



# THE Currents™

Vol. 27 No. 8

Serving the New Orleans Regional Military/DoD Communities

August 2016

## NAS JRB New Orleans Announces 2017 Air Show

By Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Edward Gutierrez III  
**The Currents' Staff**

The Blue Angels Navy Flight Demonstration team will return to Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans for the 2017 New Orleans Air Show, Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Sucato announced during a press conference on base July 21.

"The Naval Air Station has not hosted an air show since 2011," said Sucato. "We are well overdue, in my opinion. As a result, I am proud to announce that Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans will host the 2017 New Orleans Air Show next spring on April 22 and 23."

The press conference was attended by Plaquemines Parish President Ed Theriot, and local media representatives.

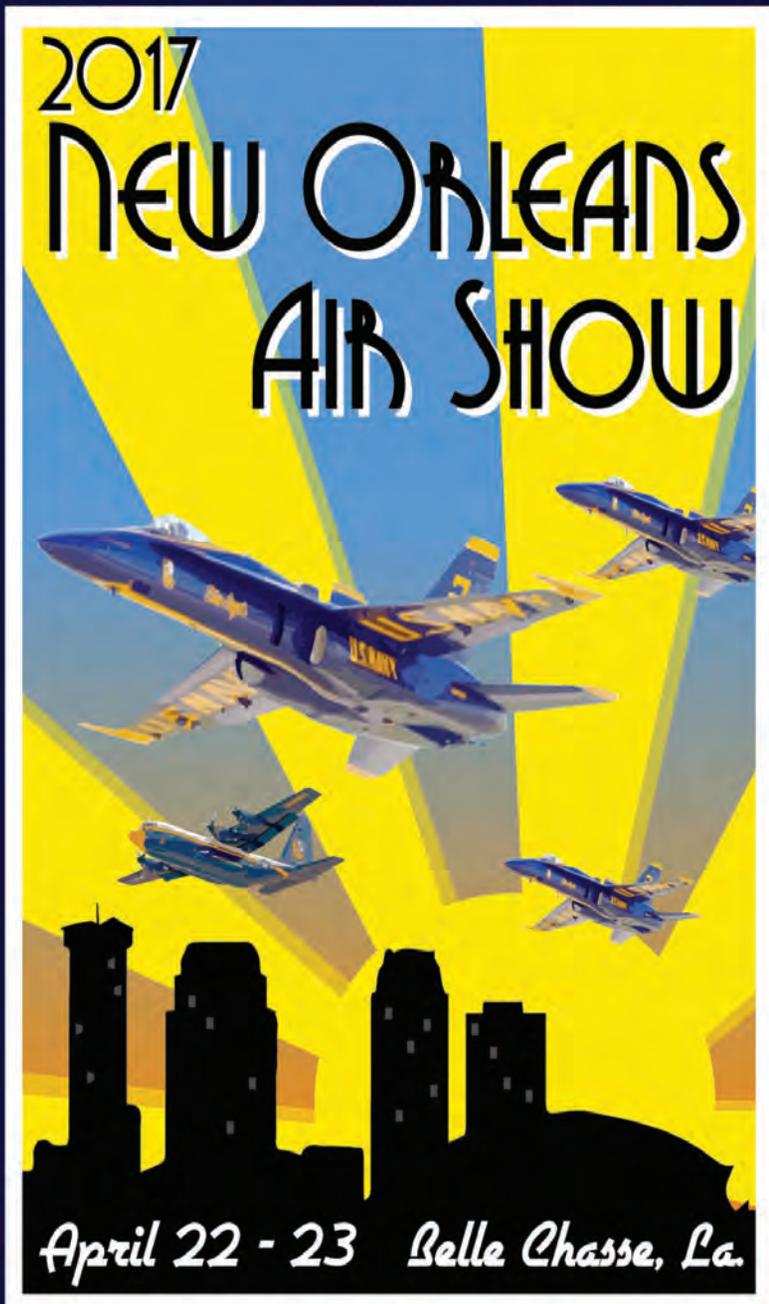
The economic benefits these visitors bring to Plaquemines Parish are huge, said Theriot.

"As president of Plaquemines Parish, this is great news to us," said Theriot. "The air show brings so many people to our community and the Naval Air Station. People come into our community, they see our community, and it's a big impact for us."

Gates will open at 8 a.m. on air show days and parking and admission are free. In addition to the Blue Angels, numerous flight demonstration aircraft, parachute teams and a jet-powered school bus are expected to perform. As in years past there will be static display aircraft and other military hardware on the flight line for patrons to view, along with special areas for younger attendees. Past air shows at the installation have seen attendance of about 75,000 each day.

The air station is maintaining a Facebook page where updates will be posted as soon as they are available. The address is: [www.facebook.com/2017neworleansairshow](http://www.facebook.com/2017neworleansairshow).

