Poseidon era begins at NAS Jacksonville

The first Boeing P-8A Poseidon multimission aircraft assigned to the VP-30 “Pro’s Nest” arrived at NAS Jacksonville from Seattle, Wash., March 5, as the sun was setting. The P-8A Poseidon represents a new dawn of mission capability in the maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft community. A roll-out ceremony will take place March 28 at 9 a.m. at the VP-30 Hangar on Yorktown Avenue.

NAS Jax to participate in Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield

Exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield 2012 (SC-CS12) will be conducted at NAS Jacksonville, along with other naval bases and installations throughout the continental United States, March 19-24. This is an annual exercise and not a response to any specific threat. The exercise is intended to enhance the training and readiness of Navy security forces. It establishes a learning environment for players to exercise functional plans and operational capabilities.

SC-CS12 was developed to evaluate ATFP command and control in the USNORTHCOM area of responsibility in response to terrorist activity indications and warnings, or actual events. Measures have been taken to minimize disruptions to normal station operations, but there may be times when the exercise causes traffic congestion around NAS Jax, especially near the gates along Roosevelt Blvd./U.S. 17. The exercise may also cause delays in base access. Local area residents may also see increased security activity associated with the exercise.

NAS Jacksonville master at arms and his military working dog patrol an area near Mulberry Cove during a previous “Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield” exercise.

Sailors pound the ground

More than 200 NAS Jacksonville military and civilian personnel, along with family members, participated in the 35th Gate River Run USA 15K Championship on Saturday. The race is the largest 15K in the nation and considered one of the world’s greatest running events. One of the Navy runners was NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Sanders. “We’re pleased to participate in this well-organized annual event. The camaraderie among our Sailors and other runners is outstanding,” said Sanders.

Voting Assist

Your Freedom, Your Vote

Page 3
In March 1972, a non-nuclear navy aircraft, the F2C-2 “Tomcat” took off from NAS South Weymouth, Mass., and landed 10 days later at NAS Key West, Fla. Flown by Capt. Bob Sanders, it flew the longest mission on record without refueling. The flight crossed the Atlantic, flew over the western shores of Europe, and then turned south to fly over the Mediterranean Sea. This historic mission established the Navy’s capability to conduct long-range, precision-guided strike missions in support of operations in Europe.

As Ford grew older, playing catch with Dustin became a daily event. Ford’s glove was too large for him to handle, so he always had two hands on the ball, one hand holding the glove and the other ball. As he grew, so did his catch, and so did his love for the game. Ford loved the feel of the ball in his glove, and he enjoyed the challenge of catching the ball. He loved the game, and he loved the thrill of success. He loved the feeling of accomplishment that came with catching a ball.

Ford’s love for the game was not just limited to catching balls. He also loved the excitement of the game, the thrill of competition, and the satisfaction of a job well done. He loved the way the game could bring people together, and he loved the way it could bring people apart. He loved the way the game could make him feel, and he loved the way it could make others feel. Ford loved the game, and he loved the way it could make him feel.

Ford’s love for the game continued as he grew older, and it continued to grow as he got better. He loved the game, and he loved the way it could bring people together, and he loved the way it could bring people apart. He loved the way the game could make him feel, and he loved the way it could make others feel. Ford loved the game, and he loved the way it could make him feel.

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The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) held a workshop March 8 for Department of Defense Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) at the NAS Jax All Saints Chapel.

Before NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Sanders introduced Ken Warford, acting deputy director of FVAP, he told the audience about the importance of accessing non-partisan assistance through www.fvap.gov so eligible voters are ready to cast their ballot at election time.

"Remember that one vote does matter—and that every military member’s vote will be counted. Voting is important to me because, with our form of government, we have the ability to choose our leaders. That’s why today’s workshop is of utmost importance," said Sanders.

The training by Warford covered VAO responsibilities, described the absentee voting process, and discussed the resources available to conduct a successful voting assistance program.

Command VAOs also learned how to complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB).

Warford pointed out that FVAP also offers online training for individuals who will be involved in staffing the command voter assistance offices required by the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act of 2009.

He said, "This training will assist you in understanding the absentee voting process, completing the absentee ballot request, and successfully casting an absentee ballot."

Training materials include a handbook that includes job aids, FAQs and checklists for the establishment and operation of the VAO office within a command.

Sailors assigned to Navy Munitions Command Corne East Division Detachment Jacksonville (NMC CED Det Jax) and safety observers took part in aviation weapons safety training March 7 involving a MK 46 torpedo and a simulated malfunctioning crane at the Advanced Undersea Weapons Torpedo Shop.

In the exercise scenario, gunner’s mates use an overhead crane to lift the torpedo from its shipping container and move it into the shop for maintenance—but something goes wrong and the weapon hits the deck, spilling fuel and possibly damaging the warhead.

NAS Jax Installation Training Officer Jim Butters explained, "In addition to testing our Sailors’ knowledge and response, we’ll evaluate how the base hazardous materials contractor IAP Hill responds to the torpedo fuel spill. The exercise will also activate the Mayport EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) team because this exercise involved a dropped MK 46 torpedo that resulted in simulated cracks near the weapon’s warhead."

Francisco Zayas, civilian supervisor at the NMC CED Det Jax torpedo shop, said the exercise measures how well Sailors execute their checklist of procedures should a dropped weapon or fuel spill take place.

"They must know how to properly report the incident so that his department, medical and other emergency personnel can respond quickly and effectively," said Butters.

Butters said, "In this case, the key objectives of the exercise were proper notification of first responders, safety of personnel during the initial response, and the clean-up phases."

"Our first concern is evaluating any injured or contaminated Sailors, drawing them from the accident site, and getting them medical attention. After contaminated personnel are treated, we switch gears to containing the spill until the clean-up crew is on the scene," said Butters.

Citizens, mark your calendars

2012 Armed Forces Voters Week
June 28-July 7

VAO goal is to deliver Federal Post Card Application forms to all command members and their voting age family members—and encourage everyone to promptly fill out the form.

Your freedom, your vote
From Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus:

Speaking to the fleet during a worldwide All Hands Call on board USS Bataan (LHD 5) March 5, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced the establishment of the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative.

The secretary explained that the initiative consolidates a set of objectives and policies, new training at multiple levels, and existing, to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness. The programs are divided into five categories — readiness, health, physical fitness, inclusion, and continuous service.

