

Jax Air News

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NAS Jax 'best' in Navy for second consecutive year

By Staff

Vice Adm. William French, commander, Navy Installations Command, announced Dec. 13 that NAS Jacksonville was the winner of the 2013 Commander, Navy Installations Command Installation Excellence Award (CINC IEA) (large category) worldwide for their outstanding efforts in shore installation management.

CNIC is comprised of 11 regions and 72 bases worldwide. The competition was intense, but NAS Jacksonville displayed a well-defined understanding of CNIC and Office of the Secretary of Defense strategic goals and fiscal austerity in execution of its mission.

NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Sanders immediately congratulated base personnel. "It gives me great pleasure to announce that you have once again won the Installation Excellence Award as the best large installation in the United States Navy! I could not be more proud of each and every one of you and your accomplishments over the past year. Again, congratulations. We are very fortunate to be part of this amazing organization."

This award reflects the hard work by all who helped NAS Jax deliver the most effective and efficient readiness from

the shore.

The station's synergistic 'One Team, One Fight' relationship with all tenant commands targeted the best use of available resources to ensure all accomplished their assigned missions - while at the same time focusing on energy innovation and management actions that increase productivity.

Throughout the year, NAS Jax was the premier installation for delivering effective, sustained and improved shore readiness to its 14 home-based squadrons, Sailors and civilian personnel, as well as supporting numerous joint commands, government agencies, and carrier readiness sustainment exercises along with visiting allied forces.

Its personnel approached every challenge with a leading-edge mentality and continued their unprecedented, accident-free growth by exceeding the Chief of Naval Personnel mandated 75 percent mishap reduction goal.

Upon learning that NAS Jacksonville had again won the Navy's Installation Excellence Award for the second consecutive year, Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Jack Scorby Jr. said that the men and women



U.S. Navy photo

Airfield/Operational Readiness Team provided timely, forward-looking and all-encompassing support to 14 squadrons at NAS Jax. (Above) Aviation ordnance men assigned to the "War Eagles" of VP-16 load a CATM-84 on May 10, 2012.

See **CNIC AWARD**, Page 8

HSL-42 Detachment 8 is halfway home



Photo courtesy of HSL-42

Lt. Cmdr. Jeremiah Binkley, along with co-pilot Lt. Alan Shingler and aircrewmembers AWR1 Josh Wyckoff and AWR3 Kelvi Bonanofeliciano, perform a MEDEVAC from a merchant vessel during their 5th Fleet deployment.

By Lt. Sean Castle
HSL-42 Public Affairs

During a standard six-month deployment, Navy crews celebrate the halfway mark at three months.

However, for HSL-42 Detachment 8, four-and-a-half months mark the midway point of its longer-than-usual deployment.

On June 20 of last year, Det. 8 (nicknamed the "Doomsday" Detachment) embarked aboard guided missile destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81) and departed Naval Station Norfolk with the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group for the 5th and 6th Fleet Areas of Responsibility (AOR).

With four port visits and four-and-a-half months of

operations under their belt, the Doomsday Detachment continues to conduct operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Following brief operations in the Mediterranean Sea and two port visits in Montenegro and Albania, the ship transited the Suez Canal and entered the 5th Fleet AOR to focus on counter-piracy operations.

During an eastward transit in the Gulf of Oman on Aug. 20, the crew of Proud Warrior 424, led by the Detachment Officer-In-Charge Lt. Cmdr. Jeremiah Binkley, executed an urgent medical evacuation of a critically injured sailor from the merchant vessel M/V Belde.

Supported by the Churchill

boarding team, the SH-60B Seahawk, additionally crewed by Lt. Alan Shingler and AWR1 Josh Wyckoff, lowered rescue swimmer AWR3 Kelvi Bonanofeliciano more than 120 feet onto the bridge wing of the Belde in order to place the injured patient in a litter and bring him safely aboard Proud Warrior 424.

The patient was successfully stabilized and transported to Salalah, Oman for further medical treatment and was expected to make a full recovery.

During the first half of the deployment, Detachment 8 personnel achieved numerous

See **HSL-42**, Page 8

Mayor presents environmental award to NAS Jax

By MC3 Damian Berg
Navy Public Affairs Support Element East,
Detachment Southeast

Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown and Chris Buckley, chairman of Keep Jacksonville Beautiful, presented NAS Jacksonville Environmental Director Kevin Gartland and NAS Jacksonville Public Works Officer Cmdr. Anant Patel with the Environmental Achievement Award for Government at the Mayor's Environmental Award Luncheon on Dec. 13 at the Jacksonville Zoo.

Brown told the audience, "Our environmental protection board selected Naval Air Station Jacksonville for this award because it has demonstrated its



Photo by MC3 Damian Berg

(From left) Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown, NAS Jax Public Works Officer Cmdr. Anant Patel, NAS Jax Environmental Director Kevin Gartland, and Chairman of Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Chris Buckley gather at the presentation of the Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Government Award to NAS Jacksonville for its commitment to ecological improvement of its facilities and operations.

commitment to 'greening' its facilities, properties and operations through significant environmental, energy and encroachment conservation initiatives,

See **ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD**, Page 8

NAS Jax Sailor earns top medal for non-combat heroism

By Kaylee LaRocque
NAS Jax Public Affairs Specialist

GSEC(SW) Bryain Williams of Transient Personnel Unit/Pre-Trial Confinement Facility (TPU/PCF) Jacksonville was presented the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroism by Commander, Region Southeast Rear Adm. Jack Scorby Jr. during a ceremony on Jan. 3.

Williams earned the prestigious presidential award for rescuing 4-month-old Jimmy Knight from a burning house on May 11, 2010, in Jacksonville.

Williams vividly recalls those



Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Jack Scorby Jr. (left) presents GSEC Bryain Williams of the Transient Personnel Unit/Pre-Trial Confinement Facility Jax with the Navy and Marine Corps Medal on Jan. 3. The medal is the highest non-combat medal awarded for heroism by the U.S. Department of the Navy.

See **HERO**, Page 8

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Navy Couple Celebrates Birth
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U.S. Navy photos

After joining the Atlantic Fleet in 1953, USS Antietam (CV-36) was modified to receive the U.S. Navy's first angled flight deck. During the next few years, she was the test platform for this feature, that would revolutionize carrier flight operations. Shown here circa 1955-1957, with HSS-1 helicopters and S2F airplanes on her flight deck. Note that some of the helicopters are wearing the light grey color scheme introduced in 1955, while others are still painted midnight blue.



During Operation Desert Storm (1990-1991), (from left) Gen. Colin Powell, chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff and Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander-in-chief, U.S. Central Command, listen to Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney answer questions from the media, as Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Paul Wolfowitz takes notes. The U.S. and the U.N. gave several public justifications for involvement in the conflict, the most prominent being the Iraqi violation of Kuwaiti territorial integrity. Schwarzkopf died Dec. 28 in Tampa, at age 78.

This Week in Navy History

From Staff

Jan. 10

1847 - American naval forces occupy Los Angeles.

1917 - Navy places first production order for aerial photographic equipment.

1934 - VP-10F flies first non-stop formation flight from San Francisco to Pearl Harbor, arriving the next day.

1956 - Establishment of first Navy nuclear power school at Submarine Base New London, Conn.

Jan. 11

1863 - CSS Alabama sinks USS Hatteras off Galveston.

1944 - Aircraft from USS Block Island (CVE-21) make first aircraft rocket attack on German submarine.

Jan. 12

1813 - U.S. frigate Chesapeake captures British Volunteer.

1848 - Attack on sloop Lexington, San Blas, Mexico.

1953 - Landings tested on board USS Antietam (CV-36), the first angled-deck aircraft carrier.

1991 - Ranger battle group arrives on station in the northern Arabian Sea to participate in Operation Desert Shield.

Jan. 13

1865 - Amphibious attack on Fort Fisher in N.C.

1964 - USS Manley (DD 940) evacuates 54 American and 36 allied nationals after Zanzibar government is overthrown.

Jan. 14

1813 - U.S. frigate Chesapeake captures British brig Hero.

1863 - Navy General Order 4, Emancipation Proclamation.

1943 - In first submarine supply mission, USS Gudgeon (SS-211) lands six men, 2,000 pounds of equipment and supplies on Negros Island.

Jan. 15

1815 - HMS Endymion, Tenedos and Pomone capture USS President.

1865 - In largest amphibious operation of war, Union forces capture Ft. Fisher near Wilmington, N.C.

1997 - Navy physician Capt. Jerry Linenger joined the crew of the MIR space station after being launched on Atlantis during space Shuttle Mission STS-81. Prior to the mission, he trained at the Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia for more than a year.

Jan. 16

1930 - USS Lexington (CV-16) provides power to Tacoma, Wash., when floods knocked out city power plants.

1991 - Operation Desert Storm begins for the liberation of Kuwait from Iraq. Hundreds of U.S. and coalition air strikes launched at missile and anti-aircraft targets in Iraq and Kuwait to "destroy Saddam Hussein's offensive military capabilities." Six Navy battle groups, two battleships and a 31-ship amphibious task force were operating in the Red Sea, Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea areas.

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

NAS Jacksonville Chapel Center

Corner of Birmingham Avenue & Mustin Road
542-3051

From The Homefront Post-deployment bliss?

By Sarah Smiley
Special Contributor

Dustin has already been home from deployment for a month. Yes, it's true. I know because I have a calendar.

If I went with my gut instead, I would think Dustin just arrived. The month leading up to his homecoming crept by painfully slow, but the past four weeks have slipped past like a summer's end.

To say it's been a good month would be an understatement. Dustin, the boys and I have been in a cocoon of family time. We even spent Christmas alone, just the five of us.

"This is the first Christmas when we didn't have other family visiting," Ford said, and I had to think about that for a minute. Dustin was home. We were together. Nothing really seemed to be missing.

We are in that post-deployment period — a honeymoon, of sorts — when nothing else registers or matters except being together.

According to my longtime military-wife friend, this is when spouses have to "break-up" with their deployment world in order to make room for their returning loved one. Or, put another way, military wives are serial "rough weather" friends: we cling to our support system during the deployment, then we shut out everything else, if only for a while, once it's over.

Since Dec. 1, my friends have heard from me less, and I haven't had much "me time." I haven't wanted it.

But this post-deployment honeymoon period always comes to end. Eventually, things return to a new normal. Eventually, a night out with the girls sounds better than a night in with the husband. Eventually, a military wife asks herself, "Doesn't he have somewhere he's supposed to be?"

"Eventually" came last week, during a family trip to Boston, when Dustin, on foot, took a left turn instead of a right and sent me this text message several minutes later: "I'm going down a hill. Now I'm going up a hill. I'm actually not sure where I am."

Wait, let's stop and rewind:

The day after Christmas, Dustin drove us to a hotel that is attached to an indoor water park. These are fairly common in the northeast, but when we first moved here four years ago, the idea took some getting use to.

Swimming indoors in the south means swimming inside one of those screened enclosures that blow into your neighbor's yard during a hurricane.

In the northeast, it means squeezing into last summer's bathing suit while freezing rain pelts the windows of your hotel.

I walked dazed and confused

through the steamy, chlorine-filled water park, and by the sheepish smiles on the other women's faces, I knew they felt the same. Our nods said, "I forgot to shave," or "My legs are white."

But the kids had a blast. So did Dustin . . . and every other husband in the building. When I saw mine run past with the older boys, on their way to a big slide while I sat in ankle-deep water in the baby pool with Lindell and the other moms, Dustin's face looked 20 years younger. His wet hair stood up in all directions. "Isn't this great?" he said. "Just one more time down the big slide!"

All at once, sitting in an unnaturally warm pool, I felt angry for the first time since Dec. 1. My life was supposed to get easier with Dustin home. Instead, he seemed to be having all the fun.

When we were leaving the park, Dustin forgot something and had to go back inside. "I'll meet you at the car," he said, so the boys and I went out the double doors and walked through the freezing rain and darkness. We went down a sidewalk and turned right in front of the hotel, where our car was parked.

Review: we went straight and then turned right.

Slush slid down the windshield and hot air warmed my feet as we sat in the car waiting for Dustin. Five minutes. Ten minutes. No Dustin.

I drove around the parking lot to look for him.

"I bet he went the wrong way," I said aloud, my annoyance growing.

"But there's only one way to go," Ford said.

PS: I've known Dustin a lot longer than Ford has.

This is when the text message came: "I'm going down a hill. Now I'm going up a hill. I'm actually not sure where I am."

