

Jax Air News

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VP-26 'Tridents' return to NAS Jacksonville



By Lt. Dan Baker
VP-26 PAO

The men and women of VP-26 are returning to their home base of NAS Jacksonville after a dynamic, seven-month deployment. Operating primarily from Kadena Air Base on the island of Okinawa, Japan they supported Commander, Task Force 72 executing operations across the Pacific. The deployment was the first integrated active-reserve P-3C deployment to the 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

Augmented with reserve aircrews and aircraft from NAS Jacksonville's VP-62 and NAS Whidbey Island's VP-69, the squadron formed two forward-deployed task groups, Commander, Task Group (CTG) 72.2 and 72.4. Through teamwork and dedication, the aircrews, maintenance professionals and support personnel of CTGs 72.2 and 72.4 stood watch over the 7th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR) and are now returning home to the cheers of their loved ones.

VP-26 flies the P-3C Orion, The U.S. Navy's legacy maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft. While the P-3 is being replaced by the Boeing P-8 Poseidon it is still an effective weapons system, in high demand across the fleet. Traveling from Jacksonville, Fla. in May 2013, Team Trident undertook the significant logistical feat of picking up and moving more than 350 personnel, aircraft, tools and



Photo by MC2 Jesse Sharpe

A VP-26 P-3C Orion aircraft flies low near the island of Okinawa, Japan, during a mission at sunset.

equipment to the island of Okinawa, located approximately 600 miles south of the main islands of Japan.

From Kadena Air Base the squadron conducted a wide variety of airborne anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, maritime domain awareness, search and rescue, and theater security cooperation missions.

CTG 72.2 conducted regular detachments, comprised of aircrew and supporting maintenance personnel, to support partner and allied nations, build international partnership and improve multinational interoper-

See **VP-26**, Page 16

'Broadarrows' return home from WESTPAC deployment

By Lt. Amy Hession
VP-62 Public Affairs

Members of the VP-62 "Broadarrows" returned home to NAS Jacksonville last week concluding a six-month deployment to Kadena Airbase in Okinawa, Japan, with Commander, Task Group (CTG) 72.2 as part of the Navy's first mobilization of a Reserve P-3C Orion squadron.

"We're very pleased with the outcomes and what our crews and our teams have accomplished on these deployments," said Cmdr. Jon Townsend, VP-62 commanding officer.

"It proves reserve capabilities meeting real-world operational requirements in support of our active-duty counterparts while they transition to the new P-8 Poseidon platform."

Broadarrow air crew and maintenance personnel joined the VP-26 "Tridents" with several detachments in the Western Pacific, conducting anti-submarine warfare - including an exer-

cise out of Chennai, India - culminating with a leading role in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan's devastation in the Republic of the Philippines.

The Broadarrows P-3C aircrews flew several missions over the hardest-hit areas since Nov. 11, assessing damage and providing intelligence to support coordination of relief efforts by U.S. and Philippine forces. Over 600 hours were flown, 73 over the Philippines alone.

Imagery was collected and sent in-flight to intelligence specialists who analyzed it and then provided it to Marines on the ground charged with helping to coordinate U.S. military and Philippine government relief efforts.

"The best part of the deployment was the disaster relief. We flew over these mountains and saw destruction and 'SOS' painted on the ground," said Lt. Cmdr. Brett Frazier, a VP-62 pilot.

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Photo by PS2 Russell Chandler

VP-62 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Jonathan Townsend welcomes AO1 Christopher Ireland home from deployment on Dec. 5. The "Broadarrows" returned to NAS Jacksonville last week concluding a series of three-month deployments to Kadena Airbase in Okinawa, Japan, as part of the Navy's first mobilization of a Reserve P-3C Orion squadron.

Training for the worst Active shooter exercise held

By Staff

An "active shooter" training exercise was conducted Dec. 3 at NAS Jacksonville Building 11, in conjunction with a table-top exercise at the NAS Jacksonville Emergency Operations Center.

Maj. Jerry Syrek, training division officer for NAS Jacksonville Security Department, defined an active shooter as an individual who is engaged in killing or attempting to kill people inside a building or in an outside environment.

"In most cases, an active shooter uses



Photos by Clark Pierce

(From left) NAS Jax Security Department Patrolmen Donniss Hinz and William Thomas go room-by-room in search of a mass shooter concealed in Building 11.



ABH2 Maibys Oberto was a role player who suffered a simulated flesh wound on her arm. When the shooter moved, she took refuge behind a couch.

See **SHOOTER**, Page 11

NAS Jax earns environmental award

By Kevin Gartland
NAS Jax Environmental Department Director

On Dec. 5, Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council President Wendell Davis presented NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander with the 2013 Regional Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship in recognition of the outstanding environmental partnerships the station had developed with elected officials, planning and environmental staffs and community.

Davis stated that NAS Jacksonville was, "strongly committed to greening its facilities, properties and operations through significant environmental, energy and conservation initiatives including educational outreach and environmental partnerships."

When accepting the award, Undersander said that he was "receiving the recognition on behalf of the 20,000 men and women at NAS Jacksonville who have incorporated environmental compliance into daily



Photo by Kevin Gartland

NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander (center) proudly accepts the Northeast Florida Regional Council's Regional Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship from Northeast Florida Regional Council President Wendell Davis (left) and Northeast Florida Regional Council CEO Brian Teeple at the University of North Florida on Dec. 5. The station was recognized for its commitment to protecting the environment through innovation and conservation. mission accomplishment."

Margo Moehring, managing director of the council's policy and planning, added that the station's consistently strong environmental partnerships with the city, state and Jacksonville were a model to follow. She said that NAS Jacksonville's participation in the council's recent year-long study on the impact of sea level rising on the St Johns River and adjacent development was greatly appreciated.

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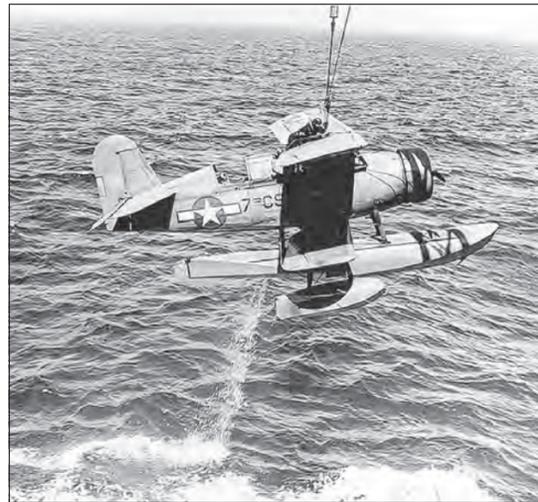


U.S. Navy photos

Curtiss SOC "Seagull" scout-observation biplane was designed as a catapult-launched floatplane, flying from battleships for gunfire observations, and from cruisers as a scout. It was designed with folding wings to allow more planes to fit in cruisers' small hangars, and a float that could be exchanged for wheeled landing gear, facilitating operation from aircraft carriers and shore bases. Powered by a Pratt & Whitney R-1340 single-row radial engine, it had good low-speed flight characteristics, well-suited for catapult operations.



Mark XVII Depth Bomb (325 pounds) is removed from the starboard wing rack of a Curtiss SOC "Seagull" scout-observation aircraft, on board USS Philadelphia (CL-41), in July 1942.



Curtiss SOC "Seagull" scout-observation aircraft is hoisted from the ocean, during recovery by its parent cruiser in July 1943. The plane wears the markings of Cruiser Scouting Squadron Seven.

forms an appendectomy on Torpedoman First Class W. R. Jones on board the submarine USS Grayback (SS-208). It is the second appendectomy performed on board a submarine.

1998 - In Operation Desert Fox, Navy cruise missiles attack Iraq.

Dec. 17

1846 - Ships under Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry capture Laguna de Terminos during Mexican War.

1941 - Adm. Chester Nimitz named Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, to relieve Adm. Husband Kimmel. Adm. William Pye becomes acting command-er until Nimitz's arrival.

Dec. 18

1902 - Admiral of the Navy George Dewey receives orders to send his battleship to Trinidad and then to Venezuela to make sure that Great Britain's and Germany's dispute with Venezuela was settled by peaceful arbitration, not force.

1944 - Adm. Halsey's 3rd Fleet encounters typhoon northeast of Samar. Destroyers USS Hull, USS Monaghan and USS Spence sink, while 21 other ships are damaged.

1965 - River Patrol Force established in Vietnam.

1965 - Helicopters from HS-11 on USS Wasp (CVS-18) pick up crew and capsule of Gemini 7, after picking up the crew and capsule of Gemini 6 two days earlier.

1967 - Operation Preakness II begins in Mekong Delta.

1972 - Mining and bombing of North Vietnam resumes with Linebacker II Operation.

This Week in Navy History

From Staff

Dec. 12

1862 - Confederate torpedo (mine) sinks USS Cairo in Yazoo River.

1937 - Japanese aircraft sink USS Panay in Yangtze River near Nanking, China.

1941 - Naval Air Transport Service is established.

1951 - First flight of helicopter with gas-turbine engine at Windsor Locks, Conn., demonstrates adaptability of this engine to helicopters.

1972- Capt. Eugene Cernan, commander of Apollo 17, walks on the Moon. Cmdr. Ronald Evans was the Command Module Pilot. The mission lasted 12 days, 13 hours and 52 minutes. Recovery by HC-1 helicopters from USS Ticonderoga (CVS-14).

Dec. 13

1775 - Continental Congress provides for the construction of five ships of 32 guns, five ships of 28 guns, and three ships of 24 guns.

1941 - Cmdr. William Sullivan designated the first

"Supervisor of Salvage" with office in New York City.

Dec. 14

1814 - British squadron captures U.S. gunboats in Battle of Lake Borgne, La.

1944 - Rank of Fleet Admiral, U.S. Navy (five-star admiral) is established.

1945 - Captain Sue Dauser receives the first Distinguished Service Medal awarded to a nurse.

1965 - Navy announces completion of 1,272 ft. radio tower at North West Cape, Australia, the highest man-made structure in the Southern Hemisphere at that time, as a link in fleet communications.

Dec. 15

1943 - Bureau of Naval Personnel Circular Letter on non-discrimination in Navy V-12 program.

1944 - Congress appoints first three of four Fleet Admirals.

1965 - Launch of Gemini 6 with Capt. Walter Schirra Jr. as Command Pilot. The mission included 16 orbits in 25 hours and 51 minutes. Recovery was by HS-11 helicopters from USS Wasp (CVS-18).

Dec. 16

1821 - Lt. Robert Stockton and Dr. Eli Ayers, a naval surgeon and member of American Colonizing Society, induce a local African king to sell territory for a colony which became the Republic of Liberia.

1907 - Great White Fleet departs Hampton Roads, Va. to circumnavigate the world.

1922 - USS Bainbridge (DD-246) rescues 482 persons from burning French transport Vinh-Long.

1941 - USS Swordfish (SS-193) sinks Japanese cargo ship Atsutasan Maru.

1942 - Pharmacist's Mate First Class Harry Roby per-

Government-run (aka, military) healthcare has pros, cons

By Sarah Smiley

Special Contributor

From the Homefront

Long before the debate over the Affordable Care Act, the military's own government-run healthcare system has been, for me, a mixed bag. On the one hand, my healthcare has always been "free" (if you can call paying with duty, deployments and, sometimes, life "free"). On the other hand, the military healthcare system has been confusing, inefficient and short on options. It is a complicated balance of entitlement, subsidies and bureaucracy — sentiments that have often been reflected in peoples' reactions to my columns over the years.

