



ROCKET'S RED GLARE

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NSA Panama City Chain of Command



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Executive Officer
Lt. Bobby Kenning



Command Master Chief
Petty Officer Hector Sandoval



NSA PANAMA CITY CARES ABOUT:

- ➔ **Our Mission**
- ➔ **The Environment**

We C.A.R.E. about our Environmental Policy

- C – Comply with Rules**
- A – Always Improve**
- R – Reduce Waste**
- E – Eliminate Pollution**

The CO Relies on YOU for Compliance

For Information on Environmental Management Systems (EMS): Our ISO 14001 Approach

Contact your Command EMS Action Team Member:
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Region Southeast Holds Change of Command Ceremony

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Stacy D. Laseter, Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Mary M. Jackson relieved Rear Adm. Rick Williamson as Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) during a change of command ceremony on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville, July 18.

The time-honored ceremony marked an end to Williamson's leadership of the command that supports and guides 17 installations throughout the Southeastern United States and the Caribbean. Vice Adm. William D. French, the commander of Navy Installations Command, served as the guest speaker for the ceremony.

Williamson is a Jacksonville, Fla., native and a 1985 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he earned a bachelor's in computer science. He also holds a master's in business administration from the Naval Post Graduate School and is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College. Williamson reported to CNRSE from his previous assignment as Commander, Navy Region Midwest, Great Lakes, Ill.

"I have had such an incredible experience leading an outstanding CNRSE team," said Williamson. "I will always cherish the relationships that I have built during this tour."

Williamson will be reporting to Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, Norfolk, Va., in August to assume



Rear Adm. Mary Jackson walks through the side boys formation during the Commander, Navy Region Southeast Change of Command ceremony on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville. During the ceremony, Jackson accepted command from Rear Adm. Ricky Williamson. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Stacy D. Laseter)

command.

Originally from Wimberley, Texas, Jackson entered the United States Naval Academy in July 1984, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in physics with an emphasis in oceanography. She later went on to earn a graduate degree from George Washington University in engineering management and became qualified as a joint specialty officer.

She has served on board five U.S. Navy ships, in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets with deployed operations in the Atlantic, Caribbean, Arabian Gulf, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, and Western Pacific areas of operation. Her command tours including serving as commanding officer, USS McFaul (DDG 74) and commanding officer, Naval Station Norfolk, the world's largest naval installation. Most recently, she served as chief of staff to Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, Norfolk, Va.

"It is an honor and privilege to become a part of such a dynamic team of Sailors and civilians," Jackson said. "And I look forward to challenges we'll tackle together."

Jackson will be the region's 44th commander.



Rear Adm. Mary Jackson and Rear Adm. Ricky Williamson shake hands following the official turnover during the Commander, Navy Region Southeast change of command ceremony on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Stacy D. Laseter)

Chaplain's Corner

By NSA PC Chaplain LT Jennifer Howe



Throughout my journey to become a Chaplain in the United States Navy, I have had many mentors provide me with bits of wisdom that not only challenged my thinking on a cognitive level, but, more importantly, challenged my motives as a leader.

As I was beginning my journey, attempting to better understand who I was as an individual and as a potential leader, I was given the quote “You first have to be willing to serve in the shadows before you have earned the right to lead in the spot light.” As I pondered this statement, its meaning and application to my own life, I soon realized that in order to effectively lead I must first be a servant. I must be willing to stand alongside those I lead and understand what they endure in often dirty and intense situations. I must not only be willing to simply lead them, but also simultaneously walk beside them. As leaders, we must be willing to serve and get dirty in order to demonstrate care and respect

A Look At Servant Leadership

to those we lead. I have found no greater demonstration of this than in the pages of history and the life of George Washington.

