



Jax Air News

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Bush Carrier Strike Group enters 6th Fleet HSM-70 embarked with CVW-8

By MC3 Shaun Griffin
USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Public Affairs

More than 5,000 Sailors serving in the George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group (GHWB CSG) arrived in the U.S. 6th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR), Feb. 24.

Commanded by Rear Adm. DeWolfe Miller, GHWB CSG is comprised of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 8, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 22 and USS Truxtun (DDG 103), USS Roosevelt (DDG 80) and USS Philippine Sea (CG 58). Additionally, USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) arrived in the 6th Fleet AOR as an independent deployer.

"I am incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication these Sailors have put forth in preparation for this deployment," said Miller. "This team is prepared to face any challenge that presents itself."

While in the 6th Fleet AOR, CSG 2 and its accompanying units will provide a wide range of flexible capabilities in addition to building partnerships with allied countries through joint exercises and community relations projects.

"The versatility associated with George H. W. Bush and our embarked air wing allows for mission-tailored forces to be successful and represents our nation's strength, capability and resolve," said Miller.

GHWB CSG is deployed as part of the on-going rotation of forward-deployed



Photo by Lt. Juan David Guerra

The aircraft carrier USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77) transits the Strait of Gibraltar on Feb. 27. George H.W. Bush is on a scheduled deployment supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleets areas of responsibility. The HSM-70 "Spartans" helicopter squadron – home based at NAS Jacksonville – are embarked aboard Bush as part of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 8.

forces to support maritime security operations and operate in international waters across the globe, along with other coalition maritime forces. The strike group is prepared to conduct a variety of missions, including forward naval presence, maritime security operations, and crisis response and theater security cooperation.

More than 1,700 personnel are assigned to CVW-8, part of the George H.W. Bush Strike Group.

CVW-8 includes the "Golden Warriors" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 87, the "Valions" of VFA-15, the "Fighting Black Lions" of VFA-213, the "Tomcatters" of VFA-31, the "Bear Aces" of Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 124, the

"Garudas" of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 134, the "Tridents" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 9, the "Rawhides" of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 40, and the "Spartans" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 70.

The HSM-70 Spartans fly the MH-60R Seahawk helicopter.

Florida's first lady proud of military families



Photo by Clark Pierce

Florida's first lady Ann Scott (left) was greeted at the NAS Jax Child Development Center on Feb. 26 by NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander; Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Rick Williamson; Robin Williamson and Pam Undersander. Scott told them that she loves working with children – the future of Florida – and was eager to tour the station's child development center.

By Clark Pierce
Editor

Ann Scott, wife of Gov. Rick Scott, visited two family oriented facilities Feb. 26 at NAS Jacksonville. She was welcomed aboard by NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander and his wife, Pam. Also greeting Scott were Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Rick Williamson and his wife, Robin.

Undersander said, "I learned that Mrs. Scott is an avid reader who spends time visiting students at schools across Florida, encouraging them to develop their reading and writing skills. I believe she'll be impressed with what she sees today in our early learning programs at the NAS Jacksonville Child Development Center (CDC)."

Scott said that on a previous visit to the First Coast, she met NAS Jacksonville School Liaison Officer Dawn Mills, who invited her to check out installation's CDC, as well as the Fleet and Family Support Center.

"I'm just so glad to be on your base,"

said Scott. "I was in the Jacksonville area today and it's very important to me to visit our military bases whenever possible. We can never say 'thank you' too much to our military personnel for their service and sacrifice to our great state and country."

"It's long been a tenet of Navy leadership that family readiness is a vitally important component of mission readiness," said Williamson. "We strive to provide a network of resources for our Navy families, in order to reassure our deployed Sailors that their loved ones are being supported."

CDC Director Mary Grenier led the tour and explained, "Our capacity is 298 children, and that includes Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten classes, infants (12 months and younger); 1-year-olds; 2-year-olds; and pre-school. There's also a waiting list for each age group, including a not-born-yet category."

She noted, "Our CDC also provides 'drop-in' care for parents who need a few hours for appointments or other activi-

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Sailors get smart about reaping financial benefits

From Staff

Military Saves Week "Start Small - Think Big" kicked off Feb. 24 at the VP-30 auditorium aboard NAS Jax. Fifteen financial workshops were presented over four days to educate Sailors and families about an array of topics including: purchasing a vehicle, buying a home, credit management, planning for retirement, small steps to wealth, identity theft, insurance needs, paying for college, budgets and savings, deployment planning and more.

On Feb. 27, NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander welcomed attendees to the Family Re\$ource Makeover Night at the MWR Youth Activities Center gym. The program included presentations from NAS Jax Legal Department, Fleet & Family Support Center (FFSC), VyStar Credit Union, TRICARE, Navy College Office, and Navy Marine Corps Relief Society.



Photo by Shannon Leonard

Mike Williams, representing American Military University, speaks to AM2 Kate Hoover and AM2 Misty Graham, both of VP-45, about the benefits of continuing their education during the Military Saves Financial Fair at Dewey's on Feb. 28.

Free pizza, snacks and water were provided.

Undersander was impressed with the turnout. "I saw a number of dependents and ombudsmen, as well as active duty Sailors, preparing for a more secure financial future. That's good – because as we all know – family financial readiness contributes directly to mission readiness."

See MILITARY SAVES, Page 9

Attention Gate River Run participants

NAS Jax Sailors and civilians competing in the March 15 Gate River Run/ USA 15K Championship race are requested to meet at the event EXPO Center for a group photo at 7:30 a.m.

For more info, email NAS Jax Public Affairs Officer Miriam.gallet@navy.mil.

– From Staff

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National Archives photos

In 1942, an NAS Jacksonville plane captain signals the pilot of this Douglas C-47 Skytrain (known in the Navy as the R4D) to start his port engine – most likely an R-1830 Twin Wasp 14-cylinder radial. This workhorse of aviation was flown by British and American forces during World War II and used extensively for troop (28 soldiers) transport, paratroop operations, glider towing and freight airlift. Notice the smaller Beechcraft Model 18 (SNB-1) training aircraft in the background.



In May of 1950, this pair of Grumman F8F Bearcat fighter aircraft, assigned to the "Red Rippers" of VF-11, were damaged in a ground mishap on runway 27 at NAS Jacksonville. Note the Air Operations Department and Hangar 117 that are still in service today. Built around the powerful Pratt & Whitney R-2800 radial engine, the Bearcat was the Navy's final piston-engined fighter aircraft.

From Staff

This Week in Navy History

March 6

1822 - USS Enterprise captures four pirate ships in Gulf of Mexico.

1862 - USS Monitor departs New York City for Hampton Roads, Va. and historic confrontation with CSS Virginia (ex-USS Merrimack).

1942 - U.S. cruisers and destroyers bombard Vila and Munda, Solomon Islands, sinking two Japanese destroyers.

March 7

1958 - Commissioning of USS Grayback (SSG574), the first submarine built from keel up with guided missile capability (Regulus II missile).

1960 - USS Kearsarge (CVS-33) rescues four Russian soldiers from their adrift landing craft 1,000 miles from Midway Island.

1966 - Department of Navy reorganized into present structure under CNO.

1967 - Brown water PBRs assists Operation Overload II in Rung Sat Zone, Vietnam.

1968 - Operation Coronado XII begins in Mekong Delta, Vietnam.

1994 - Sixty-three women receive

orders to USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, the first combat ship to have women permanently assigned.

March 8

1854 - Commodore Matthew Perry opens treaty negotiations with Japan.

1862 - Ironclad ram CSS Virginia destroys USS Cumberland and USS Congress.

1945 - Phyllis Daley becomes first African-American ensign in Navy Nurse Corps.

1958 - Battleship USS Wisconsin (BB-64) is decommissioned, leaving the Navy without an active battleship for the first time since 1895.

1965 - Seventh Fleet lands first major Marine units in South Vietnam at Danang.

1991 - Lt. Kathy Owens became the last pilot (in a C-2 Greyhound) to land on the training carrier USS Lexington (CVT 16) that was decommissioned in November 1991.

March 9

1798 - Appointment of George Balfour as first U.S. Navy surgeon.

1847 - Commodore David Connor

leads successful amphibious assault near Vera Cruz, Mexico.

1862 - First battle between ironclads, USS Monitor and CSS Virginia.

1914 - Test of wind tunnel at Washington Navy Yard.

March 10

1783 - USS Alliance (Capt. John Barry) defeats HMS Sybil in final naval action of Revolution in West Indies waters.

1933 - Pacific Fleet provides assistance after earthquake at Long Beach, Calif.

1945 - Navy and civilian nurses interned at Los Banos, Philippines flown back to CONUS. Navy nurses awarded Bronze Star.

1948 - First use of jets assigned to operational squadron (VF-5A) on board aircraft carrier USS Boxer (CV 21)

1992 - The Department of Defense announced its plan to withdraw from the Philippine Naval Facility at Subic Bay.

March 11

1935 - Birth of Naval Security Group when OP-20G became the Communications Security Group.

1941 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs Lend-Lease Act.

1942 - In a PT boat, Lt. Cmdr. John Bulkeley leaves the Philippines to take General Douglas MacArthur to Australia.

1983 - The first fleet CH-53E Super Stallion delivered to the HM-12 "Sea Dragons." The CH-53E transports heavier loads over longer distances than previous logistics helicopters.

1991 - Saratoga and Midway battle groups depart the Persian Gulf for their homeports: Saratoga (CV 60) transited the Suez Canal en route to Mayport, Fla.; Midway (CV 41) traveled to Yokosuka, Japan.

March 12

1917 - American merchant ships to be armed in war zones.

1942 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt designates Admiral Ernest J. King to serve as the Chief of Naval Operations, as well as the Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.

1956 - First overseas deployment of Navy missile squadron, VA-83, on board USS Intrepid (CV 11).

The Smileys attend the state dinner: Part 2

By Sarah Smiley
Special Contributor

From the Homefront

The invitation read, "The President and Mrs. Obama request the pleasure of the company of Ms. Smiley at a dinner." In the weeks leading up to the White House state dinner honoring French President Francois Hollande, this was probably my favorite part of the whole thing.

After 37 years of being someone's military "dependent," I was finally the principal invitee and my Navy commander husband would be my date.

Not even the invitation with my name on it, however, could compare to the moment when Dustin — after a day of work at the Pentagon, freshly showered, shaved and dressed in his formal mess dress uniform — arrived in a car to pick me up at the hotel lobby.

That's when it hit me: we were going to the White House for a state dinner.

But if the magnitude hadn't occurred to me then, it certainly would have when we arrived at the White House and went through the usual security checkpoints, including standing before bomb-sniffing dogs, all while dressed in heels and a floor-length formal gown.

Once that part was over, though, it felt like any other black-tie event where, you know, Mrs. Obama's Chief of Staff, Tina Chen, is leading you through the East Colonnade to the famed Booksellers room of the White House. Which is to say, I'd never in my life done anything like this.

The first room Dustin and I explored in the White House was the library on the right. This is where we quickly huddled in a corner to pinch ourselves (We were at a state dinner — what?) and talk about the movie theater we saw on the right before we were announced to the press pool (Us, announced to the "press pool").

In the library, we met Stephen Colbert from "The Colbert Report" and his wife, Evie. Colbert was just as I imagined him to be in real life: funny, yes, but also exceptionally humble, and gracious. Evie, is elegant and personable. We talked about kids, military families and "Dinner with the Smileys." Then we did what every other couple does in situations like this: swap phones to take pictures — the whole will-you-take-a-picture thing — in front of the shelves of books.

Next, we went up the marble staircase and into the East Room.

Beneath three enormous cut-glass chandeliers,

Dustin and I gazed at famous portraits of Theodore Roosevelt and George Washington. Okay, I also gazed at Bradley Cooper standing between them. And here, in front of a portrait of Martha Custis Washington, we met Julia Louis Dreyfus.

On our way to the Blue Room to meet the Obamas, we stumbled upon a man who looked very familiar to me. I stupidly asked, "How do I know you?" and then I learned what happens when you lose an election: people forget your name. But Rep. Paul Ryan couldn't have had a better sense of humor about my faux pas.

In the receiving line, Dustin spoke French with Francois Hollande, and President Obama was gracious as he thanked Dustin for his service.