I called Dustin on the phone, and after a few confusing minutes ("You were supposed to turn right. Can you see the hotel? Are you outside? Are you in the parking lot?"), I figured out he was on the backside of the hotel, in the loading zone, walking in the opposite direction of our car.

"Maybe I took the long route," he said.

"Geez, it's like having a fourth child," I said under my breath.

And just then, in front of me in the rain, I saw him. He was standing in the middle of the road, his sweatshirt soaked and drops of water running down his cheeks. He was laughing and smiling like a little boy. We were still on the phone.

"Hey, it's you," he said. "Man, I'm glad to see you."

And though I was annoyed, I sort of fell in love all over again.

Correction



In the Dec. 13 issue, on Page 8, a Sailor from VP-8 was misidentified as a Sailor from VP-5 during a homecoming event. This is the correct photo with the correct caption. AM2 Aaron Gabbard of VP-5 greets his wife, Ashley, and newborn son, during his homecoming in December. The Jax Air News staff regrets this error and welcomes home VP-5 from a successful deployment.

Photo courtesy of VP-8

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'Pelicans' conduct SAR for missing Filipino fishermen

By Lt. j.g. Josh Stokes
VP-45 Public Affairs

Typhoon Bopha struck the Philippines in early December - killing more than 1,000 and leaving 300,000 others without shelter.

The storm also devastated the Filipino tuna fishing fleet, which set sail in October and was at sea when the storm passed through their fishing grounds.

About 300 fishermen were reported missing.

VP-45, deployed to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, responded to the crisis, sending two P-3 Orion

aircraft to assist with search and rescue operations for the missing fishermen.

Conducting operations out of the Mactan Air Base in the Philippines, VP-45 crews flew more than 40 hours of Search and Rescue (SAR) in the Philippine Sea.

"We were proud to be able to provide assistance to the people of the Philippines," said Lt. Troy Benbow, one of the pilots involved in the search effort.

Thanks to the cooperation and hospitality of the Filipino Air Force, the Search and Rescue operations were conducted safely and effectively.



VP-45 pilot Lt. David Porter files a flight plan with Filipino officials while conducting operations out of the Mactan Air Base in the Philippines to assist with search and rescue operations for missing fishermen. VP-45 crews flew more than 42 hours of search and rescue in the Philippine Sea.

Photo courtesy of VP-45

Naval Hospital Jax welcomes first baby of 2013



Photo by Jacob Sippel

LS2 James Camp and OS1 Jameala Camp look into the eyes of their newborn son, James Gavin Camp, on Jan. 2. James Gavin is Naval Hospital Jacksonville's first delivery of the year, weighing seven pounds, three ounces.

VP-45 search, rescue mission ensures safety of South Korean mariners

By Lt. j.g. Alec Verone
VP-45 Public Affairs

The crew of a U.S. Navy P-3C Orion attached to VP-45 located a group of distressed South Korean mariners in the Philippine Sea, Dec. 22, and directed a Hong Kong-flagged vessel to the scene to ensure the mariners' safety.

The U.S. 7th Fleet staff was notified of the South Korean vessel in distress approximately 350 nautical miles southwest of Okinawa and directed VP-45 to respond.

The squadron, operating from Kadena Air Base on Okinawa, promptly launched an aircraft with search and rescue resources to the distressed vessel's last known position.

"We were told we were looking for a vessel in distress with an unknown number of people in a life raft," said Lt. j.g. John Allen, a member of the crew.

The crew utilized all of the aircraft's capabilities including its radar and camera to locate the

vessel in distress. "We were the first search and rescue asset on the scene," Allen said. "We found a South Korean container ship listing 25 degrees to the port side and a life raft floating next to it with 17 individuals in it. Nobody was injured."

The crew contacted a nearby Hong Kong flagged merchant vessel and vectored the vessel to the life raft. The merchant vessel crew was able to find the life raft and took all 17 survivors aboard.

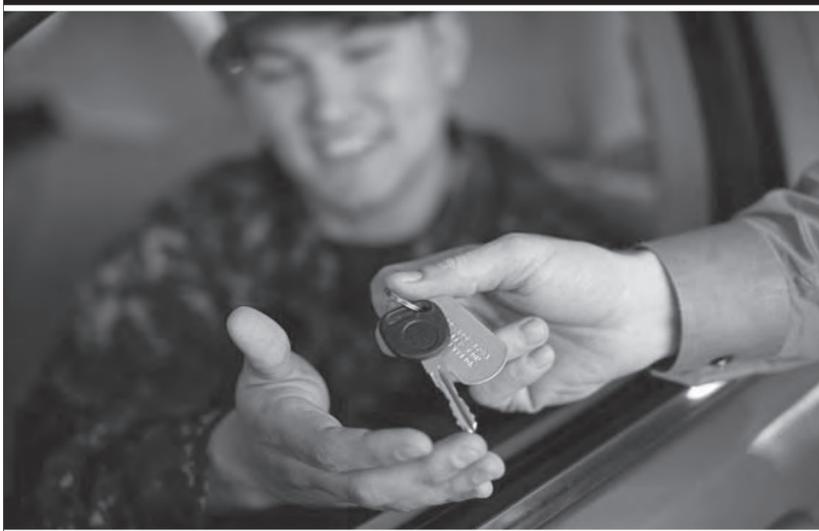
"The success of the mission is a direct reflection on our squadron's training and mission readiness," Allen added.

Based in Jacksonville, the VP-45 "Pelicans" under the command of Cmdr. Mike Vitali, are currently deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations as part of Commander, Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force 7th Fleet.

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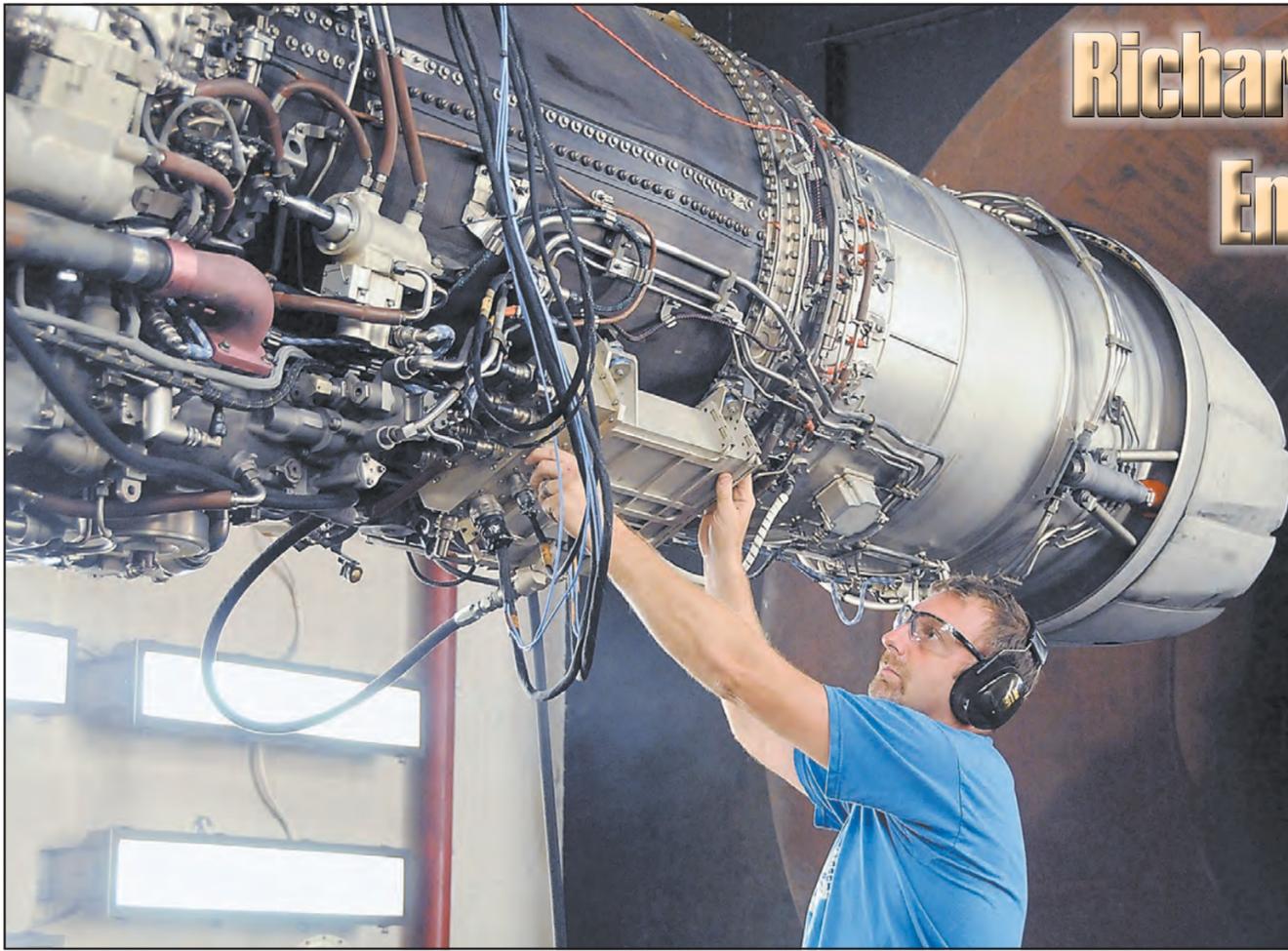
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IN THEATERS **JANUARY**



Richard Kemen Engine Test Facility

Aircraft Mechanic Lee Peyton inspects an F414-GE-400 turbofan engine, the power plant for the F/A-18 Super Hornet Strike Fighter aircraft, in the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast Kemen Engine Test Facility on April 18, 2012.



Alvin Mansell (left) and Eddie Cubero, both aircraft engine mechanics, sit in a control room protected by two inches of bulletproof glass as they monitor an F414-GE-400 turbofan engine performance test in the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast Kemen Engine Test Facility.



Curtis Kimbler, the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) test cell supervisor, inspects a TF34-GE-100 turbofan engine from an Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II. Engine mechanics service and repair a variety of gas turbine engines at the FRCSE Crinkley Engine Facility.

FRCSE tests jet engines, reduces noise pollution

By Marsha Childs
Fleet Readiness Center Southeast Public Affairs Specialist

Local residents are spared much of the ear-throbbing noise produced when Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) conducts out-of-airframe testing to certify the reliability and performance of gas turbine engines repaired at the facility.

Annexed at the far end of NAS Jacksonville along the St. Johns River, the Richard Kemen Engine Test Facility is acoustically treated and aerodynamically designed to reduce the powerful sound waves generated by jet engine combustion during testing.

"The walls around the concrete test chamber are 18 inches thick," said Mark Stogdon, an electronics engineer working at the testing facility. "We used to test engines outside in the late '60s, but the sound carried right across the river. Testing inside is easier, and acoustics are contained. It is considerably safer."

Performance testing in mirror image test chambers is routinely conducted on each engine serviced or repaired at the FRCSE Crinkley Engine Facility. Testing ensures its optimum operating performance prior to returning the engine to Fleet inventory.

Stogdon said about 140 engines are tested at FRCSE each year, and Kemen is the Navy's only depot engine test facility still in use. He said in the "hey-



Octavus Shelton, an aircraft engine mechanic, repairs a TF34-100 turbofan engine low pressure turbine at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast on Dec. 18. The engine powers the U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt (Warthog) and the Navy's S-3B Viking aircraft.

day" back in the 1970s, six facilities were to be built, but only one other was constructed at the military depot in Norfolk, Va. It was torn down years later following the depot closures in the mid-1990s according to Stogdon.

