

# Jax Air News

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Photos courtesy of RAN 725 Squadron

On the seawall at NAS Jacksonville, Royal Australian Navy (RAN) 725 Squadron plane captains and aircrew go through the preflight checklist for their recently acquired MH-60R Seahawk helicopters, numbers three and four.

## Romeo capability continues to expand at NAS Jax

By Lt. Mark Flowerdew  
RAN 725 Squadron Public Affairs

Delivery of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) MH-60R Seahawk "Romeo" capability took another step forward March 6, with the arrival of aircraft three and four at NAS Jacksonville.

Crewed by joint RAN and U.S. Navy aircrews, the new aircraft departed the Lockheed Martin Assembly Plant in Owego, New York and made the long journey south where they were warmly greeted by RAN 725 Squadron personnel.

"It's great to welcome two

new aircraft to the RAN family. We can't wait to introduce them to Jacksonville and later in the year, to the Fleet Air Arm back in Australia," said RAN 725 Squadron Commanding Officer Cmdr. David Frost.

"So far, we've flown more than 100 hours in aircrafts one and two, and we look forward to having the new kids on the block taking some of the load," said Frost.

Another bunch of aviation maintainers and aircrew also arrived at NAS Jacksonville recently, bringing the total number of Fleet Air Arm personnel to 95, with the final

eight aircrew due to arrive over the next few months.

Maintenance technicians will continue to undergo training at the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit (CNATTU), at NAS Jacksonville, while aircrew will be trained by Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 40 (HSM-40), at Naval Station Mayport.

Complementing the new Romeos was the arrival of a maintenance training device dubbed the "BROMEO," that Frost said would be used by maintenance sailors to conduct task book and journal progres-

sion.

"The Bromeo is a complete, functioning aircraft that will be used to train sailors who are undergoing initial trade training at RAN 725 Squadron. It will also be used to conduct annual escape training and Operational Flying Training ground familiarisation events."

"Finding opportunities to get hands-on training on in-service aircraft can be challenging due to flying and operational commitments, so having the Bromeo will expedite training that will be more cost effective," explained Frost.

Although it will not return to

the flying status, the Bromeo will be painted in Royal Australian Navy colors and will be subject to the airworthiness and maintenance requirements that the fleet of new MH-60R aircraft are required to meet.

The Bromeo is built from an SH-60B (Bravo) helicopter airframe, similar to those operated by RAN 816 Squadron. It was re-manufactured into an MH-60R as a prototype, prior to the final design decision by the U.S. Navy.

The airframe was resurrected from the U.S. Navy's

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## NAS Jax and NS Mayport earn FDEP Environmental Excellence Awards

By MC2 Amanda Cabasos  
NAS Jax Public Affairs

NAS Jax and NS Mayport received Environmental Excellence Awards presented by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) during the Mayor's Environmental Awards Luncheon at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens on March 6.

The award recognizes the team efforts in successfully preventing violations and improving environmental compliance and sustainability at the local naval facilities.

Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown said, "This is a real important award. You know we pride ourselves on working with all of our stakeholders in our community to make Jacksonville a better place to live, work and raise a family - and the environment is one of them."

"We like to make sure that people can

enjoy our natural resources. We have the largest urban park system in the country, but we want it to be the best. Having more access to the river and our naturally pristine parks is important, so this award speaks volumes about our partnership and commitment to make Jacksonville the best place to live, work and raise a family."

The base leadership of U.S. Navy facilities located in Jacksonville established the Northeast Florida Environmental Compliance Partnering Team in 2002.

The vision for this team was, "the Navy and regulatory community working together to achieve environmental excellence and accomplish individual organization missions."

The Northeast Florida Environmental

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Photo by MC2 Amanda Cabasos

Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown (left) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection Assistant Director Jim Maher (right) present the FDEP Environmental Excellence Award to NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander (right center) and NS Mayport Commanding Officer Capt. Wesley McCall (left center) during the Mayor's Environmental Awards Luncheon held at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens on March 6.

## NMCRS kicks off annual fund-raising drive

By Clark Pierce  
Editor

This year's Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) fund-raising drive began March 5 with an organizational kickoff at the River Cove Catering and Conference Center on board NAS Jacksonville.

The annual fund drive generates donations to benefit the local NMCRS - an organization that assists hundreds of Sailors, Marines and their families each month.

"By donating to NMCRS, service members are taking care of their own," said Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Rick Williamson, who urged commanding officers, XO's and senior enlisted leaders of installation and tenant commands to respond quickly and generously to the fund drive.

"As a young division officer, I learned of the power that NMCRS can bring to bear on problems involving finances and family dynamics.

"Fast forward 20 years and I'm commanding officer of a frigate with an average crew age of 22 years - and most of the same problems. Who do they turn to for guidance? That's right, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. They're a force multiplier that can remove some burdens from the shoulders of commanding officers. Like everyone here today, including my wife,

Robin, I'm a believer in NMCRS. Thank you for your service."

"This fund drive will succeed because of your Sailor-to-Sailor efforts," said NAS Jax NMCRS Director Monika Woods.

"We cannot operate without our dedicated volunteers who step up at each command to lead this fund drive. To support you, we have more than a dozen cheerleaders at our NMCRS office in Building 13."

"NMCRS is famous for its interest-free Quick Assist Loans. And when our clients pay it back - the money is turned around and used by another person in need," added Woods. "So it really is service members taking care of service members."

NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander attended the kickoff with his wife, Pam, who, along with Robin Williamson, is an NMCRS honorary chairman of volunteers.

He told those in attendance, "Fund drives have been challenging this past year. The spirit of giving has been dampened by furloughs and the government sequester. However, our Sailors have enjoyed a stable income throughout all of it. Please remember that NMCRS is really about Sailors helping Sailors - so join me to revitalize that spirit of giving for this important

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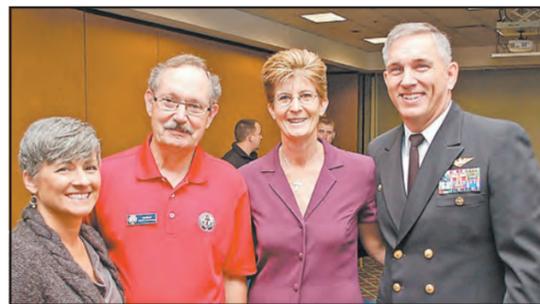


Photo by Clark Pierce

(From left) Robin Williamson, NMCRS honorary chairman of volunteers; Jim Reid of NMCRS Jacksonville; Pam Undersander, NMCRS honorary chairman of volunteers, and NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander, attended the March 5 kickoff for the annual Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive.

### Attention Gate River Run participants

Jax Air News will be covering the event. NAS Jax Sailors and civilians running or walking 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, e-mail NAS Jax Public Affairs Officer: Miriam.gallet@navy.mil.



- From Staff

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Photos by Clark Pierce

Has it been two years already? The first Boeing P-8A Poseidon multi-mission aircraft (No. 428) assigned to the VP-30 "Pro's Nest" arrived at NAS Jacksonville March 5, 2012 as the sun was setting. A formal roll-out ceremony took place March 28 at the VP-30 Hangar.



In March 2012, the first P-8A Poseidon (No. 428) was delivered to VP-30 at NAS Jacksonville. VP-30 is the Navy's fleet replacement squadron for both the P-3C Orion and the P-8A Poseidon.

**From Staff**

**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).

**March 13**

1895 - Award of first submarine building contract to John P. Holland Torpedo Boat Co.

1917 - Armed merchant ships authorized to take action against U-boats.

# At 94, grandma Doris still fighting

By Sarah Smiley  
Special Contributor

My favorite Doris story was about their new phone number in Boston. Her husband, Big Jack, was going to law school at Harvard, and neither of them had ever really lived outside of Alabama.

Big Jack spent most of his days studying at the library. When he came home for dinner at their small apartment, it was just to get something Doris could "throw between two pieces of bread."

One night, after Big Jack had fallen asleep and Doris was putting away his coat, she found a folded piece of paper in his front pocket.

It had a phone number written on it. Doris was sure Big Jack had a girlfriend, so she woke him up and demanded to know whose number he was keeping in his coat.

Big Jack wouldn't say, but he smiled mischievously.

This made Doris angrier. So she sat on the bed and threatened to sing "I'm Henry the VIII, I am" endlessly until he confessed.

Big Jack let Doris sing the whole night. The next morning, as he was leaving for school, he smiled and said, "The number in my pocket is ours."

Doris told me this while she patted my hand and I drifted off to sleep. When my grandparents came to visit, Doris always slept in my room, and I'd ask her to hold my hand until I was asleep.

I called her "Doris" because everyone else did. I never thought it was strange to use her first name. According to Doris, however, I pronounced it "Darc" until I moved up north with the Yankees and started pronouncing each syllable.

Which brings me to my other favorite story about Doris.

When our third son, Lindell, was born in 2007, Dustin was the one who called Doris to tell her the news.

Because I lived with Doris and Big Jack while I was in college, Dustin had gotten to know them like his own. But it was late when he called that night, and Doris was confused.

"The baby is here," Dustin said. "And we've named him Lindell Grant."

Doris said, "Well!" and hung up the phone.

The next morning, Doris called my brother, Will, and said, "Imagine the nerve of that girl naming her baby after General Grant! Big Jack ought to be rolling over in his grave by now."

"No, the baby's name is LINDELL Grant," Will told her. "Not General Grant."

Doris eventually forgave Dustin for that scare. Even

## From the Homefront



Photo courtesy of Sarah Smiley

Whether she was 24 or 94, Grandma Doris has aged extremely well. We all should be so fortunate.

though at our wedding Doris had pulled me aside at the last minute and said, "It's not too late to back out," she would later refer to Dustin as her "Number 2." We never knew who "Number 1" was, but Dustin was glad to be counted among her favorites.

