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NCIS New Orleans Comes to NAS JRB New Orleans
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Greater New Orleans 240th Navy Birthday Ball

"Celebrating the Centennial of the United States Navy Reserve"
Saturday, October 17, 2015
7-11 p.m.

The World War II Museum
945 Magazine St. New Orleans, LA 70130
Cocktail Hour: 6:30-7 p.m.

Ticket Prices:

E-A & Below	\$20	GS-9, 10	\$50
E-A, E-S & ROTC	\$25	O-4 & Above	\$55
E-S, GS-4 & Below	\$30	W-2 & Above	\$55
E-S, GS-5, GS-6	\$35	GS-11 & Above	\$55
E-S, E-A, O-1, O-2, O-3	\$40	Retiree	\$50

Navy Birthday Ball
Page 18



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E-mail suggestions and safety issues to:

nasjrbnolasuggestion@gmail.com

THE Currents™

Vol. 26 No. 9

Serving the New Orleans Regional Military/DoD Communities

September 2015

Richardson Confirmed as Next CNO

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Elliott Fabrizio
Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Adm. John M. Richardson, director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, was confirmed by the Senate as the 31st Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Aug. 5.

Richardson will replace Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert who has been CNO since September 2011. Vice Adm. Frank Caldwell, who was also confirmed by the Senate today, will succeed Richardson later this month as the director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program.

"I am honored and humbled to have been nominated and confirmed to succeed Adm. Greenert as our Navy's next chief of naval operations," said Richardson. "Greenert and his wife Darleen have been tireless and superb advocates for our Sailors and their fam-

ilies. I am deeply grateful for their service to our Navy and nation. I am excited to lead the extraordinary men and women in the world's greatest Navy."

The change of office ceremony will be held in September at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

Richardson, 55, hails from Petersburg, Va. He graduated with a degree in physics from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1982 and earned master's degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the National War College.

As one of the Navy's top leaders, Richardson has a broad-based record as an operational commander. Richardson commanded the nuclear attack submarine USS Honolulu (SSN 718), served as a naval aide to the president of the United States, as well as numerous other assignments through his career. Richardson received the



Adm. John M. Richardson

prestigious Vice Adm. James Stockdale for inspirational leadership award in 2001, among a long list of personal and unit awards.

For a biography on Richardson visit www.navy.mil/navydata/bios/navybio.asp?bioID=440.

NAS JRB New Orleans Welcomes New Ombudsman

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

Throughout the years, ombudsmen have played vital roles in keeping military families informed about their servicemembers' commands, especially during deployments. They are the one to turn to whenever a helping hand is needed—lending support, guidance and reassurance when a loved one is at sea and things are a little stressful. Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans newest ombudsman is Lauren Williams.

"I think it's a great opportunity to give back to the base, families, the Sailors and it's a great volunteer opportunity. You get to learn about the base and what it has to offer," said Williams.

Originally, from Cleveland, Williams has been married to Chief Aviation Ordnanceman Scott Williams for eight years. They transferred to New Orleans from Andrews Air Force

Base, Md., with their four children, where Lauren was the ombudsman of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 209. She also recently earned a master's degree in human resource management from Strayer University.

She said being a military spouse can be challenging at times, but is very rewarding. "I love it, you get to see different parts of the world," she added.

Williams said the most challenging aspect of being an ombudsman is informing family members her role in the command and what she has to offer.

"I can provide resources that the community and the base have to offer. I can help them in times of need and directing them to the appropriate person whether it's financial or family problems or just things to do on a Saturday," Williams said.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo Zumwalt established the Navy Family Ombudsman Program to provide a liaison between commanding officers (CO) and military family members in 1970. He took this concept



NAS JRB New Orleans Ombudsman Lauren Williams.

Photo by MCI John Hulle

from a program used in the 19th century in Scandinavia, when ombudsman positions were used to allow common citizens access to express their concerns to high government officials.



This month in Navy & Marine History

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First iron ship authorized by Congress

September 3, 1783 Treaty of Paris
Signing of Treaty of Paris ends American Revolution

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From the Flightline

By Capt. Scott Gootee
NAS JRB Commanding Officer

September is National Preparedness Month. This period centers on raising awareness of natural hazards and the individual and collective actions we can take to mitigate the disorder that can accompany a natural disaster. I encourage you to go to ReadyNavy.mil and read more about what you and your family can do to prepare for emergencies.

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 now occupy. We are approaching the downward side of what has been a relatively calm 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. Remain watchful and ready to act as circumstances may necessitate.

Staying alert to threats of all types would seem to be part of the inherent duties of wearing the uniform or working for the Department of Defense. Collectively, our people do a great job of completing the mission while complying with time-tested measures, policies and regulations. And we are fortunate to have a security force of well-trained experienced people who guard our lives, work-



place and homes around the clock, 365 days a year.