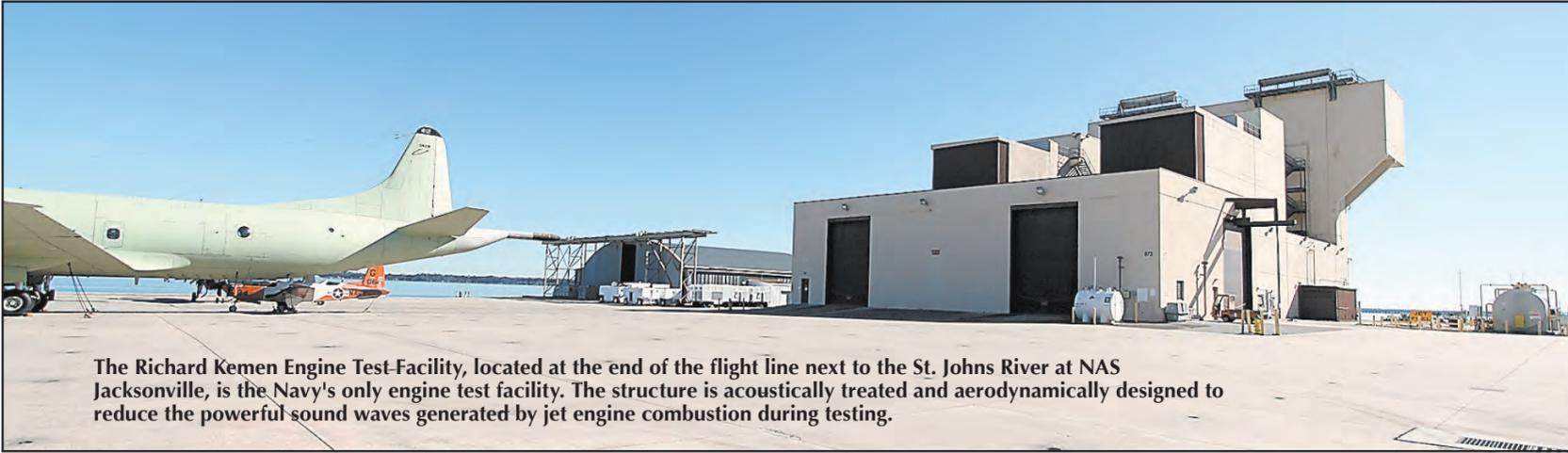
In the engine preparation area, a monorail system allows technicians to suspend each jet engine until it is rolled into a test chamber, an enormous room measuring about 90-feet long, 20-feet wide and 30-feet high. The monorail improves workflow and ensures optimum efficiency, safety and ease of use for the technicians. Seated in the control room behind two inches of bul-

letproof glass, test cell operators put a variety of off-wing engines through their entire operating range to simulate the engine's flight mission. The largest being the F414-GE-400 turbofan engine with 22,000 pounds of static thrust. The F/A-18 Super Hornet and the EA-18G Growler tactical aircraft are each powered by two of these engines according to the Navy Fact Files.

Each computer-controlled test cell has a thrust capacity of 40,000 pounds and a bed capacity of 100,000 pounds. Military jet aircraft in afterburner produce exceedingly high noise levels when at maximum power settings.

These aircraft are tested by spraying more fuel into the exhaust that ignites to generate additional thrust power.

A compressed air system supplies the energy required to start the jet's turbine engine. A thrust stand securely holds the engine with interface connections for fuel, air, hydraulic, oil, electrical and other systems that tie into a computer in the control room. Repeatable operations are conducted to verify results following each engine repair and reassembly. The FRCSE test cell is designed with special air intake baffles for optimal air flow and exhaust to ensure engine



The Richard Kemen Engine Test-Facility, located at the end of the flight line next to the St. Johns River at NAS Jacksonville, is the Navy's only engine test facility. The structure is acoustically treated and aerodynamically designed to reduce the powerful sound waves generated by jet engine combustion during testing.

Photo by Marsha Childs



Photo by Marsha Childs

A massive Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt (Warthog) TF34-100 turbofan engine rests in a hoist in the east test chamber of the Richard Kemen Test Cell at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast in April 2011. Artisans perform acceptance testing on jet engines rebuilt and repaired at the facility to ensure they are producing the rated power and are safe for flight.

Photos by Victor Pitts

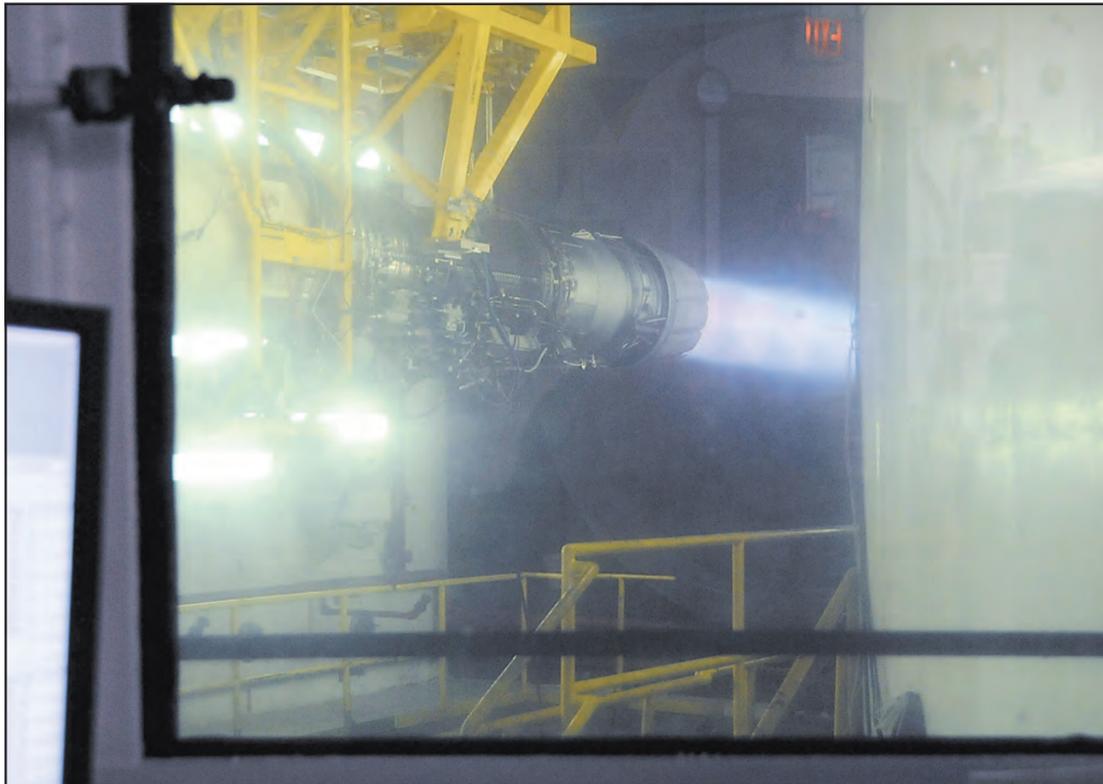


An F414-GE-400 turbofan engine that powers the F/A-18 Super Hornet Strike Fighter sits in a Fleet Readiness Center Southeast engine test cell waiting testing in mid-April. The engine is capable of producing 22,000 pounds of static thrust, although the computer-controlled test cell has a maximum thrust capacity of 40,000 pounds.



Photo by Marsha Childs

In the Crinkley Engine Facility at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) on Dec. 18, Aircraft Engine Mechanic Raul Escolano assembles an F414-GE-400 high pressure engine compressor removed from an F/A-18 Super Hornet Attack Strike Fighter aircraft. FRCSE artisans repair and refurbish a variety of turbofan engines to ensure their optimum operating performance before they are returned to Fleet inventory.



In the acoustically-controlled engine testing facility at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast on April 18, artisans test an off-the-wing F414-GE-400 turbofan engine that powers the F/A-18 Super Hornet Strike Fighter through its entire operating range including afterburner mode that can significantly increase the thrust of the supersonic engine.



Jeff Hines, a bearing reconditioner, visually inspects J52 engine bearings from an EA-6B Prowler aircraft in the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast Bearing Shop on June 20. The facility maintains, repairs and overhauls a variety of military aircraft engines for the fleet.

ENGINE

From Page 4

performance consistency and to suppress noise to Occupational Safety and Health Administration acceptable levels. An exhaust collector and transfer tube, exhaust diffuser, exhaust plenum and exhaust stack with baffles aid in reducing heat and vibration from engine exhaust during testing.

"We are not noisy," said Curtis Kimbler, the former test engine supervisor who now serves as the TF34 engine supervisor. "It is one of the most people-friendly cells around. We have testing capability for the J52, TF34, F414 and the F404 engine."

The Richard Kemen Engine Test Facility was dedicated in 1978 and underwent a major upgrade in 2011.



Marilyn Barzell, a quality assurance specialist, inspects a TF34-100 turbofan engine in the Robert Kemen Engine Test Facility at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast on Dec. 18. Artisans perform acceptance testing on jet engines rebuilt and repaired at the Crinklet Engine Facility to ensure they are producing the rated power and are safe for flight.

Nomads hold change of command

From VR-62

Cmdr. Alex Ellermann was relieved by Cmdr. Anthony Scarpino as VR-62's commanding officer Dec. 8 at NAS Jacksonville.

The guest speaker was Fleet Logistics Support Wing Deputy Commodore Capt. Mark Bailey.

Scarpino, a native of Pittsburgh, graduated from the University of Memphis in 1995. During his collegiate career, he was elected captain of the varsity football team and played as starting quarterback during the 1994 season.

Electing to pursue his dream of becoming a naval aviator, he graduated from Officer Candidate School in February 1996. He reported for initial flight training in Pensacola, Fla., and was designated a naval aviator in October 1997.

Following initial P-3 Orion training at VP-30 in Jacksonville, Scarpino reported to the VP-4 "Skinny Dragons" based in Kaneohe, Hawaii. He completed three extended operational deployments to Japan, Oman and Bahrain flying surveillance and reconnaissance missions in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During this tour, he was designated as a P-3 Orion patrol plane commander, mis-



Outgoing VR-62 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Alexander Ellermann, left, and incoming VR-62 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Tony Scarpino exchange salutes during the VR-62 Change of Command Dec. 8 at NAS Jacksonville as Fleet Logistics Support Wing Deputy Commodore Capt. Mark Bailey looks on.

Photo by MC1(NAC/AW) Charles White

sion commander, P-3 instructor pilot and primary pilot NATOPS evaluator. He also served as the command's personnel officer, communication security officer, aircraft division officer and pilot NATOPS officer.

In February 2002, Scarpino

was nominated and selected as a Fleet Replacement Squadron instructor pilot assigned to VP-30. While serving in this capacity, he was instrumental in the training of more than 200 U.S. and international pilots and naval flight officers. Beyond his primary duties as

an instructor pilot, he served as a P-3 Orion tactics instructor, flight engineer division officer and operations flight officer.

In August 2004, Scarpino transitioned to the full time support community and reported to the VR-62 "Nor'Easters" based in

Brunswick, Maine, where he flew the C-130 Hercules. During this assignment, he served as the training department head, administrative department head and maintenance department head. In November 2007, he reported to the VR-64 "Condors" based in Willow Grove, Pa., where he served as operations department head.

While assigned to VR-62 and VR-64, Scarpino has flown over 200 sorties providing direct logistical support to Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

In November 2009, Scarpino reported to Capitol Hill serving as a defense legislative fellow for U. S. Sen. Christopher Bond (R-MO). In December 2010, he reported to the Office of the Chief of Navy Reserves to head the Congressional Liaison branch. Selected to Operational Command, Scarpino became VR-62's executive officer in September 2011.

Scarpino earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Touro University International, completed Joint Professional Military Education (Phase 1) and has accumulated nearly 3,000 flight hours in the P-3 Orion and C-130 Hercules aircraft.

January app phase to open for Sailors seeking PCS orders

From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

The Career Management System Interactive Detailing (CMS/ID) application phase is scheduled to begin Jan. 10, and remain open until 5 a.m. Jan. 22 for Sailors in their permanent change of station (PCS) orders negotiation window.

CMS/ID is the web-based program enlisted Sailors use to review and apply for PCS orders when it is time to transfer

duty stations.

Sailors may access the site at <https://www.cmsid.navy.mil> or from the CMS/ID link at www.npc.navy.mil.

Sailors are in their orders negotiation window when they are within nine through seven months from their projected rotation date (PRD). This is the first application phase for Sailors with an October 2013 PRD, the second application phase for Sailors with a September 2013 PRD and the last appli-

cation phase for Sailors with an August 2013 PRD.

