

# HSL 42 Det Two coming home

## Set new milestones for MQ-8B Fire Scout

From HSL-42 Public Affairs

A crowd of family and friends will line the pier at Naval Station Mayport Dec. 1 to welcome home HSL-42 Detachment Two – embedded with USS Klakring (FFG 42) – from a highly successful five-month deployment to the U.S. Africa Command area of responsibility.

Following their departure in June, Detachment Two provided airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) in support of military units operating throughout Africa.

This deployment was a unique opportunity for the Detachment Two team and the Klakring team. Squadron members broke new ground in the field of rotary wing aviation by being the first to deploy aboard a U.S. Navy ship with four vertical take-off and landing unmanned aerial vehicles (VTUAVs).

Rather than taking their time-tested SH-60Bs to sea, the pilots, payload operators, and maintainers deployed with the MQ-8B Fire Scout VTUAV, one of the Navy's newest aviation platforms.

Manufactured by Northrop Grumman, the Fire Scout is capable of autonomously taking-off and landing from a ship, flying pre-programmed or commanded flight routes with long on-station time, and providing multi-sensor intelligence information.

Beginning in December 2011, the flight crews and maintainers of Detachment Two underwent intensive training to operate and sustain this cutting-edge technology at sea.



Photo courtesy of Northrop Grumman

One of the Navy's operational MQ-8B Fire Scouts prepares to land on board a Navy frigate. HSL-42 Det. Two is the first squadron to deploy aboard a U.S. Navy ship with four vertical take-off and landing unmanned aerial vehicles (VTUAVs).

ting-edge technology at sea.

Their hard work and dedication paid off over the past five months as the detachment pushed the boundaries of sea-based ISR and achieved many new milestones in naval unmanned aviation.

Detachment Two aircrews were the first active duty military members to fly two Fire Scout air vehicles simultaneously from a single control station on the ship for dual air vehicle operations.

Additionally, they fulfilled a Chief of Naval Operations requirement for the Navy to execute 12 continuous hours of ISR coverage from a sea-based asset this fiscal year.

Squadron members pushed the envelope even further in demonstrating a "surge" capability by executing 24 continuous hours of real world ISR coverage in late September.

Commenting on his detachment's achievements, Officer-in-Charge Lt.

Cmdr. Jay Lambert said, "This was a very challenging deployment for everyone involved but looking back now, it will be one of the highlights of my career. The issues we faced from logistics to dealing with a relatively new type of aircraft were far outside the norm of what the HSL community usually runs into, but my guys handled everything that came at us perfectly. I really can't say enough about how well our entire detachment performed. They were the best group I could have ever possibly had the privilege of leading."

Luckily, it wasn't all hard work over the last five months for the Sailors of Detachment Two and Klakring. The crew relaxed and enjoyed some well-earned time away from the ship during their multiple port visits. Klakring called on such exotic locations as Djibouti, the Seychelles Islands, and the Island of Mauritius.

When asked as to what his favorite port visit was, AT2 Richard Knowles commented, "I had a great time in the Seychelles, but I am very happy to be home. I'm going to Disney World! No, really, I am going to Disney World."

USS Robert G. Bradley (FFG 49) and HSC-22 Detachment Five relieved USS Klakring in the Mediterranean Sea and are currently underway conducting Fire Scout operations.

As a testament to the skill and professionalism of Detachment Two's maintenance team, three of their four MQ-8B aircraft were transferred to HSC-22 Detachment Five in theater, keeping the cutting edge Fire Scout aircraft forward deployed for nearly a year before returning home.

# Greenert: Navy at its best when forward deployed

By Claudette Roulo  
American Forces Press Service

With warfighting the central focus of the Navy's mission, the Navy is best when it is out and about, Navy Adm. Jonathan Greenert, chief of naval operations, said Nov. 16 in Washington, D.C.

"Operating forward means using innovative ways to make sure the ships that we have are where we need them to be," the admiral said during a speech at a National Press Club luncheon.

Readiness to conduct forward operations requires more than just parts, maintenance and fuel, he added.

"It also means that we have competent and proficient crews that are ready to do the job," he said.

For about 10 years, around half of the Navy's ships have been forward deployed in the Asia-Pacific region, Greenert said. Half of those ships are home-ported there, he added.

That forward-leaning posture helps to build international relationships and reassure U.S. allies, he said.

Partnerships between the United States and Asia-Pacific nations are maturing and growing, Greenert said. For example, in Japan and South Korea, U.S. Navy operations personnel are co-located with their host nation counterparts, he said.

In addition, a longstanding series of



Photo by MCI Peter Lawlor

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan Greenert answers questions from media Nov. 16 narrated by Theresa Werner, the president of the National Press Club, during a live televised broadcast at a National Press Club luncheon about the status of the Navy and the Asia-Pacific rebalance.

talks with the Chinese navy have been expanded to include flag officers, not just captains, Greenert said.

"We in the Department of Defense have now a deliberate strategy for engagement of the Chinese military," he said.

The Asia-Pacific region has been a longtime focus for the Navy, the admiral said, so it makes sense that the U.S. defense strategy would include a rebalance toward the region.

Part of the rebalance includes Spain's recent agreement to allow four Aegis

missile-equipped Arleigh Burke-class ships to home-port in Rota, effectively freeing up six ships to deploy elsewhere, Greenert said.

In addition, more ships will be based on the West Coast. By 2020, 60 percent of the Navy's ships will be based on the West Coast or elsewhere in the Pacific, he said.

To send one ship forward, Greenert said, requires four other ships: one in the region, one that has just returned, one that is preparing to deploy and one that is in maintenance.

It makes better economic sense to keep ships home-ported in those regions, he said.

About a third of the deployed ships are in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf, and about 18 are in the Mediterranean Sea, the admiral said.

That arrangement helps to ensure access to maritime crossroads such as the Suez Canal and the straits of Hormuz, Malacca and Gibraltar, he said.

"We have to have access to those places. That's where the lifeblood of our world economy travels through," he said.

It can take several days, sometimes two or three weeks, to reach these places from the United States, he noted, underscoring the importance of operating from forward locations.

## A snowy day in Japan

Aircrew assigned to the VP-8 "Fighting Tigers" preflight a P-3C Orion on a snowy Nov. 21 at Naval Air Facility Misawa, Japan. The squadron recently completed its six-month deployment in support of U.S. 7th Fleet operations. They are currently returning home to the more temperate climate of NAS Jacksonville.



Photo by MC2 Pedro Rodriguez

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U.S. Navy photos

In 1959, this HSS-1 Sea Horse anti-submarine warfare helicopter assigned to HS-9, carried a MK 43 torpedo in its firing sling. The HS-9 "Sea Griffins" were established at NAS Quonset Point, R.I. in 1956. The squadron served in the Atlantic and Mediterranean until it was disestablished in 1968. The Sea Griffins were re-established at NAS Jacksonville in 1976 with a force of eight SH-3H Sea King helicopters.



USS Lexington leaving San Diego, Calif. on Oct. 14. Planes parked on her flight deck include F2A-1 fighters (forward), SBD scout-bombers (amidships) and TBD-1 torpedo planes (aft). "Lady Lex" returned to Pearl Harbor in Feb. 1942, for a brief overhaul and removal of her eight-inch guns.

## This Week in Navy History

### From Staff

#### Nov. 29

1775 - Capt. John Manley in schooner Lee captures British ordnance ship Nancy with large quantity of munitions.

1890 - First Army-Navy football game is won by Navy 24 - 0.

1929 - Cmdr. Richard Byrd makes first flight over South Pole.

1944 - USS Archerfish (SS-311) sinks Japanese carrier Shinano, the world's largest warship sunk by any submarine during World War II.

#### Nov. 30

1942 - In Battle of Tassafaronga, the last major naval action in Solomons, the U.S. force prevents Japanese attempt to resupply the Japanese troops on Guadalcanal. Six U.S. ships are damaged in the action.

#### Dec. 1

1842 - Execution of three crewmembers of USS Somers for mutiny: Midshipman Philip Spencer, Boatswain Samuel Cromwell and Seaman Elisha Small.

1921 - In first flight of an airship filled with helium, Blimp C-7 piloted by Lt. Cmdr. Ralph Wood, flew from Norfolk, Va., to Washington, D.C.

1959 - Bureau of Ordnance merges with Bureau of Aeronautics to form the Bureau of Naval Weapons.

#### Dec. 2

1908 - Rear Adm. William Cowles submits report to Secretary of the Navy, prepared by Lt. George Sweet, recommending purchase of aircraft suitable for operating from naval ships on scouting and observation missions.

1941 - First Naval Armed Guard detachment (seven men under a coxswain) of World War II reports to Liberty ship SS Dunboyne.

1944 - Two-day destroyer Battle of Ormoc Bay begins.

1965 - USS Enterprise (CVAN-65) and USS Bainbridge (DLGN-25) become first nuclear-powered task unit used in combat operations with launch of air strikes near Bien Hoa, Vietnam.

#### Dec. 3

1775 - LT John Paul Jones raises the Grand Union flag on Alfred. First American flag raised over American naval vessel.

1940 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt embarks on USS Tuscaloosa (CA-37) to inspect bases acquired from Great Britain under Destroyer-for Bases agreement.

1983 - Two F-14s flying over Lebanon were fired upon.

#### Dec. 4

1918 - President Woodrow Wilson sails in USS George Washington for Paris Peace Conference.

## U.S. aircraft carrier locations: December 7, 1941

### From Naval History & Heritage Command

The three Pacific Fleet aircraft carriers were USS Enterprise (CV-6), USS Lexington (CV-2), and USS Saratoga (CV-3).

**Enterprise:** On Nov. 28, 1941, Adm. Husband Kimmel sent Task Force-8, consisting of Enterprise, the heavy cruisers Northampton (CA-26), Chester (CA-27) and Salt Lake City (CA-24) along with nine destroyers under Vice Adm. William Halsey Jr., to ferry 12 Grumman F4F-3 Wildcats of Marine Fighter Squadron (VMF) 211 to Wake Island.

Upon completion of the mission on Dec. 4, TF-8 set course to return to Pearl Harbor. Dawn on Dec. 7 found TF-8 about 215 miles west of Oahu.

**Lexington:** On Dec. 5, Task Force-12, formed around Lexington, under the command of Rear Adm. John Newton, sailed from Pearl to ferry 18 Vought SB2U-3 Vindicators of Marine Scout Bombing Squadron 231 to Midway Island. Dawn on Dec. 7 found

Lexington, heavy cruisers Chicago (CA-29), Portland (CA-33) and Astoria (CA-34) along with five destroyers about 500 miles southeast of Midway.

The attack on Pearl cancelled the mission and VMSB-231 was retained on board (they would ultimately fly to Midway from Hickam Field on Dec. 21).

**Saratoga:** Having recently completed an overhaul at the Puget Sound Navy Yard in Bremerton, Wash., she reached NAS San Diego (North Island) late on Dec. 7. She embarked her air group, as well as Marine Fighter Squadron (VMF) 221 and a cargo of miscellaneous airplanes to ferry to Pearl Harbor.

Yorktown (CV-5), Ranger (CV-4) and Wasp (CV-7), along with the aircraft escort vessel Long Island (AVG-1), were in the Atlantic Fleet; Hornet (CV-8), commissioned in late October 1941, had yet to carry out her shakedown. Yorktown would be the first Atlantic Fleet carrier to be transferred to the Pacific, sailing on Dec. 16, 1941.

1943 - Aircraft from USS Lexington (CV-16) and USS Independence (CVL-22) attack Kwajalein Atoll, sinking four Japanese ships and damaging five others, while only three U.S. ships suffered damage.

1944 - USS Flasher (SS-249) sinks Japanese destroyer Kishinami in South China Sea. Flasher is only U.S. sub to sink more than 100,000 tons of enemy shipping in World War II.

1965 - Launch of Gemini 7 piloted by Cmdr. James Lovell. The flight consisted of 206 orbits at an altitude of 327 km and lasted 13 days and 18 hours. Recovery by HS-11 helicopters from USS Wasp (CVS-18).

1983 - Aircraft from USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) and USS Independence (CV-62) launch strike against anti-aircraft positions in Lebanon that fired on U.S. aircraft. Two Navy planes

were shot down.

#### Dec. 5

1843 - Launching of USS Michigan at Erie, Penn., America's first iron-hull warship, as well as first prefabricated ship.

1941 - USS Lexington (CV-2) sails with Task Force 12 to ferry Marine Corps aircraft to Midway Island, leaving no carriers at Pearl Harbor.

# Petraeus scandal cheats military wives

By Sarah Smiley

Special Contributor

## From The Homefront

Twelve years ago, Dustin arrived at a new squadron, and at the Hail and Farewell (the Navy's efficient two-birds, one-stone approach to saying hello and goodbye to rotating personnel), a tall, attractive woman walked into the bar wearing a white tank top and fitted jeans.

"Who's that," I asked.

Dustin whispered back, "One of the pilots."

"One of the pilots where?"

"Here," he said. "In this squadron."

I wanted to raise my hand and request that my husband be transferred to a new duty station. As if that works. I imagined how much more beautiful the pilot would seem to the men when they were separated from their wives for months at a time. I hated that she would have more access to my husband than I would. She would eat with him, exercise with him, and probably hang out in the ready room with him, too.

