

Jax Air News

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Bush strike group begins COMPTUEX

By MCSN Robert Burck
USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77)
Public Affairs

The George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 2 departed Norfolk Nov. 20 to begin Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) – a series of training exercises designed to certify that the carrier strike group is “deployment-ready” by testing its ability to react to real-world scenarios and perform as an integral unit.

Commander, Strike Force Training Atlantic (CSFTL) is evaluating CSG2 on how well they perform during simulated surface and sub-surface threats and ship movements such as transiting a strait in hostile waters.

“CSFTL will evaluate our ability to perform all the different mission sets,” said Cmdr. Andrew Walton, the operations officer of USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). “This includes everything from counter-piracy to maritime interdiction operations and strike warfare.”

Throughout COMPTUEX, fictitious geopolitical scenarios are used to replicate real-world circumstances that could be encountered during deployment.



File photo

During COMPTUEX, ATAC F-21 KFIR fighters flying from NAS Jacksonville are capable of approaching the Bush Carrier Strike Group at speeds up to mach 1.5. The purpose is to test the defenses of the ships and air wing. ATAC and other participating aircraft mimic the tactics of potential foreign adversaries – so U.S. Navy fighter pilots can train against realistic threats.

ment.

“We immerse ourselves in this synthetic world from the second we pull lines over and get underway,” said Cmdr. Walton. “This acts as a representation of what we’ll see throughout our deployment – such as failed states, acts of piracy, and counter-terrorism operations. We expect that throughout the event, there

will be airborne, surface and even sub-surface forces out there that will be testing us.”

CSG 2 combines George H.W. Bush, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 8, and Destroyer Squadron

(DESRON) 22 during the exercise. All ships and their crews and the embarked air wing will play active roles.

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Lt. j.g. Diego McKnight of HSM-74 Detachment 1 is greeted by (from left) grandmother, Valery McKnight, friend, Rosa Lucendo and mother, Hope White after returning home on Nov. 18.

Welcome home HSM-74 Det. 1

By Clark Pierce
Editor

A two-helicopter detachment from the HSM-74 “Swamp Foxes” returned to NAS Jacksonville Nov. 18, completing a 10-month independent deployment on board USS Gravelly (DDG 107), an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer.

Officer in Charge Lt. Cmdr. John Nadder said the MH-60R Seahawk detachment consisted of six pilots, four aircrewmembers and 16 maintainers.

“AEC Paul Champagne and AM1 Andrew Smith ran an outstanding shop. There wasn’t any significant down time – even when things

got really busy. Our people kept all the maintenance straight and kept the aircraft running so well that mission readiness was never a concern,” said Nadder.

Gravelly, which joined the fleet in 2010, was mentioned in August news reports when the ship was ordered to patrol the eastern Mediterranean Sea in response to rising rumors of an imminent U.S. military intervention in the Syrian civil war.

“The most memorable part of the deployment had to be the Syrian issue. Our destroyer was mentioned in the news quite a bit – which

See HSM-74, Page 8



Photo by Clark Pierce

Stage hypnotist and retired USMC Master Sgt. Bryan McDaniel invited 19 Sailors and civilians to be part of the NAS Jax Holiday Safety Stand Down Nov. 20 at Dewey’s All-Hands Club.

Safety stand down at Dewey’s

By Clark Pierce
Editor

It was standing room only at Dewey’s All-Hands Club when hundreds of Sailors and civilian employees from Commander, Navy Region Southeast and NAS Jacksonville attended the holiday safety stand down Nov. 20.

Ron Williamson, NAS Jax safety officer, welcomed the gathering. “You know why we’re here today – to remind you to make smart decisions that will keep you and your family safe and sound over the holiday season,” he said.

After reciting some Navy Region Southeast accident statistics, Williamson introduced the guest speaker, stage hypnotist Bryan McDaniel.

“Thank you for inviting me here today. As a retired Marine Corps master sergeant, I have a special affinity for safety meetings on mili-

See SAFETY, Page 10

VP-8 ‘Fighting Tigers’ begin dual-site deployment

By Lt. j.g. Torrey Plum
VP-8 Public Affairs

The VP-8 “Fighting Tigers” depart NAS Jacksonville at the end of November for a dual-site, seven-month deployment to Bahrain and El Salvador.

VP-8 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Todd Libby stated, “through a focus on pride, people, and professionalism, all 350 Fighting Tigers are ready to deploy in what is scheduled to be our last P-3C Orion deployment prior to transitioning to



File photo

A P-3C Orion assigned to VP-8 does a fly by prior to landing at NAS Jacksonville. The squadron will soon depart from the station for a scheduled dual-site deployment.

the P-8 Poseidon.”

The squadron’s mission will focus on maritime surveillance and reconnaissance. VP-8 will

relieve the “Screaming Eagles” of VP-1 in Bahrain and the “Golden Swordsmen” of VP-47 in El Salvador.

Cmdr. Derek Adametz, VP-8’s executive officer commented, “VP-8 Fighting Tigers continue to set the standard for maritime patrol aviation. They are both ready and excited to deploy.”

Prior to deployment, VP-8’s inter-deployment readiness cycle consisted of supporting carrier strike group exercises, anti-submarine warfare training, individual and command qualifications and certifications. These included: operational readiness evalua-

tion, Fleet Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization evaluations, weapons inspections, overseas deployment training requirements, and Middle-East/Central America cultural training.

“I am incredibly proud of all that the Fighting Tigers have accomplished during the past 12 months, from supporting the fleet to supporting the community. The men and women of VP-8 have made a positive difference” said Libby.

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U.S. Navy photos

One of the many services afforded civilian workers at NAS Jacksonville in 1947 was the on-base pay day mobile bank service, courtesy of Barnett National Bank.



Employees at the NAS Jax Public Works Auto Paint Shop work on a truck in 1947.

This Week in Navy History

From Staff

Nov. 28

1775 - Congress adopts first rules for regulation of the "Navy of the United Colonies."

1941 - USS Enterprise (CV-6) sails from Pearl Harbor for Wake Island to ferry Marine Corps aircraft to island.

1942 - Ensigns George Carlson and Mac Cason organize rescue parties to help rescue people from the fire at the Cocomanut Grove nightclub in Boston, Mass. They are credited "for saving more lives than any other single agency."

Nov. 29

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

1890 - First Army-Navy football game (Navy won 24-0).

1929 - Cmdr. Richard Byrd

makes first flight over South Pole.

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

Nov. 30

1942 - In Battle of Tassafaronga, th last major naval action in Solomon Islands, U.S. forces prevent Japanese attempt to reprovision the Japanese troops on Guadalcanal. Six U.S. ships were damaged in the action.

Dec. 1

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

1921 - In first flight of a Navy airship filled with helium, Blimp C-7 piloted by Lt. Cmdr.

Ralph Wood left Norfolk, Va. for Washington, D.C.

1959 - Bureau of Ordnance (BUORD) merges with Bureau of Aeronautics (BUAER) to form the Bureau of Naval Weapons (BUWEPS).

Dec. 2

1775 - Congress orders first officers commissions printed.

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

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

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

1965 - USS Enterprise

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

Dec. 3

1775 - Lt. John Paul Jones raises the Grand Union flag on USS Alfred. It was the First American flag raised over American naval vessel.

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

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

Dec. 4

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

1943 - Aircraft from USS Lexington (CV-16) and USS

Independence (CVL-22) attack Kwajalein Atoll, sinking four Japanese ships and damaging five others. Only three U.S. ships suffered damage.

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

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

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

My feelings about Uncle Sam . . . it's complicated

By Sarah Smiley
Special Contributor

People sometimes wonder if I love or hate being a military dependent. It's a good question, and one I've asked myself.

I've been known to write about things that drive me crazy about military life: deployments, frequent moves, seabags full of clothes that are ship-grey and smell like JP-5 (jet fuel).

I've also been known to write about things I love about military life: most notably, the culture, unique experiences and relationships with other military families.

If Facebook had a status update option for users' feelings about the military, mine would be, "It's complicated."

To be fair, I don't know what it's like for people who aren't military dependents. I've been one since the day I was born. In fact, there only have been six weeks, between my college graduation and wedding, when I didn't have a military identification card. During those six weeks, I broke my right leg. So that's what I think about not being in the military: I break things, and I don't have insurance.

I often view the military as a parent. I've gone through cyclical, childlike feelings about it, and while I can criticize and complain about Uncle Sam, my heart hurts when anyone else does ("Hey, that's 'MY' uncle you're talking about!").

My dad was an F-14 pilot. His office was located on an aircraft carrier or above a hangar. Until I was about 13 years old, when I saw a documentary about aircraft carriers on television, I didn't realize this was unusual to those outside of the military.

Going to see my dad on the ship was, from what I can tell, like a civilian child going to see her dad in an office building. The distinct odor of steel mixed with JP-5 is as familiar to me as the antiques smell of the house I grew up in. When I smell anything vaguely similar — like the greasy handrails of old stairwells — it stops me in my tracks.

I remember going to see my dad on the aircraft carrier before ships were made to accommodate women. There weren't any female restrooms. For some reason, that always made an impression on me.

I sat on Dad's small bed and usually complained of needing to use the bathroom (of course!) while I watched mom put his clothes away in metal drawers. If I gave Dad a picture to take on deployment, it had to be secured to his desk or wall so that it wouldn't slide.

I didn't second-guess any of this. It was just the way it was.

Then came what we'll call my "teen years" with

From the Homefront

the military. Only, I wasn't a teen. I was in my 20s and married to Dustin, another military pilot. By then, I could easily list all the ways in which the military was dumb.

Not having female restrooms on the aircraft carrier? Dumb. Asking families for their "top choice" for a duty station and then sending them elsewhere? Dumb. Using taxpayer dollars to move a family back and forth across the country when their "top choice" wouldn't have required transferring? Dumb, dumb, dumb.

By this point, the military was something I couldn't wait to put behind me. It was wasteful, demanding, annoying, and so 1980s. If the military were a person, I'd scream that I hated it. Then I'd cry, "You don't care about me at all, do you?" and slam my door.

I begged Dustin to get out when his commitment was up.

Thirteen years later, we're still in the military and nearing Dustin's 20-year mark.

There will always be things I don't understand or like about the military (Detailers really are blindfolded when they throw darts at a map, aren't they?), but, wow, the military somehow, magically even, became smarter and less annoying now that I'm not in those "teen years" with it anymore.

I watched my human parents go through a similar process: they were everything, then they got all weird, and then, when I turned 25, "suddenly" they were super smart again! Funny how those things happen, huh?

Just the other day, as I drove past the airport, a Navy P-3 was about to takeoff. I actually pulled off the side of the road and watched from my car. I was surprised when I got a little teary. The aircraft seemed old, but it was familiar and looked like "home" to me.

It's complicated.

My feelings about the military, much like my feelings about my parents, can't be teased out. They're all mixed up in my childhood, who I am, and how I view the world. At times the military has disappointed me, infuriated me, and gotten in my way. But it has always been there. Always.