Once Dustin and I had children and were living in Florida, long after Big Jack had died, we often went up to Alabama to get Doris and take her with us on trips to see my parents in Virginia.

Doris would sing to my sons one of her standards: "In a cabin in the woods, a little old man by the window stood . . ."

Except, when Doris got to the part that goes, "'Help me, help me, help me,' he said, 'or that hunter will shoot me dead,'" I out-sung her with, "Or that hunter will steal my bed."

Doris would stop singing and say, "That's not how it goes. It's 'Or that hunter —'"

I'd out-sing her again.

Then Doris would look at the boys and say something like, "Now, your mother is all lopsided wompus. She can sing it anyway she wants, this way or the other way, but the song goes, 'Or that hunter will —'"

Again, I'd out-sing her.

Then I'd smile as I looked in the rearview mirror and saw her patting baby Lindell's hand, like she always

did mine when I was going to sleep.

Two weeks ago, Doris broke her hip. A few days later, she lay unresponsive in the hospital.

The day before Doris' 94th birthday, my mom asked me to write something to read at her funeral. None of us thought she'd recover. That's when I began this column.

I couldn't remember the last time Doris and I had a good talk. The day she didn't remember the Boston phone number story, I stopped calling her as much. It was hard to hear her so confused.

And in December, a phone message from her telling me that she will love me forever, one that I had saved for six years, was accidentally erased.

I thought I'd never hear her voice again.

But the next day, on her birthday, Doris woke up. Over the phone she told me, "Oh how I love you," and then she handed the phone to the nurse.

Perhaps I should have deleted this column/funeral speech then. It seems premature now.

Except, what a gift to have the chance to tell someone these things while she is still here with us.

## 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.

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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

comcast.net or write the JAX AIR NEWS, Box 2, NAS Jacksonville, Fla., 32212-5000.

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The deadline for classified submissions is noon Monday. Questions or comments can be directed to the editor. The JAX AIR NEWS can be reached at (904) 542-3531, fax (904) 542-1534, e-mail JaxAirNews@

# Navy budget request involved tough choices

Navy News Service



Photo by Glenn Fawcett

The Navy Department's fiscal year 2015 budget request reflects tough, but responsible choices, a senior Navy official said at a March 5 Pentagon news conference.

The budget request is part of the \$495.6 billion defense budget proposal President Barack Obama submitted to Congress.

Rear Adm. William Lescher, deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for budget, briefed reporters about the Navy and Marine Corps portion of the budget request.

"Our budget comes during a period of increased fiscal austerity and uncertainty, and at a time when the combatant commanders' demand for naval forces continues at very high levels," Lescher said.

"There were tough choices made in developing this budget, but it provides the resources that allow us to preserve our warfighting advantage in a thoughtful, responsible way."

This year's budget submission prioritizes funding for forward presence and continues to make critical investments in people and future capabilities, the admiral said.

The proposed budget sustains presence by providing money for ship steaming, flight hours, maintenance and base operations.

- It funds amphibious ready group and carrier strike group deployments.

- It supports the three ballistic missile defense-capable destroyers joining the USS Donald Cook in Rota, Spain, in fiscal 2015,

- Provides continued support for the rebalance to the Pacific, with \$46.8 billion overall in operations and maintenance.

Additional investments are proposed for retaining sailors through the Quality of Service initiative. The Navy seeks to reduce manning gaps at sea and improve the sea-to-shore flow of personnel.

The Navy has also requested \$38.4 billion for ship, aircraft, weapons and other procurement programs, including the littoral combat ship, P-8A Poseidon aircraft, Virginia-class submarines and the Mk-48 heavy-weight torpedo.

Research and development priorities include the Ohio-class replacement submarine, next generation jammer and Unmanned Carrier-Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike, as well as developing electromagnetic spectrum and cyber capabilities.

The Navy's fiscal 2015 budget request is a \$15 billion decrease from the level forecast in last year's budget submission and is a

\$38 billion reduction over the Future Year Defense Plan from the fiscal 2014 presidential budget.

"We're confident this budget makes the right choices where needed," Lescher said.

"Within our fiscal limitations, this is the budget to continue to ensure near- and long-term wholeness, and to remain the world's most capable Navy."

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## Voting assistance workshop on March 24

From Staff

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) will conduct a voting assistance workshop aboard NAS Jacksonville March 24 from 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. Contact her at 542-3998 or at cheryl.aimestillman@navy.mil, or vote.jacksonville@navy.mil.

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# 'Pelicans' to Poseidon



A VP-45 plane captain 45 directs the pilots of the P-8A Poseidon No.434 aircraft to the taxiway of NAS Jax.



(From left) Lt. John Leeds of VP-45 reviews aircrew NATOPS jackets with Lt. James Milter an inspector of the program from CPRW-11. Milter is ensuring that the program is on track as a part of the command's final review to achieve P-8A Poseidon Safe for Flight status.



AECS Edgar Mckibben and AE1 Stephen Bell of the VP-45 Pelicans Quality Assurance Division review the tracking/auditing of the maintenance departments programs with ADCS Austin Von Loh, an inspector from CPRW-11, as part of the command's final review to achieve P-8A Poseidon Safe for Flight status.



AMCS Craig Spivey (right) of CPRW-11 inspects and discusses the layout of toolboxes in the VP-45 Airframes Division with AD1 Melvin Everett, AM2 Matthew Swyers, AWFC Shawn Swartz and AMC Billy Kime, as a part of the command's final review to achieve P-8A Poseidon Safe For Flight status.



LS2 Myles Premberton (left) of VP-45 discusses the proper labeling of tools with AMCS Craig Spivey (right) of CPRW-11 while he inspects the squadron's airframes division, as AWFC Shawn Swartz and AMC Billy Kime look on.



AWVC Jeffery Siegfried of CPRW-11 inspects the documentation, labeling and integrity of VP-45's survival equipment with PR2 Jamal Barconey, as PR2 Lauren Berman looks on.



AD2 Nicolas Hernandez, a VP-45 plane captain, gives the pilots of the P-8A Poseidon aircraft the thumbs-up signal, indicating a good start of engines 1 and 2.

## VP-45 completes transition as third operational P-8A squadron

By Lt. j.g. Joseph Johannes  
VP-45 Public Affairs Officer

The "Pelicans" of VP-45 finished up their weeklong "Safe for Flight" (SFF) inspection Feb. 27 - officially completing their transition to the Navy's new maritime patrol aircraft, the P-8A Poseidon.

In doing so, VP-45 becomes the Navy's third operational P-8A squadron, following in the footsteps of VP-16 and VP-5.

Before they could officially complete their transition to becoming an active duty squadron again, the Pelicans had to run the gauntlet of Safe for Flight, a grueling weeklong

inspection by Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing-11. The inspectors checked everything from emergency drills to NATOPS jackets to make sure that VP-45 was up to fleet standards and could perform these drills safely, if a real world need ever arose.

"It was a challenging experience," said VP-45 Aviation Safety Officer Lt. Donnell Exum, "But it is one that we were more than happy to undertake."

The drills, which were meant to simulate incidents such as an aircraft mishap, both on the ground and in the air, pushed the maintainers of VP-45 to

their limits. But in the end, the Pelicans came through with flying colors.

"Our many months of hard work paid off as VP-45 accepted, met and conquered the challenges set forth by the CPRW-11 SFF inspection," remarked AMC Mario Caligiuri.

The Pelicans success impressed everyone involved. "After six months in the school house at VP-30 learning the P-8A inside and out, I am proud of the Pelicans," said VP-45 Executive Officer Cmdr. T.J. Grady.

"They went above and beyond my expectations during this major transition - end-



ADC Guylande Jedy of CPRW-11 observes as AO3 Cameron Albright completes an operational inspection on one of his shop ladders, ensuring that it is working within required parameters.

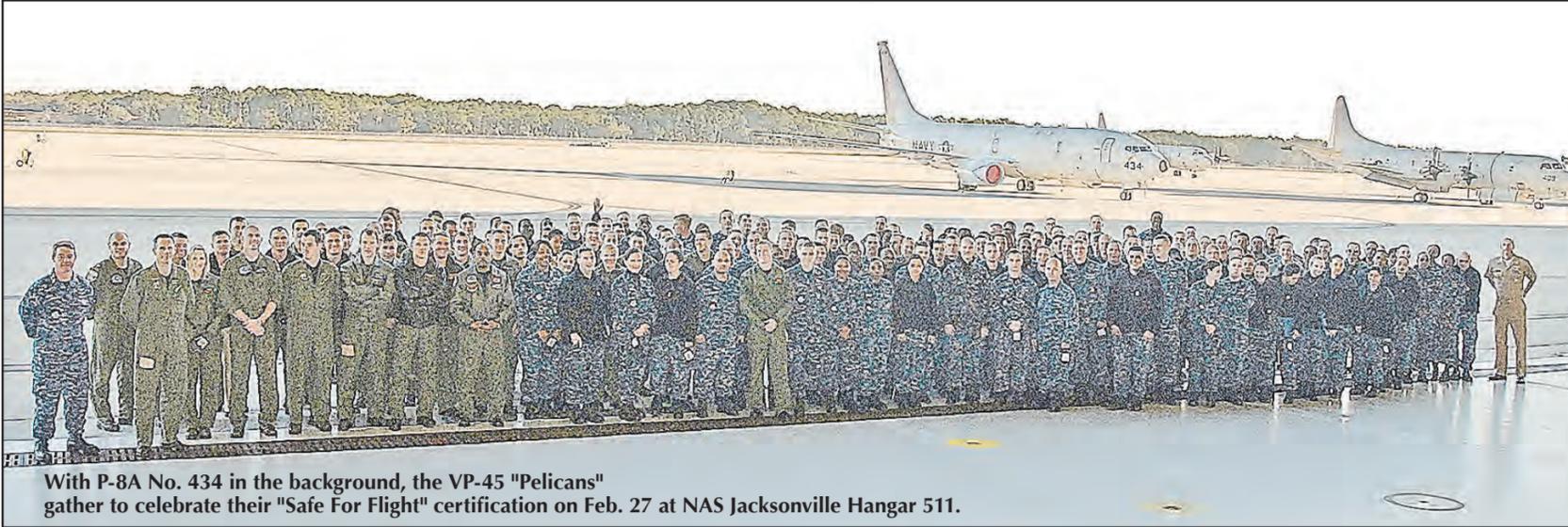
ing with the SFF."