First, 14 years ago, during the only six weeks when I did not have a military identification card (between my college graduation and wedding), I broke my leg. I was technically uninsured, but the Navy hospital casted my leg anyway. Later, I wrote about how the military had "taken care of its own." People were enraged. "That cast wasn't 'free,'" they said "The taxpayers paid for it."

It's true. Since the day I was born, taxpayer money has covered my health insurance and medication. This has lead some people to believe they have input about my lifestyle. When people pay into something, they naturally want control over how their money is spent. Sarah broke her leg because she chose to wear high heels? We the taxpayers will have to cover that mistake.

Sarah's overweight? We have to buy her blood pressure medicine.

Sarah wants a third child? Yep, taxpayers will cover that, too.

I've always contended that my husband's service is our "payment." For Dustin's sacrifice to the country, taxpayer money covers our healthcare. Sounds perfect, right? Except, when the government spends other people's money, they have to be careful. They have to make wise choices. And the beneficiaries don't wield much power.

The doctors I'm allowed to see are limited, and getting a referral to a specialist is complicated. Usually, when the location permits, I'm restricted to the military hospital, where all the comparably-ranked doctors make the same pay and move every two to three years. Yes, there are many wonderful and talented doctors in military medicine, but without an element of financial competition, motivation to be the best doctor has to come from something else.

Wait-times in lobbies and at the pharmacist are legendary. I once took an hour nap across three hard, plastic chairs waiting for my antibiotics.

When Lindell was an infant, the Navy hospital accidentally gave him the same series of shots twice on consecutive days. I was furious, but there was nothing I could do. I couldn't leave that practice and go to another one. I didn't have a choice.

And complaining is pointless; no one loses their job or their customers.

Then there was the time when Owen needed a tonsil- and adenoidectomy. Technically it was elective surgery because it wasn't an emergency. But Owen was losing weight — at 3 years old, he still wore a size 18-months pants — and I was frantic. My options were to pay out-of-pocket on the "outside" (at a civilian hospital) or wait months to have the procedure done at the military hospital. Why months? Because of the hospital's backlog, and because the military has to review and approve these things. They have to be careful with taxpayer money.

But military medicine is "free" and equally available to all who qualify. Or is it? The funny thing about making everyone equal is that people still find a way to give one group preferential treatment over another group.

Many years ago, writing about military medicine, I said a system that requires users to be savvy in order to get the best treatment is a system that is broken. I was speaking to the fact that in the world of waiting for a referral, an appointment or a procedure, sometimes, the patient who "works the system" is seen faster.

However, often the patient need not (and, of course, should not) manipulate anything. My dad retired as an admiral. Although we were raised to never "use" his position in any way (nope, not even when Dustin almost couldn't get leave for our wedding), after I married an ensign, I definitely noticed a change in treatment.

When your ID card states you are the daughter of an admiral, people notice. When your ID card states you are the wife of a new ensign, you take a nap while you wait for your antibiotics.

My concern, however, has always been for the spouses who are neither married to an ensign nor an admiral. My concern is for the enlisted families. What chance do they have in a "free" system that has been reduced to using rank as currency?

People didn't like this either: There is manipulation of our taxpayer dollars? I thought all of it was free and equal?

So, without getting overly political on either side, I am sincere when I tell you that I have been intrigued by the country's eagerness to be part of this government-run healthcare system that I have come to both love and hate.

Because the pros and cons of the Affordable Care Act seem strikingly familiar to the pros and cons of the military healthcare system.

And if 38 years of being at the taxpayers' and government's mercy has taught me anything it is this: nothing — nothing — is ever free.



Photo courtesy of HSMWSL

Correction

The following caption was incorrect in the Nov. 28 issue of *Jax Air News*. We regret the error. **Cmdr. George Austin salutes Capt. Daniel Boyles, 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.**

Base store closures for the holidays

From Staff

The NAS Jax Commissary will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. The store will be closed Christmas Day and reopen Dec. 26 for regular hours from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Commissary will be open normal hours (7 a.m. to 8 p.m.) on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31 and will be closed New Year's Day.

The NAS Jax Navy Exchange (NEX) will be open Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The store will be closed Christmas Day.

The NEX will be open New Years Eve, Dec. 31 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and New Years Day, Jan. 1 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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Twining to relieve Pierce as CNATTU Jax CO

By ADC Christopher Cobb
CNATTU Jax PAO

Cmdr. Edgar Twining relieves Cmdr. Daryl Pierce as commanding officer for the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit (CNATTU) Jacksonville during a change of command ceremony at NAS Jacksonville Hangar 117 Dec. 12. Capt. Katherine Erb, commanding officer, CNATT will preside.

Twining, a native of Chemung, N.Y., graduated from Waverly High School in 1982 and enlisted in the Navy as an aviation structural mechanic. He completed three tours and multiple deployments as an enlisted Sailor, where he was designated as an enlisted aviation warfare specialist and master training specialist.

In 1991, he was selected as the VA-75 Sailor of the Year and MATWING One Supervisor of the Year. The following year, he was promoted to chief petty officer.



Cmdr. Edgar Twining

In May 1995, Twining received his commission through the Limited Duty Officer Program and has served as an assistant maintenance officer, quality



Cmdr. Daryl Pierce

assurance officer, maintenance officer, and maintenance material control officer. Twining reported for his current duty as executive officer of CNATTU Jax

in July 2012.

Directly following the change of command ceremony, Pierce is retiring from the Navy after serving more than 34 years for his country, at which his wife, retired Lt. Cmdr. Anita Pierce will be the guest speaker.

Originally from Decatur, Ga., Pierce entered the Navy in 1979 as an aviation structural mechanic (hydraulics). During his enlisted tours, he was selected as Sailor of the Year, designated a master training specialist, promoted to chief petty officer, and earned a commission through the Limited Duty Officer/Chief Warrant Officer Program. Pierce reported for duty as the executive officer, CNATTU Jacksonville in April 2011.

While serving as commanding officer of CNATTU Jacksonville, he led 143 military and 40 civilian personnel in the training of 3,570 students through 1,199 classes of instruction.

CNATTU JAX announces Instructors of the Year

By AME1 Dwayne Duke
CNATTU Jax

The Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit (CNATTU) Jacksonville recently announced their selection for Senior and Junior Instructors of the Year.

ADC(AW) Jeffrey Davis was selected as CNATTU Jacksonville's 2013 Senior Instructor of the Year. Davis is currently assigned as Powerplant and Related Systems leading chief petty officer for Maintenance Training Unit 1011.

He is qualified as a P-3 Orion T56-A-14 Engine O-Level and I-Level Maintenance instructor, and has provided 2,830 hours of classroom instruction to 33 students through six courses. His leadership and direct mentorship helped qualify four new instructors.

Davis was instrumental in the revision of the P-3 Powerplant and



ADC(AW) Jeffrey Davis

Related Systems (Career) Organizational Maintenance Course by updating and rewriting three new lessons which were critical to maintain currency and preparing technicians to join the fleet.

AS1(AW/SW) Daphne Guzman was selected as CNATTU Jacksonville's 2013 Instructor of the Year. Guzman serves as Maintenance Training Unit 3032 leading petty officer and mechanical support equipment instructor.



AS1(AW/SW) Daphne Guzman

She has provided 960 hours of instruction to 46 Navy and Marine Corps students.

Under her leadership, she supervised 30 staff members that maintained daily curriculum development and upkeep of 28 support equipment maintenance courses that provided 11,176 hours of instruction to 371 students in 56 classes with a 100 percent graduation rate.

AM2(AW/SW) Mark Hamilton was selected as CNATTU Jacksonville's 2013



AM2(AW/SW) Mark Hamilton

Junior Instructor of the Year. As lead H-60 Airframe and Related Systems instructor for Maintenance Training Unit 1005, he provided instruction to 88 Foreign National and U.S. Sailors through multiple courses resulting in a 96.4 percent combined grade point average.

Due to his technical expertise and knowledge of H-60 airframe course curriculum, Hamilton was chosen to brief the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Danish Navy

on the airframes courseware content taught at CNATTU Jacksonville, strengthening relations between the two nations. As a master training specialist, he was responsible for the qualification of 10 new instructors and two master training specialists.

Chapel holiday services

From the Base Chapel

The following are the Christmas services at the NAS Jax Chapel:

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) - Catholic Mass at 8 p.m.

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) - Protestant Service at 7 p.m.

Christmas Day (Dec. 25) - Catholic Morning Mass at 10 a.m.

For more information, call 542-3051/52.

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CNATTU announces end of year staff awards

By AME1 Dwayne Duke
CNATTU JAX

The Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit (CNATTU) Jacksonville announces their Sailors of the Year for 2013.

ADI(AW) Zachary Brook was selected as CNATTU Jacksonville's 2013 Sailor of the Year. Brook originates from Spokane, Wash. He currently serves as the leading petty officer and lead H-60 Power Plant Systems instructor at Maintenance Training Unit 1005 where he led and managed the training of 581 allied military, U.S. Sailors and Marines; 56 of which he personally trained delivering more than 1,244 instruction hours while maintaining a 95 percent grade point average (GPA). He also serves as the CNATTU Petty Officer Association president and coordinated 180 hours of instruction, in support of the Master Chief of the Navy's CPO-365 program. His efforts helped support year round training for 65 first class petty officers. A dedicated mentor, his leadership led to seven instructors earning their master training specialist qualification.



Brook

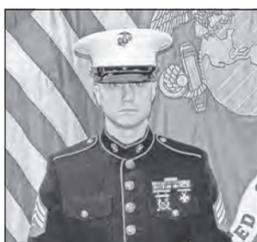
AT2(AW/SW) Marnicca Gomez was selected as CNATTU Jacksonville's 2013 Junior Sailor of the Year. Gomez hails from Enterprise, Ala. Gomez consistently displayed her expertise, professionalism and dedication as she provided 1,392 hours of instruction, while

achieving a 100 percent graduation rate and a 97 percent overall GPA. Hand selected to instruct at CNATTU North Island for 89 days, and for her efforts, Gomez was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal by the CNATTU North Island commanding officer. A key asset to the command, she carries out her duties as a sexual assault prevention and awareness representative, CSAAD president, CPR instructor, public affairs photographer, and MWR secretary.



Gomez

Sgt. Eric Jude from Frazier Park, Calif., was selected as CNATTU Jacksonville's 2013 Marine of the Year. Jude managed 22 classes providing 496 hours of instruction to 106 Marines and two allied military, all while leading 144 Marines through physical and tactical training at Maintenance Training Unit 3032. Jude also assumes duties as the uniform victim advocate for the detachment and SE PMS coordinator facilitating the completion of 107 scheduled and unscheduled maintenance actions on 63 pieces of support equipment.



Jude

Free airport shuttle available through MWR Liberty

From Staff

The MWR Liberty Program will be running free airport shuttles from Dec. 13 to Jan. 7 (with the exception of Christmas and New Year Day).

Shuttles will be for departures and arrivals and is for E1-E6 single or unaccompanied military only. Sailors must sign up at the Liberty Center and bring a copy of their itinerary. All shuttles will depart from the barracks quarterdeck. Pre-Registration is required. For more information, call 542-3491.

OHSU Jax holds change of command

From OHSU Jacksonville

Operational Health Support Unit (OHSU) Jacksonville, the Reserve unit of Naval Hospital Jacksonville, held its change of command ceremony Dec. 8.

In attendance were 200 guests from as far as San Diego and Ohio, as well as throughout the southeastern United States. Capt. Lee Kiolbasa, a health-care administrator whose prior position was as executive officer for OHSU San Diego, relieved Capt. Kenneth LaPolla, a general den-



Photo by MC3 Damien Berg

Capt. Lee Kiolbasa (right) salutes Naval Hospital Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Gayle Shaffer as he assumes command of Operational Health Support Unit Jacksonville on Dec. 8.

ist from Ohio, who will transfer to a post-command staff position with OHSU Camp Lejeune.

