

THE SKYLINE IS A CHINFO AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

VT-7 wins Secretary of Navy Safety Award

By Penny Randall
Staff Writer

Training Squadron Seven (VT-7) is a safe place to work.

In fact, according to the Secretary of the Navy VT-7 is the safest training squadron in the entire Navy – a distinction that has earned them the 2010 Secretary of the Navy Safety Excellence Award.

“We’re honored to be recognized for our hard work in safety,”



said Cmdr. William Doster, commanding officer of Training Squadron Seven. “It’s an award to the entire squadron.” Doster added he believes it wasn’t just one thing that the squadron accomplished.

“It’s a command culture that we believe rather than a task, it’s something we work continually to maintain. This award is special for the safety officer and his team. He is the one who works hard when it comes to submitting hazards and recommendations.”

● **Safety Award, page 10**

Meridian earns SECNAV Energy, Water Award

By Penny Randall
Staff Writer

Naval Air Station Meridian was among Navy Region Southeast’s 16 non-BRAC installations to be recognized recently by the Secretary of the Navy with an Energy and Water Management Award.

“These awards reflect our significant progress in making energy and water conservation a high priority in our everyday mission of supporting the fleet, family and warfighter,” Commander Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Tim Alexander said.

“This marks the first time all non-BRAC installations in Navy Region Southeast have received recognition. Energy is one of Region Southeast’s major focus areas, and installation efforts have positively positioned us to execute a comprehensive energy strategy that will help us become the Navy’s leading region in energy and water conservation.”

NAS Meridian joined Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla.;

● **Energy, page 13**

Ceremony honors POWs/MIAs; commemorates 9/11

World War II POW Glenn D. Fraizer signs his book “Hell’s Guest” for Shannon and Wes Sellers following NAS Meridian’s POW/MIA ceremony on Sept. 10. Frazier was the guest speaker for the event which also paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11 terror attacks.



Photo by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio

By Penny Randall
Staff Writer

Lisa Sellers believed that her children would benefit from attending Naval Air Station Meridian’s POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony and 9/11 Commemoration so she allowed the two youngsters to miss a couple of hours of school.

“Programs like these are important for the next generation,” said Sellers as she looked at her children, Shannon and Wes.

The program was hosted by the NAS Meridian Chapel staff and led by Lt. Cmdr. Allan Ford. He welcomed the audience to the ceremony, which was open to the public, on Sept. 10 in Hangar One of Training Air Wing One.

● **POW, page 11**

On Base...

✓ Safety Classes:

The following safety classes are upcoming. For information, call (601) 679-3756.

- Oct. 4: AAA
- Oct. 5-6: Basic Rider’s Course
- Oct. 7: Motorcycle Sport Bike
- Oct. 8 ATV

✓ Case

Lot Sale:

Sept. 17-18 at the Commissary

✓ Basic Auto Skills

Class: The Outpost hosts a free class on Sept. 28 at 5 p.m. Learn how to change your oil, rotate tires and more.

✓ **ServMart:** On board NAS Meridian will close Sept. 29-30 for inventory. Emergency purchases only.

✓ Legal Assistance Attorney:

On board NAS Meridian Sept. 28-30 in the Legal Office (Administration Building 255, Suite 222). To assist with a power of attorney or a will, medical directive, help with state tax exemptions, help with family issues, military issues, or consumer law issues. Make an appointment by calling (601) 679-2340. This service is available to active duty military, retirees, and their dependents.

Photo of the Week



Photo by RP3 Monnie Harwell

RPSN Curtis Whingham, Fred White and Lt. Cmdr. Alan Ford, spread concrete mix as it pours from a truck to create a new outdoor patio behind the NAS Meridian chapel, Sept. 3. The self-help project was completed by chapel staff members and the concrete was donated.

Off Limits Establishments

The following establishments located in the city of Meridian are off limits to military members stationed at NAS Meridian.

The Underground (Bonita Lakes Mall)
Meridian Underground Music Exchange

Club Flame Throwers
 (advertised as "Club End Zone")
Club Fusion (Formerly Club Swaggards and Club Midnight Sun)

THE Skyline

~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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 Executive Officer ~ Cmdr. Edward Donohoe
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Area Happenings

SEPTEMBER

17-19: Fahrenheit 2010 featuring a truck-car-bike show at Northeast Park, Highway 39 North, Meridian. Time: Friday 7 p.m.-11 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.-11 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: 1 day pass is \$5, 2 days is \$8, 3 days is \$15.

18: Glen G. Puder Memorial "See You on the Otherside Ride" begins at Meridian Yamaha at 9 a.m. Proceeds will benefit Toys for Tots. Ride is open to all street legal vehicles.

18: Meridian Symphony Orchestra 50th Anniversary Celebration kicks off with "Celebrate Meridian's Sesquicentennial." Narrator and host will be Rep. Greg Snowden. Concert features Carey Smith: "Meridian 150: A Musical Montage" Celebrating the City of Meridian's 150 Anniversary. Concert is at The MSU Riley Center, 2200 5th St. at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$39 and \$35. Call (601) 696-2200 or go to: www.msurileycenter.com.

28: Meridian Community College's Arts and Letters Series presents "Deliver Us" at 7 p.m. in the college's McCain Theatre, 910 Hwy 19 North. For information and tickets call (601) 484-8696.

OCTOBER

1: The Riley Center presents Capitol Steps at 7:30 p.m. Capitol Steps began as a group of Senate staffers who set out to satirize the very people and places that employed them. They have recorded more than 30 albums, including their latest, Barackin' Around the Christmas Tree and Liberal Shop of Horrors, and have been featured on NBC, CBS, ABC and PBS. The MSU Riley Center, 2200 5th St. Tickets: \$35 and \$29. Call (601) 696-2200 or visit www.msurileycenter.com.

2: High Heel Cancer Dash and 5K Run through downtown Meridian along 4th or 5th Street, Dumont Plaza, 5K run. Time 8 a.m. For information, call Cindy Cane at (601) 513-7743 or (601) 483-9362.

5: David Sanborn Trio featuring Joey DeFrancesco in concert at 7:30 p.m. at The Riley Center. Tickets are \$35 and \$29. Pre-Show Party at 6 p.m. David Sanborn has created a body of work that spans the genres of rock 'n' roll, R&B, pop and jazz.



7-13: Meridian Little Theatre presents its first play of the season, "Music Man" at the Highway 39 North playhouse. Curtain is at 8 p.m. each night and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. No performance on Monday. For information, call (601) 482-6371 for ticket prices and availabilities or go to: www.meridianlittletheatre.com.

Lance Cpl. Adara G. Story

**MATSS-1 Student
Hometown: Augusta, Ga.**

Lance Cpl. Adara Story has big plans for her career in the Marine Corps.

"I want to earn a degree, advance in rank and be stationed overseas," said Story who is a student in the Individual Asset Managers Course at Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron One.

"I became a Marine for the challenge, structured environment and discipline -- to be part of something and have a career I can advance in and be proud of," she said.

Story joined the Marine Corps on March 22, 2010. Her hobbies include riding motorcycles, reading and running.

She is the daughter of Daniel Story Jr.

It was difficult for Story to select just one person whom she admires.

"I admire all of my drill instructors because of their drive and motivation," she said.

OOORAH!**Pfc. Terrence Hart**

**MATSS-1 Student
Hometown: Sumter, S.C.**

Pfc. Terrence Hart comes from a big family. He has one sister and three brothers. His parents of Joseph and Gloria Hart of Sumter, S.C.

He joined the Marine Corps on March 22, 2010.

"I became a Marine to better myself as a human being and to see different things," he said. "My cousin is a sergeant in the Marines and was a good role model for me."

Hart is a student in the IAMS course and would like to be stationed in Hawaii after graduation.

His hobbies include basketball and working out at the gym.

The person he most admires is his older brother, Derrick. "He is always motivated. He motivates me when I'm feeling drained or down about any situation."

MATSS-1 staff Marines earn promotions

**C p l .
Benjamin
Aguilera is
pinned by
Master
Sgt. Lino
Tobar and
Sgt .
Paulina
Alvarado
during his
promotion
ceremony
recently.**



**Lance Cpl.
Candace
Mizrahi is
pinned on
by CWO3
Joseph
Chrvia and
Sgt . Paulina
Alvarado.**

Photos by
Sgt. Michael Ta



**Lance Cpl.
Shaina
Charette is
pinned on
by Staff
Sgt. Gary
Nichols
and Sgt.
Paulina
Alvarado.**



**Lance Cpl.
Shantel
Bridgewater
is pictured
with
Staff Sgt.
Tafahai M.
Culpepper
and Sgt.
Chris
Iannarelli
after her pro-
motion.**

Cherry Point Marine, Sailor selected for All-Marine softball camp

By Lance Cpl. Cory D. Polom
Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT N.C. -- At the conclusion of the East Coast Regional Softball Tournament, which was held at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, Aug. 25, Dan Daniels selected 15 players from the East Coast to attend the All-Marine softball camp.

Daniels is the All-Marine softball coach charged with training players from the East Coast along with Marines from west coast and Pacific installations. Cherry Point is hosting the camp, which started Friday and will

● **Softball, page 16**

2010 Navy Ball Tickets

Tickets are now on sale. The ball will be Oct. 16 at the Riley Center in downtown Meridian. Prices are:

E-1-E6 ~ \$30 a person 04 & above ~ \$50 a person
E7-O3 ~ \$40 a person Civilian ~ \$50 a person

Cash or checks only. Makes checks payable to Navy Ball.
Ticket Representatives are:

MA2 Robert Perdue (Security) 679-2361	Michelle Carlson (TW-1) 679-2498
ACC Jed Theriot (NAS) 679-2505	Susan Junkins (NAS) 679-2602
HM3 Ryan Newkirk (Medical) 679-2020	Lt. Jacob Mattheisen (VT-7) 679-2321
NC1 Jennifer Mosley (NTTC) 679-3733	Lt. Michael Gast (VT-9) 679-2330

Holiday Inn Express will offer free shuttle service to and from the Riley Center when reserving a room at the hotel for Oct. 16. Rate: \$89 per night. Call (601) 693-0160.

Hunter Safety Brief set for Sept. 21

One of the requirements prior to obtaining a permit to hunt on board Naval Air Station Meridian is to attend one Hunter Safety Brief each hunting season (Sept. 1, 2010-Aug. 31, 2011).

The first Hunter Safety Brief for the 2010-11 season will be Sept. 21 at 5 p.m. in the Hunting Lodge. There will be a second Hunter Safety Brief in early November, before the beginning of gun season for deer. If you are not going to hunt on station prior to the opening of gun season on deer (Nov. 20), you can attend the next hunter safety brief in early November.