"The new defense strategy will put increased responsibilities on the Navy and Marine Corps in the years to come," the secretary said. "You are the department’s most essential asset, and it is the duty of the Navy leadership to do all we can to provide each Sailor and Marine with the resources to maintain that readiness." Various programs fall under the readiness area, all of which help ensure we have the most mentally prepared service members and families in Navy history.

Continued emphasis on the responsible use of alcohol, zero tolerance for drug use, suicide reduction, family and personal preparedness, and financial and family stability all work together to prepare Sailors, Marines and their families for the challenges that they may face in the Navy and the challenges that our nation on liberty or duty.

A new dedicated alcohol breathalyzer tests when Sailors stationed on board ships, submarines and at squadrons report for duty or11 recently elsewhere to reduce the occurrence of alcohol-related incidents that can end careers and sometimes end lives.

This month, the Navy will begin random testing of urine samples for synthetic chemical compounds like Spice. The initial tests will be conducted by a contracted laboratory, with the Navy Drug Screening Laboratory capable of conducting in-house testing later this year. Every positive result on a sample will be sent to NCIS for investigation. Synthetic chemical compound drug use impacts a Sailor’s career and family. Sailors found to have positive urine results and possession of synthetic chemical compounds like Spice will be punished under the UCMJ.

"We will enable and support our Sailors and their families, I am extremely proud of our people," said Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan Greenert. "We have a professional and a moral obligation to lead, to train, to equip and to motivate them. Our personnel programs deliver a high return on investment in readiness."

In addition to ensuring the readiness of our Sailors and Marines, the initiative aims to make the Navy and Marine Corps the safest and most secure force in the department’s history. All personnel in the fleet should expect to work in a safe environment, free from harassment or harm — yet, until now, service members do not have any resources available to them.

"The Navy continues to work aggressively to prevent sex- ual assaults, to support our sexual assault victims, and to hold offenders accountable. Part of this effort is implementing new training at multiple levels in both the Navy and Marine Corps."

The Bystander Intervention (BI) course, which is part of the Navy’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program, began in January for all A-school students. It is intended to educate Sailors that, as bystanders, they have the responsibility — and the ability — to intervene in a potentially harmful situation, regardless of rank. BI training is part of a larger training to address attitudes and behaviors in the Navy. Mabus said the Navy leadership and the fleet is in development.

Everyday Sailors and Marines do a great job of managing their duties, risks, fami- lies, and the farthest reaching benefi- ciary is the sailor. The 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative was intended to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness, build readiness, and honor the most combat effective force in the history of the Navy.

Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus announced the 21st century Sailor and Marine initiative to the fleet during an all- hands call on March 5 aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) at Naval Station Norfolk, Va. Mabus said the initiative was intended to maximize sailor and marine personal readiness, build readiness, and honor the most combat effective force in the history of the Navy.

"Sound minds and sound bodies are the fundamental elements of successful Sailors and combat readiness," said MCPON (US Navy) Rick West.

"The transition from a ‘culture of testing’ to a ‘culture of fitness’ means that we deliberately incorporate physical pro- ficiency and holistic health into our daily routines — just doing just enough to get by or ten times a year. We do it to improve our physical conditioning, and the bottom line is that each of the five areas provide important support for department personal, physical fitness can provide some of the most important support for department personnel, physical fitness can provide some of the most

SECNAV announces 21st Century initiative

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SECNAV, Page 5

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SECNAV, Page 5
The final area, continuum of service, ensures Sailors and Marines are provided the most robust transition to our nation. “When a Sailor or Marine’s time in the military ends whether it’s after four years or forty, we want your productive life to continue and for you to leave the service in better health, more trained and better educated than when you came in,” said Mabus.

Additionally, SECNAV is moving the Navy to be smoke-free by choice with a continued education campaign to build a strong, smoke-free culture. The initiative places greater emphasis on free vaccinations to every Sailor and Marine trying to quit and ending the discounts for cigarette purchases of Navy Exchanges and Marine Corps Exchanges. Ending the discounts will bring the prices up to 100 percent market pricing.

Ensuring all personnel, regardless of race or gender, are given every opportunity to excel and succeed is the hallmark of the program’s fourth area, inclusion. In order to operate globally, the Navy will need diversity of ideas, experience, areas of expertise and backgrounds to fulfill a variety of missions.

Regardless of mission, navy women are permanently assigned to all types of ships, aviation squadrons, aft staffs, Naval Construction Force units and certain submarine platforms. The nature of today’s ground conflicts is evolving – there are no front lines in Iraq or Afghanistan. Women in the Marine Corps are assigned to units and positions that may necessitate defense combat actions – situations that they are fully trained and equipped to respond.

There are many areas in which opportunities can be expanded for women to serve and contribute to the Marine Corps. A new DNI Diversity Office will be established, with the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) serving as the DNI’s Diversity Officer. The Diversity Office will leverage, coordinate and formulate ongoing efforts within the Navy and Marine Corps and will include the heads of the Navy Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Marine Corps Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management and the DNI Office of Civilian Diversity as team members.

“Diversity of thought is more important than race, ethnicity or gender,” said Maj. Gen. Jack Gilstrap, the 15th sergeant major of the Marine Corps. “We are committed to attracting, mentoring and retaining the most talented men and women who bring a diversity of background, culture and skills to service in our nation.”

In order to meet the warfighter’s needs, ensuring all personnel are not only mentally and physically prepared for the future fight, but that they will also have the knowledge, skills and support needed to succeed for the rest of their lives. "We are committed to attracting, mentoring and retaining the most talented men and women who bring a diversity of background, culture and skills to service in our nation.”

CFO selection from NAS Jax, NS Mayport and NB Kings Bay chosen as Marine Chief Petty Officer of the Year. Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick West (center) congratulates future selectees from NAS Jax, NS Mayport and NSB Kings Bay chosen as Marine Chief Petty Officer of the Year. Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick West (center) congratulates future selectees from NAS Jax, NS Mayport and NSB Kings Bay chosen as Marine Chief Petty Officer of the Year. Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick West (center) congratulates future selectees from NAS Jax, NS Mayport and NSB Kings Bay chosen as Marine Chief Petty Officer of the Year.

The Navy's Credentialing Opportunities Online (COOL) program offers Sailors the opportunity to earn civilian certifications and licenses corresponding to their Navy ratings, collateral duties, and out-of-rating assignments. COOL is designed to further develop the personal and professional capability of the Navy Total Force, enhancing force readiness. Through each of the areas described in the secretary’s address, the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative will Realign many programs throughout the department and focus their combined efforts to ensure all personnel are not only mentally and physically prepared for the future fight, but that they will also have the knowledge, skills and support needed to succeed for the rest of their lives.