Capt. Gayle Shaffer,

commanding officer of Naval Hospital Jacksonville, was the

See OHSU, Page 16



Photo by MC2 Amanda Cabasos

NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander (left) and NAS Jax Command Master Chief (CMDM)(AW/SW) Brad Shepherd (right) stand with 27 Sailors frocked to their new ranks during command quarters on Dec. 6.

NAS Sailors make rate

From Staff

The following NAS Jax Sailors were frocked during morning quarters on Dec. 6:

- AC2 Joseph Barry
- MA2 Larry Brown
- AT3 Linsay Bryars
- CS2 Gregory Burke
- ABE2 Jose Cruz
- MA1 Keith Danalewich
- AC1 Damien Davis
- ABH2 Joseph Demun
- AC1 Nicholas Done
- AWF3 Samantha Goulden
- AC3 Leanne Huynh
- AE2 Samantha Jones

- ABE2 Andrew Kimzey
- MM1 Corey Kruger
- ABH2 Alexis LaBrake
- ABE3 Joshua Leinart
- ABH2 JaJuan Mangual
- MA3 Stephan Moore
- MA2 Glenn Patton
- ET1 Erik Paulsen
- CS2 John Phillips
- OS2 Samuel Polanco
- AT1 Christopher Robertson
- AC3 Stephen Simpson
- AM3 Nicholas Suszycki
- AC3 Christopher Tarvin
- EN3 Tysie Taylor
- CS1 Antonio Turner
- ABE1 William Ward



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Joseph O., future USAA member

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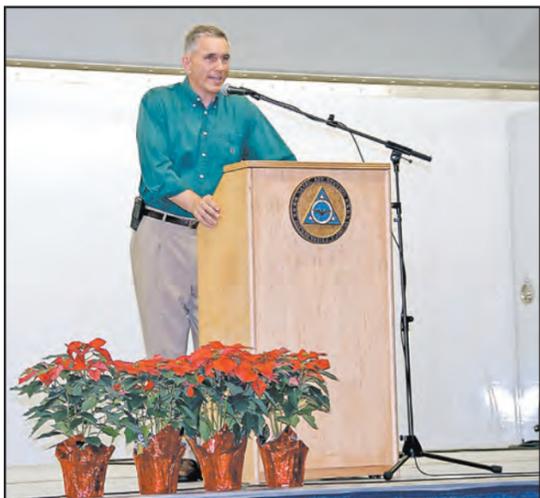
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MU2 Laura Carey of Navy Band Southeast belts out some holiday selections for the crowd during the event.



NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander welcomes the crowd during the Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Dashing Through the Grove event on Dec. 6.

Dashing Through the Grove gets families in holiday spirit

By Shannon Leonard
MWR Marketing

It was an unusually warm December night as more than 1,000 active duty members, their families and friends came out to enjoy the NAS Jax Dashing Through the Grove event at Patriots Grove Dec. 6.

Hundreds of children dashed through the park creating excitement in the air as they wait for Santa to arrive on the NAS Jax Fire Department's ladder truck.

Once Santa arrived and made the rounds greeting the crowd, the children and their parents lined up to spend a few quality moments telling him what they would like for Christmas and to have their pictures taken. The families also enjoyed riding a small train around the grounds.

"We came last year and it was a great event for the kids. There are always plenty of activities and the kids can burn off their energy," said Laura Reichmann.

While many stood in line to see Santa, others took turns sledding down an icy slide or having fun bombarding one another with snowballs.

"This was our first time at this event and it really exceeded our expectations. Lots to do for the kids in a safe environment and a great alternative from visiting Santa at the mall," said AWO1 David Shaffery of Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Eleven.

Before the official program began, NAS Jax Chaplain (Cmdr.) Shannon Skidmore gave a short blessing. NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander thanked the guests for coming before beginning the countdown to light the base Christmas tree. Members from Navy Band Southeast and a DJ also provided some holiday music to entertain the crowd. MWR provided free hot chocolate and cookies.

Additional activities included face painting, clowns, balloon artists, bounce houses and an assortment of inflatable games.

"We put this event on each year to kick off the holiday season and bring the NAS Jax community together. We are excited to see such a tremendous response to this event as it continues to grow. I am glad that so many people are making this NAS Jax tradition apart of their traditions," said Youth Activities Center Director Jason McKenzie.

Special thanks go out to all the people behind the scenes including the NAS Jax Fire Department, Security Department, Chapel Center, Facilities Department, Navy Exchange, Commissary and MWR who help make this annual event such a huge success.

The NAS Jax Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Department coordinated the event, which was sponsored by VyStar Credit Union, University of Phoenix, Sprint, USA Discounters and USAA.

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



The 35-foot Christmas tree is lit for the holiday season at Patriots Grove.



Children play in the snow during the annual holiday event at Patriots Grove on Dec. 6. Hundreds of military members and their families came out to enjoy the holiday festivities.



Audrey, 3, slides down a Jump 'n' Slide Bouncer during the annual Dashing Through the Grove event at NAS Jax on Dec. 6.

Photo by MC2 Amanda Cabasos



Families enjoy riding a train around Patriots Grove during the annual holiday event.



Evelyn and Kaiden Reichmann enjoy their fast sled ride down an icy slide.



Thaydriana, 10, left, and Thaedren, 6, engage in a snowball fight during the annual Dashing Through the Grove event at NAS Jax on Dec. 6.

Photo by MC2 Amanda Cabasos



Tony Santiago has a blast sledding down the icy slide during the Dashing Through the Grove event.



Fun Faces clown Greg Klabunde hands Russell Dierking a balloon he made for his son, Jaden during the annual holiday event.



Barbara Quintero with Fun Faces paints a snowman on Chloe Bassett's cheek during Dashing Through the Grove on Dec. 6 at NAS Jacksonville.



Robin Bryan, a clown from Fun Faces, asks Adrian, 2, what balloon design he would like, while other children, Audrey, 3, and Makana, 8, wait to speak with her.

Photo by MC2 Amanda Cabasos



Leif Bassett patiently sits still while Barbara Quintero with Fun Faces paints his face to resemble an elf during the Dashing Through the Grove annual event.

Photos by Shannon Leonard

Elsa Briones happily meets Santa during the annual Dashing Through the Grove holiday event.



CNRSE honors 2013 Sailors of the Year

By Twilla Smith
Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs

IT1(SW) Paul Voigt and YN2 Anthony Mitchell were honored as Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) Senior and Junior Sailor of the Year 2013, respectively, during a ceremony at NAS Jacksonville, Nov. 27.

As a battle watch specialist in the Regional Operations Center (ROC), Voigt supervised and trained a team of 17 Sailors from three different ratings. He ensured his team processed and disseminated more than 12,000 situational reports, 160 mutual aid reports, 100 voice reports for 16 installations throughout the region.

Voigt was also led the execution of more than 60 regional task force exercises, ensuring timely notification and thorough preparations for task force deployment during simulated nuclear incidents.

In addition, Voigt is a command fitness leader and a volunteer in the local community. He regularly volunteers at the Jacksonville Ronald McDonald house and the Cub Scouts of America Troop 0554.

"Petty Officer Voigt displays unparalleled leadership," said QMC(SW) Joseph Ziro, Voigt's supervisor.

"He has the technical expertise of a seasoned chief petty officer and is also an engaged deckplate leader. Petty



Photos by Suzanne Speight
IT1(SW) Paul Voigt (left), accepts the Commander, Navy Region Southeast Senior Sailor of the Year Award from Rear Adm. Rick Williamson during an awards ceremony at NAS Jacksonville on Nov. 27.

Officer Voigt's contributions to the success of day-to-day operations made the decision easy to nominate him for Sailor of the Year."

Voigt attributed his success to his ROC co-workers and family.

"I would say the genuine work effort from my department and command has enabled me to be successful and fulfill everyday mission tasks," he said. "We have a great operations team from top to bottom. I also have to thank my family because without them I would not be where I am today."

Mitchell serves as administration office assistant leading petty officer and the executive assistant to the regional command master chief (CMC), provid-



Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) Rear Adm. Rick Williamson, right, presents YN2 Anthony Mitchell the CNRSE Junior Sailor of the Year Award.

ing logistical support to the CMC during his travels. He also processes all periodic and transfer evaluation and fitness reports and coordinates executive-level correspondence. Throughout the year, Mitchell processed 70 evaluations with no discrepancies, processed 500 documents for staff directorates and processed documents for four retirements, three separations, 20 gains and 19 losses.

According to YN(SW) John Felizpolanco, CNRSE Administrative Department leading petty officer, Mitchell's contributions have been crucial to the department's success.

"He's an invaluable asset to our

department," Felizpolanco said. "He's an absolute expert when it comes to customer service and taking care of the Sailors at this command. He's also truly one of the most dependable Sailors I've ever had work for me. I can task him with literally anything, and I know I can count on him to get the job done right and on time."

Mitchell said he felt honored to receive such an award, but it was ultimately the result of a team effort.

"It's always an honor to be selected for something like this because it's a reminder that hard work does pay off," he said. "I also realize, though, that this wouldn't be possible without the encouragement and support I get from every member of the department. My success relies heavily on those around me and I really don't think I could have accomplished this without them."

According to Mitchell, the key to his success has been focus.

"You just have to come in and do your best every day," he said. "The minute you lose focus and get relaxed, that's when you can start to make mistakes."

Individual selection criteria for the awards was based upon exemplary performance of tasks, contributions that enhanced organization accomplishment of command objectives, mission, teamwork or public image, and one's professional attitude toward self and others.

Rendering honors during colors

By Staff

Reminder: whenever the national anthem is played, all personnel aboard NAS Jacksonville, not in formation, are required to stand at attention and face the national ensign. In the event, the national ensign is not displayed, they shall face the source of the music. When covered, they shall come to attention and salute until the anthem ends. Those in formation, shall come to attention and the formation commander will render salute.

Those driving a vehicle shall come to a complete stop and remain seated at attention.

Morning colors are conducted every morning at 8 a.m. Evening colors are at sunset.

VP-62

From Page 1

"We then radioed back for the Marines to send an Osprey and rescue the people stranded below."

Frazier, who in the civilian world is an agent flying P3s for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency, said he and his copilot on the relief mission had a combined 15,000 flight hours and 45 years of experience - an asset in supplementing more junior active duty counterparts.

In recent years, the Broadarrows have primarily flown counter-narcotics missions in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico from bases in El

Salvador.

"VP-62 is hoping to transition to the P-8A behind our active duty counterparts, but we're content right now to focus on performing critical missions in the venerable P-3C Orion," said Townsend.

The P-3C Orion has been in service for 50-years in Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force. While mission gear has been updated over the years, the P-3 airframe itself is rapidly approaching the end of its service life.

The new P-8A, a military variant of the Boeing 737, features improved airframe reliability, high-altitude surveillance and reconnaissance capability, open-

architecture mission systems, in-flight refueling capability and many other modern features.

The squadron has completed Advanced Readiness Program, Operational Readiness Evaluation, Fleet NATOPS Evaluation Team inspection, Conventional Weapons Refresher Training, Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection in support of its first iteration of VP Reserve mobilization and deployment cycles.



