

Jax Air News

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Photo by MC2 Marcus Stanley

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(AW/NAC)Michael Stevens discusses the CPO 365 Training program with chief petty officers and first class petty officers from NAS Jacksonville after a physical training session on Feb. 13. CPO 365 is a year-long program designed to prepare the minds and bodies of the Navy's next-generation of senior enlisted leadership.

Command Master Chief welcomes MCPON Stevens

From Staff

NAS Jacksonville Command Master Chief CMDMCM(AW/SW) Brad Shepherd welcomed Stevens with a full itinerary on Feb. 13.

"MCPON Stevens played an integral part in developing the CPO 365 roll-out that took place in 2010 under MCPON Rick West. He had heard how well the program was being implemented here at NAS Jax and wanted to visit our base to see for himself - so we began before dawn with our 4½-mile run.

Shepherd said that MCPON also discussed mentoring approaches for today's "Sailorization" process - and the importance of developing junior Sailors into well-rounded service members.

At various stops on his base tour, junior and senior Sailors alike were concerned about the budgetary effects of sequestration. Stevens deferred budget issues to his boss, CNO Adm. Jonathan Greenert, but said that everyone will likely see changes in operational, training and maintenance budgets.

As the Navy's third-largest shore installation, Stevens and Shepherd were able to spend time at a number of NAS Jacksonville tenant commands, including VP-16, VP-26, Air Operations, Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility Jacksonville and the Surface Rescue Swimmers School.

During his meetings held at Dewey's All Hands Club, Stevens took a variety of questions from concerned officers, senior enlisted leaders, as well as E6 and below.

Shepherd said that Stevens also assured Sailors that advancement opportunities would stay the same through 'Perform to Serve' - an end-strength, force-management tool that uses performance criteria within individual ratings to ensure long-term sustainment of skills and experience throughout the Navy.

MCPON visits NAS Jax

By MC2 Thomas Rosprim

Office of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (AW/NAC) Mike Stevens completed a three-day trip to NAS Jacksonville and Naval Base Guantanamo Bay Cuba Feb. 15.

MCPON participated in CPO 365 events, toured base facilities, took the opportunity to discuss the focus areas of his "Zeroing in on Excellence" initiative, and answered questions about new uniforms, budget cuts, family readiness group, the Perform to Serve program, and deployments during base-wide all hands calls.

CPO 365, a yearlong development and training for first class petty officers, was first introduced in 2010

under former MCPON Rick West. It includes two phases, the first of which begins in September each year. Under MCPON Steven's revised program, detailed in his 2012-2013 CPO 365 Guidance, all first class petty officers will participate through the duration of Phase One, whether they are board-eligible or not.

"CPO 365 is so important for the future development of our first class petty officers. "I believe that if you're going to lead the future force of our Navy that you must be armed with the best opportunities to succeed," said Stevens.

CPO 365 is designed to develop leaders through a combination of mentorship, practical experience and training.

See MCPON, Page 9

Navy renews environmental partnership with state, local agencies

By Kaylee LaRocque

NAS Jax Public Affair Specialist

Representatives from NAS Jacksonville, Navy Region Southeast, NS Mayport and Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) joined City of Jacksonville and state officials in signing the Northeast Florida Environmental Compliance Partnering Team Charter Feb. 12 at Jacksonville City Hall.

"The Navy is a part of the Jacksonville community and the Northeast Florida Environmental Compliance Partnering Team is a prime example of our ongoing cooperation on items of mutual interest," said Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Jack Scorby Jr.

"We continue to maintain a proactive partnership with environmental regulatory agencies to identify and implement innovative solutions with the goals of enhancing environmental compliance, promoting natural resources management and protecting public health."

"The Northeast Florida Environ-



Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Jack Scorby Jr. signs the Northeast Florida Environmental Compliance Partnering Team Charter as Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown and CNRSE Regional Environmental Coordinator Camille Destafney look on.

mental Compliance Partnering Team shows that we are stronger when we

work together on behalf of our waterways, our land, the air we breathe

and the future of our city," added Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown.

"I'm proud to carry on this tradition of partnership for our city and I thank the Navy, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and all the stakeholders for their continued support."

The team was established in 2002 to ensure Navy and regulatory agencies achieve environmental compliance by identifying and implementing innovative solutions to promote natural resources management and protect public health.

According to NAS Jax Environmental Director Kevin Gartland, who briefed the team before the charter signing, the partnership has exceeded all expectations to provide more efficient and effective protection of Jacksonville's air and water resources.

Gartland shared some of the major accomplishments of the partnership

See ENVIRONMENTAL, Page 9

VR-62 detachment returns

From VR-62 Public Affairs

The VR-62 "Nomads" returned recently from Navy Central Command (NAVCENTCOM) after a very successful 10-week detachment.

While in NAVCENT, the Nomads flew 39 missions in detached operations with one C-130T Hercules aircraft and a crew of 22 maintainers and aircrew. These personnel are made up of Selected Reserve and Full Time Support Sailors.

The Nomads flew high priority missions supporting Combined Task Force 53 (CTF53) by providing fast and flexible transport in the short-fused high stress environment of the NAVCENTCOM area of responsibility (AOR).

During the detachment, the VR-62 team delivered more than 1.3 million pounds of high priority cargo.

VR-62 has two basic missions while

in NAVCENTCOM - Production missions to meet the logistics needs of the battle group and special one off type contingency missions to meet the ever-changing needs of the AOR on a "go now" basis.

"We love both missions," said AWFC5 Mike Wendelin.

"Production missions are great for training a new cadre of loadmasters and flight engineers, and the 'go now' missions are just a great source of satisfaction that the Nomads can accomplish any request anytime."

During this period, VR-62 had the privilege of transporting CTF53 Commanding Officer Capt. Glen Leverette and a group of Seabees to Afghanistan, as well as picking up last-minute logistics requests for operations and exercises.

"Our purpose is to provide the most flexible, responsive and effective air



Photo courtesy of VR-62

A C-130T Hercules operated by the VR-62 "Nomads" prepares for take-off during their recent detachment to Navy Central Command.

logistics capability to the world's most powerful Navy. I am really proud of the work we are doing in NAVCENT and around the world," stated VR-62 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Tony

Scarpino.

VR-62 is one of five Navy Reserve C-130T squadrons serving the Navy's global logistics needs. The Nomads are home based at NAS Jacksonville.

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U.S. Navy photo
USS Ranger (CV-4), in 1939, with biplanes on the flight deck, is anchored in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In 1942, she ferried Army fighter planes to West African bases. She was also an important element in Operation Torch, providing air cover for the invasion of Morocco.



National Archives
In this 1942 photograph, an NAS Jacksonville plane captain signals the pilot of this Douglas C-47 Skytrain (known in the Navy as the R4D) to start his engine – most likely a Pratt & Whitney R-1830 Twin Wasp 14-cylinder radial. This workhorse of aviation was flown by British and American forces during World War II and used extensively for troop (28 soldiers) transport, paratroop operations, glider towing and freight airlift.

This Week in Navy History

From Staff

Feb. 21

1944 - Marines with support of naval bombardment and carrier aircraft secure Eniwetok atoll.

1945 - USS Bismark Sea (CVE-95) is struck by a kamikaze off Iwo Jima and sinks in 90 minutes with loss of 318 men. USS Saratoga (CV-3) struck by five kamikazes, but survives with loss of 123 men. Bismark Sea was the last carrier lost in World War II combat.

Feb. 22

1865 - Rear Adm. Porter's gunboats bombard Wilmington, N.C., forcing its surrender.

1870 - After arriving on USS Nipsic, and supported by USS Guard and USS Nyack, the Darien Expedition, commanded by Cmdr. Thomas Selfridge Jr., begins active operations ashore at

Caldonia Bay to survey the Isthmus of Darien, Panama, for an inter-ocean ship canal.

1909 - Great White Fleet returns to Hampton Roads, Va. from around the world cruise.

1943 - USS Iowa (BB-61), the lead ship of the last class of American fast battle-ships, is commissioned.

1974 - Lt. j.g. Barbara Ann Allen becomes first Navy designated female aviator.

Feb. 23

1795 - U.S. Navy Office of Purveyor of Supplies is established. This is the Navy Supply Corps birthday.

1919 - Launching of Osmond Ingram (DD-255), first Navy ship named for an enlisted man.

1944 - Carrier groups under Adm. Raymond Spruance attack Saipan,

Tinian and Rota in the Marianas.

1945 - Marines and a Navy hospital corpsman raise the American flag on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima.

Feb. 24

1813 - USS Hornet, under command of Capt. James Lawrence, captures HMS Peacock.

1968 - Task Force Clearwater established in I Corps

Feb. 25

1861 - Saratoga, member of U.S. African Squadron, captures slaver sloop Express.

1933 - Commissioning of USS Ranger (CV-4), the Navy's first ship designed and built from the keel up as an aircraft carrier. Of the eight pre-war U.S. aircraft carriers (CV-1 through CV-8), Ranger was one of only three to survive World War II.

1959 - USS Galveston (CLG-3) fires first Talos surface-to-air missile

Feb. 26

1811 - Congress authorizes first naval hospital.

1913 - Approval of experimental wind tunnel for Navy.

1944 - Sue Sophia Dauser, superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps is first woman in Navy to attain rank of Captain.

Feb. 27

1942 - Battle of the Java Sea, allied naval force attacks Japanese invasion convoy.

1973 - First airborne mine sweep in a live minefield took place in Haiphong Harbor, Vietnam ship channel by helicopters from HM-12 embarked on USS New Orleans (LPH 11).

Things to learn from living apart

By Sarah Smiley
Special Contributor

From the Homefront

Readers were surprised to learn last week that after Dustin's yearlong deployment, the military assigned him elsewhere, and together as a family, we decided that the boys and I will stay behind. We will maintain an apartment in one city, a house in the other, and commute on weekends.

Some readers questioned our decision:

"Why would anyone with young children voluntarily live apart from them?"

"That's a great way to end up divorced."

Others reported feeling empowered by our choices:

"Good for you for finding a way to follow both of your dreams."

"Real love doesn't know time or distance."

These conflicting reactions reinforce my original message: my peer group is a transitional generation, sandwiched between our parents, many of

whom wouldn't have considered anything except keeping the family together, and a new crop of young adults who think following a husband is horribly outdated.

Last week, I made the point that the military, by way of its inability to keep up with cultural fluctuations, creates situations where couples have to compromise and live creatively. But the bottom line is that the compromise my husband and I have made is more a symptom of changing familial roles than it is a reflection of the military's long history of frequent moves. If what's considered a "woman's role" and what's considered a "man's role" hadn't changed, the military's move-every-two-years system would not be a problem.

Which means that other, civilian marriages are going through their own evolution, too. Who comes home to make dinner? Who takes off

work when the kids are sick? Perhaps, even, civilian couples have faced the possibility of living temporarily in separate cities for the sake of a career.

The idea of couples being separated by distance is nothing new—Dustin's grandmother didn't see her husband for many years during World War II—but the notion that fathers have to be intimately involved in their children's day-to-day lives is. Remember the 1950s dad who came home from work, patted his kids on the head and then settled into his chair with the newspaper?