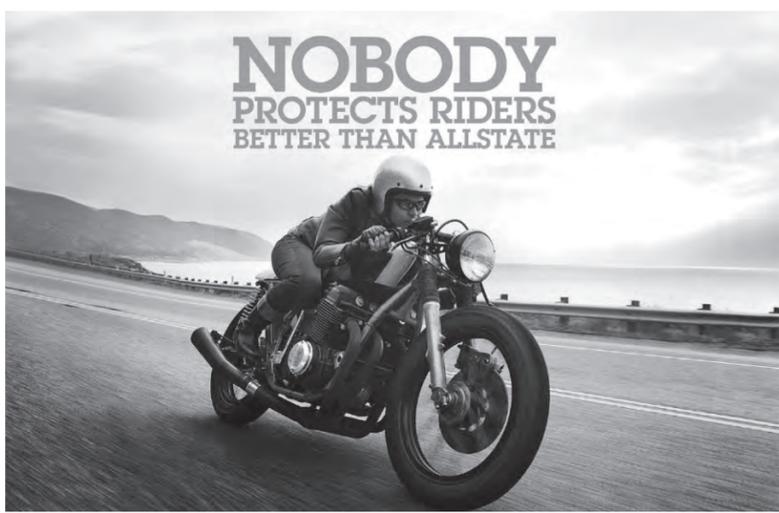
These Sailors may review advertised billets in CMS/ID during the application phase and apply for up to five jobs, either directly using CMS/ID or through a command career counselor.

The application phase is typically 10 days, allowing Sailors time to review available jobs, research billets and discuss options with their family and chain of command before the applica-

tion phase closes.

Updated detailing business rules announced last July in NAVADMIN 226/12 eliminated red zone and green zone job advertisements in CMS/ID and now detailers fill all advertised active-duty billets each month using the available Sailors who are in their orders-negotiation window. Sailors can be more proactive in getting an assign-

See PCS, Page 8



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Pomegranate Martini \$8.00

Van Gogh Pomegranate Vodka & Pomegranate Liqueur w/a splash of Pomegranate Juice



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Pilot calls F-35 'big leap' in fighter/attack capability

By Terri Moon Cronk
American Forces Press Service

The F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighter jet will be a strategic deterrent for the nation because of its "huge leap in capability," a Marine Corps pilot said in a recent interview on the Pentagon Channel.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Scott, commander of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing's Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., recently told the Pentagon Channel the F-35 will allow Marines to perform missions in high-threat areas, unlike existing aircraft.

The F-35 will be able to do every mission now performed by the AV-8 Harrier, but will be able to do it in more situations, said Scott, who is involved with flight testing the new aircraft.

The new fighter will provide access to more areas, he explained, and will allow more time for rolling back enemy defenses.

The Defense Department and Lockheed Martin reached an agreement in principle in December to manufacture 32 F-35s in the Pentagon's largest weapons program. That includes 22 F-35A conventional takeoff and landing variants for the Air Force, three F-35B short-takeoff and vertical landing variants for the Marine Corps, and seven F-35C carrier variants for the Navy.

Scott said flying the F-35 is an easy transition from the Harrier, and that it did exceptionally well during a recent trial at sea.

"The sensors and systems are the big leap driving



Photo courtesy of Lockheed Martin

Lt. Cmdr. Michael Burks performs a successful F-35 weapon Separation on Dec. 3, 2012.

the aircraft in terms of tactics," he said.

"The Lightning will fulfill a lot of the functions of Marine Corps aviation - such as [our] air support role, air-to-air combat, targeting enemy ground locations and supporting the troops on the ground - as Harriers and [F/A-18] Hornets do now," he added. "But it brings more in one aircraft in its ability to protect itself from the enemy."

Scott said the F-35 will give the military "a huge leap in capability, probably five or six steps beyond what we now have."

"We're going to have this aircraft for a long time," he said. "As we get more and more of these aircraft in all of the services, we're going to see a lot of the benefits that the aircraft has in terms of commonality. As we start operating tactically, some of the communications [and] capabilities will become more and more valuable to the services . . . and it will be in demand to combatant commanders around the world."



Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

A contributing factor to NAS Jax winning the Installation Excellence Award was its strong support of warfighting commands. Here, VP-10 "Red Lancers" Flight Engineer AWF1 Gordon Richards waves the American flag when his P-3C Orion arrives home at NAS Jacksonville after deployment to Bahrain, Qatar and Djibouti, Africa. VP-10 was presented the Battle Efficiency (Battle"E") award in 2012. NAS Jacksonville-based helicopter squadron HSL-42 "Proud Warriors" also earned a Battle "E" award.

CNIC AWARD

From Page 1

assigned to the installation had earned the recognition with a balance of initiative and hard work.

"This year's competition and all nomination packages reflected the great accomplishments that CNIC installations made worldwide," said Scorby. "However, for the second year in a row, NAS Jacksonville distinguished itself and made the best use of its available resources to accomplish its assigned missions. They continue to set the standard, and I couldn't be more proud of Capt. Sanders and his team of professionals."

Sanders attributed their continued success to conducting business using an integrated team approach

that includes the support of Navy Southeast leadership, the Jacksonville mayor, county, state, federal agencies and area communities. "This award belongs not only to the NAS Jax team, but also to the people of Northeast Florida. They work with us throughout the year and ensure our mission, military members and their families are well cared for," Sanders said. "It is a happy day in Jacksonville."

The second and third place winners in the large category were: Fleet Activity Yokosuka and Naval Station Norfolk. In the small category the winners were: Naval Activity Panama City, Naval Air Facility El Centro followed by Naval Support Activity Mid-South and Commander, Fleet Activities Okinawa tying for third place.

PCS

From Page 6

ment of their choice by using all five choices when applying.

CMS/ID features a "Sailor Preference" section under the "Sailor Info Tab" where Sailors may rank duty preferences by type, command, location, platform and community, as well as indicate which special programs and schools they would like and leave comments for the detailer.

Detailers will always attempt to fill billets using a Sailor's desired selections first; however, fleet readiness requirements are the guiding factor in filling billets.

Detailers must also follow sea-shore flow guidelines outlined in NAVADMIN 201/11, so unless a Sailor requests Sea Duty Incentive Pay or the Voluntary Sea Duty Program to take consecutive sea duty orders, a Sailor up for shore duty should not be involuntarily

assigned another sea tour. It may mean a Sailor hoping for shore duty in Florida or California may receive shore duty someplace else, where the need is greater.

A single set of sea billets, prioritized by U.S. Fleet Forces Command, and a single set of shore billets, prioritized by U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Bureau of Naval Personnel are advertised each application cycle as the Navy seeks to fill gaps at sea and place Sailors with the right experience levels and skill sets into high-priority Fleet billets.

Some factors a detailer must weigh when matching Sailors to jobs include the Sailor's desires, qualifications, training availability, career progression and cost to the Navy.

Detailers won't assign Sailors to advertised jobs until after the close of the application phase, during the detailer selection phase. Sailors may log into CMS/ID anytime after the detailer selection phase to see if they have been selected for orders.

ENVIROMENTAL AWARD

From Page 1

education outreach and environmental partnership with the city of Jacksonville and state of Florida."

Gartland thanked the mayor and said, "NAS Jacksonville is extremely proud to receive the Environmental Achievement Award for Government Agency."

"We are very thankful for the great support we receive from our local community, state and federal government leaders, agencies and citizens."

The City of Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board consists of

nine members, appointed for four-year terms, who are chosen to represent industry, conservationist organizations, professional engineers, the medical profession, and the general public.

This board develops regulations necessary for administration and enforcement of the city's environmental laws. It conducts investigations of complaints, takes testimony

in matters under its jurisdiction and provides a hearing platform for environmental matters within the city.

The board also conducts public outreach programs for schools, teachers, civic and private organizations.

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HERO

From Page 1

intense minutes as he risked his life to save the young child.

"My family and I had gone to the home to look at a dog we were considering adopting. After meeting the dog and his owner, Melinda Knight, we had decided we wanted him. We put him in the car and were leaving when Melinda came running out screaming her house was on fire and she couldn't find her baby in all the smoke," said Williams.

"I ran into the smoke-filled house and located Jimmy in his playpen. I picked him up and found my way back out the front door, handing the infant to my wife. Then I heard Melinda yelling at the back door and went to help. During the confusion, I didn't tell her that I had rescued her son and assumed she had another child inside," he continued. "So I tried to get in the back door but the flames were too intense. After a few minutes, everyone realized no one else was in the house and the baby was safe."

As Scorby presented the award in front of Williams' and Knight's family members and Sailors from his command, he stated, "It's an absolute honor and privilege for me to be here today and present this award. You don't see this award given very often. The only time I've seen this award presented was after 9-11 for some of the rescues at the Pentagon. Chief, I can't say how much admiration and respect I have for what you did by putting your life on the line to save another human being."

After receiving the award, Williams said humbly, "I'm thrilled to be given this award. I just went to Jimmy's third birthday party the other day and am just so happy that he is still here to celebrate it."

"Bryain definitely deserves this award. If it wasn't for him saving my son, he probably would not be here today. Our families have become close and we spend time together. We've been there for one another through some hardships - Bryain's wife Kathy passed away and although I didn't know her long, she was very special to me. And, Jimmy knows that this is the man who saved his life," said Knight.

HSL-42

From Page 1

accomplishments.

Five maintainers, AD2 Aaron Carvalho, AM3 Caleb Moyers, AM3 Amanda Verga, AT3 Jonathan Youmans, and AEAN Armida Guerra all earned their Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS) qualifications.

The Doomsdayers also welcomed two new members into the Proud Warrior tribe as Carvalho, Wyckoff and their wives celebrated the births of their first children.

Two extended port calls in Bahrain allowed the Churchill a much-needed break from the high operational tempo of the 5th Fleet AOR.

Churchill and Det. 8 departed Bahrain for additional support of Operation Enduring Freedom and other tasking may come their way.

Proud of their accomplishments up to this point and eager to face future assignments and challenges, HSL-42 Det. 8 and the Churchill crew look forward to a safe return to families and friends following a successful deployment.

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Photo courtesy of VP-45

VP-45 Combat Air Crew 2 and maintenance personnel gather in front of one of their P-3 Orion aircraft during a recent Philippine detachment.

'Pelicans' and 'Mad Foxes' conduct joint detachment to Philippines

By Lt. j.g. Alec Verone
VP-45 Public Affairs Officer

The VP-45 "Pelicans" began their Western Pacific deployment with a week-long detachment to Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

The Pelicans were joined by members of the VP-5 "Mad Foxes" to facilitate a smooth transition and provide turnover.

The squadrons participated in maritime domain awareness missions designed to strengthen military-to-military relations between the Philippines and the United States. Daily interactions provided an opportunity to cultivate relationships with the local community and build ties support channels laying a solid foundation for operations from Clark Air Base.

The aircrew and maintenance team were also grateful for the opportunity to participate in military and community relationship building. When asked about his experience during the

detachment, AD2(AW) Keilbenjamine Diaz from Pampanga, Philippines responded, "It's been six years since I've been back to my home country of the Philippines. I feel great to be part of the VP-45 detachment crew that went and worked with the Philippine Air Force. It really brings back memories from the past."

A highlight during the detachment was the opportunity to share in cultural exchanges with the host nation. "Being able to operate out of the Philippines was a great experience. It was exciting to be able to experience the local culture while completing our mission," said AWO2 Jonathon Cuff. "Our host nation's hospitality was more than we could have asked for."

Based in Jacksonville, the Pelicans and Mad Foxes are currently deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility as part of Commander, Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Seventh Fleet.



Photo courtesy of the Chapel

Chaplains celebrate anniversary

(From right) Newest commissioned Navy Chaplain, Lt. j.g. Andrew Burns, and Commander, Navy Installations Command Chaplain Capt. Timothy Lantz cut a cake on Nov. 29 to celebrate the 237th anniversary of the Navy Chaplain Corps as Deputy Chief of Chaplains and Chaplain to the Marine Corps Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben looks on.

VP squadrons, HMCS Ottawa coordinate drug seizure

By Lt. j.g. Jonathan Messer
VP-8 Public Affairs

P-3C Orion aircraft from the VP-8 "Fighting Tigers" and the VP-10 "Red Lancers" worked with the Royal Canadian Navy frigate HMCS Ottawa (FFH-341) to recover 1,086 kilograms of cocaine, valued in excess of \$75 million during an interdiction in the 4th Fleet Area of Responsibility in late November.

Operating outside the territorial waters of Costa Rica, the P-3C aircrew noted suspicious activity aboard a fishing vessel. Maintaining observation of the vessel, the aircrew coordinated with the Ottawa for search and potential seizure of the vessel.

Upon arrival the HMCS Ottawa deployed its helicopter and a boarding team via fast boat. The intercept and search of the fishing vessel resulted in the seizure of 1,086 kilograms of cocaine, valued in excess of \$75 mil-

lion. "It was pretty awesome to not only catch drug smugglers in the act, but to be able to coordinate and witness a successful interdiction with the Canadians. We are looking forward to many busts like this in the future," said Lt. j.g. Matt Willard of VP-10.