But, honestly, all politics aside, I can't say enough about the first lady. She is absolutely beautiful in real life, and she is astoundingly regular. By that I mean, she is not pretentious or overly formal.

She embraced me in a warm hug, with no worries of messing up her gown, and she genuinely seemed excited to have us there.

Outside, heated trollies waited to take us to a tent on the south lawn where the dinner was waiting.

I was at first concerned about the "tent," given the frigid temperatures. But if this elegantly lit room with florals hanging from the ceiling was a "tent," then everything I've ever camped in was merely a nylon sack.

Our table was one away from the head table. Essentially, there was only the Rev. Al Sharpton between us and the Obamas. Well, Sharpton and about 400 different forks, spoons and goblets. And those were just next to my plate! Not really, but it felt that way. I had no idea which glass or silverware to use first.

Dinner was elegant and 1,000-percent more impressive than anything I served at "Dinner with the Smileys."

The meal was punctuated by us meeting Dr. Jill Biden and Bradley Cooper, followed by Sharpton dancing to the music of Mary J. Blige.

The night ended the same way it began, with me and my man in uniform (even more handsome than Bradley Cooper) walking hand-in-hand down the sidewalk, past the security check-points, to a cab waiting on 15th Street, and back to our regular lives.

Despite knowing Dustin since we were babies, I

never got to go to the prom with him.

I'm forever grateful he agreed to be my date for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend a state dinner.



Spring forward one hour

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 9. Reset your clocks and other timepieces ahead by one hour.

— From Staff

SAPR Assistance Available 24/7



The DOD Safe Helpline may be reached by phone 1-877-995-5247, text 55-247 or via the app on iOS.

The Naval Air Station Jacksonville Civilian SAPR Victim Advocate 24/7 Duty phone is (904) 910-9075.

The Naval Air Station Jacksonville Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) Duty phone is (904)548-7789.

The Naval Station Mayport Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) Duty phone is (904)548-8392.

Civilian Community Sexual Assault Services may be obtained by calling (904) 721-RAPE or 721-7273.

Commands are encouraged to post their Unit SAPR Victim Advocates name and after hours Duty phone number visible in the commands to be accessible to sexual assault victims. Victims' Legal Counsel (904) 542-5430 Chaplains may be reached for support (904) 542-3051 or Duty phone (904) 614-7385 Fleet and Family Support Center may be reached for counseling services 1-866-293-2776



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'War Eagles' steal show in Singapore

By Lt. j.g Christi Morrissey
VP-16 Public Affairs Officer

It wasn't the sleek fighters, menacing combat helicopters, or jumbo aircraft that created the most buzz at the recent Singapore Air Show.

Instead, it was a modest aircraft parked toward the back of the ramp that caught the eyes of aviation enthusiasts and industry experts alike. In the first public static display of the aircraft in Singapore, Sailors from the VP-16 "War Eagles" showcased their P-8A Poseidon during the weeklong event at the Changi Exhibition Center.

"We came to show the Navy's commitment to regional partners and allies, and to highlight the Navy's newest long-range anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance aircraft. The air show is also a great opportunity to interact with visitors from across the region," said Cmdr. Dan Papp, executive officer of VP-16.

Squadron members gave tours of the aircraft to military and civilian distinguished visitors, in addition to educating the public about the aircraft.

AWO3 Delbert Smith, an electronic warfare operator on the Poseidon, remarked on his interactions with air show visitors.

"It was great being able to give the public some insight into what I do as an operator and what we do as an aircrew. I had the opportunity to speak with numerous school groups as well as individuals, providing them with basic facts of the aircraft. Many of them were surprised to learn that this large plane was able to hunt and track submarines," he said.

Lt. Clayton Hunt, a senior pilot with the aircrew, commented on the abilities of the aircraft.

"I flew the P-3C Orion for a number of years, and it will always have a special place in my heart, but the P-8A is a game-changer. The Poseidon can fly

faster and higher, give us longer range and get us on station more rapidly. It carries a larger payload of sonobuoys, allowing us more versatility and the ability to stay longer on station, if required," he stated.

"In addition, our operators and maintainers are some of the finest in the U.S. Navy. We have been very happy with the performance of the aircraft thus far."

Papp noted, "The Asia-Pacific Theater is composed of predominantly littoral states and we are seeing an increased need for the maritime patrol mission. The P-8A is designed to fill this expanding role, contributing daily to the stability and security within the region."

The P-8A is based on a Boeing 737 airframe, but it is a far cry from the passenger jet from which it takes its shape. Possessing the capability to carry and fire Mk-54 torpedoes as well as AGM-84D Harpoon missiles, the aircraft is also packed with the most modern avionics, radar and sensor systems in the world, making the P-8A the most capable anti-submarine and anti-surface aircraft in the U.S. military's arsenal today.

The air show, which attracted more than 100,000 visitors on its two public show days (Feb. 15-16), was the largest aerospace and defense exhibition in the Asia-Pacific region, featuring more than 1,000 exhibitors from 47 countries and 279 delegations from 72 countries.

This year, the United States was the "feature country" providing military aircraft for exhibit, including static displays and aerial performances by C-17 Globemaster III, P-8A Poseidon, MV-22 Osprey, C-130 Hercules, KC-135 Stratotanker, and F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft.

VP-16 is in the midst of its first operational deployment with the P-8A Poseidon.

They are currently operating from Kadena Airbase in Okinawa, Japan.

NHHC releases new logo

By MC1 Tim Comerford

Naval History and Heritage Command
Communication and Outreach Division

The U.S. Navy's Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) revealed the command's new logo Feb. 27, designed to represent its multifaceted mission.

The symbolism of the logo is rich and reflective of the elements of the purpose of NHHC. The logo's centerpiece is USS Constitution, the U.S. Navy's oldest commissioned warship, which represents the Navy's commitment to warfighting readiness from its earliest days on the world's oceans.

Furthermore the representation of Constitution embodies NHHC's dedication to preserving and protecting maritime history.

The quill pen serves as a reminder that the practice of documenting and understanding history is an important element of the Navy's course.

The two compass roses which bookend the command's name are traditional symbols of nautical navigation, symbolizing NHHC's ability to both interpret the Navy's past and help provide direction to its future.

The circular, infinite, rope border reflects how the Navy's actions and decisions today will be judged alongside those of the past.

"Together the elements of the logo capture NHHC's mission - to reinforce naval history's relevance to its leadership, the American public and Sailors, past and present," said Capt. Henry Hendrix, Ph.D. NHHC's director. "We wanted a logo that better reflected that drive, and I believe that the logo does so perfectly. It shows that as the Navy moves forward in its missions, NHHC



will be there offering the wisdom of Sailors' past experiences to guide its course to success."

NHHC's mission is to collect, preserve, protect, and make available the artifacts, documents, and art that embody our naval history and heritage for future generations.

The new design incorporates elements of logos submitted to the command through its summer logo contest, which offered many artists, naval history enthusiasts and designers the opportunity to showcase their creativity and sense of style with a historic flair. The command received more than 40 logo submissions from people around the U.S.

The winning design came from Nathan Quinn, a graphics specialist at the Defense Media Activity.

The Naval History and Heritage Command, located at the Washington Navy Yard, is responsible for the preservation, analysis and dissemination of U.S. Naval history and heritage. It is composed of many activities including the Navy Department Library, the Navy Archives, the Navy art and artifact collections, underwater archaeology, Navy history, nine museums, USS Constitution repair facility and the historic ship Nautilus.

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At NAS Jacksonville, VR-62 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Tony Scarpino addresses the "Nomads" after a FOD walkdown.



Inside VR-62 spaces at NAS Jacksonville Hangar 1000, AD1 Bryan Wright checks the status of the tool check-out log.



ATAN Jasmine Allen reviews berthing requests for the next drill weekend at NAS Jacksonville.



NC1 Kenneth Swan works on Career Development Board documentation.



During a PACOM mission, a "Nomads" C-130T lands on Kwajalein Atoll 70 years to the day after its liberation from the Japanese by U.S. Forces. U.S. Army troops landed just below the approach to runway 6 on Feb. 4, 1944.



Lt. Cmdr. Todd Nichols checks an approach plate prior to landing his C-130T Hercules logistics aircraft in PACOM.



Lt. Cmdr. David Tambelini makes a navigation check, followed by a radio call while flying over the vast Pacific Ocean.

VR-62 'Nomads'

The Navy's secret logistics weapon

By AWFCs(NAC/SCW)
Mike Wendelin
VR-62 Public Affairs

The men and women of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR)-62, flying the C-130T Hercules aircraft are proud of their heritage.

"Providing fleet logistics support via airfields around the globe creates a nomadic culture at VR-62 - so our name is our mission," said CMDCM Freddy Pacheco. "We're proud to follow in the footsteps of Navy air transport units like VR-6 and VR-8 that participated in the Berlin Airlift."

Home based at NAS Jacksonville, VR-62 is one of five Navy Reserve C-130T logistics squadrons. The Nomads are currently preparing a detachment for CENTCOM later in this spring.

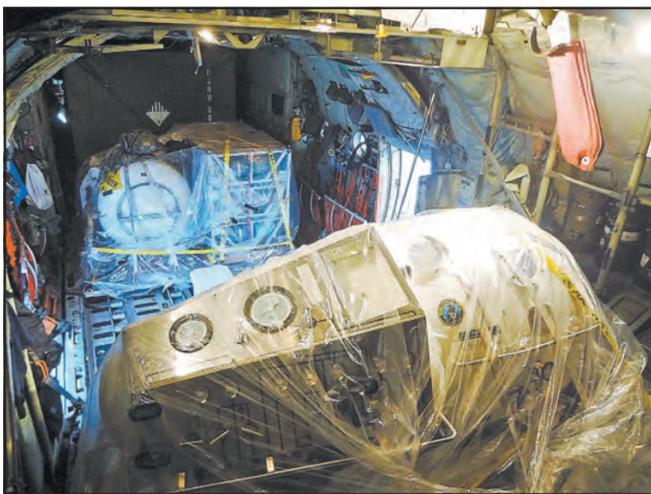
VR-62 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Tony Scarpino put the Nomads' mission in context when he said, "VR-62 is prepared to answer all calls in support of our Navy no matter if it is a disaster of epic proportions, regional instability, or expeditionary surge - the VR-62 Nomads deliver!"

The Nomads recently received word that they will become a five-aircraft squadron. Later this year the Marine Corps Reserve will transition from the C-130T to the C-130J platform. The Marines' excess C-130Ts will be distributed to the five Navy C-130 squadrons in the Fleet Logistics Support Wing.

"We can't wait to get our 'new' aircraft. This will give us a lit-



AWF2 Timothy Williams directs a K-Loader prior to unloading sonobuoys at a EUCOM air facility.



It's a tight yet secure fit for two diver recompression chambers being airlifted to Timor-Leste for a UCT-2 underwater construction project in PACOM.

tle more flexibility to execute our mission, and we are looking forward to another record setting year," said VR-62 Executive Officer Cmdr. Bryon Smith.

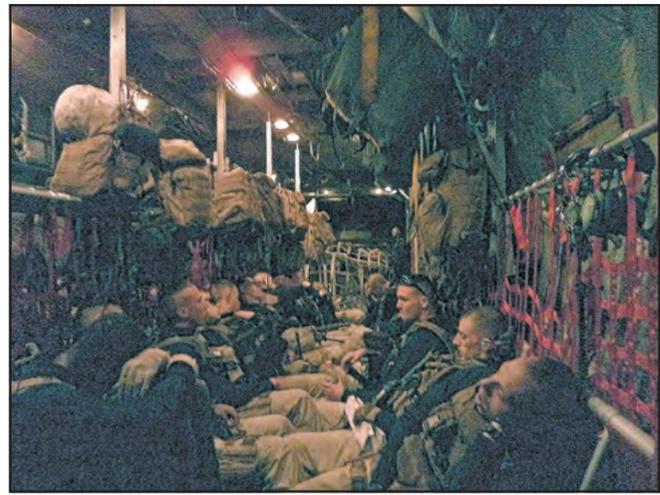
In FY 2013 the Nomads logged

3,209 flight hours with the squadron's four aircraft. The Nomads flew in every geographic combatant command.

In addition to normal detached operations at NAS



Under the watchful eye of AEC Brett Stroman, "Team Nomad" pushes a 5,000-pound ISU90 cargo container into place at NAF Atsugi, Japan.



