The season at Mayport
Thursday, December 6
6:30-8:30 p.m. at Sea Otter Pavilion
Cocktails, Live Music and Christmas Cheer!

Polar Express Train Rides & More...
Don’t forget to bring your camera, or pictures with Santa!

Photo courtesy of USS Little Rock Blue
Code: Leonard Mitchell departs as commanding officer of USS Little Rock Blue after a change of command ceremony held at Mayport Beach on Nov. 30.

DeCA Scholarship Program Starts Dec. 14
By Mike Perron
DeCA public affairs officer

The Scholarship for Military Children Program for school year 2019–2020 kicks off Dec. 14 and continues accepting applications through Feb. 15.

This marks the first time the entry process will happen entirely online. According to Jim Weiskopf, Fisher House vice president, “It will be easy to create an account, save your application, return to the site afterward, and finalize when ready.”

“The online process will make it easy for military children to reach a goal that will benefit them further in life,” Weiskopf said.

The program, entering its 16th year, recognizes the contributions of military families in the realization of the dream to serve and celebrates the contribution of U.S. military children to the readiness of the nation’s fighting force and celebrates the commitment of Department of Defense employees stationed outside the continental United States to the defense of the nation.

Scholarship for Military Children
NEX Awards Students For Good Grades
From NEXCOM

The Navy Exchange Service Command’s (NEXCOM) Student Reward Program offers all military children the opportunity to enter a quarterly drawing for monetary awards to support their educational pursuits. Students can enter for a chance to win $2,500, $1,500, $1,000 or $500 for a total of $5,000 per quarter. Any student currently attending a school system, may enter the drawin.

Home schooled students can also qualify with acknowledgment that the student has a B average or equivalent amount of merit. Eligible students include depend...
December 9-12 Travel back in time to our historic downtown Fernandina Beach Arts and Crafts Festival at the Centre. This event is FREE to the public. Enjoy craft displays, themed entertainment and various food vendors. Art from Saint Nick, a variety of vendors with unique items, live entertainment and more. Inspired by St. Nick’s Park and Santa “A Christmas Carol.” For more information, visit www.artsandcraftsfestival.com.

Sharon Katey School Leader On This…

For the season…for the halls and making some great memories of your own. Here are some activities going on throughout N. Florida.

The Shame On Florida.

Here are some activities on what weekend.

Chaplain Kerin Stanley CREDI

A quote that many of us have probably heard a time or two is “When the music stops, you’re out.”

I often ponder on...
Detroit Begins Operational Testing of LCS Surface-to-Surface Missile Module

From Program Executive Office Unmanned and Small Combatants

USS Detroit (LCS 7) began initial operational test and evaluation (IOT&E) of the Surface-to-Surface Missile Module (SSMM) on Oct. 17, two months ahead of schedule.

The SSMM is the newest addition to the ship’s suite of capabilities with the Standard Surface Weapon Mission Package, designed to counter potential threats including small boat swarming threats to counter small-boat defense capabilities in the dynamic littoral environment.

Initial Operational Capability and fielding the SSMM with the Surface Weapon Mission Package included in the SSMM, are two Longbow Hellfire missiles, Gun Mission Module (GMM), Maritime Security Module, consisting of two 57mm weapons systems, and two 30mm guns, and Aviation Mission Module, containing an MH-60R Seahawk helicopter and a Vertical Take-Off Unmanned Aircraft, and was designed to complement the ship’s organic weapons to counter small-boat swarming threats and provide a visit, board, search and seizure capability.

The Gun Mission Module, Maritime Security Module, and Aviation Mission Module all achieved initial operational capability in November 2018 and have embarked on multiple deployments on both Freedom and Independence LCS variants. The package’s operational test and evaluation plan involves testing following successful developmental and integrated testing off the coast of Virginia from July through November. The test and evaluation plan involves two fast indorse attack craft events and that utilize the SSMM and GMM, including an MH-60R Seahawk helicopter and a Vertical Take-Off Unmanned Aircraft, and was designed to complement the ship’s organic weapons to counter small-boat swarming threats and provide a visit, board, search and seizure capability.

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The ceremony was attended by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford, Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer, and Navy Secretary. However, Hudner, a native of Fall River, Massachusetts, received the Medal of Honor for his actions while trying to save the life of his wingman, Ensign Jesse L. Brown, during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in the Korean War.