One rainy day during the American Revolutionary War, George Washington rode up to a group of soldiers attempting to raise a wooden beam to a high position. The corporal in charge was shouting encouragement, but the soldiers couldn't get the beam in position. After watching their lack of success, Washington asked the corporal why don't you join in and help, to which the corporal replied, “don't you realize that I am the corporal?” Very politely, General Washington replied, “I beg your pardon, Mr. Corporal, I do.” Washington dismounted his horse and went to work with the soldiers to get the oak beam in position. As they finished, General Washington wiped perspiration from his face, and said “If you should need help again, call on Washington, your Commander-in-Chief, and I will come.”

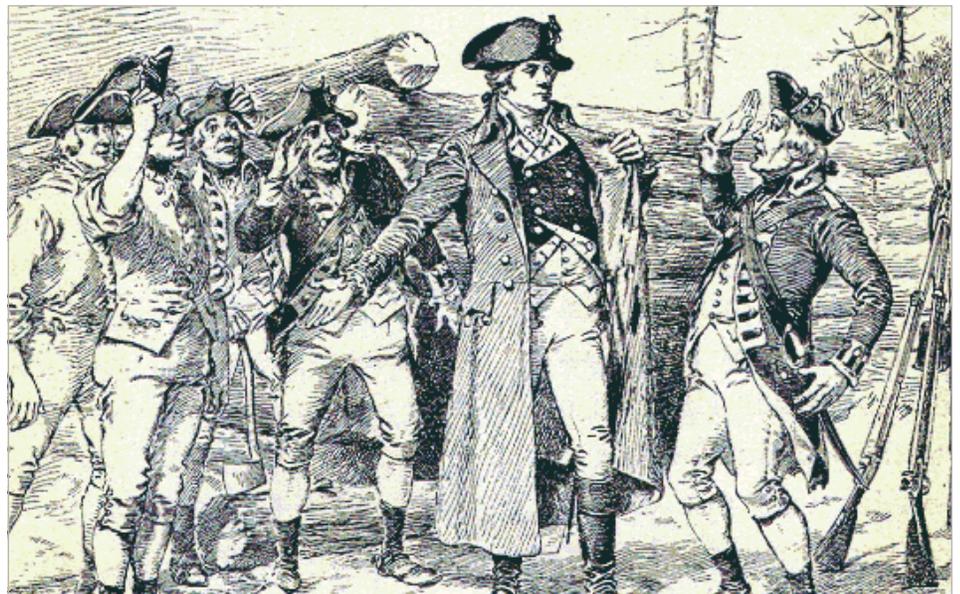
I could not imagine the look on

the young corporal's face as his Commander-in-Chief rode away, but I am most certain that his encounter with Washington was one he never forgot.

“You first have to be willing to serve in the shadows before you have earned the right to lead in the spot light.”

May we all learn from Washington, who was willing to dismount his horse, expose himself to the elements and work alongside his men to ensure the beam was properly set in place.

Washington understood the powerful concept of servant leadership and because of his willingness to serve alongside his men, he earned the right to lead his men in the midst of battle with honor, courage and commitment.



Identity Theft: You CAN Take Steps To Prevent It!

By LT Jennifer N. Smith, JAGC, USN

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. Last year, nearly 10 million people were victims. And it's not just the financial loss, but the impact on your credit. It includes your borrowing and repayment plans, credit cards and loans, whether you have been delinquent on payments, or you've filed for a bankruptcy.

The identify thief steals your information and opens one or more accounts. In the mail you begin receiving past due notices for accounts in your name. Erroneous postings end up on your credit report. The negative entries lower your credit score. They lead to denials of future loan requests. Employers and landlords look at credit reports when deciding whether to hire you or if you qualify for a lease. The effort to clean up the mess left by identity thieves is hours of your time and months to get your good name back.

Active-duty military are prime targets for identity theft. Lots of moves. Extended absences for training or deployments. Working in remote locations unable to monitor bank and credit accounts. The consequences for active-duty service members can be severe. Poor credit reports can result in the loss of a security clearance and impact future service or your career. While there's no 100 percent guarantee against identity theft, there are steps you can take to make it more difficult for your identity to be stolen and to limit the impacts should identity theft happen.