With their transition complete, the VP-45 Pelicans are now preparing for their next deployment to Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, in the 7th Fleet area of responsibility. While



AWVC Jeffery Siegfried of CPRW-11 inspects the labeling and integrity of VP-45's survival equipment with PR2 Jamal Barconey, as AME1 Scott Walker looks on.

they know that the future will be challenging, the Pelicans look forward to putting the skills they have learned during their transition to the real world test that their upcoming deployment will bring.



With P-8A No. 434 in the background, the VP-45 "Pelicans" gather to celebrate their "Safe For Flight" certification on Feb. 27 at NAS Jacksonville Hangar 511.



VP-45 Commanding Officer Cmdr. J.J. Brabazon congratulates his command for successfully qualifying for "Safe For Flight" status for maintaining and operating the P-8A Poseidon.



LCSA Howard West from CPRW-11 views the VP-45 Pelican's standard operating procedures and credit card expense tracking with LS2 Marielly Bell, ensuring that the squadron is operating and annotating purchases properly.

*Photos by MC1 Michelle Lucht*



Cmdr. Joe Testa from VP-30 hands VP-45 Plane Captain AD2 Nicolas Hernandez an aircraft safety pin during his pre-flight inspection of the P-8A Poseidon aircraft.



AT2 Nicholas George removes the extension cord connecting the plane captain to the P-8A Poseidon flight deck – allowing voice communications during engine start up, prior to take-off.



P-8A Poseidon Plane Captain AD2 Nicolas Hernandez of VP-45 walks around with Cmdr. Joe Testa from VP-30 during his pre-flight inspection of the aircraft.

# 'Spartans' and Bush arrives in Turkey

By MC3  
Jeffrey Madlangbayan  
USS George H.W. Bush Public Affairs

The newest Nimitz-Class aircraft carrier, USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), arrived in Antalya, Turkey for a scheduled port visit, March 9. HSM-70 "Spartans," home based at NAS Jacksonville - are embarked aboard Bush as part of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 8. HSM-70 operates the MH-60R Seahawk helicopter.

This port visit is designed to strengthen maritime security working with our Turkish partners.

The port visit will also give Sailors a chance to visit and explore Antalya with tours, including an evening banquet complete with Turkish musical instruments, a typical folk orchestra and a dance extravaganza focusing on traditional Turkish and Antalya folklore, a trip to the spring waters at Pamukkale.

"I really look forward to going on the Antalya City tour to see all the sights and learn the rich history of this country," said RP1 Celeste Shield.



U.S. Navy photo

A jet launches from the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) during its final pre-deployment evaluations, prior to its recent deployment to 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. HSM-70 operates the MH-60R Seahawk helicopter.

George H.W. Bush will also host a reception for dignitaries and regional partners on board in order to foster international relations.

This is the second port visit for George H.W. Bush since leaving Norfolk in February. It will provide the crew a once in a lifetime experience. A shop-

ping venture into Antalya provides Sailors with a look into the rich history and culture of the Turkish Nation. Sailors will have the opportunity to shop

for many handmade products from local vendors such as scarves, clothes, ceramics, leather jackets, jewelry, carpets and handmade lamps.

George H.W. Bush is on scheduled deployment as a part of the George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group to support maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 6th fleet areas of operations.

More than 1,700 personnel are assigned to Carrier Air Wing (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 Squadron (HSM) 70.

## CNAL Selects Sailors of the Year include CPRW-11 Sailor

By MC2 Ernest Scott  
Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic,  
Public Affairs

Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic (CNAL) announced the selection of the Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year during a luncheon aboard Naval Station Norfolk, March 6.

Rear Adm. Mike Shoemaker, commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic, announced AE1 Richard Fenters as the CNAL Shore Sailor of the Year and AWO1 Raul Gomez as the CNAL Sea Sailor of the Year.

The two Sailors were selected from ten candidates representing more than 40,000 men and women serving in the sea and shore components within Naval

Air Force Atlantic. Each represented their respective commands after being selected as that command's Sailor of the Year.

"Each of you here today has already won," said Shoemaker.

"You have been selected by your commands as the very best of the best. Your presence here is a testimony to your individual accomplishments, and I salute you all."

Fenters, a native of Attica, Ind., is assigned to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron One at NAS Patuxent River, Md. He enlisted in the Navy in 1998.

"It is a privilege and honor to be recognized for the work and dedication of my Sailors, family, and friends," said Fenters.

Gomez, a native of San Antonio, Texas, is assigned to Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing-11 at NAS Jacksonville, and serves as the operations lead petty officer. He enlisted in the Navy in 2001.

"It feels absolutely amazing," said Gomez. "It's been a great week. I've met a lot of great Sailors who were equally

deserving. It's a great honor and I am truly humbled to be representing all my mentors and junior Sailors who have helped me achieve this career milestone."

Both Sailors will advance to the next selection process to determine the Sailors of the Year for U.S. Fleet Forces Command.



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# NAS Jax announces Senior, Junior Civilians of the First Quarter

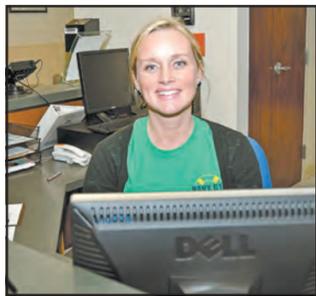
By MC2 Amanda Cabasos  
NAS Jax staff writer

**Thomas Duvall**, an electronics technician at the Air Operations Department and Child and Youth Program (CYP) Assistant Training and Curriculum Specialist **Amanda Johnson** at Youth Activities Center were named NAS Jax Senior and Junior Civilians of the First Quarter respectively.

Duvall is a subject matter expert on all navigation aids and landing air traffic control communication systems maintained by Ground Electronics Maintenance Division (GEMD). He provides training required by GEMD for the qualification of military duty watch technicians. Duvall saved the division \$19,066 by repairing – rather than purchasing – two Approach Radar 400 hertz converter circuits.

When HSM-72 and HSM-74 reported they were experiencing static interference on the common traffic advisory frequency, Duvall identified the problem, located the issue that came from the MH-60R helicopter that resulted in the prevention of a possible aircraft accident.

Assistant GEMD Officer Steve Harper at NAS Jax Air Operations said, “Thomas Duvall is an outstanding technician. He consistently performs great work for GEMD. Our job is to analyze and investigate any interference and communication problems.



Photos by MC2 Amanda Cabasos  
**Child and Youth Program Assistant Training and Curriculum Specialist Amanda Johnson at the Youth Activities Center (YAC) aboard NAS Jax on March 6.**

Duvall not only does that but also determines when our equipment isn't involved. He went outside of our guidelines to actively become involved in the investigation and troubleshooting of the MH-60R helicopter airframe. He not only determined this major problem of static frequency interferences at NAS Jax – but also around the country, as well as over the ocean and other areas where helicopters operate.”

“I never was expecting anything like this,” said Duvall. “I was just doing my job and protecting the warfighter from any potential accidents in order to ensure safe flights throughout the base. I love what I do. Every day is new and exciting and I look forward to coming to work,” concluded Duvall.

**Amanda Johnson** has developed and delivered training to all youth center staff that included steps and proce-



**ET3 Katherine Morrow receives training from Electronics Technician Thomas Duvall, both from NAS Jax Air Operations Ground Electronics Maintenance Division, on how to use the Digital Audio Legal Recorder at the station's Air Traffic Control Tower.**

dures to identify and accommodate children with special needs who are participating in the various CYP programs. Johnson is sensitive to all disabled and special-needs children who attend programs at the Youth Activity Center. She has a gift and a way of connecting with these children that makes a difference in their lives.

Johnson has the knowledge and ability to work with children from every side of the spectrum. Since September 2013, when she became the assistant training and curriculum specialist, she has created a number of programs for children, parents and staff. Some programs include a few “Muffins for Moms,” “Donuts

for Dads” and an open house for home-schooled children. More than 30 children and parents have attended the open house program and as a result, the groups now meet monthly.

According to CDC Director Mary Grenier, Johnson's contributions to the CYP have been outstanding.

“Amanda has worked at the Youth Activities Center for 11 years and contributed greatly to the program,” said Grenier. “She attended college while being a full-time employee and earned her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She has moved up in our system and I expect her to continue to excel throughout her career here. I'm very excited that she was selected COQ – she certainly

deserves it for everything she does for the children.”

Johnson said, “Working with special-needs children is something I deeply love. I love working with all children, but I have a desire to learn about our children with special needs to help them better adapt to our programs offered at the youth center.”

“We have children with autism and Down syndrome that come to the youth center who are especially important to me because I know they have a harder time adapting to life. I do my best to help these children get through the day. I try figuring out the best way to get them to interact with other children. I also try to find the best solution for parents to feel comfortable leaving their kids here. So I always communicate with them to assure them of their child's safety and inform them on what is going on throughout the day.”

According to Johnson, she was astounded when she discovered she was receiving an award. “It was exciting to be recognized. I didn't even know I was eligible for it. I was very honored. I've just been doing my job that I love to do every day. And for others around me to recognize what I do and think it's good is really heart warming. I couldn't have done it without the help from my counselors who work so well with the children here, as well as having great leadership to look up too.”