A VR-62 "Nomads" C-130T is packed with human cargo of a U.S. Marine Security Force enroute to Guam for PACOM training.

Sigonella (EUCOM), NAF Atsugi (PACOM), and Bahrain (CENTCOM), the Nomads flew missions in Northern Command, Southern Command and Africa Command.

This is normal operational tempo for the Nomads.

In the course of flying those 3,209 hours, the Nomads com-



A VR-62 "Nomads" C-130T arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, near Honolulu, Hawaii for fuel and rest.



At Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan, AD3 Jordan Nauden prepares to mount a new propeller on a C-130T assigned to sister squadron VR-53.



AME3 Michael Branscome secures a C-130T engine panel after completing continuity checks on engine fire bottles.

Photos by AWFCS(NAC/SCW) Mike Wendelin



AM3 Adam Hinricks practices his safety wiring technique during a lull in maintenance activity at the VR-62 hangar.

VR-62

From Page 4

pleted 207 missions and lifted in excess of 2.7 million pounds of cargo.

In addition to Navy cargo, the VR-62 Nomads moved freight and equipment for the Army, Air Force and Marines, as well as the Royal Navy and Royal Australian armed forces. That averages out to 17 missions, 267 flight hours, 314,801 pounds of cargo lifted per month for the four-aircraft squadron.

"Since our squadron has no active duty counterpart, we take on the persona of an active duty squadron and fly like an active duty squadron," said VR-62 Operations Officer Lt. Cmdr. Mariusz Drozdowski.

"The pace here is very up tempo."

He explained, "The Nomads fly two types of missions. The first is detached operations flying for the Combined Task Force for the combatant command where the Nomads are assigned. The Nomads have a normal detachment cycle to EUCOM, PACOM and CENTCOM every fiscal year.

The second type of mission is called a NALO (Naval Aviation Logistics Office) mission that is tasked from NALO in New Orleans, La., which operates a data collection and analysis system for airlift asset management and aircraft acquisition justification for Chief of Naval Operations. Missions usually originate or terminate in the Continental United States."

Recently, the VR-62 Nomads assisted Underwater



In the "Nomads" hangar at NAS Jacksonville, AD3 Alyssa LeMay reviews technical publications on her laptop, as ADAN Jada Wilson performs a turbine inspection.

Construction Team Two (UCT-2) with an airlift of construction and diving equipment, including two recompression chambers, to Timor-Leste, a small country near Indonesia in Southeast Asia.

VR-62 picked up the cargo and delivered it to the other side of the planet. The Nomads also flew UCT-2 personnel home when they completed their humanitarian assistance mission five months later.

The Nomads also delivered 46 tons of materials in support of Operation Damayan (relief efforts after



AWF1 Joshua Simmons attaches new safety wire during enroute maintenance in PACOM.

typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines). The Nomads can move just about anything that will fit into the C-130T and get it to the other side of the planet in short order.

The Nomad mission could not be accomplished without a superb maintenance department. In 2012, the Nomads won the Noel Davis "Battle E" award, the Golden Wrench and the Golden Anchor - and are looking forward to another award-winning performance this fiscal year.

If you're a pilot looking for an aviation position in the Navy Reserve - check out our smart phone link at: <http://youtu.be/yJPwy6xKPEw>.

Sailors reminded to verify PRIMS data

From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

With the semiannual Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) upcoming, Navy Physical Readiness Program officials remind Sailors to verify their results in the Physical Readiness Information

Management System (PRIMS).

"After each PFA, Sailors need to log into PRIMS and ensure their data is entered and accurate," said Bill Moore, director, Navy Physical Readiness Program.

All commands are required to report their PFA data via PRIMS no later than 30 days

after conducting the PFA in accordance with guidelines established in the Navy's Physical Readiness Program instruction, OPNAVINST 6110.1J.

Each Sailor must have a record for both PFA cycles in the year, even if the record reflects non-participation sta-

tus due to deployment, individual augmentee, medical waiver, etc.

Sailors need to verify their data within 60 days so that any corrections can be made by the Command Fitness Leader at the command level.

After six months of PFA completion, record changes

can only be made by PRIMS administrators at Navy Personnel Command, which requires a Letter of Correction from the individual's commanding officer, on letter head, that grants authorization to make the change.

Naval Hospital Jacksonville invites you to get fit in 2014

From Naval Hospital Jacksonville Public Affairs Office

Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville's award-winning Wellness Center and Health Promotions offers individual and group classes that center on improving your health. Classes include tobacco cessation, weight management, health, fitness and nutrition.

The following classes are offered throughout the year:

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- Health Fitness Assessment (appointment only): Body mass, exercise and basic nutrition — two-day class (one individual session and one group ses-

sion)

- Healthy Heart (appointment or walk-in): Cholesterol management — 90-minutes

- Sail A Weigh (appointment only): Healthy lifestyle/weight management — six weeks (one hour per week)

- Ship Shape (appointment only): Weight management — eight weeks (one hour per week)

- Tobacco Cessation (appointment or walk-in): Monday, 9 a.m.; Tuesday, 1 p.m.; Thursday, noon.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 542-5292 or visit NH Jacksonville's Wellness Center located at Building 867, adjacent to the MWR fitness center.

Tuition Assistance program funds waiting for Sailors

By Susan Henson

Center for Personal and Professional Development Public Affairs

The Center for Personal and Professional Development (CPPD) is asking Sailors to submit their Navy Tuition Assistance (TA) requests - and now would be good - said the director of Navy Voluntary Education (VOLED) March 3.

According to Ernest D'Antonio, CPPD's VOLED program director, the expenditure rate for TA funding is currently below normal levels, which means there's more funding available than usual at this time of the year.

"We use historical 'burn rates' as a guide for allocating TA funding throughout the year," he said. "We plan really well for routine years. After furloughs and a government shutdown, Fiscal Year 2014 (FY-14) hasn't been a routine year," he said.

Lt. Cmdr. Mark Wadsworth, director of CPPD Support Site Saufley Field in Pensacola, Fla., leads the team that monitors CPPD's Navy TA spending. He said FY-14 TA execution is currently trailing FY-13's execution rate by just over \$6 million year-to-date.

"We think a variety of things influenced our being below the TA budget right now," said Wadsworth. "Our execution rate dropped in October with the government shutdown and that's carried through the year. The usage rate steadily increased in November and December. But then it dropped back down in January, probably due to uncertainty with the federal budget. Although we have funding now, the usage rate hasn't increased significantly since then. Sailors need to understand that their education benefits reset each year, and unused amounts don't carry over."

D'Antonio said, "We want Sailors to continue to pursue their education and submit their TA requests -- we work hard to allocate every TA dollar available to give Sailors the most opportunities to use their TA funding allotment for each fiscal year."

He said more than 25,000 Sailors have used TA benefits so far this fiscal year and emphasized that a Sailor's command is an important part of TA authorizations because they're the first step in the process after a Sailor submits a request.

"It's each command's responsibility to ensure their Sailors are aware of and meet all relevant TA policies, are comfortable with their Sailors' ability to complete a requested course, and process each Sailor's TA request promptly," said D'Antonio.

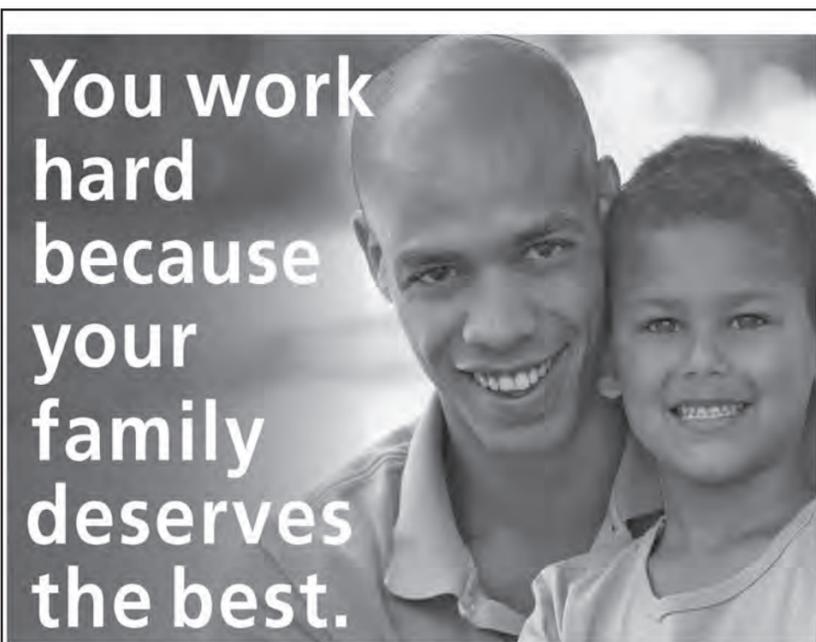
"A command approver can review a Sailor's request and deny it if all Navy requirements aren't met, if the Sailor's performance isn't up to standards, or if the command's mission might not permit the Sailor to complete the course. Ultimately, it's the commanding officer's decision," said D'Antonio.

D'Antonio also recommended each command approver continually review the Sailor's education progress.

"Our biggest reason for disapproval of TA requests is they aren't received from the Sailor's command approver prior to the course start date, as required by DOD instruction. Often when we review a TA request, a Sailor may be missing some of the TA prerequisites such as a current education counseling by a Navy College Office (NCO) or Virtual Education Center (VEC) counselor, or an individual education plan or degree plan on file, or missing a grade from a past course," he said.

VOLED professionals work with Sailors to get the requirements in on time, but if the Sailor's account is incomplete or not updated before the course start date, they are unable to fund the TA request, D'Antonio said. "So I repeat this message constantly: 30 days prior to the course start date is not too soon for Sailors to submit their TA request. In fact, a TA application can be submitted a year before the actual class start date, which will help ensure the Sailor's TA request is funded and allows us to better manage expenditures."

See **TUITION ASSISTANCE**, Page 16



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In Memoriam A02 Scott Everett Uebel June 13, 1991 - February 7, 2014



A02 Scott Everett Uebel

From VP-10 Public Affairs

VP-10 is deeply saddened by the tragic passing of one of our finest "Red Lancers," A02 Scott Everett Uebel on Feb. 7 at the age of 22. He is survived by his parents, Gary and Kelly Uebel, and his sisters Lindsey, Amanda and Kristen.

Born and raised in South Bend, Ind., petty officer Uebel joined the Navy on Jan. 18, 2011 when he began Recruit Training followed by Aviation Ordnance "A" School.

After successful completion of these rigorous schools, he joined the VP-10 Red Lancer family on June 30, 2011.

The next month, Scott deployed with the squadron to Bahrain to support the Global War on

Terrorism from July to December 2011.

During the following 12-month training cycle, Uebel worked diligently towards becoming one of VP-10's most qualified and dependable ordnancemen.

His final deployment sent him to El Salvador, supporting Operation Martillo from December 2012 through June 2013.

Possessing the finest qualities of a U.S. Navy Sailor, Uebel will always remain in the hearts of the Red Lancers.

In addition to exemplifying the core values of honor, courage and commitment, his leadership, optimism, strong sense of humor, intelligence and drive all contributed to his remembrance as an exceptional friend, teammate and

family member.

The funeral service for Uebel was held Feb. 18 at the Welsheimer Family Funeral Home in South Bend, Ind., followed by his burial with Military Honors at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Osceola, Ind.

Petty Officer Uebel was further honored, with NAS Jacksonville Chaplain (Lt.) Andrew Hayler presiding at a memorial service held at the All Saints Chapel aboard the station on Feb. 21.

Those interested in sending condolences to the Uebel family can send them to the address below for forwarding to the family:

Patrol Squadron 10
Unit 60165
FPO AA 34099-5907

VP-8 CSADD takes part in cultural exchange

By MC2 Clay Whaley
VP-8 Public Affairs

Twenty-two Sailors from VP-8's chapter of the Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) were invited to tour the Ahmed Al-Fateh Islamic Center Feb. 21. The complex is the national mosque for the Kingdom of Bahrain and symbolizes Bahrain's religious identity.

"I think this was a great opportunity to take time out of our busy schedules to learn about the religious and cultural identity of Bahrain" said ATAN Nicholas Monastiero. "I had a great time with my fellow "Fighting Tigers" CSADD members and look forward to more cultural enrichment opportunities in the future" he added.