Here are some helpful tips:

- Regularly monitor bank and credit accounts: Check accounts twice a month for incorrect entries.
- Safeguard your personal information: Protect yourself by:
 - Shredding documents that contain personal information; e.g., receipts, bank statements, and medical documents.
 - Having a friend pick your mail up or request a hold at the post office.
 - Considering opting out of prescreened offers of credit and insurance by going to <http://optoutprescreen.com>.
 - Limiting identification you carry such as your Social Security card.
 - Avoiding logging into personal accounts on a public wireless network.
 - Regularly change passwords.
 - Not posting personal information like your full

birthday on public websites.

- Check your credit report three times a year: You can access your credit report annually for free from the three credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and Transunion, or you can go to www.annualcreditreport.com. Space your requests to each of the agencies throughout the year to regularly monitor your credit for any suspicious entries. Early identification of identity theft is your best defense.
- Set up a credit alert: These alerts require businesses to contact you to verify your identity before issuing credit in your name. You only need to request an alert with one of the credit reporting agencies and they will report it to the others. If you become the victim of identity theft, an initial alert for 90 days can ensure that no further credit is taken in your name. If deploying, consider the active duty alert which last for 12 months and removes you from prescreened offers for credit and insurance.

While you can't always avoid identity theft, you should take steps to limit the possibility. For more information and advice, visit: <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/topics/privacy-identity>. And of course, if you become the victim of identity theft, contact your local RLSO Legal Assistance office!



This Month in Photos

Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin Gray and Ens. J. Søren Viuf.



Left: Yeoman 2nd Class Angel Torres eats lunch with members of the Camp Amigo Children's Burn Victims tour group.

Top: Sailors, NSA PC firefighters and Navy civilian personnel take a group photo with members of the Camp Amigo Children's Burn Victims tour group.

Middle left: A member of the Camp Amigo Children's Burn Victims tour group struggles to look through the viewport of a landing craft air cushion (LCAC) while on a tour of NSA PC.



Above: Members of the Camp Amigo Children's Burn Victims tour group speak with NSA PC Fire Department staff members about the type of services they provide for NSA PC.

Far Left: Personnel Specialist 1st Class Tina Cook paints a wall at Crawford Mosley High School during a community relations project.



Immediate left: Information Systems Technician 1st Class Terry Nesby prepares a wall for painting at Crawford Mosley High School during a community relations project.

Independence Day Bash

Event Photos by Cindy Warriner - Fireworks Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin B. Gray



Naval Support Activity Panama City's Morale Welfare and Recreation Department hosted an Independence Day Bash on the 3rd of July. People of all ages enjoyed rock-climbing, face painting, cardboard boat racing and the grand finale of the event, a fireworks display!



Military Spouses Residency Relief Act

"...in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

- Benjamin Franklin (in a letter to Jean-Baptiste Leroy dated 1789).

By LT Charles M. Roman, JAGC, USN

Although tax season is behind us, it is never too late to think about next year, and how you and your spouse can make decisions that will best allow your family to avoid the taxman. One thing to always remember, tax residency (described here) is a separate concept from your home-of-record (an exclusively military designation).

Under the Sailors Civil Relief Act (SCRA), a service member does not pay state income tax in the state where the service member is stationed if that state is not his domicile (legal state of residence for tax purposes). Instead, the service member is taxed on his military income in his state of legal residence. For example, Seaman Paul, whose state of residence is Florida, does not pay income tax to the state of Virginia from his military income earnings while stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. Rather, Seaman Paul will be taxed based on Florida state tax law – which has no state income tax. Furthermore, no matter where Seaman Paul is stationed, Florida will always remain his state of legal residence, unless he changes it.

Until a few years ago, this benefit under the SCRA did not extend to service members' spouses. Every time a service member moved, the spouse's state of legal residence would change and the spouse would be taxed by the state on all income earned in that state. So before, when Seaman Paul moved to Norfolk, Virginia with his wife Kristen; she became a Virginia resident and the state of Virginia would tax her on income earned while she lived there.