Welcome to the strange, conflicted, sexually-charged but policed atmosphere of the military, where uniforms meant to

stifle individual expression have inadvertently become sex symbols, and where husbands leave their wives for months at a time to live with other women, many of whom are young, smart, fit and attractive.

For all of these reasons, last week, when I heard the news about former CIA Director David Petraeus having an affair with his biographer, Paula Broadwell, my stomach knotted. Fair or not, military leaders set the tone for their subordinates. A commander who has a family at home likely will make holiday parties and family-services briefings a priority. A commander who is a bachelor might invite "all the guys" to Hooters for dinner. (Yes, I saw this happen.) A leader's personal behavior gives families back home either confidence or reason to worry.

So in the wake of the scandal, I feel a little like a kid who's just discovered her parents are getting a divorce. Nothing makes sense. The military is not what I thought it was. Shouldn't Petraeus and his wife, after 38 years of marriage, be the happy

picture of what military life can be? Weren't we striving for what they have?

Civilians, of course, have always secretly suspected that being "on deployment" involves sneaking around on your spouse and shirking duties as husband and father. Military wives sometimes fear this, too, but, until now, we've looked to leaders with the brass — you know, the ones who are unimpressed with the country's latest reality-TV star and are more focused on the troops and defending freedom — and found comfort in the tone they set.

So what now? Four-Star generals, unlike some celebrities and politicians, don't usually end up on the front page of The National Enquirer. What are we to make of this? What is our new standard of a good military marriage?

Or, worse, had we been duped all along?

Jake Trapper, speaking about the affair to CNN's Piers Morgan last week, shared a story about being with the troops overseas, where it was, as he recalled, a world virtually void of women

and filled with men starved for them. He said the men routinely clamored to listen to a female helicopter pilot's voice over the radio. The men, he said, were convinced she was the most beautiful woman ever.

All across the nation, as CNN went to commercial, a thousand military wife's hearts broke. Those men clamoring to hear the radio probably weren't all single. We always suspected as much, of course, but no one talked about it, and military leaders, we had hoped, certainly frowned on it.

Oh, but the damage from this "divorce" is far from done. Next up in the fallout is Jill Kelley, a rich socialite civilian who, despite having no business at McDill Air Force Base, had total access to it and all of its leaders.

There, Kelley received favors like written letters of support from two powerful generals for her sister's custody battle. I had to read that news report twice. I've been a military dependent for 36 years; "favors" and "socialite" are not usually in the same sentence with "military" and "base." Despite being a Navy wife and BRAT, I've sometimes been turned away from the front gate because I didn't have my

I.D. card. There never were any favors.

But, then, I'm closer to looking more like General Patreus's wife than I am the perfectly dressed and toned Kelley or Broadwell. I used to think those things didn't matter in the military.

It's like the rug has been pulled out from under military wives. And as each new picture surfaces of the general wearing what looks like Mardi Gras beads and beautiful women on either arm, we will think of his wife, and our bitterness will grow at being left at home to raise families, where we age, grow plump around the edges and wrinkled in the face. All while another woman goes jogging with our husband and a socialite is waved onto base.

That collective sigh you hear is an army of wives asking themselves, perhaps many decades too late, is this really any way to live a married life? But we aren't all necessarily questioning our marriages. I've loved and been devoted to both my husband and the military.

Today, I feel like one of them has cheated me. And it's not Dustin.



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# VP-30 aircrewman classes graduate, many advanced

By Lt. William Ross  
VP-30 Public Affairs Officer

On Nov. 16, VP-30 Executive Officer Cmdr. David Gardella recognized recent graduates of the P-3C CAT I (initial training syllabus) Acoustic and Non-acoustic Operator Class 1205, Flight Engineer Class 1203, and In-flight Technician Class 1203.

The Honor Graduates of the classes were: AWF3 Cord Bailey (Naval Aircrewman Mechanical Class 1203), AWW3 Joshua Wendel (Naval Aircrewman Avionics Class 1203), AWO3 Nicholas Urban (Naval Aircrewman Operator Class 1205-Non-Acoustic), and AWO3 Cody Miller (Naval Aircrewman Operator Class 1205-Acoustic).

All graduating Sailors were advanced at the ceremony to their listed rank by Gardella.

These naval aircrewmen will

now report to their assigned operational squadrons to begin their initial sea tours.

**Class 1205 - CAT I Acoustic Operator**

AWO3 Cody Miller  
AWO3 Joli, Bailow  
AWO3 Chad Halbert  
AWO3 Derrick Keith  
AWO3 Jordan Rich  
AWO3 Travis Viator

**Class 1205 - CAT I Non-acoustic Operator**

AWO3 Nicholas Urban  
AWO3 Brythie Hayes-Ocampo

**Class 1203 - CAT I Flight Engineer**

AWF3 Cord Bailey  
AWF3 Patrice Carter  
AWF3 Cassandra Munar  
AWF3 Joseph Reckamp  
AWF3 Jeremy Smith  
AWF3 Kathryn Turner

**Class 1203 - CAT I In-flight Technician**

AWV3 Joshua Wendel  
AWV3 Jehoshaphat Collins  
AWV3 Brian Conner  
AWV3 Ethan Herndon



(From left) VP-30 Honor Graduates AWO3 Cody Miller, AWO3 Nicholas Urban, AWW3 Joshua Wendel and AWF3 Cord Bailey.

Photo from VP-30

## Petty officers advancement announced

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

More than 26,000 active duty and nearly 600 Full Time Support (FTS) Sailors are on their way to advancement to E4, E5 and E6 with the release of the fall Petty Officer advancement list Nov. 20.

"Advancements are critical to our overall strategy for managing rating and pay grade levels to ensure healthy community management and manning the Fleet to the correct level with the right people," said Rear Adm. Tony Kurta, director of Military Personnel Plans and Policy. "Sailors advanced in cycle 216 for Active Duty and Full Time Support (FTS) E4-E6 will provide the Fleet with the right Sailor with the right skills and the right experience level to maximize Navy's readiness."

While the number of active duty Sailors advancing to E5 and E4 decreased this cycle, the opportunity to advance increased because

there were fewer Sailors in the advancement window.

Enlisted advancements are based on vacancies in the Fleet. Although there were fewer vacancies to advance into this cycle, there were also fewer Sailors in the advancement window - so percent opportunity stayed high.

Advancement opportunity for active duty E6 Sailors this cycle increased to 19.59 from 16.18 percent last cycle, while E5 Sailors saw opportunity rise to 32.42 percent this cycle compared to 30.94 percent last spring. Sailors advancing to E4 had opportunity increase to 47.70 percent from 45.83 percent last cycle.

FTS E6 Sailors opportunity this cycle increased to 11.60 percent from 10.78 from last cycle, while E5 Sailors opportunity dropped to 23.58 percent from 28.57 last cycle. E4 Sailors also saw a drop in opportunity from 59.52 in the last cycle to 42.21 this cycle.

## Farewell, Chief Williams

NAS Jax Career Counselor

NCC(SW) Rhonaka

Williams received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medal from NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Sanders on Nov. 16. "Chief Williams really cares about her job and making good things happen for our Sailors. One of my tenets is that you have to take care of your Sailors - and she's on the front line of ensuring our Sailors attain what they need to advance in their careers," said Sanders. Williams has orders to USS Peleliu (LHA-5), a Tarawa-class amphibious assault ship home ported in San Diego.



Photo by Clark Pierce

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# 'Fighting Tigers' hoist EAWS pennant



Photo by MC2(AW/SW) Pedro Rodriguez

(From left) AE2 Juliana Drach, PR2 Andrew Wallace, ISSN Derek Toland and AW01 Eric Leide, all assigned to the "Fighting Tigers" of VP-8, hoist the Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS) pennant Nov. 16 during a "hauling up" ceremony on board NAF Misawa, Japan. Seventy-eight percent of VP-8 personnel are currently qualified to wear the EAWS insignia, which authorizes the squadron to fly the pennant. The NAS Jacksonville-based Fighting Tigers are on a scheduled six-month deployment to northern Japan in support of U.S. 7th Fleet.

By MC2 Pedro Rodriguez,  
VP-8 Public Affairs

The "Fighting Tigers" of VP 8 witnessed the culmination of six months of hard work and dedication when they hoisted the Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS) pennant, Nov. 16 at Naval Air Facility Misawa, Japan.

The squadron had their two most junior EAWS recipients hoist the pennant during a "hauling up" ceremony inside their hangar.

"I am very proud of all of the accomplishments that the Sailors of VP-8 reach, but this particular one has to be gained as a team," said VP-8 Command Master Chief Patrick Campbell. "Our Sailors encouraged each other to get their EAWS qualifications started and completed. They were determined to raise the EAWS Pennant."

In order for a unit to be authorized to hoist the EAWS pennant, the command must have 75 percent or more of its personnel qualified. The Fighting Tigers currently have 78 percent of its personnel qualified - which is a 31 percent increase since they deployed from NAS Jacksonville in May.

The EAWS personnel qualification standard (PQS) covers four phases: command orientation; departmental qualifications; aircraft systems; a writ-

ten test and oral board.

"I have never seen a level of dedication to this magnitude regarding Sailors engaged and focused on earning their warfare qualification," said AWOC Jerry Fullerton, VP-8 EAWS coordinator. "Everywhere you turned you would see Sailors in study groups, mock boards, and doing PQS with qualified members both at work and in the barracks during their liberty time."

EAWS managers set up training sessions for Sailors during the night and day shifts. These sessions gave them the opportunity to discuss and clarify any questions they might have on any given topic.

"We held one-hour training sessions seven-days-a-week for both day and night shifts. We also encouraged all personnel to get involved and assist enrollees in studying and maintaining a steady progress through the program," said AE2 Juliana Drach, VP-8 EAWS manager. "Also, we continually emphasized the significance and pride that comes with wearing a set of EAWS wings. Wearing them stands for being a specialist in what we do on a daily basis."

"My expectations are always very high for our Sailors and programs, but I fully expect that the Fighting Tigers will not let this pennant come down anytime soon," said Campbell.



## 'Pelicans' replace P-3C prop

Photos by Clark Pierce

A team of VP-45 aviation machinist mates installs a propeller on the inside starboard engine of a P-3C Orion on Nov. 19.

Each of the Allison T-56 engines on the P-3C Orion drives a four-bladed Hamilton Standard propeller. An overhead crane makes lifting heavy components more safe for VP-45 aviation machinist mates in NAS Jax Hangar 511.



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-Jared Thompson

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# NAVFAC Southeast supports Jacksonville veterans events

## From NAVFAC Southeast Public Affairs

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast active duty volunteers visited local classrooms and a retirement center Nov. 5 through Nov. 12 to support Jacksonville's 'Week of Valor' and other Veterans Day commemorations.

Military members visited as individuals and in small groups to speak to students and retirees about their military experiences and about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) opportunities.

Lt. Cmdr. Doug Herrin, NAVFAC Southeast energy team leader, spoke to 55 juniors from Englewood High School Nov. 5, during their science class.

"I spoke about the service and sacrifices of veterans and the significant role veterans had in shaping our great nation and providing us with freedom and opportunities," said Herrin. "I talked about defending our freedom and democracy, about my travels around the world, and how I have seen children who live in poverty and do not have the same educational opportunities we enjoy."

Herrin also spoke about the role of engineers in the U.S. Navy and the importance of science, technology, engineering, and math in pursuing a future career in the military or in the private sector.

SWCS Jose Torres, NAVFAC Southeast senior enlisted advisor, met several kindergarten through fourth grade students

at Englewood Elementary on the same day. He spoke to them about veterans contributions, past and present, and the sacrifices made by both the military members and their families.

Torres noted the children were very excited to visit with military members. He thanked them for taking time to honor veterans and that it meant a great deal to him personally to know that children were thinking of the military.

Cmdr. Cameron Geertsema, Navy Region Southeast assistant regional engineer, spoke to more than 100 middle-school students at Jacksonville's San Jose Catholic School during the Week of Valor.

Geertsema discussed the importance of service and how he came to serve. He also highlighted the significance of education, community service and team work in everything we do.

"That is what makes this country great," said Geertsema. "It's everyone's personal responsibility to 'do something' however small or large."

Geertsema followed up his remarks with a questions and answer session. The students were well prepared and peppered him with more than 40 questions. Geertsema said he was able to answer about ten questions in the allotted 45 minutes.

"Students were interested in veterans serving in harm's way," said Geertsema. "They asked about what it means to serve and they were concerned with the type of hardships service members face."

Geertsema told the students that it is a privilege and honor to serve.

"Serving in a time of war is difficult and affects each service member differently," said Geertsema. "We leave our families to answer the call of this great nation to do a job in a foreign land. Sometimes during war and sometimes to support humanitarian efforts. Either way, the experiences and friendships we build, both in the military or with the nation we are supporting, are rewarding and well worth the effort."

Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth Vargas, NAVFAC Southeast disaster preparedness officer, and Lt. Ruben Chonna, NAVFAC Southeast energy manager for Public Works Department, NAS Jacksonville, visited with residents and staff of the River Garden Hebrew Home in Mandarin, Nov. 12, during their Veterans Day commemoration.