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Plaquemines Parish President, Ed Theriot, accepts a framed poster for the 2017 New Orleans Air Show from Capt. Mark Sucato, NAS JRB New Orleans commanding officer, during a July 21 news conference announcing the upcoming show. The air show will take place April 22 and 23, 2017 at the Naval Air Station in Belle Chasse, La., and will be the first show at the air station since 2011.

Photo by MC2 Edward Gutierrez

E-mail suggestions and safety issues to:  
**[nasjrbnolasuggestion@gmail.com](mailto:nasjrbnolasuggestion@gmail.com)**

**This month in Navy & Marine History**  
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Board of Directors

**August Meeting -**

**1 August 2016 • 7 p.m. at BCA**

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**5 September 2016 • 7 p.m. at BCA**

Please check the BCA web site for  
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## From the Flightline

By Capt. Mark Sucato  
NAS JRB Commanding Officer

This is my first Louisiana summer but many have told me that it sure feels as if the heat arrived sooner, and the temperatures have been higher than remembered. I believe them! Many people do not think of extreme heat as deadly, but hundreds of people die each year due to excessive heat exposure. If you must be outdoors, try to limit your outdoor activity to morning and evening hours. If you are not accustomed to working or exercising in a hot environment, start slowly and pick up the pace gradually. Drink plenty of fluids and don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. When exercising or working in the heat, monitor the condition of your shipmate and have someone do the same for you. Heat-induced illness can cause a person to become confused or lose consciousness. Be a good neighbor – look out for each other!

Look out for our children too! In August, within our fence line and beyond, vehicular and pedestrian traffic will significantly increase as schools open. Plaquemines Parish schools open Aug. 10 and Belle Chasse Academy welcomes children back from summer vacation Aug. 22. This guarantees that there will be an uptick in vehicular and pedestrian traffic on base and on Highway 23, Belle Chasse Highway. I ask that you be extra observant of our school crossings and all pedestrian crossings on base and off. Be aware of the designated school zones near Belle



Chasse High School and Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, where crossing guards and parish officials enforce lowered speed limits.

As we are all aware, hurricane season ends Nov. 30 – with the peak of the season being mid-August to late October – a peak we soon occupy. We are approaching (knock on wood) the downward side of what has been a relatively quiet hurricane season, but that does not mean we are done! I remind all that we cannot let our guard down or stow away our hurricane preparedness kits. Our emergency management and response team remains vigilant to alert you and your family to any threats to our region. I ask each of you to also remain watchful and ready to act as circumstances may necessitate.

And finally, looking a bit further out - the 2016 New Orleans Navy Ball is Oct. 15 at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel on Canal Street. Our Navy Ball committee has worked diligently planning this event and raising funds so we can offer very affordable tickets to all hands, regardless of their rank. For tickets and more information speak with your department's Navy Ball Representative.

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August 2016

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The next issue of The Currents will be published on Thursday, September 1, 2016. Questions concerning content for publication are heartily encouraged and must be received at the Public Affairs Office, Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB), 400 Russell Ave., New Orleans, LA. 70143-5012, phone (504) 678-3260, by close of business on Friday, August 19, 2016.

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**Naval Air Station JRB New Orleans**  
**Capt. Mark Sucato**

Commanding Officer



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# Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Has New RSA

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class  
John Hulle

**The Currents' Staff**

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans recently gained a new local representative.

Dana Grigsby may be the new NMCRS relief services assistant here, but began her work with the Society nearly 20 years ago. Originally from Perrysberg, Ohio, she began volunteering after marrying Marine Sgt. Maj. William Grigsby, Sgt. Maj. Force Headquarters Group, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve.

Grigsby describes her position as a bit of "catch all" assisting and mentoring case work.

She started volunteering at NMCRS in Parris Island, S.C., and continued her work at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., and in Okinawa, Japan. Grigsby also volunteers in schools and has worked as a substitute teacher.

"I love it. It's a small family," said Grigsby. "I really believe in the mission and the work. NMCRS consis-

tently spends very little on overhead cost. The vast majority of the money collected goes directly to Marines, Sailors and other eligible members, on financial services."

NMCRS provides financial assistance, education and other programs and services to members of the U. S. Navy and Marine Corps, their eligible family members, widows and survivors. The Society is also responsible for receiving and managing donated funds to administer these programs and services.

As a non-profit, volunteer service organization, they use both financial and non-financial resources to identify solutions to meet emerging needs. NMCRS helps clients improve personal financial skills and encourage individual financial responsibility.

"Financial education has become a pet project of mine because a military member's finances can drastically change in the military," said Grigsby.

She said that the military duty across the globe, can force service members to have to cope with severely different financial situations.

According to NMCRS the staff assists each person seeking their help deal with the crisis at hand. Their long-

term mission is to help Sailors and Marines become financially self-sufficient by helping them learn to better manage their personal finances and prepare for unplanned expenditures.