The Military Spouses Residency Relief Act (MSRRA) changed some of the basic rules of taxation in regards to military spouses. Today, the spouse of the military member is entitled to SCRA tax protection for the same domicile (state of legal residence) of the service member - IF the dependent spouse had also previously acquired the same legal domicile. Translation: if Kristen resided with Seaman Paul in Florida long enough to establish it as her residence when they were ordered to move to Norfolk, Kristen's state of legal residence can be Florida. Moreover, if Kristen works while in Norfolk, she will not be taxed by Virginia – she will be subject to Florida state income tax rate (zero). Also, Kristen will not be taxed by Virginia on automobiles when they are titled solely in Kristen's name or jointly with Seaman Paul.

Keep in mind two things: 1) The spouse must be present

with the service member in the non-domicile state pursuant to military orders and 2) spouses can keep prior residences IF AND ONLY IF they are the same as that of the service member. Eligible spouses need to designate their appropriate domicile state by filing new withholding forms with their employer. Think about changing withholding forms for next year now!

There are some common misunderstandings that need to be addressed:

1. The MSRRA does not allow a spouse to pick or choose a state of legal residence.
2. The MSRRA does not allow a spouse to "inherit" or assume a service member's domicile upon marriage. There is not a standard form to be filled out that allows a spouse to change their residency. Actually, the spouse must have lived in the state, intends to return to there, and have a tangible connection to the state. Connections that need to be established are: voter registration, driver's license, professional licenses, homestead declaration, purchase of residential property, registration or titling of vehicles, and even executing a will under the laws of that state. Basically, you need to show a bona fide intent to return to the state from which the military has ordered you to move away from. Please note: it is not necessary to establish all of these contacts, but the more the better.
3. The MSRRA does not allow a spouse to recapture an old abandoned domicile unless the spouse physically returns to the state with the requisite connections and intent to remain there permanently.
4. The tax exemption for working spouses only applies to wage income and income from services performed in the non-domiciliary states. Thus, if Kristen sells their Norfolk house or rents out their extra home in Virginia, she will be taxed by Virginia on this income. Also, Kristen will pay Virginia state income tax on businesses she has opened while in Norfolk.

Legal residency and how it applies to your taxes is a confusing topic and is detail specific. Hopefully, this article makes the MSRRA a little easier, but if you have more questions contact your local legal assistance JAG.

This article is not intended to substitute for the personal advice of a licensed attorney.

Be Water-Wise Outside

Depending on climate, up to 75 percent of a home's total water use during the growing season is for outdoor purposes. Try these tips to save water:

- Detect and repair all leaks in irrigation system.
- Use properly treated wastewater for irrigation where available.
- Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day (early morning is best). Do not water on windy days.
- Water trees and shrubs, which have deep root systems, longer and less frequently than shallow-rooted plants that require smaller amounts of water more often. Check with the local extension service for advice on watering needs in your area.
- Set sprinklers to water the lawn or garden only – not the street or sidewalk.
- Use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation systems for trees and shrubs.
- Install moisture sensors on sprinkler systems.
- Use mulch around shrubs and garden plants to reduce evaporation from the soil surface and cut down on weed growth.
- Remove thatch and aerate turf to encourage movement of water to the root zone.
- Raise your lawn mower cutting height – longer grass blades help shade each other, reduce evaporation, and inhibit weed growth.
- Minimize or eliminate fertilizing, which promotes new growth needing additional watering.
- Remove areas of thirsty lawn in favor of native drought-resistant plants.
- When outdoor use of city or well water is restricted during a drought, use the water from the air conditioning condenser, dehumidifier, bath, or sink on plants or the garden. Don't use water that contains bleach, automatic-dishwashing detergent or fabric softener.
- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps rather than hosing off.
- Wash the car with water from a bucket, or use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- When using a hose, control the flow with an automatic shut-off nozzle.



Chill Out With Cool, Cool Energy Savings

Are hot summer days putting a strain on your air conditioning? Maybe you don't even have air conditioning. Here are some tips for staying cool during the heat of the day.