Do not confuse the station hunter's safety brief with the Hunter Education Course, which is offered by all states. They are two separate events, and both are required to hunt on station. All hunters that are 12 years old and older must have proof of passing a Hunter Education Course from any state.

If you don't have proof of passing a Hunter Education Course in the past, enclosed is a schedule of classes being offered in the months of September and October by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks for Lauderdale and surrounding counties. Call early for reservations to assure attendance in the classes. It is now also possible to obtain partial Hunter Education certification via the internet, followed by only three (3) hours of classroom study. Details for internet certification are found in the link below.

If you have any other questions, please call NAS Meridian Wildlife Biologist Chris Bucciantini at (601) 679-3539.

Upcoming Hunter Education classes include:

Lauderdale County:

Sept. 18, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
Meridian Police Range, Sandflat Road off Hwy 19 South
Call: (601) 484-6890
and
Oct. 23, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
Mitchell Distributing, 49th Avenue, Meridian
Call: 601-482-6161

Kemper County:

Oct. 23, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Kemper County Sheriff's Office (Conference Room), DeKalb
Call: (601) 859-3421

Neshoba County:

Sept. 18, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Railroad Depot, 256 West Beacon Street, Philadelphia
Call: (601) 656-4011
and
Oct. 23, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Railroad Depot, 256 West Beacon Street, Philadelphia
Call: (601) 656-4011

Newton County:

Sept. 25, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
MSU Coastal Plains Experiment Station, Hwy 80, Newton
Call: (601) 859-3421

Defense Department adjusts child care fees

By Bruce Moody

Commander, Navy Installations Command, Navy Family Readiness Program

The Department of Defense establishes fee ranges for all military child development programs and recently released a policy addressing the fee adjustment. The adjustment brings the number of fee categories to nine, causing some people to move into different categories.

The Navy is adjusting its child care fees beginning Oct. 1, 2010, and adding categories for its highest income earners, to compensate for six years without fee range increases.

Under the new fee schedule, families with a total income of \$85,000 or less will see their child care cost rise by one dollar a week. Child care costs for families earning more than \$85,000 will rise between \$10 and \$16 a week. For a 50-hour week, child care costs will range from \$1.12 to \$2.74 per hour.

An optional high-cost fee may be used in areas where it is necessary to pay higher wages to compete with local labor or at those installations where wages are affected by non-foreign area cost of living allowances (COLA), post differential or locality pay. Three Navy installations utilize this high cost option: NNMC Bethesda, JB Pearl Harbor and PMRF Barking Sands.

"The Navy is committed to providing affordable child care to our military families," Chuck Clymer, Child and Youth Program Manager at Commander, Navy Installations Command, said.

For the first time in six years, fee ranges have been revised to account primarily for inflation, increased incomes, and increased caregiver salaries. Competitive salaries help to recruit and retain quality staff. Retaining high quality staff contributes to continuity of caregivers – stability that is very important to the young child's emotional development."

The fee policy revision represents a balanced solution to the issue of adjusting fees to pay caregiver salaries while limiting the financial impact to the family.

"The Navy has a lifelong commitment to pro-

Navy announces updates to Selective Reenlistment Bonus

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Changes to selective reenlistment bonus (SRB) award levels were announced in NAVADMIN 300/10 for active duty and Reserve full-time support Sailors, which are scheduled to take effect Oct. 1.

Approximately 17,000 Sailors working in 135 critical skills will be eligible to reenlist with SRB awards up to \$90,000 in 2011.

"While the SRB program continues to be the Navy's primary monetary incentive to encourage Sailors with critical skills and valuable experience to stay Navy, it is incumbent upon the Navy to remain within congressionally authorized funding limits," said Rear Adm. Tony Kurta, director of personnel plans and policy.

SRB is also a force shaping tool to better man-

The new fee categories and fees due each military payday for Child Development Centers are:

Category	Total Family Income	Military Payday Rate
I	\$0-\$29,400	\$121
II	\$29,401-\$35,700	\$152
III	\$35,701-\$46,200	\$180
IV	\$46,201-\$57,750	\$208
V	\$57,751-\$73,500	\$236
VI	\$73,501-\$85,000	\$264
VII	\$85,001-\$100,000	\$284
VIII	\$100,001-\$125,000	\$290
IX	\$125,001 +	\$297

protecting the well-being of our Sailors and their families," he said. "Ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of the military children entrusted to the Navy's care is a number one priority."

The Navy supports our Service members and families by caring for nearly 52,000 children ages six weeks to 12 years, in 132 child development centers, 86 school-aged care programs and 3,115 on- and off-base licensed child development homes.

The Navy recently expanded its Child and Youth Program to include 7,000 child care spaces fleet wide for children ages 12 and under and 31 new Child Development Centers. The expansion will reduce a child's time spent on waiting lists to three months or less to meet 80 percent of the potential need across the Navy by the end of 2011.

Navy Child and Youth programs are among the highest quality in the nation. Navy Child Development Centers are accredited with the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Our Child Development Home Providers are certified by the Department of Defense, applicable state licensing agencies, and are currently accrediting with the National Association for Family Child Care. Navy before and after-school programs are currently accrediting with the National After School Alliance. And, our Youth programs are affiliated with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

age critical skill retention goals.

"As reenlistment goals for particular skills are achieved, SRB award levels for those skills will be removed from the plan," said Kurta.

The key for Sailors is to reenlist early to take advantage of the SRB as soon as eligibility requirements are met. Enlisted ratings selected for SRB have been placed in one of three tiers. Varying award levels and early reenlistment opportunities have been provided for each tier.

Sailors may request to reenlist early for an SRB, as long as their end of active obligated service is within the current fiscal year and is not later than 90 days from the requested date of reenlistment.

● Bonus, page 8

Safety is our Duty

2010: Safest summer on record concludes for Sailors, Marines

By April Phillips
Naval Safety Center Public Affairs

NORFOLK (NNS) -- Labor Day marked the traditional end of summer for Sailors and Marines and also the end of the Naval Safety Center's (NSC) annual summer safety campaign, "Live to Play, Play to Live."

Although mishap reports for the long weekend are not complete, it appears that both the Navy and Marine Corps enjoyed the safest summer since NSC started keeping these statistics.

However, that still means that 14 Sailors and 14 Marines lost their lives between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. Nonetheless, this is a considerable improvement from 2009, when 39 Sailors and Marines lost their lives during the same period.

While that is an achievement to be proud of, NSC is not declaring victory, especially in light of the fact that one Sailor and one Marine died during Labor Day weekend. Mishap reports indicate that both deaths may be related to alcohol.

"There have been a lot fewer cases of DUI (drinking under the influence)," said NSC Command Master Chief (AW/SW) Dominick Torchia. "However, there may be some complacency about the dangers of over-consumption in

general. We're seeing cases of Sailors and Marines basically drinking themselves to death."

While most people seem to be getting the message about designated drivers and safe ride programs, leaders need to continue educating their Sailors and Marines about the health risks of alcohol, including alcohol poisoning and reduced inhibitions that may lead to risky behavior, said Torchia.

Although the summer 2010 has ended, Torchia urged renewed focus on risk management, so the positive mishap trends of the summer will continue into the cooler seasons.

"Many of the risks are actually the same," said Torchia. "There are just different conditions. We think of people traveling for their summer vacations, but they are also on the road for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The folks who are out there participating in summer sports will probably also take part in winter sports. We ask them to take the same risk management mentality and adapt it to the new conditions."

To that end, Torchia recommends "winterizing" homes and vehicles now, rather than waiting until weather conditions deteriorate. He also encourages everyone to get in shape now for winter sporting activities such as skiing, snow-

boarding or even football.

"Prepare and train before you go out and try something like that. If you haven't skied before, take a course before you hit the slopes," said Torchia.

While many risks remain consistent through all four seasons, fire dangers do escalate in fall and winter, due to faulty heating systems, unsupervised fireplaces and dangerous space heaters.

"Now is the time to prepare your home. Weatherproof your house and have annual maintenance performed on your fireplaces and heating systems," Torchia said. "Doing this now will keep you ahead of the game."

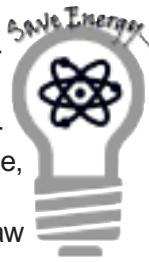
While Sailors and Marines prepare for fall and winter, he also warned them to continue being vigilant about hurricanes. The East Coast of the United States was recently spared when Hurricane Earl remained off the coast, but the season runs through November 2010, and Torchia encouraged everyone to stay on guard against these dangerous storms.

He also pointed out that a new school year is underway and drivers should pay special attention for kids who might dart out into the street.

For more information about fall and winter safety, visit www.safetycenter.navy.mil.

Energy efficiency facts

- Producing glass from recycled glass cullet rather than from raw materials reduces related air pollution by 20 percent and water pollution by 50 percent.
- The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle will light a 100 watt bulb for four hours.
- Disposable (throwaway) bottles consume three times the energy as reusable, returnable bottles.
- Each ton of glass produced from raw materials generates about 385 pounds of mining waste; using 50 percent recycled glass reduces this waste by almost 80 percent.
- Recycling and reusing the material in tin cans reduces related energy use by 74 percent, air pollution by 85 percent, solid waste by 95 percent and water pollution by 76 percent.
- Producing aluminum from recycled aluminum consumes 90 percent less energy than producing it from raw materials and generates 95 percent less air pollution.
- Waterbeds can be the largest consumer of electricity in the home, exceeding even the refrigerator and water heater. If you heat your waterbed, practice simple energy conservation measures to reduce its energy consumption.
- Globally, each year we pump 20 billion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This comes to four tons for every man, woman and child. Of this amount the United States is responsible for one quarter (five billion tons per year).
- Between 1973 and 1986 the U.S. economy grew by 36 percent with no increase in energy use. If Americans had not become more energy efficient, annual energy bills would have been \$150 billion higher.
- Boosting the fuel efficiency of cars in the United States by a mere 1.5 miles per gallon would save more oil than is estimated to lie under the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.



Mind Matters Health Fair

Sept. 23, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Kahlmus Auditorium, MSU-Meridian Campus,
1000 Highway 19 North
For information, call (601) 483-4821

Opening Program: 9-10:30 a.m.

Dr. Thomas Kirchberg, Chief Psychologist,
Veteran's Administration Center, Memphis
Wendy Bailey, Mississippi Department of
Mental Health on new "Operation Resilience"

Information and booths will feature:

- ✓ Veteran & Military Personnel Mental Health
- ✓ Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Depression
 - ✓ Suicide Awareness and Prevention
 - ✓ Stress and Stress Management
 - ✓ Adult Mental Health
 - ✓ Pain Management
 - ✓ Domestic Violence
 - ✓ Local Mental Health Resources
 - ✓ Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Treatment
- ✓ ADHD, other child and adolescent emotional, developmental and behavioral issues
- ✓ Planned health screenings include glucose, vision, depression and anxiety, blood pressure, memory, stress and more. Flu shots will be available for the cost of the vaccine, pending availability.