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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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Opportunities to enroll with primary care manager at Naval Hospital Jacksonville

By Capt. Gayle Shaffer
Naval Hospital Jacksonville
Commanding Officer

Our entire Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville staff across our hospital and five branch health clinics is working hard to become your medical center of choice, and we have great news regarding your primary care. For the first time in years, we are able to accept new patients. This means, it's never been a better time to make NH Jacksonville your medical center of choice.

Staffing increases, facility improvements and Navy Medicine's efforts to adapt, reshape and realign its state-side naval hospitals—like ours—is making this possible. Family members and retirees in the vicinity of NAS Jacksonville, NSB King Bay, Ga. and NS Mayport can now get a primary care manager (PCM) at our hospital or branch health clinics.

When you enroll with a primary care manager at one of



Capt. Gayle Shaffer

our facilities it means you are part of a Medical Home Port team—which places each of our enrolled patients in the center of a collaborative team of caregivers—from doctors and nurses to case managers. Led by your primary care manager, your team focuses on your comprehensive health care needs—preventive, urgent and routine. Plus, you have access to RelayHealth which provides 24/7 email access for

non-urgent needs such as lab results, medication refills and appointments. This means you avoid extra trips for things you can take care of with secure email. Plus, it is easy to sign up, just go to www.med.navy.mil/sites/NavalHospitalJax and look for our Medical Home Port information.

Our team approach improves access to care so you can get appointments when you need them, enhances your care experience, meets your urgent care needs, improves health outcomes by focusing on preventive care (which reduces hospitalizations and emergency room visits), and builds the relationship between you and your provider. And after hours, you have access to our Nurse Advice Line: (800) 529-4677 on evenings, weekends and holidays to triage your medical needs and direct you to the appropriate level of care.

On top of this, we have some of the world's leading healthcare experts in more

than 30 specialty care areas, from orthopedics to undersea medicine. We have an award-winning Family Medicine Residency Program, North Florida's only hospital certified Baby Friendly by the World Health Organization/United Nations Children's Fund, and maintain The Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval for accreditation in healthcare quality and safety.

In an effort to provide you with more convenient appointment times, we also plan to expand hours starting in early January. At our hospital (family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics) we plan to be open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Fridays 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. BHC Kings Bay primary care is already open 10 hours on weekdays (7 a.m. to 5 p.m.). BHC Mayport (family medicine and pediatrics) is already open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.;

and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon.

Not only do you gain access to top-notch care from some of the most gifted and educated medical professionals by choosing Navy Medicine, you join us in doing our part to improve value. Taxpayers like you and me essentially pay twice when Navy families receive care in the TRICARE network when that same care is available at our Navy facilities: once for state-of-the-art Navy facilities and expert staff, and a second time for redundant services in the network. For example, if Navy Medicine increased PCM enrollment across all facilities by just 15 percent, it would result in a \$1 billion savings.

Our TRICARE health benefits advisors, patient relations staff and customer service representatives are here to help you enroll at one of our facilities. Those at or near NAS Jax can call 542-9175; NS Mayport call 270-4255; and at NSB Kings Bay call (912) 573-4458.

SHOOTER

From Page 1

one or more firearms – and displays no pattern or method for selection of their victims. In some cases, active shooters may also use improvised explosive devices to injure additional victims that become an impediment to police and emergency responders," said Syrek. "Law enforcement responders must identify, close with, and neutralize the suspect – in order to preserve life."

NAS Jacksonville Training Officer Jim Butters said, "Our primary objective was to run a safe exercise that would validate the pre-planned responses for security, fire and emergency services – as well as Fleet and Family Support Center participation."

John Tillman, NAS Jacksonville anti-terrorism officer reported that the field exercise provided some excellent feedback for the stations' security force. "Because of the increase in real-world active shooter incidents, it is crucial that we conduct drills like this – as we

also focus on the changes to our manpower structure and organizational makeup," said Tillman.

Syrek noted, "We're always careful when firearms are involved in an exercise. Officers responding during their shift must exchange their weapons at the incident command post for plastic replicas, so there are no accidental shootings."

"The training went well. The more we train, the better we get. Any mistakes we make here are okay because they help deal with events in the real world. This exercise will be reviewed with the entire security department," said Syrek.

Butters added, "It is equally important to continue our team-building strategies while increasing situational awareness across the command. Overall, the exercise was a very good challenge and permitted all parties to exercise their training objectives. We never fail to develop some valuable lessons learned that will improve emergency response procedures in the future."



Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

(From left) NAS Jax Operations Officer Cmdr. Mark McManus, NAS Jax Emergency Management Officer Ray Edmond, NAS Jax Fire Chief Mark Brusoe and NAS Jax Security Officer Lt. Ryan Platt determine the perimeters of the scene on a map at the Emergency Operations Center during an active shooter drill on Dec. 3.

(From left) Survivors OS3 Sierra Elias and AME2 Ruby Gill are escorted to safety outside the NGIS Building 11 by NAS Jax Security Department Patrolmen William Thomas and Donnis Hinz.



Photo by Clark Pierce



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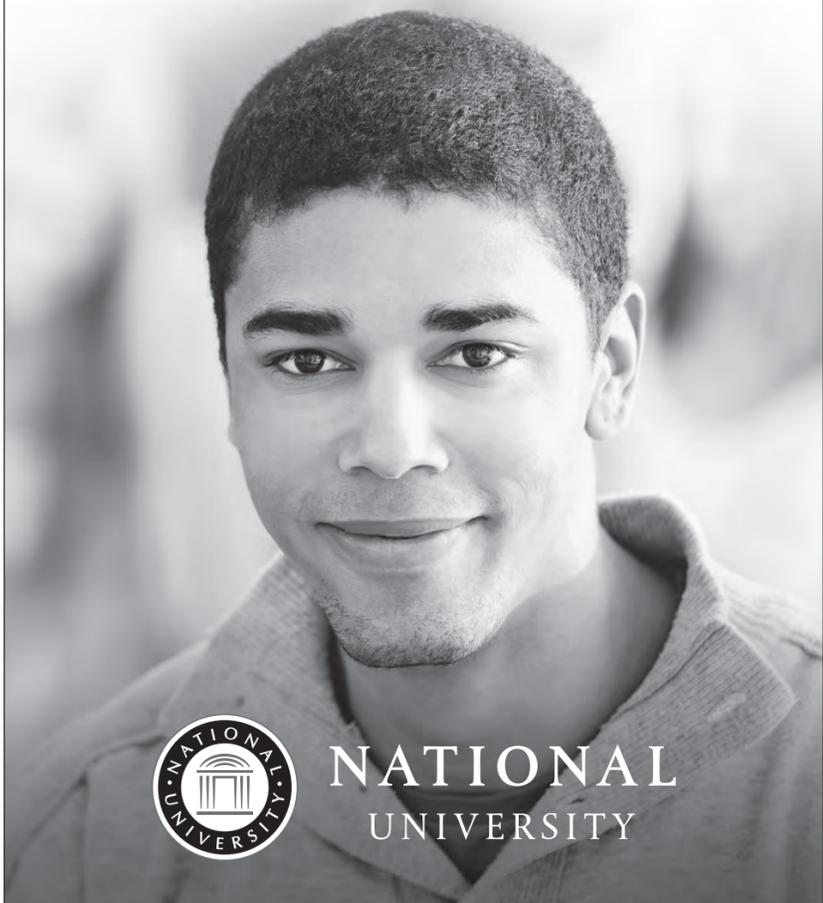
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Photos by MC2 Marcus Stanley

In honor of the 72nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Sailors, family, friends and survivors of the attack laid flowers and wreaths over the side of guided-missile frigate USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58).

USS Samuel B. Roberts hosts Pearl Harbor Ceremony

By MC2 Marcus Stanley
Navy Public Affairs Support Element Southeast

Sailors, family and friends came together aboard USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58) for a ceremony to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Also in attendance was Charles Ellis, Duane Reyelts and Henry Griffin who served during that dreadful attack which lasted 90 minutes, taking the lives of more than 2,300 service members and wounding more than 1,200, immediately plunging the United States into World War II Dec 7, 1941.

"It feels wonderful just to be able to be here at this stage of my life," said Ellis. "I am honored to represent those who lost their lives on that day at Pearl Harbor."

This year's historic commemoration, "Sound the Alarm," examines how thousands of Americans answered the call to duty in the wake of the attack on



Cmdr. Erica Hoffman, commanding officer of USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58) gives a challenge coin to Pearl Harbor survivor Henry Griffin during a ceremony commemorating the 72nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. This year's historic commemoration, "Sound the Alarm," examined how thousands of Americans answered the call to duty in the wake of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Pearl Harbor.

"Today these men are commemorated and we will never forget their sacrifice," said Cmdr. Erica Hoffman, USS Samuel B. Roberts commanding officer.

"We can still hear the accounts of those in their own words who answered the call when the alarm was sounded. Reading their words, listening to their voices and seeing their faces will forever connect us to them."

During the ceremony everyone in attendance, beginning with the Pearl Harbor survivors, was given the opportunity to lay a wreath or flowers over the side of the ship.

"It is an honor for us to be here to pay tribute to those who served before and laid the groundwork for all of us in uniform today," said NS Mayport Commanding Officer Capt. Wes McCall.

"It was a wonderful ceremony and we thank the Capt. Hoffmann and her crew for doing such a fantastic job.

Capt. Wes McCall, commanding officer Naval Station Mayport Commanding Officer Capt. Wes McCall thanks Pearl Harbor survivor Henry Griffin for his service after a ceremony aboard the guided-missile frigate USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58).



Harold Davis, the oldest veteran in Jacksonville, salutes after laying a wreath over the side of guided-missile frigate USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58) in commemoration of the 72nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7.

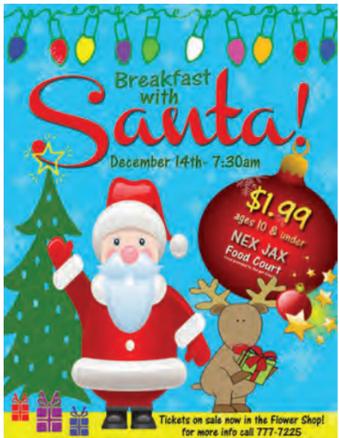


Photo by MC2 Christian Eskelund

Cunningham retires

AWCM(NAC/AW) William Cunningham (left) and his wife, Kimberly accept a certificate of appreciation at his retirement ceremony Dec. 7 from VP-62 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Jonathan Townsend (right). Cunningham joined VP-62 in 1990 and recently completed a "twilight" tour/mobilization with Combat Aircrew Seven to Kadana, Japan, capping a 32-year career in the Navy.

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VP-45 officers/chiefs compete in paintball

By Lt. j.g. Joseph Johannes
VP-45 PAO

The VP-45 "Pelicans" Wardroom and Chiefs' Mess of recently took some time from their P-8A Poseidon transition to build camaraderie in a friendly competition.

After completing their physical readiness test, the officers and chiefs gathered for some intense paintball action in Jacksonville.

The event offered a fun team-building exercise to further develop personal and professional relationships between the squadron members. "It was a great event," said Lt. j.g. Josh Stokes. "We've been working really hard with transition so it was good to get out and



Photo courtesy of VP-45

VP-45 officers and chiefs gather after a day of paintballing to promote camaraderie and team building.

unwind a bit." The afternoon, which saw its share of playful banter and trash talking, was marked by the sharp crack of high-powered paintball guns and the

cries of frustration from those whom were hit. Both sides fought tooth and nail for bragging rights throughout VP-45 spaces.

At the end of the day, however, both sides agreed to a ceasefire since they could not determine a victor. Despite being adversaries on the paintball battlefield, the teams reunited for a barbecue sponsored by the chiefs' mess.