- Turn off everything that's not needed. See if you can shut off overhead lights and use task lights. If it's using power, it's putting heat in the room.
- Use a fan to move the air. A small fan near your desk can make you feel several degrees cooler. Be sure to shut it off when you go home.
- Pull the shades on the south and west windows if the direct sun is getting in.
- Dress for success, or dress for the weather? If necessary, be the one to start a fashion trend of more casual dress on hot days. Tell everyone you're dressed for energy success.



Around The Fleet News

Command Ball Caps Are Back

COs to Have Authority to Allow Ball Caps with NWUs

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

For many Sailors, ball caps are more than just a cover; they're pride.

At the conclusion of battle stations-the final test in boot camp-new Sailors remove their recruit ball cap, having earned the right to don a new cover: a ball cap emblazoned with the word 'Navy.'

When these young Sailors join the Fleet, their generic Navy ball cap is set aside for a command ball cap, identifying them as a proud member of their new command.

So during all hands calls when senior leaders candidly ask Sailors what changes they want, many ask for more opportunity to wear their command ball caps, specifically the option to wear it with the Navy Working Uniform (NWU).

Now it's happening.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and senior leadership took that request to heart, and on July 11 the Office of the Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP) announced they are changing the uniform regulations to give individual commands the ability authorize command ball caps with the NWU Type I, II and III.

"A lot of Sailors look at command ball caps as a source of command pride and esprit de corps," said Fleet Master Chief April Beldo, senior enlisted advisor to CNP. "This is something the Fleet asked us for, and we believe this is something the commands should be able to decide for themselves. So all we're doing is opening up that option to the command triads, the CO, XO and CMC."

Under the new policy, commanding officers, working with regional commanders, have the option to authorize command ball caps for Sailors in NWUs, anywhere that uniform could normally be worn, including transiting to and from work.

"It's not our intent to tell COs how to do this," said Vice Adm. Bill Moran, CNP. "We're leaving it up to COs to use their best judgment. That's what they're there to do and they are the ones best suited to make those decisions for their command."

The NAVADMIN outlining the official policy will be released in the next few weeks, and the new policy is scheduled to go into effect Sept. 1, giving commands some lead time to prepare.

Under current policy, ball caps can only be worn with



coveralls, flight suits and the physical training uniform.

This change will not eliminate the eight-point NWU cover, which will remain part of the standard sea bag.

In an informal poll, Sailors aboard the forward-deployed USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77) shared their opinions, which diverged both in support of command ball caps and the eight-point cover.

"I like the idea of changing to the ball caps," said Master Chief Machinist's Mate Milton McDonald. "They are much easier to maintain. The eight-point covers do not always have the best fit, and it would be much easier to correct a Sailor who is wearing an adjustable ball cap."

"I think we should keep the traditional eight-point covers," said Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Clyde Scott. "Sailors look so much sharper and squared away in those covers."

In the new policy, individual commands will make the decision on whether their Sailors wear command ball caps, eight-point covers or some combination based on local requirements.

Sailors can provide feedback on uniforms to umo_cmc@navy.mil or usnpeople@gmail.com.

Two NSWC PCD Travel Team Members Earn DoD Award

By Jacqui Barker, NSWC PCD Office of Corporate Communications

Two Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) Comptroller Department Travel Office team members were named recipients of the Defense Travel Management Office (DTMO) Icon Awardees as part of the 2014 Excellence in Practice Awards Program.

Adrione Canada and Christopher Meissner were two of 25 recognized as part of the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Warfare Center Travel Team. Canada and Meissner will be recognized via Defense Connect Online teleconference July 29, 2014.

NSWC PCD Commanding Officer Capt. Phillip Dawson III, USN said both he and Division Technical Director Ed Stewart (SES) are proud of Canada and Meissner's accomplishments.

"Adrione and Chris exemplify our core value of teamwork, collaborating across organizational boundaries to create value and deliver a better product!" wrote Dawson in an all hands e-mail dated July 17, 2014.