School Liaison office to host training for local educators

By Penny Randall
Staff Writer

The School Liaison Office of Naval Air Station Meridian will host an upcoming professional development training to assist local educators, guidance professionals, school administrators, military parents and other caring adults interested in learning more about the military child.

The seminar is set for Sept. 29-30, from 8:30-4 p.m. each day at the Hilton Garden Inn, 109 US Highway 11 & 80 in

Meridian. Breakfast will be served from 8-8:30 a.m. The seminar is free, all fees are paid by the U.S. Navy, but 95 percent attendance is required to receive institute credit and course materials.

The purpose of this course is to prepare educational and other professionals to recognize and address transition concerns that impact the military child.

The Military Child Education Coalition Transition Counselor Institute – Phase 1 course is the first in a series of three interactive professional development institutes focus-

ing on the military-connected child's experience with transitions. Phase 1 strives to create an environment for education, installations, and community professionals to have access to professional networks, technologies, resources, and support systems to help them stay abreast of the dynamic and diverse kindergarten through 12th grade school experience that impacts the transitioning student. Military lifestyle and culture, school transition perspectives, identifying local transition challenges, and sup-

porting children through trauma and loss are some of the modules addressed.

The course is limited to 50 participants. For more information, contact Donna Muller at (254) 953-1923 or register online at www.militarychild.org.

Participants will have the opportunity to earn educational credits in the form 1.2 CEU's for \$25 and/or one hour of graduate credit from Texas A&M-Central Texas for \$175, payable at the completion of the training.

VFW announces deadlines for essay contests

Patriot's Pen

2010-2011 Theme: "Does Patriotism Still Matter?"

Entry Deadline: Nov. 1, 2010

Patriot's Pen, a youth-essay writing contest is a nationwide competition that gives students in grades sixth through eighth the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy. Annually, more than 115,000 students participate in the contest.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the NASSP National Advisory List of Contests and Activities for 2009-2010. The Patriot's Pen program is designed to foster patriotism by allowing students the opportunity to express their opinions based on an annual theme.

Contestants write a 300-400 word essay based on an annual patriotic theme. The first-place winner receives a \$10,000 savings bond and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. The top national winners each receive a savings bond anywhere from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Voice of Democracy

2010-2011 Theme: "Does My Generation Have a Role in America's Future?"

Entry Deadline: Nov. 1, 2010

Created in 1947, the Voice of Democracy (VOD) scholarship program is an audio-essay contest for high school students in grades 9-12 that annually provides more than \$3 million in scholarships. The first-place winner, who competes with all the first-place VFW Department winners, receives a \$30,000 scholarship that is paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school.

Besides competing for the top scholarship prize, as well as other national scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$16,000, each department's first-place winner receives an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., March 5-9, 2011, sponsored by Target.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the NASSP National Advisory List of Contests and Activities for 2009-2010. The Voice of Democracy program is designed to foster patriotism by allowing students the opportunity to voice their opinion in a three to five minute essay based on an annual theme.

How to enter: Students can enter by submitting the required entry form. Mail entry form and audio essay to the local VFW Post 79, Meridian MS, 39301. Further directions are listed on the entry form.

For more information or to obtain an entry form, contact Natalie Copeland by e-mail: nat_copeland@hotmail.com or by phone at (601) 282-5866.

Military Day is Oct. 1 at Queen City Fair

Queen City Fair is making its way to Meridian and celebrating its 10th anniversary. The fair is set to run Sept. 27-Oct. 3 at the Lauderdale County Agri-Center, 1030 Highway 19 South.

Fair Organizer Len McRae said he's working to make sure this year is special and will include a Military Day on Friday, Oct. 1. Admission will be \$4 per person on this date only from 4 p.m.-midnight with valid military ID.

"Special gate admission to be given to all active duty, retired and national guardsmen," McRae said. "We love the military and want them to come out and bring their family."

McRae said he strives to achieve a good balance between old and new events at the fair.

"We try to do a lot of the same things every year at the fair," he said. "But we try to change things up at the same time so that it doesn't become boring."

Along with the midway, food vendors, and local entertainers that can be found at the fair every year, McRae is bringing in attractions that have never been at the Queen City Fair before. The one he's most excited about is the Rhinestone Roper show.

"It's the kind of thing that a family could go to and everyone be entertained," McRae said. "He does gun tricks, knife throw tricks, rope tricks, and his horse does tricks. It's pretty cool."

The show, featuring the Rhinestone Roper and his horse, Lucky Joe, will be held several times a day throughout the fair and has no extra charge above the cost of fair admission.

The Midway, which he said is expanded a little each year, will again feature favorite rides like the Zipper, the Himalaya, and the Giant Wheel. The petting zoo will be back, along with blacksmith demonstrations and the National Guard Rock Climbing Wall. Other entertainment

Schedule of Events

- **Monday, Sept. 27** (4 p.m.-10 p.m.)
4 p.m.-5 p.m. - FREE GATE
ADMISSION Coca-Cola presents School Day at the Fair (One free ride with Coca-Cola coupon)
- **Tuesday, Sept. 28** (4 p.m.-10 p.m.)
- **Wednesday, Sept. 29** (4 p.m.-10 p.m.)
- **Thursday, Sept. 30** (4 p.m.-10 p.m.)
- **Friday, Oct. 1** "Military Day"
(4 p.m.-midnight)
- **Saturday, Oct. 2** "Meridian Star Day"
(Noon-midnight)
- **Sunday, Oct. 3** "Family Day"
(Noon-8 p.m.)



will include Meridian's Most Talented contest, the Little Miss Queen City Fair pageant, and the Youth Night concerts featuring "Refuge" & "The Net Band."

Gate admission will be \$6 per person, and free to kids under 6, with different specials happening throughout the week. Parking will be \$2. For schedule details, contest applications, and more information, go to: www.queencyfair.net.

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Navy working uniform: No out-of-pocket expenses for Sailors

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Following a recent fleet reminder of the Dec. 31 Navy Working Uniform (NWU) mandatory wear date, the chief of naval personnel (CNP) is ensuring Sailors who have not received a full set of uniforms or allowances will not be expected to use their own money to meet uniform requirements.

The Navy recognized that Sailors who started recruit training Oct. 1, 2007, through April 26, 2009, were not issued NWU components due to a delay in uniform production, nor did they receive the full enhanced clothing replacement allowance due to their time in service.

As a result, the Navy is reviewing the issue and will pro-

vide a solution that will not require Sailors to use their own money for uniforms.

"We are reviewing several options to ensure this group of Sailors does not incur an uncompensated, out-of-pocket expense when meeting the NWU requirement," said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, CNP.

Ferguson went on to explain these Sailors will not be expected to have four sets of the NWU while the Navy weighs several courses of action to compensate them. He also extended their deadline until June 30, 2013, to allow these fixes to be identified and implemented.

With the exception of those identified, fleet-wide availability of the NWU was achieved six months early and Sailors are expected to use the allowances provided over the past several years to purchase a full sea bag ahead of the mandatory wear date.

The NWU seabag requirements are as follows: four NWU

blouses and trousers, one pair of NWU boots, two eight-point utility caps, five 100 percent blue cotton t-shirts, five pairs of boot socks, one mock turtle neck sweater, one fleece liner one Gortex parka.

Exchanges have sales associates available to help with proper sizing and fit, as well as ample supplies of the NWU to meet demand.

If a local exchange does not have a particular item, or if a Sailor is not stationed near an exchange, uniform items can be ordered by calling the Uniform Support Center's toll-free number, 1-800-368-4088, or by going to

https://www.navy-nex.com/command/about_us/p-uniformsupport.html.

For more information on Navy uniforms visit <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/USNavyUniforms/>.

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs Office

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Meridian Symphony celebrates 50th season

The Meridian Symphony Orchestra initiates its 50th season on Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at The Riley Center with a musical tribute to the City of Meridian, celebrating its Sesquicentennial -150 years, and to the Meridian Museum of Art on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary.

Maestro Claire Fox Hillard begins his 20th year as music director of the orchestra, taking every step to make this the most ambitious and exciting concert series in the MSO's history.

The evening starts with a wonderful concert preview, hosted by the symphony's conductor himself. This informal, but quite informative gathering will enhance your concert experience, whether you are a seasoned symphony patron, or a new-comer. Concert preview begins at 6:30 p.m. at The Riley Center.

The concert opens with a specially commissioned work by our MSO Composer in Residence, Carey Smith. His "Meridian 150 - a musical montage" will be an appropriately inspiring opening number for this first of concert celebrations. The music will portray historical events from Meridian's 150 years as a city.

New to the Symphony or rediscovering what makes orchestral music so special? Then "The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra", composed by Benjamin Britten in 1946 was written just for you! Not only is it

gorgeous music, but it is instructive as it takes you on an educational tour of the four sections of the orchestra-the woodwinds, strings, brass, and percussion. The original music was written by Henry Purcell; thus the sub-title "Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Purcell". The finale is a glorious Fortissimo of the first order, grand and glorious. This is a terrific educational experience for all ages. Special guest, State Rep. Greg Snowden, an outstanding musician and actor in his own tight, is providing narration for "The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra."

When you think of honoring the Meridian Museum of Art on their 40th year, no musical selection is more capable of bringing to life an artist's handiwork than "Pictures at an Exhibition". Written for piano by the Russian composer, Modeste Mussorgsky, the famous orchestral transcription to which we will be treated was produced by Maurice Ravel (also known for "Bolero"). This masterpiece was inspired by the

works of artist Victor Hartman, a lifetime friend of Mussorgsky. Hartman's art will be projected on to a large screen behind the orchestra during the performance. The audience will see the 10 paintings that stimulated the music.

The conclusion of this grand orchestral showpiece delivers one of the most majestic and memorable experiences in all of classical music.

An exciting and entertaining evening of music is in store for all who wish to join in celebrating birthdays of Meridian, the Museum of Art, and our Meridian Symphony Orchestra. A great way to commemorate the season is to purchase a season subscription covering all five exciting concerts of the 50th Anniversary season.

For tickets, call The Riley Center Box Office at (601) 696-2200.

For more information about Meridian Symphony and the 50th anniversary season, visit www.meridiansymphonyorchestra.com or call (601) 693-2224.

From Meridian Symphony Orchestra office

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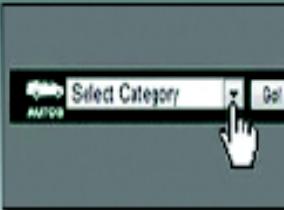
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● Bonus

Sailors serving in tier one skills may reenlist any time within the fiscal year their enlistment contract ends. Sailors receiving early promote in their most recent periodic evaluation report and Sailors with nuclear skills are given greater reenlistment flexibility.

