley
Monday & Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

Family Fitness Center above the Youth Center Gym
Call (904) 778-9772

Outdoor Pool Open Weekends
Beginning May 5 & 6, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Open weekdays beginning June 11

Free for military and DoD civilians, \$3 for guests
Learn to swim session one begins June 18
\$40 military, \$45 DoD
Sign-up at the base gym on Saturday, May 12
8 - 11 a.m. military only, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. all eligible patrons

I.T.I. Events

Call 542-3318.

2012 - 13 Live Broadway Series
West Side Story - Dec. 8
Mary Poppins - Jan. 26
Billy Elliot - March 2
Rock of Ages - April 6

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\$135.50- \$162

Disney World Orlando FL Resident 3 day \$98.25, 3 day hopper \$125.25, 4 day \$127.75, 4 day hopper \$154.50



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

Team training

TRX Trainer Shana Martin gets her students pumped up with atomic push-ups during a TRX team training program to certify new instructors at the base gym on April 20. "This class is all about working together as a team at your own level," said Martin. The new program trains participants through a series of progressive total-body suspension exercises.



TRX Trainer Shana Martin (right) instructs her students on stretching exercises during the TRX team training class.

Funk Fest
May 11 & 12 at Metropolitan Park - \$57

Jacksonville Zoo - Adult \$12, Child \$7
Zoo Train & Carousel - now available at ITT!
MOSH \$7 - \$12

Jacksonville Symphony - \$27.50

Jacksonville Sharks - \$25 per person
Jacksonville Suns \$5.50-\$11.50

St. Augustine Scenic Cruise Day Trip
May 5, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
\$20 per person

The Vault Liberty Recreation Center

Trips, activities and costs may be restricted to E1-E6 single or unaccompanied active duty members. Call 542-1335 for information.

Paintball Trip
GTF in Yulee
May 5 at 9 a.m.

Free Scuba Class
May 8 at 5:30 p.m.
Indoor pool

Barracks Bash Luau
May 10, 4 - 8 p.m.
Free food, entertainment,

games and great prizes!

NAS Jax Golf Club

Golf course info: 542-3249
Mulligan's info: 542-2936
Military Appreciation Days
\$18 per person, includes cart & green fees
May 8 & 22 for active duty
May 10 & 24 for retirees & DoD personnel

Ladies Golf Clinics
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
\$10 per person
Pre-registration required, sign-up in the pro shop

Senior Military Invitational
April 30 & May 1
9 a.m. shotgun start
\$65 per person

Mulberry Cove Marina

Call 542-3260.

Free Kayak & Canoe Rental
Every Thursday for active duty

Shoreline Clean-up
May 4 at 8:30 a.m.
Free lunch!

Call 542-2709 or e-mail angela.glass@navy.mil to sign-up

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Call 778-9772

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Family Fitness Center hours are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Bring your child to work out with you!
Call 778-9772 for more information.

2012 Adventure Summer Registration Dates:
Current School-Age Care participants - Now
Single & Dual Active Duty - Now
Other Active Duty - Now
DoD Civilians - Now through April 27
Registration Packets available for pick up at the Youth Center.

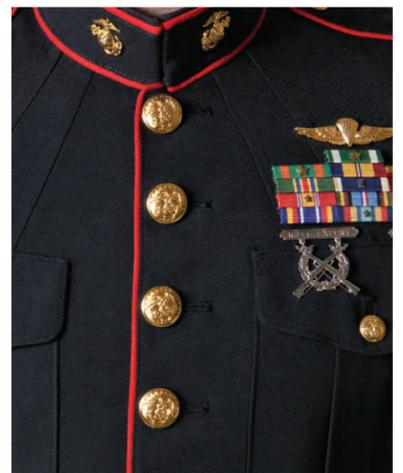
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estimated closing date		



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Prevent head injuries

By **Cmdr. Sam Meymand**
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, Naval Hospital Jacksonville

Summer is quickly approaching and with it, the appeal of outdoor activities and family involvement in sports. The rate of sports-related accidents that result in a trip to the emergency room or doctors' office increases exponentially during the summer. Injuries can be as simple as a scrape or cut on the face, to more complicated injuries such as facial fractures, broken teeth or concussions. And there's the additional danger of UV rays from increased sun exposure.