In our own situation, Dustin and I have taken all that we know about relationships and distance, changing gender roles and expectations, and we've tried to fashion something new and meaningful for our family until we can all be under the same roof again.

Here are some of my favorite findings so far.

There are many different ways to be absent.

I can't stress this enough. Having a spouse physically present is nice, but having a spouse emotionally present is even better.

There are plenty of couples who co-exist. We've all seen them. Maybe we've even been that couple at times, but we usually don't want to be. Yet, if we place "physical togetherness" as the ultimate goal, "co-existing" can sometimes be a very real and unfulfilling outcome.

The same applies to parents. Being physically present does not necessarily guarantee that a father is mentally and emotionally present as well. Being present—truly present—whether through the miles or not, takes commitment and effort.

Quality time is more important than quantity of time.

Considering last year's deployment, by the time Dustin is done with his current tour of duty, we will have had very little time together.

Love does not allow "Out of sight, out of mind."

When things get tough, Dustin reminds me, if the only thing holding our marriage together is being physically in each other's presence, then we have bigger problems. He's right. Love and commitment doesn't stop when he walks out the door.

Absence really does build appreciation.

It's easy to put things off. It's even easier to forget what you have. But when you say goodbye to your husband every Sunday, you can't help but wake up Monday morning thinking of all the things you miss about him.

So you spend long hours on the phone together, just talking. And you realize, if he was on the opposite couch, you probably would have watched television together in silence instead.

And all of the sudden, you feel like you are falling in love with your husband all over again.

Hey, Money Chic!

I have been looking for a job for months! Jacksonville seems like the hardest place to find employment. Do you have any tips to help me find a job?

Money Chic Sez: Of course I do! In fact, there is a Military Spouse Hiring Fair and Career Forum today from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the NAS Jax Officers' Club.

According to the flier circulating our office, the Military Spouse Business Alliance is bringing a one-of-a-kind hiring fair for spouses of active duty, guard, reserves, and retired veterans.

This fair will feature: employers looking for and

Hey, MoneyChic!

committed to hiring military spouses, presentations to help spouses plan a career in a highly mobile environment, and resume editing on site.

There are also many resources on base that may assist you in your job search. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation office has a list of jobs available in Building 1 and on their NAS Jacksonville MWR Facebook page. For more information, call 542-3111.

The Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) would also be a great place to go. FFSC is able to help with spic-

ing up your resume, preparing you for job interviews, and may be able to put you in contact with companies interested in hiring military spouses. Call 1-866-293-2776 to schedule an appointment.

If you are looking for a government job, go to usajobs.gov. This website is updated frequently with new positions on base.

WorkSource would also be a great resource. They have an office just outside the main gate in Building 13. Their website states that WorkSource opens the door for employment through education,

training, and career services. To contact them, call 356-JOBS. worksourcefl.com is their website.

It's a tough job market out there. When you find the perfect new job, let me know. We can sit down and work through a new budget to see how your paychecks will impact your financial future.

As always, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is here to lend a helping hand. If you would like more information, stop by the office outside the Yorktown Gate or call 542-2832.

Have questions for Hey, Money Chic? Drop me an e-mail at megan.stolle@nmcrs.org.

Hiring our Heroes

Military Spouse Job Fair

will be held today, Feb. 21

from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m

at the NAS Jax

Officers' Club.

This hiring fair and career forum is open to spouses of active duty, Guard, Reserves, veterans and retirees.



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Executive Officer
Capt. Roy Undersander

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CMDCM(AW/SW)
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Next week is Military Saves Week

From Staff

The NAS Jacksonville Military Saves kickoff is Feb. 25 at 8 a.m. at Dewey's All Hands Club.

Military Saves is a free program. Organizations participate in Military Saves because they want to help servicemembers and their families build wealth – not debt.

Military Saves is part of the



Department of Defense's Financial Readiness Campaign and has been a partner with DoD since 2003.

Military Saves is a social marketing

campaign to persuade, motivate, and encourage military families to save money every month, and to convince leaders and organizations to be aggressive in promoting automatic savings.

Military Saves is a part of America Saves, the larger nation-wide campaign for all Americans.

Savers who take the Military Saves Pledge can opt to receive a monthly e-newsletter from Military Saves, as

well as a quarterly e-newsletter from America Saves.

Workshops continue Feb. 26 - 28 at the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit Jacksonville (Building 858), from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Blue Room.

Military Saves is a year-round campaign and provides savings-themed resource packets available to organizations throughout the year.

Scorby signs 'Military Saves Week' Proclamation

By MC1(SW) Greg Johnson
Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs

Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Jack Scorby Jr. signed a proclamation in support of Military Saves Week at Navy Region Southeast (NRSE) headquarters Feb. 13.

Military Saves Week runs from Feb. 25 through March 2 and is intended to encourage service members to make responsible financial decisions to build wealth and reduce debt.

The proclamation officially recognizes the week and calls on all service members throughout the Southeast Region to take action to improve their individual and household financial situations.

"Personal financial stability is vital to our mission readiness," Scorby said.

"If our war fighters and their families are experiencing financial problems, it makes it very difficult to focus on the mission. These difficulties are largely preventable with the proper planning. Our efforts with Military Saves Week encourages everyone to assess their financial situation and honestly ask themselves if they can be doing more to improve it."

Military Saves is a social marketing campaign to persuade, motivate and encourage military families to save money every month and to convince leaders to be aggressive in promoting automatic savings.

It is a part of the Department of Defense's (DoD) Financial Readiness

Campaign and has been a partner with DoD since 2003.

"This has been a successful campaign for 10 years," said Carol Lucius, NRSE Family Readiness Program work and family life coordinator.

"If a sailor can identify a goal, whether it is to set up an emergency cash fund, get out of debt, make a down payment on a car or home, set up a regular and automatic savings plan or saving for college or retirement, Military Saves can help you develop your goals and take action."

The program focuses on helping service members develop financial goals and taking the proper steps to achieve them by providing savings advice, tools, resources and motivation.

According to Lucius, the program has a tremendous impact on service members because they routinely face extraordinary circumstances.

"Deployments and frequent moves can be big financial strains on military households and good financial planning for both events is essential for success," she said.

"Fleet and Family Support Centers' (FFSC) personal financial managers (PFM), who are accredited financial counselors, will sit down with a family and help them execute a comprehensive financial planning worksheet to illustrate their current financial situation and to help them plan for the future. Whether a family is in good financial shape or not, PFM's will work with them to improve their financial



Photo by Twilla Smith

Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Jack Scorby Jr. signs a proclamation recognizing Military Saves Week in front of members of the Commander, Navy Region Southeast Family Readiness Program Feb. 13. Military Saves Week runs from Feb. 25 through March 2 and is intended to encourage service members to build wealth and reduce debt.

situation."

The Military Saves campaign is not only targeted at service members, but at the entire family, because spouses and children also play a huge role in overall financial stability, Lucius said.

"The personal financial readiness of our service members and their families directly supports mission readiness, and engaging our military spouses is important, as they play a vital role in maintaining

financial discipline and stability within a military family," she said. "Also, by learning good financial

habits early in life, our children will strengthen their financial fitness for the future. The Military Youth Saves program is designed to encourage kids and teens to develop good savings habits at a young age."

According to Scorby, raising awareness about Military Saves and promoting effective financial planning and decision making is the responsibility of

all leaders throughout the region – not only during Military Saves Week, but year round.

"I challenge all of our leaders at every level in the chain of command to make sure their service members are aware of this program and the resources it offers," he said.

"Military Saves Week is a great opportunity to help raise awareness, but responsible financial planning is a continual effort. We need to ensure our war fighters know there is always somewhere for them to turn to when it comes to financial matters."

Service members or dependents who would like more information about resources and services offered through Military Saves, or organizations who would like to find out how they can support the program, should contact their local FFSC.

In addition, more information is available at <http://www.militarysaves.org/>.

Mine was earned
in the Persian Gulf.
By my dad.

Joseph O., future USAA member

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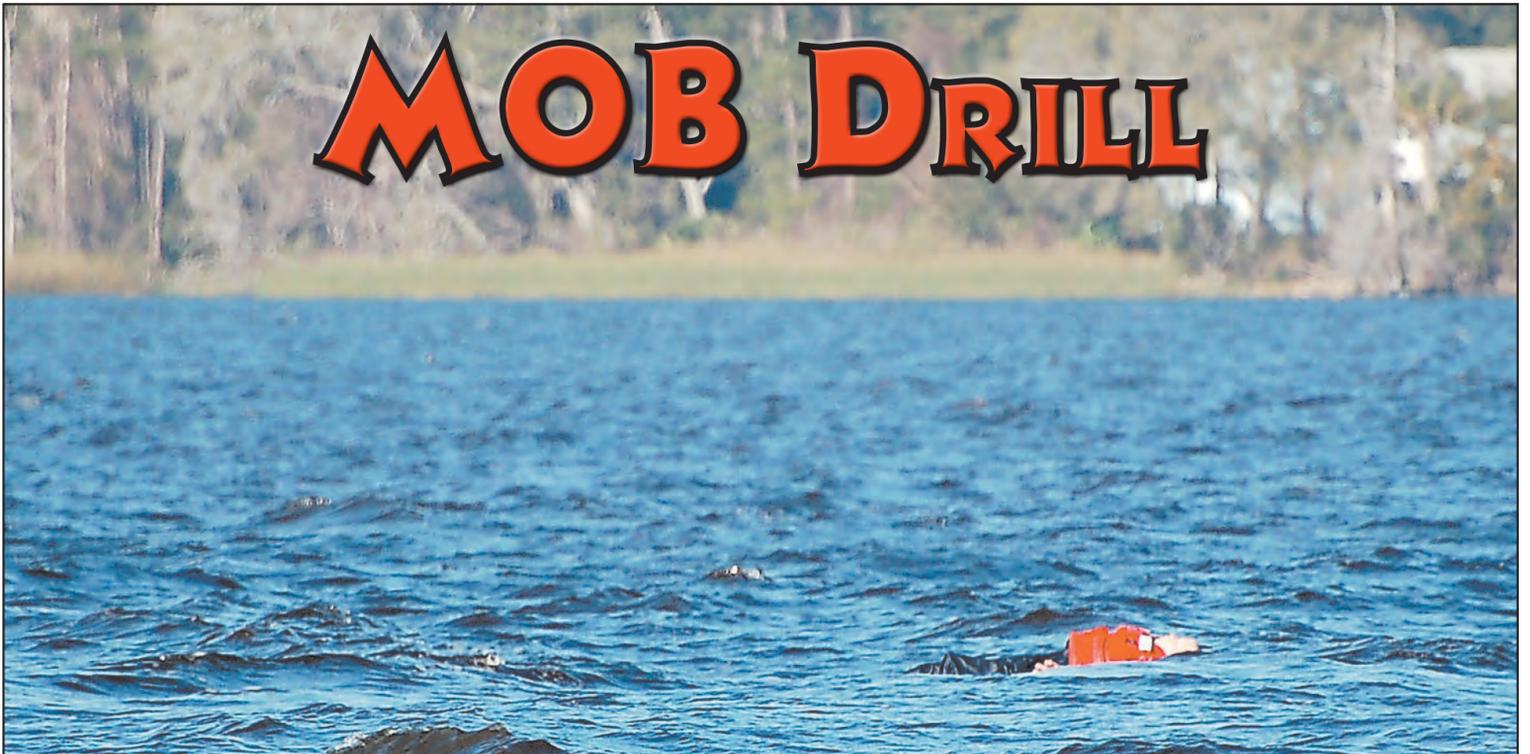


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¹ Based on 2011 Member Communications Trend Survey.

