



THE CURRENTS™

Vol. 26 No. 10

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October 2015

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New Chiefs Don Anchors for First Time Pages 10 & 11



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McMillian Now Leading Marine Corps' Largest Command

By Cpl. Ian Ferro
Marine Corps Forces Reserve

Lt. Gen. Rex C. McMillian assumed command of Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) and Marine Forces North during a change of command ceremony held at the Marine Corps Support Facility in New Orleans Sept. 12.

McMillian replaced Lt. Gen. Richard P. Mills, who retired at the end of September, after 40 years of honorable service to the Corps. Mills had led the organizations since 2013.

Throughout his career, Mills commanded the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines Regiment as well as the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which participated in Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo and combat operations in Iraq as part of Task Force Tarawa under his command. Shortly after assuming command as the 1st Marine Division commander, Mills was selected to command the first Marine Expeditionary Force, which deployed to Afghanistan as part of the International Security Assistance Force. In 2010, he assumed command of the newly created ISAF Regional Command and was the first Marine Corps general to command NATO forces in combat. Upon promotion to lieutenant general, he assumed the duties as the commanding general of Marine Corps Combat Development Command in Quantico, Va., and as deputy commandant for Combat Development and Integration, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps, and commander of Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command.

"I have served with [Lt. Gen.] McMillian before and I



U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Richard P. Mills, outgoing commander and Lt. Gen. Rex C. McMillian, incoming commander, salute during the posting of the colors at the change of command ceremony held at Marine Corps Support Facility, New Orleans, La., Sept. 12. Mills passed his duties as commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North to McMillian after commanding the organizations for more than two years.

Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Kimberly Aguirre

know he brings great knowledge and experience as a Marine," said Mills. "I leave here very hopeful and very inspired."

McMillian graduated from the University of Southern California and was commissioned in 1980 via the Platoon Leaders Class program. A naval aviator by trade, he completed flight school in 1982 and has accumulated more than 3,000 flight hours during his career in numerous platforms.

Throughout his career, McMillian has commanded the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 134, served as deputy commander for Marine Aircraft Group 46, as well as deputy commanding general of Marine Corps Forces Pacific. He also served as deputy commanding general for I Marine Expeditionary Force, and commanding general for 4th Marine Aircraft Wing.

In his first speech as the new commander McMillian thanked the crowd for their presence at the ceremony, expressed his excitement and hopes for his new position, and addressed the Marines under his leadership.

"I am very proud to be standing here as your commanding general," said McMillian. "I am looking forward to the next two years and to the opportunity to get to know all of you and to serve with you, Semper Fidelis."



Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus is greeted by NAS JRB New Orleans Commanding Officer Capt. Scott Gootee, Executive Officer Cmdr. Carina Maloney and Lt. Roggie Norman, air traffic control facility officer, Sept. 10, after landing at NAS JRB in Belle Chasse, La. Mabus was in the New Orleans area on official business.

Photo by MCI John Hulle

<p>This month in Navy & Marine History</p>	<p>October 2, 1799 Establishment of Washington Navy Yard</p>	<p>October 29, 1980 USS Parsons (DDG-33) rescues 110 Vietnamese refugees 330 miles south of Saigon.</p>
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By Capt. Scott Gootee
NAS JRB Commanding Officer

Since President George Bush proclaimed October as Energy Awareness Month in 1991, the U.S. Department of Energy has been conducting energy awareness campaigns promoting efficient use of our nation's energy. A focus of this campaign continues to be conserving energy use at federal facilities. As the single largest domestic user of energy, the federal government spends billions to power its vehicles, operations, and facilities throughout the United States.

In general, you either try to use less energy overall or try to get more efficiency from the energy you are already using. Most experts agree that a combination of both is the best way to manage energy usage and costs.

At NAS JRB New Orleans we do both. Sometime ago the base implemented energy saving measures for equipment and building systems on all new construction projects. We also maintain thermostat temperatures in accordance with Navy guidance. Additionally, public works completed the Advance Metering Installation while planning future projects to lower repair cost and reduce utility energy losses while increasing efficiencies of our utility systems.

Yet, we can do more! I ask that every person working and living on the installation remain vigilant to additional energy saving measures, large



and small. Alert your chain of command or appropriate contacts if you discover energy waste or have an idea that may result in an energy reduction.

One of the most significant and meaningful days in the career of any enlisted Sailor occurred at NAS JRB New Orleans on Sept. 16. The pinning of the new chief petty officers was an outstanding event as all proudly received their anchors. I was honored to be there and wish to thank all who helped with the ceremony. Bravo Zulu to our newest chief petty officers!