## Recruiters

**Capt. Christopher Heaney**, commander, Navy Recruiting Region East, joined **Cmdr. Brent Cower**, Navy Recruiting District Jacksonville, on Feb. 28 to celebrate the history and culture of African-American and Black Sailors during African-American/Black History Month.

(Right) **Capt. Christopher Heaney**, commander, Navy Recruiting Region East, visited Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Jacksonville Feb. 27-28. He was joined by Regional CMDCM **Donald Massey** as they met **EN1(SW) Edward Burgess** of the West Jacksonville recruiting station. In addition to Sailors and staff at headquarters, they visited recruiters from Navy Recruiting Stations Orange Park and East Jacksonville.



Photos by MC1 Brianna Dandridge

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# Here comes 'March Madness' – keep it legal

By Lt. Chris Reintjes,  
JAGC, USN  
NAS JAX SJA Office

One of the most sacred of all athletic competitions is nearly here. Yes, that's right, it's

time for the NCAA Basketball Tournament known as "March Madness!" While it provides weeks of great basketball – it can also lead to the violation of federal ethics rules against gambling.

The middle of March marks

an escalation of sports-mania for not only basketball enthusiasts, but also gambling enthusiasts. About \$12 billion will be wagered during the three weeks of the tournament. The FBI estimates that illegal March Madness tournament

wagers will be more than \$2.5 billion. This does not account for the estimated \$1 billion in wages paid to distracted workers who are more focused on their bracket picks than on completing a fair day's work. While betting a couple of bucks

is often seen as a fun, social activity, if done at work, it can run afoul of federal regulations prohibiting gambling in the federal workplace.

What constitutes "gam-

See **GAMBLING**, Page 16

## NMCRS

From Page 1

fund drive."

Lt. Fred Pacifico, a submariner assigned to the CPRW-11 Weapons School, is serving his second year as the NMCRS fund drive coordinator. "When we talk numbers for Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, our fundraising goal is at least \$2 per person, per month, for each active duty Sailor and Marine in your command."

He explained that last year (2013), the fund drive brought in just over \$309,000 – representing 130 percent of the goal.

"One of the reasons I wanted to come back and lead the campaign again was that the Southeast Region is so large and



Photo by Clark Pierce

**Lt. Fred Pacifico, a weapons school instructor at Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11, is serving his second year as the NMCRS fund drive coordinator. "I believe in NMCRS. It's a non-profit, Sailors-helping-Sailors organization. All we're asking for is \$2 per month from every Sailor and Marine in your command," he said.**

there's so much to learn. With hindsight, I'm eager to make the fund drive bigger as well as better."

Pacifico has a history of supporting NMCRS. He's

volunteered as a caseworker since 1999.

"I believe in the program and I want it to succeed. Most young enlistees survive from paycheck

to paycheck and are living on their own for the first time. When they need some emergency financial help to get home for events such as a funeral, their caseworker can cut them a check to cover expenses. When they return to base, their NMCRS caseworker works with them to create a budget that will pay back the interest-free loan," said Pacifico.

Each command on base is assigned a POC to ensure 100 percent contact is made during the drive. Armed with allotment forms, these key persons will visit with as many Sailors and Marines as possible to ensure everyone has an opportunity to donate to the NMCRS.

Founded in 1904, the

NMCRS is a private, non-profit, charitable organization. It is sponsored by the Department of the Navy and operates nearly 241 offices ashore and afloat at Navy and Marine Corps bases throughout the world.

During the 109 years the NMCRS has been operating, they have helped millions of people through loans and grants.

NMCRS also offers other forms of assistance such as providing layettes or "junior sea bags" to new family members, a visiting nurse program to help new mothers, elderly individuals and anyone who needs a little extra help, and thrift shops offering low-cost clothing and household items.

The 2014 fund drive runs through mid-May.

Numerous fundraising events such as golf tournaments, car washes, bake sales and special raffles are planned throughout the next several weeks.

Volunteers are always needed at the society in a variety of different functions. Whether, it's answering the phone, helping clients or teaching classes, the society welcomes volunteers.

Lt. Pacifico can be reached at 542-0730 or Alfred.a.pacifico@navy.mil.

For more info, see your command NMCRS fund drive POC, or contact the NAS Jax NMCRS Office at 542-3515 or [www.nmcrs-funddrive.org/jacksonville](http://www.nmcrs-funddrive.org/jacksonville).

## RAN 725

From Page 1

## AWARDS

From Page 1

Compliance Partnering Team has met quarterly for more than 11 years to continuously develop and maintain a working relationship that identifies and executes new solutions for the Navy to help improve compliance with environmental regulations, while ensuring the protection of public health and safety.

FDEP Assistant Director Jim Maher said, "FDEP enthusiastically celebrates our progressive and innovative partnership with the U.S. Navy facilities in Northeast Florida. The NAS Jax and NS Mayport installations'

commitment to environmental excellence and sustainability have yielded record compliance rates and resource conservation. Their leadership provides an example for assisting our progress with the St. Johns River and throughout the region."

The team includes representatives from NAS Jax, NS Mayport, Fleet Readiness Center Southeast, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast, the FDEP's Northeast District, the St. Johns River Water Management District and the City of Jacksonville.

NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander said, "It's a real honor to

receive this award, but this one is particularly special because we did not start this project with the intent of winning an award," he said proudly. "We started the project because it was the right thing to do. It was true recognition by the FDEP of our efforts to work with different agencies. It has truly been a successful relationship between our Navy and other agencies to cut down on a number of compliance issues."

He concluded, "It's a win-win situation because the Navy has accomplished its mission, as well as being a good steward of the environment – and a good neighbor to surrounding communities. Thank you."

Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Centre (AMARC), otherwise known as the 'Boneyard,' where it was selected from retired Bromeo airframes.

Select RAN personnel, the Bromeo, and five Romeos will return to Australia in late 2014 to form part of the MH-60R schoolhouse, currently under construction at HMAS Albatross.

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# Women making history at NAVAIR

By Valisa Harris  
NAVAIR Women's Advisory Group

During March, the Navy is celebrating Women's History Month with the theme of "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment."

Women have served in the Navy since 1811, when female nurses were first included among personnel in Navy hospitals, leading to the establishment of the Navy Nurse Corps in 1908. In 1917, the Navy authorized the enlistment of women. Designated as "Yeomen (F)", they unofficially became known as "Yeomenettes."

Today, approximately 18 percent of Sailors and officers across the Navy are women. Here at the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), almost one in four civilian employees is a woman.

Showing character, courage and commitment leads some to not only open doors for aspiring employees, they also help empower their protégés with the tools and confidence to take advantage of opportunities.

Leslie Taylor, director of Flight Test Engineering and one of the 10 female Senior Executive Service (SES) members at NAVAIR, reflected on the importance of mentorship.

"Early in my career, I met someone who made important contributions to my personal

development and provided me significant opportunities to advance," Taylor said. "She was, in fact, in the position I most wanted. This lady was Jessalyn 'Jessie' Swann, at that time the branch head of Air Launched Ballistics, SA84, for those who were around in the old days.

"Jessie was my branch head and noticed in me the attributes that she thought would serve well for such a position. Jessie was committed to the adage of 'training your replacement.' Much to my great fortune, she picked me as that person she would train," Taylor said.

Swann taught Taylor the budget side of the business and other aspects Taylor needed to learn for a branch head position.

"She took me under her wing and had more confidence in me than I had in myself," Taylor said. "Her mentorship and guidance started me on a leadership journey that has resulted in my becoming the director of Flight Test Engineering. To Jessie, I am eternally grateful."

Taylor serves as an executive champion for NAVAIR's Women's Advisory Group (WAG), a senior leadership group established in 2011 that guides, advises and supports NAVAIR's Executive Diversity Council in areas related to workforce diversity and inclusion.



Francine Juhlin, an aircraft electrical equipment worker, benefited from a relationship with her former supervisor and informal mentor, Sara Branch, whom she worked for in the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast Cable Shop in 2013. Juhlin, a member of the Women's Advisory Group, is now leading a rapid improvement event for the command to improve employee interview skills.

Mentoring also played a key role in the career of Francine Juhlin. She cited Sara Branch, the electrical cable shop supervisor at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast in Jacksonville, as helping her advancement.

"She did something that I hadn't seen before," Juhlin said. "Sara asked if she could help with my professional development. After our conversation, I became the unofficial work leader to acquire experience to put on my resume."

Don't let the name fool you: WAG serves men and women equally. In addition to Taylor, the group is championed by Rear Adm. Paul Sohl, com-



Photos by Marsha Childs

Sara Branch (left), an overhaul and repair supervisor at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE), discusses a brake system repair with Bryce Willen on a T-44 fixed-wing monoplane whose mission is to train Navy and Marine Corps pilots. Branch informally mentors employees who are looking to enhance their job performance and progress in their career.

## Women of Note

U.S. Army Gen. Ann Dunwoody became the first woman to achieve four-star rank in any service in 2008.

In December 2013, Vice Adm. Michelle Howard was nominated and confirmed to be the Navy's first female four-star admiral and vice chief of naval operations. She is expected to be promoted in early 2014.

Christine Fox has been named acting deputy defense secretary, while Deborah Lee James was confirmed as the new secretary of the Air Force.

Rear Adm. C.J. Jaynes, now the program executive officer for Air Anti-Submarine Warfare, Assault and Special Mission Programs, also known as PEO (A), became the first female flag officer at NAVAIR when she was promoted in 2012.

mander, Fleet Readiness Centers and assistant commander for Logistics and Industrial Operations, SES Jerry Short, NAVAIR comptroller and SES Toni Meier, director of the Logistics Management Integration Department. With national representation from all NAVAIR sites and disci-

plines, the WAG makes recommendations to NAVAIR senior leaders on topics such as family-friendly work policies, science, technology, engineering and math initiatives, and mentorship.