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MOB DRILL



Simulated man overboard victim Oscar calmly floats on his back and awaits rescue in the choppy waters of the St. Johns River near the Buckman Bridge.



Terry Partin (center), a port operations sustainment cell instructor with Commander, Navy Region Southeast, holds a safety meeting with NAS Jax Boathouse coxswains prior to conducting man overboard drills on Jan. 30 in the St. Johns River.



One of the two 40-ft. SAR boats assigned to NAS Jacksonville throttles up its twin diesel engines for a speedy voyage to the exercise area on the St. Johns River.

Oscar sparks timely, efficient response in man overboard drill

By Clark Pierce
Editor

When personnel at the NAS Jax Air Operations Boat Division require man overboard (MOB) training, their shipmate Oscar (a dummy or simulated Sailor) always volunteers to jump (actually tossed) into the St. Johns River. The drill took place Jan. 30 near the Buckman Bridge on a clear, windy day.

"Falling overboard is one of the most dangerous and life-threatening things that can happen at sea or in coastal waters," explained Terry Partin, an N31 port operations instructor with Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE).

"When Oscar goes into the water, it simulates a real person overboard. The first crew member to spot Oscar should throw a life ring and notify the coxswain by shouting 'man overboard!' The coxswain responds by pushing his console MOB button to mark the location (latitude and longitude) on the radar, and notifying Jax Air Tower by VHS radio."

The spotter should point – and keep pointing – at the victim. By pointing continuously at the victim, the crew member aids the coxswain in safely turning and approaching the victim for rescue.

Richard James, also a port operations instructor with CNRSE, reminded the coxswains that recovering an MOB is a team effort.

"Whenever the coxswain loses sight of the victim – especially when piloting a 40-foot search and rescue (SAR) vessel – he must inform his crew, 'lost sight of victim – guide me in!'"

It's the responsibility of the crew to stand, point and count down the distance between the victim and the hull of the SAR vessel. While maneuvering, the coxswain may also have to sound five short horn blasts to warn nearby boat traffic."

Partin also reminded the Sailors to never jump into the water to rescue a victim.

"When your boat is approaching the victim, toss a line attached to a life ring – and also have a boat hook available. Upon recovery, the victim must be medically assessed – and if unconscious – administer CPR immediately."



The crew of NAS Jax SAR vessel No. 3 slowly approaches man overboard victim, Oscar, on its starboard side. On the stern, Sailors stand by with a boat hook.



Another rescue crew used a life buoy tethered to the SAR vessel to pull Oscar within their grasp.



Crew members scramble to snag and lift Oscar onto the stern in order to perform a first aid assessment.

On the NAS Jax seawall at Hangar 1122, search-and-rescue helicopters were available – but did not take part in the man overboard exercise. The drill was designed to certify the boat-handling skills of coxswains and crew assigned to the NAS Jax Boathouse.



After casting off from the NAS Jax Boathouse, SAR vessel No. 3 cruises past the seawall of Hangar 1122 -- home of the HSM-70 "Spartans," HSM-74 "Swamp Foxes" and the HSM-72 "Proud Warriors."



EN2(SW) Jamil Punch prepares to board an NAS Jax search and rescue (SAR) vessel with his shipmate, Oscar, a simulated Sailor used for man overboard training.

PHOTOS BY CLARK PIERCE



As a crew member on the stern of NAS Jax SAR vessel No. 3 points at Oscar, the coxswain maneuvers the craft to safely approach and recover the victim.



Personnel from the NAS Jax Air Operations Boat Division prepare a search and rescue (SAR) vessel to get underway for man overboard training on the St. Johns River.



BM2 Steven Benitez prepares to cast off in an NAS Jax police boat to provide a security zone on the St. Johns River for the man overboard drill.

Panetta signs memo extending benefits to same-sex partners

From American Forces Press Service

Calling it "a matter of fundamental equity," Defense Secretary Leon Panetta signed a memorandum to the service secretaries and the Pentagon's top personnel officially extending benefits to same-sex partners of service members.

Here is the secretary's announcement of the policy change.

"Seventeen months ago, the United States military ended the policy of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' We have implemented the repeal of that policy and made clear that discrimination based on sexual orientation has no place in the Department of Defense.

"At the time of repeal, I committed to reviewing benefits that had not previously been available to same-sex partners based on existing law and poli-



In this 2011 photo, FC2 Marissa Gaeta (left) assigned to the amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) kisses her fiancé, FC3 Citlalic Snell, following the ship's return to homeport after a three-month deployment in the Caribbean.

Photo by MC2 Joshua Mann

cy. It is a matter of fundamental equity that we provide similar benefits to all of those men and women in uniform who serve their country. The department

already provides a group of benefits that are member-designated. Today, I am pleased to announce that after a thorough and deliberate review,

the department will extend additional benefits to same-sex partners of service members.

"Taking care of our service members and honoring the sacrifices of all military families are two core values of this nation. Extending these benefits is an appropriate next step under current law to ensure that all service members receive equal support for what they do to protect this nation.

"One of the legal limitations to providing all benefits at this time is the Defense of Marriage Act, which is still the law of the land. There are certain benefits that can only be provided to spouses as defined by that law, which is now being reviewed by the United States Supreme Court. While it will not change during my tenure as secretary of defense, I foresee a time when the law will allow the department to grant full ben-

efits to service members and their dependents, irrespective of sexual orientation. Until then, the department will continue to comply with current law while doing all we can to take care of all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and their families.

"While the implementation of additional benefits will require substantial policy revisions and training, it is my expectation that these benefits will be made available as expeditiously as possible. One of the great successes at the Department of Defense has been the implementation of DADT repeal. It has been highly professional and has strengthened our military community. I am confident in the military services' ability to effectively implement these changes over the coming months."

Panetta lauds DOD for commitment to protecting nation

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Marshall Jr.

American Forces Press Service

As he prepares for retirement, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta addressed the Pentagon workforce, thanking them for their contributions to national defense.

Speaking in the Pentagon courtyard Feb. 12, Panetta thanked leaders of the Defense Department, civilian employees and the military for their commitment to accomplishing the department's mission since he was sworn in as the 23rd secretary of defense on July 1, 2011.

"I'm a believer that our fundamental mission here at the Department of Defense is very simple," he said. "It is to protect and defend the United States of America and to keep our country safe. And because of your great work, and because of everything you do, we can say with pride that we have kept our country safe."

The defense secretary said knowing



DoD photo by Erin Kirk-Cuomo
Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta thanks Pentagon staff at a farewell ceremony in the center courtyard, Feb. 12.

everything the Defense Department has done helped to keep the country safe is his biggest source of pride as he heads home to California.

Panetta also paid tribute to the "love and support" of the workforces' families as they serve in "tough jobs."

"We face a lot of pressure, and challenges that sometimes demand we go long distances away from home," he said. "And yet throughout that, know-

ing that our families are there, knowing that they love and support us, is what gives us the ability to do this job.

"So my deepest thanks go out, not just to all of you, but to your families," he continued. "They are part of our Pentagon family, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart for their sacrifice and their dedication."

Panetta said he has come away from his experiences as defense secretary with a deep respect and admiration for all the dedication and sacrifices involved in keeping the nation safe. "Every day I see the people in this department, working and fighting together as one family, united behind our mission of protecting our country," he said.

The secretary also lauded service members for their willingness to fight to keep America safe.

"[It's] our No. 1 job, and I am so grateful for those that do that," he said. "I think that we are, as a nation, strong because there are men and women that are willing to put their lives on the line

to protect our country."

Panetta also acknowledged the civilian workforce's contributions to the Defense Department's mission.

"You do everything you can to support our mission," he said. "You support our warfighters downrange. You don't get a hell of a lot of public recognition, but the fact is your efforts make a difference."

"We could not do this job without the civilian workforce," Panetta continued. "You're the unsung heroes of this nation, ... [and] are an important part of our success."

Panetta said he is "grateful and proud" as he reflects on what the Pentagon team has been able to accomplish together.

"We've developed, and are implementing, a new defense strategy that will sustain the strongest military power on Earth as we face challenges in defending our country while implementing fiscal discipline, Panetta said.

See PANETTA, Page 8

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Fleet Forces outlines fiscal impact on readiness for commanders

From U.S. Fleet Forces Public Affairs

Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command sent a personal message to commanders and commanding officers Feb. 8 about how he plans to maintain fleet readiness through fiscal uncertainty.

Adm. Bill Gortney sent the message to discuss some of the impacts on the fleet following Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta's approval to delay the scheduled deployment of the Harry S. Truman Strike Group.

Panetta made the decision based on current continuing resolution funding and the prospect of the across-the-board spending cuts known as "sequestration."

"Even with this change, we



Photo by MC2 Ernest Scott

In December 2012, the aircraft carriers (from left) USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), USS Enterprise (CVN 65), USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), and USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) were in port at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., the world's largest naval station.

continue to maintain a carrier presence in the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility, as well as a mix of other assets, fulfilling endur-

ing commitments to our partners," said Gortney in the message.

John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group is currently deployed

to the CENTCOM AOR. The new plan calls for Truman and her strike group to remain in a ready status in the event they are needed to respond to national security contingencies.

USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) and USS Hue City (CG 66) will deploy to CENTCOM later this month. The two ships returned early from a previously scheduled nine-month deployment as a way to mitigate the aircraft carrier Nimitz's delay because of maintenance.

"This new lineup helps us to sustain our readiness for as long as possible, and train follow-on carrier strike groups for deployment later this year and next," said Gortney. "To do otherwise under these very

uncertain budget conditions would mean sending these ships on deployment without reliefs behind them. We will not do that. No one is going on deployment without a projected return date."

Gortney said he'll look at all Fiscal Year 2013 deployments in light of the current budget uncertainty. "While we believe the vast majority of deployments will be unaffected, there could be some additional changes," he said.

He closed the message with a promise to commanders to provide them updated information as it becomes available. He asked his commanders to maintain a good dialogue with their Sailors, civilians and family members.

New medal recognizes changing face of conflict

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta approved a new medal Feb. 13 designed to recognize service members directly affecting combat operations who may not even be on the same continent as the action.

The Distinguished Warfare Medal recognizes the changing face of warfare. In the past, few, if any, service members not actually in a combat zone directly affected combat operations.

These new capabilities have given American service members the ability to engage the enemy and change the course of battle, even from afar, Panetta said at a Pentagon news conference today.

"I've always felt - having seen the great work that they do, day in and day out - that those who performed in an outstanding manner should be recognized. Unfortunately, medals that they otherwise might be eligible for simply did not recognize that kind of contribution."

Now, the Defense Department does.