The mosque offers tours for Bahrain's non-Muslim resi-



Photos by MC2 Clay Whaley

VP-8's Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) chapter toured Bahrain's Ahmed Al-Fateh Islamic Center on Feb. 21. It's the national mosque for the Kingdom of Bahrain and symbolizes Bahrain's religious identity.

dents and visiting military forces to promote the Kingdom of Bahrain as a modern and tolerant Muslim country.

Construction of the mosque began Dec. 17, 1984 and was complete on June 2, 1988. The Grand Mosque occupies 69,965



VP-8 Sailors toured the ornate Ahmed Al-Fateh Islamic Center, and took time to sit and learn about Islamic history.

square feet and the entire Ahmed Al-Fateh Islamic Center complex is more than 37 acres in size. The facility can accommodate in excess of 7,000 worshippers during prayers.

VP-8 is deployed to the

U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility conducting maritime security operations and supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. The VP-8 Fighting Tigers are home based at NAS Jacksonville.

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The right care, in the right place, at the right time

By Yan Kennon
NH Jacksonville Public Affairs Senior Writer

Getting the right patient-centered care at the right time is key to ensuring the best health care experience possible. Preventive, routine and urgent care is available to active duty, retirees and their families at Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville — its hospital and branch health clinics. Emergency room (ER) service is only available at its hospital.

Before seeking urgent or emergency care, it is important to know the difference between the two and where to go receive the appropriate treatment. This can save patients time and taxpayers dollars.

Urgent and Routine

Patients with a minor cut, sprain, migraine, earache, rising fever, urinary tract infection or similar symptoms should make an appointment with their assigned primary care manager (PCM). Same-day appointments are put aside every day to ensure patients with urgent care needs are seen when they need to be seen. These conditions are considered non-emergent so the ER is not the place to get care.

Emergent

Patients should seek immediate emergency services if experiencing symptoms such as severe bleeding, chest pain, severe eye injury, broken bone, inability to breathe, spinal cord injury or no pulse.

An emergency is classified as a medical, maternity or psychiatric condition that would lead someone with average knowledge to believe that a serious medical condition exists; that the absence of immediate medical attention would result in a threat to life, limb or sight; severe painful symptoms that require immediate attention to relieve suffering; or when a person is at immediate risk to self or others.

NH Jacksonville's ER uses the standard "triage" model where patients are seen based on the seriousness of their condition — not the order of arrival. This means, if a patient with a non-emergent need visits the ER, they will wait until everyone with an emergent need is cared for.

For all non-emergent care needs, patients should turn to their Medical Home Port team that places each enrolled patient in the center of a collaborative team of caregivers — from doctors and nurses to case managers.

Led by their primary care manager, the team focuses on each patient's comprehensive health care needs — preventive, urgent and routine. Plus, they have access to RelayHealth that provides 24/7 email access for non-urgent needs such as lab results, medication refills and appointments. Plus, it is easy to sign up, www.med.navy.mil/sites/NavalHospitalJax (look for Medical Home Port information).

The team approach improves access to care so patients can get appointments when they need them, enhances their care experience, meets their urgent care needs, improves health outcomes by focusing on preventive care (which reduces hospitalizations and emergency room visits), and builds the relationship between patients and providers.

And after hours, patients have access to the Nurse Advice Line: 800-529-4677 on evenings, weekends and holidays to triage medical needs and direct patients to the appropriate level of care — whether emergent, urgent or routine. Beginning in spring 2014, the 24/7 Nurse Advice Line will change to 800-TRICARE (874-2273).

And to better serve patients and offer appointment times when they need them, NH Jacksonville's primary care teams are now open longer. Family Medicine (Green, Red, White and Yellow Teams), Internal Medicine (Blue Team) and Pediatrics (Purple Team) are now open Monday to Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To make appointments, call the appointment line at 904-542-4677 or 800-529-4677, weekdays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Active Duty patients at Branch Health Clinic Jacksonville's Silver Team can call 904-546-7094/7095, weekdays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To find out more, visit the command website at www.med.navy.mil/sites/NavalHospitalJax.



Photos by Jacob Sippel

Children's Dental Health Month

"Tooth Fairy" Jill Burnsed, a dental hygienist at Naval Branch Health Clinic (NBHC) Jacksonville, talks about the importance of oral hygiene to children at NAS Jacksonville's Child Development Center (CDC). Dental staff from the hospital and NBHC Jacksonville visited the CDC on Feb. 25 as part of National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health.



Lt. Darien Lazaro, a dentist at Naval Hospital Jacksonville's Dental Clinic, teaches proper teeth brushing and flossing to children at NAS Jacksonville's CDC.



Dental staff from Naval Hospital Jacksonville's Branch Health Clinic Jacksonville give preschoolers Shane Baker (left) and Braxton Druding dental hygiene kits during a visit to NAS Jacksonville's Child Development Center.

Hospital clinics open longer hours

By Yan Kennon
Naval Hospital Jacksonville Senior Writer

Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville's primary care teams are now open longer to better serve patients and offer appointment times when they need them.

Family Medicine (Green, Red, White and Yellow Teams), Internal Medicine (Blue Team) and Pediatrics (Purple Team) are now open Monday to Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Patients with a primary care manager (PCM) at the hospital or branch health clinic are part of a Medical Home Port — a collaborative team of caregivers (from doctors and nurses to case managers) led by the PCM.

The team focuses on meeting all of the patient's health care needs — preventive, routine and urgent.

To meet the PCMs on each of the command's 14 Medical Home Port teams, visit the command website at www.med.navy.mil/sites/navalhospitaljax.

Patients can reach their team by secure email, for non-urgent issues. Sign up for RelayHealth at www.relayhealth.com or on the command's website by clicking on "Medical Home Port."

At the hospital, patients can call the appointment line at 904-542-4677 or 800-529-4677, weekdays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Active Duty patients at Branch Health Clinic Jacksonville's Silver Team can call 904-546-7094/7095, weekdays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

After-hours nurse advice is available for patients at all sites — at 904-542-4677 or 800-529-4677 — on evenings, weekends and federal holidays.

NH Jacksonville's priority since its founding in 1941 is to heal the nation's heroes and their families. The command is comprised of the Navy's third largest hospital and five branch health clinics across Florida and Georgia.

Of its patient population — about 163,000 active and retired sailors, soldiers, Marines, airmen, guardsmen and their families — more than 60,000 are enrolled with a primary care manager at one of its facilities.

To find out more, visit the command Web site at www.med.navy.mil/sites/NavalHospitalJax.

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CSS announce changes to Mass Communication Specialist PQS

By MCC(AW/SW) Shawn Graham
Center for Service Support Public Affairs

The Center for Service Support (CSS), announced Feb. 27 the development of new Personnel Qualification Standards (PQS) for the mass communication specialist (MC) rating.

The current PQS was last updated in September 2009.

A PQS is a compilation of the minimum knowledge and skills an individual must demonstrate in order to qualify to stand watches or perform other specific routine duties necessary for the safety, security or proper operation of a ship, aircraft or support system.

M C C M (S W / A W) M e l i s s a Weatherspoon, Navy Public Affairs Support Element (NPASE) West senior enlisted advisor (SEA) said the chief petty officers (CPOs) who developed the PQS were among the finest she had worked with in the Navy.

"We had old salts working with fairly

new chiefs - many of them, I had never met - so I was excited to share their experiences and take in the knowledge they had gained over the years," said Weatherspoon.

"The younger chiefs brought a fresh perspective to the table, while the more senior folks shared years of experience and know-how in the development of qualifications for MCs in the Fleet. The whole vibe was how do guide our Sailors to be the best MCs they can be while giving our chiefs an awesome leadership and professional development tool."

According to Richard Rangel, Occupational Standards (OCCSTDs) and PQS model manager, the MC PQS was outdated and needed an addition of new qualifications due to the recent publication of the OCCSTDs.

"The MC community is very diverse," said Rangel. "I think the dynamics of our group were good as well as the diversity in their professional experi-

ence. We hosted a very experienced group. I think the OCCSTDs should be the basis for everything we do and since the OCCSTDs were just published last year it helped a great deal in our approach to the new edits. The new PQS will reflect a more efficient and realistic PQS for the MC community."

Occupational standards provide the common thread linking Navy work with Sailors. They are the building blocks for all Navy professional development and training tools, such as rate training manuals, personal qualification standards, course curricula and advancement exams. Because of this, updating and maintaining OCCSTDs is critical to ensuring they accurately reflect what jobs Sailors in specific ratings are performing throughout the fleet.

According to Bill Peterson, CSS deputy director of Operations, the MC community is entering a second wave of rating consolidation since the community formed in 2005.

"The updated PQS reflects our continuing effort to ensure new accessions will be successful in the fleet," said Peterson. "We will continue to amend PQS to help our Sailors develop and hone skills that are relevant as operational requirements, equipment, and ratings change. The success of the PQS will not be determined by CSS, but will be determined by the fleet where Sailors work."

Peterson said the electronic-only versions of the PQS booklets will be available on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) by the end of the year.

CSS and its learning sites provide Sailors with the knowledge and skills needed to support the fleet's warfighting mission. More than 300 staff and faculty work hand-in-hand with the fleet and are dedicated to ensure training is current and well-executed. Ten thousand Sailors graduate from CSS courses annually in the administration, logistics and media communities.



Photo by Shannon Leonard

Military Saves Week "Start Small - Think Big" included the Family Resource Makeover Night on Feb. 27 in the youth activities center gym, where attendees were addressed by NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander.

MILITARY SAVES

From Page 1

Military Saves Week wrapped up Feb. 28 at Dewey's All Hands Club with the awarding of "Poker Run" checks to three Sailors.

For the poker run, Military Saves Week participants attended at least five financial workshops where they were dealt a playing card.

The best three poker hands received checks from VyStar Credit Union for \$300, \$100 and \$100.

Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) Financial Educator Rufus Bundrige, who led the event team, said home buying and vehicle buying workshops were particularly popular.

"Our sponsors and presenters were all experts in their fields," said Bundrige.

"It's all about planting the seeds for a secure financial future. Kudos to everyone who took time to attend."

Almost 640 Sailors, retirees and dependents took advantage of the free event sponsored by USAA, FIRST CMD, MOAA, TSP, NMAA, VYSTAR CU, NFCU, TOP PREPARATION, TRICARE, NMCRS, NAVY CAMPUS, FFSC AND MWR.

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

VISIT

From Page 1

ties. In January, we provided care for 359 drop-in visits."

Scott was impressed with what she saw. "Mary Grenier and her team have created amazing programs at the CDC. All of my initiatives are with children, so seeing these happy kids and attentive caregivers is near and dear to my heart."

Scott's assistant, Meghan Collins said, "Mrs. Scott cares deeply about education and has a deep commitment to kids. She believes that great readers become great learners. Also, in addition to her husband, she counts a number of family members who served in America's armed forces - so she's familiar with the military community and its challenges."

The entourage then drove to the NAS Jacksonville Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) where Scott met with FFSC Director Myrna Wilson and 10 ombudsmen from various commands. Wilson described the resources available at the center, including the Navy Ombudsman program.

Wilson explained, "The Navy Ombudsman Program was introduced in 1970 by CNO Adm. Elmo Zumwalt as



Photo by Clark Pierce

In a toddler room at the NAS Jax Child Development Center, Sylvia McBride and Beth Osborne tell Ann Scott that their children love story time.

a means to address issues and concerns unique to Navy families. Most ombudsmen are the spouses of active duty members of a command. Our ombudsmen are highly trained volunteers who are able to offer support and guidance to command families - and to act as an official liaison between the command and its families. Ombudsmen are not meant to solve problems, but to direct the family member to the people who can help them solve their problems.

Scott told the group, "Having been a military wife, daughter and sister myself - plus, having a brother who retired from the military after 35 years - I appreciate the unique challenges that come with Navy life. Thank you for all you do to help make Navy families' lives run as smoothly as possible."

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Photos by Morgan Kenhert

The staff representing NAS Jacksonville Navy Gateway Inns and Suites get ready to celebrate at the Renaissance Resort at the World Golf Village on Feb. 25, where the North Florida Hotel Lodging Association's Annual ROSE Awards were presented.