And finally, it's not too late to plan to attend the Navy Ball in New Orleans Oct. 17 at the World War II Museum in New Orleans. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. Attire for the evening is dinner dress blues with mini medals or formal evening wear. Our guest speaker for the evening is Vice Adm. Robin R. Braun, Chief of Navy Reserve, Commander, Navy Reserve Force.

Hope to see you there!

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THE Currents

Vol. 26 No. 10 October 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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Hear the Beep Where You Sleep *Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm*

By Wendy Shimmin
**NAS JRB Fire and
Emergency Services**

Location matters when it comes to your smoke alarm. That's the message behind this year's Fire Prevention



Week campaign, "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!"

Along with firefighters and safety advocates nationwide, the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans Fire and Emer-

gency Services is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) during Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4-10, to stress the importance of having working smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.

"In a fire, seconds count," said Wayne Parker, NAS JRB assistant fire chief. "Results show that half of the home fire deaths occur at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. Home smoke alarms can alert people to a fire before it spreads, giving everyone enough time to get out."

According to the latest NFPA research, working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire in half. Meanwhile, three out of five fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign includes the following smoke alarm messages:

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.

Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. This way, when one sounds, they all do.

Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.

Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they don't respond properly.

Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.

If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.

Call the fire department from outside the home.

To learn more about smoke alarms and this month's campaign visit NFPA's Web site at <http://www.firepreventionweek.org> and <http://www.sparky.org/fpw>.

Keith L. Magness

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New NGIS Facility Coming to NAS JRB New Orleans

By The Currents' Staff

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast awarded an \$8 million contract Sept. 1 to WEB, LLC, a small business out of Springfield, Va., for construction of a new Navy Gateway Inns and Suites (NGIS) facility at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans, in Belle Chasse, La.

"We welcome the addition of the new facilities aboard the installation," said Capt. Scott R. Gootee, NAS JRB commanding officer. "Having more rooms for service members, retirees, and their families enhances the viability of the base."

The work to be performed provides for construction of a new two-story structure, steel frame with brick veneer and a standing seam metal roof. Facility systems will include; heating, ventilation and air conditioning, electrical, cable television, internet access,



connected to the base central fire alarm system, include an automatic fire sprinkler and a mass notification system.

Work on the 50-room facility is expected to be completed by March 2017.

"We're so excited about the addition to our NGIS here," said Chad Loveland, NGIS general manager at NAS JRB

New Orleans.

"The new building will have 50 standard-queen rooms which are comparable to mid-grade hotel rooms out in town," Loveland said. "The rooms will be available to anyone traveling on DOD-funded orders or for leisure travel to military members – active-duty, retired, Guard or Re-

serve, and their family members and DOD/NAF employees."

Small business play a vital role in the American economy – employing half of our country's workforce, creating nearly two out of every three new American jobs, and often being the source of the next great American innovation.

NAVFAC Southeast strives to meet its goals building on its success by providing contract opportunities to small businesses.

"For NAVFAC, small business is always the first option," said NAVFAC Southeast Small Business Deputy Nelson Smith. "NAVFAC Southeast has continuously shown a strong commitment to small businesses in fulfilling our mission requirements."

NAVFAC is the systems command that delivers and maintains quality, sustainable facilities, acquires and manages capabilities for the Navy's expeditionary combat forces, provides contingency engineering response, and enables energy security and environmental stewardship.

Additional updates and information about NAVFAC can be found on social media sites Facebook and Flickr. Become a fan at www.facebook.com/navfac, view our photostream on Flickr at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/navfac>.

NEXCOM Again Named One of "Top 50" Best Companies for Latinas to Work

By Kristine Sturkie
NEXCOM Public Affairs

For the fourth year in a row, Latina Style magazine has named the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) as one of the top 50 companies providing the best career opportunities for Latinas in the U.S. Of NEXCOM's nearly 13,000 associates worldwide, 10 percent are

Latino and nearly seven percent are Latina women.

"It's a great honor to be named for the fourth consecutive year as one of the top companies in the U.S. providing opportunities for Latinas to advance and excel," said Robert J. Bianchi, a retired rear admiral and chief executive officer, NEXCOM.

"NEXCOM has a very diverse workforce and we believe that makes us a better

and more responsive company, to both our associates as well as our valued customers. I am so fortunate to be leading a workforce that believes in the power of diversity and demonstrates that commitment every day!"