"The medal provides distinct, department-wide recognition for the extraordinary achievements that directly impact on combat operations, but that do not involve acts of valor or physical risk that combat entails," Panetta said.

Technological advancements have dramatically changed how the American military conducts and supports warfighters. Unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned underwater vehicles, missile defense technology and cyber capabilities all affect combat operations while the operators may not be anywhere near the combat zone. The new medal recognizes the contributions of these service members.

It will not be awarded for acts of battlefield valor, officials said. It will be awarded in the name of the secretary of defense to members of the military whose extraordinary achievements directly impacted com-

bat operations, and cannot be used as an end-of-tour award.

"This new medal recognizes the changing character of warfare and those who make extraordinary contributions to it," said Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"The criteria for this award will be highly selective and reflect high standards."

The most immediate example is the work of an unmanned aerial vehicle operator who could be operating a system over Afghanistan while based at Creech Air Force Base, Nev. The unmanned aerial vehicle would directly affect operations on the ground.

Another example is that of a soldier at Fort Meade, Md., who detects and thwarts a cyberattack on a DOD computer system.

The medal could be used to recognize both these exceptional acts, officials said.

In the order of precedence, the Distinguished Warfare Medal will be below the Distinguished Flying Cross, and will be limited to achievements that are truly extraordinary.

"The member's actions must have resulted in an accomplishment so exceptional and outstanding as to clearly set the individual apart from comrades or from other persons in similar situations," a DOD official said.

The military department secretary must approve each award, and it may not be presented for valorous actions.

"This limitation was specifically included to keep the Distinguished Warfare Medal from detracting from existing valor decorations, such as the Medal of Honor, Service Crosses and Silver Star Medal," the official said.

Award criteria will be incorporated into the next revision of DOD Manual 1348.33-V3, Manual of Military Decorations and Awards, Volume 3.

Sailors of the First Quarter



Photo by Lt. j.g. Kevin Wendt

(From left) AC1 Sindy Thomas, Senior Sailor of the Quarter, AC2 Alyssa Martinez, Sailor of the Quarter, LS3 Kimberly Anderson, Junior Sailor of the Quarter and ACAN Alexis Ray, Blue Jacket of the Quarter.

Retiree News: Explaining arrears of pay

From the Retired Activities Office

When a retiree dies, his or her retired pay ceases upon notification to DFAS. This can be done with a phone call to DFAS (800-321-1080). It should be done as soon as possible in order to prevent any overpayment of retired pay that could cause future monetary problems with DFAS.

However, the beneficiary (normally the spouse) is entitled to the pro-rated amount of his or her military member's final month's retired pay.

This is called the arrears of pay (AOP). When DFAS is notified of the service member's death, they will reclaim the final month's retired pay and conduct an audit of his or hers account to compute the amount of the AOP.

To receive this final payment, a DD Form-1174, Claim for Unpaid Compensation must be filled out and filed with DFAS with a copy of the long form death certificate. This can be done either by submit-

ting the form via mail or online at the DFAS web site (<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>).

A blank DD-1174 form is normally sent to the beneficiary by the DFAS Retired Pay and Annuity section. It can also be obtained at the NAS Jax Retired Activities Office at the Fleet and Family Support Center.

However the form is submitted, a copy of the long form death certificate has to accompany the 1174 or faxed separately to DFAS Retired Pay and Annuity Section (800-469-6559).

If the 1174 and death certificate are faxed to DFAS, ensure there is adequate reference to the service member (full name, address, Social Security Number or service number, phone number and name for point of contact on both pieces of documentation).

For planning purposes, it can take upwards of four to eight weeks for processing and payment sent to your financial institution.

For more information, call 542-5790.

PANETTA

From Page 6

"I have never believed that we have to choose between our responsibility to national security and our responsibility to fiscal discipline. We can do both."

Panetta said the new defense strategy implements key capabilities the military will need in the future, such as agility, rapid deployment, force protection and projection, and rotational deployments, among others.

"Putting those elements together was the result of a team effort by both the military and the civilian workforce here," he said. "I deeply appreciate their working as a team to put that in place."

The secretary thanked the Pentagon workforce for its part in maintaining the leading U.S. role in world affairs.

"We are the strongest military power in the world," he said. "The world needs our leadership. The world needs the United States of America to lead the world towards peace and towards prosperity."

Panetta expressed his gratitude for having the "honor" of leading the Defense Department, and told the workforce they would be "in my heart forever."

"My friends, it has been the honor of my life to have served with you in this position as secretary of defense," he said.

"It's been the greatest privilege I've had in my almost 50 years of public service to be able to represent the people of this department to our friends and to our partners around the world."

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Photo by MC2 Thomas Rosprim
Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(AW/SW) Michael Stevens shares a laugh with Lt. Cmdr. Nicholas Cotroneo while touring a P-8A Poseidon assigned to VP-16 at NAS Jacksonville.

MCPON

From Page 1

"I view this training as our most creative avenue to productively engage Chiefs with petty officers and junior officers, and to form enduring relationships characterized by mutual respect," said Stevens.

MCPON talked about the importance of effective leadership during a CPO 365 training session in GTMO.

"As you go through CPO 365, you will become a more effective leader. If everything we do starts and stops with leadership, then every Sailor will benefit from a more effective leader."

He also discussed the value of the Navy's leading petty officers.

"We must have exceptional leading petty officers, because you are one of the critical components to the engine that makes the Navy run," said Stevens.

Many Sailors showed concern about the looming fiscal environment. MCPON recognized the



Photo by MC2 Thomas Rosprim
Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(AW/NAC) Michael Stevens speaks to first class petty officers before a CPO 365 classroom training evolution on equal opportunity during a visit to NAS Jacksonville on Feb. 13.

challenges the Navy is currently facing, but asked that Sailors focus on controlling what we own.

"It is easy to become distracted by things that are beyond our control," said Stevens.

He also reminded Sailors of the things they do own and control; such as technical training, administrative production, and the execution of orders.

"We also have the ability to control much of our own lives by becoming and remaining physically, mentally, morally, and spiritually sound."

Fleet engagements are intended to provide senior leadership with a frontline assessment of Sailors and what they are doing in the Fleet.

Navy announces new CMCs and CSCs

From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

Results from the Fiscal Year 2014 Command Master Chief (CMC) and Command Senior Chief (CSC) Selection Boards were released Feb. 15.

More than 140 active duty and Reserve senior enlisted Sailors were selected by the FY-14 selection board.

The Command Master Chief and Command Senior Chief Programs are intended to ensure Sailors are effectively led and developed. Senior enlisted leaders selected for these programs are responsible for leading the alignment efforts

of the chief's mess with the Navy ethos, Navy core values, and the MCPON's mission, vision, and guiding principles.

CMCs and CSCs are also charged with ensuring active communication throughout the chain of command and report directly to their respective commander or commanding officer.

They advise their respective commander or commanding officer and provide input in the formulation, implementation, and execution of policies concerning morale, welfare, job satisfaction, discipline, utilization, family support, and training of enlisted Sailors, as well as providing input and advice

in matters affecting mission and operations as required.

CMC and CSC selection boards convene annually. The board reviews and selects the best qualified applicants for assignment into the CMC and CSC program.

Upon selection and receipt of orders for assignment as CMC, master chief petty officers' ratings will be changed to CMDCM. Senior chief petty officers filling CSC billets will retain their source rating.

Master chiefs and senior chiefs selected into the CMC/CSC program will be assigned by the CMC detailee based on billet availability, experience, qualifications, and desires.



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque
NAS Jax Environmental Director Kevin Gartland discusses some of the Northeast Florida Environmental Compliance Partnering Team current and future projects during the Charter Signing Ceremony at Jacksonville City Hall on Feb. 12.

ENVIRONMENTAL

From Page 1

including:

- NAS Jacksonville's \$4.4M wastewater reuse expansion to eliminate all wastewater discharge to the St. Johns River and reduce groundwater withdrawal by the Navy, City of Jacksonville, FDEP and SJRWMD by 2014;
- NAS Jacksonville's reuse of Jacksonville Electric Authority's treated wastewater to mitigate low flow conditions at the station's wastewater plant and increase reuse irrigation on the base golf course;
- No significant hazardous waste, solid waste, storage tanks, or storm water violations at NAS Jacksonville or NS Mayport in past three years;
- NAS Jacksonville's Marina reconfiguration significantly reduces moorings while improving boat safety;
- NAS Jacksonville Sailors and civilians participated in numerous city-wide cleanup events and community improvement initiatives;
- The NAS Jacksonville Clean Marina designation reissued by FDEP;
- FRCSE use of non-chromate primer on P-3 and trainer aircraft to reduce material use and personnel exposure to hexavalent chrome;
- Expedient assessment and cleanup of beach debris by City of Jacksonville, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, NS Mayport and Army Corps of Engineers at Huguenot Park.

"It has been an honor to be part of this dedicated team of environmental professionals for the past 11 years. The team remains focused on ways to continually improve the environmental quality of life on and off the naval installations in Jacksonville," said Gartland.

"We will significantly reduce wastewater discharge from NAS Jacksonville to the St. Johns River this year and totally eliminate discharge to the river next year. We will eliminate groundwater withdrawal to irrigate our golf course this year and continue to identify ways to reduce groundwater withdrawal next year," he added. "And, we will continue to reach out to our community with innovative solutions that protect our environment as an integral part of performing our organizational missions."



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WOASF scholarships applications due March 1

From Staff

Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation (WOASF) is accepting pre-qualification forms for its scholarships.

Pre-qualification deadline is March 1 and full application deadline is April 1.

WOASF, a 501(c) 3 non-profit foundation, annually sponsors more than 40 scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for students who have chosen to continue their education. Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of scholastic merit, community service and extracurricular activities.

Our mission is to provide college scholarships to dependent children and spouses of US Navy personnel with service in naval aviation commands; Officer and Enlisted, active duty, retired, honorably discharged or deceased.

The Foundation has awarded more than \$530,000 to outstanding students since 1987. The foundation is funded solely through the generous contributions of

private and corporate sources. For more information on eligibility and application process, go to www.wingsoveramerica.us or call 757-671-3200 x2.

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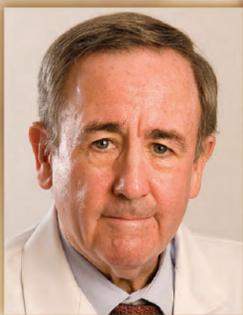
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Former astronaut visits FRCSE

By Marsha Childs
Fleet Readiness Center Southeast Public Affairs

A former astronaut and retired Naval officer visited Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE), a prior duty station where he served in the mid-1980s then named Naval Aviation Depot, Jacksonville, to tour the military depot and gather information Jan. 31.

Retired Navy Capt. Winston Scott, a former astronaut who served as a mission specialist on two National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) missions, met with a team of technical experts documenting and filming repair procedures on an EA-6B Prowler aircraft.

The Navy is creating multimedia training aids to augment the technical publications Fleet maintainers use when performing maintenance and repairs to military aircraft. The Defense Logistics Agency (Documents Services) located in Jacksonville awarded the contract to develop the training aids to Job Performance Associates, a Jacksonville-based company.