Approximately 25 to 30 residents, including veterans of World War II, the Korean conflict, and Vietnam, greeted Vargas and Chonna. The official program consisted of four presentations - two by resident veterans and two by the NAVFAC officers. The veterans shared "war" stories including one veteran who shared his experiences at Pearl Harbor 'on that day of infamy,' Dec. 7, 1941. The second veteran gave a brief history on Veterans Day, how it used to be known as Armistice Day, and how on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of each year was to be commemorated as the moment in time to com-



Photo courtesy of NAVFAC SE

**Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth Vargas, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast disaster preparedness officer, watches as a resident from the River Garden Hebrew Home in Mandarin, places the U.S. flag on Veterans Day.**

memorate the 'end of all wars.'

"It was a great honor and privilege to be surrounded by so many of our nation's heroes to commemorate this special day in Florida," said Vargas.

The city-sponsored Week of Valor coincided with Veterans Day and featured a military appreciation luncheon, a job fair, a Veterans Day parade, a college basketball game aboard the USS Bataan, and a salute to the military during the NFL football game between the Jacksonville Jaguars and Indianapolis Colts.

# NAVFAC Southeast executive officer engages local businesses

## From NAVFAC Southeast Public Affairs

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast Executive Officer Capt. Scott Hurst spoke at the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) luncheon in Jacksonville on Nov. 20.

The society is comprised of military members, area business and industry leaders.

He provided a general overview of NAVFAC Southeast engineering challenges and U.S. Navy construction outlook in the southeastern United States and overseas, specifically onboard Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa.

Hurst reviewed with the audience

who NAVFAC Southeast is, where it conducts business, how to do business with NAVFAC and the fiscal outlook for 2013.

He also shared personal experiences and thoughts on doing business from his most recent one-year deployment, returning in May, where he was the commanding officer, Camp Lemonnier, located in the Horn of Africa.

"We (NAVFAC Southeast) are very diverse. Our diversity in territory (coastal, inland, Caribbean islands such as Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Haiti) and the services we support (Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard) insulate us from fiscal highs and lows," said Hurst.

Hurst commented that 'energy' is a growth sector for NAVFAC Southeast and the workload in this area has actu-

ally increased.

He suggested that if the gathered professionals were looking for business, energy is of growing importance.

Hurst also stressed that NAVFAC does more than MILCON (military construction). NAVFAC is also involved in utility, conservation, environmental and real estate transactions, to name a few.

"Our workload continues to be true and steady in fiscal 2013," said Hurst.

Hurst discussed the growing importance of his last tour in Africa. Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, formally an obscure 100-year-old French outpost, has become a vital air hub and navigational point for the U.S. Navy and U.S.

government supporting regional and combatant commanders.

Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa is headquartered there and supports 25 additional tenant commands.

What began for the U.S. as a contingency outpost after 9/11 is turning into a full scale permanent base for the U.S. Navy supporting a population of more than 4000 military, civilian and contract personnel," said Hurst.

Hurst shared with the group information on where to find business opportunities with NAVFAC, throughout the world.

For more information, visit [www.navy.navy.mil](http://www.navy.navy.mil).

# USO Pal Day celebrates 53 years

## From the USO

Saturday marks the 54th anniversary of USO Pal Day in St. Augustine, where the old city's attractions show their support and appreciation to members of the U.S. armed forces and their families by opening their doors free of charge.

In addition, members of Elks Lodge 829 will serve a free lunch sponsored by the Greater Jacksonville Area USO.

Over the years, tens of thousands of active duty military and their families have enjoyed USO Pal Day.

The Greater Jacksonville Area USO has the sole of mission of supporting our brave men/women and their families who defend our freedoms.

We are greatly appreciative of our partnership with the City of St. Augustine, Elks Lodge 829 and the United Way of St. Johns County.

# Chapel Center Calendar

## Sunday Services

8:15 a.m. - Protestant Liturgical Worship

9:15 a.m. - Catholic Mass

9:45 a.m. - Protestant Sunday School

11 a.m. - Protestant Worship

11:15 a.m. - Catholic CCD

**Daily Catholic Mass**

11:35 a.m. (except Friday)

**Weekly Bible Study**

Wednesdays, 7 p.m. at Chapel Complex Building 749 and Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the barracks

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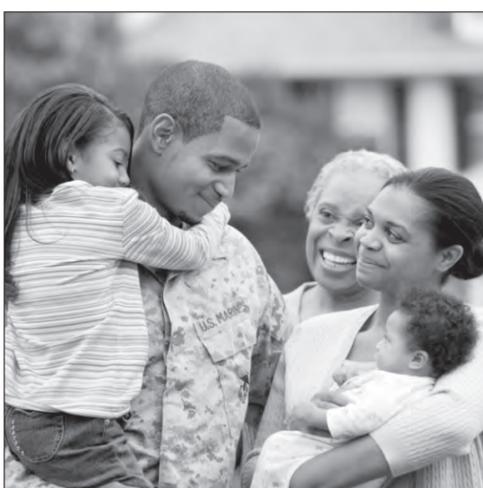
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NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Sanders (center) congratulates the refurbishment team members for their diligent and impressive work restoring the Improved Fresnel Lens Optical Landing System and the Manually Operated Visual Landing Aid System during his visit to Outlying Landing Field Whitehouse Nov. 19.



ET3 Ryan McCracken of NAS Jacksonville Ground Electronics performs corrosion control and maintenance work on the Manually Operated Visual Landing Aid System at Outlying Landing Field Whitehouse.



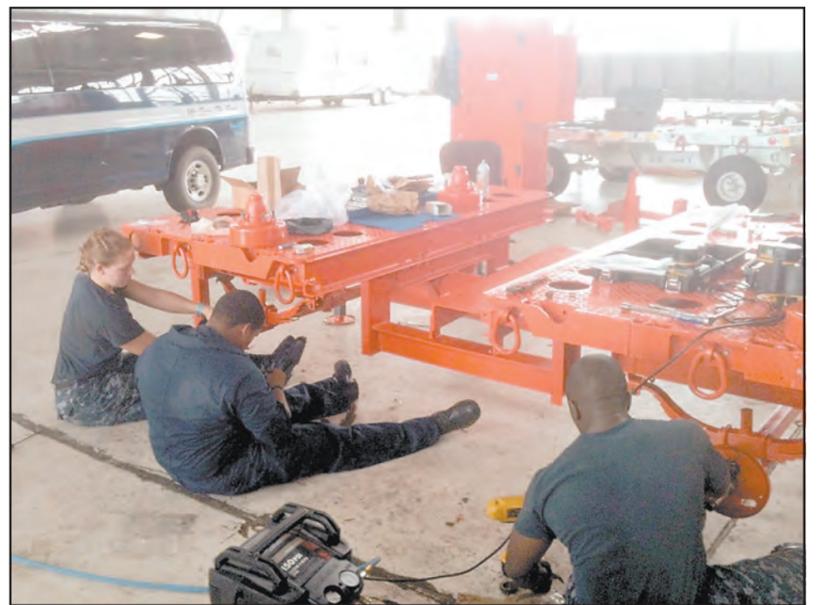
The corroded Improved Fresnel Lens Optical Landing System at Outlying Landing Field Whitehouse before the self-help project to refurbish the equipment.



IC2(SW) Michael Bean, with NAS Jacksonville Ground Electronics (left) gives a rundown about the refurbishment work done on the Manually Operated Visual Landing Aid System to NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Sanders.



ET2(SW) Timothy Fay and IC2(SW) Michael Bean of NAS Jax Ground Electronics display a newly painted part for the system. Sailors from Ground Electronics spent hours refurbishing the runway gear at Outlying Landing Field Whitehouse -- saving thousands of dollars in contracting costs.



Sailors from NAS Jacksonville Ground Electronics diligently work to repair the Improved Fresnel Lens Optical Landing System and Manually Operated Visual Landing Aid System at Outlying Landing Field Whitehouse.

# Thousands of dollars saved on runway lighting at OLF Whitehouse

By Lt. j.g. Kevin Wendt  
Staff Writer

Carrier-based pilots of fixed-wing aircraft know all too well the importance of deck lighting and visual aids to assist in guiding their aircraft safely on board.

In addition to the hundreds of hours of practice approaches that prepare a pilot for this challenge, they rely on the Improved Fresnel Lens Optical Landing System (IFLOLS) and the Manually Operated Visual Landing Aid System (MOVLAS) early in their careers to gain the expertise required to "land on a postage stamp" in the middle of the night.

Anyone who has seen "Top Gun" can recall hearing the phrase, "You are three quarter mile, call the ball" as Maverick prepares to land his F-14 Tomcat on board a carrier flight deck. This phrase is in reference to the "meatball" that is projected by IFLOLS to indicate to a pilot that their aircraft is on the optimal glide slope.

The IFLOLS is a system consisting of 12 vertical cells and 10 horizontal datum lights that a pilot can see from up to 1.5 nautical miles, giving them time to make the necessary final adjustments that will ensure their tail hook connects with the

arresting gear on board carrier flight decks.

Should the IFLOLS system fail due to maintenance issues or extremely rough sea states, the MOVLAS serves as a backup system that can be manually operated by an experienced landing signal officer (LSO) to display the same visual information.

Pilots train for carrier landings almost non-stop, using land-based fields to perfect their techniques. Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Whitehouse, located 45 minutes west of NAS Jacksonville, serves as one of these frequently used fields. Equipped with a pair of IFLOLS and MOVLAS units at each end of the runway, OLF Whitehouse serves as host to numerous fleet squadrons that use these lighting systems for their training and qualifications.

In recent years these multi-million dollar units had degraded in life-cycle sustainability and performance due to continuous weather exposure and deterioration. In order to restore these degrading units, Lt. Cmdr. Erick Smith, ground electronics maintenance officer for NAS Jax, and ETC(SS) Steven David, leading chief petty officer for ground electronics with NAS Jax, headed a refurbishment project designed to save time and money.

Initially contacting contractors to get an estimate of how much money would be needed to repair the IFLOLS and MOVLAS units, David concluded that a skilled team of petty officers led by IC2(SW) Michael Bean could make the repairs in much less time and for a fraction of the costs quoted.

"Bean's team," as it came to be called, included IC2 (SW/AW) Jayson Bankhead, IC2(SW) Amber Thayer, ET2(SW) Timothy Fay, ET3 Hope Hatfield, ET3 Derek Mitchem, ET3 Ryan McCracken and Tom Duvall, a civilian electronics technician with NAS Jax.

"The contractors had initially told us it would cost the Navy a few hundred thousand dollars each to refurbish these units, and would take about four months per unit," David commented.

He praised IC2 Bean's team, as they accomplished all the research, created formal work packages and wiring sheets, established quality assurance procedures, and constructed a detailed parts procurement process.

The team then disassembled and repainted each IFLOLS and MOVLAS unit, before meticulously reconstructing them. Their focused efforts and team-

work allowed them to complete the job in just eight weeks and saved the Navy about \$386,000.

"In these fiscally constrained times, we have to be great stewards of the American tax dollar," stated Smith.

According to Smith and David, over 2024 man-hours went into the refurbishment project and extended the life of the IFLOLS and MOVLAS units by 15 to 20 years -- with virtually no disruption to flight operations and pilot training.

"This group of Sailors went well above and beyond for this, working nights and weekends, and sometimes learning things as each obstacle presented itself, all to get these units in great working condition," David continued.

NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Sanders visited OLF Whitehouse on Nov. 19 to inspect the completed work. Commending the sailors on a job well done, he stated, "I'm extremely impressed with the amount of sheer work each and every one of you put into this project.

Our military benefits greatly from people with such fantastic commitment, and you all have contributed to making the Navy that much better over the past two months."



NAS Jacksonville refurbishment team stands with NAS Jax Commanding Officer. (From left) Steve Harper; assistant ground electronics maintenance officer; Cmdr. Mark McManus; air operations officer; IC2 (SW/AW) Jayson Bankhead; Lt. Cmdr. Erick Smith; ground electronics maintenance officer; Tom Duvall; civilian electronics technician; ET3 Ryan McCracken; ET3 Derek Mitchem; ET2 (SW) Timothy Fay; IC2 (SW) Amber Thayer; ET3 Hope Hatfield; NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Sanders; IC2 (SW) Michael Bean and ETC(SS) Steven David.



*Photos by Lt. j.g. Kevin Wendt and the U.S. Navy*

IC2 Jayson Bankhead with NAS Jax Ground Electronics measures the Manually Operated Visual Landing Aid System (MOVLAS) to obtain its specifications for proper placement near the runway at Outlying Landing Field Whitehouse. The MOVLAS serves as the backup to the Improved Fresnel Lens Optical Landing System (IFLOLS) should maintenance issues or rough sea states hamper the IFLOLS. The MOVLAS will give a pilot the same visual indications to remain at an optimal glideslope and is operated by an experienced landing signal operator.



IC2 (SW) Michael Bean (left) and ETC(SS) Steven David, both with NAS Jacksonville Ground Electronics, demonstrate the vastly improved working capability of the Improved Fresnel Lens Optical Landing System to NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Sanders.