"With the policy changes, it is critical that Navy counselors and command leaders read and understand the governing instructions and NAVADMINs," said Kurta. "The required paperwork must be completed correctly and in a timely manner to be processed so Sailors can take advantage of the bonus." To read the complete NAVADMIN, visit www.npc.navy.mil.

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

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Navy searches for John Paul Jones' ship

STENNIS SPACE CENTER, Miss. (NNS) -- The U.S. Navy, in conjunction with the Ocean Technology Foundation (OTF), the British Royal navy and the French navy, is leading participation in a search for the remains of the revolutionary warship Bonhomme Richard off the coast of Flamborough Head, England, the week of Sept. 10.

The search is expected to take approximately 10 days.

The Bonhomme Richard was a frigate given by France to John Paul Jones and the Continental Navy in support of the

Revolutionary War. John Paul Jones renamed the ship Bonhomme Richard (Good Man Richard) in honor of his patron Benjamin Franklin, who used the pen name Richard Saunders to publish "Poor Richard's Almanac."

The oceanographic survey ship USNS Henson (T-AGS 63), operated by Military Sealift Command for the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, will be the primary platform for the search. The survey crew is comprised of oceanographers from the Naval Oceanographic Office

(NAVOCEANO) who planned and coordinated the U.S. Navy's participation in this search.

Representatives from the U.S. Naval Academy, Office of Naval Research (ONR) and the Naval History and Heritage Command will also be aboard Henson to assist in the search and identification of found artifacts.

The search planning process included use of a computer program developed by the faculty of the U.S. Naval Academy that integrates historical data, crew actions and last known position to establish where the ship is most

likely to be found.

Bonhomme Richard, commanded by John Paul Jones, was lost off the coast of England in 1779 after a decisive battle with HMS Serapis, during which Jones shouted his famous words, "I have not yet begun to fight." Jones and his crew emerged from the battle victorious, seizing HMS Serapis as Bonhomme Richard sustained heavy damage during the battle and sank 36 hours later. The discovery of the Bonhomme Richard would be one of the most important archeological discoveries in U.S. Navy history.

"Over their years of active service, the Navy's oceanographic ships have sailed hundreds of thousands of nautical miles collecting critical oceanographic and hydrographic data that enable decision superiority across the spectrum of naval operations," said Rear Adm. Jonathan W. White, commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NMETOC). "I consider it an honor that our cutting edge naval ocean survey technology now will be used to forge a connection with this historic ship and its commander and U.S. Navy hero, John Paul Jones."

Survey equipment will include Henson's towed side-scan sonar, unmanned underwater vehicles with side-scan and multibeam sonar, as well as ONR's unmanned underwater vehicles equipped with buried mine identification (BMI). The BMI system, consisting of an ultra-sensitive laser scalar gradiometer, a side-scan sonar and electro-optical imager, will employ technology used for identifying mines buried in the ocean bottom to find remnants of the Bonhomme Richard. A French navy mine-hunter with embarked divers will join the search to dive on any artifacts that require closer inspection.

This is the fifth expedition organized by the OTF in which the Navy has participated. This year's effort is the largest collaboration to date and includes the most substantial support by U.S. Navy assets.

NMETOC directs the Navy's meteorology and oceanography programs, maintains the Navy's atomic clock for precise time and tracks the positions of the stars for navigation. The command is comprised of approximately 3,000 officers, enlisted and civilian personnel stationed around the world. Naval oceanography enables the safety, speed and operational effectiveness of the fleet by illuminating the risks and opportunities for naval and joint forces posed by the present and future natural environment.

From Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command Public Affairs

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Chief Selectee Appreciation Day



Photos by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio

Above: AZC (Sel) Melanie Ewing, PSC (Sel) Tiberius Taylor and SHC (Sel) Jodi Ahner cut the cake during the Navy Exchange (NEX) Chief Petty Officer's Appreciation Day on Sept. 7. Chief selectees were able to win uniform items during a raffle drawing and a small plaque during a trivia game. NAS Meridian NEX also gave bags full of free items to the chief selectees. Right: NAS Meridian Navy Exchange Tailor Dana Pugh measures AZC (Sel) Melanie Ewing for her new dress blue uniform jacket.



● Safety Award

VT-7's Safety Officer Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Plaisier modestly said it is the hard work of his previous safety officers that helped the squadron achieve three prestigious safety awards in one year.

"It's a team effort," Plaisier said. "We can dictate policy, but it's up to instructors and students to implement all the guidelines we put out. Using common sense on a daily basis has helped with the great safety record of more than 100,000 hours since our last mishap – something that is practically unheard of."

In a recent message announcing the winners from various commands afloat and ashore, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus said: "My congratulations to all Secretary of the Navy Safety Excellence recipients. Safety and risk management are intrinsic to effectively prepare for and complete our mission, whether at home or deployed in harm's way. What you have accomplished in the last year is proof-positive of your commitment to a 'Mission First, Safety Always' command

culture, each other, safety excellence, the nation, and the advent of the Department of the Navy as a world class safety organization. You have justly earned the right to fly my SECNAV safety flag for the next year."

This year, VT-7 also received the Admiral John H. Towers Flight Safety Award and the Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award.

VT-7's Safety Department in 2009 was phenomenal as evidenced by achieving the highest grade possible of "Outstanding" on both the NATOPS Unit Evaluation in August 2009 and the CNATRA Safety/Standardization Evaluation in October 2009. CNATRA evaluators lauded VT-7 programs as the "best in the last 12 inspections," -- "well above average."

The squadron was noted for having the "best ASAP utilization in CNATRA."

Aviation Safety Awareness Program is when students and instructors make comments on what happened during a flight, whether it is an error, something that the approach con-

trollers did or a weather related event. VT-7 led all of CNATRA in ASAP reporting for 2009.

"This is where we get real time feedback," Doster said. "The ASAP program creates a good line of communication."

In 2009, the squadron safely executed 13 detachments, including nine carrier qualification detachments. Seventy-five student aviators earned their wings in the T-45C Goshawk flying more than 90 sorties per day, one of the largest daily flight schedules in the Navy. The squadron's production record for 2009 is impressive – 21,169 flight hours, 18,288 sorties, 1,312 carrier arrested landings.

The Secretary of the Navy Safety Award winner will be formally recognized during a ceremony on Oct. 4 at the U.S. Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center Theatre in Washington, D.C.

Doster said he plans to be in attendance with several of his staff members.

"It takes more work to stay on top of the game," he said. "I believe we are on the right track in VT-7."

2010 Secretary of the Navy Safety Excellence Awards

These prestigious awards recognize Navy and Marine Corps units for on- and off-duty safety excellence during 2009. The safety excellence recipients are as follows:

- Ashore, Industrial, Category A: Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach
- Ashore, Industrial, Category B (Tie): Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow and Southwest Regional Maintenance Center
- Ashore, Industrial, Category C: Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Mid-Atlantic
- Ashore, Non-Industrial, Category A: Naval Base Coronado
- Ashore, Non-Industrial, Category B: Naval Base San Diego
- Ashore, Non-Industrial, Category B: Naval Station Norfolk
- Fleet Operational/Fleet Support: 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing
- Afloat, Large Deck Combatant: USS Nassau (LHA 4)
- Afloat, Surface Combatant: USS Preble (DDG 88)
- Afloat, Amphibious: USS Dubuque (LPD 8)
- Afloat, Littoral Warfare: MCM Crew Constant
- Afloat, Submarine: USS Nevada (SSBN 733)
- Afloat, Auxiliary: USS Frank Cable (AS 40)
- Aviation, Navy Active Duty: Strike Fighter Squadron Fourteen (VFA-14)
- Aviation, Marine Corps Active Duty: Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 (HMH-362)
- Aviation, Navy Reserve: Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light Six Zero (HSL-60)
- Aviation, Marine Corps Reserve: Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772 (HMH-772)
- Aviation, Training: Training Squadron Seven (VT-7)
- Emerging Center of Excellence: Weapon System Explosives Safety Review Board (WSESRB), Naval Sea Systems Command

● POW

Meridian Police Department Chaplain John Temple spoke on behalf of the 9/11 portion of the program.

"Sept. 11, 2001, began as any other morning," Temple said. "Most of us had settled into our normal routine. Little did we know the world would change forever before our very eyes. When the dust settled 2,998 had lost their lives, and 6,291 people were injured. The overwhelming majority were innocent individuals from 90 different countries. Today we pause to remember the innocent and the brave who died on Sept. 11 and to renew a commitment that we will never forget."

The events of Sept. 11, 2001, touched us all in some way, including NAS Meridian's Executive Officer Cmdr. Ed Donohoe.

"During these days of remembrance, I'll remember a high school classmate who went down in the towers," Donohoe said. "And how lucky my brother-in-law, a member of New York City's Emergency Services, was to be in Queens that morning doing specialized training, and how horrible it was for him to spend the next month digging for survivors including his comrades."

Following the presentation of the POW/MIA table ceremony, Cmdr. Donohoe introduced the guest speaker, World War II Prisoner of War Glenn D. Frazier.

"This year's theme is 'Until Every Story Ends.' Today we have a rare occasion and the honor to have with us a gentleman whose captivity story did end," Donohoe said. "He is one of the few World War II POWs still with us."

A native of Alabama, Frazier served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific theatre from July 3, 1941, to Dec. 6, 1945. Frazier spent four months at the U.S. Army Ordinance School Manila, Philippines.

From April 9, 1942, to Sept. 4, 1945, Frazier was a POW of Japan and a survivor of the Bataan Death March. Following World War II, he served in the Army Reserve for six years.

Frazier entertained the audience with his story of first trying to enlist in the U.S. Navy at the age of 16. Frazier's parents would not sign for him to join the Navy thinking it would discourage the young boy from joining the military. He in turn visited the U.S. Army recruiter who believed his was of age and enlisted him.

"Is anyone out there older than 86?" Frazier jokingly asked the audience. "Well then I'm the oldest person here. I'm so glad that I'm able to be up here at my age. But why am I here? I'm here to tell my story of something that happened in our history."

The Bataan Death March was a diffi-

cult story for Frazier to share. He walked six days with no water, no food and very little sleep. From time to time, the Japanese would pull Americans out of line to dig huge holes; these became the graves for the guys who couldn't go on or the ones who were killed for no reason at all, he explained.

"I saw men killed, buried alive," Frazier said. "After days of marching we finally saw a water well. We thought we would finally get water, but instead I saw Americans who had been drowned, and if you made a break for water they would kill you. We lost 3,000 men on the march."