So, as this is the week of giving thanks, it seems appropriate to take time to acknowledge the military for raising me, shaping me, and, ultimately, always providing for me and my family. Yes, I get mad, but dear military, when you're not looking, I smile and whisper, "thank you."

Notice of upcoming NAS Jax power outage

From Public Works

NAS Jacksonville Public Works Department periodically schedules power outages in order to safely perform required maintenance in the high voltage substation serving **family housing and the Naval Hospital Jacksonville campus.**

The next scheduled power outage is **Dec. 7, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Your understanding of the necessity for these power outages is sincerely appreciated because the required maintenance will greatly improve the reliability of the substation equipment and the installation's overall electrical distribution system. Outages are scheduled in order to minimize the impact they will have on operations and the daily lives of our family housing residents.

Single Navy mothers needed for research study

From Staff

If you are a single Navy mothers who have been on deployment and have completed an entire deployment cycle your participation is needed for a research study to determine what is the emotional re-adjustment of coming home and reentering post deployment life after being deployed.

A doctoral psychology student at Capella University wishes to ask you a few questions about your experience on deployment. Your participation should take about one hour. You must have completed a deployment within the past 12 months and be at least 18 years old. All participants will receive a \$10 Starbuck gift card. To learn more, contact Juanita Bruno-Jacob at (703) 618-9668 or email jbrunojacob2@capellauniversity.edu. This research is conducted under the direction of Dr. Eleni Pinnow and has been reviewed and approved by the Capella University Institutional Review Board.

NAS Jacksonville
Command Holiday Party 2013
Dec. 7, 5:30-10 p.m. at Dewey's

Call 542-4864 for more information

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MM2 Ayers/YN2 Kay/QMSN Baker (542-3051) Chapel/Recycling
MA3 Dalgado /ABH2 Viar (542-8185) - Air/Ops/Security

Ticket Prices
Civilians: \$20
ET- Above: \$20
E1- E8: \$10
Tickets now on sale

Dinner, dancing, door prizes (must be present)

For child care, call the CDC at 542-9075, \$20 per child, must pay in advance, last day to sign up is Dec. 5.

JaxAir News

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Photo courtesy of HSMWSL

Cmdr. George Austin salutes Capt. Daniel Boyle, commander, Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet as he takes command of Helicopter Maritime Strike Weapons School Atlantic after relieving Cmdr. Raymond Marsh III during a change of command at NS Mayport on Nov. 22.

Helicopter Maritime Strike Weapons School, Atlantic holds change of command

By Lt. Andrew Howerton
HSM Weapons School, Atlantic PAO

Cmdr. George Austin assumed command of Helicopter Maritime Strike Weapons School Atlantic (HSMWSL) Nov. 22, relieving Cmdr. Raymond Marsh III during a change of command ceremony held at Naval Station Mayport.

The HSM Weapons School serves as the Atlantic Fleet's center of tactical excellence for training and evaluation of maritime strike combat helicopter aircrews. The command is responsible for ensuring that today's Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing, Atlantic squadrons and detachments deploy with the most comprehensive and up to date training available. Additionally, the Weapons School is charged with progressing and ensuring the future combat success of all East Coast Helicopter Maritime Strike aircraft.

During his 15-month tour as commanding officer, Marsh made immediate and enduring readiness improvements for deploying combat aircrews. His direction and leadership pushed the Weapons School's personnel to grow and excel professionally. He focused their talents and expertise to

provide unprecedented levels of training and support for fleet operators. His next assignment will be as the Air Operations Officer onboard the USS Iwo Jima (LHD-7), home-ported in Norfolk, Va.

A native of West Deptford, N.J., Austin enlisted in the Navy in January 1990 and served as a machinist mate (nuclear) until his selection to the United States Naval Academy. He graduated from the Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and received his commission in 1996. He also holds a Master's Degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School and a Developmental Test Pilot designation. He brings extensive fleet experience from flying tours on the East and West Coast, he has completed multiple Western Pacific and 5th Fleet deployments, MH-60R and MH-60S Seahawk Helicopter developmental testing and evaluation, as well as an Individual Augmentee tour with Task Force Raptor in Baghdad, Iraq supporting a Special Forces team. He also brings overseas staff experience from a tour at European Command Headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany.

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Photos by MC2 Daniel Meshel

Career Navigators visit station

AECM Ted Hillerbrand and AWOC Brian Griggs, technical advisors assigned to Navy Personnel Command, address Sailors assigned to NAS Jacksonville on Nov. 20 during a Career Navigator and Reenlistment brief. The brief is part of an ongoing effort to communicate changes to Navy policy and to field feedback from Sailors.



Cmdr. Lee Sisco, a branch head assigned to Navy Personnel Command, addresses Sailors in the VP-30 Auditorium during a Career Navigator and Reenlistment brief. The brief allows Sailors to learn about changes in Navy policy and how it may impact their careers.



AECM Ted Hillerbrand, a technical advisor assigned to Navy Personnel Command, presented a multi-media show highlighting Navy policy changes to NAS Jax Sailors during the Career Navigator and Reenlistment brief.



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Dillard's

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NAVSUP FLCJ captures warehouse efficiencies through CPI Project

By Glen Van Vorst
NAVSUP FLC Jacksonville
Corporate Communications

The NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Jacksonville (FLCJ) Detachment Southeast Regional Maintenance Center (SERMC) Mayport team recently conducted a continuous process improvement project focused on capturing warehouse material storage capacity.

The NAVSUP FLCJ team is a cross functional cadre of experts embedded at SERMC that directly supports the warfighter and the fleet by providing all aspects of integrated logistics services to support mission related operations and functions for Naval Station Mayport-based Navy vessels, as well as numerous visiting ships.

One of the major logistics services that the team provides is the receipt, inspection, and accommodation storage of government furnished material, contractor furnished material, and sponsor owned material (SOM) at the detachment's warehouse site before turnover to the alteration installation team, or to the waterfront operations maintenance team. Ultimately, the material stored in the site's warehouse is transferred and used to accomplish repairs and modernization for ships' scheduled dry-docking selected Restricted availability, selected restricted availability, continuous maintenance availability, and emergent work performed during an unscheduled window of opportunity.

With the recent changing of the patrol craft, USS Shamal (PC 13), USS Zepher (PC 8), and USS Tornado (PC14)



Photo courtesy of FLCJ

Wilbur Lynch, NAVSUP FLCJ Detachment SERMC supervisory material handler, transports a pallet full of NAVSEA sponsor owned material from its accommodation storage location during the wall to wall inventory conducted during the warehouse space availability continuous process improvement project.

homeports to NS Mayport, determining warehousing space availability became a primary focal point for the SERMC team. Furthermore, with future Navy plans including the homeport change for an Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), the USS New York (LPD 21) arriving in Dec., and the USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43) and the USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) in 2014, the team questioned whether or not there was adequate available space to accommodate additional material storage required to support the increase in ship repair and modification schedules.

Geared to provide superior customer support, the SERMC team proactively enlisted the help of NAVSUP CPI Blackbelt, Ricky Toups, to jumpstart the CPI project designed to capture the current warehousing operational footprint. From the initial onset of the project,

the team was faced with some distinctive challenges including resource restraints and an austere fiscal environment. To help alleviate resource challenges, the team developed a detailed plan of action which called for FLCJ personnel, SERMC resources, along with the assistance of Navy drilling reservists.

"Our team was able to make necessary staffing adjustments required for the project, by bringing in Naval Reserve sailors to assist with conducting some of the work-heavy tasks including a detailed wall to wall inventory," said FLCJ Detachment Site Director Lt. Cmdr. Paul Havens.

With the help of the Navy reservists, the team was able to successfully conduct an in-depth analysis which established a baseline inventory, helped identify areas for process improvement as well as opportunities to reconcile discrepancies caused due to varying record keeping methodologies. Furthermore, as part of the project's "Measure" phase, the team was able to capture other critical statistics including the current quantity and length of time that parts were being stored at the customer's request. These results included the capturing of an average GFM stock turn rate of approximately 4.21 years, with SOM stock turn rates averaging approximately 1.33 years over the 24 month threshold. During the "analyze" phase of the project, final inventory numbers showed that of the 1,127 fixed storage locations; approximately 532 or 45 percent of the locations were empty, thus proving warehousing capacity to be adequate for any increased ship repair and modification workload.

workload.

In order to enhance customer support and to help eliminate future inventory discrepancies and inconsistencies, the team was also able to successfully establish clear business rules for all receipted material. Furthermore, the team developed a Microsoft Access database tool that allows for increased material visibility, as well as quick and accurate identification of storage capacity. Both of the above solutions were identified during a brainstorming session of the process "Improvement" phase of the project.

"The database tool that the team developed has many benefits that can help influence customer decisions regarding disposition of material with above average stock turn rates," said Havens.

Furthermore, to help expedite and plan for ship repairs, SERMC personnel including planners and managers were granted access to the database tool, which will also allow the reallocation of material not being used for future ship repairs, thus, leading to future cost avoidance due to being able to manage on-hand material.

With regards to the success of the CPI project, Havens commented, "The conduction of the wall to wall inventory and the creation of the Access database helped to provide increased visibility of end-use assets. It also allowed us to drive enhancements and efficiencies in our warehousing processes as well as the opportunity to further enhance our commitment to providing world class support to the fleet, while being the best possible stewards of NAVSEA owned parts, and taxpayer money."

Operational Health Support Unit Jacksonville change of command

From OHSU Jacksonville

Operational Health Support Unit (OHSU) Jacksonville, the Reserve Unit of Naval Hospital Jacksonville, will hold a Change of Command Ceremony Dec. 8 at 10 a.m. Capt. Lee Kiolbasa, a healthcare administrator who currently serves as the executive officer of OHSU San Diego, will assume command of the OHSU Jacksonville Unit from Capt. Kenneth LaPolla, a general dentist from Ohio, who will transfer to OHSU Camp Lejeune.

Capt. Gayle Shaffer, command-

ing officer of Naval Hospital Jacksonville, will be the guest speaker for the ceremony. Kiolbasa comes to OHSU Jacksonville with a wealth of experience within Navy Medicine to include tours at Navy military treatment facilities, operational commands with the Marines, mobilizations to Germany and Afghanistan and several executive leadership positions. He attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, where he received a bachelor of science and a masters degree in business administration.