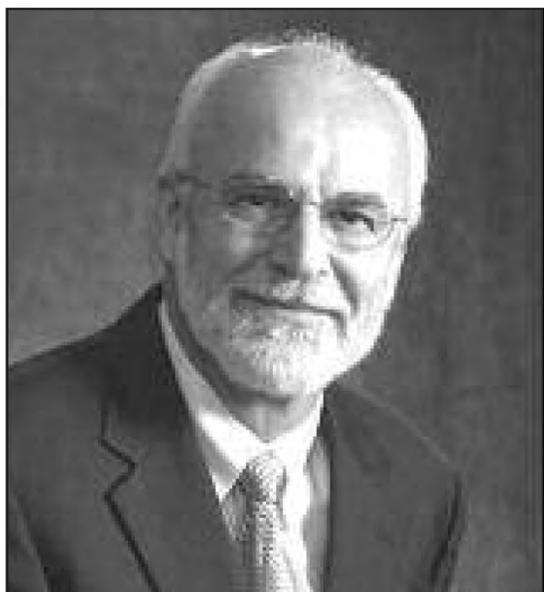
Companies responding to Latina Style's questionnaire are evaluated based on issues that Latina Style magazine readers identified as most important to them in the work-

place. Among the principal areas of evaluation are: number of Latina executives, Latina retention, mentoring programs, educational opportunities, alternative work policies, employee benefits, women's issues, job retraining, affinity groups and Hispanic relations.

"Preparing the Latina Style 50 Report is an exhausting process that takes hundreds of hours of intense research and

study, said Robert E. Bard, president and CEO of Latina Style, Inc. "It is our goal to provide the most accurate picture of what corporate America has to offer. We need to be sure that the companies listed on the report are the ones that truly are the best places for Latina professionals to work."

NEXCOM will receive its award on Feb. 4, 2016, at the Latina Style 50 conference in Washington, D.C.



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New OIC in Place at FRC MA

The Currents' Staff

The Fleet Readiness Center (FRC) Mid-Atlantic Det. New Orleans at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans has a new officer in charge (OIC).

Cmdr. Kelly Varonfakis took over the detachment Aug. 28 from Cmdr. Scott Gilpin, who had led the group for the past two years. Gilpin leaves FRC for a fleet readiness position at the Pentagon.

Presiding over the change of charge ceremony was Capt. Joseph Rodriguez, executive officer of FRC Mid-Atlantic at NAS Oceana in Virginia

Beach, Va.

"I'm glad I have the honor of passing the mantel from Gilpin to Varonfakis today," said Rodriguez. "It's great to see all their family and friends here in support of their careers. Family is so important to our military members and I'm glad you both have such a huge family support structure."

"Scott (Gilpin) never gave me any doubt that he could run this detachment and Kelly, I know you will be just as great," he said.

Varonfakis, a native of San Diego, Calif., is not new to NAS JRB New Orleans. She was the assistant maintenance officer and maintenance mate-

rial control officer for VR-54 from 2008-2010.

The New Orleans FRC MA Det. is made up of Sailors, Marines and civilian employees.

"This is a unique group here in New Orleans," said Capt. Billy Young, deputy chief of staff for aviation maintenance on the staff of Commander, Naval Air Force Reserve in Norfolk, Va., and guest speaker for the ceremony.

"The teamwork of this group is very powerful and the output of this detachment is vital to the Navy and the nation. During Gilpin's tenure as OIC this group performed more than 29,000 maintenance actions,



Capt. Joseph Rodriguez, center, looks on as Cmdr. Kelly Varonfakis salutes Cmdr. Scott Gilpin signifying her acceptance as officer in charge of FRC MA New Orleans.

Photo by Tammy Prine

put in more than 88,000 man hours, just to name a few."

The mission of the FRC Mid-Atlantic is to produce relevant quality airframes, engines,

components and services to meet the Navy's aircraft-ready-for-training entitlements at improved efficiency and reduced cost.

DoD Celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month

From Sept. 15 – Oct. 15, the Department of Defense joins the nation in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month. During this time, the department and the nation honor the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. The start of National Hispanic Heritage Month also marks the anniversary of independence for Costa

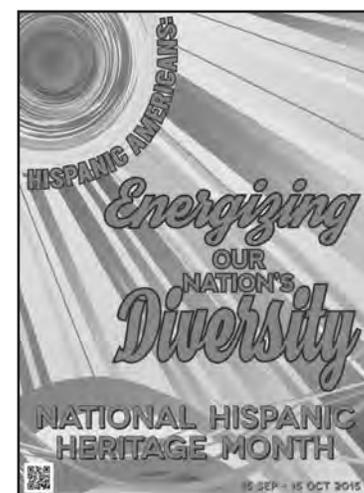
Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The independence of Mexico and Chile are observed shortly thereafter, on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

The theme of this year's observance, "Hispanic Americans: Energizing our Nation's Diversity," harkens to the vibrant and thriving contributions of Hispanics to our nation across the centuries. The celebration seeks to draw attention to the diversity

and countless contributions Hispanics continue to make to enrich the United States and strengthen the defense of our nation.