Yet, as a nation, a society and a military, we currently face threats quite unlike those of the past – threats once unheard of on American soil. I ask each of you to stay attentive to the world around you and to current events worldwide. If something does not appear or feel right, speak up – use your chain of command or speak with security. “See Something, Say Something”, by now, may seem an old adage, but there is truth in its brief message.

And finally, the 2015 Greater New Orleans Navy Ball is Oct. 17 at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. Our Navy Ball committee has worked diligently to plan this event, and raise funds so we can offer very affordable tickets to all hands, regardless of their rank. For tickets and more information contact your department’s Navy Ball Representative or email nolanavyball@gmail.com.

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THE Currents

Vol. 26 No. 9 September 2015

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The next issue of The Currents will be published on Thursday, October 1, 2015. 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, September 18, 2015.

The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsements by the Department of Defense, the Navy, NAS JRB, or The Polo Company of the products and services advertised. Everything advertised in this newspaper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

Naval Air Station JRB New Orleans
Capt. Scott Gootee
Commanding Officer



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2015 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards



The Defense Department honored 15 businesses and government organizations August 17, at the Pentagon, with the 2015 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the highest honor the department gives to employers for support of National Guard and Reserve employees.

“These outstanding employers have not only earned

this award, they have earned this nation’s gratitude,” Defense Secretary Ash Carter said. “I am truly honored to recognize these 15 organizations for their unwavering support of our military men and women and their families. Their accomplishments are a vital piece of our national defense and a high standard toward which all employers of Guard and Re-

serve members should strive.”

This year’s recipients are:

— Black Hills Corporation, Rapid City, S.D., nominated by the Army National Guard;

— Boise Fire Department, Boise, Idaho, nominated by the Marine Corps Reserve;

— BP America, Houston, nominated by the Army National Guard;

— Cardinal Health, Dublin, Ohio, nominated by the Army National Guard;

— Cigna, Bloomfield, Conn., nominated by the Air National Guard;

— City of Glendale, Ariz., nominated by the Navy Reserve;

— City of Shawnee, Kan., nominated by the Army Reserve;

— College of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, Mo., nominated by the Army National Guard;

— CVS Health, Woonsocket, R.I., nominated by the Air National Guard;

— Devon Energy, Oklahoma City, nominated by the Air National Guard;

— Dr. Joe A. Jackson, Biloxi, Miss., nominated by the Army National Guard;

— Neil, Dymott, Frank, McFall, Trexler, McCabe & Hudson, San Diego, nominated by the Navy Reserve;

— Snell & Wilmer, Phoenix, nominated by the Marine Corps Reserve;

— Town of Hingham, Mass., nominated by the Navy Reserve; and

— Walt Disney Co., Burbank, Calif., nominated by the Air National Guard.

The 2015 recipients were selected from 2,960 nominations received from Guardsmen and Reservists for going far beyond what federal law requires in support of military employees, officials said.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of DoD’s Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve office to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. In the years since, 205 employers have received the award. (DOD News Service)

Keith L. Magness

Attorney at Law – Notary
(USMCR (MWHS-4), 1995-2000)

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NEX Employee Earns Superior Accomplishment Recognition Award

By The Currents' Staff

In June, during a routine inspection of the dressing rooms at the Navy Exchange (NEX) at NAS JRB New Orleans in Belle Chasse, La., Angela Duncan, a sales clerk, found an envelope containing \$400 in cash. What she did after finding the cash earned her a Superior Accomplishment Recognition Award from the NEX.

Upon finding the cash, Duncan immediately alerted the manager on duty and the money was turned in to the loss prevention investigator to be secured until the customer returned.

A few hours earlier, a retired Sailor, David Carry, had been at the NEX trying on clothes and in a letter of thanks to the store said the envelope must have fallen out of his pocket. He said he realized the loss a couple of hours later and returned to the store.

"I spoke with Angela who questioned me thoroughly and was very professional as an employee of the NEX," Carry said in his letter. "She had found the envelope with the cash I had lost and turned it into the security department at the store."

"When individuals are asked to define integrity, the answers vary; however many would agree it is simply defined as 'doing the right thing when no one is looking.' Indeed, Angela exhibited this trait during her act of honesty and kindness," said Katie Wilson, general manager at the NEX in Belle Chasse.

"Ms. Duncan is truly the epitome of an exemplary employee and role model of the Belle Chasse NEX," said Wilson. "Unequivocally, she is most deserving of the SARA Award as her moral standards far outweighed any thought of personal gain. Angela emulates the NEX's core values of Caring, Committed and Connected. Her honesty, professionalism

and commitment to excellence were highly impressionable."

When Carry insisted on rewarding Duncan she refused but had one request.

"I want to express my sincerest thanks to Angela and the security department for their honesty and kindness," Carry said. "I tried to leave a reward which was politely refused with only a request that I continue shopping at the NEX. They have my loyalty!"

Undeniably Duncan "created the wow factor" by her illustration of premier customer service in the highest regard, said Wilson.