VP-8 and VP-10 are both based out of NAS Jacksonville.

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet supports USSOUTHCOM joint and combined full-spectrum military operations by providing principally sea-based, forward presence to ensure freedom of maneuver in the maritime domain, to foster and sustain cooperative relationships with international partners and to fully exploit the sea as maneuver space in order to enhance regional security and promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the Caribbean, Central and South American regions.



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

'Mad Fox' CO brings last aircraft home

(Above) VP-5 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Erin Osborne taxis a P-3C Orion aircraft across the NAS Jax tarmac after arriving home to NAS Jax on Dec. 14, following a six-month deployment to Japan.

VP-5 Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Erin Osborne happily greets her aunt and uncle, Peg and Richard Jansen after bringing the squadron's last P-3C Orion aircraft home to NAS Jax after a six-month deployment to Japan. The squadron will now transition to the new P-8A Poseidon aircraft.



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'Pelicans,' 'Red Lancers' participate in mochi pounding

By Lt. j.g. Alec Verone
VP-45 Public Affairs Officer

Sailors from the VP-45 "Pelicans" and VP-10 "Red Lancers" participated in the annual Christmas gift exchange between Commander, Fleet Activities Okinawa and Sailors from the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Forces (JMSDF) Dec. 19 at White Beach in Okinawa, Japan.

Each year, the two organizations exchange traditional American and Okinawan Christmas decorations with the JMSDF receiving a Christmas tree in exchange for a set of kadomatsu — Japanese ornaments made from bamboo and pine boughs.

The event was hosted by the JMSDF and included a mochi pounding. Mochi is a Japanese rice cake made of glutinous rice pounded into paste and molded into the desired shape.

In Japan it is traditionally made in a ceremony called mochitsuki.



VP-45 and VP-10 Sailors participate in a mochi pounding ceremony at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, on Dec. 19. Both squadrons are currently deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

While eaten year-round, mochi is a traditional food for the Japanese new year.

PR2 Nichole Oveido of VP-45 was particularly impressed with the Japanese hospital-

ity and closing ceremony where all the participants clapped in unison to symbolize bringing good fortune for all in the new year.

"It was very interesting and

the Japanese were extremely friendly," remarked Oveido.

"Making the mochi cakes was very similar to my family tradition of making pupusas." Experiencing foreign cultures



AT3 Thomas Ford and PR2 Nichole Oveido of VP-45 mold the mochi into small donut sized nuggets during the event.

sometimes doesn't seem so foreign after all.

Based in Jacksonville, the Pelicans and Red Lancers are currently on a six-month deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility as part of Commander, Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Seventh Fleet.

VP-45 'Pelicans' Volunteer at Yara Youth Center's Christmas Party

By Lt. j.g. Alec Verone
VP-45 Public Affairs Officer

Seven Sailors from the VP-45 "Pelicans" visited the Yara Youth Center in Kadena Town, Okinawa Dec. 22 to take part in their annual Christmas party. The Sailors sang and danced with local youth to music ranging from popular Top-40 hits to classic Christmas carols. When Santa made an appearance at the party, VP-45 Sailors also lent a hand passing out gifts.

"It was awesome to see that other countries celebrate the holidays almost exactly the way we do back in the States," said LS2 Elena Cruz from Guatemala City, Guatemala. "It was fun to interact and play games with the youth of our



LS2 Elena Cruz (right) poses with Santa and a member of the Yara Youth Center at their 2012 Christmas Party.

host country." The experience put smiles on the faces of everyone involved.

Based at NAS Jacksonville, and under command of Cmdr. Mike Vitali, the Pelicans are deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility in support of Commander Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force 7th Fleet.

VA creates new program to process claims faster

From the Veterans Administration

The Veterans Administration (VA) has created the Fully Developed Claim (FDC) Program, a new and innovative program designed to provide swift and expeditious treatment of eligible "fully developed" compensation or pension claims.

The FDC Program is the fastest means of getting a claim processed. A participating Veteran with an eligible claim will have his/her claim expeditiously routed through the claims process for a swift decision. Participation will not affect the quality of care a Veteran receives or the benefits to which a Veteran is entitled. The FDC program is not a pre-discharge program associated with active duty service members.

To start the process, a veteran can lock in an effective date with an informal claim. The informal claim

includes the statement below in the form of a letter: The purpose of the informal claim is to allow the veteran time to gather pertinent evidence needed to complete a claim.

"I intend to apply for compensation/pension benefits under the FDC Program. This statement is to preserve my effective date for entitlement to benefits. I am in the process of assembling my claim package for submission."

This statement must be accompanied by the veteran or claimant's name (if other than the veteran), claim number, and signature.

To participate, the FDC Program requires that a veteran complete and submit a Fully Developed Claim Certification and either a VA Form 21-526EZ, Fully Developed Claim (Compensation), for a compensation

See VA, Page 11

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'Proud Warriors' Deploy World Wide in 2012



Photos courtesy of HSL-42

An SH-60B SeaHawk aircrew from HSL-42 Detachment 10 flies in support of the 2012 international exercise Indigo Serpent, seen here with the Royal Saudi Navy.



Photo by MC2 Deven King

BMC(SW) Aaron Stewart observes as an SH-60B SeaHawk helicopter from the "Proud Warriors" of HSL-42, Detachment 7 lowers stores to the flight deck of guided-missile destroyer USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109) during a vertical replenishment with amphibious dock landing ship USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44) in October 2012. Jason Dunham and Gunston Hall were deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations, theater security cooperation efforts and support missions for Operation Enduring Freedom.

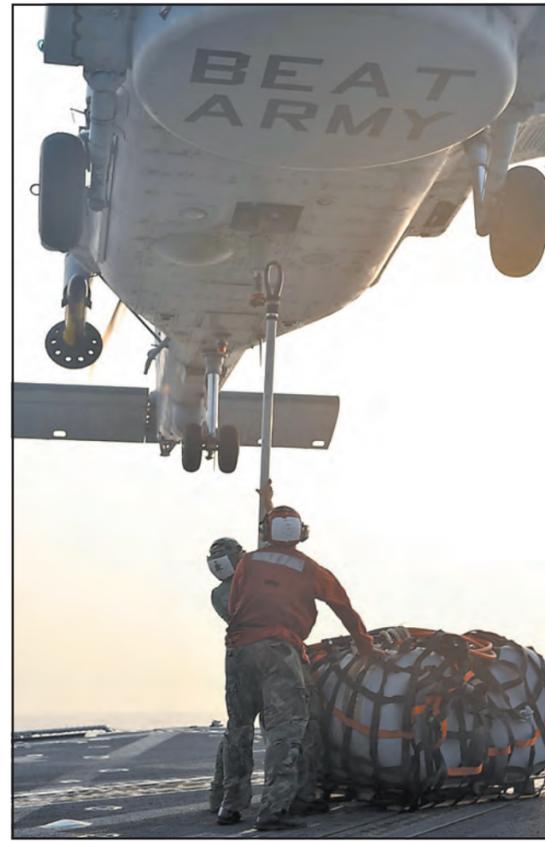


Photo by MC2 Deven King

AE2 Anthony Boccanelli (left) and AO2 John Goyarola hook a cargo net to an SH-60B SeaHawk helicopter assigned to the "Proud Warriors" of HSL-42, Detachment 7, during a Dec. 5, 2012 vertical replenishment involving the guided-missile destroyer USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109). Jason Dunham is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations, theater security cooperation efforts and support missions for Operation Enduring Freedom.



An HSL-42 Detachment 10 aircrewman keeps a watchful eye over the hot and busy waters of the Persian Gulf while embarked aboard the Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS James E. Williams (DDG95).



An SH-60B Seahawk pilot from HSL-42 Detachment 7 coordinates with aviation boatswain's mates (fuel) on board the USS Jason Dunham (DDG109) to precisely execute a helicopter in-flight refueling operation during their 2012 deployment to the 5th Fleet area of responsibility.



Maintainers from HSL-42 Detachment 2 "The Men In Black" prepare their MQ-8B Fire Scout UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) for flight operations aboard the Oliver Hazard Perry class guided-missile frigate USS Klakring (FFG42) in 2012.

Spreading holiday cheer

Standing amidst a room filled with toys donated by the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) workforce are Capt. John Kemna (from left), the FRCSE executive officer, Byron Anderson, public affairs assistant, Capt. Robert Caldwell, the FRCSE commanding officer, and Marsha Childs, public affairs specialist, prior to pick up by the Salvation Army Dec. 12. FRCSE sponsored 200 "Angels" during this year's toy drive, ensuring a happier holiday for many children in the local community.



Photo by Victor Pitts

VA

From Page 10

claim, or a VA Form 21-527EZ, Fully Developed Claim (Pension), for a pension claim. The veteran must also submit, with the application and certification, all relevant and pertinent evidence to "fully develop" the claim. VA Form 21-526EZ and VA Form 21-527EZ provide, in detail, claims eligible for the FDC program as well as notification of all information and evidence necessary to "fully develop" and substantiate these claims.

How does it work? VA, traditionally, after it receives a claim from a veteran will only then provide the veteran notification of what is required from him/her to substantiate the claim via the Duty to Assist letter. The FDC program is unique in that it provides notification of the evidence necessary to substantiate an eligible claim at the time of application, allowing the veteran to understand what is required of him/her

at that time.

A veteran participating in the FDC program will send the required evidence with the claim and certify that he/she has nothing further to provide. By doing this, a veteran dramatically reduces the processing time of his/her claim by eliminating the time VA would normally spend developing for evidence from that veteran.

VA is able to process these claims far more quickly than claims going through the traditional claims process. In addition, VA has established priority channels to expeditiously route FDCs. Once the "fully developed" claim is received by VA, any subsequent information or evidence submitted to VA may serve to remove that claim from the FDC program. At that time the claim will be processed the traditional way.

For detailed information on the FDC program and downloadable forms look up benefits.va.gov/transformation/fast-claims or call 1-800-827-1000.

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CNATTU selects Sailors of the Year

By AE1 Robert O'Neill
CNATTU Jax

• AS1(AW/SW) Dhovie Apoyan has been recognized as the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit Jacksonville's 2012 Sailor of the Year.

Apoyan is currently assigned as leading petty officer for Maintenance Training Unit 3032, supervising 26 instructors.

As a mechanical support equipment instructor, he has completed 16 support equipment formal course reviews, four course revisions, and was responsible for the upkeep of 78 support equipment maintenance trainers valued at \$2.2 million.

Apoyan coordinated numerous command events as MWR president, leading 14 Sailors



AS1(AW/SW) Dhovie Apoyan

and Marines and collecting over \$7,500 for MWR fundraisers.

He is currently attending Southern Illinois University pursuing a bachelor's degree in workforce education.

Additionally, he is an active



AS2(AW/SW) Anthony Wagner

member of the Owens Lodge No. 162 Freemasons and has dedicated numerous hours to the I.D., a program identifying runaway and missing children.

He also volunteers off-duty time to local programs such as Adopt-A-Highway and Habitat

for Humanity.

Apoyan's professionalism, leadership and community service have contributed significantly to command mission and the local Jacksonville community.

• AS2(AW/SW) Anthony Wagner was selected as CNATTU Jacksonville's 2012 Junior Sailor of the Year. He is currently assigned as an aviation support equipment instructor at Maintenance Training Unit 3032, where he trains Sailors and Marines on mechanical upkeep and maintenance of support equipment afloat.

Wagner has provided 500 hours of instruction, achieving a 100 percent graduation rate with an overall student GPA of 96.7 percent.

His collateral duties include public affairs photographer

and writer, MWR and Petty Officer Association event coordinator which raised \$2,600 in funds.

Additionally, he assists in the facilitation of the Command Indoctrination program, providing information and training on programs such as sexual assault prevention, domestic violence, and drinking and driving.

Wagner serves his local community as the home owner's association president for Meadow Glenn, and is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of his community that contains three retention ponds and 250 family homes.

Wagner's dedication and professionalism have made him invaluable to his command and an easy choice as CNATTU Jacksonville's 2012 "Junior Sailor of the Year."

CNATTU Jax names Instructors of Year

By AE1 Robert O'Neill
CNATTU Jax

• AOC(AW/SW) Ahmad Walker was selected as the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit (CNATTU) Jacksonville's 2012 Senior Instructor of the Year.

Walker is currently assigned as leading chief petty officer for Maintenance Training Unit 1005 and is a qualified maintenance training specialist.