Grigsby said her biggest concern is service members resorting to pay day loans, or other predatory lenders with extremely high interest rates.

"It is extremely easy to get a loan from a predatory lender," said Grigsby. "We've seen loans with a 400 percent interest rate and service members can't even make the monthly payment. We tell everyone to stay away from payday lenders. It can start a cycle that people may never be able to recover from."

NMCRS offers quick assist loans, budget counseling and financial management, combat casualty assistance, visiting nurse program, traditional visiting nurse program, education assistance and budget for baby workshops.

"We want people to come see us if they need help with any life changing events," said Grigsby. "Everything we do here is confidential."

The NAS JRB New Orleans NMCRS office is located in building 555 and is open 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.



**Dana Grigsby is the new NMCRS relief services assistant at NAS JRB New Orleans. Grigsby has worked with NMCRS off and on for nearly 20 years at various military installations around the world. Photo by MCI John Hulle**

For more information on the services NMCRS provides call 504-678-4652.

# NAS JRB JAG Named RLSO Junior Officer of Quarter

By Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Edward Gutierrez  
**The Currents' Staff**

Lt. Striker Brown, staff judge advocate for Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans, was named Region Legal Services Office Southeast (RLSO SE) Junior Officer of the Quarter July 11.

"It's an honor to be named Junior Officer of the Quarter for RLSO SE," said Brown. "I enjoy the work I do and the people I work for. Being recognized makes my job all that much better."

Brown earned the awarded for a variety of work (in addition to his primary job) around NAS JRB such as his efforts as the command managed equal opportunity manager, his multiple legal training sessions for various entities on base and for his participation in the drafting of the installation's new anti-terrorism plan.

Region Legal Service Office Southeast (RLSO SE) supports the operational readiness of Department of the Navy assets in the southeastern U.S. by providing responsive, timely and accurate legal guidance, support services and training in the areas of mili-



**Lt. Striker Brown, staff judge advocate for NAS JRB New Orleans, is the Navy Region Legal Services Office Southeast (RLSO SE) Junior Officer of the Quarter. Photo by MC2 Edward Gutierrez**

tary justice and administrative law.

Brown serves as the base staff judge advocate (SJA) for the commanding officer of NAS JRB New Orleans. The SJA and legal staff also provide command services and military justice advice and training to command leadership of tenant commands located aboard NAS JRB New Orleans as well as Navy commands located across the state of Louisiana.



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# Sea Cadets Complete Petty Officer Leadership Academy

By Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Edward Gutierrez  
**The Currents' Staff**

Members of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps descended upon Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans to participate in a petty officer leadership academy (POLA) June 19-25.

"POLA is a training exercise that helps cadets meet the requirements to advance to higher ranks," said Hospital Corpsman James Gonzales, commanding officer of NAS JRB New Orleans Sea Cadets, the Eisenhower Squadron. "It's very similar to what Navy Sailors do in petty officer indoctrination and boot camp. The cadets wake up at 5 a.m. for physical training, then undergo classroom instruction similar to what Sailors do in petty officer indoctrination, and practice drilling and

marching. It closely mimics how the Navy operates without actually being in the Navy."

The course is required for cadets aspiring to achieve the rank of petty officer second class and for those intending on staffing recruit training or Navy League orientation. The one-week course teaches theoretical and practical aspects of leadership, both within Sea Cadets and beyond. Classroom lectures are balanced with indoor and outdoor team building activities, use of multimedia and practical exercises that allow cadets to practice their own leadership styles in a non-anxiety provoking atmosphere.

"We've learned how to lead and set the example for younger cadets," said Angelo Luna, 17, of Houston, Texas. "We've also learned how to integrate the Navy core values into everything we do."

The Sea Cadet Corps provides 11-18 year olds with life-



**U.S. Naval Sea Cadets from around the country pose for a group photo during a petty officer leadership academy held aboard NAS JRB New Orleans June 19-25.**  
*Photo by MC2 Edward Gutierrez*

changing programs that instill the values of teamwork, discipline, camaraderie and service through the all-volunteer force and partnerships with the nation's armed forces. After joining the Sea Cadets, members attend mandatory two-week training sessions held in various locations throughout the United States. Cadets receive 106 hours of Navy approved training focusing on the Navy core values of honor, courage and commitment. After gradu-

ating from recruit training, Sea Cadets are given the opportunity to choose from an extensive list of advanced training opportunities.

"My favorite thing about being a Sea Cadet is being able to get out of my comfort zone," said Luna. "Before joining the Sea Cadets, I was sort of reserved. I didn't talk a lot. After a couple years of being a Sea Cadet, I've really been able to get out of my comfort zone."

According to Gonzales, the

Sea Cadet Corps is a worthwhile program for adolescents.

"It's a fantastic mentor program," said Gonzales. "The program helps give kids outlets besides just going home and playing video games. We give these kids military structure in their lives without them actually being in the military. We help them to become leaders."