"Her integrity and servitude created an unprecedented customer centric shopping experience for Mr. Carry. On behalf of the NEX, we thank Angela for being an outstanding representation of integrity that resulted in creating a customer for life. In keeping with the Navy's highest standards, Bravo Zulu to Angela on a job well done!"



Angela Duncan, sales clerk at the NAS JRB New Orleans Navy Exchange (NEX) in Belle Chasse, La., receives congratulations for earning a Superior Accomplishment Recognition Award (SARA) from the NEX. Presenting the award, which included a cash award, are from left, Tom Jacobson, district vice president for Navy Exchange Mid-south District, Katie Wilson, NAS JRB NEX general manager and Capt. Scott Gootee, NAS JRB commanding officer. Photo by Tammy Prine



Families enjoy a "Back to School" bingo night at Magnolia Terrace on board NAS JRB New Orleans. The event, sponsored by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) department, was held in early August to help students win school supplies. Bingo prizes included back packs filled with school supplies (glue, markers, pencils, folders, etc.) gift certificates to a local store for purchasing school uniforms, and the blackout game grand prize, an ASUS Transformer Net Book.

MWR courtesy photo

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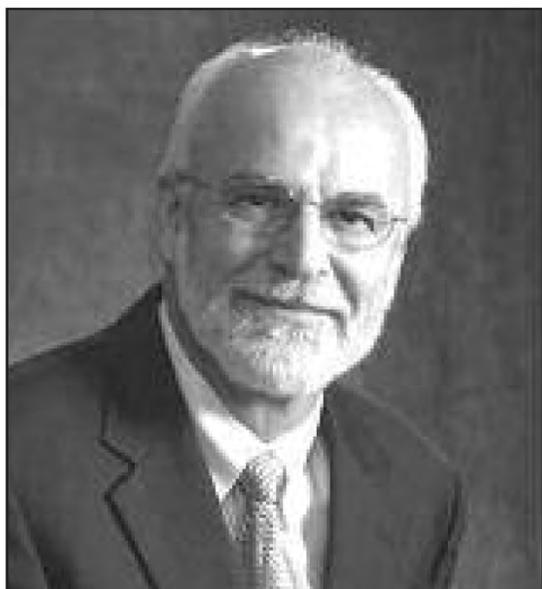
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A black and white photograph showing the interior of the Crystal Palace Banquet Hall. The room is large and filled with tables and chairs, set up for a formal event. There are chandeliers and decorative elements on the walls.

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By Senior Chief Master-at-Arms
Joseph W. Lindsey
**Navy Operational Support
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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (NNS) — One of the most important benefits any military veteran earns is the right for their selfless service to be honored when they fall. Every warrior's death, whether in combat, old age, sickness or accidental, is finalized by the presentation of a folded flag to their loved ones.

The mission of the honor guard carries with it the pride of our country and it is one of the most significant jobs performed in the military. The last five minutes a family remembers about their veteran's service is finalized by the military honors performed at the grave-side service before the casket is lowered into the ground.

I have proudly served as a member of Navy Operational Support Center Nashville's Honor Guard since 2007 and have had the privilege of rendering honors to more than 800 veterans. I have donned my dress blues for fallen Soldiers, Sailors, Airman and Marines. I have presented the flag to widows, widowers, mothers, fathers and children. I have seen their eyes swelling with tears of sadness because of their loss combined with tears of pride because of the service their loved one provided to our great nation.

In addition, within my civilian job, I have the honor of serving as the director for Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery for the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services. The most rewarding part of my job is the accolades and praises the family members pass on to me about the professionalism of the honor guards.

I am constantly told that the one thing a family will remember is the silent strength displayed by the honor guard playing taps, folding the flag, and making the formal presentation of the flag to a surviving loved one on behalf of the President of the United States.

The last five minutes of a veteran's journey in this world belongs to our armed forces and everyone in attendance graveside will leave with an everlasting impression, not only about their loved one's service, but about the entire military as a whole. This impression is derived from how that honor guard performs.

The teams that show up graveside are not just members of the National Guard or local Reserve centers. To the families, they are the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the Marine Corps. They represent our nation's military in large urban areas, as well as small remote suburban towns throughout America. Most of these places rarely see a military service member in uniform and cannot differentiate between the different dress

uniforms of each service.

Therefore, in many of these places, the honor guard that reports for this duty will leave the sole impression of the military in the minds of those in attendance on that day of mourning and life's celebration.

I work with men and women who embody the core values of honor, courage, commitment and integrity. These men and women will travel hundreds of miles to stand out in the heat and humidity, as well as the frigid cold and pouring rain to silently proclaim that this veteran's service will be remembered and that these veterans will not pass silently into the night. They miss birthdays, anniversaries and holidays to honor our nation's heroes because they whole heartedly believe in their mission and they are all selfless servants.