According to Safe Kids USA and the American Academy of Pediatrics, more than 30 million U.S. children ages five to 14 participate in sports each year. Of those, 3.5 million will receive medical treatment, with more than 775,000 ending up in emergency rooms.

In a national survey, 33 percent of parents admitted they often don't enforce the same safety precautions during their child's practices as they do for games. No wonder, then, that 62 percent of sports-related injuries occur during practice.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission offers an annual breakdown on emergency room visits caused by sports injuries to youth under age 15. By far the most common are bicycle-related, with 239,795 injuries (34% associated with the head). Next is baseball, with 84,878 injuries (49% associated with the head), skateboarding (65,130 injuries), football (51,953 injuries), kick scooters (37,574 injuries), ATV's (32,875 injuries), roller skating (28,559 injuries), softball (27,510 injuries), in-line skating (18,712 injuries), and lacrosse (5,393 injuries).

Taking basic precautions such as wearing proper safety gear can go a long way in preventing sports-related accidents. If involved with cycling or motorcycles, always wear a helmet. Make sure to wear the chinstrap as well.

Every sport is different, but ensure that participants wear the right protective equipment for the activity (helmets, padding, shin guards, eye and mouth guards). A simple bump or blow to the head during a game or practice can cause a concussion (brain injury). Even a small "ding" or slight bump to the head can be serious.

If a child might have a concussion, seek medical attention right away and keep the child out of play so the concussion can heal. Look for the following signs and symptoms of a concussion: headache or pressure in the head; nausea or vomiting; balance problems or dizziness; double or blurry vision; sensitivity to light; sensitivity to noise; concentration or memory problems; confusion; feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy or groggy; or just not feeling "right."

For sports like football, baseball, volleyball, hockey or basketball, it's important to wear a mouth guard. The American Dental Association estimates that mouth guards prevent more than 200,000 oral/facial injuries per year, including tooth loss and jaw frac-

See **SPORTS**, Page 19

NAS Jax Sports

Standings As of April 20

Intramural Winter Golf Final Standings

Teams	Wins	Losses	Ties
VP-10	11	0	
FRCSE I	9	1	
VP-30	7	2	1
NCTS	8	3	
CNATTU Blue	7	3	
PSD	7	3	1
NAVFAC Nats	6	3	1
FRCSE II	5	3	
VPU-1	7	4	
CPRW-11	5	4	
RCC/NOSC	5	4	1
CNATTU Gold	3	6	1
VR-62	3	7	
AIR OPS	3	7	
CBMU202	2	7	
SERCC A	3	8	
VP-62	3	8	
SERCC B	1	8	1

Team	Wins	Losses
VR-58	1	1
BMC Jax	1	2
NCTS	1	2
VP-30 E's	1	2
VP-5 Mad Foxes	0	2
HSM-74	0	3
VR-62	0	3

Intramural Spring Softball

Team	Wins	Losses
VR-58	6	1
VP-5	4	1
HSM-70	6	2
Air Ops	6	2
FRCSE 900	5	2
DLA	5	2
VPU-1	4	2
CBMU-202	4	3
MSRON-10	4	3
NMC Bombers	4	4
FRCSE Possums	3	3
NavHosp D. Birdz	2	2
CNRSE	3	4
FRCSE Screw Bs	3	4
Dirty 30	3	5
HSL-42	2	4
NCTS	1	4
VP-45	1	5
Security	0	6
NBHC	0	9

Greybeard Spring Softball

Team	Wins	Losses
VPU-1	3	0
NCTS	1	1
CNATTU	1	2
VP-30	0	2

Men's and Women's Open Singles Tennis Tourney – April 30, 5 p.m.

Open to NAS Jax active duty, selective reservists, dependents over 18, retirees and DoD men and women. Separate men's and women's division. The matches play at the Guy Ballou Tennis Complex starting at 5 p.m. Call NAS Jax Athletics to sign up by April 27.

Captain's Cup Summer Intramural Golf League meeting – May 15, 11:30 a.m.

Open to all NAS Jax active duty, command DoD, contractors and selective reservists. Meet at the NAS Jax Golf Course to discuss rules and obtain required paperwork. Commands whose athletic officer or designated representative attends the meeting receive five Captain's Cup points.