Scott serves as the senior vice president for external relations and economic development at Florida Institute of Technology (FIT), a private technological university in Melbourne.

FIT is considering using multimedia training aids to enhance its technical curriculum for undergraduate and graduate students.

During his visit, Scott met with Navy and Marine Corps specialists to learn about the technical aspects of the project designed to document difficult repair procedures. The resulting multimedia tools will allow Sailors and Marines to read, see, hear and perform complicated maintenance procedures, step by step.



Tim Rice (left), an aircraft electrician, shakes hands with former astronaut Winston Scott during a tour at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast Jan. 31. Rice first met Scott while serving on active duty with the Blue Angels, the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, shortly before Scott's first space mission on the Endeavour in 1996.

Scott first reported to FRCSE in 1985 as an aeronautical engineering duty officer assigned as the F/A-18 Hornet Strike Fighter project officer to stand up the platform. He served as the production test pilot flying F/A-18 Hornet, F-14 Tomcat and A-7 Corsair aircraft.

"I flew my tail off," he said. "I limited myself to three test flights per day."

Scott logged more than 5,000 flight hours on 20 different military and civilian aircraft during his 27-year career.

During his visit, he toured the Hornet production line, which has undergone an extensive transformation in recent years using a cellular concept where artisans perform specific tasks in each cell as an aircraft "pulses" through the hangar.

He also toured the Industrial Manufacturing Division where artisans are fabricating scarce and one-of-a-kind aeronautical parts, such as the Hornet's Y590 former to ensure these legacy aircraft keep flying.

The facility is leveraging new

technology and is utilizing Lean and Six Sigma models to identify wasteful practices, reduce costs, and increase quality to the warfighting customer.

Scott was selected for NASA's astronaut program in March 1992 and served on two space missions, logging more than 24 days in space including three spacewalks totaling more than 19 hours. Scott said the experience he gained at FRCSE contributed to his NASA selection.

He served as a mission specialist on Space Shuttle Endeavour from Jan. 11-20, 1996, which included two spacewalks to practice techniques later used to assemble the International Space Station. His second mission was on the Space Shuttle Columbia from Nov. 19 to Dec. 5, 1997.

"It's unlike anything you can experience here, and words can't describe it," said Scott about the space shuttle launch.

"Everything is vibrating and shaking. It kicks you in the butt. You pass 100 mph when you hit the tower. It's an



During a tour at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) Jan. 31, Industrial Engineer George Amato (from left) and Industrial Manufacturing Director Angello Evans explain to Winston Scott, retired Navy captain and former astronaut, how the division has expanded its capabilities by installing a gantry-style milling center operated by Machinist Daniel Hernandez. The milling center became operational in 2012. The mill can fabricate large aeronautical components, such as the F-5 Tiger II missile launch cover seen here.

incredible ride."

The crews performed hundreds of experiments while in space, such as growing crystals, testing plant growth, observing the earth and conducting physiological studies. He said one of his greatest thrills was working outside the shuttle.

"You don't walk, you float," said Scott of his three space

walks.

"The suit weighs 350 pounds. You have to be physically fit to control the hundreds of pounds of mass. It is very difficult. The spacesuit is self-regulating, but it takes a while to adjust to temperature changes. When you work on the dark side of the moon, it is very cold. When on the sunlit side, it is very hot."

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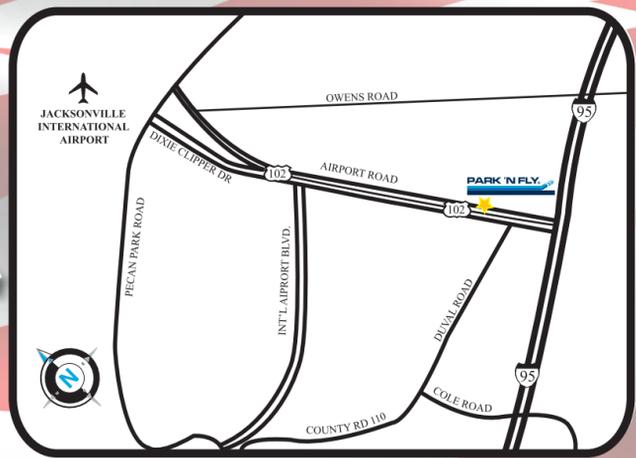
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Medal of Honor recipient earns place in Hall of Heroes

By Amaani Lyle
American Forces Press Service

A U.S. Army soldier who was awarded the Medal of Honor for risking his life to save his comrades during an ambush in Afghanistan was inducted into the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes on Feb. 12.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, Army Secretary John McHugh and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno presented the Medal of Honor flag and Hall of Heroes plaque to Staff Sgt. Clinton Romesha.

President Barack Obama awarded the 31 year old the nation's highest military honor at a White House ceremony a day earlier.

Panetta called the former 4th Brigade Combat Team Infantryman a hero as he described Romesha's selfless, fearless reconnaissance during a surprise enemy attack on Oct. 3, 2009 in which 400 Taliban fighters converged on Combat Outpost Keating, Kamdesh District, Nuristan Province.

On that deadly day, the outpost at the bottom of a steep valley, manned by only 52 Soldiers, fell under attack through concentrated fire.

An injured Romesha summoned help and fought to protect the bodies of fallen soldiers while providing cover to



DoD photo by Glenn Fawcett
Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta presents former Army Staff Sgt. Clinton Romesha with the Medal of Honor Flag at the Pentagon on Feb. 11.

wounded team members.

Eight of Romesha's comrades perished in the day-long battle.

"A new greatest generation of Americans has stepped forward after 9/11," Panetta said.

"A new generation of patriots that answered the call to serve . . . has endured enormous hardships and they have done it with unflinching courage."

Panetta stressed any generation in which people risk their lives for America is the greatest generation, including those who have fought and died since 9/11.

"They've dealt with lengthy separations from friends and

family, repeated deployments . . . to austere battlefields in distant lands," he said.

"They've witnessed the horrors of modern warfare, seeing their comrades in arms, their closest friends horribly maimed, and yes, killed by the scourge of improvised explosive devices . . . and the scourge of an enemy whose purpose is to kill Americans."

Still, Panetta continued, American troops remain undeterred, in vigilant patrol throughout the streets and alleyways of Iraq and in the mountains and deserts of Afghanistan.

"For 10 long years . . . they have fought because they believe that America is worth fighting for - that Americans still serve as a shining example for that world in which we have the most precious values of all - values of freedom, equality, justice and democracy."

Those ideals and the United States' commitment to go after Al Qaida safe havens, Panetta said, brought Romesha and his comrades to that remote outpost, where enemies hid with confidence.

"That the Taliban failed to overtake Combat Outpost Keating is . . . a testament to the bravery, the heroism, the warrior spirit of the 50 American Soldiers who fought to save it," Panetta said.

"And Clint later [said] to a reporter, 'That was our America right there . . . we own that and we weren't going to let anybody come and take it.'"

During the ceremony, Romesha said Taliban fighters surrounded a place he and 52 other members of Bravo Troop, 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry called home.

"Four hundred Taliban versus 52 American Soldiers." It just doesn't seem fair . . . to the Taliban."

Romesha said the Medal of Honor is not often given when things go well on the battle-

field. "Some say I'm a hero, but it doesn't make sense, because I got to come home with a few scars," Romesha said.

"Eight of my friends did not have that fortune."

He identified each comrade who perished during the attack that day in Afghanistan: Staff Sgt. Justin Gallegos, Sgt. Christopher Griffin, Sgt. Joshua Hardt, Sgt. Joshua Kirk, Spc. Stephan Mace, Staff Sgt. Vernon Martin, Sgt. Michael Scusa, and Pfc. Kevin Thomson.

"Whether I wear a uniform or civilian attire, I am and will always be a Soldier for life," Romesha said.

Panetta said one of his toughest responsibilities is writing condolence letters to the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

". . . As tough as it is to lose a loved one, perhaps there is some comfort to know that they gave their lives for this country, and that they are heroes, and that they are patriots, and that they will never, never be forgotten," he said.

Romesha is only the fourth living service member to receive the medal for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

"You fought well, you fought bravely, and your courage is now a part of American history," Panetta said.



U.S. Navy photo

Black History Month

The first African-American naval officers were photographed in February 1944, soon after attaining officer rank in the Naval Reserve. (Seated in front row, from left) Ensign George C. Cooper, USNR; Ensign Graham E. Martin, USNR; Ensign Jesse W. Arbor, USNR; Ensign John W. Reagan, USNR; Ensign Reginald E. Goodwin, USNR; (Standing, from left) Ensign Dennis D. Nelson, USNR; Ensign Phillip G. Barnes, USNR; Ensign Samuel E. Barnes, USNR; Ensign Dalton L. Baugh, USNR; Ensign James E. Hare, USNR; Ensign Frank E. Sublett, USNR; Warrant Boatswain Charles B. Lear, USNR.

Bicycle-pedestrian public meetings

From Staff

Residents in Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns Counties will have one final opportunity to provide input for the North Florida Regional Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Study being conducted by the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization.

The open-house walk-through public meetings with multiple stations will allow attendees to review and comment on the plan's draft elements. The public meetings are from 4-8 p.m. and scheduled as follows:

- Feb. 21 - Jacksonville Beach City Hall - Commission Chambers, 11 3rd Street North
- March 5 - Ed Ball Building, Room 110- next to City Hall downtown, 214 N. Hogan Street
- March 6 - St Augustine Town Hall - Alcazar Room, 75 King Street
- March 7 - Nassau County Commission Chambers -96135 Nassau Place

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VP-45 'Pelicans' have big showing down under

By Lt. j.g. Andrew Lee
VP-45

The VP-45 "Pelicans" have returned from a successful TAMEX 13-1 in Pearce, Australia. Generally a quiet base in a rural area reserved for training Australian Air Force pilots, RAAF Base Pearce hosted one Australian and two VP-45 P-3 aircrews and maintainers for two weeks. VP-45 went down under to exhibit a forward presence, flying four missions on top of Australian submarines over a four-day period.

Combat Aircrews 4 and 12 reinforced this important strategic alliance with the Australians by working with and hunting a Collins-class diesel-electric submarine. All four missions had a 100 percent completion rate with a total of eight crew qualifications



Photo courtesy of VP-45
VP-45 Combat Aircrew 12 and maintenance members hold a koala bear at a koala refuge during their recent detachment to Australia.

obtained, locating and tracking the submarine for extended periods of time on each sortie. Not only did the aircrews fly

successful missions, but the maintenance branch kept the plane in top form allowing the crews to execute the mis-

sion one station. The detachment showcased the U.S. Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft expeditionary and rapid response capabilities to our allies, as well as working with the Australians for the common goal of interoperability.

But it was not all work and no play for the crews in Australia. All personnel involved succeeded in experiencing the culture and country of Australia. While visiting a koala refuge, VP-45 Sailors were able to pet and feed all sorts of Australian animals. From kangaroos to kookaburras, and dingoes to deer, the animals loved to eat popcorn from hands.

On the historic side, many Sailors made the 20-minute drive to Fremantle to visit the museums and monuments, including Fremantle Prison.