Anyone interested in joining the Sea Cadet program can email Gonzales at: [gonzalesus18@gmail.com](mailto:gonzalesus18@gmail.com).

## 2017 New Orleans MOWC Membership Driver Underway

The Military Officers' Wives' Club (MOWC) of Greater New Orleans has begun this year's membership drive and will host its annual welcome brunch August 20. Anyone interested in joining the group is invited to attend the brunch. To RSVP and for the time and location of the welcome brunch send an e-mail to Rhonda Humphrey at: [humphreyrj@aol.com](mailto:humphreyrj@aol.com).

Membership in the MOWC is open to all current or former

military spouses or a widow/er of a commissioned officer or warrant officer of the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps or Air Force, active, reserve or retired. In the case of a former spouse, the spouse must have been a member in good standing prior to the divorce/death.

Associate membership is open to current or former spouses or widow/er of a federal government service employee with the rating of



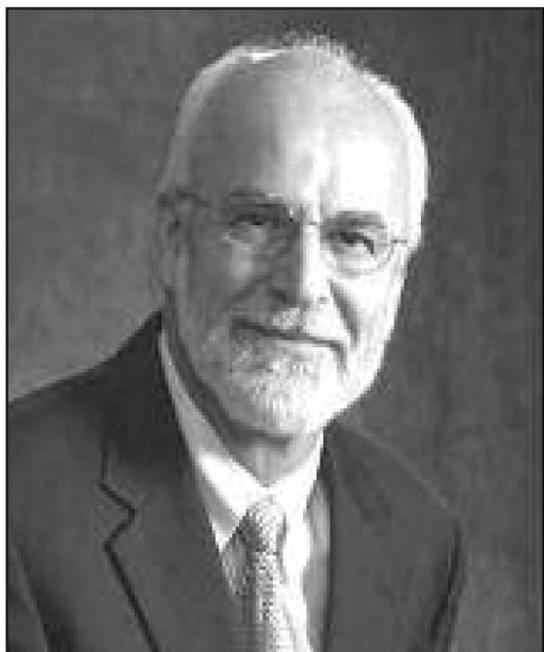
GS-07 or above, a federal government employee with the rating of GS-07 or above, or a military veteran as a commissioned or warrant officer

of the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps or Air Force, active, reserve or retired. Also, the spouse must have been a member in good standing prior to the divorce/death.

The MOWC is a non-profit organization, whose purpose is to hold social functions for club members and their guests, which foster friendship and encourage the growth of existing ones; to raise funds to support community organiza-

tions adopted by the club; and to aid and assist in community work. Annually, the club hosts a full-scale Mardi Gras ball, CAMAN, with a club king, queen and maids representing each military service branch. CAMAN stands for Coast Guard, Air Force, Marine, Army and Navy.

The MOWC, as a non-profit service organization, has no paid positions. For more information visit: <http://www.mowcnola.org>.



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# Bayou Militia Excels at Silver Flag Exercise

By 1st. Lt Larissa Lambert  
159th Flighter Wing  
Public Affairs Office

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany – More than 130 Airmen from the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Civil Engineer (CES) and Force Support Squadrons (FSS), took part in a Silver Flag exercise at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, June 4-12.

Silver Flag is an opportunity for Airmen to receive specialized training that they would not get at home station during a week-long bare-base operations exercise to establish a base from the ground up. The purpose of the exercise is to sharpen critical deployment skills that are needed to support world-wide contingency operations. The event concluded with a two-day exercise to apply the classroom training.

Airmen from several different career fields, known as Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSC), from both squadrons worked together to accomplish tasks required to establish and maintain a forward operating base during initial air operations. In contingency operations, Airmen would construct an airfield, provide power, water, lodging and meals to support approximately 150-500 members at any given time.

"Silver Flag is a training event that brings in those units and systematically go through each individual AFSC, as well as the planning element from A to Z," said Maj. Jeffrey Carroll, 159th CES commander. "At the very end of that classroom training piece is the practical application, where the instructors go out and we execute a scenario of some X mission that they have given us."

The 159th FSS received instruction on meal prep planning, maintaining accountability, lodging, reporting casualty actions and mortuary affairs. The Airmen had to take that knowledge to the field, apply it and adapt to challenges experienced in a deployed environment exercise.

"Anytime you bring a big group together, you're going to have some communications challenges from the get go,"



**Louisiana Air National Guard's Tech. Sgt. Eric Norwood with the 159th CES, drills a hole in the concrete to secure a fiberglass mat to the runway during a Silver Flag exercise, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, June 11. Silver Flag is a weeklong simulated bare base beddown and sustainment operations in a contingency environment.**

said Tech. Sgt. Erik Adams, 159th FSS customer support supervisor. "Definitely I would say that flexibility is probably the most important thing that we could bring to the table. When things are cut off or information is not flowing the way it needs to, be flexible and figure out how to get the mission done."