The department will honor National Hispanic Heritage Month with programs and activities at installations around the world. The department is committed to honoring and recognizing the Hispanic Americans that strengthen the fabric of our country and serve in defense of

the values we hold dear. All department personnel are encouraged to recognize the immeasurable contributions made by Hispanic Americans and to celebrate the diversity of our workforce. Please visit the Hispanic Heritage Month web special to learn more about Hispanic service across the Total Force: http://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0915_hispanic-heritage. (DOD News Service)



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New Chiefs Don Anchors

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

Twenty-three Sailors from commands across the greater New Orleans area became chief petty officers during a pinning ceremony aboard Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans Sept. 16.

The ceremony included active-duty and reserve chief selects from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 204, Naval Recruiting District New Orleans, Naval Operational Support Center New Orleans, Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 54, Navy Reserve Professional Development Center, Fleet Readiness Center Mid-Atlantic Det. New Orleans, NAS JRB New Orleans, Naval Branch Health Clinic Belle Chasse, Navy Air Logistics Office and Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command.

The ceremony began with the chief petty officer selects marching around a large American flag singing "Anchors Aweigh" and lining up before the audience and official party. They then lead the recitation of the Sailors Creed.

Retired Command Master

Chief Stan Chambers was the guest speaker. He said earning the distinction of being called chief is a major milestone in a Sailor's career.

Each selectee was pinned with their new anchors and donned with a chief petty officer combination cover by their friends, family and sponsors.

After the shrill cry of the boatswains' pipe and the words "chief petty officer, United States Navy, arriving," each newly-pinned chief saluted the side boys as they were welcomed into the exclusive fraternity that is Chiefs Mess.

"The day of the pinning is very exciting. You are happy you are being pinned, but nervous about what's next," said Chief Hospital Corpsman Casey Osbey, a newly-pinned chief petty officer. "It's the most joyous day of my life."

The ceremony followed a six-week training period known as CPO 365 Phase Two, which began when the chief petty officer advancement results were released. During phase two, senior leaders introduced the chief selects to challenges designed to strengthen their leadership skills and to provide a better understanding



When new chief selectees go through CPO 365 Phase Two, which begins after the Navy announces who's been selected for chief each summer, they are given charge books to carry during their final stages. When they are pinned, the book is put inside an ornate wooden box or "vessel" as a keepsake of their transition.

of what it means to be a Navy chief. Phase two also included training on the history and traditions of the chief mess, tough physical challenges, mentorship and many other responsibilities.

Osbey said the training was rigorous at times.

"You have long days, early mornings and long nights. It can really burn you out. You have your regular job to do and the CPO 365 on top of all that," Osbey said. "The most important thing I learned was



Combination covers line tables during the pinning ceremony. During the ceremony, chief petty officer selectees have their new covers placed on their head to mark the final transition from first class petty officer to chief.

teamwork. It takes a team."

"The training is intended to be vigorous and to test individuals because the life of the chief is not a nine-to-five job that most Sailors see," said Chief Engineering Aid Chad Libutti, assigned to NAS JRB New Orleans. "The amount of hours that a chief puts in is mostly not seen. There is so much more to being a chief petty officer than coming to work and doing their job. With all the added responsibility, no one person can do it, that's why we trust the Chiefs Mess to come together to ensure every Sailor is taken care of and our mission is complete."

"The new chiefs have been trained and tested because the term 'ask the chief' is known by every Sailor, Marine, Airman, Coastguardsman and Soldier, and they expect results when dealing with a chief petty officer, not excuses," said Libutti.

From the Chiefs Creed: It is now required that you be a fountain of wisdom, the ambassador of good will, the authority in personnel relations as well as technical application. "Ask the Chief" is a household phrase, both in and out of the Navy.



Retired CMC Stan Chambers speaks during the pinning ceremony.



RPC Celeste Shield, assigned to NAS JRB New Orleans, gets pinned by her daughter. Her mentor, retired ITC Maginer Richard, looks on.