During LaPolla's two-year command tenure, OHSU Jacksonville provided more than 220,000 hours of direct operational medical & dental care in the form of annual training to Navy active duty commands and missions throughout the world, including deployments of many members to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and Afghanistan. Under LaPolla's leadership, every one of the command's 18 detachments was awarded the Navy Surgeon General's coveted

See OHSU, Page 8

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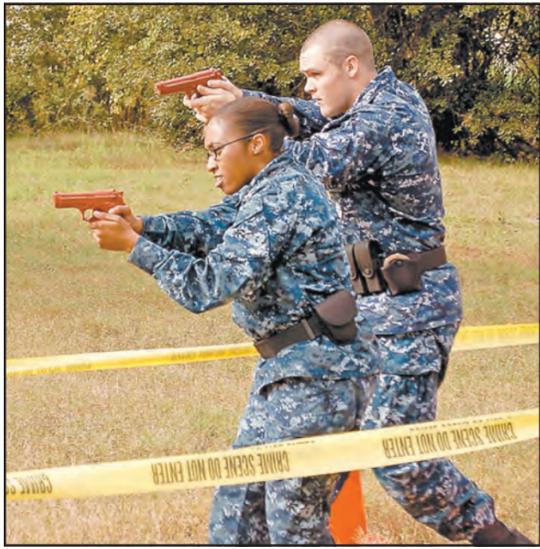
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MA1 James Williams (left) and BM1 Christopher Hill move down a hallway in an empty building at Navy Gateway Inns and Suites while training during an active shooter response course coordinated by the Navy Criminal Investigative Service for members of the NAS Jacksonville Security Department and other local commands, Nov. 18-22.



BM1 Christopher Hill (left) and MA1 James Williams prepare to enter the building while participating in an active shooter response course coordinated by the Navy Criminal Investigative Service.



MA3 Kiara Walker and MA2 Brian Hughes of the NAS Jax Security Department move carefully down a simulated hallway in search of an active shooter.



(From left) NCIS Instructor Rick McNeely observes as MA1 Nicholas Green, MA2 Gerardo Oliver-Baez, MA3 Jamal Mitchell and MA1 James Williams clear simulated hallways and rooms of suspects.

NCIS

shows security department the ropes during active shooter response course

By Lt. j.g. Timothy Folts
Staff Writer

Four Physical Security Specialists from the Navy Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) spent a week at NAS Jacksonville teaching security personnel from both NAS Jacksonville and NSB Kings Bay the Active Shooter Response Course.

From Nov. 18-22, Rick McNeely, Robert Harmon, Lt. David Highsmith, and Chief James Fuller taught the 40-hour course covering the four stages of response to an active shooter situation.

After receiving classroom instruction, security personnel then practiced their new knowledge in order to improve their law enforcement skills. The ultimate evaluation was an active shooter simulation in an abandoned building on base using airsoft weapons and actors simulating bad guys, victims and innocent personnel.

The first day consisted of classroom instruction in improvised explosives, the components of rapid response, apprehension, communication, and weapons fundamentals.

The second day continued the classroom instruction of the first, with discussions of weapons handling and medical first aid specific to active shooter situations.

Hands-on practice began this day as well, with students practicing the application of tourniquets on each other, as well as beginning outside group drills. These drills allow for instructors to teach basic skills in a group setting.

Wednesday and Thursday the students began advanced practical drills, working through cones set up with police tape to simulate the hallways and rooms of an actual building while still allow-



Robert Harmon, physical security specialist with the Navy Criminal Investigative Service, instructs security personnel from NSB Kings Bay and NAS Jacksonville about treatment of gunshot wounds.

ing for instructors to maintain awareness of the entire scenario.

Airsoft weaponry replaced the fake rubber weapons of the previous day and adding additional realism.

Each student wears the same gear they wear on the job, with the addition of a full face mask for safety while training with the airsoft weaponry.

Friday was the final evaluation, utilizing the old abandoned Gateway Inns and Suites building (Building 11) as the staging ground for a simulated active shooter situation. Students had to utilize all their skills to deal with a hostile target, role-played by one of the instructors.

Instructors based their portrayal on studies of active

shooter incidents from the past 40 years in order to best present the type of situation security personnel may actually face in the future.

Students not only participated as security forces, but also as actors in the scenario. The evaluation had to be repeated six times in order to allow all students to practice each of the roles.

Each scenario was different, however, to avoid those students who start the day



playing the victims from having an unfair advantage when it is their turn to practice being the response team.

McNeely said, "NCIS travels to installations upon command request to perform the Active Shooter Response Course. Each class optimally consists of 12 to 18 students to keep a quality instructor-to-student ratio. Once a command's security forces complete the course, they become a Certified Reaction Force, and the command is responsible for maintaining the skills acquired through the Active Shooter Response Course."

(From left) MAC Jonathon Berringer and MASN Darius Bucks prepare to open a door and clear the space behind it.

(From left) NCIS instructor Robert Harmon works with MAC Jonathan Berringer as he handcuffs simulated suspect BMI Christopher Hill. The students role played both suspects and cops during the training.



NCIS Physical Security Specialist Rick McNeely observes as the team of from left, MA3 Amanda Nicks, Navy Region Southeast Police Academy Training Director Max Tinsley and MA3 Jamal Mitchell clear a simulated house of suspects.



Chief James Fuller, physical security specialist with the Navy Criminal Investigative Service, looks on as MA1 Javier Santiago practices proper application of a tourniquet to MA1 Nicholas Green's arm.

Photos by Clark Pierce and Lt. j.g. Timothy Folts



Two teams of Sailors practice the two-person assist carry during an NCIS Active Shooter Response Course at NAS Jacksonville.



Sailors practice the two-person cradle carry during an NCIS Active Shooter Response Course held Nov. 18-22 at NAS Jacksonville.



Rick McNeely, physical security specialist with NCIS and team leader of the active shooter response course instructor team, guides two Sailors in the proper way to execute a fireman carry while others look on and learn.



Rick McNeely, physical security specialist with the Navy Criminal Investigative Service and team leader of the active shooter response course instructor team, observes MA1 Javier Santiago display proper weapon discipline while other security personnel receive instruction.



Rick McNeely, physical security specialist with NCIS and team leader of the active shooter response course instructor team, instructs security personnel from NSB Kings Bay and NAS Jacksonville in proper weapons handling.



Lt. David Highsmith looks on as security personnel from NSB Kings Bay and NAS Jacksonville practice fireman carries during the training course.



Photos by Clark Pierce

Lots of youngsters anxiously await the return of their dads and moms from deployment with HSM-74 Det. 1 on Nov. 18.



Crewmembers from HSM-74 Detachment 1 make their way across a rainy tarmac Nov. 18 after returning home to NAS Jacksonville from a 10-month deployment on board USS Gravelly (DDG 107).

HSM-74

From Page 1

included HSM-74 detachment 1. It was a busy time, yet our Gravelly/Swamp Foxes team performed in an outstanding manner," said Nadder. "We also took part in exercises with Egyptian, French and British armed forces."

"The largest part of our squadron,

embarked on USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), passed Gravelly on their way to 5th Fleet in August. HSM-74 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Jim Miller flew over from Truman and gave a bravo-zulu to Det 1," said Nadder. "Over all, we accomplished our mission with a great team of men and women. I couldn't ask for anything more as the officer in charge."



File photo

With electronic countermeasures pods attached to its wings, an ATAC F-21 Kfir fighter starts its engine and prepares for take-off from NAS Jacksonville on a mission against the George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Carrier Strike Group.

COMPTUEX

From Page 1

"Our role during COMPTUEX will be similar to previous underways," said Lt. j.g. Jared Good, a pilot in Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 9. "We will continue to provide support for anti-terrorism force protection, and such things as vertical replenishment and man-overboard drills."

The "Spartans" of NAS Jacksonville-

based Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 70 operate the MH-60R anti-submarine Seahawk helicopter from onboard the Bush and her accompanying ships.

CSG 2 is conducting its final pre-deployment evaluation to ensure safe and effective coordination with the strike group to achieve mission readiness and the ability to work alongside international allies in the execution of the Navy's maritime strategy.

Navy Wounded Warrior call center connects with service members

By Patty Babb

Navy Wounded Warrior - Safe Harbor

The Navy Wounded Warrior (NWW) - Safe Harbor call center - which connects people to the catalog of services provided by the Navy's sole wounded warrior support program - received more than 1,100 calls throughout its first year of operation.

Established at the start of Fiscal Year 2013, the call center is based in Millington, Tenn. Representatives field telephone inquiries 24 hours a day, every day of the year. It is the first call center dedicated exclusively to the Navy's wounded warrior program.

"The call center is a critical benefit for the wounded warriors enrolled in our program, and for service members with health concerns who may need to be enrolled," said NWW Deputy Director Merissa Larson. "It ensures that, regardless of the date or time of their calls, and regardless of the status of their cases, wounded warriors can connect to a trained professional whenever they need assistance."

NWW is a Fleet and Family Readiness program that has assisted nearly 2,500 wounded warriors nationwide. NWW provides a lifetime of non-medical care to seriously wounded, ill and injured Sailors and Coast Guardsmen, guiding them through recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration.

The NWW call center can be reached at 855-NAVY WWP (628-9997). Sailors and Coast Guardsmen may self-refer to NWW, or be referred by a family member, their command

leadership or their medical team.

In addition to fielding inbound calls, the call center began in March making hundreds of outbound calls to NWW enrollees. Representatives provided wounded warriors critical information about the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Disability Extension, adaptive athletics opportunities and transition services.

"The call center uses sophisticated technology - a voice-over, cloud-based Internet phone system - to ensure there are no service interruptions," said Brad Nelson, director of revenue at Immersion Hospitality, the firm that manages the call center. "As a result, the call center can do things more cost-effectively, faster and with total redundancy."

The call center is staffed by three HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)-certified professionals, who use customized intake forms to capture the details of every call. Additionally, the call center staff will soon receive in-depth training on various NWW programs and services to better equip them to answer any type of inquiry they may receive.

"Call volume continues to increase every month, and the call center's capabilities are expanding. We hope to continue to spread the word about the call center and encourage people to use it whenever a need may surface," added Nelson.

November marks Warrior Care Month - it's a time to honor the service and sacrifices of seriously wounded, ill

See **NWW**, Page 17

OHSU

From Page 5

"Blue H" Award.

The command has also been recognized Navy wide for its development of an innovative exportable Trauma Nurse Training Course that enhanced trauma care capabilities for Navy nurses throughout the enterprise to serve in Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, and the Horn of Africa.

Navy Band Southeast and

the Naval Hospital Jacksonville Honor Guard will support the Change of Command Ceremony. OHSU Jacksonville is the largest medical command within Navy Reserve Command Southeast, with 775 members in 18 detachments over four states and Puerto Rico. Its Sailors provide essential medical and dental readiness support for the more than 9,400 sailors and Marines assigned to Naval Operational Support Commands in the southeast region.

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VP-5 'Mad Fox of the Week' YN2 Robert Atutubo

By Lt. j.g. Taylor Brauns
VP-5 Public Affairs

As VP-5 continues its busy schedule operating and maintaining the P8-A Poseidon, the squadron shines a spotlight on one outstanding "Mad Fox" each week.

This week's superior Sailor is YN2 Robert Atutubo.

Born in San Diego, Atutubo joined the Navy and entered boot camp in August 2009. He went on to Yeoman "A" school in Meridian, Miss.

His first operational command was the 31st Seabee Readiness Group, where he worked from January 2010 to March 2012.

He transferred to NSA Bahrain for a 12-month tour,



YN2 Robert Atutubo

after which he joined VP-5 at NAS Jacksonville.