The DDG 116 class destroyers are highly-capable, multi-mission ships that conduct a variety of operations, from peacekeeping to national security. These DDGs make her way to homeport in Mayport, Florida. Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) class destroyers are designed to carry out a wide range of military operations, from peacekeeping to national security. These DDGs are highly-capable, multi-mission ships that conduct a variety of operations, from peacekeeping to national security. These DDGs...
USO hosted a Texas Roadhouse Tailgate for the Thomas Hudner crew that included mascots and cheerleaders from the Boston sports teams, Miss Massachusetts, and the USO Show Troupe. Thomas Hudner is the 66th Arleigh Burke-class destroyer and the first warship named for Capt. Thomas J. Hudner, Jr., who earned the Medal of Honor for his actions while trying to save the life of his wingman, Ensign Jesse L. Brown, during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in the Korean War.

Thomas Hudner Sailors visit the New England Center and Home for Veterans on Nov. 27 to visit some of our nation’s heroes.
US France Team Up In 5th Fleet

By Mass Communication Specialist Jonathan Clay

The guided-missile destroyer USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109) and the French frigate FS Courbet (F712) participated in training during a three-week interoperability period, Nov. 8.

While conducting routine operations in the Arabian Gulf, Dunham and Courbet, under tactical control of U.S. 5th Fleet Task Force (TF) 55, rendezvoused to perform a variety of integrated training that included a liaison naval officer (LNO) exchange, a low-slow flyer (helicopter) drill and deck-landing qualification (DLQ) for a U.S. helicopter aboard Courbet.

“Working with the FS Courbet was a perfect chance to demonstrate our ability to integrate with other countries,” said Capt. John Hamilton, Dunham’s commanding officer. “It allows France to see how we operate and learn from our methods but it also allows our crew the chance to learn from them.”

The main evolution during the day was a DLQ. Dunham launched an MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter, assigned to the “Vipers” of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 48, to practice landing on the flight deck of Courbet.

“The purpose of a DLQ is to build up proficiency for a landing environment,” said Lt. Jonathan Marie, HSM-48’s pilot who flew during the evolution. “Each ship has its own unique characteristics, and getting used to that takes time and repetition.”

Marie said there may be differences between how different ships and countries operate but the net result is the same. “The goal is to land safely,” said Marie. “We make sure we are following their procedures appropriately and communicate intentions effectively so that the deck is ready for us to land.”

Marie said the evolution went well and was another opportunity to reinforce the bond between U.S. and France. Dunham has also worked with other countries including the Egyptian Naval Force and the Italian Navy during the ship’s current deployment. “I am honored that the Jason Dunham is often selected to build U.S.-relations overseas, and I look forward to what the rest of deployment will bring,” said Hamilton.

Jason Dunham is deployed in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points.

Fire Controlman 2nd Class James Leonard, left, guides Aviation Electronics Technician 3rd Class Anthony Javarone away from an MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the Vipers of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 48 during a vertical replenishment exercise aboard the Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Jason Dunham (DDG 198). Jason Dunham is deployed in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points.

Photo by MC2 Jonathan Clay
Senior leadership and personnel embarked aboard USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) attended an opening ceremony at a land-based medical site in Riohacha, Colombia, Nov. 26.

“Our mission here is to promote peace, security and stability throughout the Americas by strengthening our partnerships with the nations of South and Central America,” said Capt. William Shafley, commander, Task Force 49.

“The medical team will work alongside the government of Colombia to provide top quality medical care to people in need.”

A team comprised of more than 900 medical personnel, including military, non-governmental organization volunteers and members from partner nations, began screening surgical patients Saturday, Nov. 24. The opening ceremony marked the commencement of the medical sites’ full operability, which will continue to treat patients for the next several days.

“Comfort’s presence here represents an enduring promise of friendship, partnership and solidarity with Colombia,” said Shafley. “This mission is but one demonstration of our commitment to a powerful cooperation between our two nations.”

Brigadier General Jaime Hernando Rivera Jaimes, acting commander of the Colombian Army 1st Division and Wilson Rojas Vanegas, governor of La Guajira, were among some of the distinguished guests and speakers at the ceremony.

“It’s a pleasure for us to have this ship here to bring healthcare to the Colombians and Venezuelans in this difficult situation,” said Vanegas, translated from Spanish. “To the United States, we can’t thank you enough. We are immensely happy with this grand mission of surgeries and medical attention.”

This is the sixth time that Comfort has deployed to the region, and the fifth time that Comfort has visited Colombia. Past missions have provided medical treatment to more than 390,000 patients, including 6,000 surgeries.

Comfort is on an 11-week medical support mission to Central and South America as part of U.S. Southern Command’s Enduring Promise initiative. Working with health and government partners in Ecuador, Peru, Colombia and Honduras, the embarked medical team will provide care on board and at land-based medical sites, helping to relieve pressure on national medical systems caused partly by an increase in cross-border migrants. The deployment reflects the United States’ enduring promise of friendship, partnership and solidarity with the Americas.