HMC Edison Sayaman, assigned to NAS JRB New Orleans, Health Clinic Belle Chasse, gets pinned by her daughter.

Greater New Orleans Newest Chief Petty Officers

Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 54

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AWFC Jonathan Brown
AWFC Jason Dodd
PRC Corey Markel
HMC Thomas McMillan
ATC Dusty Smart

Fleet Readiness Center Mid-Atlantic

Det. New Orleans
PSC Estelle Ahiagbede

Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans

ETC Patrick Dickey
MAC Ronald Norris
RPC Celeste Shield

Naval Branch Health Clinic Belle Chasse

HMC Edison Sayaman

Navy Air Logistics Office

AWFC Michael McCoy

Navy Operational Support Center New Orleans

QMC Sarah Cline
HMC Casey Osbey

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AOC Hamilton Smith

Navy Reserve Professional Development Center

NCC Krystle Kaszuba
BMC Daniel Mendoza

Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command

ITC Geoffrey Box
ITC Tomas Rodriguez

Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 204

ATC Geoffrey Brown
YNC Salathiel Mouton

Chiefs for First Time



Friends, family, mentors and shipmates gather for the pinning ceremony aboard NAS JRB New Orleans Sept. 16.



During the pinning ceremony chiefs line the audience during the pinning ceremony.



ETC Patrick Dickey, assigned to NAS JRB New Orleans, speaks to the audience.



ETC Patrick Dickey, assigned to NAS JRB New Orleans, gets pinned by his wife, Christy, and ETC Christopher Scott.



MAC Ronald Norris, assigned to NAS JRB New Orleans, gets pinned by his wife, Andrea, and MA2 Class Travis Presler.



HMC Thomas McMillian, assigned to VR-54, has his new combination cover placed on his head by his sponsor.



HMC Thomas McMillian, assigned to VR-54, has his new combination cover placed on his head by his sponsor.



Chiefs stand at attention during the reciting of the Chief's Creed during the pinning ceremony. The time-honored tradition is one of the oldest in the Navy and marks what is widely considered the most difficult promotion in an enlisted Sailor's career.

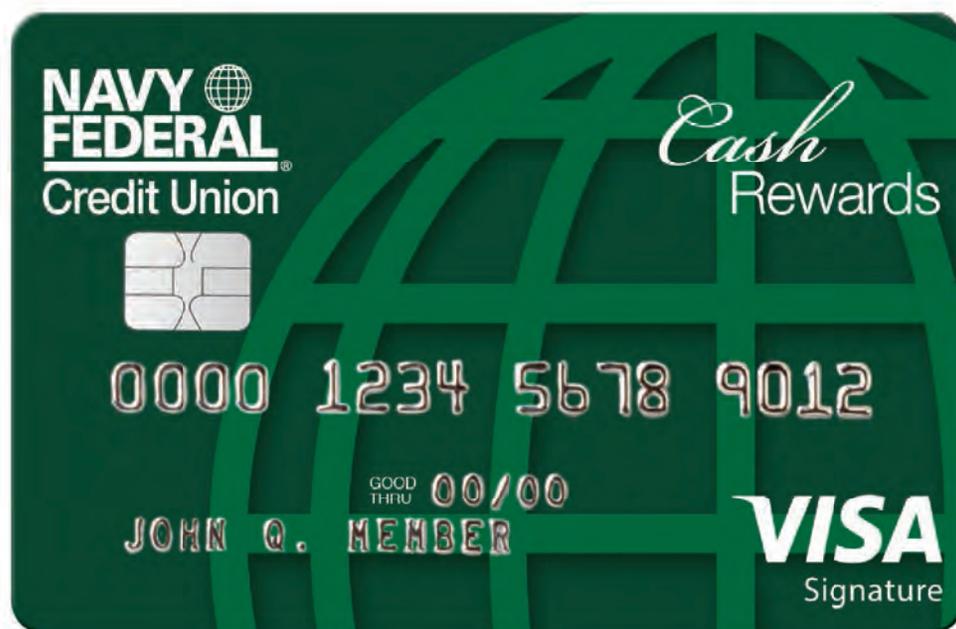


After the pinning ceremony, chiefs, officers and shipmates congratulate the 23 newly-pinned chief petty officers.

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La. National Guard Better, Stronger 10 years After Katrina

By Spc. Joshua Barnett
Louisiana National Guard
Public Affairs Office

NEW ORLEANS – Ten years ago, Hurricane Katrina devastated Southeastern Louisiana. Three weeks later Hurricane Rita did the same in Southwestern Louisiana. The Louisiana National Guard (LANG) played a crucial role in the immediate response to both storms, as well as the recovery.