As a Yeoman, Atutubo is tasked with administrative

support for the squadron. Specifically, he is in charge of disseminating and maintaining command instructions, evaluations, and fellow Mad Foxes personnel records.

He also makes the reservations for all DTS travel within the command and makes sure every Mad Foxes' travel experience while on orders is efficient and uneventful.

"The most challenging part of my job is managing command budgets for travel and the intricacies of the paperwork. I want everyone's travels to run smoothly - because just one error can cause delays," explained YN2 Atutubo.

"When a fellow Mad Fox gets back from TAD orders

and comes to me and says how smoothly his travel went, it confirms why I make sure every detail is correct."

Atutubo's current goal is to make E6 and his long-term goals are to make Chief and provide at least 20 years of naval service to his country.

He also plans to start work on his bachelor's degree and plans to major in Homeland Security.

When he is away from the squadron he enjoys hiking at Little Talbot Island and taking his dog to the park.

VP-5 is currently in the inter-deployment readiness cycle aboard NAS Jacksonville.

FACSFAC Jax 'Making Strides Against Breast Cancer'

By ET1(SW) Patrick Horgan
FACSFAC Jacksonville Public Affairs

A team of volunteers from Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility (FACSFAC) Jacksonville assisted with the 10th annual American Cancer Society "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk, Oct. 25-26.

The event is a non-competitive, three to five mile event that is held along the beautiful Jacksonville Landing on the St. Johns River waterfront to support the

fight to end breast cancer.

The FACSFAC Jacksonville team, organized by AC2 Persephone Dechario, assisted with the event setup, registration, water stations and clean up.

There were 345 teams consisting of 2,585 participants that helped raise more than \$174,000. The efforts by those who donated their time and money helped bring a lifetime of change to those fighting breast cancer, as well as their families.

Every Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event is an incredible and inspiring opportunity to unite as a community to honor breast cancer survivors and raise awareness about what we can do to reduce our breast cancer risk.

Dechario was impressed and humbled by the turnout, stating, "I am extremely proud to be a part of today's event and am in awe of the participation. This is a great opportunity to help others."

The donations will help the American

Cancer Society with breast cancer research, information and services, and access to mammograms for women who need them.

Since 1993, more than nine million participants across the country have raised more than \$528 million to help fight breast cancer.

AC2 Jekia Dowdell said, "Everybody I've met today knows someone who has been affected by this horrible disease. Participating in this cause is our way of supporting the fight."



Photos by Miriam S. Gallet

WWII vet visits station

(At left) NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander (left) presents World War II veteran Henry Falken with some memorabilia from the station during his visit to Heritage Park on Nov. 18. Falken was extremely appreciative of the hospitality of base personnel. "Today's military personnel reminded me very much of the professionalism of my military colleagues during WWII. The servicemen of both the past and today make me feel very fortunate to be an American and I thank the NAS Jax team for going out of their way to make this visit a highly memorable experience," said Falken.

(At right, from left) Andy Falken, World War II veteran Henry Falken, NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander and Robert Smith gather in Heritage Park during a visit to the station on Nov. 18.



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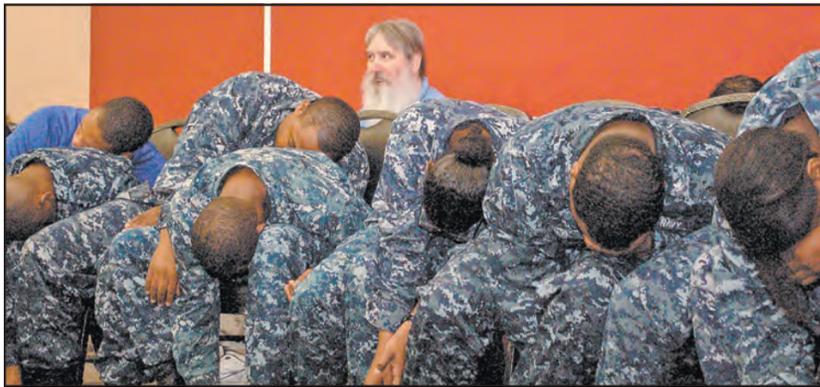
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Photos by Clark Pierce

Stage hypnotist Bryan McDaniel told the audience that there's always one or two volunteers who fail to reach a relaxed hypnotic state for a number of reasons like Vern Smith of NAS Jax Public Works Department.



Told they were five-year-olds at Halloween, the volunteers donned masks in preparation for trick-or-treating in the audience.

SAFETY

From Page 1

tary bases like NAS Jacksonville.

"In 1998, while serving in Japan, my CO asked me to put together a safety stand down. I didn't really know how to go about it, so I asked him if I could do something with magic or hypnosis. His only reply was, 'Don't get me in trouble.'

"So I did it - and it could have been better - but the troops seemed to like it. Then I came back to CONUS and the chain of command asked if I'd like to do safety as my primary responsibility and I said, 'Sure.'"

Now, as a full-time stage hypnotist and magician, McDaniel books about a dozen safety presentations at military bases each year.

He said, "According to feedback from the troops, they like it because it's more entertaining than the standard PowerPoint presentation - or a highway patrol officer reciting statistics about DUIs and traffic deaths."

When McDaniel called for volunteers who wanted to be hypnotized, dozens stormed the stage in Dewey's big hall. He picked 19 enthusiastic Sailors and civilians.

Hypnosis is a trance state characterized by extreme suggestibility, relaxation and heightened imagination. It's not really like sleep because the subject is alert the whole time.

Whether you're a skeptic or a believer, hypnosis is an interesting phenomenon. According to the American Psychological Association, hypnosis has been used for centuries - and a growing body of scien-



As most volunteers dozed in their chairs, five others, including Mike Rau of CNRSE Training Department (right), performed their enthusiastic rendition of "YMCA" by the Village People.

tific research supports its benefits in treating a range of conditions, including pain, depression, anxiety and phobias.

McDaniel also pointed out that stage hypnosis is interactive, too, because people get to see their friends on stage and they talk about each scenario. The most touching was when a Sailor is told that his careless driving has killed a shipmate. After dealing with the grief-filled scenario, McDaniel removed the memory of the suggested accident from the Sailor with a touch to his forehead.

After McDaniel's performance, Williamson reminded the audience about Club 2000. "It works like this: If you find yourself impaired in a bar, club, lounge, restaurant or private residence within Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau or St. Johns counties - call the NAS Jacksonville OOD office at 542-2338.

"You will be provided a taxi ride, paid for by the station, to your residence within the five-county area. If you are in an on-base club and over imbibe, the club bartender can contact the OOD - no questions asked. Pick up a wallet-size NAS Jax Club 2000 card from MWR, carry it with you and do not hesitate to use it," said Williamson.

He added, "There always seem to be



After stage hypnotist Bryan McDaniel persuaded the volunteers to wager all their money on race horse number two - they cheered vociferously until another horse crossed the finish line first.



A special meeting for motorcycle riders was held by (from right) NAS Jax Executive Officer Capt. Howard Wanamaker, Deputy Occupational Safety & Health Manager Max Bassett, NAS Jax Safety Officer Ron Williamson and NAS Jax Command Master Chief CMDCM(AW/SW) Brad Shepherd.



Immediately after the show, NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander talked with his Sailors and civilians about holiday safety at their commands, at their homes and on the road.

more accidents in the holiday season than during the rest of the year. So this safety stand down is a good reminder for everyone to be more vigilant to safety measures, not only on the roads, but also at home.

NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer

Capt. Roy Undersander stressed the importance of planning and the use of operational risk management (ORM) in all facets of life - especially when vacationing.

"Before you travel, have a plan, think it through and consider all the problems that could possibly happen. Think about what could go wrong ahead of time and avoid hazards. Also, be able to identify new hazards as your plan changes or when new situations pop up," said Undersander.

"Ours is the finest shore installation in the Navy and I'm proud to serve with you. This Thanksgiving, I'll be grateful for the wonderful team we have at NAS Jax. Enjoy this special season, be safe and come back to continue the outstanding work that you provide for our base and our country."

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Seabees improve facilities, pave way for future work

By Lt. j.g. Timothy Folts
Assistant Public Affairs Officer

The Seabees of Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 202, Detail Jacksonville, are always improving facilities at NAS Jacksonville and recently completed a high-profile project of a unique nature.

On the site of the former Atlantic Fleet Air Photographic Laboratory now sits a new gazebo recently constructed with a \$250k budget. This project was unique for the Seabees of CBMU 202, says Operations Chief UTC (SCW) Duane Jerry, "because Seabees are used to doing construction, but this time we had a little bit of everything. We had landscaping, which is something we don't normally do, and we had to do a lot of cosmetic construction, meaning pavers and brickwork, more than general contracting. So it was kind of a different project for us." This fine detail provided quality training for the Seabees, who normally provide expeditionary construction and engineering support to the Navy, Marine Corps, joint, and other operational forces.



Seabees of Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 202 recently completed work on a gazebo at the former location of the Atlantic Fleet Air Photographic Laboratory on NAS Jacksonville.

In addition to the gazebo, Seabees at NAS Jax recently completed three head facilities at the marina, PRT site, and golf course, and are working on a fourth at the antennae farm.

These facilities are constructed in an environmentally friendly way, with solar panels on the roofs to provide electricity and skylights for illumination. Once the antennae farm

head facility is complete, planned construction for a contractor laydown lot will begin in December of 2013, paving the way for future construction and improvements to NAS Jax.

This lot will provide a location for contractors working on on-site to have a base of operations while completing their work. Plans call for 16 spots to be available for contractors, and the lot will be "similar to an RV park" says Chief Jerry.

Projects like these allow Seabees to maintain and improve their construction skills. "We have seven rates, and all those rates can take an open area, we can all come together, and build a full 250-man tent camp with nothing else," says Chief Jerry. These projects ashore, however, allow the 50 Seabees of CBMU 202 to develop new construction skills as well maintain their current skills.

In addition to supporting NAFAC and public works, "We're also the disaster recovery unit, so in the case of a hurricane or anything that hits this area, this whole region south-east, we deploy units to support this base and Mayport" explained Chief Jerry. "We have everything for disaster recovery."

The Seabees were founded March 5th, 1942 and have served in all major U.S. conflicts since World War II.

Photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Folts

Regional projects recognized by American Concrete Institute

By Sue Brink
NAVFAC Southeast PAO

Projects at Naval Station Mayport were recognized by the American Concrete Institute, Florida First Coast Chapter Nov. 14 in Jacksonville at the chapter's 2013 annual awards banquet.

The awards recognized constructions with a "Significant Concrete Structure."

Two of the seven projects receiving an award were Navy structures aboard Naval Station (NS) Mayport - the Wharf Charlie (C-1) Improvements project and the Mayport Fitness Center were recognized.

A "Significant Concrete Structure" is a concrete structure in which concrete is used in a unique or innovative way and/or concrete is used because of its advantages over other materials with consideration to aesthetics, durability, cost and scheduling flexibility.