Within the cemetery in Nashville, there are no places segregating men from women, retirees from those that complete a single term, officers from enlisted, generals from privates or admirals from seaman. Our grounds are referred to as a field of honor where everyone is a veteran. These veterans who have volunteered to preserve the freedoms we enjoy every day deserve our nation's best. I strongly believe that it is our duty to memorialize every veteran who served honorably with a well-trained honor guard, no matter what the cost.



HONOLULU (Nov. 10, 2014) A Sailor from the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Honors and Ceremonies presents Gloria Smith with a flag during the burial honors ceremony for Pearl Harbor survivor Signalman 1st Class Paul Goodyear at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Goodyear served aboard the battleship USS Oklahoma (BB 37) during the Dec. 7, 1941 Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor.

*Navy photo by
MC3 Johans Chavarro*

What an amazing honor and privilege it is to be able to represent this nation that I love so much in those last five minutes.

Editor's note: The NAS JRB New Orleans Funeral Honors Detail provided final honors to more than 450 veterans this past year. For more information on military funeral honors visit: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh>.

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NCIS New Orleans Comes to NAS JRB New Orleans

The Currents' Staff

More than 280 production and film crew members with the CBS television drama *NCIS: New Orleans* came aboard NAS JRB New Orleans Aug. 5-7 to set-up and film scenes for an episode in the show's second season, which is scheduled to start this month.

NCIS: New Orleans is a television series that combines elements of the military drama and police procedural genres. It premiered on Sept. 23, 2014, following its parent series *NCIS*. The series is set and filmed in New Orleans and is the third member of the *NCIS* franchise.

On-base filming took place on one of the runway's ramp area, which was closed for repair work, at Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 204's hangar, in Bldg. 1, and on the ramp directly in front of the air traffic control tower, where producers created an air show scene using bleachers, vendors and static display aircraft. About 275 extras participated in the air show scenes and all were either base residents or military and DoD employees in a leave or liberty status. Casting extras who already had normal base access greatly assisted with the production, overall.

The Louisiana Air National Guard also provided aircraft and personnel for the filming, as did VFA-204 and the U.S.

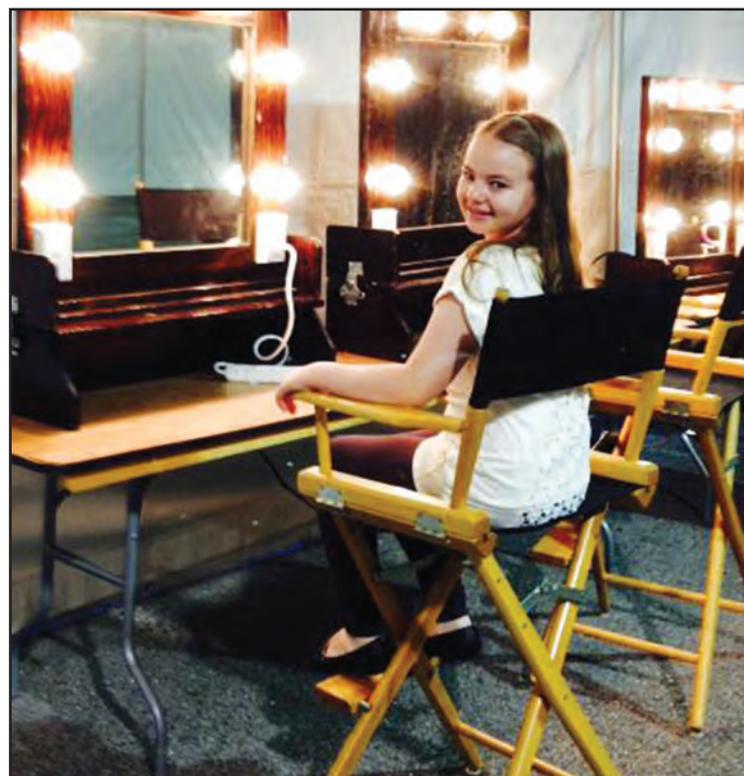


Kevin York, an extra on the set of *NCIS New Orleans*, poses with C.C.H. Pounder, one of the show's stars.

Coast Guard.

U.S. Navy support for major film, television and documentary production companies worldwide is coordinated through the Navy's Office of Information using production agreements to enhance public

awareness and further the accurate portrayal of the Navy's people, their missions and the platforms they employ. Operationally, all production work is done on a not-to-interfere basis.



A young extra on the set gets the feel of waiting for hair and makeup before the cameras roll.



The air control tower at NAS JRB New Orleans looks like a scene from an air show. The *NCIS New Orleans* crew transformed the empty ramp area into an air show for an upcoming episode in the show's fall lineup.



Military members, set extras, along with the cast members of *NCIS New Orleans* stand in front of an F-18 Hornet in VFA-204's hangar. During the two days of filming the hangar served as a backdrop for an upcoming episode.