Frazier said the question he often gets is "How did you do it?"

"I tell them that I learned I had to be in control at all times and adjust to each situation as quickly as possible," said Frazier who during his years as a POW was transferred to four different labor camps. During this time, the only food Frazier ate was two small bowls of rice a day – many times with worms in the rice.

During Frazier's closing remarks he told the audience, "Many people have hatred in their hearts for the things that happened. I say get rid of it, and don't suffer any more."

In addition to speaking appearances and book signings, Frazier can often be found at the Battleship USS Alabama telling his story.

Frazier is the author of "Hell's Guest," the autobiographical story of his Bataan Death March experience, and his years as a Japanese POW.

Benny and Vanessa Duett, members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Queen City Chapter 803, attended the program with two other members.



Photos by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio

Above: A combined color guard of Navy, Marine, Air Force and Army presents colors at the POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony and 9/11 Commemoration on Sept. 10 in the hangar of Training Air Wing One. Below: Students from Naval Technical Training Center and Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron One stand in formation during the ceremony.

"I've read his book and just couldn't put it down," Vanessa Duett said.

Joyce Campbell said she was

impressed by Frazier's ability to recount his days of captivity.

"He is very inspiring," Campbell said.



Overseas military voters: Time to submit ballot request for general election

There are only eight weeks until the Nov. 2 general election. If you have not already requested your absentee ballot, do so immediately. It's simple and it's fast.

Go to www.FVAP.gov and use the online registration and absentee ballot assistant to have your forms completed, printed out, and ready to send back home in less than 10 minutes.

States begin mailing ballots Sept. 18 (45 days before the general election), however, due to mail delays, you may not get your ballot in time to vote, return it and have it counted. So don't delay and submit your absentee ballot application today.

As of Sept. 1, the Military Postal Service Agency

began providing free expedited ballot delivery and ballot tracking information to your local election office for military and their family members stationed overseas. Go to your local post office or postal clerk and use the Label 11 - DoD on your absentee ballot and mail it. You will then be able to track the status of your ballot on the U.S. Postal Service Web site at www.usps.com.

If you do not receive your ballot by Oct. 2, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) as your back-up ballot. Go to FVAP.gov and use our automated assistant to complete the FWAB. For each office for which you vote, write in either a candidate's name or their party designation; check your state election Web site for

NAS Meridian's Voting Assistance Officer is Senior Chief Ron Banister. He can be reached at (601) 679-2715.

candidate information, which generally is available 45 days before the election. If you receive your state ballot after submitting the FWAB, vote and return the state ballot as well. The state will only count your FWAB if your state ballot is not received by the deadline.

Career Intermission offers opportunities for personal, professional development

By Lt. Laura K. Stegherr
Diversity Directorate Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Approved in the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act, the Career Intermission Pilot Program (CIPP) offers a temporary inactivation from active duty - from one to three years - for top performing Sailors.

CIPP presents a unique opportunity for members to take a career intermission without penalty and return to active duty to complete a successful Navy career.

The program provides this opportunity for up to 20 officers and 20 enlisted participants each year until 2012 via a one-time temporary transition for active duty personnel to the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR). Participants accepted in 2012 can use intermission to remain in the IRR until 2015.

While in the program, participants retain full active-duty Tricare health benefits for themselves and their dependents, as well as all base privileges. Participants also receive a monthly stipend of one-fifteenth of their basic pay. Additionally, to ease the transition into the program, members may elect a Navy-funded permanent change of station move to anywhere in the continental United States when entering the program.

The Navy is optimistic this measure will enhance retention in critical skill sets, while allowing greater flexibility in career paths of service members.

"The Career Intermission Pilot Program serves a two-fold purpose - one, it can be an innovative approach to keeping our best Sailors on board and retaining their talent for the duration of a career," said Rear Adm. Anthony Kurta, director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy. "Additionally, the program can provide flexibility to Sailors so they can better fulfill their personal needs and professional goals."

A career intermission may be used for a multitude of personal or professional reasons, ranging from pursuing additional education to starting a family or caring for an ailing loved one.

For Lt. Christopher Morgan of the Navy Nurse

Corps, CIPP presented the opportunity to pursue two goals - complete a theology and counseling master's degree and start a family.

According to Morgan, CIPP has played an integral role in achieving both of these goals. Morgan is utilizing the Post-9/11 GI bill to pay for his schooling at Denver Seminary. Additionally, he and his wife, who have one child and another on the way, are working to adopt a child from South Korea.

"Being around the home regularly for the first few years of my children's lives has been a great pleasure and a real time of strengthening for our marriage," said Morgan. "Meanwhile, the CIPP program providing medical [benefits] has been huge."

For Legalman 1st Class Shenika Mayes, CIPP was a means to ensure that another member of her family was "fit for duty" - her son, who was born with a rare congenital disorder that affects his kidney function.

"My son has to see specialists on a regular basis, and he may require at least one additional surgery," said Mayes. "I want to ensure that I am going to be around if he does have to have those surgeries."

Additionally, Mayes is pursuing her professional goals of completing a master's degree in human resource management and earning both a certificate in criminal forensics and a real estate license.

"This program could not have come at a better time," said Mayes. "I get the opportunity to take time off from the Navy to take care of my family and go to school full time. I was able to move back to my hometown to be closer to my family, who all help me with my son. Not to mention that I still retain all health benefits for my son and me!"

Upon returning to active duty, officers will have their date of rank adjusted, and enlisted members will have their active duty service date adjusted, essentially "stopping the clock" to ensure members remain competitive with others of similar time in grade on active duty.

All program participants will return to active duty at the end of the intermission period and will

• Career, page 19

Use candles with care

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires -- and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.

✓ Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.

✓ Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.

If you do burn candles, make sure that you...

✓ Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over

easily.

✓ Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.

✓ Light candles carefully.

Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.

✓ Don't burn a candle all the way down -- put it out before

it gets too close to the holder or container.

✓ Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.

✓ Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles

If you have questions on this or any other fire related topic, contact the NAS Meridian Fire Prevention Office at (601) 679-3866/3867.



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Reenlistments, awards honor military, civilians



Photo by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio

Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Robyn Smith rides in the backseat of a T-45C Goshawk. Smith completed the pre-flight training to be able to ride in the backseat of the T-45 for her reenlistment. Smith reenlisted for four years on Sept. 13.



Photo by Penny Randall

Capt. Charles Gibson congratulates Roger Welborn, Johnny Cook and William Canton who were recently promoted to lieutenant (GS-7) in the NAS Meridian Security Department.



Left: Capt. Charles Gibson presents Mike Barfield with his 25-year civil service certificate, Sept. 13. Barfield is the command investigator.



Right: Capt. Charles Gibson presents Officer David Green with his 20-year civil service certificate, Sept. 13.

Photos by Penny Randall

● Energy

Naval Air Station Key West, Fla.; Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas; and Naval Support Activity Panama City, Fla., who were all Gold Level award winners, indicating a very good to outstanding energy program.

“Thanks to everyone on base for supporting our energy conservation program,” said Meridian Public Works Officer Lt. Cmdr. Lance Coe. “We achieved the Secretary of the Navy’s Gold Energy rating for FY10 and hope to continue the superior efforts shown by all. To achieve this rating required a diligent effort by our tenant commands and their building energy monitors to efficiently operate our facilities and propose projects to reduce energy and water consumption.”

Evaluation criteria to achieve the Gold Level Energy Award included command policy and organization; energy management; training, design and construction;

renewable and new technology; energy and water management programs; and energy and water performance.

“Keep up the great work and we’ll achieve platinum status next year,” Coe said.

Leading the way was Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, one of only seven Navy or Marine Corps shore commands worldwide to be recognized as a platinum level award winner, signifying an outstanding energy program and an exceptional year of energy project execution.

“Kings Bay is doing some innovative things to reduce energy and water consumption,” Alexander said. “From a new wastewater treatment plant with water savings of \$60,000 a year, to the innovative use of solar technology to augment that plant with energy savings of \$116,000 a year, the installation is realizing truly significant energy use reduction.”

Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay will be recognized at an award ceremony Oct. 6 at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

“Energy and water management are critical to the accomplishment of the Navy’s mission and our nation’s energy independence and security,” Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus said in a Navy-wide message. “Energy specifically is one of my top priorities and your performance has significantly advanced progress toward achievement of our goals.”

The awards program also has a blue level award for commands with a well-rounded energy program. Navy Region Southeast commands winning awards in this category included Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss.; Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas; Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas; Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans; Naval Air Station

Pensacola, Fla.; Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Milton, Fla.; Navy Supply Corps School Athens, Ga.; Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Naval Weapons Station Charleston, S.C.; Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division at Naval Support Activity Orlando, Fla.; and Naval Station Mayport, Fla.

“Leaders on every level of the Navy Region Southeast team have made great efforts to motivate team members, communicate energy initiatives, and push for execution of energy projects,” Alexander said. “Your efforts reflect our commitment to the country and the goals set forth in the Energy Independence and Security Act and associated Executive Orders. The team effort of all of our Sailors, civilians, and contractors in the Southeast are making a difference.”

Stephen Strickland, Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs, contributed to this story.

MWR

Mission First... Sailors Always



September Specials

SUNDAYS 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Family Special

\$2 a game, \$1 for shoes

MONDAYS Sept. 20 & 27:

NTTC/MATSS-1 Students bowl from 4 p.m.-close

\$2.50 a game, including shoes

TUESDAYS, 6 P.M.

Captain's Cup Bowling

WEDNESDAY Sept. 29

Rent-a-Lane for \$25 for 5 people from 7-9 p.m.

FRIDAY Sept. 17

No Tap Bowling Tournament

\$10 per person, sign-up by 6 p.m.

FRIDAY Sept. 24

Cosmic Bowling at 7 p.m. -- regular rates apply

SATURDAY Sept. 18

Cosmic Bowling at 7 p.m. -- regular rates apply

SATURDAY Sept. 25

NAS Staff Bowling Special from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$2.50 a game, including shoes

Captain's Cup Bowling (Week 2)

1st: Air Ops

2nd: Eagles

3rd: Devil Dawgs

4th: PW Keglers

5th: Gutter Dusters

6th: NBHC Spin Docs

High Game (Week 1)

Men: Lance Coe

Women: Michelle Spangler

High Game (Week 2)

Men: Jason Green

Women: Michelle Spangler

Triathlon Winners



Submitted photo

Left: Tom Luft placed first in the Mountain Bike Division of the Triathlon with a time of 80 minutes. Right: Van Davidson placed first in the Road Bike Division with a time of 59.55 minutes and J.J. Davidson placed first in the Women's Road Bike Division with a time of 78 minutes. Contestants in the Sept. 11 event had to swim 500 meters, bike 10 miles and run 3 miles.