When you’re devoted to something, you don’t stop. Which is why, as a veteran transitioning to civil employment, you’re still seeking out service-centered careers. The transition to MSC is seamless - you and other veterans use the skills you’ve developed in the military to complete MSC’s missions. At the same time, you get job security, pride in the job you do and continue to serve our country by supporting the U.S. Navy as civil service mariners.

Communications Officers and Electronic Technicians can bring Radio Communications, Information Technology, Data Systems, Intel and LAN Administration skills to multiple open positions at MSC today.

Stop Searching, KEEP SERVING

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Sign-on recruitment bonuses available!

The image includes text that is not relevant to the content of the document.
**Weekly Events**

**Mondays: Monday Night Football & Wings.** 7 – 11 pm at the Beacon. Enjoy your favorite team on our 20 ft. screen! Grab a beverage at Loggdrheads Pub and join us at the Terraza Room for FREE wings every Monday starting at 8pm at the Beacon. Monday Night Football & Wings is open to all hands off and Loggdrheads is open to all hands on. Get ready to have a good time!

**Tuesdays: Sewing Class.** 9 am to 11 am and 1 pm. Get to know your sewing machine and what it can do for you. Students can bring their own machines (must provide all accessories and materials) or the instructor will provide one. Space is limited to 20 people per 2 pm session and is only $15. Sign up at Tickets and Travel two days prior to class.

**Wednesdays: Military Appreciation Bowling Special.** 10:00 am – 10:00 pm. Every Wednesday at the Mayport Bowling Center is “Military Appreciation Day.” Military and family members can enjoy 8 games and $1 shoe rental all day, as well as hot dogs and a fountain drink from 4:00 – 9:00 pm.

**Thursdays: Thursday Night Football & Wings.** 8 – 11 pm at the Beacon. Enjoy Thursday Night Football in our spur screen! Grab a beverage at Loggdrheads Pub and join us in the Terraza Room for FREE wings every Thursday starting at 8pm at the Beacon. Thursday Night Football is open to all hands off and Loggdrheads is open to all hands on! Get ready to have a good time!

**Thursdays: CPO Family Night.** 7 – 9 pm at the CPO Club. Make it a family night at the CPO Club! Join us every Thursday from 7:00 – 9:00 pm for a kid-friendly menu and lots of activities. It’s fun for everyone!

**Fridays: Mayport Movie Night.** 6:00 – 8:00 at the Beacon. Pop some popcorn, curl up the family onto the CPO Club! Join us every Friday from 6:00 – 9:00 pm for a kid-friendly movie and lots of activities. It’s fun for everyone!

**Christmas Events.**
- **Dec. 21:** Surf Fishing. Sign up deadline is 12/11. Sign up at Outdoor Adventures 3 pm at the Mayport Beacon. All hands off. Price is $2 per person, includes fishing license.
- **Dec. 6:** Surf Fishing. Sign up deadline is 12/5 at the Liberty Center. All hands off.
- **Dec. 6:** Winter Wonderland! Fun for the whole family and your friends! Bring your family and your friends for a magical time!
- **Dec. 12:** Bowling Clinic & Funday Bowling Special. 10:00 am – 12 pm at the CPO Club. Grab a friend to watch a world-class bowling tournament from a live screen! Free!
- **Dec. 8:** Swimming with Santa. 10:00 am – 12 pm at Sea Otter Pavilion. Come have a great time with Santa! Family-friendly menu and lots of fun activities! FREE!
- **Dec. 8:** UFC 231 Holloway vs Ortega. Watch the live FEET at Loggdrheads and Liberty, donates 20% of sales at (All hands welcome in Loggdrheads)
- **Dec. 10:** How to use the MWR Digital Library. Navy Digital Library is the Navy’s Library Program’s Digital Library Branch is open 24/7. We assist you with logging on for the first time and help you navigate this wonderland of opportunities, train rides and more! Bring your laptop or tablet. Sign up deadline is 12/9. Please bring a laptop or tablet.
- **Dec. 12:** Bowling Clinic & game. Join us for a game on your laptop or little Pittis! Join us at the Beacon 9:00 – 12:00. Sign up deadline is 12/5 at the Liberty Center.
- **Dec. 13:** Cast Netting Clinic. 4 pm. Learn the basic skills of Cast Netting and catch your own dinner! Sign up at Online Adventures a day or two in advance. Sign up deadline is 12/10. Any fish you catch get kept! A license is required for this event from the state of FL. A license is available for free from the local tax collector’s office or can be purchased for a small fee online at myFWC.com.

**Spend Your Liberty With MWR Mayport**

The following activities target single or unaccompanied Sailors. For more information, call 904-270-7988 or stop by the Mayport Liberty Center and pick up the monthly activity calendar with a complete listing of all upcoming Liberty activities.