Photos courtesy of NCIS New Orleans set extras

MOWC Welcome Brunch Brings Together Area Spouses

By Tammy Prine
The Currents' Staff

The Military Officers' Wives' Club (MOWC) of Greater New Orleans began this year's membership drive with its annual welcome brunch Aug. 22 at Quarters A, the home of Pat Mills and her husband, Lt. Gen. Richard Mills, commander, Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North.

The MOWC, a non-profit organization, holds social functions for club members and their guests; raises funds to support community organizations adopted by the club and aids and assists 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 Krewe of CAMAN has been an officially registered carnival krewe with the city of New Orleans since 1985.

"The MOWC was formed in 1972 after there was competition among single service clubs for members," said Bobbie Whiddon, this year's CAMAN ball captain and a three-time president of the club.

"That year, the commanding officer of Naval Support Activity New Orleans decided that if everyone came under one organization, there would be less divisiveness. Everyone agreed and the club was sanctioned by the Department of Navy."

Whiddon joined MOWC in 1995 when she and her husband David, a retired Navy captain, were transferred to New Orleans. Her positions in the club have included president, vice president, Navy liaison, CAMAN ball captain or lieutenant and more.

"I may be the longest current member but we have many who have been members for more than 15 years. Irene Burrus, who is 92 and a current member, has been a member on and off the



Guests arriving at the MOWC brunch are welcomed by the 2015 Queen of CAMAN, Doris Norman.

longest."

The benefits of membership run with the calendar year coinciding with the executive board's term which is June 1 through May 31 of the following year.

"I believe the best part of MOWC is the support it gives new spouses in the New Orleans area," said Janet Nagelin, MOWC member since 2000 when she and her husband Tom, a retired Navy captain, transferred to the area. "Newcomers can gain instant friends and incite in navigating this great city.

"I know if I hadn't joined and learned about the city from MOWC members we probably would have moved after Tom's tour," she said. "The MOWC showed me what a fabulous, unique city New Orleans truly is and the friendships I made through MOWC are dear to me."

Nagelin, who was Queen CAMAN 2007, was MOWC president for two years beginning in 2001.

"I took the presidency right before 9/11. We postponed the welcome brunch for two weeks to get a feel of what was happening with our country. That year we had 165 members. It was a very active time for MOWC."

The group holds at least one function every month for members and sometimes spouses to participate in.

This year's functions will include: tour of the Chalmette National Battle Field and



Pat Mills, welcomes guests to her home, during the MOWC brunch. Mills and other past residents of Quarters A in Federal City, have opened up the home to guests for the brunch.

lunch; a holiday glassblowing event; a dinner where the CAMAN royalty are selected, a lunch with Queen CAMAN in the spring and much more.

But the biggest MOWC event is the CAMAN Mardi Gras ball.

"At the Royal Dinner in November, we randomly select a maid for each service and they get to go home with their crown," Whiddon said. "But those selected for king and queen are not announced that night but are notified the following week. No one knows who they are until the ball and it's always exciting when they walk in the ballroom to their friends and family cheering for them."

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 any of the five service branches, active, reserve or



Jeanne Black, left, ambassador of fun chairwoman, shares upcoming events with a guest at the MOWC brunch. Black, Queen CAMAN 2011, arranges extra events for members in addition to monthly events planned by the co-vice presidents.



MOWC President, Rhonda Gage, addresses guests during the MOWC brunch. Gage, who is serving a second year as president was a Coast Guard maid for CAMAN during her first year in the club and a co-vice president the following year.

Photos by Tammy Prine

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 any of the five services, active, reserve or retired.

Also, the spouse must have been a member in good standing prior to the divorce/death.

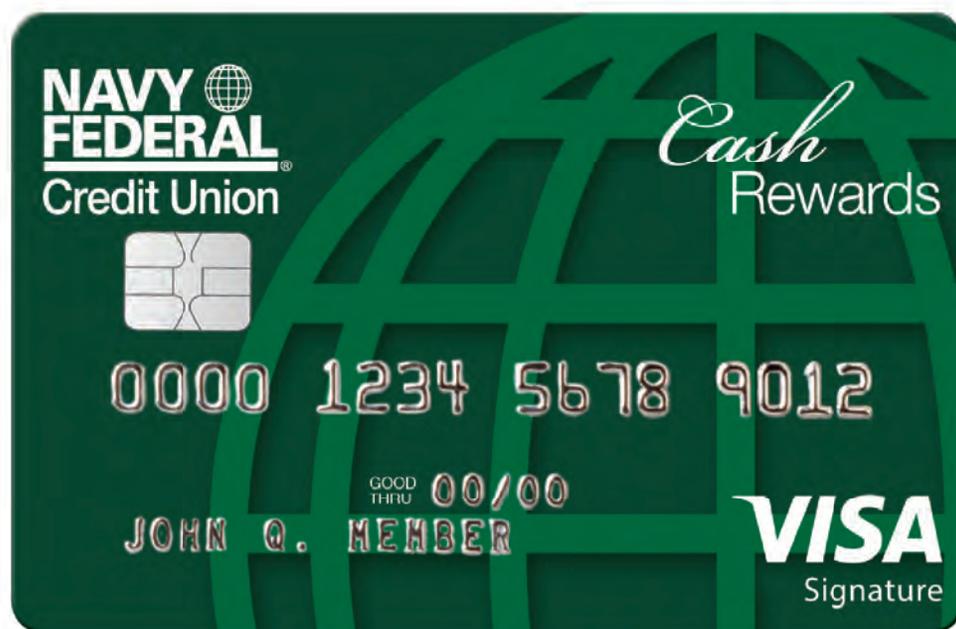
"The events of 9/11 and hurricanes Katrina and Rita were events that brought out the best in our membership," said Whiddon. "It also made those who were stationed here at the time realize how important our friendships and important our club was for helping each other and to keep each other going."