Parent Education Class: Families in Transition
Sept. 23, 6 p.m. ~ Andrew Triplett Library
This class is offered for Child and Youth Program families as well as anyone on board NAS Meridian.
For more information, call (601) 679-2652.

RUDDERS: WHAT'S HAPPENING

HIP HOP NIGHT IS EVERY TUESDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7 P.M.

STAFF NIGHT WILL BE SEPT. 30 AT 3:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS LADIES NIGHT!

RUDDERS SPECIAL

BUY WINGS AT \$3 OR PIZZA AT \$1.50

AND GET A FREE ORDER OF SPICY FRENCH FIRES OR SOFT DRINK.



The following are activities scheduled for single and unaccompanied active duty military on board NAS Meridian. For information or if you have an idea for a trip or event, call (601) 679-3760. The Liberty Program is housed on the second floor of NTTC Admin Building 220. Hours of operation: Monday-Thursday: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-9 p.m.; Friday: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-11 p.m.; Saturday: 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

September

21: Birthday Bash

A celebration of September birthdays! FREE cookies and soda will be provided at 7 p.m. in the Liberty Center.

22: Video Game Tournament at 7 p.m. Prize awarded to winner. Register the day of the event at Liberty Center.

25: "Pie" Fight

Silly Saturday fun at the Liberty Center begins at 7 p.m.

26: Dog Day Sunday

FREE hot dog's, chips & soda served to Liberty participants beginning at 1 p.m. in the Liberty Center.

30: Ping-Pong Tournament at 7 p.m. in the Liberty Center. No entry fee – prize awarded to winner. Register the day of event at Liberty Center.

Tailgating Time



Stop by the Outpost and reserve your tailgating supplies today. Call (601) 679-2609.

MWR

Mission First... Sailors Always

AT THE MOVIES

There are three scheduled movies per week at McCain Lanes Theater. The movies are shown at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; and at 1 p.m. on Saturdays. On Fridays you can select from the 780 movies on file. Movies on this schedule will not be available for open viewing until after their scheduled showing date. Call (601) 679-2651.

Admission: Free!

- Sept. 18: "A League of Their Own" (PG-13)
- Sept. 21: "The Losers" (PG-13)
- Sept. 22: "The A Team" (PG-13)
- Sept. 25: "Letters to Juliet" (PG)
- Sept. 28: "Splice" (R)
- Sept. 29: "Sweet Home Alabama" (PG-13)
- Oct. 2: "Marmaduke" (PG)
- Oct. 5: "G.I. Jane" (R)
- Oct. 6: "Prince of Persia" (PG-13)
- Oct. 9: "Toy Story" (G)
- Oct. 12: "Robin Hood" (PG-13)
- Oct. 13: "The Rocketeer" (PG-13)
- Oct. 16: "Shrek: Forever After" (PG)
- Oct. 19: "The Rock" (R)
- Oct. 20: "Sex and the City 2" (R)
- Oct. 23: "The Karate Kid" (PG)
- Oct. 26: "Knight & Day" (PG)

Fitness Center

NEW ... Group Exercise Schedule:

- Mondays ~ 11:15 a.m.: Fitness/stretch with Beth
- Tuesdays ~ 11:15 a.m.: Step Aerobics with Shannon
- Wednesdays ~ 11:15 a.m.: Fitness/stretch with Beth
- Thursdays ~ 11:15 a.m.: Step Aerobics with Shannon

***Watch for Yoga times in evenings TBA ***
 ProFitness times TBA (when weather cools)

Fitness Center Policy: The Sonny Montgomery Fitness Center will conduct a 100 percent ID check of all fitness center patrons.

- 1.) ID check will be administered to ALL unless wearing issued PT gear or are in uniform.
- 2.) If NO issued PT gear is worn, then you must show ID to enter the workout zones.
- 3.) If any civilian is sponsored by authorized personnel, they must pay the daily fee of \$2.
- 4.) All contractors must pay the daily fees or monthly dues and show ID to enter workout zones.

The NAS Meridian Fitness Center is in its temporary location in Building 266 (Behind Starbase Atlantis). Call (601) 679-2367.

Meridian/NAS Bus Schedule

Have exact cash change ready when boarding the bus. Fare: \$4.

Union Station	MATSS-1	NTTC	McCain Lanes	Bonita Lakes Mall	Wal-Mart
FRIDAY					
4:35 p.m.	5 p.m.	5:05 p.m.	5:10 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	6:40 p.m.
	6 p.m.	6:05 p.m.	6:10 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	
7 p.m.	8:10 p.m.	8:20 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	9 p.m.	
	10 p.m.	10:05 p.m.	10:10 p.m.	Drop off if any.....	
SATURDAY					
9:30 a.m.	10 a.m.	10:05 a.m.	10:10 a.m.	10:50 a.m.	11 a.m.
11:10 a.m.	12 p.m.	12:05 p.m.	12:10 p.m.	12:50 p.m.	1 p.m.
1:10 a.m.	2 p.m.	2:05 p.m.	2:10 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	3 p.m.
3:10 p.m.	4 p.m.	4:05 p.m.	4:10 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	
	5 p.m.	5:05 p.m.	5:10 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	
	6 p.m.	6:05 p.m.	6:10 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	
7:40 p.m.	7 p.m.	7:05 p.m.	7:10 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	
	8:10 p.m.	8:20 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	9 p.m.	
	10 p.m.	10:05 p.m.	10:10 p.m.	Pass. Drop off if any.....	
SUNDAY					
12:30 p.m.	1 p.m.	1:05 p.m.	1:10 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	
	2 p.m.	2:05 p.m.	2:10 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	
3:40 p.m.	3 p.m.	3:05 p.m.	3:10 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	
	5 p.m.	5:05 p.m.	5:10 p.m.	6 p.m.	6:05 p.m.
6:10 p.m.	6:40 p.m.	6:45 p.m.	6:50 p.m.	Pass. Drop if any	7:20 p.m.

Applebee's Restaurant (upon request only)

Sweet Hit Subs
\$5.00
Foot Long Subs
 Choice of: Italian, Turkey, Ham or Roast Beef.
Available At:
MEAN GENES BURGERS

~~ MWR News ~~

Don't forget that the **CDC/SAC** has spaces available for drop-in care. For more information, call (601) 679-2652.

Stop by the **ITT Office** to take advantage of the Walt Disney Military Salute today! For more information call (601) 679-3773.

Do-It-Yourself at the **Outpost** The Outpost has auto lifts that rent for \$4 an hour and stall rentals that start at \$3 per hour. Call (601) 679-2609.

Rudders hosts Hip Hop Night is every Tuesday and Saturday beginning at 7 p.m. Staff Night will be Sept. 30 beginning at 3:30 pm. Wednesday is Ladies Night!

MWR POV Lot now has two covered parking slots available. Sizes are approximately 15'x30'. Fees for covered slots are \$30 month or \$300 annually. Call (601) 679-2609 for more details & size information.

Ponta Creek Golf Course Special ~ 18 holes of golf, green fee and cart for only \$20 Monday-Thursday Pro Shop Hours are Monday-Sunday from 7:45 a.m.-5:45 p.m. Stop by the Pro Shop today and stock up on new golf gear!

Double Elimination Badminton Competition

**Sept. 24 at 5:30 p.m. Outdoor
volleyball court across from Branch Health Clinic
Call (601) 679-2367**

Kids Stuff

Graco Stroller & Carrier Combo - Fairytale Design. Asking \$75 for both. Call (601) 679-2447 or (601) 938-1683.

Little Tikes Mountain Climber in great shape just some minor wear and tear. The slide and climber are adjustable to grow with the child. Asking \$150. Call (601) 513-3035.

Electronics/Musical/Computers

E-Machines Media Center T6520 Desktop with 17" CRT Monitor. 2.4 GHz 200GB HD. Asking \$200; **Gateway MX6955 Laptop**. 15.4 1.83 GHz 100GB. Asking \$100. Contact Kevin at (601) 604-3870.

NEW ITEM! Spiderman CPU & Case, see through and lights up - web design. Asking \$150. Call (601) 679-2447 or (601) 938-1683.

Fender American Standard Stratocaster. Humbucker pick-ups with S-1 switch, sunburst red, deluxe carrying case, purchased new last year, played very little. Also Peavey Vyper 30 watt modeling amp. Paid \$1,550. New, will sacrifice all for \$995. Call (601) 938-9627.

Exercise Equipment

Brand new 100 pound weight set with bench. Asking \$100. Call (601) 679-8652.

Bowflex Extreme 2 includes leg attachments. Max weight 310 pounds. Asking \$500. Call (601) 481-4893.

ProForm XP 160 Elliptical Crosstrainer. Asking \$399.99. Like new - was used a handful of times. Call (559) 410-1608.

Big Stuff

2007 Chaparral 180 SSI Ski Boat, 66 Hours on engine, 190 HP Engine. Includes skis, wakeboard, pulling tube and all ropes. Asking \$17,000 OBO. Call Jessie Whittington at (601) 604-0876.

RIGID 10-inch contractor table saw, heavy duty cast iron table top. Asking \$600. **RIGID 10-inch compound miter saw and RIGID mobile miter saw stand combination**. Asking \$300. **Cub Cadet 54-inch, 26 HP Kohler Hydrostatic Super Lawn tractor**, Asking \$2,000. **Champion 5500 watt mobile generator**. Asking \$375. Call Jerry at (904) 505-3797.

Household Items

Twin Bed Sealy mattress and box spring, like new, 6 months old. Asking \$250 for both OBO. Call (417) 664-2528.

Two nice, light brown couches, less than 2 years old, no stains, no sagging and from a smoke free home. Asking \$150 each OBO. Call (904) 803-8776.

Twin metal bed frame, asking \$10, **Simple drafting table**, asking \$8. Call (757) 472-1189 before 8 p.m.

Two 36-inch TV'S (not flat screen). Asking \$200 each. **Oak Entertainment Center**, \$250. **Pine Book Shelves**, ready to stain for \$100 each. Call Clinton at (601) 323-1003.

Twin Basset mattress, hardly used, \$35; **trampoline**, \$75 OBO. Call Call (904) 315-1556 or (904) 505-3797.

Large 2-room capacity air conditioning window unit. Bought new 2 years ago for \$1,500. Asking \$500. Call (601) 632-4567.

White Kitchen Micro-Vent Hood/Microwave combination. Used, but in excellent condition. Changed out to match other appliances. Call (601) 917-6935.

Automobiles/Accessories

NEW ITEM! 1996 Ford F-250 7.3Ltr Diesel. 4x4 super cab, longbed. 238k. Two tone red & white. Good tires, new/rebuilt auto trans with 12/12 warrantee. Interior in good shape. Asking \$5500. Call John at (601) 484-7244.