“From the commander to the petty officer to the service member, from the combationer to the enterprise warrior, from the family member to the local partner, from the strategic leader to the warfighter, each day we work our 21st Century initiative,” said Mabus. 

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Courses to become a PADI
Atlanta area dive shop, to take a short time later, I went to an
was back for a sport I love. A
and Honduras. My enthusiasm
into several dive trips at the
could sign up for a dive trip in
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got back to scuba diving, a
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worked in the log home con -
Collins who retired in 1994.
most of my time diving,” said
received a letter asking me to go
Specialist. I then went back
as an armor reconnaissance
I was stationed out of Mayport
1969, and for my first two years,
I joined the Navy Reserves in
instructions and training Navy divers.
time conducting hull inspec-
retiree who spent much of his
Instructor Bob Collins, a Navy
Diving Instructors (PADI) IDC
Professional Association of
Meredith Blocker.
also enjoy with their family,”
Sailor, but one that they could
be a young person in the
military members, their fami -
recommendation and I was
It's been very successful,” said
It's just been incredible so
I can advise and help them
Instructor Ryan Kelly of VP-30, who is currently working on
AMANDA Ryan Kelly of VP-30, who is currently working on this
certification during a scuba class for military personnel.

Scuba classes offered
- Bubblesavers – For kids 8-12 where they get to experience scuba and get comfortable in the water.
- PADI Seal Team – For kids 8-11 wishing to learn scuba skills. Consists of four sessions with aqua missions and
- Junior Open Water – For kids 10-14. Students obtain full PADI junior open water certification and can dive to 40 feet
with a certified parent or PADI pro. Includes course materials, self-study, knowledge review, pool session and four open water dives. Normally takes about two to four weeks to complete certification. Card to dive by 60 feet.
- Advanced Certification – Consists of completing knowledge reviews and five dives in any of 15 different specialties such as deep diving, underwater navigation, night, boat, drift, photography, videography, dry suit or Nitrox. Advanced divers can dive to 100 feet.
- Rescue – A very intense course consisting of self-study, knowledge review and pool and open water sessions with
special scenarios. Must be an emergency first responder, CPR and AED certified.
- Divemaster – Learn dive leadership skills through self-study, knowledge review sessions, independent study, super-
vising dive activities and assisting instructors with student and certified divers. Divemasters can then go on to become open water scuba instructors.

Master Scuba Diver Trainer Bob Collins watches as two students complete their training for their open water certification during a scuba class for military personnel.
The course,” he said. “They must also pass a watermanship test, to make sure they are confident in the water. You don’t have to be an Olympic swimmer to be a diver, but you have to be able to swim and be comfortable in the water.”

Classes are held at the convenience of the student. “I did my original scuba certification with Bob. It was a really great experience. He worked around our schedules to help me and my co-workers get certified. It was really nice receiving the personal level of instruction that he provided,” said AW2(AW/NAC) Tyler Zack, an instructor at the Rescue Swimmer School.

“I became open water and Nitrox certified, and now want to begin working on my advanced specialty certification. I really enjoy diving and plan to continue learning all I can.”

AM2(AW) Ryan Kelly of VP-30 hopes to turn his new hobby into a job someday. “It’s really a lot of fun and a great passion of mine. I started with my open water certification in June 2011, completed the advanced certification in July and rescue diver certification in August. I’m currently working on my divemaster (DM) qualifications. The DM program here is awesome. It’s a lot of studying and a commitment, but if you are really into it, it’s worth it. I’d like to be an instructor some day,” he said.

At age 61 with more than 4,000 dives under his belt, Collins clearly loves his job teaching others about scuba and opening their eyes to a whole new world. “We call this ‘Planet Earth,’ but it’s really ‘Planet Ocean’ because seven/tenths of our planet is made up of oceans, and if they die, we die. People need to understand what’s under the water and if you want to experience an amazing event, try swimming face-to-face with a manatee, a big sea turtle or a porpoise in open ocean, their world. Scuba is the door to our undersea world,” said Collins.

For more information on Scuba training offered here, call 542-3239 or e-mail scubawithbob@yahoo.com.

A group of scuba diving students from NAS Jax float in Blue Grotto before taking their open water test. (From left) Ryan Kelly, Raymond Turner, Lloyd Hansell, Alex Acree and Jessica Guidry, prepare for their open water dive qualifications after completing other required criteria through scuba classes offered through the NAS Jax Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department.

As a group of students practice their breathing underwater, Master Scuba Diver Trainer Bob Collins watches to see how they maintain their composition underwater.

AM2(AW) Ryan Kelly of VP-30, who is currently working on his divemaster qualifications (left) and AM3 Lloyd Hansell of HSM-74, who has attained his rescue diver qualification, check a student’s regulator to ensure there is plenty of air in the tank.

Before getting hands-on training in the pool, open water diver students must complete the classroom portion and pass a test on the knowledge they have learned.

Master Scuba Diver Trainer Bob Collins (left) helps students Levi McAllister and Sadie Hallmark practice buoyancy skills during a “Try Scuba” class March 6 at the base indoor pool.

Ten-year-old Daniel Hirakata gives the “OK” sign during a “Bubblemaker” dive course at the NAS Jax Indoor Pool. The class is offered to kids eight and up who want to try out scuba diving.

Master Scuba Diver Trainer Bob Collins helps students Levi McAllister and Sadie Hallmark practice buoyancy skills during a “Try Scuba” class March 5 at the base indoor pool.

Levi McAllister gives the “OK” sign during a “Try Scuba” class on March 6.
Navy adopts ‘Domino Strategy on How to Drink Responsibly’


“This social marketing campaign encourages Sailors to pay attention to the size, content and amount of alcohol they consume each time they drink,” said Dorice Favorite, director, Navy Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NADAP) Office. 

The strategy recommends that Sailors follow responsible drinking guidelines defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Those guidelines advocate a 0-12 drinks. Zero drinks for people who are under 21, operating any type of vehicle, pregnant, trying to become pregnant or breastfeeding, recovering alcoholics or chemically dependent, and using certain medications.

No more than one standard drink per day for women and no more than two standard drinks per day for men.

The campaign is designed to help people who drink alcohol, reduce their risk of harming themselves and others.

The strategy provides specific information that enables people to compare their individual drinking pattern against a set of low-risk guidelines.

The Domino Strategy does not replace current prevention programs, it adds depth to already existing initiatives, according to Favorite.

The messages of the Domino Strategy are divided into three phases. The first phase asks the question, “Do you count?” helping Sailors make the connection between counting drinks and reducing personal risk.