NGIS hospitality pros bring home awards

By Morgan Kehnert
Morale, Welfare
and Recreation Department

The North Florida Hotel Lodging Association's 6th Annual ROSE Awards, Recognition of Service Excellence, were held Feb. 25 at the Renaissance Resort at the World Golf Village. The mission of the ROSE Award is to recognize front line hospitality employees who exemplify excellent customer service within the Northeast Florida area.

The area encompasses more than 40,000 hospitality employees within the counties of Duval, Flagler, St. Johns, Nassau, and Clay.

This year, there were 160 employees nominated and 67 individuals selected as finalists in categories ranging from Administrative Assistant to Ground and Water Transportation.

NAS Jacksonville's Navy Gateway Inns and Suites (NGIS) was the only military hotel with nominees in any of the categories. The five members nominated from the NGIS staff were Joe Casiano, Merle Elbo, Falacity Gilbert, Amelita Foster and Steve Lowe.

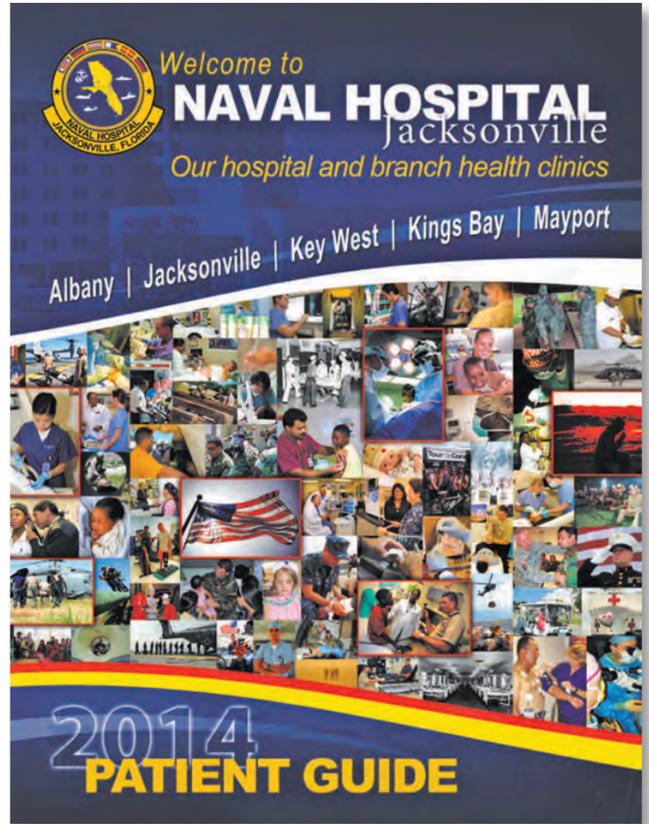


NGIS ROSE awards winners (from left) Merle Elbo and her husband, Celso, Amelita Foster, Falacity Gilbert and her husband, David, were all smiles as the three winners proudly displayed their awards.

At the awards ceremony NGIS took home three wins, Merle Elbo, a 9-year laundry attendant won in her category of "Guest Service: Laundry-Select Service Hotel," Falacity Gilbert, a 9-year front desk associate for "Guest Service: Front Desk- Select Service Hotel" and Amelita Foster, with 19 years of housekeeping experience won for "Guest Service: Housekeeping- Select Service Hotel."

When asked about his staff and the awards they received

this year, NGIS General Manager John Houdek, sounded like a proud parent saying, "I was on cloud nine and so happy for my staff. To see their faces as their names were called will be a memory that will last a lifetime. The NGIS Jacksonville nominees were up against some of the best hotels in the five-county area and to have them be recognized as the best in their field for going above and beyond for the hotel guest was just an awesome feeling."



2014 Patient Guide now available

From Naval Hospital Jacksonville Public Affairs

Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville's new 2014 Patient Guide is now in-stock and available at all of its facilities — its hospital and branch health clinics — and at www.med.navy.mil/sites/naval-hospitaljax.

The guide provides patients with current information on Medical Home Port teams, urgent and emergency care, expecting and new parent services, pharmacy and the many other services, programs and classes available at each NH Jacksonville health care facility.

Get connected, like us www.facebook.com/NavalHospitalJacksonville, follow us www.twitter.com/NHJax, watch us www.youtube.com/user/NavalHospitalJax and send an email to NHJaxConnect@med.navy.mil to sign up for email updates.



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VP-8 Sailors work with Habitat for Humanity in El Salvador

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

Sailors from Patrol Squadron (VP)-8 teamed up with Habitat for Humanity Feb. 22, to assist a local family in constructing a new home in Tapalhuaca, El Salvador.

The 18 Sailors from VP-8, also known as the "Fighting Tigers," mixed concrete, dug post holes, and built cinder block exterior walls.

"It was a great opportunity to serve a local family in a very tangible way," said Lt. j.g. Paxie Cordova, a pilot with VP-8.

"The family's gratitude and excitement at how much progress we made in one day made this experience truly rewarding."

Habitat for Humanity International is a global Christian nongovernmental housing organization that brings together people of all races, nationalities and religions to build homes, communities and hope.

"We were really excited to get our hands dirty and do something good for the community" said AO3 Christopher Lewis. "I



Photo courtesy of VP-8 Public Affairs

"Fighting Tigers" construction volunteers take a short break at the local Habitat for Humanity job site.

think our enthusiasm and teamwork made the day a great success and I look forward to serving the local community in a similar capacity soon." Since 1976, Habitat has served

more than 500,000 families by building and improving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions.

Habitat for Humanity El Salvador relies mostly on donations and volunteers to provide housing to families, many of whom have been displaced by natural disasters.

Since they began aiding Latin America in 1979, Habitat for Humanity has helped provide more than 100,000 families with adequate housing.

The Fighting Tigers, home based at NAS Jacksonville, are currently deployed to the 4th and 5th Fleets areas of responsibility, assisting in the Counter Transnational Organized Crime mission and providing humanitarian assistance.

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet supports U.S. Southern Command's joint and combined military operations by employing maritime forces in cooperative maritime security operations.

Educating young scholars about naval aviation

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

Sailors from the VP-8 "Fighting Tigers" assigned to Cooperative Security Location Comalapa, El Salvador, hosted 105 students Feb. 7 and 10 from the Academia Británica Cuscatleca (ABC) International School located in Santa Tecla.

The VP-8 Sailors provided the third-grade students with a hands-on tour of the P-3C Orion aircraft and answered questions about serving in the U.S. Navy.

"The children were excited about the opportunity to explore the aircraft and

maintenance spaces," said Lt. j.g. Luis Rodriguez, a VP-8 pilot.

"We are proud of our mission and always enjoy being able to share what we do with the local community."

The ABC International School is a mixed bi-lingual and bi-cultural school. The student body is mostly Salvadorian with an increasing number of international students attending the school.

The Fighting Tigers are currently deployed to the 4th and 5th fleet areas of responsibility, assisting in counter-drug efforts and providing humanitarian assistance. VP-8 is home based at NAS Jacksonville.



Photo by Lt. j.g. Torrey Plum

VP-8 Sailors from Cooperative Security Location Comalapa, El Salvador educated students from the ABC International School about their P-3C patrol aircraft and its mission.

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NAVFAC Southeast Participates in USACE Engineering Career Day

By Earl Bittner
NAVFAC Southeast Public Affairs

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast civilians, contractors and military personnel participated in the Jacksonville District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 2014 Engineering Career Day Feb. 21 in Jacksonville, Fla.

More than 150 high school students, parents and teachers from 13 schools in northeast Florida attended the event and project competition.

The daylong event was the largest yet for the Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers which has been co-sponsoring this event with the Society of American Engineers (SAME) for the past 12 years. It's one of the major events of Northeast Florida Engineers Week held in February.

"It's great to see so many kids engaged and interested in engineering. It was a thrill for me to be able to be a part of today's activities," said NAVFAC Southeast Commanding Officer and SAME Jacksonville Post President, Capt. Christopher Kiwus.

The competition promotes Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) — a national education program focused on preparing the workforce of tomorrow. The goal is that competition will inspire the scholars' efforts and energies toward careers in STEM fields in the future.

The Engineering Career Day event challenged four-person student teams to compete in building and entering a take-home project, completing a surprise project assigned the day of the event, and completing a trivia challenge.

"The judges consisted of leaders from NAVFAC Southeast, the USACE, CEOs of local architectural and engineering firms, and professors and department heads from the University of Florida and University of North Florida," said NAVFAC Southeast Capital Improvements Business Line Coordinator and Chief Engineer Jack McCarthy, one of eight judges for the competition.



Photos by Earl Bittner

(From right) Naval Station (NS) Mayport Public Works Department General Engineer Lt. Shawn Talley, NS Mayport PWD Construction Manager Lt. Oliver Wise and NAVFAC Southeast GIS Contractor Adam Kerr manned the NAVFAC Southeast exhibit booth, helping students with trivia challenge questions and discussing U.S. Navy engineering careers with students participating at the Jacksonville District U.S. Army Corp of Engineers 2014 Engineering Career Day held on Feb. 21.

Four-person teams made up of students from local high schools interested in engineering competed in several elements," said McCarthy. "The take-home project encouraged the students to explore the age-old art of artillery."

The teams applied imagination and sound engineering to develop a launcher capable of propelling a standard, regulation ping pong ball at a target. Each team had 10 minutes to launch as many ping pong balls as they could at a target consisting of three different sized holes.

Points were awarded for the number of balls that went through the holes. Aesthetics of the equipment was also a factor in determining the winner.

The only constraint was that no explosive charges could be utilized or anything that would produce noxious gases. Other than that, the sky was the limit.

"These kids really used their imagination creating their artillery launchers," claimed McCarthy.

There was a surprise project that required the teams to build a bridge using an 8.5 by 11 inch piece of paper. The constructed bridge was required to span approximately 7.75 inches and the winner was chosen by noting which bridge was able to withstand supporting



Naval Station Mayport Public Works Department General Engineer Lt. Shawn Talley (second from right) discussed the operation of a U.S. Navy Gatewing X100 Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) used for GIS mapping.

the greatest number of pennies before collapsing.

"It was amazing to see the creativity in this simple, yet challenging task. It was hard to believe the winning team loaded 255 pennies on their 'bridge' before it collapsed," said McCarthy.

"Overall, it was a great day for engineering and to witness the talented youth of our local high schools," said McCarthy.

The following schools entered teams in the competition: Atlantic Coast High School, Bishop Kenny High School, Baldwin Middle Senior High School, Christ's Church Academy, Eagles View Academy, Englewood High School, Fernandina Beach High School, Fletcher High School, Frank H. Peterson Academies, Providence School, Providence Extension Program, Robert E. Lee High School and Yulee High School.

Eagle View Academy, Team A, was the overall winner of the competition. Eagle View Academy entered two teams this year. Both placed well in the competition resulting in Eagle View Academy taking home the James L. Garland Award for Engineering Excellence to display in their school all year.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) manages the planning, design, construction, contingency engineering, real estate, environmental, and public works support for U.S. Navy shore facilities around the world. We provide the Navy's forces with the operating, expeditionary,



Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast Capital Improvements Business Line Coordinator and Chief Engineer Jack McCarthy (top center) judges one of the student entries 'artillery pieces' during the Jacksonville District U.S. Army Corp of Engineers 2014 Engineering Career Day. The competition promotes Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics or STEM -- a national education program focused on preparing the workforce of tomorrow by encouraging students today to study STEM.



Photo by Ty Erickson

The winning team, Eagle View Academy, Team A, was awarded the James L. Garland Award for Engineering Excellence. (From left) Col. Alan Dodd, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers District Commander; students Tucker Davis, Ryan Criswell, Ryan Stevens and Eric Rodich; Capt. Christopher Kiwus, president, SAME Jacksonville Post and NAVFAC Southeast commanding officer.

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Photos by Victor Pitts

FRCSE celebrates new CW02

Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) Detachment Mayport Officer in Charge Cmdr. Michael Barriere (left) presents ASC(AW/SW) Michael Hopper of FRCSE Detachment Mayport support equipment division with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal during his commissioning ceremony Feb. 28.



Newly commissioned Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Hopper (right) of Fleet Readiness Center Southeast Detachment Mayport renders his first salute as an officer to AS2(AW/SW) Walter Mims during his commissioning ceremony.