NEW ITEM! 2004 Honda Accord V6, blue with 83K miles, fully loaded: power leather seats, sun roof, 6 disc CD changer, and much more. Asking \$9500 OBO. Call (601) 938-0182.

2007 Chrysler Pacifica, dark blue, aprox 55,000 miles, new tires, 6 disc CD changer with additional CD player in radio. Asking \$14,500. Call (601) 934-6284 or (601) 986-5403.

2004 Honda Civic EX, excellent condition, new tires lights etc. Asking

Sale ... or

\$7,000. Call (601) 323-1003.

1999 Nissan Altima, brown with tan cloth interior, power windows and locks. 135k miles. Asking \$3,700 OBO. Call (904) 803-8776.

2000 Mitsubishi Mirage Coupe. 2-door, PV, DR LOCKS, cold AC, CD player. Asking \$3,000. Call (601) 917-6935 for more info.

1991 Toyota Celica GT Convertible, 120K miles, red with black power top, gray cloth interior, 2.2L 4 cyl, Automatic, A/C, CD, fog lights, PW, PL, newer alloy wheels. No rust, interior clean with no cracks or rips, 25-30 mpg, a reliable and fun daily driver but one top latch needs repair. Top is serviceable but worn. Asking \$1850. Call (703) 586-7564

1996 Isuzu Rodeo, black (new paint), V6, 4 door, auto, air, AM/FM CD, power windows, locks, brakes and steering. Aluminum wheels, full size spare, 75 percent tires. Cloth interior, 151k miles. Call Tony at (601) 693-4111 or (601) 692-8560.

1998 Nissan Pathfinder 4x4, black with gray leather interior, power windows and locks, sunroof, heated seats. 169k miles. Good condition. New tires. Asking \$2,000 OBO. Call (601) 527-8260.

1998 GMC Sonoma 4.3 V6, 5-Spd Power Pkg, Ext Cab, 3rd door. Asking \$4,750. Call (601) 917-6935.

2004 Chevrolet Venture LT, 68k miles, silver exterior w/vinyl grey interior, DVD player, dual power heated seats, power right sliding door and other extras. Asking \$9,000. Call (601) 616-5755.

Motorcycles/Gear

NEW ITEM! 2008 Kawasaki Ninja 250R, blue with jacket and helmet included, 3800 miles, Asking \$2500. Call (601) 562-6508.

NEW ITEM! 1986 Honda Goldwing Aspencade. 1200cc. Two tone tan. 63K miles, new tires, recently serviced. Asking \$2500 Firm. Call John at (601) 484-7244.

2006 Honda 600 VTX, 3,500 miles with new windshield. Great bike in very good condition. Asking \$3,500. Call (601) 632-1167.

Honda CRF 100. Great dirt bike for a youngster to start on. Garage kept. Includes boots, pants, chest protector and gloves. Asking \$1000. Call Jerry at (601) 513-2624.

2005 Yamaha FJR 1300. 145 hp., 8020 miles, electric blue, power adjustable windshield, ABS front & rear brakes, front & rear adjustable ride. 2 hardshell (removable) side bags with inserts. 2 helmets & 2 "Joe Rocket" jackets included. Just serviced and is in perfect condition. garaged kept. Call (601) 934-6615.

2006 Triumph Speed Triple 1050, white, 3k miles. Asking \$6,500. Call (210) 313-5874.

Homes/Apartments

NEW ITEM! For Sale: Doublewide in really good condition with well kept property. Has central heat and air, all appliances. W/L School District 3BR/2 BA on 2 acres. Asking \$85,000. On Mayatt Rd. in Collinsville. Call (601) 479-9229.

For Rent: Large 4 BR, 2 BA house in Poplar Springs School Dist., new central air and heat unit, new roof, new water heater, 2 living rooms, new window blinds, double garage, large deck. Asking \$1200 per month, plus deposit, minimum one year lease. Call (601) 917-9876.

For Sale/Lease: Dalewood property with awesome view of main lake from the large covered front porch. Open floor plan, surround sound hook up, vaulted ceilings in the great room with large brick fireplace. Large deck on the side of the house with beautiful lake view and hot tub that stays with house, perfect area for entertaining. Only 15 miles from NAS. Approximately 2,000 sq ft. Asking \$143,000 or lease for \$1,300 per month.

Call (601) 938-1116 or (769) 798-1399.

For Sale: 1625 sq ft. 3 BR, 1.5 BA, den, living room, dining area & sunroom on 0.8 acres. Huge back yard, patio, landscaped, very private. Quiet neighborhood, North Hills area Poplar Springs school district. Asking \$110,000. call Jared at (60) 513-7161 or Stacy at (601) 604-4659.

For Rent: One bedroom furnished apartment includes washer & dryer. Quiet area. Water paid. Two persons max. References required. \$400/month \$250 deposit. (601) 693-1708

For Sale/Lease: 3BR/2BA home, 5 years old. Located in Plum Point, close to North Hills St. and Poplar Springs Elementary School. Brick home, 1639 sq ft, 2 car attached garage, high ceilings, large crown moldings, open floor plan, and privacy fenced back yard with covered patio. Attic has tremendous height could be finished for additional living space. Asking \$164,900. Call (808) 554-0523. e-mail: cffitz@yahoo.com

For Rent: Completely remodeled with new kitchen, 2 new BA, split bedroom plan with private bath/bedroom on lower level. New central heat/air, water heater, refinished hardwood & ceramic tile floors. Quiet neighborhood, sorry no pets. Asking \$650/month, \$650 security deposit, minimum 1 year lease. Call Jack at (601) 917-7752.

For Sale: House on 5+ acres located at 8180 Hwy 493, 4 BR/2 BA, stainless steel appliances, new floors, new roof, new AC unit. Northeast School District. Call for appointment: (601) 917-4056.

For Sale: Beautiful home on Confederate Drive, 4BR/3.5 BA, 3 fireplaces, solid oak floors throughout, enclosed pool with shower, half-bath and hot-tub, 2.75 acre lot, new roof, remodeled master bath and updating throughout, two-car carport with large storage room and upstairs storage. Under appraised value at only \$328,500. Can see full details at Militarybyowner.com, or call (601) 693-8386.

For Sale: 4 BR/2.5 BA Historic home in DeKalb, 20 minutes north of NAS Meridian, 2,500 square feet, hard wood floors, 5 fire places, living room, family room, dining room, multi-level deck, playground, workshop, carport, sitting on 0.5 acre lot. Asking \$120,000. Call (601) 604-3869 or (601) 743-4818

Acreage

Beautiful one acre lot in Magnolia Lake Estates subdivision. Lot is cleared, leveled and ready to build your dream home. Located in the West Lauderdale School District, close to Meridian and NAS. Call (601) 986-2732 or (601) 616-8889.

Wanted to Buy

Motorcycles any size any condition, will pay above salvage price. Also have a large selection of good used parts for sale. Call (601) 938-4295 anytime.

Outdoor shed needed. Call (601) 553-0721.

Miscellaneous

English Bridles, asking \$10-30, **English velvet show helmet** size medium, asking \$20. Call (757) 472-1189 before 8 p.m.

ATV Blade with tapered design and aggressively curved profile steer dirt or gravel away from the surface you're clearing. Made from heavy-duty 11-gauge steel backed up by extra-heavy ribbing. 54" Blade angles from 20.8" height down to 15" height. It has a manual lift and is very easy to use. Very easy to hook up. Asking \$350, call (601) 479-7902. Can e-mail photos.

O/U 12 Ga. shotgun with chocks and cleaning kit, asking \$1,200; **40 round bales of hay**, fescue and clover mix cut this year, \$25 each; **Pure local honey** for sale, quart size bottles, \$10 each (other sizes available). Call Clinton at (601) 323-1003.

If you wish to add or remove an item from "Sale...or" please send your request to penny.randall@navy.mil or call (601) 679-2809. Deadline for submissions is 4:30 p.m. the Thursday before publication.

• Softball

run through Sept. 16. Out of the 15 selected from the East Coast regional tournament, two were picked from the Cherry Point team -- Sgt. Doug Pearson and Petty Officer 3rd Class Bobby Brown.

"It is a great feeling being selected out of more than 100 Marines and Sailors to try out for the team," said Pearson. "It means a lot to me. Getting the chance to represent the air station and possibly even the Marine Corps itself, it's a great feeling and opportunity."

All players will have to work hard in

order to make the official All-Marine team that will compete at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., to represent the Marine Corps in the Armed Forces Tournament Sept. 18-24.

"I look for a player who knows their position better than anyone else," said Daniels. "This is an offensive game, and I am looking for a player who can make the easy plays every time, but also who has situational awareness at the plate."

Both Pearson and Brown know they are going to have to push themselves to the very limits of their ability.

"To make the All-Marine team we have to be a well-rounded player on top of being a great situational hitter," said Pearson. "I need to know what to do in every situation possible. If I'm hitting into double plays all the time I'm not going to get picked."

"If I am selected, it will be an honor and a lot of responsibility," said Brown. "I like the pressure of all the responsibility and what it represents for me as a Sailor to be selected for the All-Marine team. It is inspiring, and I look forward to competing for a spot on the team."



The Petty Officers Association meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. in the conference room at Air Operations.

Suicide Prevention Proclamation signing



Command Master Chief Sharon Laguna joins Commanding Officer Capt. Charles Gibson and Ed Welch, NAS Meridian Fleet and Family Support Center director, on Sept. 7 after Gibson signs a proclamation to promote Navy's "All Hands" Suicide Prevention Program and to recognize September as National Suicide Prevention Month. The proclamation focused on first responders applying ACT: Ask, Care, Treat, as a proactive approach to suicide prevention.

Photo by Susan Junkins

FFSCs provide employment assistance to family members

The Family Employment Readiness Program (FERP) is the subject of Vice Chief of Naval Operations (VCNO) Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert's latest FAMILYGRAM (06-10).

FERP assists military spouses in obtaining employment and maintaining a career as a military family member. Commander, Navy Installations Command offers this program at its Fleet and Family Support Centers.

"The Navy recognizes that moving every few years creates career challenges for military spouses," Greenert wrote in the FAMILYGRAM. "The Family Employment Readiness Program (FERP) addresses those challenges in workshops and through individualized assistance. The goal is to help family members with their job search, particularly as they are impacted by the changes in

the economy and labor market conditions."

Established by law as part of the Military Family Act of 1985, FERP assists participants in planning careers which are compatible with the mobile military lifestyle.

"If you live too far from a Fleet and Family Support, just call the Center nearest to your location and the staff will provide you assistance over the telephone," Panshella Cole, FERP Manager, said. "While we're not a job placement service, we will help you learn about job opportunities in your current location or the location to which you're moving. We'll help you polish your resume, prepare for interviews. We'll help you out over the phone, email, whatever it takes."