Efforts were complicated, however, by the fact that many Guard facilities, including the headquarters at Jackson Barracks and the aviation facility at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport were destroyed, and many of the Guardsmen were personally affected by the storm.

Today, the LANG has rebuilt, incorporating many lessons learned along the way.

“Katrina taught us a lot about how we were organized, and how to better organize,” said Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the LANG. “We have a very, very good all-hazards plan now that we actually executed in Gustav and Ike. It’s still difficult, but it made it much easier. We’re prepared. We’re ready to go.”

With nearly all buildings and infrastructure in the southern half of the state destroyed, the LANG was essentially starting over with a blank slate. This allowed for



A newly constructed hangar houses Louisiana National Guard helicopters in Hammond, La., July 2, 2008. The facility was constructed after Hurricane Katrina to replace a facility that was destroyed at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport. The facility in Hammond allows the helicopters to be staged safely out of the impact zone of potential storms, yet close enough to respond quickly.
Army National Guard courtesy photo

each facility to be designed for current and future requirements, instead of adapting old facilities for modern uses. It also presented an opportunity to make the buildings more storm proof.

“We had to find a way to rebuild differently – smarter – so that if any flooding or hurricanes came again, we wouldn’t be as affected,” said Col. Daniel Bordelon, construction and facilities management officer for the LANG.

This included relocating and splitting up critical infrastructure and equipment, improving durability, and continuity. One example was the construction of a new \$110 million aviation facility in Hammond, 42 feet above sea level, so that helicopters

could be safely based just outside New Orleans.

“It’s much smarter to have it outside of the immediate impact area,” Bordelon said.

Another example was the construction of a \$33 million Joint Operations Center at Camp Beauregard in Pineville. “Locating the Joint Operations Center in the center of our state makes our emergency preparedness and response efforts more flexible, so the Guard is well-positioned to respond to disaster wherever it strikes,” Gov. Bobby Jindal said when it opened in 2009.

In total, \$640 million was spent rebuilding National Guard facilities destroyed by Katrina.

In addition to improving facilities based on past experience,



Soldiers and Airmen from the Louisiana National Guard work at a distribution point in the Bywater area of New Orleans to distribute food, water and ice to citizens in need of resources after Hurricane Isaac, Sep. 1, 2012. The LANG is the lead agency in Louisiana for logistics and commodities distribution in the event of a disaster.
Army National Guard photo by Spc. Tarell J. Bilbo

plans and protocols were also overhauled to incorporate the experience and expertise gained during Hurricane Katrina.

“The focus of LANG is always on the future – the next disaster, the next deployment. We continue to train, exercise and improve our processes so that we can be more efficient and effective on the next mission,” said retired Col. Pat Griffin, emergency management director for Emergency Support Function 7, which is the lead state agency for logistics and commodities distribution. “What we are capable of doing today is light years from our heroic efforts in Katrina.

“We’ve also secured a regional staging area capable

of holding 500 trucks; we have everything staged in advance,” Griffin said. “We are ready today for a large-scale response effort immediately after a storm.”

Annually, the joint disaster planning and exercising conducted in Louisiana has become a national model for readiness, and validates the LANG’s ability to respond to a disaster of Katrina’s magnitude with much greater speed, efficiency and expertise than a decade ago.

Since the 2005 hurricanes, the LANG’s readiness and response has been tested through many emergency operations, including Hurricanes Gustav, Ike and Isaac, the BP oil spill, and flooding along the Mississippi and Red Rivers.

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Board of Directors

September Meeting -
7 September 2015 • 7 p.m. at BCA

October Meeting -
5 October 2015 • 7 p.m. at BCA

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Board of Directors Committees Meetings and
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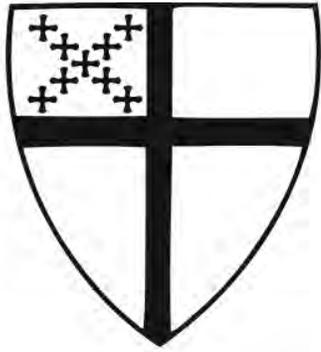
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NAS JRB New Orleans Holds 9/11 Remembrance

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

More than 300 servicemembers and civilians joined at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans to remember those affected by the terrorist attacks of 9/11 during a ceremony and 5-kilometer run Sept. 11.

In attendance at the remembrance was also Force Master Chief Petty Officer (FORCM) Clarence "CJ" Mitchell, Force Master Chief of the Navy Reserve.