"You're out there trying to defeat each other, but you never lose sight of the fact that, in the end you are all on the same team," said Lt. j.g. Levi Blackwell.

The paintball excursion enabled Pelican leaders the opportunity to forge deeper bonds. As they return to the business at hand of completing their transition to the P-8A Poseidon, the cemented relationships represent the hallmark of why VP-45 stands as one of the Navy's premier maritime patrol squadrons.

VP-26 'Tridents' and VP-62 'Broadarrows' participate in Malabar 2013

By Lt. j.g. Lindsey Asdal
VP-26

Sailors from CTG-72.2, deployed to Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, recently returned from a week in Chennai, India, where they participated in Exercise Malabar 2013.

The detachment, comprised of both active duty Sailors from VP-26 and reserve Sailors from VP-62, went to India to enhance interoperability between the U.S. and Indian maritime patrol and reconnaissance communities.

Malabar is a biennial naval training exercise that was held Nov. 5-11. U.S. participants included the USS McCampbell (DDG 85) and the "Warlords" of HSM-51.

The Indian Navy was represented by the stealth frig-

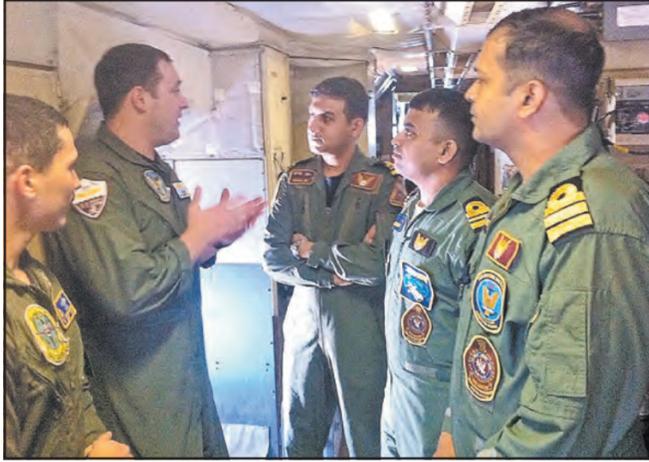


Photo courtesy of VP-26

AWO2 Jeromy Olszynski of VP-26 and AWO2 Larry Prince of VP-62 discuss safety procedures and the capabilities of the P-3C Orion with aircrew of the Indian Navy.

ate INS Shivalik, guided missile destroyer INS Ranvijay, embarked Helix and Chetak helicopters, and a TU-142M maritime reconnaissance air-

craft. Sailors and airmen of both navies participated in training ashore and at-sea, beginning with conferences designed to allow profession-

al exchanges and facilitate increased cooperation and interoperability, followed by underway practical application.

Members of the CTG-72.2 crew also attended receptions aboard USS McCampbell and INS Shivalik, engaging in cultural exchanges and developing personal relationships with the Indian Navy participants.

Three anti-submarine warfare (ASW) events were flown by the U.S. P-3C crew in support of Malabar 2013. The first flight gave the P-3 and SH-60R crews an opportunity to practice nighttime coordinated operations in support of USS McCampbell. The next day the crew participated in an exercise supporting INS Ranvijay, with an Indian KA-28 Helix helicopter and the MH-60R flying from USS McCampbell.

During the third event, the aircrew safely conducted the first ASW plane-to-plane turnover with an Indian TU-142M "Bear" aircraft. The exercise

advanced the maritime relationship between the two navies, encouraged constructive synergies and demonstrated their ability to plan and execute multinational operations on-station.

VP-26 Executive Officer Cmdr. Gregory Smith was the officer-in-charge of the P-3C detachment. He detailed the importance of the exchange, noting that "international exercises of this caliber are crucial to expanding our maritime partnerships and enhancing compatibility with those who share our security interests. I am extremely proud of the performance of this fully integrated active-reserve detachment."

First P-8A Poseidons report for duty

By Lt. Andrew Orchard
Commander, Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force 7th Fleet

The Navy's new, most advanced maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft, the P-8A Poseidon, arrived in Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan for its inaugural deployment Dec. 1.

The "War Eagles" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 deployed with six P-8A Poseidons in support of 7th Fleet maritime patrol and reconnaissance operations in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

The deployment marks a milestone in the transition of U.S. Navy Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Forces

(MPRF). For the first time since the Navy received the P-3A Orion in 1962 a new aircraft will be operated by a deployed patrol squadron.

The P-8A Poseidon is the most advanced, long-range anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare aircraft in the



Photo by MC2 Eric A. Pastor

AD2 Alan Campbell, a Sailor attached to VP-16, prepares to launch a P-8A Poseidon aircraft. VP-16 is the first operational squadron to deploy with the P-8A.

See **VP-16**, Page 16

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VP-26

From Page 1

ability. During the deployment Task Group 72.2 completed 29 detachments to 13 countries, including Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Micronesia, New Zealand, Palau, The Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

The majority of the detachments involved scheduled multinational exercises.

Among these were SEASURVEX-2013 with the armed forces of Indonesia, a series of cooperation and readiness afloat training exercises with Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, Talisman Saber with the Australian Defense Force, AnnualEx in conjunction with the Japanese Self Defense Forces, Malabar-13 with naval forces from India, and numerous bilateral exercises with Australia, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

These multilateral efforts build ties between nations and allow for greater coordination and interoperability between forces.

Other detachments were executed in support of operational requirements, such as Operation Big Eye which supports our partners' attempts to curb illegal fishing within the territorial waters of Micronesia; search and rescue detachments to Guam; an historic detachment to New Zealand (the first by a U.S. Navy P-3C since 1984); and the humanitarian assistance detachment to the Philippines in response to Typhoon Haiyan last month.

Typhoon Haiyan made landfall on Nov. 7, 2013, killing thousands and devastating many islands along the nation's eastern coast. The men and women of VP-26 and VP-62 were among the first on the scene to support the humanitarian assistance/disaster relief mission after the government of the Philippines requested U.S. assistance.

The P-3s played a vital role in damage assessment, providing a bird's-eye view of the areas devastated by the typhoon so government officials could direct aid to those most in need.

Aircrews performed reconnaissance of roadways and bridges, located personnel isolated from aid, and scouted the islands for suitable helicopter landing sites to allow badly needed supplies to be delivered.



Photo by MC2 Jesse Sharpe
Cmdr. Greg Smith of VP-26 discusses flight operations with officers from the Japanese Maritime Defense Force during a visit to view the squadron's facilities and aircraft while on deployment to Kadena, Japan.

The successful response to this crisis demonstrated both the value of maintaining forward deployed naval forces the level of integration achieved by the active and reserve maritime patrol forces who were ready to respond and executed flawlessly.

In addition to VP-26, VP-62, and VP-69, aircrews from VP-1, stationed in Whidbey Island, Wash. also supported CTG 72.2 and 72.4 throughout the deployment.

Led, by VP-26 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Mark Sohaney, the integrated team was tasked to meet all maritime patrol requirements across the Pacific Fleet AOR, while paving the way for the first operational deployment of the P-8A Poseidon. Sohaney and his team will turn over CTG 72.2 to NAS Jacksonville's VP-16, the first P-8A squadron, later this month.

Although Sohaney and Team Trident are returning home to NAS Jacksonville, they will remain ready to answer the call.

"The chance to lead these fine men and women in support of such an important mission is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Sohaney.

"I could not be more proud of what they accomplished over the past seven months."

With the last aircraft scheduled to arrive on home soil in mid-December, VP-26 Sailors will be re-uniting with their families just in time for Christmas.

But Sohaney and the Tridents will soon be back at work training aircrews, repairing aircraft, and preparing for the squadron's next deployment.

Their tireless dedication ensured a successful deployment and is a testament to the squadron's mantra that, "Trident Pride runs Bone Deep."



Photo by Kaylee LaRocque
Lt. Jeremy Swain of VP-26 hugs his children, Molly, 3, and Jack, 1, as his wife, Lindsey, waits her turn to welcome him home from deployment Dec. 5 at Hangar 1000.



Photo by Lt. CJ Brass
AWF1 James Farrar salutes the flight station as VP-26 aircraft 610 completes backing operations into a parking space after fueling while on detachment to the island nation of Palau. Combat Aircrew Nine operated with the government of Palau to monitor the nation's fisheries.

Orientation visit

Top: Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Rick Williamson (right) discusses Transient Personnel Unit/Pre-Trial Confinement Facility (TPU/PCF) Jacksonville operations with TPU/PCF Jax Commanding Officer Cmdr. Carol Schrader (left) and SH2(SW) Angela Muratalla during an orientation visit to the facility on Dec. 4.

Bottom: TPU/PCF Jacksonville Leading Chief Petty Officer MMCM(SW/AW) Michael Conners (left) explains watchstanding procedures, security measures and training guidelines to Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Rick Williamson during the visit.



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque



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Intramural Basketball League forming

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4-on-4 Flag Football League begins in January

The league is open to active duty, selective reservists, DoD and DoD contractors assigned to a command aboard NAS Jacksonville. Anyone interested in joining should contact

the gym.

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.

VP-16

From Page 14

world. A true multi-mission aircraft, it also provides superior maritime intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capability. The Poseidon is built on the proven Boeing 737 airframe, the most commercially operated aircraft in the world. The transition to the Poseidon brings with it enhanced safety and reduced maintenance.

Based at NAS Jacksonville, VP-16 began the transition to become the first P-8A squadron 18 months ago, shortly after returning home from a six-month deployment to Kadena Air Base. The War Eagles achieved U.S. Navy safe for flight status in January 2013 and were certified ready for deployment in November 2013.

"I couldn't be more proud of what the War Eagles have been able to accomplish during the squadron's transition to the P-8A," said Cmdr. Bill Pennington,

VP-16 commanding officer. "We are well trained and well prepared for this deployment, and excited about the opportunity to demonstrate the Poseidon's exceptional capabilities."

The deployment of the P-8A Poseidons to Japan is part of a phased replacement of the propeller driven P-3C Orion now serving in U.S. 7th Fleet operating area. Deploying alongside VP-16 will be the VP-46 Grey Knights from Whidbey Island, Wash., who will operate the venerable Orion.

"In December, we will demonstrate the ability of the Poseidon to operate effectively alongside P-3C during high-tempo deployed operations," said Capt. Mike Parker, commander of Task Force 72. "I also look forward to P-8A integrating seamlessly with our international partners and allies. Our interoperability will only get better with Poseidon," added Parker.

OHSU

From Page 5

guest speaker and presiding officer for the ceremony.

OHSU Jacksonville is the largest medical command within Navy Reserve Command Southeast, with more than 700 members in 18 detachments crossing 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.

Kiolbasa comes to OHSU Jacksonville with a wealth of experience 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 and dental care in the form of annual training to Navy active duty commands and missions throughout the world, including deployments of many members to Germany, Horn of Africa, Cuba, and Afghanistan.

Under LaPolla's leadership, every one of the command's 18 detachments was awarded the Navy Surgeon General's coveted "Blue H" Award for exceeding industry standards for health and wellness initiatives.

The command has also been recognized Navy wide for its development of an innovative exportable Trauma Nurse Training Course designed to deliver enhanced trauma care capabilities to the warfighter.

In recognition of these efforts, LaPolla was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Meritorious Service Medal by Shaffer during the ceremony.

Navy Band Southeast and the Naval Hospital Honor Guard supported the change of command ceremony.

Donations needed

From Staff

The Greater Jacksonville Area USO is in need of food items/financial contributions to support the Holiday Food Basket program. Donations can be dropped off at the NAS Jax USO from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or the NS Mayport USO from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The USO is also accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys to support the Giving Tree at the Navy Exchange Courtyard which benefits military children.