Wharf Charlie is a general purpose berthing wharf originally constructed in 1952. The berth is one of two primary deep draft berths at Mayport. When construction began the existing bulkhead was 57 years old and exhibited signs of severe corrosion and partial failure.

The Wharf is considered a "Significant Concrete Structure" because precast/prestressed marine concrete products and specifically designed marine and flowable grout mixes were used to enhance the durability of the concrete structure.

The contractor developed a new marine mix designed to enhance the structure's durability, increase its propensity to protect it from the severe environment, and overall sustainability. The mix design exceeded the compressive strength requirements while retaining a high resistance to chloride ion penetration and possible subsequent steel corrosion.

"Having the opportunity to work on a unique, durable and lasting mission-related construction effort is rare," said NS Mayport Public Works Department Construction Engineering Technician Joann Mason of the Wharf Charlie construction team.

"I am honored to be a part the NAVFAC Southeast Mayport team as a contributing member on this historical first - a double deck wharf development. A first for the U.S. Navy," she continued.

The NS Mayport Fitness Center included a 100,000-square-foot addition and renovation project that required the design and construction of a one-story indoor pool addition.

The gym centralizes all desired fitness programs in one facility on base. It has 18,000 plus square-feet of weight training and cardio area, a cycling studio, two championship-sized basketball courts, two racquetball courts, three group exercise rooms, a family fitness room, and the 10 lane 50-meter indoor pool. The renovated facility also includes locker rooms, offices, a child care area and a sauna.

"A significant amount of concrete was used constructing the 50-meter indoor pool and renovating the



U.S. Navy photo

Representatives from the U.S. Navy and its contractor partners were recognized by the American Concrete Institute at its annual awards banquet on Nov. 14. Two projects located at NS Mayport include the Wharf Charlie improvements and the base Fitness Center. (From left) Ross Adolph, Vulcan Materials; Joann Mason, NAVFAC Southeast/PWD Mayport; Tony Landry, senior project manager, Orion Marine; Matt Tate, project manager, Orion Marine; Shane McCreery, quality control, Orion Marine; Alvin Lopez, site superintendent, Orion Marine; and JT Walker, quality control, Vulcan Materials.

now 100,000-square-foot facility," said Mason.

The fitness center will support Navy training requirements and offer multiple opportunities for self-directed and group led physical fitness options. The center's facility spaces were designed to serve multiple

purposes, and include systems that extend the building's service life far beyond traditional projects.

The ACI asks for nominations each year to showcase the best projects that display concrete structures that are unique and innovative.

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Holiday Giving Tree helps military families

By Kaylee LaRocque
NAS Jax Public Affairs Specialist

Children from the NAS Jax Child Development Center cheered in the holiday season as they gathered at the Navy Exchange (NEX) kick off the annual Giving Tree program Nov. 21.

This is the seventh year, the NEX and USO have sponsored the tree which helps military families who may have some financial challenges during the holiday season.

The event began as NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander welcomed the children and officially lit the tree which is on display at the NEX Courtyard through the holiday season.

The group of preschoolers were then tasked with singing "Jingle Bells" and "We Wish you a Merry Christmas" as loud as they could to see if a special guest might hear their merriment from afar.

As the children and a small group of parents and teachers sang, Santa arrived to greet the children for photos and to hear their holiday wishes.



Santa talks with preschooler Mia Calzado from the NAS Jax Child Development Center during her visit to the Navy Exchange as part of the annual Giving Tree festivities on Nov. 21.

"We love sponsoring this program in conjunction with our USO. They provide us with wish list items needed by children from local commands whose families might be a little financially challenged during the holidays. It will ensure that some of our military children will have a Christmas that they otherwise probably wouldn't have," said NEX General Manager Marsha Brooks.



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander listens to a group of preschoolers from the NAS Jax Child Development Center sing a holiday song after the lighting of the Giving Tree at the NAS Jax Navy Exchange Courtyard.

While shopping at the NEX, customers can pick an ornament from the tree. Each ornament contains a small list and sizes of children needing clothing articles or toys this holiday season.

Once the items are purchased, they can be taken to Personalized Services inside the NEX for wrapping and distribution to the families registered at the USO.

The gifts need to be returned by Dec. 15 so they can be delivered in time to bring joy to a child's Christmas.



NAS Jax Navy Exchange General Manager Marsha Brooks greets a group of children from the NAS Jax Child Development Center before the annual Giving Tree Lighting event.

NAVFAC Southeast military support 'Week of Valor' with school visits

By Earl Bittner
NAVFAC Southeast Public Affairs

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast active duty military visited local classrooms Nov. 12 and 13 as part of the City of Jacksonville's Week of Valor.

Naval Station (NS) Mayport Public Works Officer Cmdr. Phillip Lavallee spoke to 40 fourth-graders at Arlington Heights Elementary Nov. 12.

"I spoke to the kids about the history of Veteran's Day and what Veteran's Day means to me," said Lavallee.

"I also explained to them the reasons why I joined the Navy and the importance of learning, listening and staying out of trouble if they wanted to consider a career in the Navy when they grew up."

Lavallee said the children asked more

questions than he had time to answer. "Overall it was a great experience and I think the kids enjoyed the discussion," he said.

SWCS Jose Torres, NAVFAC Southeast senior enlisted advisor, spoke to about 50 fifth-grade students Nov. 12 at Ortega Museum Magnet Elementary School just north of NAS Jacksonville.

"The Week of Valor is always a great opportunity to get out and talk with children about what we do in the military," said Torres.

"I really am honored that schools take time out of their busy curriculum to spend some time with Seabees, Sailors, Marines, Airman and Soldiers. It is exciting to know that the children are very interested in what we do for our nation."

"The kids were very engaged," said

Torres.

"I could tell they were anxious to ask questions. They made me smile and realize that this is why we enjoy making sacrifices for them - to be able to be kids and to get a great education."

On Nov. 3, NS Mayport Commodity Manager Lt. j.g. Stephen Baker spoke to 150 seventh-grade children at Mayport Middle School.

"I started my comments by speaking about my background and career thus far and my experience at the U.S. Naval Academy," said Baker.

"I then fielded a lengthy series of questions about life on submarines and at the Naval Academy and finished with a discussion about what we do at NAVFAC."

Baker enjoyed talking to the children about Veterans Day and being thankful

for what others do for our freedoms.

"It was a really good experience," said Baker.

The citywide Week of Valor celebration saluted the sacrifice and service of military service men and women.

The list of educational, patriotic, community and civic events that took place during the week also included a Military Appreciation Luncheon, a Salute to Veterans 5K run, the annual Veterans Day Parade, a Veterans Housing Convention, and a Jacksonville Jaguars game dedicated to honoring the military.

Jacksonville's goal for hosting the series of events for active duty, reservists and veterans, is to showcase Jacksonville as the most "military friendly" city in the country.



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Children's Holiday Bingo
December 20

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p.m.
\$10 per child

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Youth Bowling League: Every Sat., 10:30
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10:30 am - 12:30 pm. Pee Wee Division
(6 years & under) 2 games, \$6 per week.
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Special Stars Bowling League for families
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All ages welcome! Ramps available for
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Mondays: All you can bowl for \$5, 4 - 6
pm.

Wednesdays: All you can bowl for \$5.95,
4 - 10 pm.

Thursdays: Free bowling for Active Duty
11 am - 1 pm.

Saturdays: Family Extreme Bowling
\$8, 4 - 6 pm, Party Extreme \$10, 8 pm -
midnight (up to 2 hours of play). Shoes
Included.

Monthly Handicap Single Tournament:
Oct. 19, 1 - 4 pm. \$20 per person, registra-
tion begins at noon.

*Please note, the specials do not include
shoes unless stated otherwise*

Strike in the New Year at NAS Freedom
Lanes

December 31, 7 p.m. - 1 a.m.
\$15 per person

Fitness & Aquatics

Call 542-2930

Indoor Swimming Pool
Lap swim hours, Monday - Friday 6 - 8
a.m., 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4:30 - 7 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Jingle Bell Jog 5K
December 13 at 11:30 a.m.
Perimeter Rd. / Antenna Farm

Powerlifting Competition
Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014
7 a.m. at the Fitness Center
\$10 registration fee

I.T.T. Events

Call 542-3318

E-mail them directly at jaxs_nas_mwritt@navy.mil.

Waves of Honor Special: Seaworld
Orlando Adult \$46.50, Child \$42.25.
Busch Gardens Tampa Adult \$45, Child
\$40.50.

Monster Jam: Club seating (includes pit
pass) \$42, regular seating (includes pit
pass) \$22.

Jacksonville Jaguars: Section 147 Bud
Zone, \$70. Jags shuttle bus \$12.

*Thrasher Horne Center for the Arts 2013 -
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MOSH: \$7 - \$12.

*The Artist Series - Broadway in Jax 2013 -
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- Celtic Thunder: Nov. 10, 2013, 7 pm, \$80.

- Men Are From Mars, Women Are From
Venus: Jan. 17 & 18, 2014, \$51.

- War Horse: Feb. 22, 2014, 8 pm, \$68.50.

- Memphis: Mar. 22, 2014, 8 pm, \$65.

- Million Dollar Quartet: Apr. 26, 2014, 8
pm, \$65.

- The D* Word: Oct. 4 - Oct. 25, 2014,
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Disney World Orlando Armed Forces
Salute ticket FL (Expires Sept.27,2014)
4 day Hopper ticket- \$166

4 day 1 park per day and water park
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4 day Hopper and Water park combo
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Gatorbowl \$35
Capital One Bowl \$98
Russell Athletic Bowl \$78

Soul Food Festival
Special \$20
General Admission \$32
Preferred \$42
VIP \$65

Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey
Circus \$15

Veterans Memorial Arena
January 17, 2013 (7:30pm)

January 18, 2013 (11:30am)

January 18, 2014 (7:30pm)

January 19, 2014 (1:00pm)

January 19, 2014 (5:00pm)

Legoland - Free admission for active
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Tickets for family members available at
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ITT is now selling \$18 tickets for the
Harlem Globetrotters! The show is
February 28, 7 pm at Veterans Memorial
Arena.

**The Vault Liberty
Recreation Center**

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

Mall & Movie Trip
Nov. 30 at noon
Orange Park Mall & AMC Theater

Ice Skating Trip
December 14 at 6 p.m.

The Avenues Mall Shuttle
December 17 at 6 p.m.

NAS Jax Golf Club

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

Military Appreciation Days
\$18 per person, includes cart & green fees
Dec. 3 & 17 for active duty
Dec. 5 & 19 for retirees, DoD personnel
and their guests

Monday & Tuesday
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included.

Open to military, DoD and guests. Not
applicable on holidays.

Daily Twilight Golf Special
Play 18 holes with cart for \$16 after 1 p.m.