In addition to individual counseling, FERP offers workshops and seminars where family members can

learn valuable skills such as resume writing, interview techniques and dressing for success. Further educational exploration opportunities include such areas as self-directed job searches, federal employment strategies, career planning and financing a career change.

"Of course, all of our services are free," Cole said.

Employment resources beyond those offered through the Fleet and Family Support Center are listed in VCNO Greenert's latest FAMILYGRAM: <http://www.npc.navy.mil/NR/rdonlyres/94F08E79-E498-43E9-9089-B3CEBEEF27D4/0/NAV10289.txt>.

To locate your local FFSC for information about FERP, go to <http://www.ffsp.navy.mil> and click on "Find your local Fleet and Family Support Center."

From Commander, Navy Installations Command

FFSC Briefs

To register for any of the following workshops, please call (601) 679-2360. The class will not be presented if no one registers, so please make sure you sign up if you're interested. If you can't attend at the scheduled time, call anyway -- the workshop facilitator may be able to meet with you one-on-one, give you materials, or let you know when the class will be scheduled again. All active duty, reserve, retired military and their families are eligible for programs and services provided by the FFSC. Civil service employees can utilize the services on a space available basis.

The Keys to Job Fair Success: Sept. 21 from 9-10:30 a.m. This workshop will address the importance of job fairs as a job hunting strategy, and how to make the most of your job fair experience. We'll cover how to prepare for a job fair, creating your "30-Second Commercial," and how to most effectively "work" a job fair for maximum networking opportunities.

Stress Management: Sept. 22 from 3-4 p.m. Everyone experiences stress in normal day-to-day life, and your reactions to stress can be difficult to control. Some stress can be helpful because it spurs you to meet life's challenges, but too much stress (or poor stress management skills) can affect your mental and physical health and damage your relationships. If you feel that you're just not handling stress well, come to this workshop to learn about your stress triggers and what you can do to manage your stress better.

Post-Deployment & PTSD: Sept. 23 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. This workshop, for service members who have been (or will be) deployed as Individual Augmentees (IAs) and their families, will focus on the causes and symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). We'll also discuss various therapies for PTSD and sources of help.

Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Seminar: Sept. 27-30 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Military personnel who are voluntarily or involuntarily separating or retiring and are within 180 days of separating should attend this seminar, held at the FFSC. It is highly recommended that spouses attend. You may also attend if you're up to 18 months away from your separation or retirement date. The following topics will be covered: resume's, job search skills, job interviewing, employment (state and federal), veterans' benefits, pay and travel, movement of household goods, PSD/ID cards, TRICARE, emotional transition to separation, financial planning, forms and documents, benefits and services, Naval Reserve programs, military obligations, and more!

10 Steps to a Federal Job: Sept. 28 from 4-6 p.m. The government is hiring! But if you want to be successful in landing a federal job, you need to understand the government's unique and complex application process. This workshop, based on the writings and training of federal job search guru, Kathryn Troutman, will walk you through the 10 steps to finding and applying for a federal job. We'll cover: finding and analyzing federal job announcements; crafting a federal-style resume and an electronic resume; interpreting the cryptic language of federal hiring process ("core competencies", etc.); the incredible importance of including "keywords" in your application; writing "KSAs"; and much more!

Help DoD be more efficient...

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates is asking all DoD military and civilian employees to submit their ideas to save money, avoid cost, reduce cycle time and increase the agility of the department. This contest, called the INVEST Awards, will reward with cash prizes those who submit the best ideas for improving efficiency. Ideas will be accepted via the Web site: http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2010/0710_invest/ through Sept. 24. Twenty-five final winners will be announced in October.

If you have any questions, please refer to the FAQs or e-mail INVEST@osd.mil.

Find out what's happening



on base... tune
to Command
Information
Channel 17

Ready to work for Habitat

The Federal Women's Program is soliciting participation from all women (and men) at NAS Meridian for the Lauderdale County Habitat's Women Build Oct. 9-14.

In addition to the Oct. 9-14 date, Oct. 4 is World Habitat Day and Habitat would like to have women's groups represented on that day also.

Work will include framing, trusses sheeting, roof, electrical, plumbing, AC, insulation, siding, interior room drywall and sheetrock, interior paint, flooring, tiling, landscape and clean-up.

For more information, call the Lauderdale County Habit for Humanity Office at (601) 485-4992 or NAS Meridian Women's Program Chairperson Barbara Watson at (601) 679-2474.

The Office of Special Counsel recently promulgated a list of frequently asked questions on the Hatch Act, which deals with political activity for federal employees, on its Web site:

<http://www.osc.gov/haFederalfaq.htm>.

Many of the questions address areas that have already received widespread coverage in this election year, but there are new sections regarding the use of social media such as Facebook and MySpace.

MCC classes at NAS Meridian

Meridian Community College offers classes at Naval Air Station Meridian and a new term is starting Oct. 11.

The schedule includes:

Monday/Wednesday, 5-7:45 p.m.

English Comp II
College Algebra
Public Speaking

Monday/Wednesday, 4 p.m.

College Algebra

NAS active duty military dependents are eligible for scholarships. For more information, call NAS Meridian Program Director Ardra Govan at (601) 693-2450.



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It's Your Turn...

Just for fun this week, we asked those on board NAS Meridian: "What restaurant would you like to see on board the installation and why?"

Photos by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio



ABH1 Markeith Mack
Joe Williams Field
Supervisor

"Ruth Chris Steak House. There is nothing like great steak."



ABH3 Brian Clark
Field Support

"Buffalo Wild Wings. NAS Meridian needs a good sports bar/restaurant with a good atmosphere."



AC1 Dwayne Hinson
ATC LPO

"Definitely Subway! It's being talked about, but it needs to happen."



AC1 Ronell Lewis

ATC Training Branch Chief

"I would like to see McDonald's on board. They have a variety of items available, including healthy items."



NC1 Timothy Bridges
Command Career
Counselor

"Starbuck's would be great, so everyone could get their caffeine fix in the morning."

NWU mandatory wear date approaches

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- With the mandatory wear date of Dec. 31 approaching, the chief of naval personnel (CNP) reminded commanding officers and Sailors in NAVADMIN 299/10 of the importance for all hands to maintain a full complement of Navy Working Uniforms (NWU) in their sea bags.

"The NWU facilitates Navy leadership's intent to standardize the professional appearance of Sailors when wearing a working uniform ashore," said CNP Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson.

Pointing to current NWU inventory levels showing Sailors own an average of 1.3 sets, Ferguson went on to explain that the fleet has not purchased enough uniforms to meet this goal.

Whether through initial gear

issue at recruit training or the uniform allowances provided during the past two fiscal years, the vast majority of the fleet has received allowances to purchase and maintain four sets of the NWU by Dec. 31. Sailors who started recruit training between Oct. 1, 2007, and April 26, 2009, did not receive their full issue of uniforms or the allotted clothing replacement allowances, which means they will not be expected to meet the four uniform standard until June 30, 2013.

CNP is stressing the importance for leadership to re-engage with Sailors now to ensure they comply with uniform requirements by the mandatory wear date. With the majority of Sailors having already received the required allowances or uniform issue,

A complete sea bag will include the following items:

- ✓ Four NWU blouses and trousers
- ✓ One pair of NWU boots
- ✓ Two eight-point utility caps
- ✓ Five pairs of blue, 100 percent cotton T-shirts
- ✓ Five pairs of boot socks
- ✓ One mock turtleneck sweater
- ✓ One fleece liner
- ✓ One Gore-Tex parka

commanding officers should verify their personnel have all required uniform components in their sea bag. For commands with Sailors who fall within the previously mentioned timeframe, leadership will need to allow for a reduced number of uniforms.

Navy Exchanges have sales associates available to help with proper sizing and fit, as well as ample supplies of the NWU to

meet demand. If a local exchange does not have a particular item, or if a Sailor is not stationed near an exchange, uniform items can be ordered by calling the Uniform Support Center's toll-free number, 1-800-368-4088, or by going to https://www.navy-nex.com/command/about_us/p-uniformsupport.html.

From Chief of Naval Personnel
Public Affairs

• Career

incur a two-to-one service obligation for every month in the program (served in addition to any previously existing obligation). Time spent in the IRR will not count toward retirement, computation of total years of commissioned service, or high-year tenure limitations.

For both Morgan and Mayes, the ability to transition back into active duty is a key factor in their decision to participate in CIPP.

"One of my primary goals is to not jeopardize the potential naval career that I hope to have for 20-plus years," said Morgan. "I'm thrilled to have my Naval career waiting for me to resume!"

"I really hope I am able to complete all my goals before returning so that when I come back, I can fully focus on the next half of my career," said Mayes.

To respond to the need for greater flexibility, applications for CIPP will now be accepted and approved by a rolling application process.

For more information on CIPP, including how to apply, visit <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/TaskForceLifeWork/Career+Intermission+Program.htm>.



NAS Meridian, Fleet and Family Support Center and MWR are all on Facebook. Become a fan!



Photo by MC1 Scott Taylor

SAN DIEGO -- Chief petty officers (CPO) and chief petty officer selectees form an anchor on the flight deck of the USS Midway museum in observance of CPO Pride Day. The day began at the museum and continued with community service activities throughout the San Diego Country area. CPO Pride Day was founded in 2003 by Force Master Chief Karen O'Connor.



PACIFIC OCEAN -- Sailors assigned to the Dambusters of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 195 stand in formation on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) as F/A-18 Hornet strike fighters from VFA-195 perform a fly-over during a change of command ceremony. Cmdr. David Culpepper relieved Cmdr. Gerald Hanson in the fly over of the ship.

Photo by MC3 Adam Thomas

WASHINGTON -- Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen, left, President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates render honors Sept. 11, during the playing of the national anthem at the Pentagon Memorial. The ceremony marked the ninth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

U.S. Department of Defense photo by Cherie Cullen



Photos from the Fleet



Photo by MC1 Gregory Tate

GULF OF ADEN -- U.S. Marine Corps snipers provide cover and observation Sept. 9 during a boarding and seizure operation to retake the motor vehicle *Magellan Star* from suspected pirates. Nine pirates were taken into custody and transferred to the guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton (CG 59). The eleven crew members aboard *Magellan Star* resumed control of their vessel. Dubuque is part of the Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group, supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.



Photo by MC1 Chad Runge

GULFPORT, Miss. -- Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 set up communications equipment for their two-person fighting position during the Battalion's annual "Black Hell" squad competition. The competition is held in honor of the Seabees of the 133rd Naval Construction Battalion who fought on Iwo Jima during WW II. The 133rd NCB lost three officers and 39 enlisted, with 12 officers and 191 enlisted wounded in action; the most casualties in Seabee history.