

THE SANDPAPER



Issue 43

PUBLISHED BY THE NAF EL CENTRO PAO

May 2015

New Tuition Assistance Tool Attuned to Troops' Educational Needs

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr., DoD News, Defense Media Activity

The Defense Department continues to invest in its service members and has introduced a new online informational tool tailored to their unique school programs and educational needs, the Defense Department's chief of voluntary education said in a DoD news interview in April, 2015.

Dawn Bilodeau discussed a new online tool called "Tuition Assistance DECIDE."

"Tuition Assistance DECIDE, or TA DECIDE, as we like to call it," she said, "is a tool tailored to the unique needs of our service members." It's designed to support their decision-making in areas such as selecting schools or choosing programs to enroll in, she explained. It came online April 17.

"Our military students tend to be part-time students -- they're not going to school full-time," Bilodeau said, "and Tuition Assistance DECIDE is really designed to enable them to search through schools that service members are attending just like them." TA DECIDE can provide information on everything, Bilodeau said, from completion rates -- likelihood of completing a course -- to cost or graduation rates from a particular school.

"The benefit of using this particular tool is that you know that the schools that are in there are trustworthy, because we vetted them," she said. "They've signed an agreement with Department of Defense that they're going to adhere to certain principles of excellence."

TA DECIDE is accessible at <http://www.dodmou.com>, the website for the memorandum of understanding that participating education institutions sign. "You can click on 'Tuition Assistance DECIDE,' and it will take you right to the tool," Bilodeau said.

Bilodeau described TA DECIDE as an informative tool for comparing more than 2,600 schools that are eligible for tuition assistance benefits.

"It allows service members to search by a whole host of parameters," she said. For example, Bilodeau explained, service members interested in an associate's degree or in a certain program such as accounting or cybersecurity can search by those filters and come up with schools that meet the criteria they see as important.

Bilodeau emphasized TA DECIDE is really tailored toward the unique needs of DoD students. Though the GI Bill Comparison Tool includes 33,000 education and training providers, she said, all of those schools have not agreed to the Defense Department's terms, as the schools in TA DECIDE have.

While Defense Department officials are "really happy" with the launch of this new tool, Bilodeau said, there's always room for improvement.

"We definitely want to hear feedback from all service members, as well as counselors or even our school partners that are in the field and other federal interagency partners," she said. "We do have some planned enhancements to make it better, but we're always willing to hear some new thoughts as well."

Bilodeau, who has more than 15 years of experience in voluntary education, said she would have loved to have had the TA DECIDE Tool as a counselor in the field.

"It allows you to have a one-on-one conversation with that service member about their unique needs," she said, noting that it helps in navigating the vast amount of information on the Web about schools and universities.

Every year, Bilodeau noted, 300,000 service members go to school using tuition assistance. "Can you imagine having a tool that helps them to facilitate those conversations?" she added.

"The great thing about this tool," she said, "is it takes and leverages information that is publicly available from federal entities -- recognized sources, we like to say -- so service members can feel confident the information they're looking at is trustworthy and is the facts."

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WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NAFEC



2012-2015

"Our Flag Was Still There"

THE BASE HAS GONE

558 DAYS

SINCE THE LAST DUI

**KEEP UP THE
TREND!**

FROM THE TRIAD



CO
CAPT W. Doster



XO
CDR A. Schlismann



CMC
CMDCM W. Marcus

I want to ensure the Sailors and civilian employees have a clear understanding on leadership perception of unjust acts within the NAF El Centro organization infrastructure of people, equipment and funding. The importance of trust, organizational commitment, performance, job satisfaction, organizational and work environment behavior, family reverence, virtuous housekeeping, good ordered and discipline are portions of our successful foundation here at NAFEC. If you have witness unjust acts within these parameters, please bring it to our attention. Professionalism, integrity, dignity, respect and honesty are traits of your triad (CO/XO/CMC). We cannot eliminate personal feeling towards incompatible working relationship. Conversely, we can enhance awareness in the professionalism of quality efforts and direct expectations surrounding the way we operate as a team. Remember "bystander intervention" is a universal commitment; it takes courage to stand-up for what is right and honor to enforce what is rights!

What is new?