Captain's Cup Indoor Volleyball League meeting – May 22

Open to all NAS Jax active duty, command DoD, contractors and selective reservists. Meet at 11:30 a.m. at the base gym. Commands whose athletic officer or designated representative attend the meeting receive five Captain's Cup points. The games will play at lunchtime.

For more information, call Bill Bonser at 542-2930/3239 or e-mail bill.bonser@navy.mil.

Intramural Soccer

Team	Wins	Losses
VP-30 O's	3	0
NAVFAC	2	0
USCG	2	0
FACSFAC Jax	2	1
FRCSE	2	1
NAVHOSP	2	1
WTU	2	1
HSL-42	1	1
VP-45	1	1

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Clinton, Panetta discuss diplomatic, defense policies

By **Jim Garamone**
American Forces Press Service

The world is full of threats, and the United States must be prepared for them, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta told CNN's Wolf Blitzer in an April 19 interview.

Blitzer traveled to a NATO meeting in Brussels with Panetta and interviewed the defense secretary and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Panetta said he is concerned about North Korea, Iran, Syria and the turmoil in the Middle East. Beyond that, he added, he also worries about threats posed by cyber war, weapons of mass destruction and rising powers. "All of those things are threats that the United States faces in today's world," he said.

On Syria, Clinton said the U.S. goal



DoD photo by Erin A. Kirk-Cuomo
Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta and Secretary of State Hilary Clinton are interviewed by CNN's Wolf Blitzer while at the NATO "jumbo" ministerial at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium on April 18.

is to see Bashar al-Assad's government stop killing its own people.

"The goal right now is if the Assad regime were to say, 'OK, we agree, we're

going to do everything that [United Nations envoy] Kofi Annan asks us to do,' that will be our focus -- not some future, maybe unlikely, outcome in terms of criminal accountability," she said. "What I'm interested in is 'Let's stop the violence and let's start the political transition.'"

The United States stands ready to do what the international community decides on Syria, she added.

The administration has taken a firm stand on North Korea and the provocative behavior of its new ruler Kim Jong Un, Panetta said.

"We're within an inch of war almost every day in that part of the world," he said. "And you just have to be very careful about what we say and what we do."

The U.S. alliance with South Korea is strong, Panetta said, and more than 28,000 U.S. service members are based

in the country, providing a tangible example of U.S. commitment to peace in Northeast Asia.

Provocations such as North Korea's recent failed rocket launch and threats of testing a nuclear weapon should stop, Panetta said. "The fact is it was provocative, and we have made it very clear to them that they should not take any additional, provocative actions," he said.

The defense secretary stressed that this is not just a U.S. wish, but that the international community wants North Korea to end its provocations.

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Photos by Momo Harris

VyStar meeting

VyStar Credit Union branch vice presidents gather with NAS Jax Executive Officer Capt. Roy Undersander (back left) during their monthly executive meeting at NAS Jax.



NAS Jax Executive Officer Capt. Roy Undersander gives a brief history of NAS Jax and welcomes 28 VyStar Credit Union branch vice presidents from across Northeast Florida during their monthly executive meeting at the NAS Jax Officers' Club on April 17.



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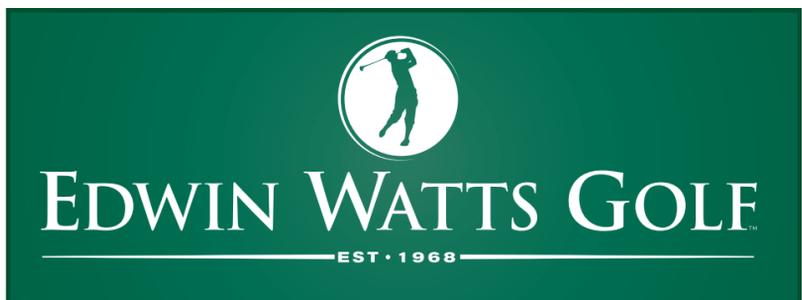
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Photos courtesy of VR-62

Members from Delta Sigma Theta Alumnae Chapter Jacksonville Youth Group gather for a group photo with AWFCs Mike Wendelin (left) and LS1 Shunquinta Neal (right) during a visit to VR-62 on April 14.