The second and third phase educate Sailors on what constitutes a “standard drink” and encourages Sailors to pay attention to the size of their drink by asking “How big is it?” and “What’s yours?”

“We’re not telling people not to drink if they are of age to drink but we want them to drink responsibly. Substance abuse reduces a command’s ability to accomplish its mission and is inconsistent with Navy core values,” said Favorite.

Alcohol and drug abuse can seriously damage an individual’s physical and mental health, jeopardize their safety and the safety of others, can lead to criminal prosecution, and can result in unfavorable separation from naval service.

Volunteers need ‘eggscellent’ volunteers for annual hunt

Volunteers are needed for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 1 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the MWR Electronics. Volunteers will assist in preparing for the egg hunt.

Second shift volunteers will assist in getting patrons on to the fields and minor cleanup. Volunteers are also needed during the month of April.

Volunteers (first shift) will help spread eggs over four softball fields in preparation for the egg hunt.

Second shift volunteers will assist in making sure participants enter and exit activity safely, assisting with equipment as necessary and minor cleanup.

To help out with either one of these events, please contact Youth Development Center at 778-9772 or aaron.p.long@navy.mil.

Garage sale planned for base housing

A community wide garage sale will be held for all NAS Jax Housing residents March 17 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The garage sale will be hosted by Balfour Beauty Communities. For more information, call 908-0821.
The HSM-70 “Spartans” passed a major milestone in a new squadron’s progression on Feb. 28 when they logged 15,000 mishap-free flight hours. The crew consisting of HSM-70 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Amy Bauernschmidt, Lt. j.g. Shannon Miller and AW2 Sean Maramba were flying a routine training mission from NAS Jacksonville.

The Spartans recently returned from deployment with the USS George H. W. Bush Carrier Strike Group where they were responsible for conducting maritime security operations and support missions as part of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn. The Spartans flew MH-60R Seahawks from Bush (CVN-77), as well as providing three detachments of aircraft and crew on board USS George H. W. Bush (CVN-77), USS Gettysburg (CG 64) and USS Philippine Sea (CG-58), all part of Carrier Strike Group Two.

Since returning from deployment, HSM-70 has been hard at work. Squadron personnel took great pride in decorating the newly refurbished HSM Wing Paul Nelson Helicopter Training Facility with a squadron logo. AD3 Steven Knight and AM2 Shane Lawson created the painting at the request of the Wing to assist in the transition from HS Wing Detachment Jax.

The squadron is diligently training incoming and current aircrews to continue our mission – employing the versatility of the MH-60R helicopter across multiple mission sets, deploying combat ready elements on board the Bush and her accompanying ships to support the carrier strike group commander’s objectives.

Even though HSM-70 excelled on its first deployment, the transition to a carrier-based squadron has not been without its challenges. Senior pilots and enlisted aircrew who were part of the HSL community were accustomed to operating as detachment-based, expeditionary units with no personal contact with the squadron commanding officer and executive officer.

The HSM carrier transition requires deploying as a squadron with detachments, integrating with an entire air wing, and being flexible in adapting to a changing schedule. The MH-60 Romeo is a relatively new platform, with advanced capabilities that require new thinking and tactics. The upgraded abilities have allowed the Spartans to prove their potential and reinforce how a carrier strike group operates and provides its own security.

The hard work of every member of HSM-70 contributed to the success of Carrier Strike Group Two in providing security in both 5th and 6th fleets’ areas of responsibility. The experiences gained from this past deployment will help carry the Spartans and the rest of the east coast Romeo squadrons through their future deployments.

By Lt. j.g. Kyle Walker

HSM-70 ‘Spartans’ achieve milestone
Naval Hospital Jacksonville observes Patient Safety Awareness Week

Leading from the front, Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. June Wells (right) and Executive Officer Capt. Michael Vernere search a training room for patient safety violations on March 5. This simulation room includes 51 hazards. Staff members compete to spot them all.

Lt. Cmdr. Michelle Liu speaks about patient safety reporting in a lecture at NH Jacksonville on March 8. Liu explained the critical role of staff vigilance in identifying and acting on potential risks to patients.

VA disability assistance available

From AMVETS

If you are retiring or separating from active duty and need assistance with submitting your claim for disability and compensation to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), you can start up to 6 months before you receive a discharge for separation from military service.

AMVETS is a national Veteran Service Organization authorized to submit claims to the VA and advocate for veterans and their families with the VA nationwide.

All assistance is free of charge and you are not required to become a member of AMVETS to use their services. For more information and to make an appointment, call David Sanders at 904-318-3800 or email david.sanders@navy.mil.

Medical school dean speaks

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Associate Dean of Faculty and retired Air Force Col. Brian Reams lectures to the medical staff at Naval Hospital Jacksonville on March 9. Reams discussed methods to promote an environment that supports research and other academic activities of the medical faculty.

Naval announces new drug testing parameters

From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

To align with new DoD policy announced in February, Navy will begin testing for more commonly abused prescription drugs during random urinalysis starting May 1. This follows a record low in Salons testing positive for illicit drug use. Since 2015, the rate of urinalysis testing in the Navy has increased and remained at a steady rate for the past 10 years. As the testing has increased, the amount of members testing positive has decreased each year. Testing has been done for marijuana (THC), cocaine, and heroin among other drugs. For fiscal year 2015, there were a record low number of members who tested positive for illicit drug use with a total of 1,351 samples out of the 1,184,160 samples tested last year.

“We are really pleased with these results but while the drugs we’ve been testing have been on a decline, prescription drugs are on the rise. In the past three years methamphetamine positives have increased 34 percent and oxycodone positives by 23 percent,” said Dorice Favorite, director, Navy Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Office (NADAP).

A study of the Navy’s drug testing in 2015 found that members who are using prescription drugs are less likely to perform their duties and missions tasks. Substance abuse on the job undercuts unit readiness, which is critical on substance abuse is zero tolerance. Substance abuse puts lives and missions at risk, undercuts unit readiness and morale, and is inconsistent with our Navy ethos and core values of honor, courage, and commitment,” said Favorite.

If a member is using, possessing, procuring, manufacturing, or distributing drugs they face disciplinary action that could result in unfavorable separation from the Navy. “We recommend members seeking substance use counseling talk with their doctor, chain-of-command, or substance abuse program,” said Favorite.