Initially a convict institution to build the colony of Western Australia, the prison is a valuable part of the culture and the settling of Western Australia.

Sporting events were also enjoyed by some of the members, taking in a cricket match at the WACA Grounds. The one-day international event was a match between Australia and the West Indies, with the home team emerging victorious.

Overall, the detachment was a fruitful endeavor, allowing the crews to work with and strengthen ties with the Royal Australian Navy and Air Force. It also afforded the Sailors an opportunity to be unofficial ambassadors to the Australian people by taking in their culture and experiencing all that Perth and Australia had to offer.

VP-10, VP-8 conduct data-link training with Japanese counterparts

By Lt. j.g. Victoria Wiedmeier
VP-10 Public Affairs Officer

Within a week of deploying to Naval Air Facility Misawa, Japan, the "Red Lancers" of VP-10 participated in a data-link training exercise with their U.S. Navy sister squadron, the "Fighting Tigers" of VP-8, in conjunction with Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) squadron VP-2 "Odin."

In late November, the VP-2 aircrew departed from their home base in Hachinohe en route to Misawa where they were welcomed by VP-10 and VP-8.

After briefing the details and parameters of the exercise, the Red Lancers and Fighting Tigers crewed together on a U.S. Navy P-3C Orion and established secure voice and data communications links



Photos courtesy of VP-10
At Hachinohe Air Base, Japan, squadron leaders participate in a celebratory meal at the conclusion of the exercise in late 2012. (From top left to bottom) Capt. Seto, Cmdr. Tim Parker, Cmdr. Mike Marston, Cmdr. Takeuchi, PO1 Okada and PO1 Kurosawa.

with the VP-2 Orion.

With VP-10 relieving VP-8 as the deployed P-3C squadron at

Misawa, this training exercise also served as a turnover event between the U.S. and Japanese



Officers from VP-2 "Odin" at Hachinohe Air Base, Japan take representatives from VP-10 and VP-8 on a tour of their Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force squadron workspaces.

squadrons.

When the exercise concluded, the Japanese and U.S. Sailors traveled to VP-2's home base in Hachinohe for a reception in honor of VP-10's arrival and VP-8's farewell. After enjoying a diverse spread of Japanese dishes and conversing with their international counterparts, VP-2

Commanding Officer Capt. Seto and VP-8 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Mike Marston exchanged words of gratitude for each other's hard work and cooperation over the past six months and presented each other with gifts of appreciation.

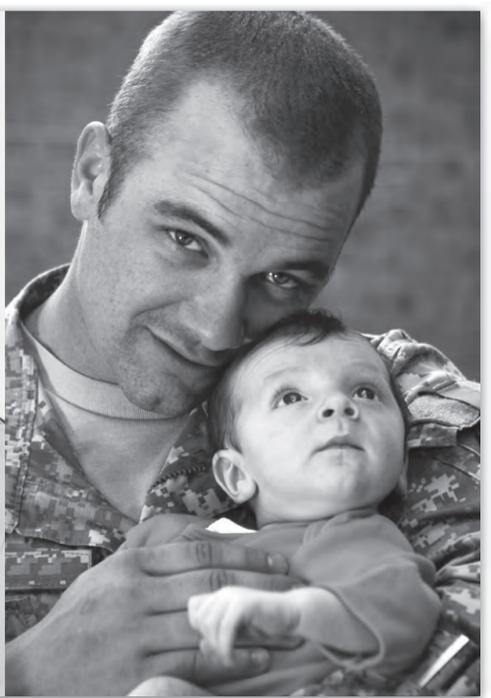
Seto then turned to the VP-10 Commanding Officer Cmdr.

See **MARITIME**, Page 14

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 Shoe rental included

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

The Gym equipment is temporarily
 relocated to The Zone, Bldg. 798 now
 through June 30, 2013.

Check-out our new fitness schedule!
 New classes include Muscle Max,
 Extreme Bootcamp and Max Core
 Pick-up the latest copy at the fitness
 center

Outdoor swimming pool opens April 1

I.I.T. Events

Call 542-3318.

Thrasher Horne Center for the Arts
 Sleeping Beauty \$25 - \$41
 Fiddler On The Roof \$33 - \$49

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

Gatornationals March 15 - 17
 Friday Reserved from \$35 - \$39
 Sat & Sun Reserved from \$50 - \$54
 Friday General Seating from \$28 - \$32
 Sat & Sun General Seating from \$38 -
 \$42

Funkfest
 Metropolitan Park
 May 10-11
 Two-day ticket - \$52

Discover Disney - Florida resident ticket
 valid for sale through June 3.
 Tickets are valid for redemption
 through June 7.
 Blockout Dates: March 23 - April 5.
 Call for pricing

Jacksonville Symphony - \$27.50

Gatorland - military member is free,
 tickets available for family members at
 ITT
 \$19.25 adult, \$12.50 child, \$54.25 zipline

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

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

MOSH \$7 - \$12

Blue Man Group in Orlando - Special
 until March 31, adult \$44, child \$29,

military \$29

Universal Studios Special
 Complimentary tickets for active duty
 and retirees, free 3-day, park-to-park
 ticket with valid military ID. Admission
 is valid for up to 14 days from first use.
 Tickets are available at ITT through
 March 31 and must be redeemed by
 June 30.
 Ask about our special discounted tick-
 ets for family members.

Wild Adventures Theme Park - Gold
 pass \$71

Book Shade of Green, Disneyworld hotel
 properties, Universal hotels and off
 property hotels near attractions at ITT.

**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.
 SNAG Golf Lesson Feb. 21 @ 6 p.m.
 at NAS Jax Golf Club

Monster Truck Jam

Feb. 23
 Free admission

**NAS Jax
 Golf Club**

Golf course info:
 542-3249
 Mulligan's info: 542-
 2936
 Military
 Appreciation Days
 \$18 per person,
 includes cart & green
 fees
 Feb. 21 for retirees,
 DoD personnel and
 their guests

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

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

days.

Mulberry Cove Marina

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

Auto Skills Center

Call 542-3227
 22 work bays, wheel balancing, tool
 checkout, paint booth and welding!
 ASE certified mechanic onsite!

Youth Activities Center

Call 778-9772
 Drop-in care and open recreation are
 available!
 Family Fitness Center open Mon.- Fri., 9
 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Bring your child to work out with you.

Movie Under the Stars featuring Wreck-
 It Ralph
 Feb. 22, 6 p.m. at Patriots Grove
 Free popcorn and \$.50 drinks

Flying Club

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

Travel Fair

March 16
 9:30am - 1pm

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Call **542-3318**

**Satellite pharmacy closing
 for improvements March 2**

**From Naval Hospital
 Jacksonville Public Affairs**

Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville's
 satellite pharmacy, located at the Navy
 Exchange (building 950), will close its
 lobby and drive-up early March 1 at 4
 p.m. in order to upgrade its information
 technology.
 On March 2, the satellite phar-
 macy's lobby will be closed and the
 drive-up window (medication pick-up

only) will be open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. NH
 Jacksonville's main (outpatient) phar-
 macy will be open standard Saturday
 hours, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To register for home delivery of
 chronic medications (including gener-
 ics at no cost), go to [www.tricare.mil/
 homedelivery](http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery), or ask a pharmacy staff
 member.

**For more information, call the phar-
 macy at 542-7405.**

MARITIME

From Page 13

Tim Parker to welcome the Red Lancers
 to Japan. Parker, in return, expressed
 how excited the Red Lancers were to
 work with the men and women of VP-2
 and to build upon the successful rela-
 tionship started with VP-8.

Ultimately, this training exercise
 helped to strengthen the operational
 links between the patrol forces of the
 JMSDF and U.S. Navy and fostered
 great camaraderie between both forces'
 Sailors.

Already off to a great start, VP-10
 looks forward to collaborating with the
 JMSDF during their deployment in the
 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

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NAS Jax Sports

Soccer League forming
Open to NAS Jax active duty, command DoD, DoD contractors and selective reservists. Matches play on week nights at Sea King Park. The entry form and rosters are due by March 1.

Spring Softball Leagues forming
• The Greybeard League is open to active duty, selective reservists, and command DoD personnel age 30 and up. Games play Tuesday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m.
• Intramural League open to active duty, selective reservists, and command DoD personnel. Games play in the evenings. All entry forms and rosters are due by March 8 to the sports coordinator in Building 798.

3-on-3 Sand Volleyball League meeting – noon March 13 at Dewey's
Open to NAS Jax active duty, command DoD, DoD contractors and selective reservists. Commands whose athletic officer or designated representative attend the meeting receive five Captain's Cup points. Matches play at noon on Tuesday and Thursday at the courts near the marina.

Leprechaun Dash 5K – March 15, 11:30 a.m.
The run is free and open to all authorized gym patrons. Runners earn Captain's Cup points for their commands. Sign up at the Fitness Source prior to the March 8 deadline. The run will be held on Perimeter Road at the end of Mustin Road before the Antenna Farm. Registration at the race site from 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Men's and Women's Singles Tennis Tourney – March 25, 5 p.m.
Open to all NAS Jax active duty, selective reservists, and command DoD men and women. Participants earn points for their command toward the Captain's Cup and can earn additional points for finishing first, second or third. There are separate men's and women's division. The matches play at the Guy Ballou Tennis Complex. Call NAS Jax Athletics to sign up by March 22.
For more info, call Bill Bonser at 542-2930/3239 or e-mail bill.bonser@navy.mil.

Standings

As of Feb.14

4-on-4 Flag Football

Team	Wins	Losses
FRCSE	5	0
VP-30 O's	4	0
VR-62	5	1
VP-16	4	1
NBHC	3	2
VR-58	3	2
HITRON	2	2
NOSC	2	2
VP-5	2	2
FRC-U	2	3
RCC SE	1	3
VP-16 Work Eagles	1	3
VP-26	1	4
NAVFAC/TPU-PCF	0	5
NCTS	0	5

Captain's Cup Winter Golf

Team	Wins	Losses
CPRW-11/TACMOBILE	1	0
FRCSE	1	0
HS-11	1	0
NCTS	1	0
PSD	1	0
SERCC Gold	1	0
VP-16	1	0
VR-58	1	0
CBMU202	0	1
CBMU202 Green	0	1
CNATTU Blue	0	1
CNATTU Gold	0	1
NRSE RCC	0	1
SERCC Blue	0	1
VP-30	0	1
VR-62	0	1



Photo by Shannon Leonard

A group of runners participate in the annual Valentine's Day 5K Run on Feb. 14

Annual Valentine's Day 5K held

By Kaylee LaRocque
NAS Jax Public Affairs Specialist

The annual Valentine's Day 5K brought out 127 runners Feb. 14. The NAS Jax Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Department coordinated the run.

Placing first overall and first in the men's 40-44 category was Andy Patterson of VP-30 with a time of 17:41. Sarah Reed of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast (NAVFAC SE) took first in the women's 35-39 category and was the first female to cross the finish line with a time of 20:43.