For more information about the WAG, contact Rebecca Hampshire at 301-995-7919.

**LT DAN BAND**  
DATE: **Friday, March 28**  
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PLACE: **Dewey's Parking Lot**

## Officer Select

AT2(AW/SW) Robert Gelbart (right) inspects maintenance work by AT2 Michael Reilly in the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast Communications/Navigation Work Center. Gelbart recently was accepted into the Navy's Officer Program for FY-2015.



Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

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# FRCSE civilian recognized for duty in Iraq

By Kaylee LaRocque  
Fleet Readiness Center  
Southeast Public Affairs

Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) Commanding Officer Capt. John Kemna presented Michael Kerridge, FRCSE logistics manager for air refueling stores and fuel containment/metrology programs, with the Joint Civilian Service Achievement Award and the Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award from the Secretary of Defense Feb. 27.

Kerridge earned the recognition for exceptional meritorious achievement as director of logistics, Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq, Umm Qsar, Iraq from April 20 to Dec. 31, 2012 and from May 1 to Dec. 15, 2013.

He provided logistics and base life support for more than 300 residents at the Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq by securing base access to ensure site logistics arrived unimpeded. As the contracting officer representative, Kerridge provided oversight for more than \$46 million in contracted services including resolving an issue regarding contaminated diesel fuel resulting in no losses



Photo courtesy of Michael Kerridge

In August 2012, Fleet Readiness Center Southeast Logistics Manager Michael Kerridge drives a quad runner around a military facility to check on supplies during his tour in with the Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq, Umm Qsar Iraq.

of critical base services. As U.S. military facilities downsized and closed in Iraq, Kerridge acted as property accountability officer and primary hand receipt holder working to reconcile the property book. This included the inventory of all contractor-managed, U.S. government-owned equipment transitioning to the Iraqi government totaling nearly \$21 million.

He also coordinated with the 402<sup>nd</sup> Army Field Support

Brigade and Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services to demilitarize 2,186 equipment items; procured 360,000 gallons of diesel fuel, 11,040 gallons of gasoline for site power generation and 24,365 liters of drinking water; and coordinated the transportation of cargo and military equipment to Kuwait.

Kerridge, who has 35 years of federal service and has worked at FRCSE since 2007, says his two-year tour in Iraq was challenging but very rewarding.



Photo by Victor Pitts

Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) Commanding Officer Capt. John Kemna, right, presents Michael Kerridge, FRCSE logistics manager for air refueling stores/fuel containment and metrology programs, with a Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award Feb. 27 for exceptionally meritorious achievement as director of logistics, Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq, Umm Qsar, Iraq from April 20 to Dec. 31, 2012.

"We worked 24/7, usually 18-hour days because there was always something to do," he said. "We lived in a minimum security prison, and we weren't allowed to go outside except by helicopter. So, we pretty much just worked and slept."

"It was a shock when I arrived there, but you had to get down and dirty in the job right

away," he added. "I was just put out there and told to do it. I wouldn't trade the experience for anything, because it really helped me grow as a person and gave me confidence in my abilities. I'm happy to say that our [U.S. military] transition back to the Iraqi government went very smoothly, so I'm pretty proud of all I accomplished."



Photo by Victor Pitts

## Like-new Angel

Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) artisans assemble before an F/A-18 Hornet Strike Fighter Feb. 28 flown by the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron Blue Angels. The FRCSE team completed an engine mount support fitting repair, planned maintenance and modifications to the aircraft just in time for the squadron's first airshow in El Centro, Calif., March 15. The Blue Angels are scheduled to perform at NAS Jacksonville Oct. 25-26.

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# FRCSE Mentor of the Year announced

By Kaylee LaRocque  
Fleet Readiness Center  
Southeast Public Affairs

Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) selects Dora Quinlan, the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) business operations director, as the 2013 NAVAIR Mentor of the Year for FRCSE, a military aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul depot.

NAVAIR selected a mentor from each of the eight Fleet Readiness Centers to receive the first-ever mentor of year recognition based on their professional development, organizational awareness, career planning guidance and NAVAIR mentoring program participation.

NAVAIR Deputy Commander Garry Newton expressed his appreciation for Quinlan's "personal commitment and far-reaching contributions to FRCSE's mentoring goals" in a letter of appreciation presented to her by FRCSE Commanding Officer John Kemna Feb. 25.

"We are fortunate to have



Photo by Marsha Childs

Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) Commanding Officer Capt. John Kemna congratulates Operations Director Dora Quinlan March 3 in front of the FRCSE marquee announcing Quinlan as the Naval Air Systems Command 2013 Mentor of the Year for FRCSE.

your dedication, energy and expertise to help us mentor our talented and diverse workforce," said Newton in the citation.

Quinlan's federal service career covers more than 36 years including leadership positions in various fields of financial management, human

capital development and industrial business operations.

Her mentorship of numerous employees involved in various organizational programs, such as NAVAIR Leadership Development program and Journey Leadership Development program, Women's Advisory

Group (WAG) and the FRCSE Workforce Engagement and Inclusion Team has demonstrated the value of mentoring in the workplace.

As the FRCSE business operations director, Quinlan is responsible for developing the command's strategic plan to increase capabilities and leverage business opportunities.

She also educates her protégés about NAVAIR and FRCSE's mission and their roles in delivering high quality products and value-added readiness to the warfighting customer.

Quinlan is an active participant in the iMentor program designed to provide the workforce the opportunity for personal growth, professional development and the transfer of knowledge and expertise through the mentoring relationships.

She has participated in speed mentoring events, iMentor tool testing, a WAG interviewing skills project, and has provided numerous job rotation and shadowing opportunities to

employees seeking job experiences outside their work centers.

"I am honored to receive this prestigious award," said Quinlan.

"I am thankful for the many mentors throughout my career who took the time to provide professional and personal guidance towards my career development. Mentorship continues to be a critical part of my job, and I view it as my personal responsibility to 'pay it forward.' I am so grateful for the mentors and mentees in my life. I have witnessed how mentoring relationships improve overall quality of life and mission effectiveness."

In her free time, Quinlan assists with the St. Vincent DePaul Society and participates in various church activities.

She also serves on the executive board of the Federal Managers Association, the oldest and largest management organization in the government lobbying for federal employees.

# CPRW-11 greens local elementary school grounds

By Lt. Eric Frank  
CPRW-11 Public Affairs

Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing-11 was back in the community again, on March 1 when Sailors from CPRW-11 came together to support John E. Ford Elementary School for their annual "Greening of the Grounds" event.

Each spring, our local Sailors and their families join with John E. Ford teachers, staff, students and parents to beautify their school grounds. Over 300 plants, including an assortment of flowers, shrubs and other vegetation were planted during the event.

This community outreach program allowed our Sailors to interact with our community and it also gives them the opportunity to teach young children about teamwork and leadership.

During the event, Sailors from Wing-11 helped maintain two courtyards consisting of 16 flower boxes, one butterfly garden and one bat cave built by our Sailors.



(From left) OS1 Jeffrey Williams (TOC Jax) and AWO1 Raymond Schwegman (MTOC-9) led the green team from CPRW-11.

Ford.

The school students and staff also extended a thank

The Wing's next planned event at the school is to build a greenhouse for students and teachers to enjoy learning about plant growth and anatomy. John E. Ford would like to extend a special "Thank you" to Lowe's for providing the building materials and plants this year.

Thanks also go out to all CPRW-11 Sailors who took time to lend a helping hand in the community - as well as to the command's volunteer coordinator OS1 Jeffrey Williams for his coordination efforts with John E.



Photos by OS3 Aja Hickman

One of the flower boxes planted by volunteers from CPRW-11 at John E. Ford Elementary School in Jacksonville.

you to CPRW-11 Sailors for their support over the past year, including the Back to School Book Drive that donated over 150 books to the John E. Ford Library and the CPRW-11 Holiday Basket Drive that provided Thanksgiving dinner to six families from the school.

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Monthly Handicap Single Tournament: Jan. 18, 1-4 p.m. \$20 per person  
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ITT current ticket promotions include the following:  
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St. Augustine  
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Golf course info: 542-3249  
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Begins March 25  
Team rosters are due on March 18  
Spring Breakout Championship  
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\$40 per person

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Photos by Katharine Martin

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast military members and civilians celebrated National Engineers Week by volunteering with the Florida Engineering Society (FES) MATHCOUNTS competition at the University of North Florida Arena in Jacksonville. NAVFAC Southeast Executive Officer Capt. Scott Hurst (left) and NAVFAC Southeast Supervisor of Utilities Allocation and Billing Kirk Drost (right) grade students answers to competition questions.



Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay Public Works Department FEAD Director Lt. Cmdr. Aaron Turke watches over students as they answer questions at the Florida Engineering Society (FES) MATHCOUNTS competition on Feb. 28 at the University of North Florida Arena in Jacksonville. Students engaged in exciting, "bee-style" contests in which they competed against other bright, motivated students.

The team of volunteers, including several Seabees, provided initial crowd control and guidance, and served as proctors and graders for the written portions of the tests.

"Jacksonville has one of the largest MATHCOUNTS competitions in the country and we have a great group of engineers, civilian and military alike, who volunteer their time to make the event happen," said Hurst. "It is extremely important to support these middle schoolers and let them know what they are doing is important and will lead them to a successful future."

Events are held in all 50 states, as well as U.S. territories and schools worldwide through the U.S. Department of Defense and State Department. Competitions take place in more than 500 local chapters.