“This program is part of the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative that coordinates a suite of prevention and policies, new and existing, to maximize safety and Marine preventive readiness, build resiliency and hone the most combat-effective force in the history of the Navy,” said Favorite.
Improve your life skills with free knowledge

From FFSC Public Affairs

Your NAS Jacksonville Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) Life Skills Education and Support Program is the foremost preventive measure for growth in personal and family issues. All FFSC workshops and classes are free to service members and their families. Pre-registration is required, please notify FFSC upon registration.

If special accommodations or handicapped access is required, please notify FFSC upon registration.

* Orbital Burning Basics Training (Tues. 8-10 a.m.) – May 16, June 20, July 18, Aug. 22, Sept. 19, Oct. 17.
* Malaria Prevention Seminar (Tues. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.) – Feb. 21, March 21, April 21, May 19.
* Advanced Powerpoint Seminar (6 a.m. – 11 a.m.) – March 26-30.
* Executive Transition Seminar for O-5 & above (7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.) – May 21-25, June 18-22, July 23-27.

From FFSC Public Affairs

By Clark Pierce

Don Heaton, who’s been associated with the Pinecastle Range Complex for more than 30 years, was recently selected as technical director of the operation that is a department of Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility Jacksonville (FACON), a command located at NAS Jacksonville.

Pinecastle is located in the Ocala National Forest, between Palatka and Orlando. In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, it is the only target range in the United States to accommodate the entire range operation that is a departure from the range management style that is common in Europe.

Heaton takes reins at Pinecastle range

Pinecastle Range Complex Technical Director Don Heaton discusses range operations with NAS Jax Environmental Director Kevin Gartland and other staff March 8.

Pinecastle Range Complex Technical Director Don Heaton left the (Training Devices Man – a complex in 1961 as a TDAM – Navy rating disbanded in the mid 1980s) and got out as an FT2 at the conclusion of his four-year enlistment. “Around that time, the Navy was phasing out Sailors for civilians at Pinecastle – so I came back as a defense contractor to work on radar and electronic warfare systems that I was very familiar with.”

In 2000, Heaton was hired as a civilian employee in the range operations department. Nine years later, he’s running the whole operation.

“This is very exciting for me and our entire team. Everyone is really looking forward to the next level. I’m working with our team for continuous improvement because this range is a very valuable asset for the Navy and DoD,” said Heaton.

“Our proactive environmental stewardship will continue unabated. Not only do we monitor habitat for endangered and threatened species – but we also clean and recycle a substantial amount of metal debris generated by ordnance and targets.”

Overall, our four civilian employees and 27 contractor personnel are proud to provide support for U.S. Navy carrier strike groups, Marine Corps aviation units,” he concluded.

Seabees celebrate

Emilie Elaine Henning at Public Works Department (PWD) Jacksonville and Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast Headquarters Jacksonville reported on the Seabees 70th Birthday March 5. Lt. Mahmood Sarwa (unidentified) with a birthday cake to celebrate the Seabees 70th Birthday.

Seabees take part in the Jacksonville area.

FRCSE employee earnseertification

Fleet Readiness Center Southeast Commanding Officer Capt. Robert Caldwell (left) presented Airspeed Champion Keith Probert (right) with a Naval Air Systems Command AIRSpeed Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Certificate during a ceremony on the facility on March 7. Probert’s mastery of Six Sigma techniques and strategies gives him the tools needed to lead top-quality projects and mentor Green Belts on reducing waste and increasing results.

Support Your Advertisers! They Support You!
An NAS Jax Crash Crew team in fire retardant suits based off a simulated smoke billows from the main hatch of a P-3C Orion assisted two EMTs who entered the plane’s fuselage to rescue crew members during the March 7 fire drill.

An NAS Jax Fire Department EMS who responded to the VP-5 aircraft fire drill.

Community Calendar

P-3C Orion fire drill

Side with life for Action is March 3-31 at 6:00 p.m. starting at Cattle Mill in Neptune Beach. Bobbi Stacks/Blue Velvet/Theme of the Week. Begins at Cattle Mill Beach. Donation of $1 per each entry. Proceeds benefit the Community Action Team, Inc. 69-mile bike ride, 26-mile ride and 10-mile ride, plus a family fun ride of 3.5 miles. Go to www.novafair.org

VP-47 Reunion to be held in Pensacola April 14-16. The reunion is for the P-3C Sailors as well as the P5M, P-3C and VP-47 Sailors. For information, please contact Johnny Jackson at 850-422-2144 or 622-0463. E-mail: rjmjackson@gmail.com.


Trea-N Hone Nature Annual Joseph Stressor Butterfly Festival, April 30 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

March of Dimes annual March for Babies Walk-May 9 in downtown Jacksonville. Call 398-2807.

USC Iowa Jax Shipmates Reunion June 6-9 at the Cov поба Hotel in Milam, vs. For more info, call 772-729-2877.


Retired Activities Office (RAO) at NAS Jax Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) seeks volunteers to support the senior citizens in service or general assistance. Call 683-5407 or visit www.aao9.com. RAO is located at the FFSC or on Collins Road. For information, call AOC John Newman at 683-5407 or visit www.aao9.com.

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National Naval Officers Association Westside Jacksonville Chapter 1984 meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. at St. Johns United Methodist Church (Fellowship Hall Building) at 4101 College Street. Call 786-7083.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Clay County Chapter 1414 meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at 2821. Navy Wives Clubs of America Jax No. 300 meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Building 857 (at NAS Jax main gate behind Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society). Not to be missed open Tuesday and Thursday at 7 a.m. or 1 p.m. (Call 540-1540 for info). Navy Wives Clubs of America DD No. 300 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at NAS Jax Officers Club.

Navy Wives Clubs of America DD No. 300 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at NAS Jax Officers Club.

Navy Wives Clubs of America Jax No. 38 meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in Building 857 at NAS Jax main gate behind Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

Navy Wives Clubs of America DD No. 300 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the NAS Jax Officers Club.

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Check out our evening bingo program 4 – 10 p.m. - All you can bowl for $5.95 2:30 – 9 p.m., dine in or carry out only Wednesday Evening Bowling Special

- $11 per person, includes 2 hours of lane bowling, rental shoes, 4 hot dogs, 2 large nachos & 6 medium drinks. $25 savings!

**Fitness & Aquatics**

Call 542-2010

- Indoor pool hours
  - Mon. – Fri. 5:30 – 8:45
  - Sat. 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
  - Sun. 12 – 5 p.m.
- Weekends hours
  - Sat. 8 – 2:30 a.m.

- Command Circuit Training
  - Tuesday & Thursday
  - 8 a.m. in the base gym
- 45-minute, high-intensity group train-

- Lepechuan Dunk
  - Mon. – Fri.
  - 11 a.m. on the Bicentennial Bluff.