Santa Sez Golf Scramble
December 20 at 10 a.m.
\$40 military, \$50 civilian guests

Mulberry Cove Marina

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Every Thursday for active duty

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Call 778-9772

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ACTIVE MILITARY RECEIVES SPECIAL PRICING SAVING THOUSANDS OFF MSRP

NRD Jacksonville recruiters build community relationships



Photo by MC1 Brianna Dandridge

Navy Recruiting District Command Master Chief (CMDCM) LaDon Washington and YN1 Willie Sheppard secure pews for a renovation project at New Life Hope Christian Church, during an extensive renovation and restructuring project.

By MC1 Brianna Dandridge
Navy Recruiting District Jax PAO

Sailors from Navy Recruiting District Jacksonville volunteered at the New Life Hope Christian Church, during an extensive renovation and restructuring project Nov. 6.

“Getting out and volunteering shows the community a positive side to the Navy,” said YN2 Marquita Greene. “I make an effort to volunteer for these types of projects as often as I can.”

NRD Jacksonville Sailors were tasked with disposal of discarded scaffolding, carpet and other items used during the remodel.

According to PS1 Anthony Sonola, volunteerism is very worthwhile and is an important part of building positive relationships between the Navy and the local community.

“It is important for Sailors to be seen in the communities that we live in,” said Sonola.

“Helping is a gratifying experience.”

According to YN1 Willie Sheppard it is important to give back.

“I have always made it a point to volunteer for community service my entire career,” said Sheppard.

Both members of the New Life Christian Church and Sailors will continue to volunteer time to the continuing renovation project which will take several additional weeks to complete.

Community service projects allow Sailors to support the Jacksonville and say thanks to the community.

“I volunteer to show a sense of pride,” said IC1 Will Adkinson.

New Life Christian Fellowship is 99,000 square foot facility with a 2,900 seat sanctuary and family life center that includes a full-size activity gym, youth pavilion, preschool nursery and Sunday school and Bible study rooms.

Navy Recruiting District Jacksonville announces Sailor of the Year

By MC1 Brianna Dandridge

Navy Recruiting District Jacksonville announced the selection of PS1 Anthony Sonola as the 2013 Sailor of the Year (SOY) Nov. 9.

Sonola serves as the command career counselor for NRD Jacksonville and oversees the training and careers of more than 100 Sailors throughout the district. He also serves as the coordinator for United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) and command indoctrination coordinator.

“It is humbling to be selected for SOY,” said Sonola. “I was competing against so many other outstanding Sailors.”

Sonola credits excellent command

leadership for both his professional growth and nomination to the SOY competition against other highly qualified Sailors.

“I was called on by the command to take over the career counseling program,” said Sonola. “When the call comes you do it.”

According to Command Master Chief LaDon Washington, Sonola has displayed leadership and continues to display the key skill sets of a successful Sailor and role model.

“Petty Officer Sonola has exhibited deck-plate leadership, professionalism, and effective communication throughout his duties,” said Washington.

“I’ve liked being a career counselor and personnelman because both

jobs let me help Sailors,” said Sonola. “Command career counselor has been challenging but I look at it as a new opportunity to excel.”

“He provides consistent valuable insight. His foresight has assisted a number of our Sailors in making career enhancing choices,” Washington said.

Sonola holds a bachelor’s degree in Real Estate management from Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro Ogun State, Nigeria and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix.

Other SOY finalists were HM1 Tadrus, Navy Officer Recruiting Station Savannah; and SH1 Pierre Jean-Louis, Navy Recruiting Station Mayport.

NRD Jacksonville has the mission of

recruiting the best men and women for America’s Navy to accomplish today’s missions and meet tomorrow’s challenges.

The command philosophy is to provide strong integrity-based leadership, spirited teamwork and a commitment to excellence.

Former Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo Zumwalt and former Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy John Whittet established the SOY program in 1972 to recognize an individual Sailor who best represents the dedicated Sailors at each command and the entire US Navy. Within 10 years, the Sailor of the Year program was expanded to include the shore establishment and Navy Reserve Sailors.



Photos by MC1 Brianna Dandridge

Enlistment at EverBank Field

Left: In front of a hometown stadium crowd, as well as thousands of television fans nearly 200 Army, Air Force, Marine and Navy new service members received the Oath of Enlistment as part of the NFL Jaguars Military Appreciation Night at Everbank Field in Jacksonville, Nov. 17. Fifty of the new service members enlisted as U.S. Navy Sailors.

Right: DC2 Eric Bocker, GSM2 Mendeisha Munroe and AT2 Richard Corrales from Navy Recruiting District Jacksonville, enjoy professional football as a part of the NFL Jaguars Military Appreciation Night at Everbank Field in Jacksonville, Nov. 17.

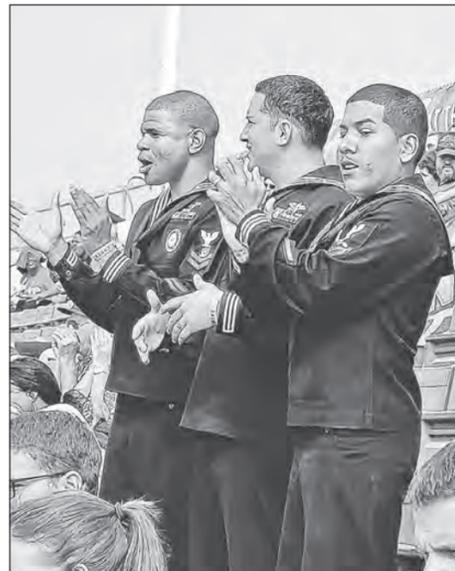


Photo by Jacob Sippel

Suicide Prevention

Wanda Archer, a work and family life specialist at NAS Jacksonville’s Fleet and Family Support Center, discusses signs of suicidal behaviors during a suicide prevention awareness training session at Naval Hospital Jacksonville. Sailors throughout the fleet are encouraged to work together as commands, units, installations or other groups to recognize suicidal tendencies and behavior – and act to prevent it.

Suicide prevention awareness training available through FFSC

From Fleet and Family Support Center

In November and December, NAS Jax Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) is offering Suicide Prevention Awareness Training for base and tenant commands.

“Should your command be in need of this training, select a date and time that is convenient for your command and call 542-2776 to reserve seating,” said FFSC Education and Training Coordinator Wilhelmina Nash.

“Attending this one-hour class could help you save someone’s life. Thank you for your concern and support.”

Dec. 2 - 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Dec. 3 - 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Dec. 4 - 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Dec. 5 - 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Dec. 10 - 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Dec. 11 - 1 & 3 p.m.

Dec. 12 - 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Dec. 17 - 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Dec. 18 - 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Dec. 30 - 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Dec. 31 - 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

NWW

From Page 8

and injured service members.

To learn more about NWW or Warrior Care Month, call 855-NAVY

WWP (628-9997), visit the Web site at <http://safeharbor.navalynlive.dodlive.mil> or email navywoundedwarrior@navy.mil.

NAS Jax Sports

Greybeard Basketball League registration

Open to active duty, DoD Civilians, DoD contractors and selective reservists ages 30 & up assigned to a command at NAS Jacksonville.

Intramural Basketball League forming
Open to active duty, DoD civilians, DoD contractors and selective reservists assigned to a command at NAS Jacksonville.

3-on-3 Basketball Tourney – Dec. 10
This league is open to active duty, selective reservists, and command DoD and DoD contractors only from NAS Jax. Teams are comprised of a maximum four players from their respective commands and can enter multiple teams. The tournament will start at 5 p.m. at the NAS Jax Gym. Sign up by Dec. 6.

4-on-4 Flag Football League meeting – Dec. 11, 11:30 a.m.

The league is open to active duty, selective reservists, DoD and DoD contractors assigned to a command aboard NAS Jacksonville. The meeting will be held at Dewey’s at 11:30 a.m. Commands having their athletic officer or designated representative attend the meeting will receive five captain’s cup points. All interested personnel should attend the meeting to discuss rules and to get the required paperwork to join the league.

Jingle Bell Jog 5k – Dec. 13, 11:30 a.m.
The run is free and open to all authorized gym patrons. Runners will earn captain’s cup points for their commands for participating. Runners can sign up at the NAS Jax Gym or Fitness Source prior to the Dec. 6 deadline. The run will be held on Perimeter Road at the end of Mustin Road before the Antenna Farm at 11:30 a.m. Registration will also be held at the race site from 10:30-11:15 a.m.

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

Standings

2013 Captain’s Cup Skeet Final

Teams	Wins	Losses
VP-45	6	0
CNATTU	5	0
VP-30 III	5	1
FRCSE Claybusters	5	1
NAVFAC World War Z	3	2
VP-30 I	3	2
NAVFAC Sons of Guns	3	3
NAVFAC Soap Gang	2	3
NAVFAC Duval County Regulators		
	2	4
VP-16	1	3
VP-30 II	1	4
NAVFAC Guns’ n Roses	1	5
NAVFAC Dodge City Gang	0	6

2013 Captain’s Cup 7-on-7 Flag Football Final

Teams	Wins	Losses
NAS Jax	8	0
VR-58	7	1
NMC Titans	6	1
VP-45 Pelicans	5	1
NOSC	6	2
Naval Hospital	4	2
HSM-72 Warriors	4	3
FRCSE 600	4	4
VR-62	4	4
HS-11	2	2
VP-5	4	5
FACSFAC	3	4
VP-30 JO’s	3	5
NCTS	3	5
NBHC	2	6
VP-10 Red Lancers	2	6
TPU/PCF	1	7
VP-30 Students	1	8



Chan retires after 23 years of service

Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

Lt. Cmdr. Mike Chan of the NAS Jax Air Operations Department, presents the American Flag which was flown over the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. to his daughter, IS3 Luthia Fernandez-Rosario as his wife, Jubette looks on during his retirement ceremony at the NAS Jax River Cove Catering and Conference Center on Nov. 22.



Lt. Cmdr. Mike Chan is piped ashore after requesting to go ashore for the last time in his 23-year naval career during his retirement ceremony on Nov. 22. Chan retired after 23 years of honorable naval service.

Moorhouse conducts last flight

By ATCS(AW)
Robert Reid
VP-30 SAU

Change is an invariable attribute of life in the Navy, with milestones that are often marked by custom and tradition. On Nov. 20, one such milestone occurred in the career transition of Cmdr. Joseph Moorhouse, commanding officer, VP-30 Squadron Augment Unit, when he concluded his last flight as a Navy pilot before his change of command Nov. 23.

Customary "wetting down," with the aid of fire department emergency response vehicles, is currently restricted due to ongoing budget constraints.

Nevertheless, a glimpse of the tradition was upheld by Moorhouse's daughter, Gracen and son, Jonah who were each armed with water guns. Moorhouse reciprocated by rendering precious career mementoes to his children.

Moorhouse carried the same national ensign in his helmet bag from the time of he was first "winged" in July 1996 to his last flight as a reminder of the reason he was flying, "service to country." He surrendered the flag to Jonah at the conclusion of his last naval flight.