IC2 (SW) Michael Bean (right) and ETC(SS) Steven David (left) explain the refurbishment process on the Improved Fresnel Lens Optical Landing System to NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Sanders.

# Panetta details steps to end al-Qaida threat

By Cheryl Pellerin  
American Forces Press Service

For the United States and its allies, ending the al-Qaida threat calls for a modified military footprint, close work with partners and continued U.S. involvement in regions of the world where violent extremism has flourished, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Nov. 20.

Addressing a large audience at the Center for a New American Security, the secretary discussed significant national security challenges and opportunities ahead.

He also outlined priorities that characterize the approaching end of the longest period of sustained armed conflict in the nation's history.

The priorities, Panetta said, are fighting the war against al-Qaida and its affiliates, ending the war in Afghanistan, implementing the new defense strategy, meeting fiscal responsibilities, countering nuclear proliferation, improving cyber security, achieving greater energy security, implementing the Asia-Pacific rebalance, and taking care of service members, veterans and military families.

"But tonight I want to focus on the goal that still remains at the top of the priority list, as it must. That goal that the president made very clear - that we have a responsibility to disrupt, degrade, dismantle and ultimately defeat those who attacked America on 9/11 - al-Qaida," the secretary said.

The essential first step is to finish the job that the United States and its coalition partners began in Afghanistan, he said, "and we are on track to do that."

As the United States and its NATO partners agreed at the 2010 summit in Lisbon, Panetta said, Afghans must be responsible for their own security by the end of 2014.

This transition will require continued commitment by the international community and the United States to help Afghan forces achieve this goal, he added.

"We have come too far. We have invested too much blood and treasure not to finish the



Defense Secretary Leon Panetta addresses a large audience at the Center for a New American Security think tank in Washington, D.C., Nov. 20. Panetta said ending the al-Qaida threat calls for a modified military footprint, close work with partners and continued U.S. involvement in regions where violent extremism has flourished.

job," the secretary said. "There are no shortcuts, nor can we afford to turn away from this effort when we are so close to achieving success and preventing al-Qaida from ever returning to this historic epicenter for violent extremism."

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, prolonged military and intelligence operations have significantly weakened al-Qaida, Panetta said.

The terrorist group's most effective leaders are gone, its command and control has been degraded and its safe haven is shrinking, he added, but al-Qaida remains.

"We have slowed the primary cancer but we know that the cancer has also metastasized to other parts of the global body," the secretary said. Two examples of that spreading al-Qaida presence are Yemen and Somalia.

In Yemen, for example, the capabilities of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, are growing. This group has targeted the United States for attack and sowed violence and chaos in Yemen itself, Panetta said.

"We have struck back in an effort to disrupt and dismantle this group through a very close partnership with the government of Yemen," he added.

In Somalia, against the militant group al-Shaabab, progress also has been made, the secretary said, "in large part because of an effective partnership between the United States and the African Union Mission in Somalia."

But the challenge is far from over, Panetta said.

"President [Barack] Obama has made clear, we will fight not just through military means but by harnessing every element of American power - military, intelligence, diplomatic, law enforcement, financial, economic and above all the power of our values as Americans," the secretary said.

The second step in achieving the end of al-Qaida, Panetta said, involves maintaining pressure on al-Qaida in Pakistan, on AQAP in Yemen, and on al-Qaida-associated forces in Somalia.

That means degrading the terrorists' senior leadership, dismantling their organizational capabilities, remaining vigilant to ensure the threat does not reconstitute, and working to build the capacity of U.S. partners, including Pakistan, to confront these shared threats, he added.

A third step is to prevent the emergence of new safe havens for al-Qaida elsewhere in the

world that the group could use to attack the United States or its interests, he said.

"The last decade of war has shown that coordinated efforts to share intelligence, to conduct operations with partners, are critical to making sure that al-Qaida has no place to hide," Panetta told the audience.

"We will expand these efforts, including through support and partnership with governments in transition in the Middle East and North Africa," he added.

"This campaign against al-Qaida will largely take place outside declared combat zones, using a small-footprint approach that includes precision operations, partnered activities with foreign special operations forces, and capacity building so that partner countries can be more effective in combating terrorism on their own," the secretary said.

In Mali for example, Panetta said, "we are working with our partners in Western Africa who are committed to countering the emerging threat to regional stability posed by AQIM."

A fourth step needed to bring an end to al-Qaida involves investing in the future, he added, in new military and intelligence capabilities and security partnerships.

"Our new defense strategy makes clear - the military must retain and even build new counterterrorism capabilities for the future," Panetta said.

As the size of the military shrinks, for example, special operations will continue to ramp up, growing from 37,000 members on 9/11 to 64,000 today and 72,000 by 2017, the secretary noted.

"We are expanding our fleet of Predator and Reaper [unmanned aerial vehicles] over what we have today. These enhanced capabilities will enable us to be more flexible and agile against a threat that has grown more diffuse," Panetta said.

A final point that too often takes a backseat to operations against al-Qaida, Panetta said, is how to prevent extremist ideologies from attracting new recruits.

"Over the past decade we have successfully directed our military and intelligence capabilities at fighting terrorism," he added. "And yet we are still struggling to develop an effective approach to address the factors that attract young men and women to extreme ideologies, and to ensure that governments and societies have the capacity and the will to counter and reject violent extremism."

To truly end the threat from al-Qaida, the secretary said, "military force aimed at killing our enemy alone will never be enough. The United States must stay involved and invested through diplomacy, through development, through education, through trade in those regions of the world where violent extremism has flourished."

"But to truly protect America, we must sustain and in some areas deepen our engagement in the world -- our military, intelligence, diplomatic and development efforts are key to doing that," he added.

Pursuing an isolationist path, the secretary said, "would make all of us less safe in the long-term."

"This is not a time for retrenchment. This is not a time for isolation. It is a time for renewed engagement and partnership in the world," Panetta said.

## Use of marijuana prohibited by federal employees

From the Department of the Navy

In light of recent election results that legalized marijuana in the states of Washington and Colorado, the following is provided as clarification of policy on the use of marijuana by Department of Navy employees.

At this time, marijuana use is illegal under federal law which means federal employees are prohibited from using this drug regardless of changes to state laws. Unless or until there is further specific guidance issued at the federal level allowing marijuana use in some (or any) situations, federal employees remain accountable to comply with federal law.

Those employees subject to random drug testing or other testing (applicant, reasonable suspicion, post-accident or follow-up), remain subject to the consequences for illegal drug use.

## VP-5 'Mad Foxes' host VP-5 'Pegasus'



Photos by MCSN Douglas Wojciechowski  
PS1 Solomon Marshall, attached to the VP-5 "Mad Foxes" at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, presents a plaque of appreciation to an enlisted member of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force's VP-5. Both maritime patrol squadrons gathered on Nov. 4 for a night of socialization and relationship strengthening.



Lt. Nathan Penka, a pilot attached to the "Mad Foxes" of VP-5, shares a laugh with a fellow maritime patrol officer attached the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force's VP-5. Personnel from both squadrons gathered on Nov. 4 to swap sea stories about the P-3C Orion.

By Lt. j.g. Kaitlin Hady  
VP-5 Public Affairs Officer

The "Mad Foxes" of VP-5 played host to the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) VP-5 "Pegasus". The maritime patrol and reconnaissance Sailors met at the Kadena Air Base Officers' Club and enjoyed a night of friendly conversation and cultural exchange.

Both squadrons had developed a relationship of cooperation throughout the Mad Foxes' 7th Fleet Deployment. They have joined for numerous professional events, including squadron visits, briefings, cultural exchanges, aircraft tours and real-world training missions.

This event was an opportunity to gather in a purely social setting to allow all sailors to get to know each other on a more personal level.

Both officers and enlisted Sailors from each command attended the social. The evening began with an exchange of gifts and opening remarks by the squadrons' commanding officers. The JMSDF officers began the night by offering their support and condolences for the recent impact of Hurricane Sandy on the U.S. East Coast. They recounted the aid that the U.S. Navy had provided for tsunamis and typhoon relief as examples of the close relationship between the two nations.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know the JMSDF aviators," said pilot Lt. j.g. Kevin



AWF2 Zach Green, attached to the VP-5 "Mad Foxes" at Kadena Air Base, receives Japanese aircrew wings from an aircrewman of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force's VP-5. Both VP-5 squadrons gathered for a night of socialization and relationship strengthening.

Cottingham.

After exchanging squadron insignia, taking photos together and sharing stories, both squadrons walked away from the event with a better understanding and appreciation for each organization. The Mad Foxes were very grateful for the opportunity to participate in the event and look forward to future gatherings.

VP-5 is currently on a routine deployment to the 7th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime patrol operations.

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# VP-30 Safety Fair



Photos by Lt. j.g. Kevin Wendt

(Above) VP-30 Sailors tour the spaces of the Safety Fair, an important event with the upcoming holidays. "We hold this event quarterly, but this safety fair especially stresses the risks associated with the holiday season. We want our Sailors to constantly think about their actions and prepare accordingly," stated ABHC Jerry Ortiz, leading chief petty officer for safety at VP-30.



(Left) VP-30 Sailors line up and wait patiently to donate to a blood drive to support AWFAN Brett Parks after he was hospitalized for a gunshot wound while coming to the aid of an individual being robbed. Parks is still recovering at a local hospital. An account has been set up to assist his family through VyStar Credit Union. Those looking to help

can donate to Account #702965111, Routing #263079276.



AWO1 Nicholas Taylor of VP-30, donates blood at the VP-30 Safety Fair. "I'm donating today to give back to the community and to one of my shipmates. The blood I donate here might someday help someone who critically needs it," commented Taylor.



Photos by Lt. j.g. Kevin Wendt

## New Advanced Life Support system for station

NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Sanders (left), and NAS Jacksonville Executive Officer Capt. Roy Undersander (right), stand with firefighters/paramedics in recognition of the NAS Jax Fire Station's acquisition of its new Advanced Life Support (ALS) system. "ALS gives us the ability to administer more life saving medications and IVs, as well as perform cardiac monitoring, EKGs, and advanced airway care," according to Brittany Pellerin, firefighter/paramedic with First Coast Fire and Emergency Services.



Tracy Tomes, firefighter/paramedic with First Coast Fire and Emergency Services, displays the new ALS system. "We average 700 medical rescues a year and ALS allows us to better monitor and treat our patients. Now we're able to transport patients to more definitive care centers when necessary," commented Tomes from inside one of the station's ambulances.

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**The Hilltop Staff would like to salute all Military personnel**

# Panetta praises outgoing, incoming Southcom commanders

By Army Sgt. 1st Class  
Tyrone Marshall Jr.  
American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta commended the lasting accomplishments of the former commander of U.S. Southern Command Nov. 19 and welcomed a new, but familiar, officer to lead the combatant command in Miami, Fla.

Panetta presided over the Southcom ceremony as Air Force Gen. Douglas Fraser retired, relinquished his command to Marine Corps Gen. John Kelly.

"This afternoon, we pay tribute to two very extraordinary officers, to their families, and to the service members and civilians that they have led," Panetta said. "We celebrate General Fraser's nearly four decades of selfless service to our country, his strong leadership in a number of key positions, and his many lasting accomplishments as Southcom commander."

The secretary highlighted some of Fraser's early years as he came "full circle" from high

school where he, fittingly, graduated in Bogota, Colombia, to his rise to Southcom commander as the last active duty member of his Air Force Academy class of 1975.

"Thanks to his extraordinary record of accomplishment, Doug was an excellent pick to be the first-ever U.S. Air Force officer to lead this command," Panetta said.

"Shortly after taking command, General Fraser was faced with one of the most significant operational challenges that Southcom has ever faced when it had to face the devastating earthquake in Haiti," he said.

The secretary described Fraser's "immediate" actions leading Southcom's disaster relief efforts during Operation Unified Response, "the largest humanitarian assistance and disaster relief mission this command has ever undertaken."

"In total, Southcom delivered 2.3 million meals, 17 million pounds of bulk food, 2.6 million bottles of water, [and] 150,000 pounds of medical sup-

plies, among many, many other services," Panetta said.

The defense secretary noted the devastation caused by Haiti's earthquake "underscores the fact that the key security challenges in this hemisphere are ... transnational."

"Natural disasters, sometimes horrendous, in their impact on people and their countries, illicit trafficking, organized crime, narco-terrorism, the threats to security in the Americas are not contained by political boundaries," he said.

One of General Fraser's most significant and enduring contributions, Panetta said, has been rallying support across the U.S. government in order to focus more attention on Central America as it confronts illicit drug trafficking.

"[This command] has helped galvanize U.S. and Western Hemisphere support for enhanced engagement in this region," he said. "We've made significant progress in partnering with the militaries of Central American nations,

and they are now taking greater responsibility for their own security."

Panetta also noted that Fraser's efforts with Southcom's Joint Interagency Task Force South brought interagency and international cooperation to new levels, with Operation "Martillo" taking "152 metric tons of cocaine - worth almost \$3 billion - off the market" in 2012.

"All of these accomplishments are the direct result of Doug's steady, but sure, leadership," he said. "I want to [personally] thank everyone at Southcom for all you do to keep America safe."