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Prepare now for tax season

By Terri Moon Cronk
American Forces Press Service

With a month left before the start of tax season, service members should begin gathering documentation to file their 2013 taxes, the director of the Pentagon's office of family policy and children and youth said Dec. 3.

In a recent interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel, Barbara Thompson suggested visiting the Military OneSource Web site for tax filing resources – and to learn what will be necessary to file, such as W2 forms, Social Security numbers and receipts for deductions such as child care, education, medical expenses and donations, among other write-offs.

Tax preparers at Military OneSource will do short-form tax filing free of charge for service members and their families, Thompson said.

Relocations and deployments have tax implications, Thompson noted.

For example, deployed service members can receive an extension to file taxes after the normal April 15 filing date, she said. "It's very helpful to have someone who is experienced to help you through the cumbersome issue of taxes and tax returns," she added.

The tax preparers at Military OneSource are up to date on changes in tax laws, and can answer military-specific questions, Thompson said.

Installations also offer volunteer income tax assistance to service members and their families, while certain banks and credit unions provide education and training on tax preparation, Thompson said. She advised that service members organize their taxes by starting a file beginning each Jan. 1 for the following year's tax papers, such as receipts and other write-offs.

"You don't want to wait until the last minute," she said.

Service members and families who prepare long-form taxes with deduc-

tions such as mortgages and rental properties might want to consider hiring a tax expert to file for them, Thompson said. "It's best to get advice to make sure you have everything covered," she added.

People who do their own taxes need to stay on top of current tax information, Thompson said. "Sometimes tax laws change, so you have to be really smart about doing your own taxes," she added. States' tax laws often vary, too, she said, and because of relocations, some service members have to file local taxes in more than one state.

"That's where [tax consultants] can really be of great value to make sure you know what the requirements are for states," Thompson said.

Filing federal and state tax returns usually results in either a tax refund or money owed back to the government. Expecting to receive a tax refund, but instead finding out that money is owed can be a shock, Thompson said. Looking

at W2s to determine how much money in taxes is being withheld is a good indicator of whether or not one will owe money, she suggested.

Service members who receive a tax refund face important decisions on what to do with the money, Thompson said.

"Do you use it to buy down debt, or put it in a savings account?" she asked, advising people to not blow their tax refunds in a spending frenzy of unnecessary purchases.

A tax refund also can be deposited into a retirement savings account, she added. "It's important to think about what you're going to do with that money," she advised, "and how you can best utilize it for your financial well-being."

Meeting with a financial planner to learn the "lay of the land," and what tax deductions might apply to a service member's finances is a good idea, Thompson said. "It's really important to be savvy about that."

Interested in college?

Free admissions testing available for service members

By Ensign Shereka Riley

Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Your base Navy College Office (NCO) offers paper-based American College Testing (ACT) and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) college admissions testing at base education centers to active duty service members free of charge.

According to Mareba Mack, educational specialist at the NAS Pensacola Navy College Office, when a current score is required for service or education programs, all eligible military members, including the Coast Guard, are authorized to take one free college admissions exam administered at their local base education center.

"A few of the service programs that require a current SAT or ACT score are the Naval Academy and the Naval Academy Preparatory School Programs, Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program and the Seaman to Admiral-21 program," said Mack. "Service members with hopes of pursuing a baccalaureate degree at a four-year institution are eligible for a free

test whether or not they are using military education program benefits such as Tuition Assistance (TA) and/or the GI Bill."

Both the ACT and SAT are administered monthly by the educational center staff.

In order to help prepare for the SAT and ACT, the NCO offers free materials to assist service members in achieving the scores they need. Mack suggests members visit their local NCO to receive official test guide booklets that offer information about each exam, including practice tests.

Additional information on the ACT and SAT is available at www.act.org/aap/pdf/Preparing-for-the-ACT.pdf and <http://sat.collegeboard.org/SAT/public/pdf/getting-ready-for-the-sat.pdf>.

Andrea Franklin, educational technician at the NCO Pensacola notes that the education centers also offer other tools that can be used to improve basic English and math skills.

"Other offerings available at no charge include the Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) and the

College Placement Skills Training Course (CPST)," said Franklin.

For more information on the OASC and CPST, visit https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/dsp_oasc.aspx and https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/dsp_cpst.aspx.

Food Locker donation

Flo Trantham, chairman of the Navy Wives Clubs of America Jax No. 86 (center) presents \$100 worth of NAS Jax Commissary gift certificates to LS3 Shadonna Adams (right) and AE2 Michael Greco of the base chapel to be used to help stock the NAS Jax Food Locker for the holiday season.



Photo by RPI Amy Hooks

Suicide prevention awareness training

From Fleet and Family Support Center

The NAS Jax Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) is offering Suicide Prevention Awareness Training for base and tenant commands this month.

"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," she added.

The following are the available training dates and times:

- 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.

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Children's Holiday Bingo
Dec. 20

Doors open at 5 p.m., games begin at 6
p.m.
\$10 per child

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p.m.

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

Thursdays: Free bowling for Active
Duty 11 a.m - 1 p.m.

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

Monthly Handicap Single Tournament:
Dec. 21, 1-4 p.m. \$20 per person
Scratch Sweeper: Dec. 28, 1-4 p.m. \$30
entry fee

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

Strike in the New Year at NAS Freedom
Lanes
Dec. 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
Dec. 13 at 11:30 a.m.
Perimeter Rd. / Antenna Farm

Powerlifting Competition
Feb. 8, 2014

7 a.m. at the Fitness Center
\$10 registration fee

I.T.I. Events

Call 542-3318
E-mail them directly at jaxs_nas_mwritt@navy.mil.
ITT current ticket promotions include
the following:

Jacksonville Zoo Light - \$8.50
St. Augustine Holiday Lights - \$8.75
adult & \$3 child
Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey
Circus - \$15

Disney Jr. Live - \$15 - \$29
Monster Jam - \$22 - \$42
Globetrotters - \$18
Gatorbowl - \$35
Russel Athletic Bowl - \$78
Capital One Bowl - \$98
Wild Adventures - \$30 - \$70
Disney World Orlando Armed Forces
Salute ticket Fla. - \$166 - \$194.50
Universal Orlando - \$114 - \$169.50

Orlando Magic - \$11 - \$491
Daytona 500 - \$62 - \$209
Drive 4COPD 300 - \$55
Budweiser Duels - \$55
Sprint Unlimited - \$30 - \$55
Rolex 24 - \$32 - \$65
Jacksonville Symphony - \$27.50
The Artist Series - Broadway in
Jacksonville 2013 - 2014 season, select
shows \$51 - \$65

Thrasher Horne Center for the Arts 2013
- 2014 season, select shows \$11 - \$70
Jaguar Tickets - Section 147 - \$70
Armed Forces Vacation Club -

www.afvclub.com \$349 - \$369
Amelia Island Museum of History - \$4
- \$10

MOSH - \$7 - \$12
Ripley's St. Augustine - \$4.25 - \$7.50
St. Augustine Alligator Farm - \$6.75 -
\$13.50

Wild Florida Airboats - \$17 - \$46.50
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tions at ITT!

**The Vault Liberty
Recreation Center**

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

Ice Skating Trip
Dec.14 at 6 p.m.

The Avenues Mall Shuttle
Dec. 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. 17 for active duty
Dec. 19 for retirees, DoD personnel and
their guests

Monday & Tuesday
Play 18-holes for \$20, Cart and green fee
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
Dec. 20 at 10 a.m.
\$40 military, \$50 civilian guests

Mulberry Cove Marina

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

Free Stand-up Paddle Board Lessons
Every Thursday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Auto Skills Center

Call 542-3227

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Youth Activities Center

Call 778-9772
Family Fitness Center hours are
Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
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Movie Under the Stars featuring The
Grinch

Dec. 13, 6 p.m.
Patriot's Grove

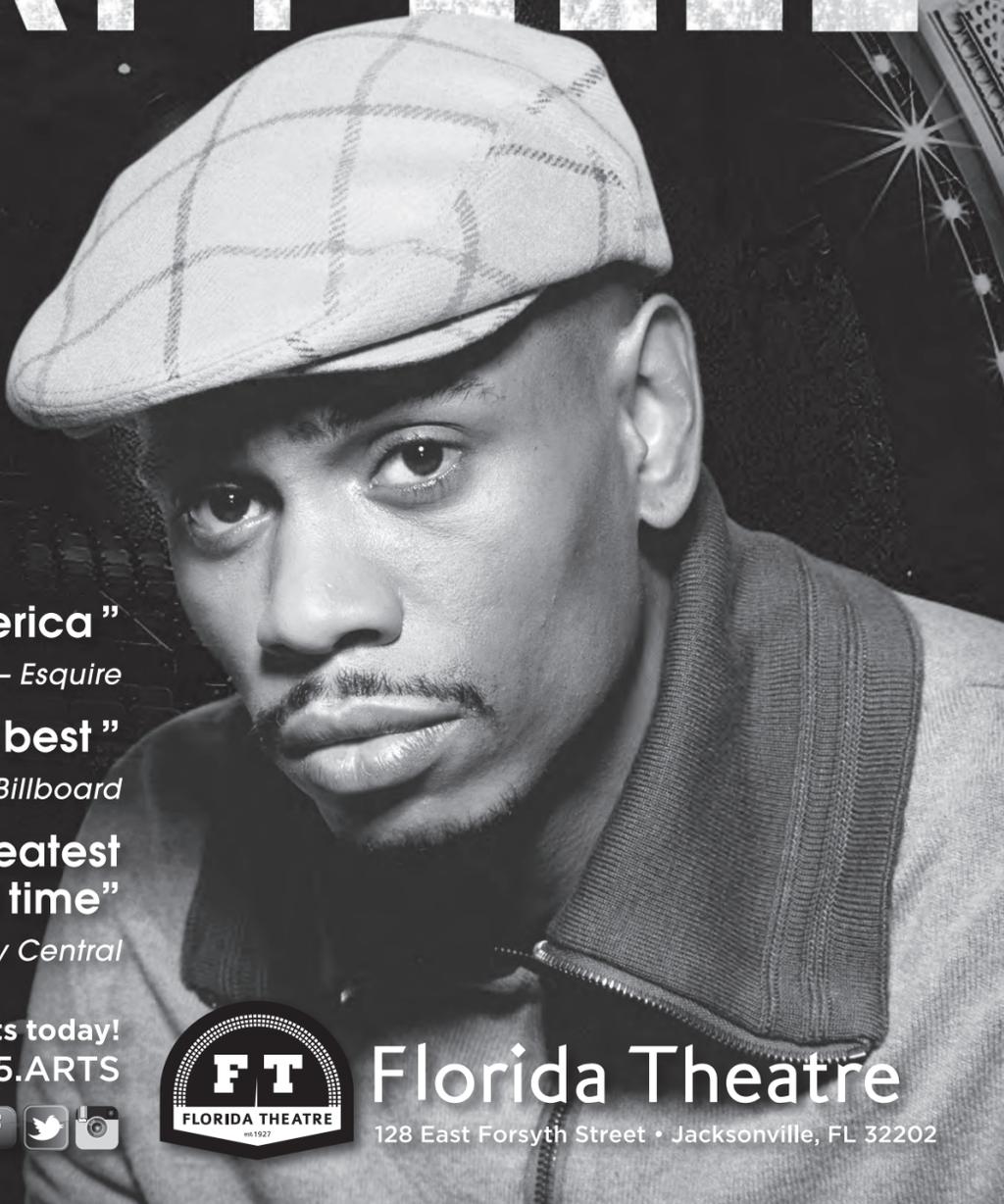
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December 20
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10 a.m. shotgun start
\$40 entry fee
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purse and on course prizes.
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Naval Hospital Jacksonville, why is volunteering important to you?