For more information visit: <http://www.mowcnola.org>.

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Keel Laid for Future Aircraft Carrier John F. Kennedy (CVN 79)

DOD News Service

On Saturday, Aug. 22, military members, contractors and guests celebrated the keel-laying for the second Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy (CVN 79).

John F. Kennedy, designated CVN 79, is the second aircraft carrier to honor President John F. Kennedy for a lifetime of service to the United States of America as a trusted leader and public servant. He wore the uniform of our nation as a naval officer and served as the 35th President of the United States of America, 1961-1963. The ship's sponsor is Ambassador Caroline Kennedy, President Kennedy's daughter.

"The keel-laying for CVN-79 is an important milestone in returning a carrier named John F. Kennedy to our fleet, continuing the rich tradition of the name," said Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy. "President Kennedy was not only an inspirational leader, but also a Sailor, a man who deeply understood the importance of the Navy and the presence it provides - a presence that will soon be enabled for decades to come by this great ship - a ship that will be brought to life through our partnership with the shipbuilding industry and the men and women whose tireless efforts bring our ships from concept to reality."

Lt. j.g. Kennedy commanded a motor torpedo boat squadron in the Pacific during World War II. His torpedo pa-

trol boat PT-109 was rammed and cut in half by a Japanese destroyer during a night patrol on Aug. 2, 1943. Although suffering a serious back injury that plagued him the rest of his life, Kennedy helped his crew get to safety. For his actions, he earned the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, among other citations.

The first John F. Kennedy (CVA 67) was christened on May 27, 1967. "Big John" went on 17 deployments, launched strikes on Iraq during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-91 and participated in numerous multi-nation training exercises throughout the world. One two-week training exercise in the Caribbean turned into a 35,127-mile odyssey to the Mediterranean that spanned six months after periods of tension in the Middle East cropped up during the second half of 1970. After nearly four decades of service, the last conventionally-powered aircraft carrier was decommissioned Aug. 1, 2007.

John F. Kennedy (CVN 79) is the numerical replacement for the USS Nimitz (CVN 68), which is slated for inactivation in 2025. The Gerald R. Ford-class will be the premier forward asset for crisis response and early decisive striking power in a major combat operation well into the 21st century. Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carriers, along with their embarked air wings and other strike group assets will provide the core capabilities of forward presence, deterrence, sea control, power



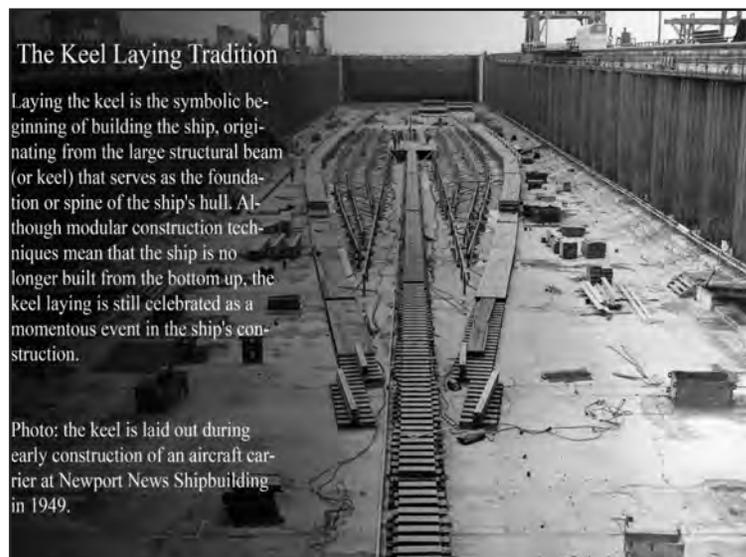
Leon Walston, a Newport News Shipbuilding welder from Massachusetts, displays the welded initials of Caroline Kennedy, the sponsor of the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy (CVN 79). Also pictured (left to right) are Rear Adm. Earl Yates, the first commanding officer of the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67); Newport News Shipbuilding President Matt Mulherin; Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe; and Rep. Joseph Kennedy.