The competition series is ideal for students who have a talent and passion for math and who need to be challenged. Students engage in exciting, "bee-style" contests in which they compete against and alongside other bright, motivated students. At the local, state and national

**RecruitMilitary Veteran Job Fair Jacksonville "Connecting with veteran-friendly employers"**

**WHAT:** Special hiring event for veterans and military spouses  
**WHEN:** Thursday, March 27, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**WHERE:** EverBank Field Downtown (Home of the NFL Jaguars)

**CONTACT:** Jill Krabacher at 513-677-7035 / [jkrabacher@recruitmilitary.com](mailto:jkrabacher@recruitmilitary.com)

This is a great opportunity to meet face-to-face with veteran-friendly employers including USAA, Walgreens, Prudential Financial, Military Sealift Command, Schlumberger, Home Depot and many more. There will be national, regional and local job opportunities, as well as entrepreneurial and educational offerings. This event is sponsored by DeVry University and produced by RecruitMilitary.

**NAVFAC Southeast helps shape the future through MATHCOUNTS**

By Earl Bittner  
NAVFAC Southeast Public Affairs Specialist

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast military members and employees celebrated National Engineers Week by volunteering with the Florida Engineering Society (FES) MATHCOUNTS competition held Feb. 28 at the University of North Florida (UNF) Arena in Jacksonville, Fla.

"I believe our nation's future is predicated upon our ability to meet science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education requirements today," said NAVFAC Southeast Executive Officer Capt. Scott Hurst. "This is one way all those who participated from NAVFAC help shape that future."

The MATHCOUNTS Competition is the only program of its kind, with live, in-person events for middle school students competing in math. The event was open to 'Mathletes' in a five-county area around Jacksonville. This year, 48 schools entered teams of up to 10 students each.

"We [NAVFAC volunteers] welcomed the teams and chatted with them about the opportunities of an engineering education and encouraged them to continue to hone their math skills," said Katharine Martin, NAVFAC Southeast utilities technical branch supervisor and one of the 25 NAVFAC Southeast volunteers.

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Lena Atkinson

# NOL celebrates 55 years

## Little League is big at NAS Jax

By MC2 Amanda Cabasos  
NAS Jax Public Affairs

The Navy Ortega Lakeshore (NOL) Little League opened its 2014 baseball/softball season March 8 at Blue Angel Field located aboard NAS Jacksonville.

NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersander said, "Baseball and softball are part of America's national pastime - and at this level of Little League I think it's great the kids all get into it. What is important about the sport is that it builds community by bringing parents, coaches and children together. They all work together to have a great experience and participate in something that has been around since the turn of the century."

NOL President Fred Page was the master of ceremonies and opened the season by thanking the Navy band, military service members, civilians, coaches and volunteers that made NOL successful at



NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Roy Undersanders opens the 2014 Navy Ortega Lakeshore Little League season on March 8 with a perfect fast ball to catcher Reedy Monahan.

NAS Jax.

Page said, "NOL has been at NAS Jax for 55 years, and during that time, the Navy has hosted thousands of young men and women. It's a real important part of many families' lives that have grown up here."

The 2014 Little League season is fielding more than 30 teams with kids ranging from 4 to 16 years old.

"I played on NOL from when I was 8 years old until I was 15. It was special to me when my son became old enough to play out here. I've coached for 10 years now. Since my son has graduated from



Photos by MC2 Amanda Cabasos

The annual Shotty Drew Sportsmanship Award, voted by the league's coaches, went to Kelly Tyre and Adam Smith.

Little League, I stepped up and took on the role of president."

Undersander said, "In this day and age of Xbox, it's all the more important why we need to get kids doing real sports by keeping them active, staying healthy and developing strong bodies - that is a big part of what NOL brings to community. Keeping these kids engaged with a healthy friendly sport that develops them into young adults is important."

The skipper then took to the mound and fired a strike to catcher Reedy Monahan.

"I spent a lot of time at baseball fields with my kids and going through games and ceremonies and I would have to say this is the best organized event I've ever seen," said Undersander.

Page urged the crowd to join him in applauding the support of Undersander and MWR Installation Program Director John Bushick.

Page expressed his gratitude once again by thanking the coaches, umpires, dugout moms, concession workers, cleaning crew volunteers and the Navy.

"The Navy is our host and there's a ton of work that goes on by the Department of Defense and civilian employees, as well as military personnel. They maintain the fields, provide security, and clear people to get on base. It's a strenuous collaboration and we all surely feel blessed to have these fields available to us. We thank the Navy for hosting us and we appreciate them for all the work they do."

# New disaster relief warehouse built for Freeport, Grand Bahamas

By Earl Bittner  
NAVFAC Southeast  
Public Affairs Specialist

A "Donation Ceremony" was held Feb. 13 for the turnover of a newly constructed and outfitted disaster relief warehouse (DRW) in Freeport, Grand Bahamas.

Participants included the Right Honorable Perry Christie, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, and General Charles Jacoby Jr., Commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), with attendees including NAVFAC Southeast's Tim Ryczek from NAS Jacksonville Public Works Department (PWD).

Christie offered his sincere thanks and gratitude to the United States government and noted that the donation goes a long way in helping the Bahamas' emergency relief efforts and ensures that the Bahamas is better equipped to proactively address preventative measures for disaster mitigation.

"The United States and the



Photos by Tim Ryczek

General Charles Jacoby Jr., Commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) (center) delivers remarks during the Feb. 13 celebration of the new disaster relief warehouse located in Hawksbill, Grand Bahamas. It was built as part of USNORTHCOM Humanitarian Assistance Program.

Bahamas have a long history of friendship with each other. Throughout that history, our governments have partnered on many efforts together and the U.S. has always been kind to us," said Christie. "I firmly believe that this warehouse will be most beneficial to the people of Grand Bahama and the islands that are situated in the Northern Bahamas. We are happy that the warehouse project has been successfully completed. I sincerely promise that my government

will do its best to use it to its fullest."

"This warehouse is an example of our shared safety and security concerns and illustrates how fundamentally important citizen safety is to our two nations," said Jacoby during his first official visit to Grand Bahama. "It is a true honor for us to play a part in supporting you in a most sacred endeavor - to never be late in helping your citizens when disaster strikes."

The \$895,489 contract was



The new disaster relief warehouse (DRW) is located in Hawksbill, Grand Bahamas. The 4,800-sq.-ft. DRW is equipped with an office/meeting space and secure storage to support the U.S. Northern Command's Humanitarian Assistance Program.

designed and constructed under a NAVFAC Southeast contract awarded Sept. 12, 2012.

"I was very fortunate to be involved in this ceremony and felt extremely proud to have been a part of this project," said Tim Ryczek, PWD engineering technician for the project. "Sometimes it is difficult to envision the impact of these Contingency Engineering projects during project development and execution. It is even more difficult to get a sense of the appreciation felt by the recipients of these humanitarian assistance projects."

"This event was certainly indicative of the appreciation of the Bahamian people and their government. The poten-

tial impact this project will have in serving the northern Bahamian people with a level of disaster preparedness is huge and will provide them a level of preparedness they have never had in their history," said Ryczek.

The DRW is 4,800 square feet and is equipped with an office/meeting space, a secure storage space of 180 square feet, restrooms, warehouse pilot storage, 40-pallet racks, a 20-kilowatt gas generator and auto transfer switch, plus, a 1,000 gallon rainwater storage tank.

"During my stay in Freeport I got a sense that the community felt a little safer knowing that the DRW was there to serve them in time of disaster," said Ryczek.

# Maritime Patrol Association opens registration for 2014 symposium

From MPA Public Affairs

The Maritime Patrol Association (MPA) has launched its online registration for the 2014 MPA Symposium this week in preparation for two full days of events that will celebrate this year's theme of "Transition: On Station."

The 2014 MPA Symposium will take place April 10-11, aboard NAS Jacksonville. Symposium attendees can register for a host of events, including the Scholarship Golf Tournament and 5K Run, Flight Suit Social, aircraft tours, and historical community presentations, as well as the annual Heritage Dinner.

The guest speaker for the Heritage Dinner will be Adm. William Gortney, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command. The program will highlight the recent accomplishments of the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF) as the community transitions to the new P-8A Poseidon and MQ-4C Triton aircraft.

Additionally, two new MPRF Hall of Honor mem-

bers will be inducted at the Heritage Dinner. Guests, dressed in flight suits from the present and years past, will recognize the distinguished accomplishments of retired Rear Adm. Paul Mulloy and retired Cmdr. David Weisbrod, both of whom were selected from a group of outstanding and honorable individuals who have served the MPRF community.

"The 'transition' theme of this year's symposium captures how dynamic this time is for the MPRF community," said Capt. Sean Liedman, president of MPA. "Our challenge is sustain our current level of operational commitments around the globe, while simultaneously transitioning between platforms and home base sites. We look forward to celebrating both our storied heritage and bright future with all of our symposium attendees in April."

Interested parties can receive more information about the 2014 MPA Symposium, as well as register online, by going to: [www.maritimepatrolassociation.org/symposium](http://www.maritimepatrolassociation.org/symposium)

A 501(c)(3) Florida non-profit corporation estab-

lished in 2011 and headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla., the Maritime Patrol Association plans on being

See MPA, Page 16




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# Naval Hospital Jacksonville recognizes Social Work Month



Photo by Jacob Sippel  
**Angela Hill, a social worker discharge planner at Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville, discusses patient needs with a physician. NH Jacksonville, along with the National Association of Social Workers, recognizes March as Social Worker Month – themed “All People Matter.”**

**By Yan Kennon**  
 Naval Hospital Jacksonville  
 Public Affairs Senior Writer

Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville recognizes March as Social Work Month, themed “All People Matter.”

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) selected this year’s theme to help raise awareness about the American social work profession’s 116 years of commitment to improving conditions and quality of life opportunities for everyone.