The Icon is awarded to a military service major command or defense agency team that has, with exemplary professional skill, successfully communicated and provided guidance for travel-related updates. The team that receives this award must have facilitated a visible enhancement in travel program capabilities for its subordinate sites. DTMO's most prestigious honor, The Icon, acknowledges the very highest level of achievement and is considered to be the "best of the best."

"The Icon Award recognizes a major command or agency whose strategies and tactics enhance their travel program capabilities for their subordinate sites - and based on the nomination package that you submitted on NAVSEA Warfare Center Travel Team's behalf, their hard work and dedication exemplifies each of these characteristics," said NSWC PCD Deputy Comptroller Jonathan Armstrong.

Canada, an administrative technical travel specialist from Jackson, Ms., holds a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Florida State University and is a Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM). She has worked at NSWC PCD for six years.

"I'm honored to be the recipient of such a prestigious award and very proud to be part of the NAVSEA Travel Team. This award is not the result of an individual effort, but it's a testament of the excellence and pride the entire NSWC PCD travel support office team takes in supporting Panama City's travelers and the NAVSEA mission," said Canada. "I would like to congratulate the team for a job well-done."

Meissner, an accountant from Milton, Fla., holds a



Defense Travel Management Office Icon Awardees Christopher Meissner and Adrione Canada.

bachelor's degree from University of West Florida in accounting and finance. He has worked at NSWC PCD for almost five years.

"I feel very fortunate to receive the DTMO Icon Award and be a part of the NAVSEA Warfare Center Travel Team. The entire team worked very hard to overcome the challenges faced last year," said Meissner.

Categorical entries were judged on communication and guidance of travel programs, system regulation updates, training sustainment direction, modifications to organizational business rules, inclusion of new and recurring compliance topics and the ability to represent and address the needs or concerns of travelers using the Defense Travel System (DTS).

The NAVSEA Warfare Center Travel Team is made up of NAVSEA Headquarters and NAVSEA Warfare Centers travel personnel with commands and personnel located across the United States and other countries. The team has oversight over approximately 20,000 travelers and generates approximately 80,000 travel documents each year.

According to Dawson, the team's superior achievement lies in their focus on "Customers First" while streamlining, standardizing, and improving processes. The team's efforts were especially difficult this past year due to extraordinary budgetary events, administrative furlough, regulatory changes, ERP system sustainment issues, and the tragic events at the Washington Navy Yard. The team exemplified a standard of excellence in performance that resulted in collaborative improvements and timely payment of DTS entitlements to the workforce. The extraordinary efforts exemplified by the WFC Travel Team reflect their passionate commitment to NAVSEA, the WFC travelers, and the travel program.

North Gate Express Exit to Open Soon

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin B. Gray, Naval Support Activity Panama City Public Affairs

The outbound only north gate on U.S. Highway 98 at Naval Support Activity Panama City (NSA PC) is almost ready for daily use.

"Construction has been completed," said John Skaggs, NSA PC Community Planning and Liaison Officer. "Everything as far as the contractor side of the house is done."

Although construction has been completed, the current opening is still to be determined.

"We don't know exactly when it will open," said Skaggs. "Security is currently looking into finding people to man the gate. Right now the commanding officer is waiting for additional manning. He doesn't want to just open it sporadically - if it's going to be open, he wants it to be open every day. That way people don't get confused and try to use it when it's closed."

Although there's currently not enough personnel to man the gate every day, the gate's first use was met with success during a limited opening for a special event.

"We did open it for the Independence Day fireworks," said Skaggs. "It was very successful. People really enjoyed it and I got nothing but good feedback from those that used the gate."

The current schedule for the gates hours of operations will be 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Skaggs said, "We did a survey with all the major tenant commands, and specifically Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) since they have the most employees. Most folks start leaving around 3 p.m. and traffic starts to trickle off at 5 p.m."