The 159th FSS personnel Airmen earned a perfect score on all their tasks.

"They got 100 percent," said Maj. John Ellis, 159th FSS commander. "You look at all the AFSCs that attended Silver Flag and there was only one AFSC that received positive 'green' marks throughout their entire score card and that was Personnel Support for Contingency Operations (PERSCO)."

Food service Airmen were able to set up a mobile field kitchen in less than 30 minutes, which is the fastest time their instructor had seen in the last two years. Additionally, they served more than 130 personnel in less than an hour with only four food service specialists.

Senior Airman Franciscodan Orellana of Gretna, 159th Mission Support Group and Senior Airman Vong Trieu, 159th FSS, were also recognized as outstanding performers and received a commander's coin. They were the only two Guardsmen to receive that honor.

The 159th CES received hands-on training in runway repair, emergency airfield lighting, emergency management, water purification, aircraft ar-



**Louisiana Air National Guard's Tech. Sgt. Emily Galloway, 159th FSS, prepares chicken cordon bleu in a dining facility during Silver Flag at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, June 9.**



**During the Silver Flag Exercise at Ramstein Air Base, Master Sgt. Monty Cadney, 236th Combat Communications Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Michael Osburn, 786th CES, prepare to clean a simulated chlorine spill by placing the container into an over-pack barrel.**

*Photos by 1st Lt. Larissa Lambert*

resting systems and power distribution.

"Our priority is expedient repair of craters in runway," said Senior Airman Nathin Schuessler, 159 CES. "We get the runway operating as quickly as possible so that we can get the birds in the sky."

The Airmen also planned and

conducted a convoy, performed area sweeps for unexploded ordnances, executed a bed down plan and secured chemical spills. For the contingency exercise, the Airmen had to respond to simulated gunfire and missile attacks to demonstrate their ability to operate in wartime conditions.

# August, Time to Prepare for Back to School

By Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Edward Gutierrez  
**The Currents' Staff**

August is a time of sweltering summer heat, an uptick in tropical weather such as hurricanes and the beginning of football season. It is also the time parents may look forward to and children possibly dread. It's time to go back to school.

At Belle Chasse Academy (BCA), the school onboard Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans, the school year will begin for 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders on Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Kindergarteners will get a slight reprieve, as their school year will not begin until Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>. Mandatory student orientation days will be held for both new and returning students on August 18 and 19 but students must only attend one orientation day.

"We know our parents get a lot of information at the beginning of the school year," said Michael Rocks, director of operations at BCA. "But it really is important information. We distribute parent/student handbooks, we put out information online and through social media. We really take communication with our parents seriously. We want to make sure we have as many avenues as possible to keep them up to date on what's happening at the school so we can better serve them and their children."

Children in grades 1 through 12 who attend schools in Plaquemines Parish will begin school on Aug. 10. Plaquemines Parish pre-kindergarteners and kindergarteners will start their school year on Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>. Dates vary for all schools in the New Orleans area so parents should check with those their children will attend.

## School Supplies

Many parents and students alike follow a similar routine prior to the beginning of a new school year. With copies of the mandatory school supply lists in hand they search for just the right items needed to begin the new school year.

School supplies can be expensive. Maybe a student needs a

new graphing calculator for a math class or other expensive purchases. Luckily, Louisiana will hold its annual Sales Tax Holiday Aug. 5 and 6, just in time for the start of the school year. Almost all purchases that weekend will see their sales reduced to 2 percent. More details can be found at <http://revenue.louisiana.gov/NewsAndPublications/salestaxholiday>.

"We put out our school supply lists around April so that parents have ample time to get all supplies they need for their children," said Rocks. "We also make pre-packaged supplies available for purchase, so that everything students need for school with the exception of a few specialty items will be waiting for them in their classrooms."

## Immunization

Getting children back to school requires more than just new supplies and uniforms. It is important for parents to consider their child's health prior to the beginning of the school year. Most school systems will not admit a child without an immunization record and more vaccinations are added to the list of required shots all the time. Parents need to check with the area school board to know what is required for students. If children have incomplete immunization records, they can be excluded from school for the duration of the incubation period of the particular disease which, in the case of a disease like chicken pox, can be up to 21 days. Immunizations are covered by most insurance policies and Medicaid. For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://www2a.cdc.gov/nip/schoolsurv/schImmRqmt.asp>.

## Identity Theft

Another thing parents should be on the lookout for during back to school season is identity theft. The reams of paperwork that need to be filled out can leave children vulnerable to identity theft. According to a 2012 study by Javelin Strategy and Research, 2.5 percent of



**Mary Ricci, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Paul J. Solis Elementary School in Gretna, La., decorates her classroom in preparation for the beginning of the school year. Schools across the New Orleans metro area are preparing to begin the 2016-2017 school year in August. Parents should check with the school board in their parish for information on school start dates and on how to obtain supply lists for students.**

*Photo by MC2 Edward Gutierrez*

U.S. households with children younger than 18 experienced child identity theft. The true number is almost assuredly higher because many children may not realize they have been victims of identity theft until they become adults.