He also gave Gracen the flight suit flag patch that he had worn since his ninth flight in the Navy during flight school. Moorhouse's previous flag patch was lost when his flight suit was cut off at the hospital after bailing out of a T-34 on the eighth flight.

Moorhouse's parents, Joe and Jane Moorhouse were also present at the event. Delighted to witness their son's career milestone achievement, they took pride in his resilience after sustaining serious injuries in the T-34 bail out Feb. 14, 1995.

Challenges and setbacks did not override determination to serve his country as a naval pilot. Moorhouse has accrued more than 4,000 hours of flying time on T-34, T-44, TC-12, and P-3 platforms.

Moorhouse also gave his children his dog tags, that were issued in flight school and a required item for every naval flight. The symbolism he expressed to his children was giving them something that was with him every time he was away and missing them.

Earlier in the final flight, Moorhouse had the opportunity to conduct a "touch and go" on the runway of NAS Pensacola, Fla. which is where his naval pilot career commenced nearly 20 years ago.

His wife, Faith is currently taking a career break from the Case Management Department at UF Health as she prepares to deliver their third child, Ava in December. Meanwhile, Moorhouse is preparing for non-flying Navy duty as an instructor for the Senior Officer Leadership Course at the Center for Personal and Professional Development Southeast at Navy Operational Support Center Atlanta.



Photo courtesy of VP-30 SAU

VP-30 Commanding Officer Capt. Curtis Phillips, left, presents Cmdr. Joseph Moorhouse with the Meritorious Service Medal for his service as the VP-30 Squadron Augment Unit commanding officer during his change of command ceremony on Nov. 23.



Photo by Clark Pierce

VP-30 SAU Commanding Officer Cmdr. Joseph Moorhouse gets an improvised wet down from his son, Jonah, and daughter, Gracen (not pictured), who were each armed with water guns.

Your commissary is the place for holiday savings

By Sallie Cauthers
DeCA Marketing and Mass
Communication Specialist

The holidays are right around the corner, and special in-store promotions make the commissary the place to go to save on holiday groceries, said the Defense Commissary Agency's director of sales.

"We've got some great promotions lined up for the holiday season," said Randy Chandler, DeCA sales director. "Customers will find great savings and quality products for their holiday entertainment and meal needs, thanks to our industry partners. They might even sneak a peek

at a jolly old man in a red suit!"

Chandler also reminds patrons that the holiday season is a perfect opportunity to consider giving the gift of groceries through Commissary Gift Cards. "Our gift cards are a quick and easy way to spread holiday cheer to military service members and their family members around the world," he said. "Anyone can purchase them online through www.commissaries.com, or at a commissary for authorized shoppers to use."

Manager's specials and power buys provide big savings every day during the holiday season in commissaries worldwide. Overseas stores may have substitute events for certain promotional programs, and customers should check their local commissary for details on dates and times for their promotions.

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<p>2007 NISSAN MURANO SL</p>  <p>\$11,990</p>	<p>2010 KIA SOUL PLUS</p>  <p>\$12,591</p>	<p>2007 HYUNDAI SANTA FE SE</p>  <p>\$12,990</p>	<p>2010 MAZDA MAZDA3 I SV</p>  <p>\$12,990</p>	<p>2005 FORD MUSTANG GT DELUXE</p>  <p>\$13,290</p>
<p>2006 NISSAN 350Z ENTHUSIAST</p>  <p>\$13,392</p>	<p>2010 MAZDA MAZDA3 I TOURING</p>  <p>\$13,690</p>	<p>2011 TOYOTA CAMRY BASE</p>  <p>\$13,990</p>	<p>2010 HONDA ELEMENT LX</p>  <p>\$14,796</p>	<p>2012 MAZDA MAZDA3 I TOURING</p>  <p>\$14,890</p>
<p>2008 TOYOTA CAMRY SOLARA SLE</p>  <p>\$14,892</p>	<p>2013 MAZDA MAZDA3 I SPORT</p>  <p>\$15,294</p>	<p>2008 HONDA PILOT EX-L</p>  <p>\$15,490</p>	<p>2009 NISSAN MURANO SL</p>  <p>\$15,694</p>	<p>2007 HONDA CR-V EX-L</p>  <p>\$16,791</p>
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*Photos for illustration purpose only.



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NAVFAC Southeast employees find creative ways to say thanks

From Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast Public Affairs

Members of Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast's Employee Benefits Association (EBA) have come up with a new way to say "thank you" to its employees this Thanksgiving delivering handmade gifts to its workforce Nov. 21 at NAS Jacksonville.

"Times are tough with a continuing resolution and budget constraints," said NAVFAC Southeast Commanding Officer Capt. Christopher Kiwus.

"Our employee morale team continues to find ways to build morale among our workforce and foster teamwork."

"Each year we look at ways to raise money to hold our annual holiday luncheon to keep the cost to a minimum for our employees," said Joanne Bailey, EBA president and NAVFAC Southeast planner.

"This week we are delivering a sweet treat. A turkey made out of a sucker, a fall leaf, and a chocolate kiss for its face." The EBA members are very passionate about what they do to help build morale among the workforce. Every year the team comes up with new and more creative ideas.

This fundraiser was a huge success. The team delivered 1,300 thank you's that say, "A heartfelt thanks to you, for all that you do."

"We are thrilled to see how many employees really enjoy what we do," said Bailey.

"It is so exciting to see the look on someone's face when we deliver a surprise to them. It really does put a smile on everyone's face."

NAVFAC Southeast employees work in five different buildings at NAS Jacksonville supporting Navy Region Southeast, along with others located on installations throughout the southeast.

"This thank you came just in time for Thanksgiving, and well deserved to a team that has accomplished so much already this year," said Kiwus.

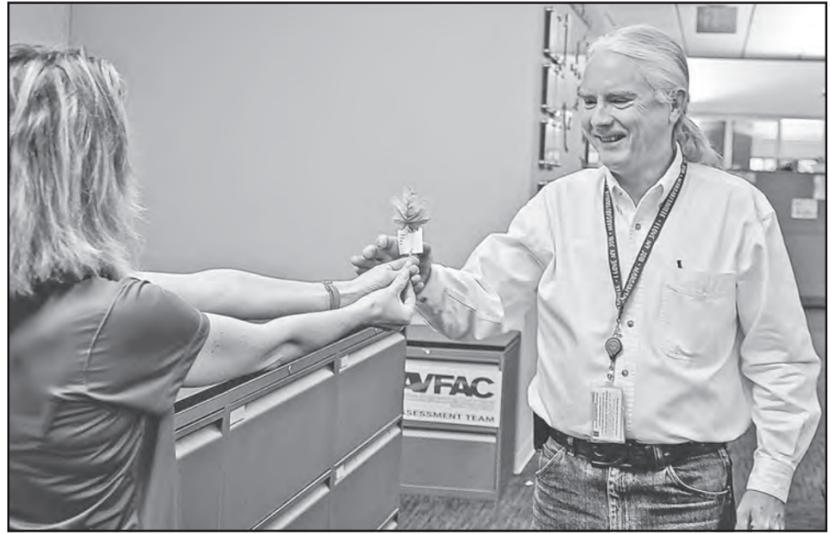


Photo by Sue Brink

A member of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast Employee Benefits Association (EBA) (left) presents Small Business Manager Nelson Smith with a candy gram on Nov. 21. The EBA delivered these gifts as a "thank you" from one employee to another. The candy gram is a turkey made out of a sucker, a fall leaf and a chocolate kiss for a face. The EBA team members delivered 1,300 candy grams to NAVFAC Southeast employees at NAS Jax, building morale among the workforce and fostering teamwork.

Gov. Rick Scott honors 'Troops to Teachers' veterans in Tallahassee

By Ed Barker

Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

As part of the Florida government's Cabinet Meeting Nov. 19 in Tallahassee, Fla., Gov. Rick Scott honored five educators certified through the Troops to Teachers Program with the Governor's Shine Award for exemplary service to their country and contributions to Florida's students.

Kim Stefansson, a Navy veteran and currently history teacher at Bellview Middle School was asked to address the cabinet meeting and represent the veterans.

"Both the military and education career fields call for flexibility and those who are not easily deterred," said Stefansson.

"Both careers call for service 24/7 whether you are standing watch or

spending your weekends grading papers, and both jobs ask our families to be supportive when we need extra time to do our jobs."

The Governor's Shine Award is presented to Floridians who have positively impacted children through education.

"It is an honor to thank these teachers who went from serving their country to serving Florida students in the classroom," said Scott.

"A great education system is key to creating a highly-skilled workforce and driving our economy forward. These teachers have gone above and beyond the call of duty by preparing our students today for the jobs of tomorrow and I thank for their continued service to Florida families."

David Silverman, a veteran of both the Marine Corps and Florida Army National Guard, is now teaching adults

at the Clay County Center for Adult & Community education in Orange Park. He said that like many of the jobs he held in the military, teaching adults is enjoyable.

"Teaching adults in many respects is easier than teaching kids - they want to be here and really care about getting an education; they need to get their diploma or GED to get or keep a job, so they are definitely motivated with a positive attitude."

William McAleer, Chief of the Troops to Teachers Program for the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support in Pensacola, Fla. said that teaching is an outstanding fit for many veterans.

"Every service member was training their replacement while on active duty," said McAleer.

"They bring real-life experiences into

the classroom and add perspective to subjects. Florida is one of the leaders in hiring veterans through the Troops to Teachers Program and in the past three years has helped 393 veterans obtain positions in Florida's schools. It's gratifying to see that Governor Scott is recognizing the service, hard work and contributions that veterans bring to education."

The other Florida Troops to Teachers veterans honored with Shine Awards at the cabinet meeting were: Kenneth McAllister, Air Force veteran now teaching at Clay High School in Green Cove Springs; Jacqueline Williams, Navy veteran now teaching at A. Phillip Randolph High School Academies of Technology in Jacksonville; and Glenn Meyer, an Air Force veteran and 5th grade teacher at Navy Point Elementary in Pensacola.

Community Calendar

Jacksonville Light Parade and Fireworks Display will be Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. The City of Jacksonville invites boat captains and crews to register for the 2013 Jacksonville Light Parade. Registration is free; but limited to the first 100 vessels. Boaters interested in participating can visit www.JaxHappenings.com for registration information.

Aviation Boatwains Mates meet every third Thursday at 1 p.m. in the NAS Jax Air Facilities Management Building (666) conference room. For more info, call Doug Chaney at 542-3955.

Orange Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5968 and its Auxiliary located at 187 Arora Blvd. meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. VFW is a non-profit veterans service organization composed of combat veterans and eligible service members from the Active, Guard or Reserve forces. For information on events or membership, go to www.vfwpost5968.org or call 276-5968.

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.

Marine Corps League Detachment 059 meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Southside Golden Corral located at 4250 Southside Blvd. MCL is a nonprofit veterans service organization for Marines and FMF Corpsmen. For more information, go to mcljacksonville.org or call 693-0280.

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.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.aao9.com.

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

Navy Jacksonville Yacht Club is open to active duty, reserve and retired military, plus, active or retired DoD civilians. Call 778-0805 or email commodore@njyc.org.