When the gate first opens, Skaggs said he thinks the improvements in traffic flow may not be immediately noticeable, but eventually will increase to significant levels, alleviating as much as half of the traffic going out of Thomas Gate.

While the north gate will eventually ease congestion, new traffic patterns can pose dangers to drivers.

"Any time you use a new exit you need to be visible about what's surrounding you," said Skaggs. "When you exit out of the Thomas Drive gate, there is a light that helps control the flow of traffic, whereas



The newly constructed exit onto U.S. Highway 98, expected to open soon, will reduce congestion at the Thomas Drive exit. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin B. Gray)

the U.S. Highway 98 gate is a yield only. Also, a lot of people are not used to pedestrians [at the Thomas Drive gate], and the U.S. Highway 98 gate is currently frequently used by pedestrians who like to use the bridge either by foot or by riding bicycles. Our plan right now is to have a yield sign for the exiting traffic. Also, we have lane delineators already set up to push over the cars as they're coming down from Thomas Drive, but this will be an added caution as you're merging."

Drivers will also need to keep in mind that the north gate on U.S. Highway 98 is one-way only.

"We have tire shredders as you exit the gate," Skaggs said. "When leaving, they'll act as a speed bump and when your tires go over them they will push the teeth of the shredders down so there's no harm done, but if you were to back up for some reason, you will damage your tires."

Skaggs also mentioned signage will be posted stating: 'Do not back up or your tires will be damaged.' He wants people to understand once you've left NSA PC, you will need to cross Hathaway Bridge and turn around on the other side in order to re-enter.

Another benefit of the new gate structure is how the exit was financed.

"It was funded through something called the Defense Infrastructure Grant,"

said Skaggs. "It's a grant funded through Enterprise Florida. It's a community driven grant, where Bay County, the Bay Defense Alliance and the Bay County Economic Development Alliance are the ones who pushed the grant through. It's to improve infrastructure around the base in hopes of improving the economic impact of the base. It was funded in two separate pieces, first the design phase and then the construction phase. The Navy did not pay anything for the gate, everything was paid for directly from the grants."

As a last bit of caution, Skaggs wanted to point out that base personnel should obey all posted cautions and keep aware of their surroundings.

"People need to especially make sure they obey the speed limits on base when exiting from the new gate since they will be passing near base housing and the Child Development Center," said Skaggs.

Overall, even though the gate does not have an official opening day targeted, it's clear base personnel are excited for the new exit and Skaggs said the date should not be far off. An all-hands email and other communication means will confirm when the gate will be opened.

Gulf Coast VA, Navy to hold groundbreaking ceremony for new Panama City clinics on Aug. 7

By Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System Public Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System and the U.S. Navy will hold a public groundbreaking ceremony for their new medical clinics at 9 a.m. on Aug 7.

The ceremony will be held at the construction site where the new clinics are going to be built, located near the Tom Thumb gas station at 6862 Magnolia Beach Road.

Billy W. Jarrett Construction was awarded the contract to build both facilities. BES Design/Build has designed the buildings. Gulf Coast VA's new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) is expected to be approximately 30,000 square feet in size, and the new Naval Branch Health Clinic is expected to be approximately 5,300 square feet in size. Both buildings are tentatively scheduled to be finished by June 30, 2015.