The most vital information identity thieves value is a child's Social Security number. Identity thieves use stolen Social Security numbers in tandem with fake birthdates to

create phony identities with which to apply for credit that will ultimately be linked back to the victim.

Because of this, it is vital that parents ensure that their child's date of birth and/or Social Security number are only given out when absolutely necessary and that they will be handled properly and safeguarded.

Back-to-school time can be stressful for parents and children, not to mention the teach-

ers. However, with a few helpful hints, some prevention and a little bit of precaution the beginning of the school year can be a smooth experience for everyone.

"We're here to serve both the parents and students," said Rocks. "But we hope they can bear with us as we all get back into the routine of the new school year. Everything we do is to try to make the start of the school year easy for everyone."



# Pena Takes Command at Coast Guard Air Station

By Tammy Prine  
**The Currents' Staff**

Capt. David Cooper transferred command of Coast Guard Air Station New Orleans to Cmdr. Tina Pena during an official change-of-command ceremony at the World War II Museum in New Orleans, June 24.

Pena became the 29th and first female commander of the station, located at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans in Belle Chasse, La. She now has the responsibility for operations which includes the area from Apalachicola, Fla., north to Memphis, Tenn., west to the Louisiana/Texas border and south into the Gulf of Mexico including its thousands of offshore oil platforms. Pena began her flying career in 1999 at the Belle Chasse station and now leads the more than 120 assigned personnel who fly and maintain the MH-65C Dol-

phins operated by the station.

Guest speaker during the ceremony was Rear Adm. David Callahan, commander, Eighth Coast Guard District (D8) located in New Orleans.

"I have a special sense of pride here today because I was once commander of the air station," said Callahan. "As a CO, I flew with Pena when she was a duty pilot here. Even then I knew there was something special about her."

"I have watched her grow into a leader and know she is absolutely the right leader for this job."

Callahan lauded Cooper for his leadership at the air station. "You brought enthusiasm and great leadership during your tenure here," he said. "Your can-do attitude and willingness to do this hard job proved to be what the station needed."

"Yes, we are live savers but as all Coast Guardsmen know, you don't just save a life, you return someone to their family."

Cooper had great praise for the personnel he commanded.

"If I did anything well, it was to get out of your way to let you get the job done. And you did it greatly," he told the group.

"I'm not ready to go—I've loved being the commander here. It was an honor to walk the halls of Air Station New Orleans. Always remember that the work you do does make a difference."

Pena said she is excited to command the station where she began flying.

"I know I am fortunate to be here. I began my Coast Guard flying here and so happy to be back," Pena said.

Pena has more than 3,000 flight hours in the H-65 and holds several FAA ratings including a rotary wing Airline Transport Pilot license. Her decorations include the Meritorious Service medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medal and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal. Pena previously served as the engineering offi-



**Cmdr. Tina Pena, commanding officer of Coast Guard Air Station New Orleans, speaks to the crowd during the change-of-command ceremony at the World War II Museum in New Orleans, June 24.**

*Photo by Tammy Prine*

cer of Air Station Miami for approximately three years.

Cooper's next assignment is

the division chief for the planning and force readiness division at D8.

# Golfers Tee Off for Navy Ball 2016 Golf Tournament

By Mass Communication Specialist  
1st Class John Hulle  
**The Currents' Staff**

The 2016 Navy Ball golf, volleyball and disk golf tournament took place at Timberlane Country Club in Gretna, La., June 29.

The golf tournament featured a four-person scramble with a shotgun start. In scramble tournament golf, each player hits a tee shot on each hole, but everyone plays from the spot of the best shot.

Forty-four contestants showed up to compete for prizes and prestige at the tournament to raise money for the upcoming New Orleans Navy Ball. There were prizes for first, second and third place overall, longest drive and longest putt. Plus, everyone walked away with a goody bag from the NAS JRB Credit Union and lunch from Voodoo BBQ.

"This is our big fundraiser to help make the tickets more affordable for our young Sailors. We raised more than \$3,000," said Navy Ball Committee Chairman Chief Aviation Sup-



**Members of Team Bayou Bowl hold trophies as winners of the Navy Ball Golf Tournament July 29. The team won the tournament with a score of 16 under par. Pictured left to right: Dave McMasters, Ken Runey, Charles "Chuck" Hemming and Tony Coffey.**  
*Photo by MCI John Hulle*

port Equipment Technician Amy Grasse, assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 204. "We also reached out to local businesses to help benefit the funding of the 241th Navy Birthday Ball. Their contributions helped make this a very successful outing."