*Photo and graphic courtesy
Huntington Ingalls Industries*

projection, maritime security and humanitarian assistance. The class brings improved warfighting capability, quality of life improvements for our Sailors and reduced total ownership costs.

During the ceremony, Caroline's initials were welded onto a steel plate by Leon Walston, a Newport News welder from Massachusetts. The plate will be permanently affixed to the ship, signifying the sponsor's enduring relationship with the shipbuilders and crew.

Gerald R. Ford-class carriers are approximately 100,000 tons, nearly 1,092 feet in length, have a beam of 134 feet, and can operate at more



The Keel Laying Tradition

Laying the keel is the symbolic beginning of building the ship, originating from the large structural beam (or keel) that serves as the foundation or spine of the ship's hull. Although modular construction techniques mean that the ship is no longer built from the bottom up, the keel laying is still celebrated as a momentous event in the ship's construction.

Photo: the keel is laid out during early construction of an aircraft carrier at Newport News Shipbuilding in 1949.

than 30 knots. The propulsion system is comprised of two nuclear reactors and four shafts. Each ship in the new class will save about \$4 bil-

lion in total ownership costs during its 50-year service life, when compared to their Nimitz-class counterparts they are designed to replace.

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Board of Directors

September Meeting -
7 September 2015 • 7 p.m. at BCA
October Meeting -
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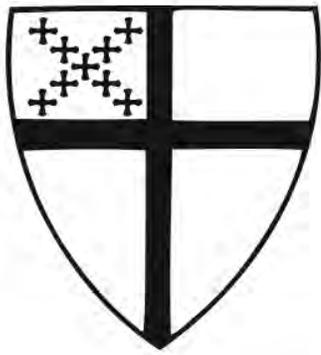
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Marine Forces Reserve Hosts DSCA Seminar

By Cpl. Joseph Karwick
Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS – Lt. Gen. Richard P. Mills, commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North, hosted senior leaders from the military and local government Aug. 5 and 6, for a Defense Support of Civil Authorities Executive Seminar (DSCA).

The DSCA is an important process conducted by United States Northern Command that explains the logistical capabilities of civil support as directed or requested to those governmental or agency-based entities in need of Department of Defense capabilities.

“We run approximately four to six of these seminars a year,” said Mark Skattum, an exercise facilitator for North American Aerospace Defense Command, U.S. Northern Command.

The program has been in place for approximately five years and is conducted across the country.

The purpose of the seminar is to gain an understanding of the national response profile across all levels of response, and the roles of agencies and support to gain knowledge about the National Response Framework in the

event of a catastrophe or natural disaster.

Robert Farmer, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) acting director for policy, explained FEMA’s role and capabilities and the improvements the organization has made over the years.

“When Katrina hit, we had 1,700 people,” said Farmer. “Now we have more than 4,700 people with more pre-positioned sites for supplies and better training. We learned a lot of lessons and improved what we needed to, and we are still growing and getting better.”

Farmer said that after Katrina, FEMA ramped up its training by performing more pre-scripted training events to better prepare their responders. The seminar focuses on events that are likely to happen in the area they occur. With the seminar taking place in Louisiana, the attention focused on hurricane response and coordination, using Hurricane Katrina as a reference.

“Ten years ago we had a city in ruins,” said Terry Ebbert, former Director of Homeland Security for the city of New Orleans. “With 80 percent of the city underwater, 90 percent evacuated, no drinkable water, no power, no sewer, and a difficult situation for responders, it was a logistical nightmare.”



Maj. Gen. Burton Francisco, special assistant to the commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command, (left), and Lt. Gen. Richard P. Mills, commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North, follow along during a brief at the Defense Support of Civil Authorities seminar at the Federal City auditorium Aug. 5. The seminar focuses on events that are likely to happen in the area they occur. With the seminar taking place in Louisiana, the attention focused on hurricane response and coordination, using Hurricane Katrina as a reference.

Marine Corps Photo by Cpl. Joseph Karwick

DSCA allows the same agencies and personnel to meet face-to-face and plan their support for such events. Through their planned coordination and response, they can better serve and assist anyone, anywhere.

Senior Enlisted Marine Takes All Honors at Prestigious Navy School

By Master Sgt. Katesha Washington
Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS – One of the most prestigious schools in the Department of Defense recently selected a Marine to receive the title of honor graduate. Master Sgt. William Call, the bandmaster for Marine Corps Band New Orleans, achieved the honor upon graduating from the Navy’s Senior Enlisted Academy (SEA) at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. in July.

Call was one of three Marines in the class of 62 students who attended the grueling 12-week course.

In addition to being named honor graduate, Call was also named to the Dean’s List by graduating in the top 10 percent of the class. He joins just a handful of Marines who achieved the title in the school’s 33-year history. Even more, he was awarded the Surface Navy Association Military Heritage Award, the John A. Power Excellence in Communications Award, and was presented with the Academic Excellence Award by the

city of Newport. Overall, the Destin, Florida, native achieved the highest academic average for the class.