Other winners were:

Men 19 and under
First – Jacob Schmitt, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Eleven – 19:01
Second – Christian Plafond, 36:57

Women 19 and under
First – Jessica Plafond, 32:00
Second – Abby Kennedy, 38:34

Men 20-24
First – Chad Simmerman, Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) – 20:03
Second – Luke Franco, Navy Region Southeast (NRSE) – 20:50
Third – Aaron Poirier, VR-58 – 21:55

Women 20-24
First – Caitlin Moxey, 27:53
Second – Victoria Barthel, 29:44
Third – Evelyn Vaneckhaute, FRCSE – 32:31

Men 25-29
First – Alexei Pokrischkin, Naval Hospital Jax – 17:57
Second – Jeremy Tijerina, VP-30 – 20:56
Third – Nicholas Thompson, NAVFAC SE – 22:09

Women 25-29
First – Camilla Funk, NAVFAC SE – 25:10
Second – Elizabeth Lienhart, NAVFAC SE – 26:04
Third – Brook Tijerina, VP-30 – 26:49

Men 30-34
First – Jeremy Judenmatz, VR-58 – 18:05
Second – John Damron, VR-58 – 18:45
Third – Marc Heskett, NRSE – 20:58

Women 30-34
First – Naketa George, Naval Branch Health Clinic Jax – 23:30

Second – Sarah Alspaugh, Air Ops – 28:30
Third – Jessica Alumbaugh, Navy Entomology Center of Excellence – 28:55

Men 35-39
First – Derek Fleck, HSM-72 – 19:19
Second – Doug Herrin, NAVFAC SE – 22:31
Third – Jason Bohman, NAVFAC SE – 23:31

Women 35-39
Second – Christina Wright, Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit Jax – 24:08
Third – Erin Wilfong, Navy Drug Screening Lab – 28:55

Men 40-44
Second – Timothy Covey, NAVFAC SE, 23:00
Third – Thomas Schiffer, NRSE, 24:11

Women 40-44
First – Mariza Harmon, 26:20
Second – Lani Nord, 33:44
Third – Susan Stoltman

Men 45-49
First – Lee Grose, 21:17
Second – William Powers, 21:36
Third – Bryan Hale, VR-62 – 22:50

Women 45-49
First – Janie Senishin, 29:01
Second – Evelyn Ventura, Navy Drug Screening Lab – 31:09
Third – Doretha Washington, 36:43

Men 50 and over
First – Joseph McQuade, Naval Hospital Jax – 21:40
Second – David Revelle, HSWLANT – 21:40
Third – Jay Miller, VR-58 – 23:13

Women 50 and over
First – Charlotte Chenoweth, Navy Exchange – 29:38
Second – Deanna Falls, Naval Branch Health Clinic Jax – 30:40
Third – Elisa Jacque, Retired – 32:23

The event was sponsored by the University of Phoenix and Allied American University.

The next upcoming runs are the Leprechaun Dash March 15 at 11:30 a.m. and the Capt. Chuck Cornett Navy Run April 6. Volunteers are needed for the Navy Run. For more information, 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.

Hot Shot of the Week

Ken Peacock had an Eagle at the NAS Jax Golf Club on Feb. 4 on Blue No. 1, 270 yard par 4. He used a 3 wood & 5 rescue.



Photo by MC2 Salt Ceb

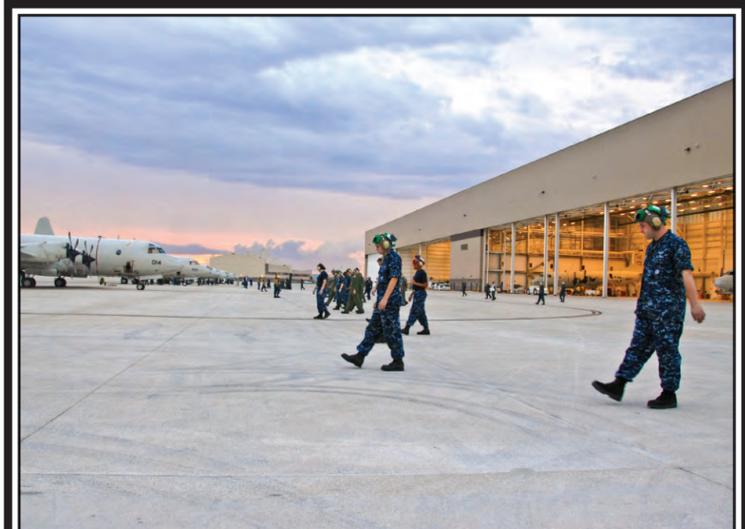
ASW training complete

The Chilean Navy submarine CS Simpson (SS-21) departs from Naval Station Mayport Feb. 7 after participating in the U.S. Navy's Diesel Electric Submarine Initiative (DESI). DESI provides training opportunities against the real world threat of a modern, quiet, diesel-electric submarine.



Photo by Lt. Cmdr. Corey Barker

Capt. Eduardo Torres, commanding officer of the Chilean Navy submarine CS Simpson (SS 21), and Mayport harbor pilot, Kevin Kavangh prepare to get the submarine underway after a three-month visit supporting the U.S. Navy's Diesel Electric Submarine Initiative (DESI). The DESI program allows U.S. Navy anti-submarine warfare personnel to train with elusive, real world diesel submarines. Simpson returned to its homeport at Talcahuano, Chile.



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Rear Admiral John C. Stordy, USN
Commander, Navy Region Southeast
Location
Ortiz Hall Jacksonville
245 Water Street
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Time
Social 1800
Ceremony 1900
Dinner/Dancing 1945
Attire
Civilian: Business, Black-tie optional
Military: Dinner Dress Blues
Dinner (dinner of course)
Prize Raffle
Barricade Squash Rivalry
Tickets
On sale until Friday, February 22, 2013
Active Military / DOD Civilian:
O-3+, GS-14+ \$60.00
O-3/4, GS-11/13, E-9, WO-4/5 \$50.00
O-3/2, GS-10, E-8, WO-1/2 \$40.00
GS-7/9, E-7, WG-All \$30.00
GS-1/6, E-6 \$25.00
E-5 \$20.00
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Budget constraints force disestablishment of VAW-77 in March

From Commander, Naval Air Force Reserve Public Affairs

The “Nightwolves” of Carrier Airborne Warning Squadron (VAW) 77 will be disestablished at a ceremony aboard Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, March 9.

A reserve E-2 squadron based at NASJRB New Orleans, the Nightwolves have been responsible for various missions within the strategic reserve - including counter-narcotics and human trafficking interdiction, disaster response and missile exercise support.

Due to budgetary constraints, the Navy decided to decommission VAW-77 in fiscal year 13. While this choice was difficult, it was within the limits of the resources available to the Navy.

There will always be the need to balance direct warfighting capability against missions like those assigned to VAW-77.

VAW-77 consists of six E-2C Hawkeye aircraft and 112 personnel (72 Full Time Support and 40 Selected Reservists).

The squadron’s history goes back to 1995, when the U.S. Congress created the reserve squadron as a result of the federal government’s escalating war on illegal drug trafficking.

VAW-77 operated four specially modified E-2C Hawkeye airborne early warning aircraft optimized for counter-drug



Photo by MC2 John Curtis

An E-2C Hawkeye assigned to Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 77. The four-plane squadron is disestablishing due to budget cuts.

missions.

As part of the Navy’s post-Cold War role, VAW-77 flight crews patrolled the waters of the Caribbean in joint missions with the U.S. Coast Guard and other drug enforcement agencies in search of illegal aircraft and ships.

“Their last flight was Jan.

29,” said Lt. Cmdr. Erin Wreski, program manager for Commander Naval Air Force Reserve’s (CNAFR) Tactical Support Wing.

“Their disestablishment ceremony will be March 9, with the squadron officially closing its doors March 31.

“The squadron’s six aircraft

will be transferred to other carrier airborne warning squadrons,” Wreski said.

“And the squadron members will transfer to various other CNAFR squadrons around the country.”

The Navy remains committed to missions within the strategic reserve, including coun-

ter-narcotics and human trafficking interdiction.

Navy ships and aircraft have unique capabilities to detect and monitor criminal activities in the maritime domain, especially tracking the movement, by sea and air, of illicit materials intended for the United States.

Commissaries support Military Saves Week

By Cherie Huntington
DeCA Public Affairs Specialist

Savings generated by commissary shopping is why the Defense Commissary Agency is a partner of the 11th annual Military Saves Week campaign that encourages military families to avoid debt and build savings.

The campaign, “Set a goal, make a plan, save automatically,” runs Feb. 25-March 2 and reflects DeCA’s everyday action of delivering savings on groceries.

“Since we sell at cost in delivering the benefit, shopping your commissary saves you money automatically,” said Joseph Jeu, DeCA director and CEO.

“We’re proud to partner with Military Saves to help our customers save money and, in turn, reduce debt.”

Not only does consistent commissary shopping score savings of 30 percent or more, Jeu said, but savvy shoppers know that using coupons achieves even higher savings.

“Think of coupons as cash,” he said. “And now, the commissary offers the Rewards Card to deliver even more savings via coupons for download onto your card.”

At last count, more than 150 coupons were available; new coupons are posted as soon as they become available. Patrons can sign up to receive an email alert when new coupons have been posted to the site. Sign up is available at http://www.commissaries.com/rewards_subscribe.cfm.

Since the card’s debut in August 2012, more than 2.6 million coupons have been downloaded by commissary shoppers.

Military Saves is part of the Department of Defense’s Financial Readiness Campaign to persuade, motivate and encourage military families to save money every month.

The Military Saves website offers great tips on saving and living well but spending less. Not surprisingly, many of the ideas call for grocery shopping with economy in mind, and the commissary can make that simple. Here are a few tips from the website:

Tip 1: Bring lunch to work (savings estimate: \$3 daily). No matter what your preferences for lunch, the commissary can help keep the lunch box interesting as well as economical. Maybe you eat light - fresh, crisp veggies for munching; bagged salad; yogurt or energy bars. Or maybe you prefer hot meals in lunchtime portions - frozen entrees or heat-and-eat items to store in a desk drawer. The commissary can save you 30 percent or more on your brown-bag grocery shopping.

Tip 2: Eat out two fewer times a month (savings estimate: \$30 monthly). Shopping at the commissary for easy, economical meals at home not only saves you money, but the leftovers compound the value by providing future ready-to-heat meals. Whether your menu includes salad and hamburgers, hearty soup or multi-course meals, keep this in mind: It might cost you \$25 to eat out but as little as \$5 to eat in.

Tip 3: Shop with a list, and stick to it. The savings could be hundreds of dollars. People who shop with a list and buy little else spend much less money than those who decide what to buy when they get to the store. You can plan your trip, tailored to your specific commissary, with the easy “Create a Shopping List” tool found on the front page of www.commissaries.com.

During Military Saves Week and throughout February, commissaries around the world support the campaign by providing information on personal financial awareness and preparing nutritious meals for less.

Customers can join Military Saves via Facebook, Twitter, Web page and monthly newsletter.

Visit <http://www.militarysaves.org> for more information.

NNOA Jax Chapter lends a helping hand

From the National Naval Officers Association Jax Chapter

For the past 12 years, members of the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) Jacksonville Chapter has mentored young men at the Duval Juvenile Residential Facility (DJRF). They provide monthly mentoring with structured fun and games.