Grasse said with the proceeds from the tournament and other fundraising efforts, the committee is half way to their goal to

raise \$10,000 in fundraising and \$6,000 in sponsorship.

There are more events coming up for fundraising said Chief Religious Program Specialist Celeste Shield, assigned to Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans. Navy Ball Committee members volunteer at various concerts and professional sports games working concession stands with a portion of the money collected

going towards the Navy Ball.

To find out more information on volunteering with the Navy Ball Committee, call Shield at 504-678-3525.

The 2016 New Orleans Navy Ball is scheduled October 15 at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel. The guest speaker will be

Rear Adm. Mary Jackson, commander, Navy Region Southeast. Anyone interested in buying tickets can call their command Navy Ball Representative or Navy Counselor 1st Class Marta Martin at 504-906-0303 or email [nolanavyball@gmail.com](mailto:nolanavyball@gmail.com).



**Katie Wilson, left, general manager for the Navy Exchange at NAS JRB New Orleans presents Judy Guillot a gift card valued at \$250. Every month the NEX selects four winners from monthly survey entries to receive the gift cards. The NEX staff encourages patrons to participate in the surveys to assist in improving operations and customer service.**

*Photo by MC2 Edward Gutierrez*

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# New Orleans-Based Band wins Small Ensemble of the Year

By Lance Cpl. Devan Barnett  
**Marine Forces Reserve**

Marines with the Marine Corps Band New Orleans Jazz Ensemble won the Marine Corps Small Ensemble of the Year fiscal 2015.

Marine Corps Bands form smaller ensembles to compete at the small team level against other bands and their small ensemble groups. There are 10 bands made up of six small ensembles; but only one can be crowned Small Ensemble of the Year.

“The jazz combo is comprised of talented and dedicated musicians,” said Cpl. Scott Wenthe, bass player for the group. “Our only concern in this ensemble is making sure the product is genuine and enjoyable for the audience. It’s also unique, in that, each individual is highly responsible for their part. It makes playing more challenging but also more rewarding.”

The members of the ensemble selected a unique piece called “Martha’s Prize” originally written by Cedar Walton and performed by singer and drummer Jamison Ross, a local New Orleans musician. The ensemble practiced dili-

gently to master the piece.

“What we, as a group, bring to the table is a concern for the honesty of the music,” said Wenthe.

The musicians practice before and after their normal work hours to perfect their craft. Their hard work, dedication and love for music paid off; when they submitted the piece they were selected for award.

“We actually didn’t expect to win at all,” said Sgt. Randy West, the ensemble’s pianist. “We recorded “Martha’s Prize” on our own time just for fun. A couple of weeks later the command asked for small ensemble of the year recordings so we gave them that one.”

The victory was a validation of the hard work we put in perfecting our craft, both on and off the clock, said Cpl. David Linnenkamp, the ensemble’s trombone player.

The ensemble continues to work with all of their fellow band members, with hopes of putting their hard work towards winning Marine Corps Band of the year.

“We are coming along musically, as well as in the other categories that are taken into



**Marine Corps Band New Orleans Jazz Ensemble** Marines pause for a picture after receiving Marine Corps Band Small Ensemble of the Year for fiscal year 2015 in New Orleans, July 7. The members of the Jazz Ensemble won by selecting a unique piece called “Martha’s Prize” by Cedar Walton performed by singer and drummer Jamison Ross, a local New Orleans musician.

*Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Devan A. Barnett*

account including the Marine Corps martial arts program belt levels and our physical fitness and combat fitness tests

to compete and win band of the year,” said Sgt. Marcus Robinson, saxophone player for the ensemble.

The announcement for Marine Corps Band of the Year will be released by the end of the year.



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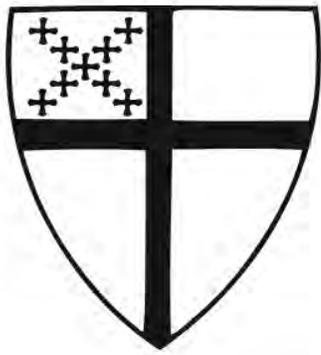
FRIDAY – SEPTEMBER 9th Concert  
AARON FORET

FRIDAY – OCTOBER 14th Concert  
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## Clancy in Command of New Orleans Army Corps of Engineers

By Army Corps of Engineers  
Public Affairs

Col. Michael Clancy became the New Orleans Corps of Engineers District's 63rd commander and district engineer on June 21. Upon assuming command, he became responsible for one of the largest civil works programs in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at more than \$300 million annually.

Clancy accepted command from Col. Richard Hansen, who had commanded the district for the past three years and now heads a security unit in Afghanistan.

The New Orleans district includes

2,800 miles of navigable waterways including five of the top 15 ports in the nation, 1,300 miles of levees and floodwalls, 11 navigation locks, six major flood control structures and other projects designed to create and protect coastal wetlands. Clancy also manages the district's effort to reduce risk for south Louisiana by executing comprehensive and integrated flood control, ecosystem restoration, and hurricane and storm damage risk reduction projects.