He provided 800 hours of instruction to 26 students, teaching MH-60 Weapons Load, Armament and Release courses while maintaining a 100 percent graduation rate with an overall 98.3 percent class GPA.

As the command suicide prevention coordinator, Walker has provided over 60 hours of suicide awareness training for CNATTU Jacksonville staff and 4,200 students.

Additionally, Walker has been at the forefront of a multi-billion dollar program to provide MH-60 Romeo training for the Royal Australian Navy.

His leadership was instru-



AOC(AW/SW) Ahmad Walker

mental to the readiness and training for both U.S. Navy and Royal Australian Navy Sailors during this highly visible international collaboration.

• AO1(AW/SW) Quindoly Lucy was selected as CNATTU Jacksonville's 2012 Instructor of the Year.

Currently assigned as Maintenance Training Unit 1011, Aviation Ordnance/Electrical Division leading petty officer and P-3C Armament/Ordnance System



AO1(AW/SW) Quindoly Lucy

Maintenance Course, P-3C Conventional Weapons Loading Course Leading Aviation Ordnance instructor, she provided over 240 hours of instruction to 104 students while maintaining an impressive 100 percent graduation rate.

Lucy was responsible for the completion of 12 formal course and safety reviews, and the maintenance and upkeep of three ordnance trainers valued at \$1.3 million.



AT2(AW) Max Delpivo

As a master training specialist mentor, she provided 36 hours of training to command personnel which resulted in the qualification of seven master training specialists.

As a drug and alcohol program advisor (DAPA), she provided training to 167 military and civilian staff as well as 1,300 students.

Her assignment as a sexual assault and prevention response (SAPR) coordinator ensured a highly effective pro-

gram and training.

• AT2(AW) Max Delpivo was selected as CNATTU Jacksonville's 2012 Junior Instructor of the Year.

Delpivo is the sole SH-60B instructor on board CNATTU Jacksonville.

He is qualified to instruct four maintenance courses, and manages the initial and career SH-60B courses for both Jacksonville and North Island as the course curriculum model manager, while also being a qualified master training specialist.

Delpivo has maintained a student class average of 98.7 percent while instructing 36 students.

He has dedicated numerous hours to command level collateral duties such as SAPR and assistant DAPA representative, command sponsor, and Second Class Petty Officer's Association treasurer.

He is also a member of the U.S. Navy Rugby team, and has assisted the University of Northern Florida rugby team coaching staff.

CNATTU Jax announces Civilians of Year

By ATCS Kevin McNulty
CNATTU Jax PAO

Charles Beene has been selected as the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit (CNATTU) Jacksonville's 2012 Senior Civilian of the Year.

Beene is the information technology's (IT) director of 276 NMCI computers at two CNATTU sites, aboard NAS Jacksonville and NS Mayport. His dedicated efforts have been invaluable in providing the highest quality, most up-to-date computer network and software support to staff, instructors and students. He continually lends his vast technical knowledge and expertise to assist other commands and IT managers across the CNATT



Charles Beene

domain, always seeking a more efficient, protected network in support of the Naval Education and Training Command's training mission.



John Torres

John Torres was selected as CNATTU Jacksonville's 2012 Junior Civilian of the Year. Torres is the student management supervisor responsible



Jeffrey Hayes

for the accurate and timely processing of all students at CNATTU Jacksonville.

He is the liaison between fleet commands and CNATTU

Jacksonville's Maintenance Training Units coordinating classes and mobile training teams.

Jeffrey Hayes is CNATTU Jacksonville's 2012 Civilian Instructor of the Year. Hayes is assigned as P-3 avionics phase instructor for Maintenance Training Unit 1011.

His vast technical expertise and cross certification in 10 maintenance courses of instruction have made him an invaluable asset to the command. Hayes was responsible for the completion of all but one scheduled P-3 Avionics related courses of instruction in 2012. Additionally, he recently completed his master's degree through Webster University.

Disposition Services Reservist recognized

From DLA Disposition Services

LSCS Gregory Evans, a Reservist with Navy Operational Support Center Jax who is assigned to Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Disposition Services, was among those recognized at the 45th annual Employee Recognition Ceremony Dec. 12 at the McNamara Headquarters Complex at Fort Belvoir, Va.

During the ceremony, DLA Director Vice Adm. Mark Harnitchek presented Evans with the DLA Reserve Forces Senior Enlisted Person of the Year Award for his achievements while deployed to Afghanistan as part of the one of the Expeditionary Disposal Remediation Teams (EDRT).

He was specifically cited for work he did to improve the speed and safety of the movement of DLA Disposition Services military, civilian and contractor personnel onto and off forward operating bases. EDRTs and other Disposition Services personnel travel to remote forward bases to help front line units with scrap handling, demilitarization of equipment and



Photo by Teodora Mocanu

Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Director Vice Adm. Mark Harnitchek, left, presents the DLA Senior Enlisted Person of the Year award to LSCS Gregory Evans during the DLA Disposition Services Employee Recognition Ceremony on Dec. 12 as DLA Deputy Director Army Col. Richard Ellis and DLA Troop Support Acting Commander Rear Adm. Patricia Wolfe look on.

turn ins, especially when units are wrapping up their deployments.

Evans is the senior enlisted leader of a team assigned to DLA Disposition Services Jacksonville when not deployed. Recognizing the achievements of individuals and teams across the DLA enterprise occurs each December.

The annual event includes naming 10 people as DLA employees of the year, team performance awards, civilian and military leadership awards, and DLA Joint Reserve awards.



Photo by Matt Simons

NAVFAC Award

Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Jack Scorby Jr. (right) presents Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast Commanding Officer Capt. Christopher Kiwus with the Defense Superior Service Medal Dec. 17 for distinguished service June 2009 to June 2012 as Engineer Division Chief, Logistics Directorate, Headquarters at U.S. Africa Command.

Runners enjoy annual Jingle Bell Jog

By Kaylee LaRocque
NAS Jax Public Affairs Specialist

It was a cool Florida day as 125 people showed up for the annual Jingle Bell Jog Dec. 13. The event is each year by the NAS Jax Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Department and was sponsored by Allied American University and the University of Phoenix.

Placing first overall and in the men's 19 and under category was Jacob Schmit of Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Eleven with a time of 19:42. Taking first overall for the women and in the women's 35-39 category, was Nicole Amador of Navy Operational Support Command with a time of 24:08.

Other winners were:
Men's 19 and under
Second - Kyle Booner, VR-62, 21:38

Naval Hospital Jax wins Greybeard Fall Basketball Championship

By Bill Bonser
NAS Jax Sports Coordinator

Naval Hospital Jax won their second consecutive Greybeard Fall Basketball Championship Dec. 13. The 2013 Greybeard Basketball League was shortened by two months due to the gymnasium closing for renovations for six months.

There were seven teams competing in a double elimination playoff format to determine the 2013 Captain's Cup Greybeard Basketball Champion.

Naval Hospital Jax won their first game of the playoffs against Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE), but lost their second game to VP-16 sending them to the loser's bracket.

Naval Hospital Jax rebounded by winning their next three games against Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast, FRCSE, and VP-16 to set up a shot at the championship against Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (NCTS) Jax. NCTS had not lost in the playoffs so Naval Hospital Jax had to beat them twice to win the championship due to the double elimination playoff format.

Naval Hospital Jax responded in the championship game defeat-

Third - David Cassata, MWR, 23:52

Women's 19 and under
First - Jessica LaFond, 33:06
Second - Addison Brennan, 36:39
Third - Abby Kennedy, 39:19

Men's 20-24
First - John Stone, Naval Hospital Jax, 22:18
Second - Aaron Stuckey, Naval Hospital Jax, 22:24
Third - Jake McCardell, Naval Hospital Jax, 23:46

Women's 20-24
First - Yooh Yahg Segatto, 27:41
Second - Samantha Stoltman, 29:15
Third - Elizabeth Santiago, 30:44

Men's 25-29
First - Robert Garske, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast (NAVFAC SE), 22:11
Second - Kyle Acton, NAVFAC SE, 24:26
Third - Dustin Quakenbush, VP-30, 24:29

Women's 25-29
First - Ashley Burger, 26:15
Second - Yvonne Pastorious, DCS Jax, 27:37
Third - Katlyn Hevner, VR-62,

29:02

Men's 30-34
First - Jacob Neith, NAVFAC SE, 20:25
Second - Michael Ricketts, VP-30, 20:33
Third - Daniel Sears, 22:51

Women's 30-35
First - Gina Anderson, 24:52
Second - Michelle Yarbrough, Naval Hospital Jax, 27:48
Third - Susan Simonsen, 29:28

Men's 35-39
First - Doug Herrin, NAVFAC SE, 21:16
Second - Zinovy Senishin, Naval Hospital Jax, 24:39
Third - Brent Kupfer, NAVFAC SE, 24:49

Women's 35-39
Second - Katherine Sears, VP-62, 26:16
Third - Shannon Leonard, MWR, 31:16

Men's 40-44
First - Mark Edelson, NAVFAC SE, 21:22
Second - Michael Fleming, 21:29
Third - Jerry Skirvin, Naval Hospital Jax, 24:19

Women's 40-44



Photo by Bill Bonser

Members of the Naval Hospital Jax Greybeard Basketball Team proudly display their trophy after winning the fall basketball championship. (From left, back row) Shannon Carswell, Jonathan Scott, Curtis Presley and Bryant Refour. (From left, front row) Simario Pious, Keith Fox, Willie Williams and Craig Freeman.

ing NCTS 54-30 led by the scoring of Shannon Carswell with 19 points and Jonathan Scott added 14 points. The win forced a second and final game for the 2013 Captain's Cup Greybeard Fall Basketball Championship.

In the second game, NCTS had no answer for Naval Hospital Jax's offensive barrage with Simario Pious hitting five three-pointers and scoring 25 points to lead the team to a lopsided 64-32 victory over NCTS to win the 2013 Captain's Cup Greybeard Fall Basketball Championship and their second consecutive Greybeard Fall Basketball Championship.



Photo by Morgan Kehnert

A group of runners get ready to take off from the starting line during the annual Jingle Bell Jog on Dec. 13.

First - Mariza Harmon, 25:28
Second - Robin Anton, VR-62, 26:16
Third - Susan Stoltman, 30:17

Men's 45-49
First - Keith Poythress, 19:50
Second - Lee Grose, 20:52
Third - Louis Lavopa, Naval Hospital Jax, 21:05

Women's 45-49
First - Dulce Castro, 26:51
Second - Janie Senishin, 27:54
Third - Adrienne Brown, 28:41

Men's 50 & Over
First - Steven Damit, 21:28
Second - Tom Henkel, 24:53
Third - Stanley Lomax, 25:11

Women's 45-49
First - Charlotte Chenoweth, 29:00
Second - Constance Senkowski, 30:20
Third - Elisa Jacque, 32:18

The next run will be the Valentine's 5K in February. For more information and to sign up, call 542-3239/3518.

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

VR-58 wins flag football championship

By James Stewart
Special Contributor

The VR-58 "Sunseekers" defeated VP-30 Pro's (Officers) 27-13 to win the base 7-on-7 Flag Football Championship at Sea King Park Dec 10. Both teams had advanced through the 20-team single elimination tournament to the championship game during the week. The game was played in the driving rain and featured wild snaps, balls slipping out of player hands and crazy pitchouts.

In the championship game, VP-30 scored first on their initial drive to take a 7-0 lead. VP-30 Quarterback Ryan Brown tossed a 9-yard touchdown pass to John Fitzgerald to cap a 9-play drive.

But VR-58 C-came back to tie the game as Quarterback Mark Mitchum hit his first seven passes and then hit Joel Rogers with a TD pass to tie the score 7-7. Both team's defenses continued to keep the game scoreless and with less than 2 minutes left in the half it looked like 7-7 would be the score. However VR-58's Zack Jackson picked off a pass and set up a touchdown pass from Mitchum to Josh Saras to give VR-58 a 14-7 halftime lead.

The wet conditions made it difficult



Photo by James Stewart

Members of the VR-58 "Sunseekers" Flag Football Team proudly display their trophy after winning the base championship against the VP-30 Pro's at Sea King Park on Dec. 10.

for the teams to score as both teams had drives stalled due to wet ball errors.

VR-58 had key play when Mike McCoy made an interception and Mitchum moved VR-58 to the 3-yard line hitting six of seven passes. Mitchum easily took the ball in for the touchdown putting VR-58 in the lead 20-7.

In the fourth quarter, VP-30 went for a fourth and long from deep in its own territory and turned the ball over on downs at its own 10-yard line. VR-58 then scored to make it 27-7 and VP-30 could not come back from there.