The run is usually held in downtown New Orleans. However, this year the remembrance was held on base to invite more military, families and friends.

"Every year the Chiefs Mess hosts a 9/11 run to commemorate and remember the events that happened that day 14 years ago," said Senior Chief Air Traffic Controller Anthony D. Latimore.

"This is the first time we did it on base. I was pleased to lead this event for the 9/11. It was really gratifying," said Latimore. "It's important to take a moment to reflect on those brave men and women who



Chief petty officer selectees lead the group of chief petty officers during the 9/11 remembrance run at NAS JRB New Orleans Sept. 11. Despite the rain more than 300 runners participated in the remembrance and run. Photo by Tammy Prine

lost their lives on 9/11 as well as those who have given their lives defending our country."

The ceremony began with a moment of silence. Then 23 chief petty officer selects from the greater New Orleans area presented a timeline of the events on that September morning. Each chief select took a turn reciting a specific time from the morning of September 11 and the events that occurred followed by a ringing of a bell.

Following morning colors the 5-kilometer run began with CPO selectees and CPOs running in formation singing cadence.

Chief Religious Programs Specialist Celeste Shield, assigned to NAS JRB New Or-

leans, was home on emergency leave from USS Camden (AOE-2) during the events of 9/11. She said she remembers it "vividly."

"I was talking to my mother. She said hurry up, come to the television. We watched the second plane crash into the World Trade Center," said Shield. "It was surreal. I couldn't believe it had happened."

Shield said while she was saddened during the remembrance, she ultimately felt pride at the sight of more than 300 people taking a moment on that raining Friday morning to pay homage to the men and women who lost their lives and to stand in unity.



Chief petty officers stand in formation during morning colors as part of a 9/11 remembrance aboard NAS JRB New Orleans Sept. 11. The remembrance included a moment of silence, a reciting of the events on Sept. 11, 2001, and a 5-kilometer run. Photo by MCI John Hulle

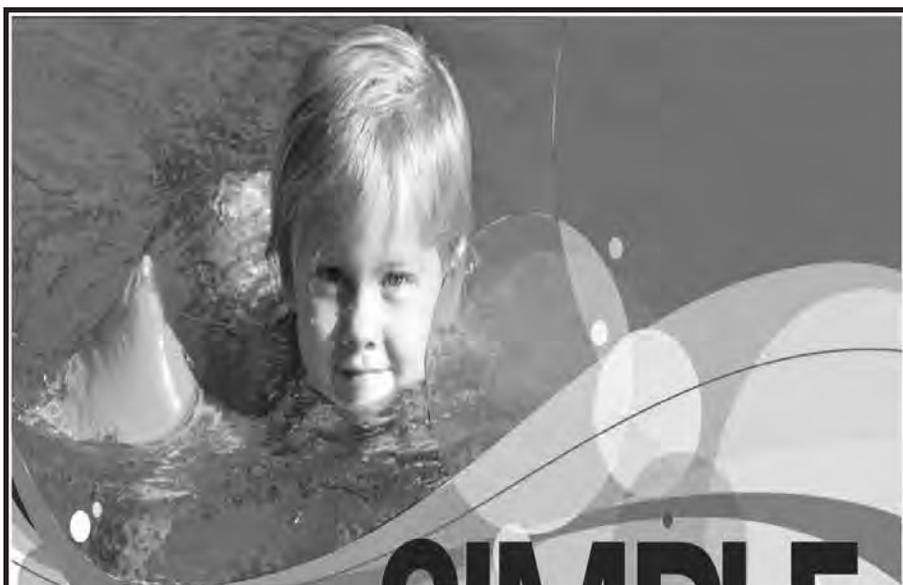


The ribbon is cut opening the Saints Pro shop inside the Navy Exchange (NEX) at NAS JRB New Orleans in Belle Chasse, La. Those performing the ceremonial cutting were from left: Chris Leblanc, New Orleans Saints facility merchandising manager; Denean Scoby, NEX Midsouth district operations services manager; NAS JRB Command Master Chief John Harlin; former New Orleans Saints running back, Deuce McAllister; NEX General Manager Katie Wilson and Tom Jacobson, NEX Midsouth district vice president. McAllister signed autographs for NEX shoppers and helped in a cake cutting for the celebration. Photo by Tammy Prine



YN2 Coleman Gentry rings a bell as the name of a fallen service member is read during the Gold Star Remembrance Event "Bells Ringing Over CNRSE" Sept. 23, in the Fleet and Family Support Center at NAS JRB New Orleans. A total of 23 names of fallen service members were read followed by a succession of four bells for the names of the fallen not called. Names of fallen service members were provided by Navy Gold Star Coordinators.