From Staff

• Lt. j.g. Nathan Voelkel, Intensive Care Unit:

"I have volunteered many times at my church and some 5k runs. I figure since I was helped throughout my life, volunteering would be a great opportunity for me to make a difference in other people's lives. To change someone's life, even for a moment, might just take you giving a little of your time to volunteer."



Jackson

• HMC Coreyoun Jackson, Staff Education and Training:

"I get great satisfaction in helping the youth serving as a basketball and football coach. It is such a great time to be able to give back to the community and see kids smile. It is the appreciation and accomplishment the

kids show towards volunteers that make it worth your time. Also, when given the chance to volunteering in uniform, it allows us to keep the Navy at the forefront in the community. They see us sailors out in the community and it sheds a really bright light on our fine Navy."



Smith

• Lt. Eugene Smith, Operations Management:

"I volunteer throughout the year at St. Pius Catholic Church. I also help prepare and serve food, to the homeless in downtown Jacksonville, as part of the City Rescue Mission. I want to provide a positive role model to the community. As a kid growing up, for me it was very important to have someone like

that in my life; someone that shows others the right thing to do. I think volunteer work displays many of the correct values for others to follow."



Boyd

• HM2 Nakita Boyd, Radiology:

"Volunteering is important to me because it offers me a chance to give back to the community and help others who are in need. Whether it is building houses, coaching a team or even walking a dog, going out in the community and doing volunteer work is something that is truly appreciated."

• HM2 Shawn Bradley, TRICARE:

"I support the community by volunteering my time to the youth and to those going



Bradley

through turmoil. I feel negative things can happen to anyone and they would really appreciate a helping hand. During the holidays I will be helping feed the homeless at St. Francis Soup Kitchen. There are so many who do not have family to depend on, during this time of year, where a helping hand can change people's holiday season for the better."

• HM2 Roberto Garcia, Health Benefits Center:

"Supporting our community is essential in building good relations. My father used to tell me you have to give in order to receive. The reason I volunteer is simply; I love to help those in need. It is also a good way to get junior sailors involved



Garcia

in positive activities and prepare them to lead others in the future. Some volunteer projects we have helped with are Habitat for Humanity (building and remodeling houses), Habitat for Humanity Store (re-stocking and moving supplies), First Cost Homeless (animal shelter and adoption events), Salvation Army (preparing and serving meals), Green Earth (beach clean-up) and Salvation Army's toy warehouse (wrapping gifts for kids). For the holidays we have another event putting gift baskets together for low-income families. I spent Thanksgiving and Christmas in Afghanistan last year, which made me realize how fortunate I am to have a family, food and a roof over my head. Let us help those in need."

Schramm retires after 42 years

From DLA Aviation Jacksonville

Douglas Schramm, deputy commander, Defense Logistics Agency Aviation Jacksonville, retired from federal service Dec. 3 after 42 years of service with the federal government.

After serving four years of active duty in the United States Navy, Schramm began his federal civilian career in 1975 as a machinist, at Naval Air Systems

Command in Pensacola, as a WB-5315.

Throughout his career, he served in a number of positions in support of naval aviation to include machinist, equipment specialist, shop materials controller foreman, planner estimator, supervisory production support specialist and supervisor supply management specialist.

In 2008, he transferred to Defense Logistics Agency, where he served as deputy commander, DLA Aviation

Jacksonville until his retirement last week.

The men and women of DLA Aviation Jacksonville thank Schramm for his many years of service to his nation and congratulate him on his retirement.

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Hagel addresses Iran, pay, women in combat

By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ended his talk with troops at Manama, Bahrain Dec. 6 as he usually does – offering to answer questions or listen to any advice they can offer.

The service members and civilian mariners aboard the amphibious transport dock USS Ponce (LPD-15) Hagel spoke with today didn't offer advice, but they did ask about Iran, women in combat, and pay and benefits.

The six-month interim agreement with Iran the State Department announced in November, Hagel said, is intended to allow space and time for negotiations on Iran's nuclear program and other issues.

Hagel said as secretary of defense and as a former senator, he believes the agreement represents an opportunity "to probe in great detail the possibilities of getting to a higher ground . . . and see, in fact, if the Iranians are serious about following through" on their pledge to halt pursuit of nuclear weapons.

During that six-month period, he added, "We will keep the same kind of strong assets, [and we will conduct] the same exercises" as usual.



U.S. Navy photo by Erin A. Kirk-Cuomo
Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) Chuck Hagel speaks with Capt. Dale Maxey, commanding officer of the amphibious transport dock ship USS Ponce (LPD 15), during a tour of the ship. After the tour, Hagel thanked Sailors and civil service mariners for their service and wished them happy holidays.

"We understand, clearly, the dangers that Iran represents and has represented," he said.

" . . . This is not an exercise based in folly. This is very clear-eyed, real engagement. Whether we can get to where we hope we can get to in six months, I don't know. We'll see."

Hagel offered a quick seminar in response to a question on pay and benefits.

With a continuing resolution controlling government spending through Jan. 15, no defense budget, and the likelihood of an additional \$52 billion sequestration cut in defense funding next fiscal year, he said, Pentagon planners are challenged to map out the next five years.

"Always, you protect your people," he said. " . . . This institution completely, abso-

lutely relies on you."

The United States has a tremendous advantage in cutting-edge technology, he said, but it's useless without capable, committed people to use it.

"We are reviewing pay, compensation, retirement . . . every aspect of our budget," Hagel said.

The secretary assured the troops that he and other defense leaders "begin every

decision process . . . first focusing on taking care of our people."

Hagel's next questioner asked the secretary's opinion of women in combat. Given that three Marine women graduated from the Corps' enlisted infantry training in November, a male Marine asked, "Will we see full integration within the infantry battalions? And what is your personal opinion on this?"

Hagel termed the women's achievement "tremendous," and said women Marines, soldiers, airmen and sailors should be given more opportunities for jobs, promotions and command positions.

The female troops he has spoken with don't want the standards lowered for them, the secretary said. "And if women can and want to serve in any of . . . the combat areas and they can meet those standards, they should be allowed to serve."

The services are evolving through the process of opening combat arms to women, he said, and are on track with the effort.

"I'm personally strongly supportive of it," Hagel said.

" . . . I'm very proud of these women who are stepping forward and who want to do more things, and are doing more things."

Truman Carrier Strike Group passes deployment midpoint

From USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) Public Affairs

The Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group (HST CSG) passed the approximate midway point of its 2013-2014 deployment Dec. 6 in the Gulf of Oman.

HST CSG deployed from Norfolk, Va., and Mayport, Fla., in late July and after transiting the Atlantic Ocean and U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR), entered the U.S. 5th Fleet AOR Aug. 18 to conduct maritime security operations, support theater security cooperation efforts and support Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

HST CSG is currently the only continental U.S.-based carrier strike group forward deployed.

"I could not be more proud of the performance of our Sailors and Marines," said Rear Adm. Kevin Sweeney, commander, HST CSG.

"Their efforts in supporting coalition warfighters on the ground in Afghanistan and maritime operations throughout the region have been the key to building trust and confidence with our partner nations."

HST CSG includes the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), the guided-missile cruisers USS Gettysburg (CG 64) and USS San Jacinto (CG 57), the guid-



Photo by MC2 Rob Aylward
Lt. j.g. Taylor Shipley observes the landing of an MH-60R Seahawk helicopter, assigned to the "Swamp Foxes" of HSM-74, from the helicopter control tower on board the guided-missile destroyer USS Mason (DDG 87) on Dec. 2. Mason is deployed as part of the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility. The strike group recently marked its deployment midpoint.

ed-missile destroyers USS Bulkeley (DDG 84) and USS Mason (DDG 87); Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 3; and embarked Carrier Strike Group 10 and 1st Combined Destroyer Squadron staffs.

Harry S. Truman, the strike group's flagship, has teamed up with CVW-3 to launch more than 7,000 sorties, amassing more than 19,700 flight hours, since departing for deployment. Nine days after entering the 5th Fleet AOR, an F/A-18C Hornet, assigned to the "Checkerboards" of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 312, piloted by Marine

Lt. Col. Joseph Reedy, commanding officer of VMFA-312, launched from Truman in support of OEF Aug. 27. Since that time, CVW-3 squadrons have flown more than 8,900 hours and 1,500 sorties in support of OEF.

Squadrons assigned to CVW-3 include the "Seahawks" of Airborne Early Warning Squadron 126, the "Zappers" of Electronic Attack Squadron 130, the "Ragin' Bulls" of Strike Fighter Squadron 37, the "Gunslingers" of Strike Fighter Squadron 105, the "Swordsmen" of Strike Fighter Squadron 32, the "Dusty Dogs"

of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 7 and the "Swamp Foxes" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 74.

"Its inspiring to watch the young men and women of Truman and Carrier Air Wing 3 work so closely together," said Capt. Bob Roth, Truman's commanding officer. "It's their hard work and tireless dedication to the mission that keep the jets launching, in the air, and supporting the warfighters on the ground in Afghanistan."

Capt. Sara Joyner, commander, CVW-3, also spoke of the teamwork that makes HST CSG's support of OEF a success.

"Whether from the air wing or from Truman, every Sailor and Marine understands the importance of what we're doing out here and how vital teamwork is to our success," she said. "The ship and air wing team work side by side, every day for hours on end, in all sorts of conditions, to make sure we can get support to those who need it on the ground."

Each ship in the strike group has made an impact on regional security and safety by providing assistance and medical support to fishermen and merchants on multiple occasions, and by participating in theater security cooperation exercises.

Other highlights of the deployment include port visits to Marseille, France; Manama,

Bahrain; and Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates; a Thanksgiving Day visit by the Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens; and the advancement of approximately 350 Sailors.

During the first 136 days of the deployment, Sailors and Marines consumed more than 15,175 gallons of milk, 52,718 lbs. of beef, 134,203 lbs. of chicken, 5,560 lbs. of hot dogs, 108,435 lbs. of fresh vegetables and 10,975 dozens of eggs.

To date, Harry S. Truman completed 16 underway replenishments, during which more than 11.4 million gallons of JP-5 fuel was received, 9.5 million gallons of which was issued to aircraft for flight operations.

"Over the past four-and-a-half months, this ship has done amazing things from supporting OEF, completing a physical readiness test while on a combat deployment, had numerous Sailors advanced, Sailors getting multiple warfare qualifications, and Sailors continuing their education," said Truman Sailor of the Year AO1 Ryan Smith. "We still have a long road ahead of us with much more to accomplish before the end of deployment, but we'll ensure we remain vigilant and we'll keep meeting every challenge safely until we return safely to our loved ones."

USS Theodore Roosevelt welcomes new E-2D Hawkeye

By MC2 Katie Lash
USS Theodore Roosevelt Public Affairs

The aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) launched and recovered E-2D Hawkeyes, from the "Tiger Tails" of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 125, for the first time, Dec. 3.

With notable improvements and new features, the E-2D is a major advancement from the E-2C Hawkeye.

"The E-2D brings a significant number of improvements to the older E-2C," said Cmdr. Paul Lanzilotta, commanding officer of VAW-125.

"The biggest thing is the sensor and radar systems. They are much more advanced in the E-2D. The E-2D is also capable of seeing much farther and it is far more capable of detecting targets on the surface and in the air. This helps ensure the carrier strike group is ade-



Photo by MC2 Kenneth Abbate
AM2 Colin Nicome signals for the start up of an E-2D Hawkeye from the "Pioneers" of Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 1 on Aug. 27 at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

quately defended, even hundreds of miles away. We can see it all."