“The roll as a social worker can be very challenging in a hospital setting,” says Angela Hill, a 24-year social work fam-

ily advocacy representative and NH Jacksonville’s hospital discharge planner.

“As discharge planner, it is my responsibility to procure and arrange delivery of specialized services such as terminal care hospice, nursing home placement or specialized medical equipment for patients in need.”

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, five of every 10 social workers are employed in the health care and social sectors.

Social workers are also employed at schools and government offices, performing a variety of work—from client advocates and educator of

new skills, to counseling and connecting clients to essential resources within the community.

The social work profession was established in the 19th century to provide the skills and tools for immigrants and other susceptible people to escape economic and social poverty.

NH Jacksonville’s team of licensed clinical social workers at its hospital and Branch Health Clinics Key West and Mayport makes a positive difference in the quality of life for patients, and the families that support them through life challenges.

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 62,000 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](http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/NavalHospitalJax).



Photo by Jacob Sippel

## Medical Corps birthday

Lt. Dian Daher, a Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville Family Medicine intern, and Capt. Larry Garsha, director for mental health, represent the youngest and oldest NH Jacksonville Medical Corps officers during a cake-cutting celebration on March 7, commemorating the 143rd birthday of the Navy Medical Corps. The Medical Corps was established March 3, 1871, when the 41st Congress enacted the Appropriations Act establishing the Medical Corps as a separate entity and as a Staff Corps. Its mission is to provide medical care to U.S. Navy and Marine Corps personnel, their beneficiaries, and others entrusted to their care.

## Rafting up on the St. Johns River

Navy Jax Yacht Club (NJYC) members and guests departed Mulberry Cove Marina on March 2 to celebrate Mardi Gras and the beginning of the NJYC boating season. The NJYC meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the River Cove Catering & Conference Center. Membership is open to active duty and retired military, DoD employees, and their families. The club’s annual WAVES Regatta is March 22 on the St. Johns River with a race start time of 1 p.m. For more NJYC info, call 778-0805.



Photo courtesy NJYC

**The Greater Jacksonville Florida Area USO Presents**  
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Special Presentation:  
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 Captain JoEllen Drag Ostlund (ret): The First Female Military Helicopter Pilot

### Sand Volleyball League forming

Open to active duty, selective reservists, DoD civilians and DoD contractors assigned to a command aboard NAS Jacksonville. 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.

## NAS Jax Captain’s Cup Sports

### 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. 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 work in a command at NAS Jacksonville. Games play in the evenings. Contact the gym at 542-2930 for rules and required paperwork. 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. 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](mailto:bill.bonser@navy.mil).

Teams	Wins	Losses
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-10	5	1
VP-30	5	2
NAVHOSP	4	2
VP-26	4	4
VP-5	3	1
FRCSE	3	3
NAVFAC	3	4
FLCJ	2	5
NCTS	0	7

### Intramural Basketball

Team	Wins	Losses
FRCSE 600	7	2
FRCSE 700	7	2
CPRW-11 Griffins	4	2
NAVHOSP	5	3
VP-30 E’s	6	4
NAS Jax	4	3
VP-45	4	3
NAVHOSP Galley	4	4
VR-58	4	4

NCTS	4	5
VP-26	3	5
VP-10	3	5
FACSFAC	1	6
TPU/PCF	1	7

### Badminton Doubles

Team	Wins	Losses
NAVHOSP MSU	4	0
NAVFAC Blue	3	0
NBHC Jax	3	0
MWR Dynamic Duo	2	1
NAVFAC Red	2	1
CV-TSC Ashore	1	2
FACSFAC-2	1	2
NAVFAC Green	1	2
FACSFAC-1	1	3
MWR Liberty	0	3
NAVFAC Gold	0	3
NAVFAC Orange	0	3

### 4-on-4 Flag Football

Team	Wins	Losses
Vet Clinic	6	0
VP-26	5	1
VR-58	5	1
NOSC	5	1
VR-62	4	2
ASD Jax	3	3
HSM-72	2	3
FACSFAC	1	3
CRS-10	1	4
NavHosp IMC	1	5
VP-62	0	5
FRCSE 62A/690	0	6

## Standings

As of Feb. 21

Teams	Wins	Losses
CNATTU Blue	3	0
NCTS	3	0

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# DoD official: Quadrennial Review focus is protecting homeland

By Nick Simeone  
American Forces Press Service

Two countries that have long concerned the United States in terms of national security – North Korea and Iran – are mentioned first in the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review, a document that a senior Defense Department official told reporters March 7 has a renewed emphasis on protecting the homeland.

The congressionally mandated review of national defense strategy establishes priorities for defense spending, assets and a rebalancing of the military in anticipation of the

security challenges the nation is likely to face in the coming years, all in light of an increasingly tight fiscal situation.

In explaining the objectives to foreign journalists this week, Christine Wormuth, deputy undersecretary of defense for strategy, plans and force development, said the United States remains concerned about North Korea in particular, which she called a “major challenge” for the United States in the Asia-Pacific region.

“The regime remains very insular and closed, and has engaged in a series of provocations,” Wormuth said, adding that the United States is work-

ing closely with South Korea to ensure stability on the Korean Peninsula.

“I think we’ve developed, together with [South Korea], a counter-provocation plan that’s designed to help us coordinate and respond to potential future provocations more effectively than ever before,” she said.

North Korea tested a long-range missile recently in what was described as a reaction to annual U.S. and South Korean military exercises.

“I think we feel confident that with the force that we have going forward and the strategy that we have, that we will be able to meet our respon-

sibilities with [South Korea] to address threats that we might see from North Korea,” Wormuth told reporters a day after the missile test.

Wormuth called the U.S. military’s rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region announced two years ago an important part of the U.S. strategy and said U.S. officials are paying close attention to China’s military modernization.

“We would like to see more transparency in terms of Chinese intentions behind the various elements of its modernization,” she said.

China this week announced plans to increase defense

spending by more than 12 percent.

The Quadrennial Defense Review also says the United States must stay ahead of the ballistic missile threat posed by Iran.

To that end, Wormuth said, the strategy highlights the importance of investing in national missile defense in light of Iran’s growing capabilities, and added that the strategy anticipates a lot of continued instability in the Middle East in general, especially involving ongoing Sunni-Shia tensions and the consequences of revolutions rooted in the Arab Spring.

## JU partners with Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation scholarship program

By Phillip Milano  
JU Director of News and Publications

Jacksonville University (JU) became the first higher education institution in the U.S. on Feb. 28 to partner with the Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation in awarding scholarships to students whose veteran parents died in the line of duty.

In a signing ceremony attended by military dignitaries, members of the community, JU students, faculty and staff, JU and officials with the nonprofit formalized the agreement and welcomed other universities to join the program as well.

“Today we honor those children of the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for this country,” JU President Tim Cost said. “This ceremony represents another paver in the path as JU has fast become one of the most military friendly campuses in America.”

As part of the agreement, JU will provide a 40 percent undergraduate tuition reduction per academic year for children of deceased veterans who meet JU’s admissions requirements. Prospective students will be expected to demonstrate a minimum incoming grade point average (GPA) of 3.3, and each student will be expected to maintain a semester GPA of 3.0 or better.

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation Executive Director John Coogan said the foundation, created in 2002 and now based in Jacksonville Beach, has awarded more than \$6.5 million in scholarships to more than 400 surviving children. The nonprofit has already identified 5,000 of the estimated 15,000 children who have lost a parent in the line of duty over the last 25 years.

“Given rising educational costs and uncertain economic times, our partnership with Jacksonville University is an extremely important one, as their scholarships will help to reduce our cost per student while allowing us to extend our fundraising dollars across more children,” Coogan said. “More importantly, it provides our children with an unbelievable opportunity to attend a world-class university that has set the standard in its commitment to our veterans and their families.”

Cost listed a number of developments showing that JU, whose student veterans make up more than 10 percent of its enrollment of more than 4,000, has worked to make the campus as military friendly as possible.

Among them:



Photos by Donald dela Torre

**In the most moving portion of the Feb. 28 ceremony, Kenzi Merck, the Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation Program administrator who lost her father in the line of duty in Iraq in 2005, received a standing ovation after describing how receiving one of the foundation’s scholarships shaped her future.**

- It is a 100 percent Yellow Ribbon match institution, with more than \$5 million in VA benefits paid to JU student veterans in the 2012-13 academic year alone, and \$700,000 in Yellow Ribbon match funding awarded by JU.

- JU’s College of Health Sciences recently became one of only nine nationwide awarded funding – \$870,000 – to implement a program that will offer support veterans excel as they pursue their Bachelors of Science in Nursing.

- JU will dedicate a new 1,000-square-foot Student Veterans Center – “The Defenders’ Den” – in its Founders Building March 25, creating a dedicated space for student veterans to gather, study and connect.

Kenzi Merck, Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation Program Administrator who lost her father in the line of duty in Iraq in 2005, received a standing ovation after describing how receiving one of the foundation’s scholarships shaped her future.

“Dad left behind three kids and a wife, so there was a financial burden on the family,” she said. “When we got the call from the Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation, it was the first time since he died that we cried tears of joy. Now I work for the foundation, and carry out my dad’s legacy. I thank JU for offering such an amazing opportunity to students who are going through what I went through. I am very proud to know that I made my dad proud, and I know these students will, too, when they come to Jacksonville University.”

For more about the Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation, visit [www.fallenpatriots.org](http://www.fallenpatriots.org).

## Community Calendar

**Spring Gardening Tips March 13, 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 [epanok@coj.net](mailto:epanok@coj.net) to pre-register.

**Greater Jacksonville Area USO Women’s History Festival March 28**, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Navy Federal Credit Union, across the street from the main gate of NAS Jacksonville. Meet retired Capt. JoEllen Drag Oslund, the first female military helicopter pilot.