SPORTS: Prevent head injuries

From Page 17

tures. Dentists, pharmacies and sporting goods stores all offer mouth guards.

Do the right thing - be proactive in preventing sports and outdoor injuries and wear a helmet, mouth guard and other protective gear. If activities are outside, don't forget UV protection with sunscreen and remember to re-apply frequently if sweating or swimming.

In addition, it's Oral Cancer Awareness Month, which is a good reminder to get regular check-ups by a dental professional. Each year almost 40,000 people are diagnosed with cancer of the mouth or throat, resulting in more than 8,000 deaths, according to the Oral Cancer Foundation.

Alcohol and tobacco, along with certain infections such as human papilloma virus (HPV-16), contribute to these cancers. A physical exam of the mouth, to check for signs of cancer, is an important part of the dental check-up.

For more, talk to a dental provider or see the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons website at www.aaoms.org.

VR-62 'Nomads' host youth group

Student Ervin Young learns about the controls in the cockpit of the C-130T Hercules during a tour at VR-62.



Sailors Promoted



VR-62 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Alex Ellermann (left) meritoriously advances AM3 Ramon Flores-Rivera. AM2 Matthew Davis was also promoted during command quarters.



Photos courtesy of VR-62

LS1 Yotse Akolatse of VR-62 is promoted to his new rank by VR-62 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Alex Ellermann on April 15.

VP-62 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Alex Ellermann (left) advances AW1 Adam Lockwitz during command quarters.

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Former spouse ID card renewal procedures outlined

From the NPC DEERS/RAPIDS/CAC ID Card Project Office

The Navy Former Spouse Protection Act Coordinator Office (PERS-314) determines sponsor and family eligibility for ID Card authorized military benefits. This includes determining authorization for ID Cards for former spouses under the Former Spouse Protection Act.

When the former spouse applies for an ID Card after a divorce, the dependent spouse's ID must be surrendered and application for a Former Spouse ID Card must be made.

As part of the initial issuance of the Former Spouse ID Card, the following documents and information

are required in order for PERS-314 to make a determination of the eligibility for the ID Card privileges and benefits under the Former Spouse Protection Act (Public Law 97-252 and amendments):

- Initial Application after Divorce
- Sponsor's Name, Social Security Number, Rank/Grade, Service Branch, Sponsor's Status (Retired/Active/Deceased), Sponsor's Retirement Date, Sponsor's Address and Phone Number (Home and/or Work)
- Original Marriage Certificate (All Marriages)
- Birth Certificate
- Death Certificate (if applicable)
- Final Divorce Decree (All Divorces)
- Notarized Statement whether you have or have not

remarried since the divorce

- Notarized Statement whether you have employee sponsored health care insurance
- Statement of Service (DD214) (if Available)
- Applicant's Name, Address, Date of Birth, SSN, and Phone Numbers (Home and Work or Cell as Applicable)

PERS-314 will review the application for eligibility and send the applicant a letter of authorization based on the former spouse's level of benefits.

The former spouse will need to show this letter of approval to the ID issuing facility every time an ID card needs to be renewed and/or reissued.

NAS Jacksonville
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Junior Red Cross volunteers must apply by May 1

By Jeanne Casey
 Acting Deputy Public Affairs
 Officer, NH Jacksonville



The American Red Cross at Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville is currently recruiting for this summer's Junior Red Cross volunteers.

This offers an excellent opportunity for students interested in health careers to train with highly skilled Navy Medicine profession-

als — physicians, nurses, pharmacists, therapists and technicians — as well as contribute to creating a positive experience for NH Jacksonville patients.

The program is open to a limited number of high school students age 16 to 18 who have base access.

Volunteers work four to 20 hours per week in locations throughout the hospital, and receive CPR training.

Applications can be picked up at NH Jacksonville's American Red Cross office (Room 1404, next to Physical Therapy & Occupational

Therapy) and must be submitted by May 1.

Selectees are required to attend the June 9 kick-off event from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., that includes an interview, in the hospital's central tower second deck conference room.

For more information, call Junior Red Cross Volunteer Chairman Terry Miles at 542-7525 or e-mail terry.miles2@med.navy.mil.

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Sara Riek 904-751-4201

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