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E-mail them directly at jaxs_nas_mwritt@navy.mil
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Golf course info: 542-3249

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CNO is Battle of Midway keynote speaker June 7

From Navy League Mayport

The Navy League of Mayport is celebrating the 72nd Anniversary of the Battle of Midway Commemoration dinner and program. This is an All Services event featuring a joint color guard, All Services Missing Person table, the Navy Band with all the service songs, and numerous historical displays.

Tickets are now on sale for this year's event which will be held June 7, at the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort in St. Augustine. The keynote speaker is Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert.

Veterans who served at the Battle of Midway and veterans of all branches who served in prior conflicts, as well as those currently serving are invited to attend. Additionally, Medal of Honor recipients and former Prisoners of War who have heroically answered the call of duty will also be in attendance. Come meet these "National Treasures" and hear their adventures first hand.

The evening promises to be emotional and patriotic, and provide an excellent opportunity to connect with survivors of what historians call one of the U. S. Navy's greatest sea victories - and

the turning point of World War II in the Pacific.

Ticket prices for active duty and spouses: E-6 and below - \$25; E-7 to O3 - \$40; O4 to O5 - \$50, O6 and above - \$65. Prices for Civilians and Retirees - \$65.

The evening includes fine dining and a memorable program. Uniform will be O4 and above - dinner dress white jacket; O3 and below - dinner dress white/dinner dress white jacket optional, and civilian is black tie or business attire.

Cocktails begin at 5 p.m., with dinner served at 6 p.m. Tickets are mandatory and seating is reserved. Ticket sales end May 30, unless seating capacity is reached before this date.

Make checks payable to NAVY LEAGUE MIDWAY DINNER. Tickets may be purchased from the following locations:

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E-mail: bpricex4@comcast.net

NAVY LEAGUE ST AUGUSTINE
Bill Dudley, 904-806-4712 or 904-794-7814
E-mail: anuday00@aol.com

Tax services available

From Region Legal Service Office

The VITA Self Service will be available to active duty service members, retirees and dependents, Reservists (active 30 days or pre-demobilization) and entitled former spouses from Feb. 4 through April 15. The service is for those whose adjusted gross income doesn't exceed \$57,000.

Those who qualify under the Military One Source will be able file their taxes for free using the H&R Block software. Volunteer assistance will be onsite; however vol-

unteers are not permitted to prepare taxes. Those needing additional assistance outside the scope of the volunteers may be redirected to a nearby tax center.

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The tax center is located at NAS Jacksonville, Building 4, Room 108 (Ranger Street). The center is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For questions or concerns, please contact LN1 Clinton Washington at 542-5974 or email Clinton.washington@navy.mil.

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Speed mentoring promotes knowledge sharing at FRCSE

By **Kaylee LaRocque**
Fleet Readiness Center
Southeast Public Affairs

The Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) Speed Mentoring program allows artisans from various work centers to interact with management and experienced personnel to discuss job path options and gain insight about the numerous career fields available.

Speed mentoring is a fairly new concept adopted by the FRCSE Workforce Engagement and Inclusion Team, where a protégé is paired with a mentor for several minutes to discuss topics, such as job conversion before moving to the next person.

"We shift our sessions throughout the year to different work centers targeting the artisans," explained FRCSE Training Specialist Mike Walter, who coordinates the program.

"Our mentors come from a broad variety of skill sets, such as engineering, advanced maintenance or logistics. We try to get that diversity which is extremely beneficial for our protégés, because they may not want to stay in their job path. They may be working on their degree in a different field and



Photos courtesy of Manny Edler

Dale Adams (left), an aircraft engine repairer at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) discusses career options with Ernestine Lawson, a chemist at the FRCSE Materials Engineering Laboratory, during a speed mentoring session at Cecil Commerce Center on Feb. 27.



At Cecil Commerce Center, mentors from Fleet Readiness Center Southeast discuss career goals with protégés during a speed mentoring session. A mentor is paired with a protégé for several minutes to offer advice, resources and strategies for achieving career aspirations before the protégé moves to the next mentor.

Introduction to Mentoring and Advanced Mentoring courses are being offered March 12 and March 13 respectively.

The Introduction to Mentoring course provides new and experienced mentors with tools needed for successful mentoring. Advanced Mentoring courses offer techniques and methods to enhance mentoring skills. You must complete the Introduction to Mentoring course prior to taking the Advanced Mentoring course.

For more information, have your training coordinator contact Rachel Conditt at 790-5685 or e-mail rachel.conditt.ctr@navy.mil.

are looking for information about a new job. So we can pair them up with a certain mentor."

According to Walter, the concept was inspired by "speed dating," where singles meet other singles for 5- to 7-minute conversations before moving on to meet others.

"If you are looking for a pos-

sible career change or to learn about different skill sets, this is for you," stressed Walter. "It does not however, guarantee a promotion."

Mentors and protégés are always needed. "We are looking for mentors who have worked on the floor and are now in management positions to give guidance to others on

the steps they took to get where they are now," he said. "We are also looking for those who may be looking for a

To date, about 100 artisans have signed up for the program, which based on the feedback has been highly successful.

For former aircraft mechanic, Eddie Esquivias, the speed mentoring session he attended inspired him to completely change his career aspirations.

"I think the program was very well presented and well thought out; the intentions were good and the results were even better," said Esquivias.

"It gave me motivation to seek another path and inspired

me to enroll in college. I also applied for a new job in the training department and really enjoy my job. I probably wouldn't have done all this if I hadn't gone through the mentoring session."

Speed mentoring will rotate around FRCSE throughout the year the following dates: March 26, P-3 line; April 30, EA-6B/H-60/T-34 and Hangar 140 lines; May 28, 6F&G Logistics and Engineers; June 25, Plant Services; July 30, FRCSE Mayport Detachment; Aug. 27, Avionics; Sept. 24, Manufacturing and Oct. 29, Level II.

For more information, contact Walter at 790-5682.

Patient Safety Awareness Week

Photos by Jacob Sippel



Lt. Cmdr. Michelle Perkins, a physician in the NH Jacksonville Pediatrics Clinic, believes that "patient safety starts with good communication."

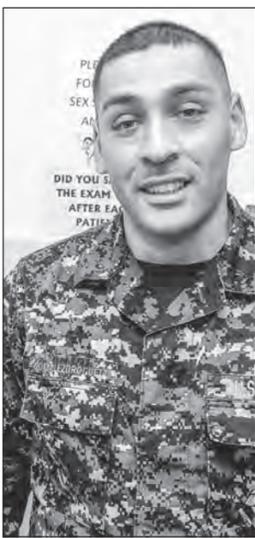


Dr. Michael Maher, a family medicine physician says, "Patient safety is an ongoing process that must continue to improve. Our hospital has established a culture of safety that I feel is one of a kind. I want Naval Hospital Jacksonville to be a place where I can bring my family and feel at ease about doing it."

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HM Edson Gonzalez works in the NH Jacksonville Cardiology Clinic. "As a corpsman working in an outpatient setting, I support patient safety by keeping the exam rooms and equipment clean. I also practice good hand-washing technique to prevent the likelihood of spreading bacteria that could cause harmful diseases. I also perform medication reconciliation on every patient to avoid the possibility of medical errors. I take pride in my job and do my best to ensure patient safety every day."



Suzanne Newman, a refractive surgery technician in the NH Jacksonville Ophthalmology Clinic says, "Many of our patients have debilitating eye diseases that keep them from seeing things as simple as the waiting room chairs. Maneuvering can be very difficult for patients who are visually impaired, elderly or who need a cane or a walker to assist their mobility. It is our goal to make sure our patients are safe and protected from any accidents that may occur."



Cmdr. Karen Follin, a clinical nurse specialist at the NH Jacksonville Emergency Department says, "Patients depend on us to provide safe and timely care during their time of crisis. We understand that no one wants to visit us, but we want them to know we are here when they need us. We do this by actively listening to patient concerns and use a team approach for treatment. We pride ourselves on sustaining this performance each time a patient is in need - because we value them and truly believe they are the reason we are here."



Lt. Cmdr. Jimmy Trujillo, a nurse in the NH Jacksonville Orthopedics Clinic, says, "This week is a great time to re-engage with patients, families and the healthcare community to advance patient safety and healthcare workforce safety to prevent harm to everyone involved."



UCF Military Families Project

Coming to the Jacksonville Area!

We need your family for a confidential research study funded by the Department of Defense examining stress and resilience!

The Department of Psychology at the University of Central Florida (UCF) is conducting a clinical research study investigating how military deployment affects families. Active duty families with children between ages 7 and 17 can participate in this confidential research study. Families where a parent is currently deployed or not currently deployed are needed.

The study consists of a 2-3 hour initial assessment of mood, behavior, and resilience strategies. You and your child(ren) will then complete the study at home, spending less than 7 minutes a day for one week.

Up to \$100 in compensation is available; \$20.00 at the start of the study and \$80.00 at study completion.

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Dr. Michael Bermes, Project Manager

This research study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board, under federal regulations, at the University of Central Florida. To contact the IRB please call (407) 823-2901 or email irb@mail.ucf.edu.

Deborah C. Beidel, Ph.D., ABPP Principal Investigator

New Defense Health Agency exceeds goals, officials say

By Terri Moon Cronk
American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department's new health care organization has exceeded its goals since standing up five months ago, top health care officials told the House Armed Services Committee's personnel subcommittee Feb. 26.

Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary for defense for health affairs, and Air Force Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Douglas Robb, director of the new Defense Health Agency, appeared before subcommittee members to update them on DHA's progression.

Both officials said the agency is ahead of expectations and goals.

DHA was established after defense leaders organized a task force three years ago to look at how to make military medicine more efficient, more effective and more affordable.

The agency is "an important reform in the Military Health System [and] a needed reform in this era of significant challenges for [DoD] in American health care at large," Woodson said.

"Our national security and defense strategies must be supported by a strong, relevant, agile and forward-leaning Military Health System," he said.

Good evidence exists that joint integrated care improves results in combat, Woodson said. If a service member is wounded in combat, a Navy corpsman will often be the first to treat the patient, who is then transported while receiving critical care to a military medical center staffed by all three services, where "definitive, advanced care will be given by a multiservice health care team, he explained.

The synchronized system "transcends service and command distinction [and] has resulted in the highest survival rates and the lowest case fatality rates in recorded warfare," Woodson

said. "[Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel] has outlined his priorities for managing the significant change needed in the coming years," Woodson said.

"These include introducing institutional reforms, re-evaluating military force planning construct, preparing for prolonged readiness challenges, protecting investments in emerging military capability, balancing forces between active and reserves and reforming personnel and compensation policies."

Woodson said he has six lines of effort to support Hagel's priorities:

- Modernizing Military Health System management with an enterprise focus;
- Defining and delivering medical capabilities needed in the 21st century;
- Investing in and expanding strategic partnerships;
- Assessing the balance of DOD's medical core structure;
- Modernizing the TRICARE health program, and
- Defining the Military Health System's global health engagement requirement.

Those efforts will help DoD meet its "overwhelming" aims of readiness, improve the health of people it serves, improve the experience of care in the military and responsibly manage costs, Woodson said.

By modernizing management structure, DHA represents a major DoD milestone and is a starting point for comprehensive enterprise-wide reform, he said.

"There is dramatic change occurring in American health care that will affect how we do business," Woodson said, "and require us to refresh our thinking of health, health care, and health care delivery systems."

Rising costs, technology sub-specialization, information management

access and workforce issues challenge the American health care system, he said.

"Health systems across the country - including ours - are focused on ways to reduce variation in care, improve patient safety and more effectively use health information technology to improve clinical decision-making and outcomes," Woodson said.

"Within the military, there are additional imperatives for designing an integrated health system which includes more joint phasing, joint operations and maintaining readiness."

DoD Health Affairs, the Military Health System and DHA are partnered in such a process, he said.

"We have created agile governance for policy and enterprise-wide operational decision-making," Woodson said.

"We are holding ourselves accountable using a disciplined process for identifying opportunities in using comments [and] enterprise-wide performance measures to see and check what we are doing."

DHA uses the Government Accountability Office's approach to conduct business case analyses and business process re-engineering efforts, Woodson said.