Mitchum connected on 31 of 43 passes during the night while Saras and Rogers each had seven catches for VR-58. Fitzgerald had five catches and two touchdowns in a losing effort for VP-30.



Photos by Morgan Kehnert

Weather was perfect as participants in the Army/Navy Golf Tournament prepared for the first round of play on Dec. 6 at the NAS Jax Golf Club.

Army/Navy Golf Tournament held

By Morgan Kehnert
MWR Marketing

Fifty-seven players took to the NAS Jax Golf Course Dec. 6 for the 13th Army/Navy alumni golf tournament. This annual battle for bragging rights in the River City takes place prior to the football game and it always proves to be a fun and competitive event.

For the past two years, the Army team has taken home the trophy, however, this year the Blue and Gold team was victorious, winning by a wide margin.

The Chapter President of the Navy Alumni Association, Mike Borns ('70) graciously accepted the trophy during the awards presentation. Greg Streeter ('58) won the award for the oldest class represented and Peter Garfield ('70) was presented with the "Jungle" award, for his many forays into the unknown wil-



Robert Hicks and Gordon Arbogast look on as Bob Zvacek sinks his put at the Army/Navy Golf Tournament held at the NAS Jax Golf Course.

derness in search of his elusive golf ball. The honored guest speaker from the Wounded Warrior Project was retired Marine Capt. Denis Oliveiro.

During the tournament, Denis paired up with Bill Farnsworth ('65) and they took third place net and a couple "closest to the pin" prizes. Denis's talk during dinner was inspirational and his service truly heroic. Denis was presented with donations to WWP from both the Jax chapter as well as the West Point Society.

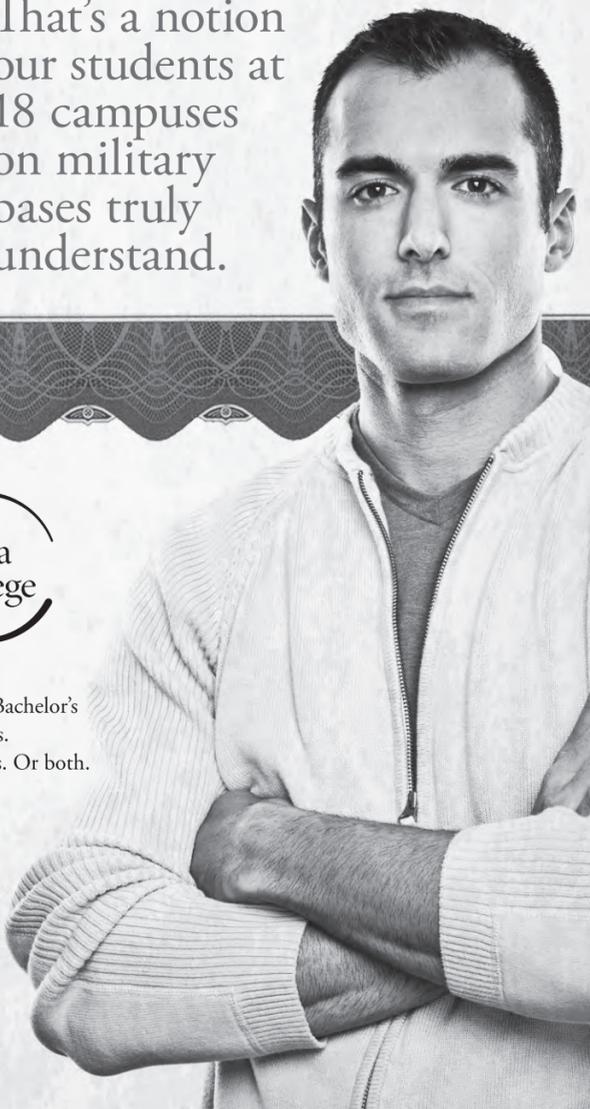
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Gym is temporarily relocated to The
Zone (Bldg. 798) Jan. 14 - June 30.

L.I.I. Events

Call 542-3318.
Wild Florida Airboats & Wild Animal
Park
Kenansville, Fla.
\$17 - \$46.50

Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey
Circus
Jan. 18-21, \$13

Jacksonville Symphony - \$27.50

Monster Truck Jam Feb. 23
Preferred seating - \$41, lower-level seat-
ing \$22

Live Broadway Series
Mary Poppins - Jan. 26

Billy Elliot - March 2
Rock of Ages - April 6
Dream Girls - May 21

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Complimentary tickets for active duty
and retirees, free 3-day, park-to-park
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Tickets available at ITT through March
31 and must be redeemed by June 30.
Ask about special discounted tickets for
family members.

Wild Adventures Theme Park - Gold
pass \$71

Daytona 500 Feb. 24
\$62 - \$209
Spring Fan Zone - \$53.50

**The Vault Liberty
Recreation Center**

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

Orange Park Mall & Movie Trip
Jan. 11 at 6 p.m.

Ice Skating Trip
Jan. 12 at 6 p.m.

Paintball Trip
Jan. 19 at 9 a.m.

NAS Jax Golf Club

Golf course info: 542-3249
Mulligan's info: 542-2936

Military Appreciation Days
\$18 per person, includes cart & green
fees

Jan. 22 for active duty
Jan. 10 & 24 for retirees, DoD personnel
and their guests

Daily Twilight Special
Play 18-holes with cart for \$16 after
12:30 p.m.

Monday & Tuesday
Play 18 holes for \$20
Cart and green fee included.
Open to military, DoD and guests. Not
applicable on holidays.

Mulberry Cove Marina

Call 542-3260.
Free Kayak & Canoe Rental
Every Thursday for active duty

Auto Skills Center

Call 542-3227
Auto Skills 101 Class
Jan. 17, 5-7 p.m.
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Youth Activities Center

Call 778-9772
Movie Under the Stars
Jan. 18, 6 p.m. at Patriots Grove
Featuring "Finding Nemo"

Flying Club

Call 777-8549
Private Pilot Ground School
March 18 - April 24
\$500 per person

Children's holiday bingo



Photos by Shannon Leonard

ADCS Matthew Schons of Fleet Readiness Center Southeast shows his granddaugh-
ter, Aaliyah Brown where to daub during children's holiday bingo at Dewey's on
Dec. 15. Nearly 100 children showed up to participate in the event sponsored by
MWR.



MaryFrancis Chergi points to the next number on her granddaughter Jenny
Dearie's bingo card during children's holiday bingo at Dewey's.

Reindeer games



Tyler Brown (back) and HN Max Ciccone complete
the Dasher station by canoeing around the buoys
and heading back to shore during the 2012 NAS Jax
Reindeer Games.



Photos by Morgan Kehnert

Volunteers and participants congratulate STC Nicolas Puga (front, left) and STC Lee Dean for winning the
2012 NAS Jax Reindeer Games on Dec. 8. The games consisted of teams of two participating in a holiday race
to collect nine reindeers to win. The tasks included caroling, building a gingerbread house, free throw shots,
bowling strikes, soccer goals, canoeing and more. The event was sponsored by Geico. Neither MWR, nor the
U.S. Navy or any other part of the federal government officially endorses any company, sponsor or its prod-
ucts or services.

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Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

New Historical display

Fleet Readiness Center Southeast personnel tow an EA-6B Prowler aircraft down Yorktown Boulevard at NAS Jax towards Heritage Park on Dec. 14. The Prowler is painted in a World War II paint scheme and displays the names of several naval aviator heroes including Capt. Scott Speicher, who was shot down during the Gulf War; Capt. Michael Estocin, a Medal of Honor recipient for actions during the Vietnam Conflict; Cmdr. Harry Ferrier, a Distinguished Flying Cross recipient for actions during the Battle of Midway; and Cmdr. Guy Bordelon, Jr., who earned the Navy Cross Medal and is the only Navy Ace of the Korean War. The aircraft is on loan from the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola.



Technicians from Fleet Readiness Center Southeast carefully unfold the wings of the EA-6B Prowler aircraft after moving it to Heritage Park on Dec. 14, where it is now on display.

REMEMBER! CELEBRATE! ACT! A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF

**NAS JAX MULTICULTURAL AWARENESS COMMITTEE PRESENTS:
THE ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION**

**All Saints Chapel
Jan. 16, 11:30 a.m.**

Guest Speaker: Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth Vargas

The Flight Line Café will serve some of Dr. King's favorite dishes. Civilians are authorized to eat lunch at the galley after the event.



FOR ASL COMMUNICATION, PLEASE CONTACT JUNARION HUBBARD AT JUNARION.HUBBARD@navy.mil or 542-1581.



Photo by Lt. j.g. Kevin Wendt

Navy Information Operations Detachment Jacksonville receives pennant

Before Navy Information Operations Detachment (NIOD) Jax officially decommissioned on Dec. 31, Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) presented them with the Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist (EIDWS) pennant for exceptional service while stationed at NAS Jax. "Our consistent ability to dominate the realm of information warfare with committed people like you is essential to the future successes of the missions we support, and all of your efforts have earned you this honor," said CMDMCM(SW/AW/NAC) Christopher Welch of U.S. Fleet Cyber Command. (From left) NIOC Georgia Commanding Officer Capt. James Brokaw, NIOD Jax Officer in Charge Lt. J.J. Davis, retired EIDWS Coordinator Petty Officer First Class Michelle Kwon, EIDWS Coordinator Petty Officer First Class Joshua Weaver and CMDMCM(SW/AW/NAC) Christopher Welch of U.S. Fleet Cyber Command.

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VP-62 hosts local students

From VP-62

Sixty-three kindergarten students from Assumption Catholic School visited the VP-62 "Broadarrows" at NAS Jax Dec. 12.

The children were given a tour of the Jay Beasley maritime patrol hangar where they were educated on the P-3 Orion and the squadron's role in the Navy.

At the end of the tour, the kindergarteners had the opportunity to board a fully operational P-3.

"All of the teachers and the adults who were chaperoning the trip raved about the visit,"

said Mildred Churchill, one of the teachers.

"We were so impressed with how smoothly it all went. It seemed like they rolled out the red carpet for us."

"We all learned so much and the visit just reinforced our gratitude to our military and the Navy in particular."

"This was the first visit to NAS Jax in about 10 years," said Churchill, whose husband is a retired Army veteran.

The kindergarten teacher jumped at the opportunity when VP-62 Executive Officer Cmdr. John Townsend invited the students to visit

the squadron, his own daughter being among the children in her class.

"As both a parent and a representative of the Navy, there is no time better spent than with America's youth," said Townsend.

"The responsibility to parent and mentor all of our children in a positive way will certainly determine the strength of our future in this country."

"The time spent sharing our squadron's purpose with those children was fun and exciting for them, and highly motivating for our squadron members. Best case result would be that a

memory of their VP-62 visit would influence one of those children to follow in our footsteps and choose to become the next Broadarrow Sailor."

All of the students were enthralled with the visit, said Churchill.

Many of the children said afterwards they, "wanted to be pilots when they grow up."

VP-62 is a reserve patrol and reconnaissance squadron based at NAS Jacksonville.

They have provided supplemental maritime support to the fleet since 1972.



Photo by PNI Christopher McGraw

Kindergarten students from Assumption Catholic School listen as Cmdr. George Naumovski of VP-62 talks about his squadron's mission during a tour of Hangar 1000 and an operational P-3 Orion Dec. 12.

Fleet Forces explores protective clothing solutions

NWU Type I is not flame-resistant

From Defense Media Activity, Navy

Commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command reached out to fleet leaders in a Navy message Dec. 12 to ensure Sailors understand the minimal flame resistant qualities of the Navy Working Uniform Type I.

Adm. Bill Gortney explained the current requirement for working uniforms and organizational clothing and discussed recent uniform testing results.

"In coordination with the uniform board, Adm. Haney (Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet) and I will continue to review the requirements for, and flame-resistant qualities of, working uniforms including the Type I NWUs," Gortney explained in his message.

The latest push for awareness stems from an impromptu test the Navy Clothing Textile Research Facility conducted Oct. 15, in Natick, Mass. The test reinforced the fact that the NWU Type I is not flame-resistant.

"We will explore long-term solutions that afford our Sailors the right protective clothing, aligned with the tasks they are required to perform in various operating environments," said Gortney.

In 2012, fire-retardant NWU Type II/III and coveralls became part of the Navy's organizational clothing inventory. The Navy began issuing flame resistant organizational gear (FROG) I and II, in the NWU Type II and III pattern, to Navy ground force personnel deploying to Afghanistan and those conducting operations in environments where improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are a common threat.