Panetta also welcomed another "dedicated" leader to assume Fraser's position leading Southcom - Kelly, Panetta's own former Pentagon staff member.

"He's been my senior military assistant since I came to the Pentagon last year," he said. "He's always been at my side as a trusted confidant and a trusted friend."

"More than anyone, he has ensured that the daily reality of

those serving on the front lines informs and guides every decision that I've made," Panetta said. "I could not have done my job without his judgment and blunt, honest counsel."

The defense secretary called Kelly "the true embodiment of a warrior" and said he felt honored to promote the officer to four-star general prior to the change of command ceremony.

"I will be eternally grateful to him, and to be honest, while I will miss him, he will be a great commander here at Southcom," Panetta said. "I, very much, look forward to relying on his perspective and forthright advice as he leads our military efforts in this region."

Panetta used an "old Air Force metaphor" as he expressed his confidence in Kelly as Southcom's new commander.

"Fraser has this command to a higher altitude and, with today's change of command, I'm confident that, in the extraordinarily capable hands of John Kelly, it will soar even higher in the future," he said.

# Naval Air Training Command welcomes new commander

From CNATRA Public Affairs

The Naval Air Training Command (NATRACOM) in Corpus Christi, Texas, held a change of command ceremony aboard USS Lexington museum Nov. 15.

Rear Adm. Mark Leavitt relieved Rear Adm. William Sizemore II, as the Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA). Sizemore is retiring after 32 years of service as a commissioned naval officer.

NATRACOM conducts and oversees all pilot and naval flight officer training for the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard throughout five training air wings located in three

states. It also oversees the Naval Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels.

Sizemore, a 1980 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, is a third-generation Sailor and second-generation naval aviator. He served as CNATRA since September of 2009.

"If I could have picked a place for the last tour of duty, it would have been here. Training Command is where I started; it's where all Naval Aviators start - and it's just been wonderful," said Sizemore.

He was quick to credit the success of the NATRACOM's mission to the personnel

assigned to the command and its subordinate commands.

"It's been a total team effort by everybody in this command - the staff here, each of the five Training Air Wings and each of the squadrons under those Training Air Wings and ultimately down to the instructor pilots, instructor NFOs, the student Aviators and the student Naval Flight Officers - they've all gotten it done. I'm very proud of our record of accomplishment, but again it's been a total team effort on everybody's part. It always is in the Navy."

The guest speaker, Vice Adm. Allen Myers, who served

as Commander, Naval Air Forces (CNAF) from 2010 to October 2012, and is assigned as the next Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Integration of Capabilities and Resources (N8), commended Sizemore and the NATRACOM.

"For the past three years, Naval Air Training Command has performed superbly under the guiding hand of Bill Sizemore," said Myers.

"I couldn't be prouder of what "Size" and his team has accomplished."

Leavitt is a graduate of Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla., and was designated a naval aviator in

1986. Leavitt is already familiar with NATRACOM, previously serving as the commander of both the Training Air Wing 2 Reserve Component and CNATRA Reserve Component. Before reporting as CNATRA, he served as Commander, Naval Air Forces Reserve.

"There are many challenges ahead," said Leavitt.

"Yet I know the CNATRA team: officer, enlisted, government civilians and contractors, will continue to overcome these challenges and safely train the best naval aviators and naval flight officers in the world."



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# VP-10 pack out at Hangar 511



Photos by Clark Pierce

A forklift operator positions stacked cartons for closure Nov. 19 prior to being loaded onto a transport aircraft destined for the 7th Fleet area of responsibility.



Sailors assigned to VP-10 prepare to secure a large pallet of cartons with a nylon cargo security net.



A work party of VP-10 maintainers grabs another pallet that will be stacked with tools, shop equipment and spare parts.

## Satellite Pharmacy changes to holiday hours

From NH Jax Public Affairs

Naval Hospital Jacksonville's Satellite Pharmacy, located at the Navy Exchange (Building 950), will transition to holiday hours from Dec. 14 through Jan. 11. The refill drive-up window will be open weekdays from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. The main lobby will operate from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

On Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, the refill drive-up will be open for pickup only and close at 3 p.m. The main lobby will be closed on these days.

For more information call (904) 542-7405 or keep up with current news on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/NavalHospitalJacksonville](http://www.facebook.com/NavalHospitalJacksonville)).

## Uniform shift

From Staff

NAS Jacksonville will shift to the winter uniform of the day Dec. 3.

The uniform of the day will be: service dress blues or service khaki for all officers and chief petty officers and service dress blues or service uniforms for E-1 to E-6.

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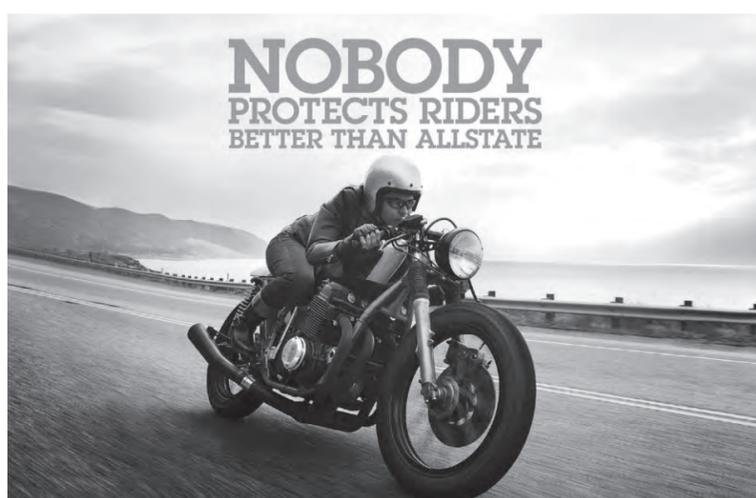
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# NAS Jax holds first all-female motorcycle course

By Kaylee LaRocque  
NAS Jax Public Affairs Specialist

NAS Jacksonville held their first all-female Motorcycle Basic Rider Course Nov. 18-19 with five participants learning the ins and outs of how to ride a motorcycle safely. The course was comprised of classroom work and range exercises to test their knowledge both mentally and physically.

"We are teaching them the basics of learning to ride a motorcycle including gear shifting, braking, maneuvering skills, how to avoid hazards and how to have confidence on a bike. Most of participants out here have been riding on the back of a motorcycle and have decided they want to try it on their own," said Cape Fox Professional Services Motorcycle Instructor Kristen Montejo, as she taught a series of range exercises to the participants.

"We decided to teach this all-female class because sometimes women just aren't as comfortable learning in our other classes. This gives them a more comfortable atmosphere to learn to ride and to develop safe riding habits," added Montejo.

Although none of the participants actually owned their own motorcycles, they were excited about the prospect of buying one in the future and were glad for the opportunity to use one of



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque  
Motorcycle Safety Instructor Kristen Montejo of Cape Fox Professional Services, demonstrates proper body positioning to student AOAN(AW) Kandice Harrison of HS-11 during a motorcycle braking exercise during an all-female Basic Rider Course at NAS Jax on Nov. 20.

the loaner motorcycles available for the class.

"I've been riding on the back of motorcycles and was always too scared to try it myself. But this class has really helped build my confidence. But I will practice a whole lot more until I'm comfortable enough to get on the road," said AOAN(AW) Kandice Harrison of HS-11.

"I really like this class because it's all women and it's not so intimidating. The instructors have been awesome. They are very patient and knowledgeable," added ET3 Nina Jarrett of the NAS Jax Legal Department.

After earning their certificates of completion, the instructors will input the information to the Department of Motor



Motorcycle Safety Instructor Cindy Picklesimer of Cape Fox Professional Services gives Angela Spickelmier Rummage some tips during the Basic Rider Course.

Vehicles, allowing them to get a motorcycle endorsement on their driver's licenses. This endorsement is required by some states for operating a motorcycle.

For a schedule of upcoming motorcycle safety classes and to register, call the base safety office at 542-2584.

## Security personnel recognized



Photo by David Bayot

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Northeast Florida honored three NAS Jacksonville Security Department members for their contributions in law enforcement during their annual Law Enforcement and Prosecutor Recognition Dinner at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in Mandarin on Nov. 9. (From left) Sgt. Stephen Parker, recognized for his involvement in driving under the influence (DUI) prevention by completing a DUI instructors course and training 80 security members

in DUI detection; Maj. Jerry Syrek for conducting "Cradle to Grave" DUI training to 300 personnel; and MA3 Glenn Patton for conducting numerous drug detection inspections with his Military Working Dog Pat. The team also detected three hits for Spice in 2011, resulting in three apprehensions.

## CO cooks chili for charity

NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Sanders serves some of his homemade chili to Jennifer Cameron during the 16th annual Mandarin Chili Cook-off on Nov. 17. The event, held by the Mandarin Council of the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce benefited the Wounded Warriors Project, Junior Achievement and the Mandarin Food Bank. Also among the 15 competitors was NS Mayport



Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

Commanding Officer Capt. Doug Cochrane. Although neither was deemed a winner of the event, they happily spent the day serving the community their homemade chili. Neither the U.S. Navy, nor any other part of the federal government officially endorses any company, sponsor or its products or services.

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December 8 at noon

Jaguars vs. Jets game  
December 9 at 11:30 a.m.

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4 - 8 p.m. at Patriot's Grove  
Free snow sledding, photos with Santa, tree lighting, musical entertainment and more!

**Flying Club**

Call 777-8549

Call for latest training schedule

**NAS Jax Sports**

**Jingle Bell Jog 5k - Dec. 13**

The run is free and open to all authorized gym patrons. Runners will earn Captain's Cup points for their commands for participating. Runners can sign up at the NAS Jax Gym or Fitness Source prior to Dec. 7. The run will be held on Perimeter Road at the end of Mustin Road near the Antenna Farm at 11:30 a.m. Registration will also be held at the run site from 10:30-11:15 a.m.

**4-on-4 Flag Football League meeting - Dec. 5**

This league is open to all NAS Jax active duty, command DoD, DoD contractors and selective reservists. The meeting will be held at 12:00pm at the base gym. Commands having their athletic officer or designated representative attend the meeting will receive five captain's cup points. All interested personnel should

attend the meeting to discuss rules and to get the required paperwork to join the league.

**3-on-3 Basketball Tourney - Dec. 11**

This tournament is open to active duty, selective reservists, and command DoD and DoD Contractors only from NAS Jax. Teams are comprised of a maximum of four players from their respective commands and can enter multiple teams. The tournament will start at 5 p.m. at the NAS Jax Gym. Sign up by Dec. 7.

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

**Standings As of Nov. 23**

**Captain's Cup 7-on-7 Flag Football**

Team	Wins	Losses	Team	Wins	Losses
FRCSE	8	0	VP-16	9	2
VP-30 Pro's	6	0	VP-26	9	2
VP-30	6	0	NCTS	8	3
AIR OPS	4	1	VR-58 Sunseekers	10	3
HSM-70 Spartans	4	2	VP-30 Dirty 30	9	3
VP-16 Red	4	2	FRCSE Angry Dolphins	8	4
VR-58 Sunseekers	4	2	CORIVRON 10	7	4
VP-26	4	3	HSM-70	5	4
VP-10 Red Lancer	3	3	FRCSE Rabid Possums	5	5
VP-16 Black	3	3	NAVHOSP Dirty Birdz	5	5
VP-45 Pelicans	3	3	FRCSE 900	5	7
FRC-U	2	3	VR-62	5	7
NAVHOSP	2	3	CNRSE	4	6
NBHC	2	3	DLA Scared Hitless	3	7
NOSC/NAR	2	3	CBMU202	2	5
FACSFAC/NAVFAC	2	4	HSL-42 Proud Warriors	2	7
NMC Bombers	2	5	NBHC	0	11
HITRON	1	5			
HSL-42 Proud Warriors	1	5			

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# Naval Hospital corpsmen, officers complete EMF training

By Lt. j.g. Carlos Cervantes

Naval Expeditionary Medical Training Institute Public Affairs

More than 100 U.S. Navy medical professionals from Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville completed a course designed to prepare them for assembling, operating and disassembling an expeditionary medical facility Nov. 7 at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

NH Jacksonville hospital corpsmen, Medical Corps officers, other medical professionals and support personnel completed the Naval Expeditionary Medical Training Institute (NEMTI) Expeditionary Medical Facility (EMF) Tiered Readiness Training - an effort focusing on the role medical professionals play in the construction of a medical facility in a contingency area. MA1(EXW) John Carpenter, NH Jacksonville Security Dept. leading petty officer and NEMTI camp commandant, said the 10-day course provided not only fundamentals of expeditionary medicine, but fostered the sense of togetherness necessary when working together in a challenging environment.

"This helps the corpsmen and other medical professionals get in the mindset that what they learn here at NEMTI will ultimately save lives," he said. "Having the skill sets to successfully set up an EMF is invaluable - and working together only serves to further our mission."

The NEMTI EMF Tiered Readiness Training Phase Two Course, is annual sustainment training that includes the assembly and disassembly of an EMF, as well as medical, administrative and tactical topics that satisfy EMF program requirements. It has proven a mainstay in Navy expeditionary medicine as the shifting role of U.S. Navy medical professionals have changed in contingency operations over the past 10 years.