**Diocese of St. Augustine Eucharistic Congress March 28-29**, at the Prime F. Osborn Convention Center, Jacksonville. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, is the keynote speaker and main celebrant.

**Jacksonville Jazz Festival** May 22-25 at many locations downtown. Go to [JaxJazzFest.com](http://JaxJazzFest.com).

**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](http://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. 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](mailto:paul.nix@navy.mil).

**Association of Aviation Ordnancemen** meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Fleet Reserve Center on Collins Road. For information, visit [www.aao9.com](http://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](mailto:commodore@njyc.org).

**COMPASS Spouse-to-Spouse Military Mentoring Program.** Helping others help themselves. Visit [www.gocompass.org](http://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.



**Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation Executive Director John Coogan (left) and JU President Tim Cost sign the agreement making JU the first school partner in the U.S. in a program with the nonprofit to award scholarships to JU for students of deceased veterans.**

## GAMBLING

From Page 8

bling?” Gambling is defined as any game of chance where the participant risks something of value for the chance to gain or win a prize. Common sports-related examples include football pools, fantasy football leagues and March Madness basketball pools.

If you provide consideration (i.e. something of monetary value, no matter how small) for the opportunity to participate in a game of chance where, if it works out in your favor, you would receive something of value in return – then you are gambling. Gambling includes wagers, raffles (with the exception of Navy-approved fundraising activities, such as Navy Marine Corps Relief Society raffles), lotteries, and other games of chance.

Federal regulations prohibit all persons from participating in such games for money, operating gambling devices, conducting lotteries, and selling or purchasing number tickets in federal work spaces or during official duty time. Gambling with subordinates may also violate UCMJ, Article 133 (conduct unbecoming) and Article 134 (fraternization and/or gambling with subordinates).

Bottom line: March Madness pools constitute gambling. While gambling on NCAA tournament pools may be fun for some, it is prohibited in the Navy workplace.

For advice on all your command and organizational fundraising activities, please contact your local Staff Judge Advocate for advice at 542-2960.

## MATHCOUNTS

From Page 13

level, students win hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships and prizes every year.

Martin believes continued support from role models, mentors and MATHCOUNTS competitions help increase the interest in mathematics for young scholars.

“I became interested in engineering societies early in my career,” said Martin. “I was encouraged to explore the field and I became an engineer. I hope I can help these young scholars choose a career in engineering.”



Photo by Clark Pierce

**Ground crews position a P-8A Poseidon next to a P-3C Orion on the apron outside Hangar 511 at NAS Jacksonville. The P-3/P-8 transition will be the subject of much conversation at the 2014 MPA Symposium that will take place April 10-11, aboard the station.**

## MPA

From Page 14

a premier professional organization representing the U.S. Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance community by promoting the use of the patrol and reconnaissance aircraft in the United States Navy. For more information, contact September Wilkerson, Executive Director, at (904) 563-4036 or [info@maritimepatrolassociation.org](mailto:info@maritimepatrolassociation.org); or check out the MPA website at [www.maritimepatrolassociation.org](http://www.maritimepatrolassociation.org).

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# Coastal Riverine Force admits women to combat billets

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

The Department of the Navy announced March 7 that women may now be assigned to previously closed positions in the Coastal Riverine Force, continuing in the Department of Defense's rescission of the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule.

The 30-day Congressional notification requirement ended March 6, which now opens 267 Navy positions in the Coastal Riverine Force (CRF) for the assignment of women. The 267 Navy positions in the CRF small craft include both female officers and enlisted.

"Our continuing effort to maximize all professional opportunities for women in the Navy and Marine Corps takes another step with the opening of the Coastal Riverine Force to



MCSN Heather M. Paape  
**Chief Engineman Patricia Cooper, a student in the Riverine Combat Skills course (RCS), patrols the training grounds during a field training exercise in Camp Lejeune, N.C.**

female officers and Sailors," said Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. "We consistently strive to ensure all Sailors and Marines, regardless of gender,

have a path toward a successful military career. This not only makes us better warfighters, but it ensures our Navy and Marine Corps remains the finest expeditionary fighting force in the world."

With the opening of these billets to females, the only remaining community that is still closed to women is Special Warfare - an issue Special Operations Command (SOCOM) and the Navy continue work on together.

Thirteen women have been identified as the first candidates for the newly opened positions. Since last fall, nine enlisted women have been administratively assigned to Coastal Riverine Squadron (CRS) 2, Delta Company, 1st Platoon, located in Portsmouth, Va.

The administrative assignment was done to assist with management of the train-

ing cycle, in anticipation of Secretary of Defense and Congressional approval to open previously excluded billets to women. CRS-2 will be the first unit in the CRF to assign women to boats capable of the Riverine mission.

The nine women in CRS-2 have completed the required training, have been screened for the billets, and all nine have been awarded their Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC). The end of the congressional notification period clears the way for these women to deploy with their squadron and potentially be assigned as crewmembers on boats.

There are two other active component squadrons with the same mission: Coastal Riverine Squadron Four in Virginia Beach, Va., and Coastal Riverine Squadron Three, in San Diego.

With the complex and

intense training required of Coastal Riverine Sailors, and in preparation for the lifting of the women in combat exclusion, both Squadrons are implementing plans to incorporate women into squadrons capable of the Riverine mission as soon as feasible.

CRS-2 is scheduled to deploy this summer and is currently in pre-deployment training.

CRS-4 recently returned from deployment and CRS-3, Delta Company, recently deployed.

CRF operates in harbors, rivers, bays, across the littorals and ashore. The primary mission of CRF is to conduct maritime security operations across all phases of military operations by defending high value assets, critical maritime infrastructure, ports and harbors both inland and on coastal waterways against enemies, and when commanded conduct offensive combat operations.

# VCNO announces further flag officer adjustments

By Defense Media Activity - Navy

The Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Mark Ferguson, announced the next phase of Flag officer billet adjustments March 7, projected to bring the Navy into compliance with Office of the Secretary of Defense guidance.

The adjustments are in addition to the reduction of 35 Navy flag officer positions announced in August 2013.

The phased reduction, elimination, or consolidation of flag officer billets is scheduled to be complete by March 2016 and will occur as the officers effect permanent change of station moves or retire.

This plan will allow for 151 flag officers to fill Navy-specific billets and 64 Navy flag officers to fill existing requirements for joint billets.

"The overall Flag billet plan balances these adjustments across officer communities, including Line, Restricted Line and Staff Corps. It also enables the Navy to provide more stability and predictability in the flag officer pro-

motion process while meeting statutory requirements," Adm. Ferguson explained.

Specific billets affected by this plan include:

### Eliminations

- Deputy Chief of the Navy Reserve. The current billet is filled by an active duty Rear Adm. (lower half).
- Director of Intelligence Operations (N2/N6I). The current billet is filled by an active duty Rear Adm. (lower half).
- Director, Maritime Headquarters, U.S. Fleet Forces Command. The current billet is filled by an active duty Rear Adm. (lower half).

### Shift from Active Duty to Reserves

- Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet will transition from an active duty Rear Adm. (upper half) to a recalled reservist of the same rank.
- Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command for Global Logistics Support will transition from an active duty Rear Adm. (lower half) to a recalled reservist of the same rank.

### Increase in Seniority

- Commander, Navy Cyber Command will increase in seniority from a Rear Adm. (lower half) to a Rear Adm. (upper half). The command will also become Information Dominance Forces Command, the Echelon II type commander for the Information Dominance Corps. This increase in seniority allows for better management of senior officers in the Information Dominance career field.
- Program Executive Officer for Air Anti-Submarine Warfare, Assault and Special Mission Programs (PEO-A) will increase in seniority from a Rear Adm. (lower half) to a Rear Adm. (upper half). This increase in seniority is commensurate with the scope of responsibility for the billet and helps balance the acquisition corps billet structure.

### Billet shift

- Commander, Navy Air and Missile Defense Command, a Rear Adm. (lower half), will shift to a new command, the Navy Surface Warfare Development Command and remain at the same

rank.

### Merger and Elimination

- Oceanographer of the Navy; Navigator of the Navy; and Director, Space and Maritime Domain Awareness (OPNAV N2/N6E), previously commanded by a Rear Adm. (upper half), will merge with Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command. The new billet will be filled by a U.S. Navy Rear Adm. (lower half). The billet will be located at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi.

"Our goal remains to operate more efficiently and effectively while strengthening our warfighting capabilities. Shifting two billets to the Reserve Force recognizes their significant contribution to combat operations, their operational expertise, and their integrated service with the active duty component," Adm. Ferguson said. "As warfare requirements evolve, we will continue to assess our flag officer billet structure while seeking opportunities to further integrate our Reserve and Active Duty components."

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'11 BMW 335i Coupe

Sport Package, Loaded

#P2002 #E262511.....**\$35,987**

'11 BMW 535i Sedan

Loaded with Prem. & Sport Pkg., Only 30k Miles

#P1981 #C605376.....**\$41,987**

'11 BMW 328i Sedan

Premium & Sport Package, Black over Saddle

#1639B #E850254.....**\$23,987**

'11 BMW 528i Sedan

Premium Package, Navigation, Black over Cinnamon

#4707A #DS35968.....**\$36,987**

'11 BMW 740Li Sedan

Prem. Pkg., Loaded, Deep Sea Blue over Natural Brown

#P2010 #C575042.....**\$52,987**

'12 BMW 328Ci Convertible

Premium Package, White over Saddle

#P2003 #E823365.....**\$41,987**

'11 BMW 535i Sedan

Loaded with M Sport Package

#5264C #C800472.....**\$41,987**

'11 BMW 750Li Sedan

Loaded with Luxury

#P2019 #CY64539.....**\$59,987**



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