- Family Fitness Boot Camp with Ashley Monday & Wednesday at 9:20 a.m.

- Family Fitness Center above the Youth Center Gym
  - Call (904) 770-0772

- Annual Captain Chuck Cornett Navy 186-Race
  - April 7 – 8 a.m.

- St. Mary's, Jacksonville Beach personal
due, St. Mary's race event

- Zumba Dance
  - April 5, 7:15 a.m. & 4:15 p.m.

- Hammer Fa! - April 5, 9:30 a.m.

- Health Fair - April 6, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- Grocery Shopping, brews, wines & entertainment

- Sign-up at the base gym or fitness center
  - Call (904) 770-6299.

**I.T.T. Events**

- Disney World Orlando 4-day Hopper
  - Armed Forces Salute Package
  - $105.50

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- Armed Forces Vacation Club Resort

- Condo Rentals

www.afvclub.com/installation code #62

**Funtastic 4**

- Oakland Zoo - $19 Adult, $17.50 Child

- Fun Fest

- May 11 & 12 at Metro Park - $17

- Now booking all-inclusive Sandhill Resort vacations.

- The Gaylord Palms Resort offers a pro-

- fessional rate for I.T.T. customers, located

- just one mile from Walt Disney World

- Jacksonville Zoo - Adult $12, Child $7

- Zoo Train & Camels - now available at

- ITT

- Jacksonville Symphony - $27.50

- Jacksonville Sharks - $25

- Blue Mon- Group in Orlando - $19, includes City Walk venue

- Disney on ice featuring Disney's World

- April 6, 7:30 p.m.

- April 7:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

- April 8, 1 & 5 p.m.

- Lower-level seating for $10

- Orlando Magic - $22.50 - $50

- Universal Studios - $150 - $150

- Tampa Zoo - $19 adult, $17.50 child

- Jacksonville Sun and available now!

- The Va- l- l- u- it- y

- Zoo- 100

- Recreation Center

- Tips, activities and costs may be

- restricted to I.T.T. and unaccom-

- panied active duty members. Call 542-

- 2335 for information.

- Dave & Buster's Trip
  - March 16 at 6 p.m.

- FREE $10 Powercard, 20% off food and

- unlimited simulator play!

- Paintball Trip
  - March 17 at 9 a.m.

- GTV in Yale

- Indoor Rock Climbing
  - March 30

- Darts competition at 6 p.m.

**NASCAR Racing Club**

- Visit our web site: 424-1409

- Mulligan's Irish

- 542-2306

- Military Appreciation Day
  - $18 per person, includes cart & green fees

- March 20 for active duty

- March 22 for retired & DoD personnel

- Twilight Golf League
  - March 20 – August 30

- $20 entry fee, rainouts due by March 16

- Ladies Golf Clinics
  - April 4 at 6:30 p.m.

- $10 per person

- Pre-registration required; sign-up in the

- pro shop.

**Marine Cove Marina**

- Free Kayak & Canoe Rental
  - Every Thursday for active duty

- 30th Annual Bass Tournament
  - April 14 at first light

- St. Johns River Bass Tournament

- Sign-up at the marina

**Auto Skills Center**

- Call 542-2307

- 22 work bays, wheel balancing tool, paint

- booth and welding!

- ASE certified mechanic staffed!

**Youth Activities Center**

- Call 778-0772

- Drop in for open recreation and

- available.

- Family Fitness Center hours are

- Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- and Thursday – 4 – 7 p.m.

- Bring your child to work out with you.

- Spring Break Camp Registration goes on
game

- now.

- Youth Center opens: Monday – Friday, 6

- a.m. – 6 p.m.

- Fees based on income

- Camp dates are March 19 – 23

- Easter Egg Hunt
  - April 5 & 7 p.m.

- McCaffrey ball fields

- Months of the Military Child Carnival
  - April 7, 11 – 2 p.m.

- All branches in.

- Flying Club
  - Call 777-8549 6035

- Ground School
  - April 16 – May 23

- April 7, June – July 23

- $50 per person

- NAS Jacksonville Golf Club

- www.golfclub.com

- Golf course info: 424-1409

- Mulligan's Irish

- 542-2306

- Indoor Rock Climbing

- March 30

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- Sign-up at the marina

- Auto Skills Center**
NAS Jax Sports

Captain's Cup Soccer
League forming
Open to active duty, select and contracted DOD, DOD contractors and selective reservists.
Captain's Cup Leisure for fun & friendly competition.

Captain's Cup Softball
League forming
Open to active duty, select and contracted DOD, DOD contractors and selective reservists.

Captain's Cup Soccer
League forming
Open to active duty, select and contracted DOD, DOD contractors and selective reservists.

Captain's Cup Softball
League forming
Open to active duty, select and contracted DOD, DOD contractors and selective reservists.

Sunday Services
8:15 a.m. - Protestant Liturgical Worship
9:15 a.m. - Catholic Mass
9:45 a.m. - Protestant Sunday School
10:45 a.m. - Catholic CCD
11 a.m. - Protestant Worship

NAS Jax Sports

Standings
As of March 9

Intramural Winter Golf

Captain's Cup Hot Shot –
Every Tuesday at 5 p.m.
Open to NAS Jax active duty, select and contracted DOD men and women. Participates earn participation points for their command toward the Captain's Cup and can earn additional points for winning first, second or third.
Matches play at the Guy Ballou Tennis Complex. Call NAS Jax Athletics to sign up by March 23.

For more information, call Bill Bonser at 542-2930/3239 or e-mail bill.bonser@navy.mil. Visit the MWR website at www.cnic.navy.mil or www.facebook.com nas-jaxmwr.

NAS Jax Golf Club

Hot Shot

By Staff

VP-26's Ombudsman
Tanya Morris has been mar ried to AMC(AW) Thomas Morris for 12 years and they have three children.
The family has been stationed twice at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., twice at NAS Jacksonville, NAS Rota, Spain and NAS Brunswick, Maine.

"When I am not running my kids to soccer practice, cheerleading practice or piano lessons, I enjoy run ning and spending time with my fam ily," she said.

"This is my first command that I have been an ombuds man for and I only wish now that I had become more involved in previous com mands. I always held myself back from getting involved before, but now realize how much I have missed out on," Morris said.

"I have met so many won derful people and learn a lot that I can take with me as we transfer to Maryland soon."