Navy leadership removed the flame-resistant requirements from NWUs in 1996, and commands since then have been required to purchase flame-resistant organizational clothing for Sailors.



Photo by Matt Simons

NAVFAC SE employees recognized

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast Executive Officer Capt. Scott Hurst presents Employee of the Quarter awards to Phillip Dixon and Jill Rose on Dec. 17. Dixon was named Supervisor of the Quarter for his leadership leading a team of over 30 personnel to accomplish a number of high visibility in-house projects including 100 percent design for the \$16 million air traffic control tower in New Orleans. He has tirelessly worked to improve the source selection process streamlining and standardizing the reports. Rose was recognized as Employee of the Quarter for her work with the NAVFAC Southeast Cadastral Modernization Initiative pilot program that was officially transitioned into the NAVFAC-wide Cadastral Modernization Program (CMP) thanks to her efforts. The purpose of the CMP is to make vital original Navy and Marine Corps real estate records electronically accessible to CNIC, Region, NAVFAC SE, installation, and Marine Corps users with the highest possible degree of accuracy.



Photo courtesy of NAVFAC Southeast

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast Commanding Officer Capt. Christopher Kiwus presents Jennifer Kelley with Employee of the Quarter Award for Fourth Quarter 2012 on Dec. 18. Kelley is the program analyst for the Assistant Regional Engineer's office managing \$520 million across 13 installations. Her keen skills helped manage budgets, requirements and accounting information in an effort to obtain funding for emergent mission critical requirements as well as garner additional funding at the end of the year while having to overcome a continuing resolution in lieu of an official budget. Her supervisor praised her stating the success of this region is directly tied to her ability to effectively communicate with all installations and her great coordination.

Community Calendar

University of Florida Duval County Extension Office offers a free "Preparing the Spring Garden" class Jan. 29 from 6-8 p.m. at Highlands Branch Library, 1826 Dunn Ave., Jacksonville. To register, call 255-7450 or email beckyd@coj.net.

"Putting our Veterans Back to Work" resource and career fair will be held Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ramada Conference Center, 3130 Hartley Road, Jacksonville. More than 40 companies will participate in the free event. For more information, call Oran Brown at 1-800-235-2732, Ext. 800 or visit www.vetready.org.

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@gmail.com or call 282-4650.

National Naval Officers Association meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. at Naval Hospital Jacksonville. Contact CWO3 Lionel Jeffcoat at 594-6908 or lionel.c.jeffcoat@uscg.mil or retired Lt. Cmdr. Paul Nix at 542-2518 or 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.

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 is open to active duty, reserve and retired military, plus, active or retired DoD civilians. Call 778-0805 or email 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

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. 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 Auxilliary 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.

Safety courses save lives

YN2 Johnathan Harding of VP-30, suffered only minor road rash from a motorcycle accident on Nov. 30 - when a car pulled out in front of him. Crediting his personal protective equipment and training in the Military Sport-Bike Rider Course (MSRC) for saving his life, Harding said, "I know for a fact that the education and training I received from that course is what kept me alive. The maneuvering experience I learned from the MSRC allowed me to avoid a full-on collision and only graze the car. I'm truly blessed to still be on this earth." For more information on motorcycle safety classes call 542-3082.



Photo by Lt. j.g. Kevin Wendt

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Last Cuban nationals retire from government service

By Richard Vargas
NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Jacksonville

Cuban nationals Harry Henry and Luis La Rosa retired from government service Dec. 31, marking the end of an era. Both were honored at a ceremony aboard Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO) Dec. 14. At the end of their final day of service New Year's Eve, U.S. Marines opened GTMO's North East Gate allowing Henry and La Rosa to pass through for the final time.

The North East Gate is the northern entry point separating GTMO from the rest of Cuba. When the U.S. leased the 45-square mile plot of land that is the naval station from the Cuban government in 1903, the North East Gate was established as the checkpoint for up to Cuban commuters who would move in and out of the base daily.

In 1958, when vehicle traffic was prohibited, the number of commuters dropped to 300. Today only two remain, Henry and La Rosa.

Henry, 83, and La Rosa, 79, worked at the naval station for a combined 120 years. La Rosa began working on base in 1957 as a welder. Throughout his nearly 60 years of service, he held numerous positions. A few of the most notable projects he worked include the famous GTMO lighthouse; the dock at Ferry Landing



Photo by Richard Vargas

Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Kevin Head presents Harry Henry with the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal during his retirement ceremony on Dec. 14. Henry is a Cuban national who has been working within the supply family since 1972.

and his last project, the stairwell at the Northeast Gate.

Henry, a supply technician at Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) Fleet Logistics Center (FLC) Jacksonville, began work in 1946 as a waiter at the Chief Petty Officers Club.

In April 1951, he was selected for his first federal service position as a messenger and duplicating equipment operator within the naval station ships repair department earning an annual salary of \$1,089. He eventually worked his way up to a GS-05 stock control clerk position.

As the result of a reorganization effort, Henry was moved to the supply department in 1972 where he became a stock clerk.

In 1999, the supply department was again reorganized under NAVSUP, where Henry attained

his supply technician position. He has remained in this position from 1999 until today.

When asked how he felt about retirement, Henry simply said, "I feel excited." After spending more than six decades working at GTMO, he reflected on his experiences, "I never figured I would be the last one leaving as a commuter through the gates; this has been my home," he added with a tear in his eye.

NAVSUP FLC Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Kevin Head attended the historic ceremony. "It was remarkable to be part of this momentous event, and it was a real pleasure to present Mr. Henry with the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal during the ceremony. With nearly 62 years of service, he has truly earned it," Head said.

Navy Medicine volunteers help more than 450 Jacksonville families

By Cmdr. Jeff Stancil
Navy Medicine Education and Training Command
Detachment Jacksonville

Twenty-four Sailors and civilian employees from three Navy Medicine commands and detachments in Jacksonville helped the Salvation Army provide needed items to more than 450 families via the Clay County Corps of the Salvation Army's Holiday Angel Tree program distribution Dec. 20-21.

Volunteers from NAS Jacksonville-based Navy Medicine Education and Training Command (NMETC), Jacksonville detachment; Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Jacksonville detachment; and the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence distributed new clothing and toys for children from low-income Jacksonville-area households.

"We are very grateful for the hard work and fantastic attitudes of the Sailors and civilians who have helped us over the last two days" said Lt. Ben Bridges of the Salvation Army. "Much of the support for our programs comes from local volunteers. This includes everything from ringing bells for the kettle drive to assisting at rehabilitation centers to helping with distribution of donations as part of our Angel Tree program."

The Salvation Army administers the Angel Tree program each year by placing a Christmas tree in a local mall or business. The tree is decorated with

numbered paper "Angel Tags" with the first name, age and gender of the child who will receive the gift. Angel Tree donors across Jacksonville remove one or more tags from the Angel Tree and purchase appropriate gifts for the children on the tags. The toys are then delivered to The Salvation Army, sorted and prepared for distribution just in time for the holidays.

Navy Medicine Jacksonville volunteers helped in a variety of roles, including organizing the warehouse distribution, record keeping and helping families load their gifts.

"This is a great opportunity to give back, in a small way, to the local community that is so supportive of the Navy family here in Jacksonville," said HM1 Teresa Adams, NMETC Administrative Department leading petty officer and one of the volunteers. "Besides, helping to make sure every child has something special under the Christmas tree is a fantastic feeling."

NMETC manages Navy Medicine's education and training and is 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 1 million eligible beneficiaries. Navy Medicine personnel deploy with Sailors and Marines worldwide, providing critical mission support aboard ships, in the air, under the sea and on the battlefield.

Advanced planning can help you survive winter

From Commander, Navy Installations Command

The arrival of the January and the new means that we are bound for colder temperatures in the coming months. Visions of a skiing, curling up by the fire and all their preparations create eager anticipation, but the winter's frigid temperatures, blizzards, and storms make emergency preparedness especially crucial at this time of year. With advanced planning in three key areas, you can be ready for any unexpected hazard that surfaces amidst winter's delight. Ready Navy is here to help. Visit www.ready.navy.mil.

Be and stay informed: Learn about hazards that are common in winter months and most likely to happen in your area, such as winter storms and power outages. The Ready Navy website "Be and Stay Informed" tabs offer specific instructions, information, and resources you may need to know regarding winter storms, power outages and home fires.

Make a plan: As a family, make an emergency plan so that everyone in the family understands what to do, where to go, and what to take in the event of a fire or any emergency. Additionally, winter fire hazards, ice and winter winds can bring down power lines, making traditional communication difficult. Your emergency plan should include how your family will communicate with each other, particularly if normal communication methods, such as phone lines or cell towers, are out. Road conditions and other hazards can limit ease of movement. Have a contact person outside the area that each member of the family can notify that they are safe, if separated. The Ready Navy website provides printable forms and contact cards to guide you in your planning.

Winter fires: Did you know that heating sources are the second leading cause of home fires every year, especially during winter months? Kerosene heaters, candles, and wood burning fireplaces are big culprits, with December being the peak time for home candle fires. Freeze winter fires by using these items safely:

Keep anything combustible at least three feet away from any heat source.

Use kerosene heaters only where approved by authorities, and refuel outside and only after the heater has cooled.

Never leave a burning candle unattended or abandoned.

Use fire screens to keep the fire in the fireplace and have your chimney cleaned every year.

Make sure that your home has at least one smoke detector.

Build a Kit: The best way to prepare for the unexpected is to create one or more emergency kits that include enough water and non-perishable supplies for every family member to survive at least three days. Keep a kit prepared at home, and consider having kits in your car, at work, and a portable version in your home ready to take with you. These kits will enable you and your family to respond to a winter (or any emergency) more effectively. Your various emergency kits will be useful whether you have to shelter-in-place, are stranded at work or on the road, or move to another location. Be sure your kits address the needs of small children, individuals with special needs, and your pets.

For information about Ready Navy and tips, forms, and guidance to be prepared for and stay informed about all hazards, visit www.ready.navy.mil.

Seabees complete project in Afghanistan



Photos by Maj. Charles Patterson

Seabees of 14th Naval Mobile Construction Battalion from NAS Jacksonville, built furniture and personal spaces inside the newly constructed Warrior Recovery Center (WRC), Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Dec. 27. The unit sought the project to help their fellow service members. The benches, wall partitions, and wooden interiors will give the service members a more relaxed environment near the Craig Joint Theater Hospital. The WRC is managed by the 219th Medical Detachment (Combat Operational Stress Control), teaching classes, providing group and individual counseling, and giving service members tools to manage stress in the deployed environment. The WRC programs in both Kandahar and Bagram work to return to duty more than 90 percent of patients who walk through the door.



UT1 Huey Newton from 14th Naval Mobile Construction Battalion, measures the beams for an interior door frame for the newly constructed Warrior Recovery Center, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Dec. 27.



BU1 Michael Guidry of 14th Naval Mobile Construction Battalion, hammers the final nails into a door frame for the newly constructed Warrior Recovery Center, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

Fiscal cliff legislation affects military, civilian paychecks

American Forces Press Service

The legislation that President Barack Obama signed Jan. 2 that postponed the fiscal cliff means changes to military and civilian paychecks, Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) officials said today.

The legislation increases Social Security withholding taxes to 6.2 percent.

For the past two years during the "tax holiday" the rate was 4.2 percent.

The increase in Social Security withholding taxes affects both military and civilian paychecks, officials said.

- For civilian employees, officials said, this will mean a 2 percent reduction in net pay.

- For military personnel, changes to net pay are affected by a variety of additional factors such as increases in basic allowances for housing, subsistence, longevity basic pay raises and promotions. Service members could see an increase in net pay, no change or a decrease, military personnel and readiness officials said.

- For military members, Social Security withholding is located on their leave and earnings statement in the blocks marked "FICA taxes" - for Federal Insurance Contributions Act.

- DOD civilians will see the change on their leave and earnings statement under "OASDI" -- for old age, survivors, and disability insurance.

- Reserve component members will be the first to see potential changes in their net pay as a result of the law, DFAS officials said. Changes will be reflected in their January paychecks.

Active duty military personnel will see pay adjustments in their January mid-month paycheck and will be reflected on the January leave and earnings statement.

- DOD civilians will see social security withholding changes reflected in paychecks based on the pay period ending December 29, 2012, for pay dates beginning in January.

DFAS stresses that all personnel should review pay statements carefully.

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