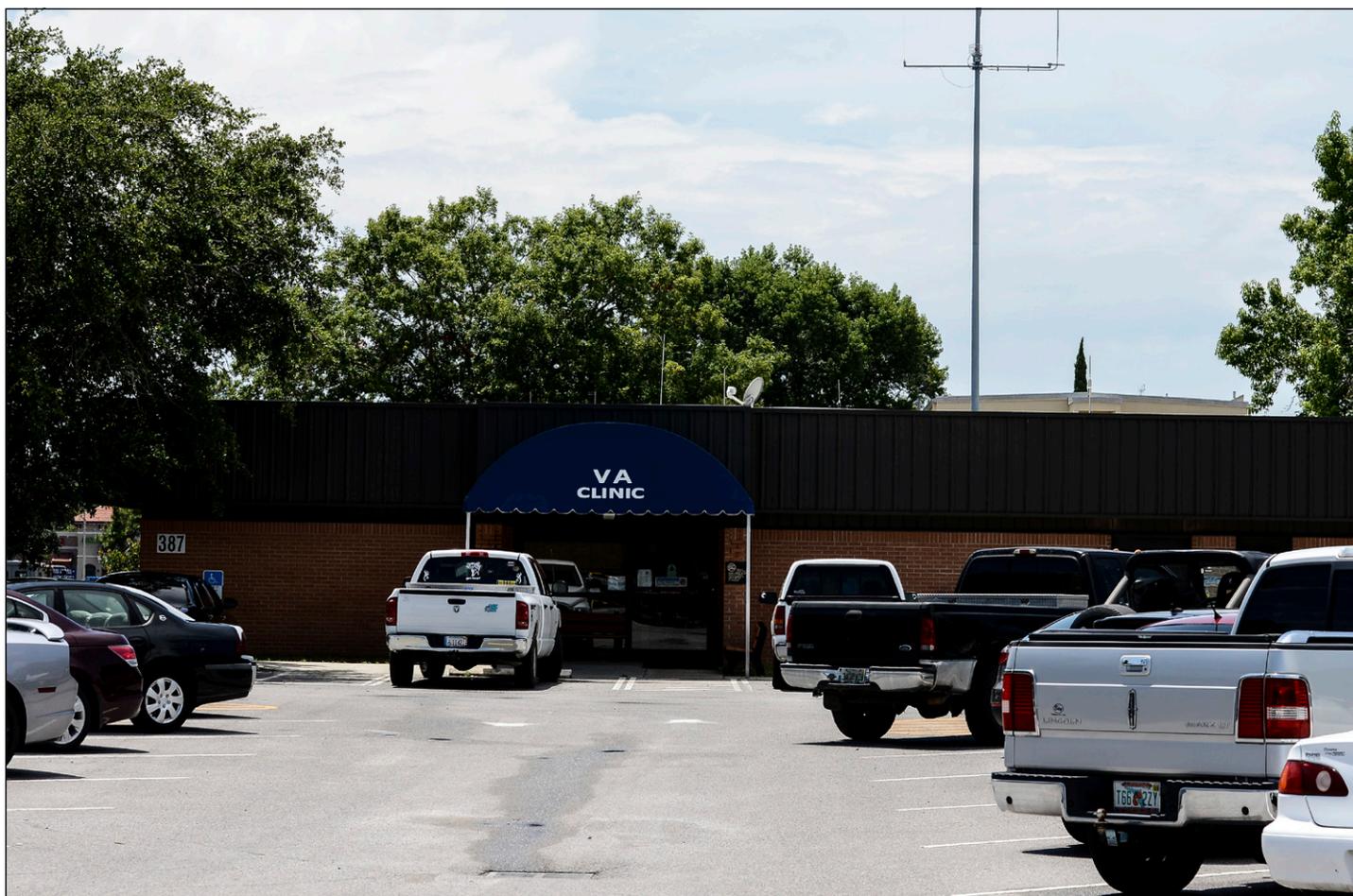
Gulf Coast VA's current Panama City CBOC serves

approximately 5,500 assigned Veterans. VA projects a 28 percent Veteran enrollment growth in the Florida Panhandle within the next 10 years.

NBHC Panama City has a current enrollment of more than 1,400 TRICARE beneficiaries that consists of active duty service members, families of active duty service members, retirees and their families. The clinic also provides occupational health care for approximately 2,200 civilian employees assigned to Naval Support Activity Panama City.

The event is open to the general public.

Learn more about the Gulf Coast VA here: www.biloxi.va.gov. Learn more about Naval Hospital Pensacola and its Branch Clinics here: <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/pcola>.



The current Veteran's Administration Clinic will relocate to the new site on Magnolia Beach Road in the summer of 2015. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin B. Gray)