Capt. Thomas Sawyer, NEMTI officer-in-charge, said the course continues to improve and evolve, as students adapt to new situations and work together to ensure successful missions.

"The team from NH JAX has done a magnificent job in the classroom and in the field," he said. "Their training included the Collective Protection System that enables the medical team to work in a contaminated environment and contin-

ue to provide medical care. In addition to the EMF build, NH Jacksonville completed training with the 9 millimeter pistol and NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) confidence chamber. This training increases the readiness posture of the NH Jacksonville team and improved their ability/capability to provide care in the field."

Among numerous other classes, topics covered during the EMF Tiered Readiness Training Phase Two Course included an orientation to the facility, its mission and capabilities, field compound sanitation, security operations, combat medical operations, medical evacuation functions and an understanding of the law of armed conflict.

Carpenter said the course is beneficial to all attending - even non-medical personnel in support roles - and will have positive ramifications throughout the fleet. He added that the expeditionary style training at NEMTI requires students of all ranks to live in the NEMTI sea huts (20-man, field-style facilities designed to replicate actual expeditionary conditions) provides junior Sailors and officers the chance to ensure readiness by living and working together - a concept he feels is invaluable in a deployed setting.

"These corpsmen and the entire team from NH Jacksonville bring diversity, professionalism and expertise to the Sailors and Marines both deployed and back at home," he said. "This course has shown us how to work one aspect of expeditionary medicine, but also brought us together as a team, ensuring the camaraderie between the EMF personnel from NH Jacksonville and Seabees participating in the course," said Carpenter.

NEMTI is a component of Navy Medicine Operational Training Center (NMOTC), the global leader in operational medical and aviation survival training. NMOTC reports to Navy Medicine Education and Training Command (NMETC).

NMETC, NMOTC and NEMTI are part of the Navy Medicine team, a global health care network of Navy medical professionals around the world who provide high-quality health care to more than one million eligible beneficiaries.



Photo by Clark Pierce

## Your tree is ready at NEX

At the NAS Jax Home and Garden Center, Nate Brokaw displays one of dozens of fresh spruce Christmas trees ready for the roof of your vehicle.

## Christmas tree and decoration inspections

### From the NAS Jax Fire Prevention Division

To reduce the risk of fire during the holiday season, the following requirements are in effect and in accordance with standards set forth in the NAS Jacksonville Instruction 11320.1S, Fire Prevention and Fire Protection Measures.

- All decorations, lights and trees for all occupancies (except housing) shall be inspected and approved by the fire department.
- Natural cut (live) Christmas trees are not permitted in assembly (clubs), correctional, BEQ/BOQ, Navy Lodge,

dormitories or educational facilities.

- Artificial trees in assembly occupancies shall be labeled or otherwise identified or certified by the manufacturer as being fire retardant.
  - Only Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) listed electric lights and wiring decorations shall be permitted or used on Christmas trees and other similar decorations.
  - The use of candles or other similar devices is strictly prohibited. Exception to this rule is during religious ceremonies held at places of worship such as the base chapel.
- To schedule an inspection, please call 542-0379/2783/3928/3995.

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# Roosevelt completes first 'fast cruise' in three years

By SN Eric Norcross  
USS Theodore Roosevelt Public Affairs

For the first time since she entered Newport News Shipbuilding in early 2009, USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) conducted an overnight habitability fast cruise Nov. 5 – reaching the complete crew move aboard milestone, which brings the Nimitz-class carrier closer to rejoining the fleet as an operational asset.

“There is a key event called complete crew move aboard during the refueling complex overhaul (RCOH) period,” said TR Executive Officer Cmdr. Mark Colombo. “It shows that we have the ability to sleep, house, berth, feed and accommodate the entire crew. It’s an important indicator of where the ship is in its RCOH period. The fast cruise proves just that – that we can sleep the crew onboard safely and securely.”

More than 2,000 Sailors crossed the brow Monday morning with backpacks and seabags, prepared to spend a night aboard the ship as a crew for the first time in three years.

“This is the culmination of the hard work of our crew, the shipyard, and the contractors over a three year period of time,” said Colombo.

“The mess decks, the wardroom, the chiefs’ mess, that’s all up and running – the TV studio we used for captain’s call – that is part of the crew being able to exhibit that it can use all of the spaces that are normal, operational functions for an aircraft carrier at sea.”

During the course of the day, special training was given to help prepare Sailors for when the ship becomes fully operational at sea, including a general quarters (GQ) drill. When the GQ alarm sounded, TR’s 10 repair lockers responded with their damage control teams to simulated casualties throughout the ship. Additionally, the



Photo by MCSN Sean Hurt

USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), assisted by tug boats, transits the James River on May 21, 2011, as the ship relocates from dry dock 11 to pier 2 at Newport News Shipbuilding. The ship is nearing the end of its 39-month Refueling Complex Overhaul. The move marks the ship's first underway since Aug. 2009.

medical training team and propulsion plant training team were integrated into the exercise.

“The GQ drills get Sailors in the mindset that we’re going to be operational very soon,” said LSC (SW/EXW/AW) William Bunton, a member of the ship’s damage control training team. “Sailors learn what GQ consists of and how to combat the ship in case of any casualties. It’s very important to conduct training like this, because it gets us out of the mindset of being in the shipyards and into the mindset of being operational and doing what is going to be required of us as a carrier in the Navy.”

After dinner, the crew was

invited to attend a mentorship fair on the mess decks to learn how to better themselves personally and professionally.

“Everyone has been working hard during RCOH, and working hard today on our first fast cruise. This just gives them all a chance to concentrate on their career and finance and other important things. The Navy isn’t just about your job – it’s about your life,” said ITCS(SW/IDW) Nicole Fulton, the ship’s mentorship coordinator.

Additionally, the opportunity was given to Sailors to take advantage of an “Enlisted Surface and Air Warfare Rodeo,” which aimed to streamline the warfare qualifi-

cation process.

“It was a great idea. It gives everyone an opportunity to get help with signatures and walk throughs at a single location,” said ET1 (SW/AW) James Thornton, a reactor walk-through coordinator.

“It helps put junior Sailors in an operational mindset, since it gives them an idea of what the ship will be like during combat scenarios. It also helps give them a better idea of how to save the ship if required.”

More than 400 Sailors participated in the event, including ABE3(AW) Michael Shannon who is working on his ESWS qualification.

“It was a great help to get info on surface warfare, and to start

making progress on my pin,” said Shannon. “Getting pins is important to Sailors’ careers. Without a pin, your advancement suffers.”

With the successful completion of complete crew move aboard, TR is nearing the end of RCOH at Newport News Shipbuilding, and is closer to returning to the fleet.

“The only key milestone that we have left is the finish line,” said Colombo.

“What we have left is the end. It’s time to focus on all the things we need to do to get to the finish line as expeditiously as possible so we can get back to the fleet, back to the operational Navy and do what our country has asked us to do.”

## FACSFACJAX teams up with K9s for Warriors

By ET2(SW) Calvin Rhine  
FACSFACJAX PAO

Members of Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility Jacksonville (FACSFACJAX) joined forces with the K9s for Warriors team Oct. 12 to help them prepare a new housing facility that veterans will use during a three-week course to meet and train with their service canine.

“This topic hits close to home with those of us in the military. It was an amazing opportunity to make a difference and help our brothers and sisters,” said ET2 Arvydas Montvilas, one of the volunteer coordinators who organized the event.

According to the Center for Military Health Policy, the rate of post-traumatic stress disorder among previously deployed service members during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom (Afghanistan and Iraq) was estimated to be at 13.8 percent.

In an effort to help these veterans, the non-profit group K9s for Warriors provides service canines to assist in the recovery of men and women suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of 9/11 and the wars that have followed.

K9s for Warriors certified dog trainers and former police K9 trainers help veterans and service canines grow accustomed to each other and teach the skills veterans will need to train their own dogs.

By volunteering their time for this program, FACSFACJAX Sailors helped complete 98 percent of a work list that was projected to take multiple volunteer events to accomplish, directly resulting in K9s for Warriors reaching more disabled veterans sooner than expected.

FACSFACJAX Executive Officer Cmdr. Shannon Parker said, “The Navy has a very long and proud tradition of volunteer service and I am very proud of our Sailors’ commitment to helping others. It is this commitment that brings our service members together as neighbors and as a community. They truly have a positive effect on our command, our Navy and our community. Bravo Zulu!”



Photo by MC3 Ryan McLearn

The aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) is underway Nov. 4 in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations, theater security cooperation efforts and support missions for Operation Enduring Freedom.

## ‘Ike’ to return home early, redeploy in 2013

From Navy Office of Information

The Navy has directed the temporary return of the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) from her current overseas deployment, allowing the ship to return home for two months before sending it back to the Middle East region.

The unusual move is being made to accommodate delays due to repair work on USS Nimitz (CVN 68). The Bremerton-based carrier was expected to deploy to the region to relieve Eisenhower early next year. Nimitz is now expected to deploy once repair work is complete.

Bringing Eisenhower back home to its homeport of Norfolk, Va. in December will permit the Navy to resurface the ship’s flight deck and make it available to return and remain in the Middle East region for several more months. This decision also provides the ship’s crew a welcome holiday respite from what will become nearly 10 months on station.

The USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) Carrier Strike

Group, currently deployed to the region, will continue providing carrier presence in the CENTCOM area of responsibility. Stennis departed its homeport of Bremerton in August.

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# Navy to publish supplemental EIS for P-8 basing

**From Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Public Affairs**

A Notice of Intent (NOI) will be published in the Federal Register Nov. 15 announcing the Navy's intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the introduction of the P-8A Multi-Mission Maritime Aircraft (MMA) to the U.S. Navy Fleet.

The Supplemental EIS will address the potential environmental impacts of new home basing alternatives and updated P-8A MMA program information.

In September 2008, the Navy completed the Final EIS for the Introduction of the P-8A into the U.S. Navy Fleet, which evaluated the environmental impacts of home basing 12 P-8A MMA fleet squadrons (72 aircraft) and one Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) (12 aircraft) at established maritime patrol home bases.



**P-8A Poseidon on the taxiway of NAS Jacksonville.**

File photo

On Jan. 2, 2009, a Record of Decision (ROD) was issued that called for basing five fleet squadrons and the FRS at Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, four fleet squadrons at NAS Whidbey Island, and three fleet squadrons at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Hawaii Kaneohe Bay, with periodic squadron detachments at NAS North Island (Alternative 5).

To meet the Navy's current and future requirements and

maximize the efficiency of support facilities, simulation training equipment, and on-site support personnel, the Navy now proposes to analyze additional alternatives for P-8A aircraft home basing.

The Navy has determined that a dual-siting alternative, rather than home basing the aircraft at three locations, may best meet current requirements.

The two potential home base locations for the P-8A MMA

are NAS Jacksonville and NAS Whidbey Island.

Home basing at two locations would result in an increase in aircraft and personnel at NAS Jacksonville and NAS Whidbey Island compared to the 2008 ROD.

There is no new facility requirement for additional aircraft at NAS Jacksonville.

Additional aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island would result in an expanded facility footprint.

Under a dual-siting alternative, a presence in Hawaii would be maintained with a continuous presence of two aircraft filled by rotating detachments at MCB Hawaii Kaneohe Bay.

The two-aircraft detachment would result in fewer personnel and a reduced facility footprint at MCB Hawaii Kaneohe Bay when compared to the 2008 ROD. There would be no change to the periodic squadron detachment operations at

NAS North Island, as described in the 2008 ROD.

No decision has been made to change the 2008 Record of Decision. When the Supplemental EIS is complete, the SECNAV can decide to home base at two locations, or to continue implementing home basing at three locations in light of the updated information.

During the 45-day public comment and agency review period following release of the Draft Supplemental EIS, anticipated in the summer of 2013, the Navy will schedule public meetings to discuss the findings of the Draft Supplemental EIS and to receive public comments.

The public meetings will be held near each of the home basing locations. Dates, locations, and times for the public meetings will be announced in the Federal Register and local media at the appropriate time.

# Air traffic controllers visit 125th Fighter Squadron

**From Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility Jacksonville**

A group of air traffic controllers from the Jacksonville area visited the Florida Air National Guard (FANG) 125th Fighter Squadron Nov. 7 to gain insight on how they can better work together during training missions.

As part of the visit, the controllers received a brief which included details about the FANG's mission, an up close look into the F-15 Eagle, and a question and answer session to improve the relationship between the organizations.

AC2(AW/SW) Jessica Hernandez from Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility Jacksonville (FACSFACJAX) was one of three lucky Sailors selected to participate in a familiarization ride in an F-15 the following day.

"I visited the Florida Air National Guard prior to the flight to receive egress training. We were taught how to quickly get out of the aircraft if there was an emergency on the ground, as well as how to properly eject and safely descend to the ground. The training was extremely informative, but did nothing to soothe my nerves," said Hernandez.

When Hernandez met her pilot, Capt. Brannon Ferguson on the day of the flight, he explained the day's mission. "His confidence and knowledge helped to calm my nerves," Hernandez stated.

After a quick pre-flight check and start-up, the aircraft taxied to the runway.