By Staff

Chapel Center Calendar

Sunday Services
8:15 a.m. - Protestant Liturgical Worship
9:15 a.m. - Catholic Mass
9:45 a.m. - Protestant Sunday School
10:45 a.m. - Protestant Worship
Daily Catholic Mass
11:30 a.m. (except Friday)

Weekly Bible Study
6 p.m. in the Barracks Official Christian Fellowship and Bible study.
Every Monday at NAS Jacksonville Chapel Center
Corner of Birmingham Avenue & Mustin Road
542-3251

Warning signs of suicide are not always obvious...

ACT.

ASK - CARE - TREAT
ASK if someone is thinking about suicide.
Let them know you CARE.
Get them assistance (TREATMENT) as soon as possible.

Life counts.

www.suicide.navy.mil
The department's fiscal 2013 budget request calls for a 5.5 percent reduction in military end strength in the next five years. “Simply stated, the cuts in force structure that we are implementing must be accompanied by cuts in supporting infrastructure, including military bases,” Robyn said. “Absent a process for closing and realigning bases, the department will be locked in a status quo configuration that does not match its evolving mission and technology.” Robyn said the expense of maintaining bases that are excess to strategy and mission requirements would force the department to spend money on forces, training and modernization.

The department needs to close installations not only in the United States, for which it needs congressional approval, but also overseas, where it doesn’t. “The department’s request for additional rounds of BRAC comes at a time when we are looking aggressively at where we can close bases overseas—particularly in Europe,” Robyn said. The department already has made significant cuts in Europe, turning over more than 100 sites to host nations since 2003, she said. By fiscal 2015, the Army is expected to close another 23 European sites. Still, Robyn said, the department “can do more to consolidate our infrastructure with the goal of reducing long-term costs while still supporting our operational requirements and strategic commitments.”

To do that, the department can realign the number of “discrete” installation sites in Europe from more than 300 to about 200—those which currently house most activities—and eliminate excess support infrastructure such as warehouses, administrative space and housing. While the department retains some authority to close and downsize installations, she said BRAC is a better process, allowing for more community support.

The department spends about $54 billion annually on building construction, renovation and recapitalization, with an additional $15 billion on support programs ranging from air traffic control to payroll to religious and recreational services. “We cannot afford to maintain excess capacity,” she said. In 2004, the department had 24 percent excess capacity relative to its force structure plans. The 2005 BRAC eliminated only about 3 percent of the department’s capacity, as it was designed mostly to reconfigure excess space, rather than close it, because the military was in a growth stage. While some have criticized the 2005 BRAC as unnecessarily expensive—at $15 billion, the savings also exceeded that of any other BRAC round, at $4 billion each year. She asked that Congress move quickly to approve the new BRAC rounds. “While some may view our request for a round in 2015 as aggressive, the magnitude of the cuts we are making in force structure means we simply cannot afford it,” she said. “Leading U.S. corporations retain their vitality and market position by being able to adapt quickly to changed circumstances, and the U.S. military is no different.”
The NAS Jacksonville Natural Resources intern proudly unveiled an eye-catching 8 x 11-ft. mural near the entrance of the Black Point Interpretive Center – an interactive facility that educates groups about wildlife indigenous to the station.

The mural consists of three panels, each representing an ecosystem (land, air and water) with species native to Florida, such as the eastern indigo snake, bald eagle and manatee.

Manager Christine Bauer said, “This magnificent mural is the first thing people see when they approach the center. It stimulates interactive discussions about our station’s diverse environment before you even step inside.”

When NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Bob Sanders saw the mural, he was struck by the realism of the creatures. “In the water behind our house, it’s not unusual to spot a pair of river otters playing and chasing fish. And a number of people have remarked to me about spotting alligators in the waters near the station’s RV park,” said Sanders.

Assistant Natural Resources Manager Angela Glass explained, “This is just the type of conversation this mural was designed to stimulate. It supports our natural resources program that is designed for three age groups – elementary, middle and high school. The mural not only looks beautiful on our building – it helps bring attention to our station’s natural resources program. We want more groups to make appointments to experience the Black Point Interpretive Center, which is located just east of the Mulberry Cove Marina and Navy Jax Yacht Club.”

The center features live native animal exhibits as well as cultural artifact displays.

Glass added, “Our natural resources staff is eager to work with local schools, scouts and community groups to promote educational discussions. This is where you’ll learn the difference between a turtle and a gopher tortoise, as well as gaining knowledge about habitat conservation, native and invasive species, habitat degradation and recovery, and vegetation management.”

The mural was produced by Chris Miller of Signsharks Sign Service. “The artwork was digitized onto three panels and weather-protected by a UV-resistant laminate. We worked very hard to ensure that the ecosystems and species depicted were realistic and that the colors were right on,” he said.

For more information, or to schedule a tour, contact Angela Glass at 542-2798.
The Maritime Patrol Association (MPA) will celebrate 50 years of the P-3 Orion at their annual heritage dinner, March 28 on board NAS Jacksonville. "There are very few airplanes in the world that can tout the distinct honor of being in service for 50 years. This is testament to the ingenuity and innovation of the designers, manufacturers and aviators who created the P-3 Orion," said Lockheed Martin Vice President of P-3 Programs and Greenville Operations Ray Burick.

"The P-3 is the world standard in maritime patrol and reconnaissance and will continue to serve operators around the globe for many more decades to come."

The primary aircraft of the U.S. Navy Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF), the P-3 Orion has aided in anti-submarine warfare since the early 1960s when it was introduced to the aviation community by aeronautics corporation Lockheed Martin. The P-3 turboprop was an answer to a late 1950s request by the Chief of Naval Operations for an aircraft with more cabin space, a larger radius and a longer endurance than its predecessor, the P-2 Neptune. In August of 1956, the first run of the Orion, the P-3A, was rolled out.

"From a tactical standpoint, this new 'Charlie' was a quantum leap in improved sensors, data processing, tactical displays, weapons delivery and decision making assistance over any P-3 system flying at that time," said retired Capt. Ron Martin, VP-30's first P-3C project officer.

"We all knew maritime patrol was about to become a force to be reckoned with."

A half century later, the celebration of the P-3C Orion comes at both a historic and pivotal point in the MPRF's future. In June of this year, NAS Jacksonville-based VP-16 will receive the first of a fleet of replacement aircraft for the P-3. The P-8A Poseidon, a multi-mission maritime patrol aircraft developed by Boeing, will be the first jet-powered, maritime patrol aircraft flown by the Navy.