DHA director Robb said his agency "stands as a supporting organization, ensuring that the combatant commanders and the service medical departments have the resource support" to meet their missions.

"We have made significant progress in the first 150 days of this reform effort. And we are in-track with most of our major milestones," he said.

The discipline and rigor necessary to "do business" also has given DHA insight into its most-challenging issues and in some cases has allowed it to "rapidly introduce new processes," Robb told legislators.

"We have accelerated timelines for

implementation and achieved savings, reduce variation and streamlined processes earlier than initially projected," he said.

One role of DHA is managing numerous "shared services" that combine activities like medical information technology, medical logistics and TRICARE for the Army, Navy and Air Force.

For example, Robb said, identifying and changing buying behaviors in medical logistics is putting DoD's health care on a path "to cover our investment costs and save over \$10 million when we previously projected no savings for this year."

Another \$25 million in savings this fiscal year has been identified by consolidating service medical chief information officers into DHA, he added.

"The most significant cost savings potential for the department still remains in the purchase health care sector," Robb said.

"Our efforts to improve the execution of the TRICARE health plan are focused on the long-term systemic challenges, and how we better integrate our direct care and private-care health services delivery and contract for health care support."

As the existing generation of TRICARE contracts expires, DoD is looking at reshaping contracts to take advantage of strategic sourcing, improving integration with military medical facilities, reducing unnecessary overhead, and achieving more simplicity and flexibility for its patients and the government, the DHA director said.

"[We're] proud of the work we have accomplished," Robb said.

"But [we're] even more eager to identify ways we can integrate our system on behalf of the incredible people that we are privileged to serve."

Sand Volleyball League meeting - March 12 at noon

Open to active duty, selective reservists, DoD civilians and DoD contractors assigned to a command aboard NAS Jacksonville. Meet at Dewey's at noon. Commands whose athletic officer or designated representative attend receive five Captain's Cup points along with rules and required paperwork.

Soccer League Forming

Open to active duty, selective reservists, DoD and DoD contractors assigned to a command aboard NAS Jacksonville. Contact the NAS Jacksonville Sports Department at 542-2930 for rules and required paperwork. Rosters are due by the end of March.

Leprechaun Dash 5k - March 14

The run is free and open to all authorized gym patrons. Runners earn Captain's Cup points for their commands by participating. Sign up at NAS Jax Gym or the Fitness Source prior to the Feb. 7 deadline. The run is 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 run site from 10:30-11:15 a.m. Awards will be given to the top male and top female runner for age groups: 19 & under; 20-24; 25-29; 30-34; 35-39; 40-44; 45-49; 50 & over.

Kickball League meeting - March 19 at noon

Open to active duty, selective reservists, DoD civilians and DoD contractors assigned to a command aboard NAS Jacksonville. Meet at Dewey's at noon. Commands whose athletic officer or designated representative attend receive five Captain's Cup points along with rules and required paperwork.

Men's & Women's Singles Tennis Tournament - March 24

The tournament is open to active duty, selective reservists, DoD civilians, and DoD contractor women assigned to a command at NAS Jacksonville. Participants will earn participation points for their command toward the captain's cup and can earn additional points for finishing first, second or third. Sign up by March 21.

Greybeard Softball League Forming

Open to active duty, selective reservists, DoD civilians and DoD contractor personnel age 30 and older who work in a command at NAS Jacksonville. Games play on Tuesday & Thursday at 11:30 a.m. Contact the gym at 542-2930 for rules and required paperwork. Rosters due by March 7. Play begins at the end of March or the beginning of April.

Intramural Softball League Forming

Open to active duty, selective reservists, DoD civilians and DoD contractors who

NAS Jax Captain's Cup Sports

work in a command at NAS Jacksonville. Games play in the evenings. Contact the gym at 542-2930 for rules and required paperwork. Rosters are due by March 7. Play begins at the end of March or the beginning of April.

Women's Softball League Forming

Open to active duty, selective reservists, DoD civilians; DoD contractors; retirees; and dependents over 18. Games play in the evenings. Contact the gym at 542-2930 for rules and required paperwork. Rosters are due by March 7. Play begins at the end of March or the beginning of April.

Men's & Women's Open Singles Tennis Tournament April 28

Open to active duty, retirees, dependents over 18, selective reservists, DoD civilians and contractors. The tournament starts at 5 p.m. at the Guy Ballou Tennis Courts on the corner of Allegheny Road and Birmingham Road. Call 542-2930 to sign up by April 25.

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

Standings

As of Feb. 21
Winter Golf

Teams	Wins	Losses
CNATTU Blue	3	0
NCTS	3	0
VP-45	3	0
FRCSE	2	1
Navy Band	2	1
VP-30	2	1
CV-TSC/PSD	1	2
SERCC	1	2
VP-10	1	2
CNATTU Gold	0	3

Greybeard Basketball

Teams	Wins	Losses
VP-30	5	1
VP-10	4	1
NAVHOSP	4	2
VP-26	4	3
NAVFAC	3	3
VP-5	2	1
FRCSE	2	3
FLCJ	1	5
NCTS	0	6

4-on-4 Flag Football

Teams	Wins	Losses
NOSC	5	0
Vet Clinic	5	0
VP-26	4	1
VR-58	4	1

HSM-72	3	1
VR-62	3	2
ASD Jax	2	3
NavHosp IMC	1	4
FACSFAC	0	3
CRS-10	0	4
VP-62	0	4
FRCSE 62A/690	0	5

4-on-4 Flag Football

Teams	Wins	Losses
NOSC	5	0
Vet Clinic	5	0
VP-26	4	1
VR-58	4	1
HSM-72	3	1
VR-62	3	2
ASD Jax	2	3
NavHosp IMC	1	4
FACSFAC	0	3
CRS-10	0	4
VP-62	0	4
FRCSE 62A/690	0	5

Intramural Basketball

Teams	Wins	Losses
FRCSE 700	7	1
FRCSE 600	5	2
NAVHOSP	5	2
CPRW-11 Griffins	4	2
VP-30 E's	5	3
NCTS	4	4
NAS Jax	3	3
VP-45	3	3
VR-58	3	3
NAVHOSP Galley	3	4
VP-10	3	4

VP-26	2	5
FACSFAC	1	5
TPU/PCF	1	6

Badminton Doubles

Teams	Wins	Losses
NAVHOSP MSU	2	0
NBHC Jax	2	0
FACSFAC 2	1	0
NAVFAC Blue	1	0
NAVFAC Red	1	0
CV-TSC Ashore	1	1
MWR Dynamic Duo	1	1
NAVFAC Green	1	1
FACSFAC 1	1	2
MWR Liberty	0	2
NAVFAC Gold	0	2
NAVFAC Orange	0	2



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Hagel talks with troops about 2015 Defense budget request

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

In spotless aircraft hangars at two different military bases in southeastern Virginia Feb. 26, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel stood before several hundred airmen and soldiers, highlighting priorities in the Defense Department's fiscal year 2015 budget request and taking questions.

The budget request - which Hagel and Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, previewed Feb. 24 at the Pentagon - is the first in 13 years that doesn't reflect a defense enterprise engaged in a foreign war, and in some of those years, two wars.

With the defense budget poised to shrink by more than \$75 billion over the next two years, the funding request recommends cuts in military spending in the coming year that include further reductions in troop strength and force structure in every military service.

And the outcome will be even more severe in fiscal 2016 if the severe budget cuts required by the Budget Control Act of 2011, known as sequestration, go forward with no congressional intervention on the department's behalf.

Questions from the airmen at Langley Air Force Base and soldiers at Fort Eustis ranged from the plight of veterans, the future of the military retirement system and the lifespan of the current force reduction to problems that could arise from a pre-World-War-II-sized Army, and how DOD will be able to keep quality soldiers in such an austere fiscal environment.

As he addressed the service members, Hagel sought to reassure them.

"This can be done if it's done responsibly - if it's done the right way. We'll make the case to Congress," he said, noting that Congress must be a partner in managing the fiscal threats against the department.

"But it will impose more risks to our country [and] our force structure if we're not given some longer-term relief from sequestration.

"This is about as direct and honest as I can be, and what I'm telling you is what I'm going to tell the Congress," the secretary continued.

"I owe that to you, . . . to tell you this face to face, so you know what I'm thinking [and] you know what our leaders are



Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel chats with two U.S. Army drill sergeants during a photo op with troops units at Fort Eustis, Va., Feb. 25.

DoD Photo By Glenn Fawcett

thinking."

At both bases, Hagel began by thanking the airmen, the soldiers and their families on behalf of President Barack Obama for their service and sacrifice. The secretary said he was on his way to a NATO defense ministers meeting in Brussels and stopped at the bases to get a sense from the service members what was on their minds.

"I try to do this as often as I can - get outside Washington and listen to our men and women and try to understand better what's on your mind, what your concerns are," Hagel said.

"You help all our leaders with what you tell us, and I know your commanders here from the general on down feel the same way."

Hagel especially wanted to talk about the department's piece of the president's fiscal year 2015 budget request, about which he said that he, Dempsey and DOD Comptroller Robert Hale would testify before the Senate and House armed services committees next week.

The secretary said he wanted to explain what the department's senior leaders were focused on when they put the budget request together.

"You know the realities of sequestration, you know the realities of the fiscal restraints you're all dealing with - [that] we're all dealing with. And I suspect they're not going to get much better over the next few years," Hagel said.

"So we've had to prepare our institution, we've had to

think strategically to protect our country as you do every day, and assure the president, assure the Congress, assure the American people, assure your families that they can count on us, that they can count on you, as they do every day," he added.

Hagel's top-line points, he said, were people, readiness, capability and capacity.

In preparing the budget request, working on it together month after month, he said, "we focused on the balance of the force . . . and factored in all of what's required to defend this country at a time in the world that's complicated, uncertain and dangerous, and [likely] to stay that way for awhile."

Despite such uncertainty, he said, some things are known.

"This budget that I will present next week to the Congress is the first budget that's not a war-footing budget. . . . This budget will represent a different environment, a different era, a different time," Hagel said.

That's not a small point, he added, "because if we're not budgeting and prioritizing for wars, . . . that means our priorities have to be realigned and reset as to where we're going to use our resources and where we're going to deploy . . . and position our assets to protect our interests, whether it's a shift in our president's posture in the Asia-Pacific or the Middle East or North Africa."

The world is dangerous everywhere, said Hagel, adding that he and the defense leadership tried to frame the budget's strategic focus on that basis.

Hagel told the service members he wanted to address the budget's pay, compensation and retirement issues, because they are on the minds of service members and their families. He began with retirement, saying department leaders decided not to recommend changes on retirement until a retirement commission empaneled by Congress reports back to Congress and the Defense Department.

"We understand the importance of retirement plans," the secretary said, "but I've also agreed that any changes, if there are [change] recommendations, would not apply in retirement to those now serving."

On the issue of pay, he said, the department will continue to recommend pay increases.

"There will be a slight decrease in those increases, but it's a cost of growth in a growth-of-increase recommendation," he said, "so make sure you understand that."

On compensation and benefits, Hagel said, the Defense Department would not close commissaries.

"What we are doing is recommending that the subsidies on commissaries gradually be phased out, like in our post exchanges. That means you'll still get significant savings as that process goes forward. Nothing happens tomorrow, nothing happens next year - this is a gradual process," the secretary explained.

From this recommendation, he said, the department will exclude all overseas commissaries and those that are in

remote areas where there are no other discount-store options to save money on groceries.

Moving to the TRICARE health care plan, Hagel said the department is recommending consolidating its three systems into one system that will be more effective and efficient.

"This [will happen over a period of time and won't affect anything on base in health care]," he said. Nor would it limit preferred provider options or change health care quality, he added.

On health care co-pay increases, Hagel said, the budget request contains no recommended changes for active-duty service members. Family members and working-age retirees already have co-pay amounts, depending on their geographic locations and medical services, he noted.

"For working-age retirees, we recommend a gradual increase for out-of-pocket expenses from around 8 percent today to no more than 11 percent - a gradual increase . . . that we think is fair," the secretary added.

Housing allowance subsidies for service members today are 100 percent, he said, and the department recommends over a five-year period to phase in an increase to 5 percent for out-of-pocket expenses, with a 95 percent subsidy.