The young men also enjoy an annual trip to EverBank Field to watch the Jacksonville Jaguars play.

This past football season, NNOA and DJRF faculty members chaperoned the boys to a season match-up between the Jaguars and Chicago Bears. Although the Jaguars loss was disappointing, the young men had a blast.

The facility is a structured moderate-risk residential treatment program for males ages 14-18 and their average length of stay is six months. During

their stay, youths receive group and individual mental health, and substance abuse intervention/counseling.

Educational/vocational services are provided by Duval County Schools. The youths also obtain employment skills and participate in a wide variety of facility and community activities that focus on restorative justice and community services.

From October through December 2012, NNOA facilitated a community service outreach with the young men. A variety of non-perishable food items were donated for the event.

The young men along with members of NNOA decorated 35 boxes and filled them with donated holiday meal goodies.

The outreach helped 20 families at Thanksgiving and 15 families at Christmas. The outreach proved extremely positive for both the young men of DJRF and local families.

Community Calendar

“Putting our Veterans Back to Work” resource and career fair is Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ramada Conference Center, 3130 Hartley Rd., Jax. More than 40 companies will participate in the free event. For info, call Oran Brown at 1-800-235-2732, ext. 800 or visit www.vetready.org.

Run for the Wall, Feb. 23 is a motorcycle poker run beginning at Middleburg VFW Post 8255 to benefit the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall. Contact Herb Hilderbrand at 704-5501.

Celebration of Service for Women Veterans is March 9 at 3 p.m. at VFW Post 1689, 3409 St. Augustine Rd., Jax. Free and open to the public. As space is limited, please RSVP by email Celebratevfw1689@gmail.com or call 525-6734.

Special Olympics Summer Games of Duval County needs volunteers for March 16 at Atlantic Coast High School. Go to: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0B4AA4A929A20-2013/3704168.

Captain Chuck Cornett Navy 10K Run & 5K Walk, April 6 @ 8 a.m. aboard NAS Jax. Advance registration for authorized base personnel & general public until March 18. More info at: [NAS Jax Fitness Center 542-3518](http://NASJaxFitnessCenter.com) or www.1stplacesports.com.

Florida Chief Petty Officers Association meets April 10-14 at Pensacola Holiday Inn. More info at www.flcpoa.org or call Stu Covey at 891-4099.

Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall, May 9-12 at Green Cove Springs Junior High School.

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>.

Aviation Boatswain’s Mate Meeting is held the third Thursday of every month at 1 p.m. in the NAS Jax Air Facilities Management Building 666 conference room. For more info, call Doug Chaney at 542-3955.

Military Officers Association of America N.E. Florida Chapter meets the third Wednesday 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 Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Fleet Reserve Center on Collins Road. For information, visit www.aa09.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 Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at 470 Madeira Dr., Orange Park. Service officers available Monday through Friday, 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 Wednesday 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 Tuesday and Thursday (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Call 542-1582 for info.

Navy Wives Clubs of America DID No. 300 meets the second Thursday 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 Thursday at 8 p.m., 390 Mayport Rd., Atlantic Beach. Call 246-6855.

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

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Westside Jacksonville Chapter 1984 meets at 1 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Murray Hill United Methodist Church, (Fellowship Hall Building) at 4101 College Street. Call 778-7083.

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

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

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



Join Quit Tobacco - Make Everyone Proud on Feb. 21 in celebrating the Great American Spit Out and commit to staying tobacco-free for 24 hours. What starts as one small step will get you that much closer to quitting smokeless tobacco forever. Commitment to quitting is often the critical moment in overcoming tobacco's influence in your life. Belief in yourself, a loved one or friend to quit tobacco will go a long way towards ensuring success. After you decide the day you want to quit, make a plan. Write it down, talk to someone or research what others are doing in their journeys. Being prepared to face an enemy like tobacco and nicotine addiction takes focus, hard work and resolve. You are not alone in the fight. Quit Tobacco - Make Everyone Proud offers the services, resources and tools needed to help you succeed. While any day is the perfect day to quit tobacco, let Great American Spit Out be your launching pad. Contact the Naval Hospital Wellness Center at 542-2836 or brookie.keen@med.navy.mil.

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Appliances

Whirlpool Refrigerator 18cu top freezer \$325. Whirlpool Range \$200. Range hood \$80. Good cond. 904-503-4660

Collectibles

Knight Southeast Doll Show at Ramada Conference Center Mandarin, 3130 Hartley Rd, February 23 from 9a-2:30p. Adults \$6. Children and scouts free. See dealers at www.knightshows.com Call 904-783-9049

Estate Sales

B. LANGSTON'S PRESENTS Orange Park 365 Bonnyln Drive Everything! 50's - modern day. Furn, tools, dolls, kitchen, jewelry, glass, Knickknack heaven. Fri/Sat 9-5. blanston.com Great home for sale as well!

B. Lanston's Presents San Marco Riverfront Antique & modern furniture. Listed artists, L. Vuitton, 2 pianos, Designer clothing, oriental rugs 1/0. Clocks, victrolas, books, glass, china etc. 701 Old Grove Manor. Thur 5-7, Fri/Sat 9-5. blanston.com

Grave Park of Beach Blvd 1303 Jamaica Ct. Fri/Sat 9-5, Sun 11-2. Home full + hot tub, music box collection. www.yesterdaysschildinc.com

Furniture / Household

BANQUET DINING ROOM TABLE - Open to 8ft 2" \$600. 904-247-5686

Dining Table 3'x5' \$75. Maple trees 5'-6" \$6. Fig trees \$7. TV \$50. Girl's bike 7-teen \$45. 904-384-7809

For Sale: Sofa and Loveseat set, 8 mos old, great condition \$600- large entertainment center, med color solid wood \$500. OBO- Bissau colored dishwasher, runs great, Kenmore Elite-\$150 OBO. Ph- 912-674-0815

Solid Oak Table, 5 chairs, medium oak, rattan outdoor furniture, 4pc, table, Magnavox TV. 904-583-2246, 904-266-0941. Moving Sale!

Solid wood Armoire \$150. Solid wood dresser \$150. Light colored, kids full bed set \$pc. \$350. 912-674-2469

Twin size bed w/mattress & hdbd, exc cond, like new \$100. Stationary bike \$60. 553-3887

Garage Sale

Southside Estate Sale Fri. 2/22, 8a-1p 8370 Brookridge Blvd. South. Tools, small appliances, clothes, furn, etc.

Medical

DIABETIC TEST STRIPS NEEDED \$1 BUY sealed / unexpired boxes \$ Call Bob at (904) 712-90150

Misc. Merchandise

1997 CLUB CAR Custom, GA3, 6" lift, AM/FMCD, Bikini top, fender flares, wheel spacers, HD logo, \$3200obo. 912-882-5294.

BANANA PLANT 6" to 6' You dig them \$5.00 per plant. 771-0457

ELECTRIC WATER HEATER Purchased '06 works great. 1 switched to tankless, have receipt & manual. \$10. 771-0457

Electric Water Heater bought '06 works great 1 switched to tankless have receipt 7 manual \$60. 771-0657

OFFICER'S SWORD w/Scabbard Knot case & belt. Sets for \$350 at Navex, asking \$250. 786-8164

WOOD LATHE like new w/stand \$145. 48.5"x79" sliding green door white \$25. 476-7544/786-9651

Sporting Goods

CANOE 14ft, 3 seats, bait box & cooler; fiberglass hull 904-221-7558. \$200.00

LOOK

GUN SHOW February 23rd & 24th National Guard Armory, 1301 Moseley Ave. Palatka Info: Cliffhangers 386-325-6114

New Tigershark PowerPod Golf Driver w/hedcover senior flex only \$60. Call Walt 778-9167- lv mss.

Wanted To Buy or Trade

WANTED- Indian Artifacts, Spearheads range from \$100-\$1000ea. & smaller arrowheads \$5 to \$100 each. Free appraisals. **WANTED - Old brass** or copper buttons from War of 1812, Civil War or Civilians from 1800's. 912-576-5945/912-270-6342

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Labrador Retrievers, AKC reg. Gorgeous light yellow, black heads, muscular, stout, both parents OFA good & CH sired. HC, all pups guaranteed. Ready now. CALL 386-365-3094

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1997 SEASPORT C/C 20' 140hp Suzuki Bimini Fish Finder 3 blade S/S Prop. Many extras. \$9,000obo. 904-505-7455

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5th Wheel Camper 3 Slides Sleep 4 Dix Model Many upgrades one owner exc cond. 16' Awning \$22,000. 904-716-1968

STARCRAFT Travel Trailer 2010 27ft. Please call for price. 269-8378

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Michelins - New P225/60R17 \$130ea. P275/55R18 1097 \$200ea. Radial LT P255/70R16 8/32 Tread \$85. Lincoln parts Acura name plate new \$65. 904-384-7809

Automobiles

2003 Jaguar XJ V8 Vanden Plas, mint condition, original owner \$14,000.00 or best offer. If interested please contact Tolmage or Morvin at 1-414-378-1602

2011 BUICK REGAL CXL 4cyl, turbo mint cond., midnight blue, 1thr seats, loaded 10,300mi's, \$20,850obo. 904-708-2635

2011 FORD MUSTANG Convert., custom 1thr, V6, 13,400mi's, like new garage kept, \$22K. 904-535-5463

Dodge Avenger 2012 - Black 25k H/W mi. 5yr/100k mi. warr, power tinted windows, CD. \$14,900. 904-477-6442

INFINITI G35 2005 Coupe 49K miles \$16,700.obo 724-263-2382

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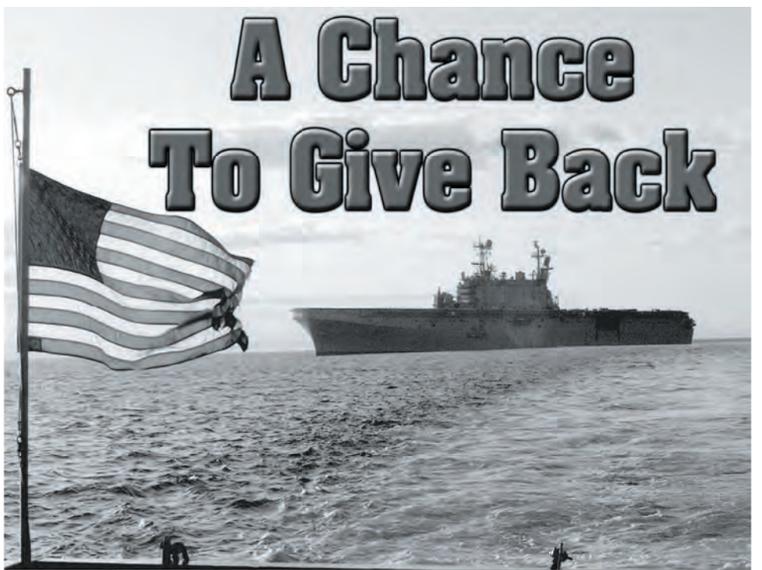
1996 CHEVY SILVERADO Truck, 2dr, extra cab, blue w/camper top, new Michelin tires, runs great \$3500. 149k (low miles) Call R.J. 912-467-3376

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