"I barely remember hearing the



Photo courtesy of FACSFACJAX

**AC2(AW/SW) Jessica Hernandez of Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility Jacksonville dons her flight gear before heading out for a flight in the F-15 Eagle at the Florida Air National Guard on Nov. 8.**

clearance to depart before we took off. We were cleared for an unrestricted climb to 15,000 and it took less than a minute to make our assigned altitude. We headed out over the water for some maneuvers before rendezvousing with a KC-135 for in-flight refueling. On the way, we broke the sound barrier and during the intercept pulled around four g-forces or 'Gs'. It was scary but exhilarating," explained Hernandez.

She continued, "After refueling we completed a few more maneuvers including the Immelman turn, a barrel roll, and an Aileron roll. Capt. Ferguson then asked if I was ready for more Gs. The next thing I knew the aircraft rolled onto its side and began to turn. My G-suit began to inflate and I began

doing the breathing techniques they had taught me. Before I knew it everything started going black, so I informed the pilot and he backed off."

At this point we began conducting dog-fighting scenarios. I tried to see our opponent but all I saw were clouds. As we were diving down towards the water, I began to feel sick. I thought about leaving this part out of the story, but it was a part of the experience and besides, how many people can say they got sick in the back of an F-15," she said.

"Capt. Ferguson understood so we leveled off - and he gave me the opportunity to fly! It was not as easy as he made it look. I began by attempting to just fly straight and level. I thought I was doing fine, but in the few seconds I had been in control, we descended more than 1,000 feet. I tried making some turns which was also harder

than it looked. It didn't last long but for those few moments, I had succeeded in fulfilling my dream of being a pilot," Hernandez added.

"After breaking the sound barrier again, we were at the appropriate weight for landing so we headed back to the beach. We came in for a low approach, executed another quick climb and then came around to land. It was actually smoother than most commercial airliners I have flown in. If this had just been a tour of FANG's facilities and an opportunity to get up close and personal with their aircraft, it still would have been a great experience. But the chance to fly in the mighty F-15 was something I will never forget. I learned two things that day; my stomach isn't what it used to be and I am not cut out to be a fighter pilot," concluded Hernandez.

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# Navy Exchange takes shoplifting seriously

## From Navy Exchange Service Command

The prevention and detection of theft at Navy Exchange (NEX) locations throughout the world is serious business. During 2011, NEX Loss Prevention/Safety associates investigated and resolved 1,320 shoplifting cases with a total dollar amount of \$258,032. Of those 1,320 cases, 31 percent were juveniles and 19 percent were active duty military.

The 2011 National Retail Security Survey, conducted by the University of Florida in conjunction with America's top retail chains indicates for a second year in a row, stealing by shoppers cost American retailers a staggering \$10.94 billion.

"Our customers and associates continue to play a vital role in preventing

theft from our stores," said Tom Ruane, NEXCOM's corporate loss prevention/safety manager. "We encourage anyone to report suspicions of theft activity to NEX management, loss prevention/safety personnel or for our associates, through the anonymous Alertline program."

The top five departments for shoplifting at the NEX in 2011 were costume jewelry, mass cosmetics, prestige cosmetics, video games and fashion accessories.

While the NEX continues to be proactive in apprehending shoplifters, NEX Loss Prevention/Safety associates work hard at preventing theft before it happens. NEXs worldwide use electronic article surveillance (EAS) systems for electronic and high value merchandise as well as extensive closed circuit

surveillance systems (CCTV) to try and deter as well as catch shoplifters. The CCTV systems, coupled with digital video recorders and remote viewing technology, gives the NEX the ability to see everything within the store and identify incidents of theft.

If shoplifting is suspected, NEX Loss Prevention/Safety associates turn all incidents over to base police and /or local law enforcement. In addition to possible disciplinary action and criminal prosecution, the Federal Claims Collection Act allows NEXCOM to enact a flat administrative cost or Civil Recovery of \$200 for each incident of theft.

Shoplifting can account for about one-third of the total inventory shrink. Shrink is the retail industry term for the difference between the recorded

book inventory and the actual physical inventory counted at the end of the year. Shrink is generally attributed to shoplifting, associate theft, administrative errors or vendor fraud. Over the past nine years, NEXCOM has seen its inventory shrink below one percent to sales compared to the national average of approximately 1.42 percent to sales.

"Shoplifting from the NEX hurts everyone," said Ruane. "People involved in shoplifting get caught, prosecuted and possibly banned from the NEX or end a military career. But the NEX and base lose out as well because 70 percent of our profits are given to Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) to support quality of life programs. In 2011, that contribution totaled over \$43 million. If our profits decline, so do our contributions to MWR."

## Credit card fees add up at the NEX, use MILITARY STAR® Card instead

### From Navy Exchange Service Command

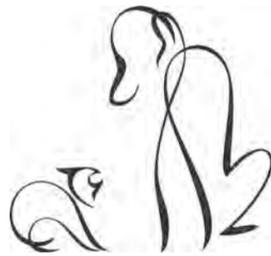
Like any other retailer, Navy Exchanges's (NEX) must pay a fee every time a customer uses a credit or debit card to pay for merchandise. On average, banks charge nearly two percent of the transaction total when a credit or debit card is used. During 2011, 81 percent of all NEX sales were paid for by commercial credit cards or debit card amounting to over \$32 million in card transaction fees.

"When our customers use a bank-issued credit or debit card, there is a cost to our bottom line," said Tom McDonald, Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) vice president, treasurer. "We give 70 percent of our profits to Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) for quality of life programs which amounted to over \$43 million in 2011. We want to do all we can to minimize any impact to our profits since it has a direct impact on our contribution to MWR."

To help minimize credit card fees, customers can use their MILITARY STAR® Card in place of a commercial credit or debit cards at military exchanges. In addition, customers can take advantage of the many benefits of the MILITARY STAR® Card including 10 percent off the first day's purchases (up to the customer's credit limit), no annual fee, low interest rate and 24-hour customer service including online access.

Several times throughout the year, the NEX will have special promotions on select merchandise, such as electronics, jewelry, furniture and major appliances for customers using their NEX MILITARY STAR® Card. These specials offer zero percent financing, no down payment and no interest for a predetermined amount of days for specific merchandise with a specific dollar amount.

MILITARY STAR® Card applications are available at any NEX and can be processed the same day at the NEX customer service desk.



## Pet adoption event needs volunteers

### From Staff

First Coast No More Homeless Pets, along with shelter and rescue groups from across Northeast Florida, are holding a "Home for the Holidays" pet adoption event Nov. 30 through Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds.

Volunteers are needed to support this event and to help find homes for more than 1,000 animals during the three-day event. Volunteers will participate in set-up, acting as greeters, assist with dog and cat handling tasks, provide overnight safety for the animals, and help tear-down.

For more information, or to volunteer, email mtekin@fcnmp.org or volunteer@fcnmp.org or call 674-0665.

## Navy Exchange bringing back Bonus Bucks

### From Navy Exchange Service Command

Bonus Bucks are back at select Navy Exchanges (NEX) this holiday season. On Dec. 8 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., customers will receive one \$10 Bonus Bucks coupon for each \$100 of merchandise/service purchased, while coupon supplies last.

A maximum of five Bonus Bucks will be issued to customers per single transaction.

"NEX customers have responded very positively to this promotion since we started it three years ago, so we're bringing it back again this year," said Mike Powers, Navy Exchange Service Command director of retail operations.

"We know there are many places our customers can shop during the holiday season. NEX Bonus Bucks are our way of thanking customers for shopping at their NEX and to encourage them to come back for extra savings."

NEX Bonus Bucks will be redeemable in any NEX from Dec. 26-Jan. 1, 2013, on all merchandise and services except uniforms, gasoline, tobacco, alcohol, NEX and third party Gift Cards and concession merchandise.

Purchases made on the All Services Catalog or myNavyExchange.com do not apply.

One coupon will be redeemable on a transaction of \$50 or more. A maximum of five coupons can be used on a transaction of \$250 or more.



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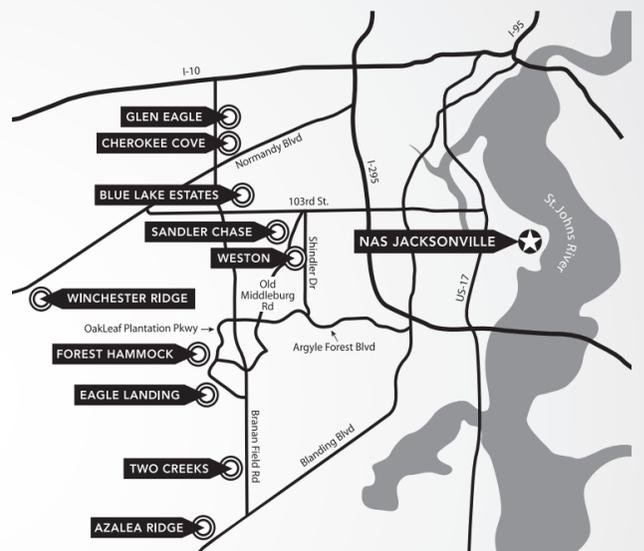
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Directions: From I-295, take exit 12 and head south on Blanding Blvd. Take the second right onto Argyle Forest Blvd and travel 6.4 miles. Argyle Forest Blvd will turn into OakLeaf Plantation Parkway and travel approx 2.5 miles on OakLeaf Plantation Parkway. At the clock tower roundabout, turn right into Forest Hammock, on Plantation Oaks Blvd.

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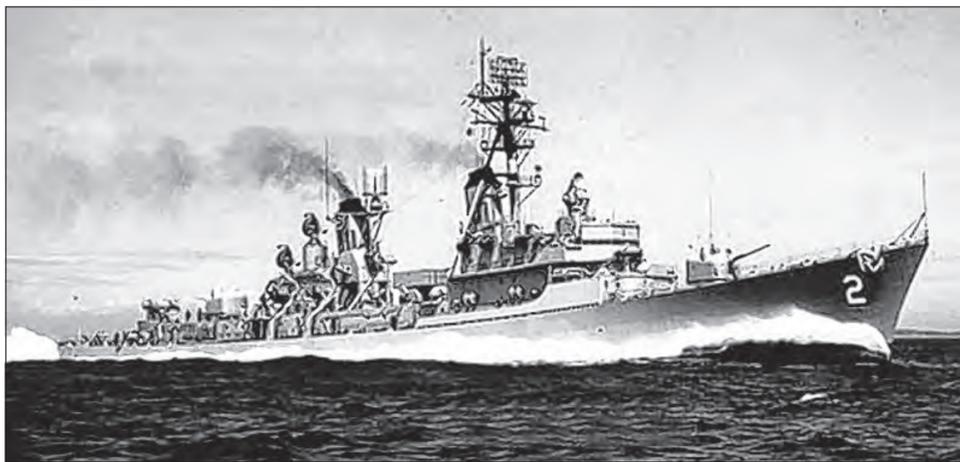
# New Jacksonville ship museum seeks support

## From the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association

The retired USS Charles F. Adams (DDG-2) is closer to coming home as an interactive attraction and venue in downtown Jacksonville on the St. Johns River.

The aim is to become the first Naval Ship Museum in Florida or Georgia and to honor our military heritage and increase educational opportunities, tourism and business as a key element of downtown revitalization.

Outwardly similar to the Sherman-class destroyer, USS Adams was the first U.S. Navy ship designed from the keel up to launch anti-aircraft missiles.



U.S. Navy photo

The retired USS Charles F. Adams (DDG-2) guided-missile destroyer.

USS Adams, the first guided missile destroyer in its class, was home ported for 21 years at Naval Station Mayport from 1969-90. The last existing ship in its class, USS Adams is currently moored in Philadelphia's Inactive Ship Maintenance Facility.

With the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association leading the way, the latest discussions have focused on placing the USS Adams at the Shipyards location along the Northbank in downtown, adjacent to the city's sports complex and as part of a hub of new activity along Bay Street.

With nearly 20 percent of the Jacksonville area's population made up of active and retired military and their families, the venue would have a natural attraction, in addition to tourism traffic and offering a site for business meetings, Scout campouts and other gatherings.

For more information, go to [www.adams2jax.org](http://www.adams2jax.org).

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**VP-8 Reunion**, June 3-8, 2013, in Dayton, Ohio. Contact Bill Stewart at (410) 661-8377 or go to: <http://www.vp8alumni.org/reunion1.html>.

**Military Officers Association of America** N.E. Florida Chapter meets the third Wed. of each month. Open to active duty and retirees of all military branches. Contact Johnnie Walsh at [johnnie.walsh@gmail.com](mailto:johnnie.walsh@gmail.com) or call 282-4650.

**National Naval Officers Association** meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Urban League, 903 W. Union Street. Contact retired Lt. Cmdr. Paul Nix at 542-2518 or email [paul.nix@navy.mil](mailto:paul.nix@navy.mil).

**Association of Aviation Ordnancemen** meets the third Thurs. of each month at 7 p.m. at the Fleet Reserve Center on Collins Road. For information, visit [www.aao9.com](http://www.aao9.com).

**Retired Activities Office (RAO)** at NAS Jax Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) needs volunteers to assist military retirees and dependents. Work three hours a day, one day per week. Call 542-2766 ext. 126 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays to volunteer.