**Tuesdays: Billiard Tournaments.** 6 pm at the Liberty Center. Play pool, darts, or snooker! On Sunday, enjoy $1 hot dogs and sodas. There will be $300 up in prizes and your chance to qualify for a bigger one! Only one entry per person per night.

**Wednesdays: Winter Wonderland!** Fun for the whole family and your friends! Bring your family and your friends for a magical time!

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2nd Annual Holiday Flag Football

Photo courtesy of MWR
SAS (ex HSM-70) "Spartans" are the winners of this year’s Holiday Flag Football held Dec. 1 at the Turf Field. To participate, each player had to bring one new, unopened toy to be donated to the USO for families in need.

MWR Fitness For Sailors, Families

Aquatics

Family Swim:

Monday – Thursday
3-7:30 p.m.
Saturday
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
The Natatorium is open for Family Swim in the shallow end. Bring your family for fun or see the time to teach your child how to swim. Lap swim is also available during these times.

Intramural Sports:

Jan. 18-21:
MLK Men’s and Women’s Basketball Tournament
Get your teams together and register for the Men’s & Women’s MLK Basketball Tournament! Jan. 18-21 at the Fitness Center. The tournament fee is $250 per team, and the deadline to register is December 27, 2018. Open to active duty, dependents, and DOD ages 18+. For more information, call 904-270-7779.

Bowling Center

There is always something fun going on at the Bowling Center.

For more information, call 904-270-7719.

PROGRAMS

Youth Sports

FEBRUARY 3, 2019

The Saratoga Classic Half Marathon & Super Sara 5K

Saratoga Classic Half Marathon and Super Sara 5K – 8 a.m.-12 p.m. on Naval Station Mayport.

To honor of USS Saratoga (CV-60), Naval Station Mayport’s first aircraft carrier, MWR Mayport will be hosting the inaugural Saratoga Classic Half Marathon & Super Sara 5K on February 3, 2019. This event will be open to the public, bringing the Jacksonville and military communities together while providing a truly unique experience for all. Prizes will increase incrementally until the final registration date of Jan. 31, 2019. Learn more at www.NavYcMWRMayport.com/Events/Games.

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The following classes and activities are offered by the Fleet and Family Support Center (FPSC) and are free of charge.

Dec. 6, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., FAP Key Personnel Training, BLDG 1, RM 607: This workshop is designed to assist service members and families in developing a holiday spending plan, provide tips for smart shopping and post-holiday financial planning.

Dec. 10-11, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m., How to Survive the Holidays, BLDG 1, RM 607: This workshop is designed to assist service members and families in developing a holiday spending plan, provide tips for smart shopping and post-holiday financial planning.

Dec. 11, 11 a.m., Exceptional Family Member Support Group, BLDG 1, RM 607: Would you like general information about the EFM program and its benefits? Are you interested in learning about local community resources and services? Are you looking for a comfortable environment to share resources and experiences with other special needs families? Would you like to connect with other special needs families? Are you looking for a comfortable environment to share resources and experiences with other special needs families?

Dec. 12, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m., SAPR VA Continuing Education, BLDG 1, RM 702: Advocates must complete 32 hours of continuing education every two years to maintain their SAPR certification and receive the latest SAPR Program guidelines.

Dec. 13, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m., Event (All Pay Families): The final component of Transition Goals, Phase 1, Transition Fundamentals (ITP) checklist (DD Form 295).

Fun

https://www.dechchildrens.org/

Illuminations – Through Dec. Enjoy the magic of driving through a mile of Half a Million holiday lights that are perfectly synchronized to holiday music. For more information https://jaxilluminations.com/.

Christmas in Avondale: The historic Riverside Avondale’s Lamplight takes place December 17-18, 2018. The community has turned this event into a Winter Wonderland with caroling, lights, parade, block parties, bike ride, and church festivities. Our residents have now become a part of this great neighbor- hood as its annual holiday tradition. For more information go to https://www.facebook.com/events/5720403094795/.

Holiday Movie Viewing While Frosting, bahumbug

December 13 at the Florida Theater. First A.C.T., the non-profit Florida Theater’s young professional networking group, presents the film Home Alone, to benefit Second Horizon Northeast Florida. Admission is FREE for every adult and child with a gift of canned or non-perishable food. http://floridatheater.net/event/home-alone/

Need more ideas for makes your holiday visit? Visit this site for more information on fun and other holiday events in Jacksonville. http://www.jaxilluminations.com/

Sharon Karina is the School Liaison Officer for NS Mayport. If you have questions or feedback about this article, she can be reached via email at shk@navy.mil or by phone at (904) 270-6289 X1305 or (904) 270-3582 [cell]. You can also contact FPSC to schedule a meeting with her in Building One.
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