The MPA Heritage Dinner will take place during the 2012 MPA Symposium March 27-30 at NAS Jacksonville. In addition to the dinner, symposium attendees can register for a host of events, including the P-8A Poseidon Roll-Out, Integrated Training Center dedication, a flight suit social, golf tournament, 5K run, and others. The heritage dinner, which will highlight the history and heritage of the last 50 years of the P-3 aircraft, will also serve as the ceremony for three new MPRF Hall of Honor inductees from the maritime patrol and reconnaissance community.
Child Home Provider Zonnette Jackson works on identifying shapes with her children and the children she watches in her home on March 8. From left, Juanaya Abney, 2, Jathen Jackson, 3, and Exodus Cuccu, 3.

"The CDH program is a qualification because of the smaller ratios and flexible hours. CDH providers can offer more flexible care because of the smaller ratios and flexible hours. CDH providers can offer more flexible care because of the smaller ratios and flexible hours. CDH providers can offer more flexible care because of the smaller ratios and flexible hours. CDH providers can offer more flexible care because of the smaller ratios and flexible hours. CDH providers can offer more flexible care because of the smaller ratios and flexible hours. CDH providers can offer more flexible care because of the smaller ratios and flexible hours. CDH providers can offer more flexible care because of the smaller ratios and flexible hours. CDH providers can offer more flexible care because of the smaller ratios and flexible hours. CDH providers can offer more flexible care because of the smaller ratios and flexible hours. 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The aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65) departed Naval Station Norfolk March 11 on the ship’s 22nd and final deployment. Enterprise is slated to deploy to the U.S. Navy’s 5th and 6th Fleet areas of operation as part of an ongoing rotation of U.S. forces supporting maritime security operations in international waters around the globe.

Working with allied and partner maritime forces, the Enterprise and her accompanying strike group will focus heavily on maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts designed to maintain regional stability.

Enterprise was designed in the late 1960s for a 25-year lifespan, and the Nimitz-class carriers were designed for 50 years. To effectively double the service life of a ship as complex as Enterprise speaks volumes about the design strengths of the world’s first nuclear-powered carrier, the Navy’s commitment to cost effectiveness, and our sailors’ hard work and innovation throughout the last half-century to keep her going strong,” said Hamilton.

Enterprise is scheduled for deactivation and eventual decommissioning following its anticipated return later this year, marking the end of the carrier’s legendary service. The Enterprise Carrier Strike Group is comprised of Enterprise, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 1, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 2, guided-missile cruiser USS Vicksburg (CG 69), and guided-missile destroyers USS Port Hueneme (DDG 78), USS Nitze (DDG 94), and USS James E. Williams (DDG 95).

CVW-1 is comprised of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 11, Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 211, Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 131, Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 136, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (HMA) 232, Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 135 Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 123 and Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron (HSS) 11.
University of Central Florida students learn about military engineering

From NAVFAC Southeast Public Affairs

Twelve engineering students from the University of Central Florida learned about engineering in the military and toured construction sites March 6 at NAS Jacksonville.

“As part of the school’s Externship program, the students had the opportunity to experience a day in the life of a certain profession. Today it was a civil engineer,” said Public Works Officer Chief Ge Morris.

The students varied from freshmen to seniors and there was one graduate student. Also, one member of the group was a Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) colleague waiting to go to Officer Candidate School (OCS), and he was very excited about what his future would be like as a CEC Officer.

“I learned to see what a day would be like for me when I become part of the CEC team,” said Senior Eric O’Leary, Xr. USMRP graduate who will be headed to OCS Feb. 24.

“I explained to them my role as the Public Works Officer,” said Manalo. “This includes the mission of the Installations and all of the commands we support here at NAS JAX.”

“The group learned about several of the recent projects including major construction coming to Jacksonville in the next two to three years, the energy conservation initiatives, and environmental compliance and services.

“During the windshield tour, the group was able to actually see the largest projects to date such as the new helicopter hangar Hangar 122, the new F-16 hangar, Hangar 371, Integrated Training Center for new P-8, Child Development Center, the Naval Hospital and the new All Hands Club.

“We chose to take them to the All Hands Club because it is currently the only major project on base involving multiple construction trades,” said Manalo. “It highlights that community support and quality of life projects are just as important to our installation community as the operational projects.”

All Hands Club because it is currently the only major project on base involving multiple construction trades, said Manalo. “It highlights that community support and quality of life projects are just as important to our installation community as the operational projects.”

For many of the students, this was their first time on a military installation.

Ramoutar said it made him excited about what is to come for him becoming a CEC officer. It was the first time he was able to see Seabees or CEC officers in action at the work place.

“Many of the students said they were enlightened with what the Navy does here at NAS JAX and what NAVFAC does to support them,” said Manalo. “The students were amazed by what it takes to manage and support the facilities infrastructure on Navy installations.”

This was also a great time for the junior officers at the Public Works Department. They were able to meet with the students and talk about their experiences as CEC officers and what they enjoy most about their Navy careers.

Math does count
Engineers help at competition

From NAVFAC Southeast Public Affairs


“The children’s enthusiasm, willingness to learn, and sheer joy at solving problems was tremendous to watch and be a part of,” said NAVFAC Southeast Executive Officer Capt. John Rice.

The Mathcounts competition is a national middle school coaching and competitive mathematics program that promotes mathematics achievement through a series of fun and engaging “bee” style contests. Public, private, religious and home schools alike were eligible to participate, as long as students are in grades 6-8. The competition is sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE).

“Many of our engineers are NSPE members and participate with Mathcounts throughout the year,” said Rice. The event was broken into four stages: school, chapter, state and national events.

NAVFAC Southeast military and civilian volunteers traveled throughout Northeast Florida’s chapter event. The state competition will be in March and the national event will be in Orlando in May.

“It’s amazing, how focused these kids are, it’s as intense as a high school wrestling tournament,” said Lt. David Saxe, Public Works Department Jacksonville (PWD) jac. There were 50 teams that participated from the Jacksonville area. Each school prepared their team all year to achieve the ultimate goal of winning the National title.

“Our role today was to help each team with registration and finding their competition’s table,” said Ensign Blake Benefin. PWD jac. “Every single student wanted to skip registration, the team photo, and jump into the competition. They were so excited and eager to show off their mathematical skills.”

Employees at NAVFAC Southeast have volunteered and supported Mathcounts for the past three years.

“This is my second Mathcounts event and it’s inspiring to see how dedicated these kids are,” said Lt. j.g. Jonathan Henning, PWD Jax. “Every single student wanted to skip registration, the team photo, and jump into the competition. They were so excited and eager to show off their mathematical skills.”

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