**Navy Jacksonville Yacht Club** meets the first Wed. of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse (Building 1956) adjacent to Mulberry Cove Marina. Open to active duty, reserve and retired military, plus, active or retired DoD civilians. Call 778-0805 or email [commodore@njyc.org](mailto:commodore@njyc.org).

**Disabled American Veterans Chapter 38** meets the second Tues. of each month at 7 p.m. at 470 Madeira Dr., Orange Park. Service officers available Mon. thru Fri., 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. to help with VA claims, call 269-2945 for an appointment. Bingo every Thursday from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The public is welcome.

**COMPASS Spouse-to-Spouse Military Mentoring Program**. Helping others help themselves. Call Melanie at 200-7751 or email: [www.gocompass.org](mailto:www.gocompass.org)

**Navy Wives Clubs of America Jax No. 86** meets the first Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. in Building 857 (at NAS Jax main gate behind Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society). Not So New Shop open Tues. and Thurs. (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Call 542-1582 for info.

**Navy Wives Clubs of America DID No. 300** meets the second Thurs. of each month at 7 p.m. at Lakeshore Methodist Church, 2246 Blanding Blvd. Call 272-9489.

**Fleet Reserve Association Branch 290** monthly meeting is the first Thurs. at 8 p.m., 390 Mayport Rd., Atlantic Beach. Call 246-6855.

**Orange Park Lions Club** meets the second and fourth Mon. at 7 p.m. at 423 McIntosh Avenue, Orange Park, Fla. For more information, call 298-1967.

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Westside Jacksonville Chapter 1984** meets at 1 p.m. on the fourth Thurs. of each month at the Murray Hill United Methodist Church, (Fellowship Hall Building) at 4101 College Street. Call 786-7083.

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Clay County Chapter 1414** meets at 12:30 p.m. on the second Tues. of each month at the Orange Park Library, 2054 Plainfield Avenue. Call 276-9415.

**Ladies Auxiliary of Fleet Reserve Unit 126** meets the second Thurs. of each month at 10 a.m. at the Fleet Reserve Building, 7673 Blanding Blvd. Call 771-6850.

**Retired Enlisted Association** meets the fourth Wed. of each month at 1 p.m. at the Fleet Reserve Hall at 7673 Blanding Blvd. Call 772-8622.



Photos by Melissa Luehrs

## NAS Jax MWR holds Aerobathon

Fitness instructor Terry Crawford (back, center) leads a group in a Zumba class during an Aerobathon on Nov. 17 at the base gym. The event was sponsored by Allied American University. Neither MWR, not the U.S. Navy or any other part of the federal government officially endorses any company, sponsor or its products or services.

Part of the Aerobathon was a "Ripped" class led by Fitness instructor Cece Hartsell. The Aerobathon was held on Nov. 17 at the base gym.



## Warrior Transition Program moves to support IA Sailors

### From U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs

The Warrior Transition Program (WTP) is moving its operations from Camp Arifjan in Kuwait, to Sembach Kaserne in Kaiserslautern, Germany - and is scheduled to host its first class of returning Sailors in mid-December.

This change is being made to better serve Sailors who are completing their individual augmentee (IA) assignments in Afghanistan, Kuwait and Iraq. WTP is a five-day program where Sailors attend redeployment workshops, decompress, turn in gear and weapons, and meet with staff chaplains and nurses to discuss their 'down-range' experience and redeployment following their IA assignment.

"Shifting WTP from Kuwait to Germany will provide a clear break from the opera-

tional mission, helping Sailors reintegrate back with the Navy and their families," said Capt. Ron Greiff, officer-in-charge of WTP in Kuwait.

Contractors are in the final stages of refurbishing the Navy's WTP facilities at Sembach, signaling an end to the dusty tents and trailers in Kuwait. The new facilities include barracks with shared bathroom facilities, a computer lab, gaming and exercise rooms, and a media room that also serves as a movie theater.

With the completion of operational missions in Iraq, the Navy considered options on how to best support the reintegration of IAs returning from assignments throughout the region.

"The transportation hub at Ramstein Air Force Base and the available resources in the Kaiserslautern Military Community in Germany provided a logical place to

transfer the WTP mission, due to its location and available infrastructure," said Rear Adm. Kevin Scott, commander of Task Force IA.

"We look forward to working with our sister services in the future to continue to meet the needs and requirements of our returning warriors."

Additional services on base include a refurbished gym, bowling alley and several food vendors.

Sailors will also have access to a dining facility that overlooks the picturesque German countryside.

"The overwhelming care and concern the Navy has for the health and welfare of its Sailors coming off extended and arduous IA duty is evident in the attention and top-notch facilities they are provided via this Warrior Transition Program move," said Cmdr. Larry Henke, director of WTP.

## \$10 Jaguars tickets available at USO

### From the USO

The NAS Jax, NS Mayport and NSB Kings Bay USO offices are now selling tickets to all Jacksonville Jaguars home games.

All tickets are located in the 200 Section, lower area in the north end zone.

Dec. 9, 1 p.m. - Jags vs. New York Jets (Tickets on sale NOW)

Dec. 23, 1 p.m. - Jags vs. New England Patriots (Tickets on sale Dec. 10)

Jaguars ticket sales will begin at noon per the above schedule. Tickets are first come, first served. Price is \$10 per ticket (cash only).

All active duty members including Florida National Guard, Reservists on active duty orders and family members are eligible to purchase/use these tickets.

Military personnel with authorized dependents may buy a maximum of four tickets if member and dependents equal four.

If you have less than four, you may only purchase total for family. Spouses may purchase tickets for military personnel, but under no circumstances are dependent children authorized to represent the service member/spouse to purchase tickets.

Larger families desiring to purchase in excess of four tickets must be approved by the USO Center director.

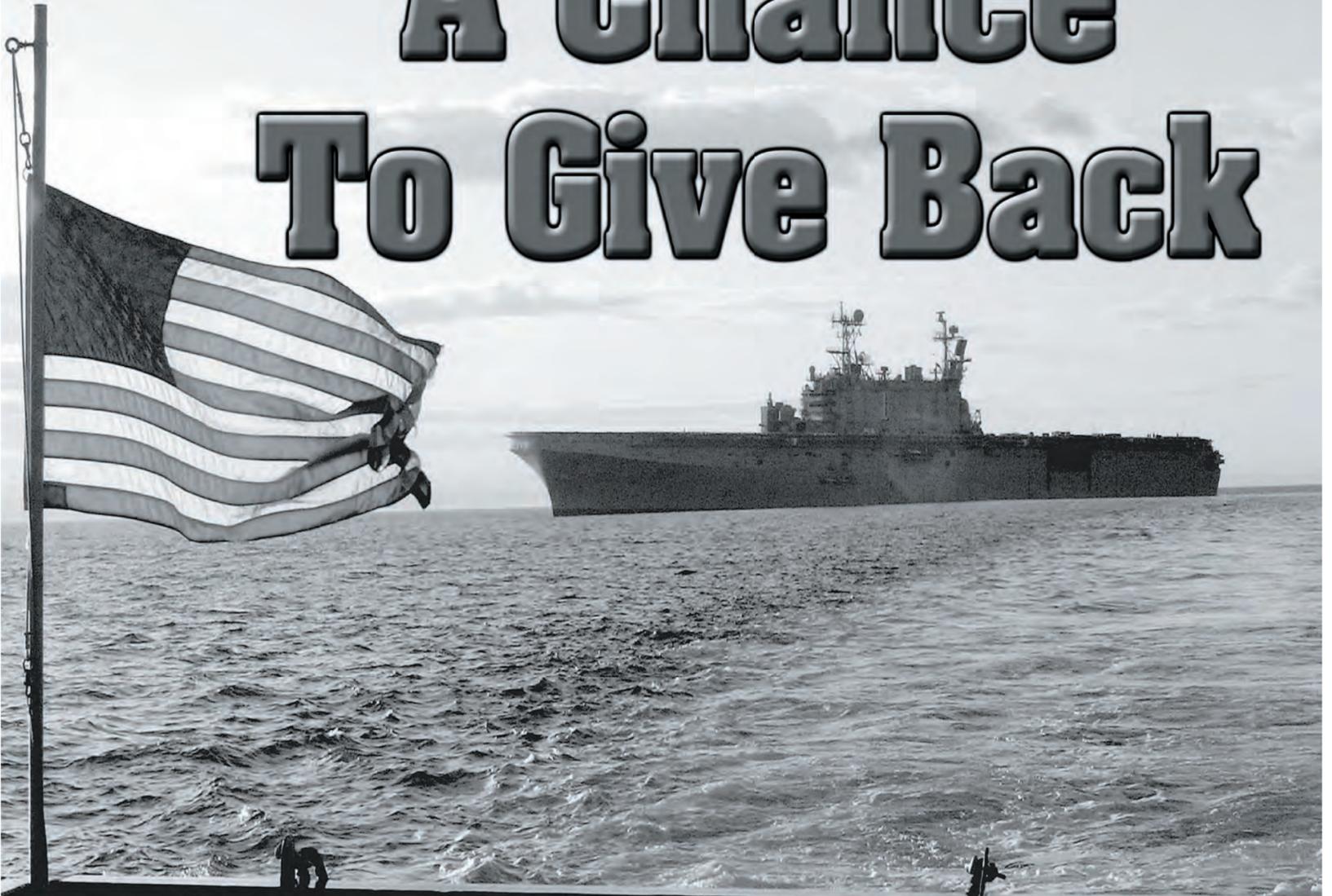
Single service members may purchase a maximum of two tickets, one for their use and one for a guest. No exceptions.

For deployable commands, a request for a "block of game day tickets" may be requested by CO/XO/CMC only to the executive director. These blocks may be approved for commands either deploying or returning during the season. Requests, with justification, must be sent to John Shockley at [jshockley@usojax.com](mailto:jshockley@usojax.com).

If anyone is caught purchasing excess tickets or reselling tickets he/she will be prohibited from buying any more tickets for the entire season.



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**2007 SATURN SKY, AT, P/W** A/C, 32K miles, \$13,500. 904-333-8245

**ACURA NSX 2005-** One owner. Garaged kept. Silver. Aluminum body. 6 speed. Gorgeous and immaculate condition. 35,000 miles. Kelly book value \$72,000.00. Will sell for \$66,000.00. Reduced price. 904-669-3108

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## 650,620 HOURS

Besides protecting our country, military personnel stationed in our communities donated 650,620 hours of volunteer service in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia last year. Their time was given to community organizations, church groups, youth activities, scouting and more.

Thank You!



# Mazda

## Mazda Z to Drive Event

\$0 DOWN
\$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT
\$0 1<sup>ST</sup> MONTH'S PAYMENT
\$0 DUE AT LEASE SIGNING

EXCLUDES TAXES, TITLE AND FEES. MONTHLY PAYMENT INCLUDES \$595 ACQUISITION FEE.

<h3>2013 MAZDA3</h3> <p>40 MPG DESIGNING THE FUTURE SKYACTIV TECHNOLOGY</p> <p><b>\$219</b> Per Month*</p> <p>*\$219/Month, 39-Month Lease, \$0 due at Lease Signing. Includes a Security Deposit of \$0, Down Payment of \$0, 1st Month's Payment of \$0 and Acquisition Fee. Excludes taxes, title and fees.</p>	<h3>2013 MAZDA6</h3> <p><b>\$249</b> Per Month*</p> <p>*\$249/Month, 39-Month Lease, \$0 due at Lease Signing. Includes a Security Deposit of \$0, Down Payment of \$0, 1st Month's Payment of \$0 and Acquisition Fee. Excludes taxes, title and fees.</p>
<h3>2013 MAZDA CX-5</h3> <p>35 MPG*</p> <p><b>\$329</b> Per Month*</p> <p>*\$329/Month, 39-Month Lease, \$0 due at Lease Signing. Includes a Security Deposit of \$0, Down Payment of \$0, 1st Month's Payment of \$0 and Acquisition Fee. Excludes taxes, title and fees.</p>	<h3>2013 MAZDA CX-9</h3> <p><b>\$359</b> Per Month*</p> <p>*\$359/Month, 39-Month Lease, \$0 due at Lease Signing. Includes a Security Deposit of \$0, Down Payment of \$0, 1st Month's Payment of \$0 and Acquisition Fee. Excludes taxes, title and fees.</p>

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2002 MAZDA MPV LX, THIRD ROW SEAT, CD PLAYER, 24 MPG.....	\$4,988
2002 MAZDA TRIBUTE 3.0L ES, LEATHER, CD PLAYER, 24 MPG.....	\$6,488
2005 NISSAN QUEST S, 4TH PASSANGER DOOR, CD PLAYER, THIRD ROW SEAT .....	\$7,988
2006 BUICK RAINER CXL, AWD, LEATHER, ALL POWER, CD PLAYER.....	\$8,288
2007 CHRYSLER SEBRING TOURING, BLACK, LEATHER, POWER WINDOW/LOCKS, CD PLAYER, 32 MPG .....	\$8,588
2006 KIA SEDONA EX, THIRD ROW SEAT, REAR AIR, CD PLAYER, 25 MPG .....	\$8,988
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OF ORANGE PARK

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