Clancy received his commission in May 1993 and most recently served as the director of Task Force 2010 in Afghanistan. Prior to that assignment, he was the deputy commander for the

1st Brigade Combat Team "Warriors", 10th Mountain Division and commanded the 7th Engineer Battalion, both at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Looking ahead, Clancy is excited to see what challenges and responsibilities this new posts will bring.

"I've heard about New Orleans district my whole time associated with the Army," Clancy said.

"There is no region in the United States, maybe even the world that is more blessed and yet challenged by water resource issues. I figured, if you're going to be a water resource Corps of Engineers officer, what better place to do it than New Orleans," said Clancy.



Col. Michael Clancy

## 2016 Political Activity Guidance for Military and Civilian Employees

By The Currents' Staff

During the election cycle all DoD personnel – military and civilian – should be aware of the various limitations that exist when it comes to participation in political activity. A quick summary of the rules and links to substantive guidance are included in the information below.

### Civilian Employees

For DoD civilians, participation in political activity is regulated by the Hatch Act as well as DoD policy. The Hatch Act views political activity as "an activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office or

partisan political group."

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) reminds federal employees covered by the Hatch Act not to engage in political activity while on duty or in the federal workplace. Information on the Hatch Act and permissible and prohibited activities is available at <http://www.osc.gov>.

### Military Members

The primary guidance concerning political activity for military members is found in DoD Directive 1344.10, Guidance for Military Personnel. Active-duty personnel may not engage in partisan political activities and all military personnel should avoid the inference that their political activities imply or appear to

imply DoD sponsorship, approval, or endorsement of a political candidate, campaign, or cause. Members on active-duty may not campaign for a partisan candidate, engage in partisan fundraising activities, serve as an officer of a partisan club, or speak before a partisan gathering. Active-duty members may, however, express their personal opinions on political candidates and issues, make monetary contributions to a political campaign or organization, and attend political events as a spectator when not in uniform.

### Social Media

Civilian and military personnel may generally express their personal views on public issues or political candidates

via social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, or personal blogs, much the same as they would be permitted to write a letter to the editor of a newspaper. If, when expressing a personal opinion, personnel are identified by a social media site as DoD employees, the posting must clearly and prominently state that the views expressed are those of the individual only and not of the Department of Defense.

Social media guidance for military members can be found at:

[http://www.dod.mil/dodgc/defense\\_ethics/resource\\_library/faqs\\_political\\_activities\\_armed\\_forces.pdf](http://www.dod.mil/dodgc/defense_ethics/resource_library/faqs_political_activities_armed_forces.pdf).

Guidance for civilians can

be found at: [http://www.dod.mil/dodgc/defense\\_ethics/resource\\_library/hatch\\_act\\_and\\_social\\_media.pdf](http://www.dod.mil/dodgc/defense_ethics/resource_library/hatch_act_and_social_media.pdf).

Service members must also be careful not to comment, post, or link to material that violates the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) or Service regulation. Examples include showing contempt for public officials, releasing sensitive information, or posting unprofessional material that is prejudicial to good order and discipline under the UCMJ.

At NAS JRB New Orleans personnel who may want more information can call the base voting officer, Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Simmons at 504-678-9877.

### Navy Ball Tickets on Sale

The 2016 New Orleans Navy Ball will be held Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Marriott Hotel, 555 Canal St., New Orleans. The event begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and reduced prices are available if purchased before Sept. 15.

The early bird prices are:

E3 and below: \$15

E4, E5 and ROTC: \$20

E6, GS-6 and below: \$25

E7, GS-7/8: \$30

E-8, E-9, O1-O3, GS-9/10, Retired and Veterans: \$35

O4 and above, W2 and Above, GS-11 and above: \$40.

The menu for the dinner is:

Salad, grilled chicken breast or New York strip steak, and dessert. A cash bar will be available and gluten free and vegetarian options are available on request.

To purchase tickets, military members and Navy DOD employees should contact their command representative. All others can call NCI Marta Martin at (504) 906-0303 or email [nolanavyball@gmail.com](mailto:nolanavyball@gmail.com).

Limited parking will be available at the hotel.



The joint military event is set for Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Belle Chasse Academy on board NAS JRB New Orleans in Belle Chasse. All military spouses and service members are welcome. Military or dependent ID cards will be required for entry. The event is not open to the general public.

Donations will be accepted from everyone. All gown sizes and lengths are needed. Accessories (shoes, purses and jewelry) are also accepted.

To donate, send an email to [operationballgown@yahoo.com](mailto:operationballgown@yahoo.com). If you would like your donations picked up be sure to include your address and contact information. Donations may also be dropped off at both Patrician Military Housing Offices.

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