Other improvements include a fully integrated, all-glass tac-

tical cockpit, advanced identification friend-or-foe system, a new radar with both mechanical and electronic scanning capabilities, electronic support

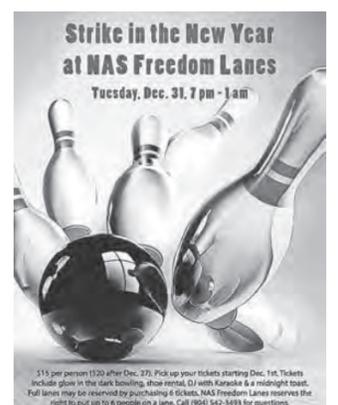
measures enhancements, new mission computers and tactical workstations.

"Along with the many technological advances, the E-2D

is also a much smoother flying aircraft now," said Lanzilotta.

"These aircraft are brand new. They still have that new-car smell."

After hundreds of practice landings on shore, the launch and recovery of the E-2D onboard Theodore Roosevelt begins VAW-125's final transition process from the E-2C to the E-2D.



USS New York changes homeport to Mayport

By MC1 Michael Wiss
Navy Public Affairs Support Element
East, Detachment Southeast

The Mayport community welcomed more than 350 new neighbors to Northeast Florida when USS New York (LPD 21) changed its homeport from Naval Station Norfolk to Naval Station Mayport Dec. 6.

New York is one of three ships that make up the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) that the Navy is moving from Norfolk, Va., to Mayport, Fla. The other two ships - USS Iwo Jima (LHD-7) and USS Fort McHenry (LSD-45) - are slated to arrive as early as 2014. The three ships will bulk up the Navy's fleet at Mayport, as the station's frigates are being retired. USS Underwood and the USS Klakring were decommissioned in March. According to U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw, the move is a win-win situation for the Navy and the Mayport community.

"As Congress deals with very difficult budget decisions, this is promising news for national security and the First Coast," Crenshaw said in a statement.

"This first phase of the amphibious ready group move to Mayport underscores the Navy's commitment to a strategic dispersal of assets -- a strategy I have long advocated on Capitol Hill."

New York is not the first Navy ship to hold that state's name, but never before has the name had so much meaning. The amphibious transport dock was built with 7 1/2 tons of steel salvaged from the World Trade Center. According to New York's Commanding Officer Capt. Jon Kreitz, although leaving Hampton Roads, Va. was difficult, maritime strategy is the main job for the new ship.

"This is just the first of three ships relocating to Mayport in order to make sure the station remains that second strategic homeport for the fleet," he said. "We're very excited to be a part of the Mayport family."

Many Navy families had the daunting task of moving from Norfolk to Mayport in a short amount of time. According to



Photo by MC2 Marcus L. Stanley

The San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21) arrives at its new homeport at Naval Station Mayport. The homeport change is part of a larger move of the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group homeport change in support of strategic dispersal and two viable East Coast surface ship homeports as well as the preservation of the ship repair industrial base in those areas.



Photo by MC3 Cyrus Rosen

ABH3 Christopher Sewell directs an MV-22 Osprey as it takes off aboard amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21). New York departed Naval Station Norfolk for a homeport change to Naval Station Mayport.

OS2 Thomas Devore, it was tough moving suddenly, but the many activities offered on NS Mayport and the surrounding areas are worth the stress of moving to a new area.

"We were able to get base housing in only two days," he said. "The help from the Fleet and Family Support Center was fantastic."

"It was a little hectic moving two small children, but we made it work," said Angela Devore.

"I am looking forward to the many beaches in the area. When the kids get a little older,

we are definitely going to Disney World."

The San Antonio-class LPD (USS New York) ships are used to transport and land Marines, their equipment and supplies. These ships support amphibious assault, special operations or expeditionary warfare missions and can serve as secondary aviation platforms for amphibious ready groups.

Amphibious ships like New York provide the nation a crisis response capability and demonstrate the Navy-Marine Corps team in action. The Navy is committed to strategic dis-



Photo by MC1 Phil Beaufort

Capt. Jon Kreitz, right, commanding officer of the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21), speaks with U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw in the ship's wardroom prior to the ship's arrival at its new homeport at Naval Station Mayport. The homeport change is part of a larger move of the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group homeport change in support of strategic dispersal and two viable East Coast surface ship homeports as well as the preservation of the ship repair industrial base in those areas.

persal and at least two viable East Coast surface ship homeports as well as the preservation of the ship repair industrial base in the Mayport area.

According to Naval Station Mayport Commanding Officer Capt. Wesley McCall, the addition of up to 2,000 families to the area after all is said and done will be a boost for national defense and to the economy of Northeast Florida.

"I think we're going to see

some significant growth with USS Fort McHenry and USS Iwo Jima coming next year and the new littoral combat ships soon to follow," he said.

"You bring 2,000 new families here; the benefits are going to be pretty substantial. The Sailors and their families aboard New York are the ones who will benefit the most. Jacksonville and especially the Mayport area are huge military supporters."

Bush Carrier Strike Group 2 continues COMPTUEX in the Atlantic



Photos by MCSN Scott Barnes

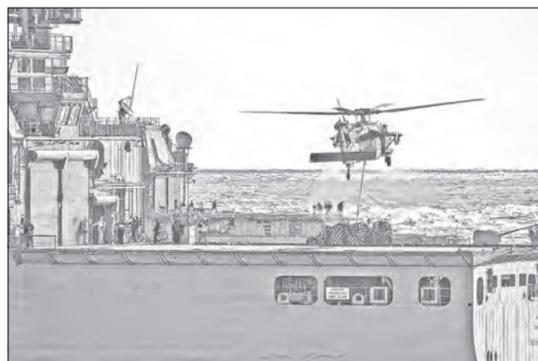
The USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) recovers an F/A-18 Hornet on Nov. 26 while conducting its pre-deployment evaluation (Composite Training Unit Exercise) with the Bush Carrier Strike Group. COMPTUEX tests the strike group's mission readiness and the ability to work alongside international allies in the execution of the Navy's maritime strategy.



The George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group 2 transits through the Atlantic Ocean on Nov. 26. CSG 2 combines George H.W. Bush, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 8, and Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 22 during the exercise. USS Truxton (DDG 103), one of the squadron's seven destroyers, follows on the port side of Bush.



The visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team attached to the guided-missile destroyer USS Truxton (DDG 103) conducts training prior for final pre-deployment evaluation with the George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group 2 to achieve mission readiness.



An MH-60S Seahawk helicopter from the "Tridents" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 9 retrieves supplies from the Military Sealift Command dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS William McLean (T-AKE 12) during a vertical replenishment on Nov. 29 with the guided-missile destroyer USS Truxton (DDG 103).



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Truxton (DDG 103) fires its Mark 45 5-inch gun at a simulated target on Nov. 26. Truxton is conducting its final pre-deployment evaluation with the George H.W. Bush Strike Group to achieve mission readiness and the ability to work alongside international allies in the execution of the Navy's maritime strategy.



Photo by MC3 Justin Wolpert

Sailors deploy a "Killer Tomato" as a target during a live-fire exercise Nov. 28 aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Roosevelt (DDG 80).



Photo by Clark Pierce

On the NAS Jacksonville flight line Dec. 6, VFC-12 ground crew recover two specially camouflaged F/A-18+ Hornets assigned to the "Fighting Omars." VFC-12 is the only Naval Reserve squadron at NAS Oceana. The squadron is manned by selected reservists, full-time reservists (FTS) and active duty personnel.



Photo by Clark Pierce

At NAS Jacksonville on Dec. 6, a P-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft (right) approaches an F/A-18+ Hornet assigned to the "River Rattlers" of VFA-204. Based at NAS Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, the squadron's aircraft often role play the enemy and fly adversary missions for exercises including COMPTUEX and JTFEX. Each mission is designed to help sharpen the skills of active fleet aviators, such as those training with the Bush Carrier Strike Group.

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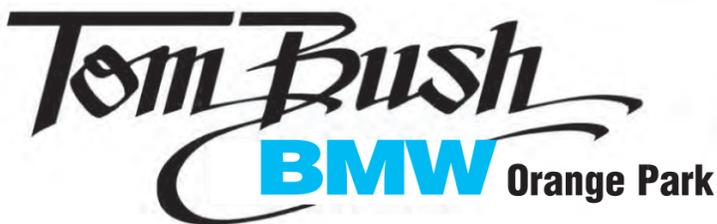


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*Lease financing available on 2014 BMW 320i Sedan vehicles, only at participating BMW centers on leases assigned to BMW Financial Services NA, LLC/Financial Services Vehicle Trust through January 02, 2014. \$2,750 down payment. \$500 Holiday Credit are credits against the MSRP of the final purchase, loan or lease on a 320i Sedan through January 02, 2014. \$500 Loyalty Cash is a credit against the MSRP of the loan or lease on a 320i Sedan through January 02, 2014. \$500 Loyalty Cash available for returning BMW customers only. Monthly Lease payments of \$279.00 for 39 months based on MSRP of \$36,875.00. Vehicle may need to be ordered. Total Lease payments are \$10,881.00. Excludes tax, title, license and registration fees. Program available to qualified customers and not everyone will qualify. Subject to credit approval. See participating dealer for details. Dealer contribution may affect terms. Lessee must cover insurance and all items not covered under the BMW Maintenance Program. At lease end, lessee will be liable for disposition fee (\$350.00), any excess wear and use as set forth in the lease agreement and excess mileage charges of \$0.20 per mile for miles driven in excess of 32,500 miles. Purchase option at lease end for \$23,600.00 excludes taxes. Lessee acquires no ownership interest unless purchase option is exercised. Lease financing available on 2014 BMW X1 sDrive28i vehicles, only at participating BMW centers on leases assigned to BMW Financial Services NA, LLC/Financial Services Vehicle Trust through January 02, 2014. \$2,500 down payment. \$750 Holiday Credit are credits against the MSRP of the final purchase, loan or lease on a X1 sDrive28i through January 02, 2014. \$500 Loyalty Cash is a credit against the MSRP of the loan or lease on a X1 sDrive28i through January 02, 2014. \$500 Loyalty Cash available for returning BMW customers only. Monthly Lease payments of \$319.00 for 36 months based on MSRP of \$36,775.00. Vehicle may need to be ordered. Total Lease payments are \$11,484.00. Excludes tax, title, license and registration fees. Program available to qualified customers and not everyone will qualify. Subject to credit approval. See participating dealer for details. Dealer contribution may affect terms. Lessee must cover insurance and all items not covered under the BMW Maintenance Program. At lease end, lessee will be liable for disposition fee (\$350.00), any excess wear and use as set forth in the lease agreement and excess mileage charges of \$0.20 per mile for miles driven in excess of 30,000 miles. Purchase option at lease end for \$22,801.00 excludes taxes. Lessee acquires no ownership interest unless purchase option is exercised. Both offers excludes tax, title, license and registration fees. Program available to qualified customers and not everyone will qualify. Subject to credit approval. See participating dealer for details. Dealer contribution may affect terms. Lessee must cover insurance and all items not covered under the BMW Maintenance Program. At lease end, lessee will be liable for disposition fee (\$350.00), any excess wear and use as set forth in the lease agreement and excess mileage charges of \$0.20 per mile for miles driven in excess of 30,000 miles on X1 and 32,500 miles on 320i. Lessee acquires no ownership interest unless purchase option is exercised. See participating BMW centers for details and vehicle availability. ©2013 BMW of North America, LLC. The BMW name, model names and logo are registered trademarks.



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