“He is truly a Marine,” said Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Richard Miller (SW/AW/IDW), Call’s SEA faculty advisor. “He is very structured, very humble, and the ultimate team player. He definitely impressed me and his peers.”

Call says his goal was to excel in the class but did not make being the honor graduate a priority.

“I truly felt honored to be given the opportunity to attend the course in the first place, but I was also proud to represent the [Marine Corps] staff non-commissioned officer community amongst our fellow sister services senior enlisted members,” he explained.

The mission of the academy, according to its website, further elaborates on Call’s overall explanation of the course: “to further develop senior enlisted leaders to give sound decision-support in command, staff, management, and leadership positions in naval, joint, and multinational environments.”

Call, who joined the Marine Corps in 1996, out of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., says he has always had great respect for the other services, specifically for the Navy since most of the military schools he attended were with Sailors. His admiration for the other services, however, extends back to his grandfather and father’s dedicated military service. His father served in the Air Force for 28 years and his grandfather received a battlefield commission to the rank of second lieutenant in the Army while fighting in France during World War I.

As Call prepares to transfer to his next duty station to the Naval School of Music, he feels grateful for the opportunity to have received such a quality education from the academy staff which he says will help him in his new assignment.

“Attending the academy amplified my belief that we have the greatest Naval service in the world,” He said. “It is very evident even more now, that everything every service member does for this country is an integral part of the big picture: To serve and protect this great nation.”



Bandmaster Master Sgt. William Call introduces the Marine Corps Band New Orleans (MCBNOLA) during a concert at the University of Montana May 2. The MCBNOLA conducted their spring tour through Canada and the northern United States April 29 – May 11.

Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Tiffany Edwards



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Religious Ministry Team Welcomes New Chaplain

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

There is a new face at the chapel aboard Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans.

Lt. Shawn Turpin recently checked on board as the newest chaplain.

Born in Ontario, Canada, Turpin grew up in Norway, the oldest of seven children. He graduated from Bob Jones University in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in pastoral studies and a minor in communications. He later received his

Master of Divinity from Bob Jones Seminary in 2005.

Turpin said when considering becoming a chaplain, deciding on which service to join was an easy decision.

"The Navy was a natural choice. Growing up in Norway, a seafaring nation, I always enjoyed being aboard ships. I attended Norwegian safety sea school. Just being around water, and the mission aboard water is what drew me to the Navy," said Turpin.

Turpin was commissioned as a Navy Reserve chaplain in 2010. He said beginning his career as a reservist has allowed him to do much more in

a short amount of time.

His assignments have included command chaplain and staff chaplain for many commands including 4th Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Battalion 451 (4th Marine Logistics Group) and Navy Operational Support Center in Charlotte, N.C.; Marine Forces Reserve in New Orleans; and Headquarters Commander Naval Surface Force, Pacific Fleet in San Diego.

"I have enjoyed everything I have done as a chaplain," he said.

Turpin has been married since 2001 and has five chil-

dren he homeschools with his wife, Barbara.

"We're all happy to be here. We enjoy living on base. It's great," he said.

Uniformed servicemembers of any branch, certified dependents and civilians who work on base are eligible to see a military chaplain.

Turpin said he encourages everyone to drop by the chapel for a cup of coffee, a brief chat, a place for multiple resources or just someone to vent to. "It doesn't matter what faith you are or even if you are not religious: we are here for each one of you to help in any way possible or even just to listen to



Lt. Shawn Turpin, the newest chaplain assigned to NAS JRB New Orleans.
Photo by MCI John Hulle

you in a compassionate and confidential setting," he said.



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For more information and out-of-state ticket sales, email: nolanavyball@gmail.com



Dear Gold Star Mothers,
Survivor Outreach Services of Louisiana, 377th TSC and Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans will be hosting our 2nd Annual Gold Star Mothers' Day Ceremony. Join us as we recognize and honor those mothers and families who have lost a son or daughter while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Save the Date!
September 27, 2015

Who: Gold Star Mothers and Families
What: Gold Star Mothers' Day Ceremony
When: Sunday, September 27 from 1-3 p.m.
Where: NAS JRB Magnolia Terrace, Bldg. 40
Belle Chasse, LA 70037

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latrise.m.davis.ctr@mail.mil

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RSVP by September 9 to a Survivor Outreach Coordinator



MWR Spotlights September 2015



Keystone Club

Come join the Keystone Club, a community service club for students in grades 9-12. The first meeting will be held at the Teen Center on Monday, Sept. 21 from 5:30-6 p.m. This is a great way to earn community service hours for school. For more information call 504-678-3310.

Saints Tailgate Party

Stop by the NEX parking lot for a Saints Tailgate Party on Friday, Sept. 11 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. sponsored by MWR. There will be New Orleans Saints giveaways and more. Lunch menu: hamburgers, hot dogs or sausage sandwich meals for \$3. Meal includes chips and a drink.

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