Photo by Tammy Prine



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Stability in the Midst of Change Takes Preparation

By Lt. Cmdr. Shawn Turpin
NAS JRB Chaplain



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Greetings Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, Airmen, Coastguardsmen, families and civilians! Since August, I have had the honor of serving as your chaplain. In a short time, it has been my privilege to experience, alongside of you, the excitement, trials, challenges, and rewards associated with NAS JRB New Orleans. One of the joys of being your chaplain is the opportunities to teach. If you wish me to teach a class to your unit on Core Values

for Life, Communication & Conflict Resolution, or Operational Stress, let me know.

But the greatest benefit you have is absolute confidentiality in counseling (no exceptions per Secretary of the Navy Instruction 1730.9, Army Regulation 165-1, Air Force Instruction 152-101, Department of Defense Instruction 6490.06, and Manual for Courts Martial Rule 503). Stop by my office in the

chapel—for a word of wisdom or even just to share good news. I want to hear from you.

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or frustration. As service members, we are all trained to respond to out-of-control circumstances. So, let me ask you personally—are you stable and calm? How is your response to out-of-control circumstances? Do you respond consistently with determination, resolve, and a gracious spirit? By doing so, you enable yourself to be calm in the midst of the storm, calm on the inside despite any storm all around you.

Making wise decisions is easier said than done. No formula. No 1-2-3. Think with me for a moment. What

comes out of you when you are under pressure existed in you before you were under pressure. Circumstances merely reveal who you already are. So just like you prepare for various circumstances with your job or a particular mission. I encourage you to prepare for various circumstances in life—before the crises erupt—and they will. It takes time to prepare. It takes courage to remain steadfast.

Blessings,
Chaps

Changes to TRICARE Pharmacy Benefit

By The Currents' Staff

As of Oct. 1, a new law went into effect requiring all TRICARE beneficiaries, except active-duty service members, to get select brand name maintenance drugs through either TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or from a military pharmacy. Beneficiaries who use a retail pharmacy for these drugs will have to pay the full

cost.

This change doesn't apply to all drugs—it only applies to select maintenance drugs.

Maintenance drugs are those taken regularly for a long time, such as drugs to control blood pressure or cholesterol. The law does not apply to generic drugs or drugs taken for a short time, like antibiotics or drugs for pain medication. Those drugs can still be filled at a network pharmacy. Beneficiaries living

overseas, or with other prescription drug coverage, are not affected.

The TRICARE pharmacy contractor, Express Scripts, sent letters to beneficiaries taking an affected drug, explaining their options. Beneficiaries can contact Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303 to see if they are affected.

Beneficiaries still filling an affected drug at a retail pharmacy will receive another letter

informing them of the change to the benefit. After that, beneficiaries have one final courtesy fill at a retail pharmacy again, they have to pay 100 percent of the cost of their medication.

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery is a safe, convenient and low cost option to get maintenance drugs. People can get up to a 90-day supply, as opposed to a 30-day supply from a retail pharmacy and can

save up to \$176 a year for every brand name drug switched to Home Delivery. Military pharmacies offer up to a 90-day supply of drugs at zero copay but not all drugs are available. People on medication need to check with their local military pharmacy to see if their prescription is available.

For complete details about this change to TRICARE's pharmacy benefit, visit www.tricare.mil/RxNewRules.

Green Knights Military Motorcycle Club Poker Run



The Green Knights Military Motorcycle Club Chapter 105 is hosting its annual Toys for Tots Poker Run on Saturday, Nov. 21. This is Southeast Louisiana's longest poker run (170 miles) and proceeds will benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Registration for the run begins at 9 a.m. with the first motorcycle out at 10 a.m. The last motorcycle must be in by 4 p.m. Registration fees are \$30 for each rider and \$25 for each passenger. Participants who bring a new unwrapped toy will get \$5 off their registration fee.

The Poker Run begins and ends at the Clubhouse in Belle Chasse, La. Stops along the run include: The Transportation Revolution in New Orleans; Southside Café in Slidell, La.; Ruby's Road House in Mandeville, La.; Gator's Den in Akers, La.; and the Cypress Stump in LaPlace, La.

Food will be provided by Championship Joe's Lagniappe. Other post-race events include music, 50/50 raffle, auctions and prizes.

For more information email Sue at: sue_ray31@yahoo.com. To register for the run visit: www.gk105mmc.org.

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