"Those are the recommendations we've made," Hagel said. "We did this in coordination with all our senior enlisted leaders in each service, all the chiefs, all the secretaries. This was not a unilateral, arbitrary decision. It was a decision we made after a long deliberation."

The secretary said he and the president would never submit a budget request to Congress and the American people that they didn't think could protect the country's security.

"We're dangerously close to cutting into that now," he said, adding that Obama will request from Congress an extra \$26 billion to shore up DOD readiness bled by recent severe and abrupt budget cuts.

"We can't get any closer down on [readiness] across the board," Hagel said, "whether it's the Air Force or the Army or steaming time in the Navy, so this is a defining time in our defense enterprise [that will determine] how we go forward."

The secretary added, "But we're going to protect what we have to protect, and we're going to protect our people."

TUITION ASSISTANCE

From Page 6

Building 1 blood drive

Sailors made appointments for the Blood Alliance mobile donation bus on Feb. 25 in front of the NAS Jacksonville Headquarters Building.



Blood Alliance Phlebotomist Jasmine Powell checks the progress of YNSA Arnick Alinaya's blood donation Feb. 25 for the NAS Jacksonville Building 1 blood drive.



Photos by Clark Pierce

Naval Station Mayport tests force protection skills

By MC1 Michael Wiss

Naval Station (NS) Mayport personnel put their force protection and antiterrorism skills to the test during the Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield (SC/CS 14) 2014 exercise February 20-28. SC-CS 14 is a force protection exercise conducted by Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF) and Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) on all Navy installations in the Continental United States to enhance the training and readiness of Navy security personnel as well as establish a learning environment for security personnel to exercise functional plans and operational capabilities.

According to NS Mayport Anti-terrorism and Deputy Security Officer Ronald Novak, this exercise showcases the Mayport team working with other tenant commands, and civilian agencies in the event of a crisis situation.

"We have to train our folks to be prepared for any crisis situation on short notice," he said. "We need to be able to work with other tenant commands, ships and other agencies to be on the lookout for terrorist activity. We take every threat seriously, with other situations that have happened in the world, you have to be ready because you can never tell where the threat might come from."

Solid Curtain is an exercise focused on command, control, and communication (C3) between all echelons Navy wide. Citadel Shield is an installation-level training exercise to test the ability of naval security forces during an emergency. The Citadel Shield of the Mayport exercise involved an active shoot-



The Security Department at Naval Station Mayport simulates a small boat attack in the ship basin during Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield 2014.

er who killed and injured several personnel and held three people hostage.

The Mayport NCIS team used negotiation tactics to be able to overtake the assailant and defuse the situation. The Solid Curtain portion involved a small boat attack on the USS Vicksburg (CG-69) home ported at NS Mayport. The attack was much like that of the USS Cole (DDG-67) bombing which killed 17 Sailors and injured 39 others on October 12, 2000. According to USS Vicksburg Operations Officer Lt Matthew Hamm, the exercise was a great opportunity to test the readiness of the ship's security team.

"This drill is an excellent opportunity to test our own organization, but also working with the base security department as well as with agencies off the base," he said. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for a single ship to execute a real world situation, and how to respond to a casualty that we don't see or train for every day."

Training is an important element of the readiness area of the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative that consolidates a set of objectives and policies, new and existing, to



Photos by MC2(SW) Marcus Stanley

Sailors aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Vicksburg (CG 68) work with firefighters from Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department during a mass casualty training exercise part of Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield 2014 aboard Naval Station Mayport. Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield is a two-week, anti-terrorism force protection exercise that test Navy installations on various crises in response to elevated force protection conditions due to active shooter/hostage situations, report of suspicious packages, vehicles or people.



Hospital Corpsmen from Branch Medical Clinic at Naval Station Mayport assist Sailors from USS Vicksburg (CG 68) in a mass casualty training exercise during Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield 2014.

maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness, build resiliency and hone the most combat-effective force in the history of the Department. According to Novak, year round training keeps everyone working together as a team to help counter any crisis situation.

"We have to perform con-



Sailors aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Vicksburg (CG 68) discharge a fire hose over the side of the ship during a training exercise of Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield 2014 at Naval Station Mayport.

tinuous training because the players change with Navy turnover," he said. "The best thing we get out of this is to critique what we did right and what we did wrong. Hopefully we can continue to improve readiness and learn what needs to be done to handle any crisis situation."

Adm. McRaven: Special Ops ready for post-2014 Afghanistan

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

Special operations forces will be prepared for any decision made on the post-2014 U.S. military presence in Afghanistan, the commander of U.S. Special Operations Command told Congress Feb. 27.

Speaking to the House Armed Services Committee, Navy Adm. William McRaven cited "great strides" in dealing with current conflicts, preparing for future conflicts, and with the state of his workforce.

"Socom continues to provide the world's finest warriors to the fight in Afghanistan," he said.

"As we approach the end of 2014, your special operations forces will be able to adjust to whatever decisions are made regarding our future employment in that country."

Earlier this week, President Barack Obama ordered Pentagon leaders to prepare for the possibility of a full withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan by the end of the year if a signed bilateral security agreement is not in place.

"Globally, we are developing plans to better serve the geographic combatant commanders, who, owing to the past 12 years of engagement in Iraq and Afghanistan, have gone under-resourced with special operations forces," McRaven said.

The admiral referred to Socom as the Defense Department's "synchronizer for the planning of the war on terrorism," noting the work special operations forces are doing to better coordinate activities locally, regionally and globally with both the geographic combatant commanders and the U.S. ambassadors.

"I believe the future of special operations will be in helping to build partner capacity with those willing nations who share our interests," he said.

This will mean strengthening existing allied relationships, McRaven said, and building new ones.

"No nation alone can stem the rise of extremism," he said. "We need our friends and allies more now than ever



Adm. William McRaven

before."

The admiral said Socom's future is "inextricably linked" to the general-purpose force and government agencies outside DoD.

"The past 12 years have shown us that a whole-of-government effort is required to be successful," McRaven said. "In special operations, we have always known that without our fellow soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, we are destined to fail."

McRaven said the command has also gone to great lengths to take care of what he called his most precious resource: his people.

"The preservation of the force and family . . . has already seen a marked improvement in the morale and well-being of those who serve in [special operations forces]," he said.

While there are still issues to be addressed, McRaven acknowledged, he expressed confidence in the health of the force and their families going forward.

"I believe that we have laid the foundation for keeping our force, and their families, strong and resilient into the future," he said.

More about Adm. McRaven

He is the ninth commander of United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. USSOCOM ensures

the readiness of joint special operations forces and, as directed, conducts operations worldwide.

McRaven served from June 2008 to June 2011 as the 11th commander of Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) headquartered at Fort Bragg, N.C. JSOC is charged to study special operations requirements and techniques, ensure interoperability and equipment standardization, plan and conduct special operations exercises and training, and develop joint special operations tactics.

McRaven served from June 2006 to March 2008 as commander, Special Operations Command Europe (SOCEUR). In addition to his duties as commander, SOCEUR, he was designated as the first director of the NATO Special Operations Forces Coordination Centre where he was charged with enhancing the capabilities and interoperability of all NATO Special Operations Forces.

McRaven has commanded at every level within the special operations community, including assignments as deputy commanding general for Operations at JSOC; commodore of Naval Special Warfare Group One; commander of SEAL Team Three; task group commander in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility; task unit commander during Desert Storm and Desert Shield; squadron commander at Naval Special Warfare Development Group; and, SEAL platoon commander at Underwater Demolition Team 21/SEAL Team Four.

McRaven's diverse staff and interagency experience includes assignments as the director for Strategic Planning in the Office of Combating Terrorism on the National Security Council Staff; assessment director at USSOCOM, on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, and the chief of staff at Naval Special Warfare Group One.

McRaven's professional education includes assignment to the Naval Postgraduate School, where he helped establish, and was the first graduate from, the Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict curriculum.

Community Calendar

Florida Chief Petty Officers Association meets March 5 at 1 p.m. at Whitey's Fish camp on County Rd. 220, Fleming Island. Contact Stu Covey at 891-4099.

Spring Gardening Tips March 13 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., at Highlands Branch Library, 1826 Dunn Ave., Jacksonville. Duval County Extension Office offers this free workshop about vegetables, fertilizer, pest control, lawn tips and more. Call 255-7450 or email Evie at epankok@coj.net to pre-register.

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

Military Officers Association of America N.E. Florida Chapter meets the third Wednesday of each month. Open to active duty and retirees of all military branches. Contact Johnnie.walsh@gmail.com or call 282-4650.

National Naval Officers Association meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. at Jacksonville Urban League 903 Union Street West Jacksonville, FL. For information, contact Lt. Mark Jean-Pierre at 910-459-6858 or retired Lt. Cmdr. Paul Nix at 542-2518 or paul.nix@navy.mil.

Association of Navy Aviation Ordnancemen meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Fleet Reserve Center on Collins Road. For information, visit www.aao9.com.

Retired Activities Office (RAO) at NAS Jax Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) needs volunteers to assist military retirees and dependents. Work four hours a day, one day per week. Call 542-5790 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays to volunteer.

Ribbons & Roses, a breast cancer support group at Naval Hospital Jacksonville, meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Call 542-7857 for more info.

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

COMPASS Spouse-to-Spouse Military Mentoring Program. Helping others help themselves. Visit www.gocompass.org for more info.

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

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

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

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

Voting assistance workshop March 24

From Staff

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) staff will conduct a voting assistance workshop aboard NAS Jacksonville March 24, 8:30-10:30 a.m. in Dewey's All Hands Club main ballroom.

The Dewey's complex is located in Building 608, between Gillis and Keily streets.

Although primarily for voting assistance officers, the workshop is open to any interested persons.

The point of contact for the FVAP workshop is the NAS Jacksonville Installation Voting Assistance Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Cheryl Aimestillman at 542-3998 or at cheryl.aimestillman@navy.mil, or vote.jacksonville@navy.mil.

Employment

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General Employment
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Industrial Trades
Insurance
Landscaping/Grounds
Maintenance
Law Enforcement/
Security/Safety
Legal
Maintenance/Janitorial
Services
Management/Professional
Marketing
Mechanics
Medical/Health Care
Marine/Trade
Nurses/Nurses Aides
Office/Clerical/
Administration
Part-Time
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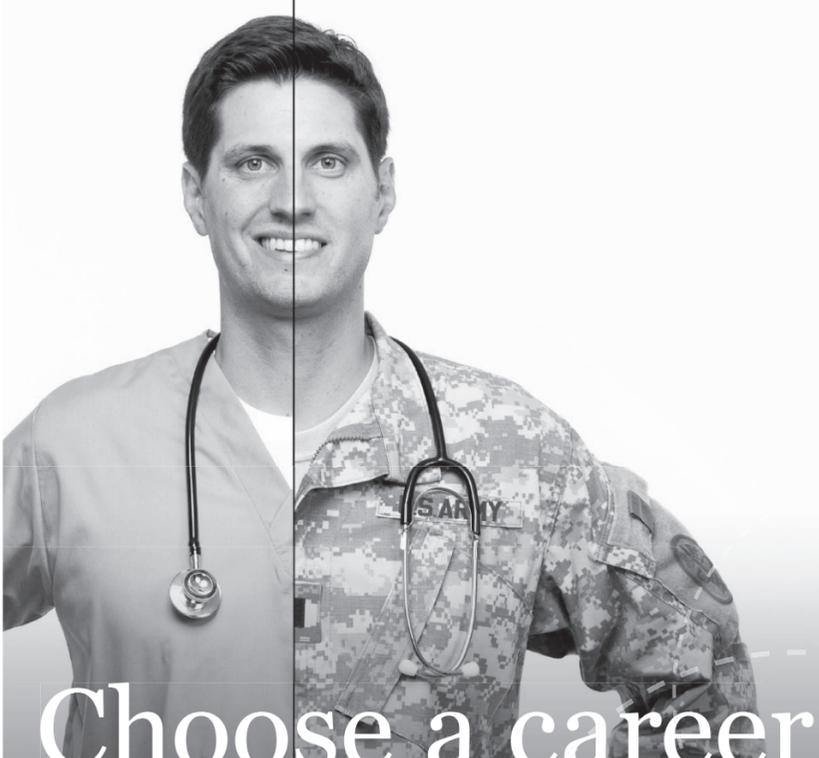
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