Disabled American Vet-erans 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 786-7083.

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 Ave. Call 276-9415.

Commissary CEO shares sequestration consequences

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

Offering a glimpse at what commissary and military exchange services could become in light of smaller and unpredictable budgets, the Defense Commissary Agency director and CEO described to Congress yesterday the consequences sequestration and the government shutdown have already imposed.

Customers packed commissaries Oct. 1, the first day of the government shutdown, Joseph Jeu told the House Armed Service Committee's Military Personnel Subcommittee.

Not knowing what was ahead, shoppers stocked up on food and supplies, racking up twice the typical day's sales, at \$30.5 million.

"That was our highest sale day ever," Jeu told the House panel.

But as the furlough dragged on, its effects increasingly became evident.

The department-wide hiring freeze had already put a dent in the customer service that been the pride of the Defense Commissary Agency.

Because turnover tends to be high among the commissaries' lower-grade employees, manning levels quickly dropped, Jeu explained. Two-thirds of all commissaries fell below the manning levels required to run the stores effectively.

Even when DoD gave some relief and authorized personnel hiring, the results came slowly due to time lags in employee vetting.

Exacerbating the situation, civilian furloughs forced most commissaries to close one day a week for six weeks.

"Customer complaints rose by over 50 percent and hit an all-time high during the furlough," Jeu reported. "While our employees struggled to provide our goal of excellent customer service, they could not always overcome the challenges."

Customers were often confronted with long check-out lines, closed registers and empty shelves, he said. Sometimes waits for checkouts dragged on for 20 to 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, sales figures that had been on an upward trajectory dropped. "Commissaries experienced a sales loss totally over \$99 million driven by sequestration closures in fiscal year 2013 and government shutdown closures in October of fiscal year 2014," Jeu reported.

Distributors who supply the commissaries felt the impact, too, he said. They faced sporadic delays in offloading their deliveries, and orders were frequently held up or delayed.

In some cases, the wrong products were shipped, damages weren't processed in a timely manner, and orders were delayed due to closures that made scheduling a logistical nightmare.

All this followed what Jue told the congressional panel had been "an impressive year" in fiscal 2012, before sequestration.

"Sales were up, topping the \$6 billion level for the first time since 1992," he reported. The cost of delivering commissary services came in under budget. Customer satisfaction surveys that were independently verified ranked commissaries above all but one commercial grocery chain.

"The commissary continues to be one of the most valued non-pay compensation benefits our military members, past and present, and their families enjoy," Jeu said.

Calling the commissary benefit an "integral element of the total compensation package," he said it saves patrons about 30 percent compared to commercial supermarkets.

That equates to about \$1,500 a year for a single service member who consistently uses the commissary and as much as \$4,500 for an average family of four, he said.

This quality-of-life enhancement comes at a rate of \$2 in patron savings for every taxpayer dollar invested, Jeu reported.

"However, this two-for-one return on investment is insufficient to shield the commissary from scrutiny as it faces the same fiscal challenges as other government agencies," he lamented.

Jue noted the Defense Commissary Agency's "proven history of taking cost out of the system," and progress in reducing operating costs and overhead and introducing efficiencies and innovation.

Warehouses and associated inventory has been eliminated, manpower has been reduced, accounting functions have been centralized and automated and headquarters and regional offices consolidated.

"Over the past 20 years, we have picked the long-hanging fruit by seeking innovative initiatives to achieve operating efficiencies, and through good stewardship of taxpayer dollars, we made the commissary system significantly less costly to operate," Jeu said.

"With this history, any further reduction resulting from sequestration will diminish the commissary benefit," he continued.

Even with commissaries to receive full funding in the proposed fiscal 2014 budget, Jeu warned that the impact of sequestration "is likely to be considerable" as the department establishes priorities and balances resources.

"Even with the budget uncertainty due to sequestration, as we move into this net era, the [Defense Commissary Agency] is excited about its ongoing initiatives to seek innovative and efficient methods of benefit delivery," he said.

Jue testified yesterday with other senior defense officials who urged Congress to preserve military exchange and commissary services they call key to the morale and quality of life of service members and their families.

Joining him in the House chamber were Rosemary Williams, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Military Community and Family Policy; retired Navy Rear Adm. Robert Bianchi, CEO of Navy Exchange Service Command; Thomas Shull, director and CEO of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service; William Dillon, director of the Marine Corps Semper Paratus Exchange Services; Thomas Gordy, president of the Armed Forces Marketing Council; and Patrick Nixon, president of the American Logistics Association.



Photo courtesy of Huntington Ingalls Industries by Chris Oxley

Next-generation carrier

The aircraft carrier Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) is moved on Nov. 17 to Pier 3 at Newport News Shipbuilding. The ship will undergo additional outfitting and testing for the next 28 months.

MC2 Aidan Campbell

The aircraft carrier Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) gets underway on Nov. 17 beginning the ship's launch and transit to Newport News Shipyard Pier 3 for the final stages of construction and testing. Ford was christened on Nov. 9, and is under construction at Huntington Ingalls Industries Newport News Shipyard.

Word Power: How Native American code talkers helped win wars

By Amaani Lyle

American Forces Press Service

Over the static of crackling radios and phone lines, a little-known group of dedicated Native American warriors joined the call to arms in both world wars with what would prove to be among the United States' most powerful weapons: language.

Known as Code Talkers, Native Americans learned early on the advantages of their tribal tongues, using indecipherable messages to confuse the enemy and bring combat victory to the United States. The code talker mission remained classified for decades after World War II.

In observance of National Native American Heritage Month, the collaboration between the Defense Department's Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity and the Smithsonian Institution recently brought "Native Words, Native Warriors" to the Pentagon for a two-day exhibit.

Developed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, the 15-panel display includes writing, images and videos depicting battlefield experiences and telling the remarkable story of a dozen tribes who offered their language in support of the U.S. military.

"The displays really tell the personal contribution that each of the Code Talkers made with each other as a team," said Keevin Lewis, National Museum of the American Indian outreach coordinator.

"Navajo Code Talkers ... created a code that was within

Native American Code Talkers get Congressional Gold Medal

By Terri Moon Cronk

American Forces Press Service

Native American "code talkers" who transmitted codes based on 33 tribal dialects during World Wars I and II so enemies could not decipher them were patriots with "unique capabilities and willingness to give their talents and lives" to the nation, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said today at a Congressional Gold Medal ceremony to honor them.

Navy Adm. James Winnefeld Jr., joined in the U.S. Capitol's Emancipation Hall by House and Senate leaders and other officials, recognized 216 code talkers and members of their families from those wars with the highest honor Congress can bestow.

Winnefeld said, "During Native American Heritage Month, I have the great privilege of representing the finest military in the world in recognizing hundreds of Native Americans who wore the cloth of our nation in the distinctive way we celebrate today, and in such a courageous way, defending a country that did not always keep its word to their ancestors."

Conceived in 1918, the code talker program eventually comprised more than 400 Native Americans who volunteered to defend the nation, the vice chairman said.

The role of the code talkers during the two world wars was kept a secret until 1968, officials said.

"Throughout history, military leaders have sought the perfect code - signals the enemy cannot break, no matter how able the intelligence team," the vice chairman said. "It was our code talkers who created voice codes that defied decoding."

Winnefeld said the codes were "doubly clever" by using words that were confusing to the enemy, such as "crazy white man" for Adolf Hitler and "tortoise" for tank.

"Our code talkers' role in combat required intelligence, adaptability, grace under pressure, and bravery - key attributes handed down by their ancestors," the admiral said.

Winnefeld said the code talkers endured some of the nation's most dangerous battles and served proudly during critical combat operations, such as the Choctaws at the Meuse-Argonne, Comanches on Utah Beach on D-Day,

Hopis in the Caroline Islands and the Cherokees at the Second Battle of the Somme.

"These men were integral members of their teams -- the 36th Infantry Division, the 4th Signals Company, the 81st Infantry Division, the 30th Infantry Division -- learning Morse code and operating equipment to transmit messages quickly and accurately," he added.

Contributing even more than battle skills, the code talkers also "fundamentally contributed to our military intelligence community's work" in cryptology, Winnefeld said.

The National Security Agency Museum highlights the code talkers of World War I and World War II as pioneers of this specialty, he added.

The code talkers are a national resource, a wellspring of intelligence, innovation, hard work and resilience, the vice chairman said.

"We can best honor these great warriors among us not just with well-deserved and long overdue recognition," the vice chairman said, "but also with our own efforts to continue leveraging our nation's diversity and to forever honor our veterans."

the Navajo language -- so even another Navajo speaker would not be able to determine what was being talked about," Lewis said.

Others tribes, he said, also coded their languages, and others used original form, though typically most languages were not written. Lewis said the U.S. government surprisingly soon recognized many native languages, despite the fact that in reservation boarding schools, many Native American children were instead encouraged to speak English.

"It's strange, but growing up as a child, I was forbidden to

speak my native language at school," said Charles Chibitty, a Comanche Code Talker with the U.S. Army. "Later, my country asked me to. My language helped win the war, and that makes me very proud - very proud."

According to the Smithsonian's website, although the United States did not consider American Indians citizens until as late as 1924, the military first enlisted American Indians to relay messages in their native languages during World War I. The Navajo language, among other Native American tongues, became for-

malized and recognized as a program which expanded during World War II.

Soldiers from the Comanche, Meskwaki, Sioux, Crow, Hopi and Cree nations, among others, took part in the effort, said Lewis, adding that out of more than 500 tribes, each with distinct languages, about 200 to 250 dialects remain in use today.

One display video depicts the Marines, who used Navajo language to create their code in 1942. As noted in the narration, "the encoded messages proved to be a fast, accurate and indecipherable-to-the-ene-

my alternative, which suited the demands of the battlefield better than the painfully slow military devices that had been standard."

The National Museum of the American Indian is one of 18 museums within the Smithsonian Institution and has affiliate locations at the Cultural Resources Center in Suitland, Md., the National Museum on the mall in Washington, D.C., and in the lower Manhattan region of New York.

"To have the Smithsonian recognize this accomplishment is remarkable," Lewis said.



Photos by Marsha Childs



Bearings of interest

In the Instruments Bearings Shop at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast on Nov. 13, Gail Nelson (center left), the shop supervisor, and Theresa Downing (center), a materials engineer, discuss preservatives used on the delicate parts before a display of sample, scrap bearings prepared for visitors from a subcommittee of the American Society of Testing Material (ASTM) with the F34 Rolling Element Bearings Group.

Tisa Wilson (top, center), an overhaul and repair supervisor on the F/A-18 Hornet production line, gives visitors from a subcommittee of the American Society of Testing Material (ASTM) with the F34 Rolling Element Bearings Group a tour at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast on Nov. 13. Wilson explained how artisans at the military depot are replacing the aircraft's center barrel (pictured left) to extend the service life of the strike fighter. The landing gear and wings attach to this section of the fuselage.

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