- I will be incorporating the "CMC 2-Minute Warning" video segment for NAF El Centro providing current quality of life information and base protocol issues.
- In June 2015, look for the CMC XBOX/PSP4 Challenge!
- The weather is changing hydration is paramount during the summer months. Please do not overlook our family animals they require more water as well.
- Let's go to a Padres game be on the lookout for the schedule of games. We will select a few games to vote on attending prior to purchasing tickets. Send me an email on a game you would like to attend this season. You have to buy your own tickets, but we can get the transportation free.
- Please sign-up for your "Birthday Meal" at the beginning of each month at the Galley (active duty members).
- Remember your command or department is responsible for sponsoring one MWR event within the annual 12 calendar months. What is your idea of fun? Inform your MWR representative to make it happen!
- We have our Professional Reading library up and running. The community center is responsible for maintaining and logging books to Sailors.
- Our Thrift store manager position is open; this is a volunteer position on Mondays and Wednesdays at 0900-1200. If your spouse is interested, please email me to set up an interview.

Finally, the Commanding Officer and I have consolidated the action items from the all-hands calls and have answers to majority of the questions and issues. We will release a question and answer bulletin within two weeks. Thanks for all that you do military and civilians! Keep up the outstanding work! Question: who is your community service volunteer coordinator? --CMC



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to the hardworking men and women of NAF El Centro and our tenant commands! The following personnel were recognized at an all-hands award ceremony, April 30, 2015:

Mr. Gilbert Flores

Mr. Jose Zaragoza

Ms. Anna Doty

Mr. Travis Knutson

AE1 Ritchie

AO3 Rosol

AMAN Woods

CM2 Cartwright

AC3 Monson

MA2 Sweeney

MA2 Vassell

AZ1 Kalyan-Barden

AC2 Flett

AZ2 Goldwire

YN1 Rogers

Mrs. Janie Yocupicio

YN1 Rogers

AO1 Grant

AT1 Ricker

AO1 Torres

PR2 Blond

AO2 Tippet

Mr. Javier Guerra

Mr. Larry Michaels

AC1 Ditts

AM1 Adrine

ABH2 White

AC2 Steffens

MA3 Synco



MONTHLY DET LOADING



MONTH	TOTAL DETS	FOREIGN DETS	PERSONNEL	AIRCRAFT
MAY	8	2	1137	88
JUNE	5	2	699	65



**Numbers subject to change based on availability of hangar space and time of squadron det request.

Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Cinco de Mayo, Military Appreciation signal commissary savings

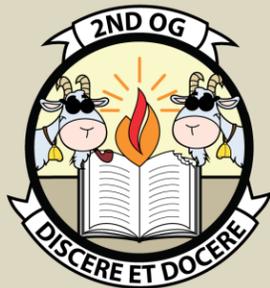
By DeCA public affairs staff



There's no shortage of savings or "M's" for commissary promotions in May featuring a lineup of themes such as Military Appreciation Month, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day and Memorial Day.

DeCA's industry partners – vendors, suppliers and brokers – are collaborating with commissaries in May to offer discounts beyond everyday savings. Look for mass displays and "end of the aisle" promotions in stores celebrating Cinco de Mayo, Mothers' Day, Military Appreciation Month and Memorial Day.

- From May 1 to June 12, **Smithfield, Gwaltney Race with Royalty Sweepstakes** is offering one grand prize winner a three-day/two-night trip to Richmond, Virginia, for two, occurring Sept. 11-13 complete with a \$1,200 gift card for travel, accommodations, and expenses; passes for two to the Richard Petty Driving Experience "Ride-Alongs"; a \$200 gift card, which may be used for purchase of race tickets; a pair of pre-race pit and garage passes; and a meal with members of the Richard Petty Motorsports race team. Sixteen first-prize winners will each receive one \$50 Commissary Gift Card. Commissary customers who purchase three or more Smithfield/Gwaltney products per shopping trip will be automatically entered in the sweepstakes by using their Commissary Rewards Card. This contest is only available for participating stateside stores in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and South. Visit your local commissary for details.
- The ConAgra Foods "**Celebrate Summer with Family, Friends & Food,**" runs May 7-June 3. In-store displays give instructions on how a customer receipt can be used to get a \$5 coupon simply by purchasing \$15 in participating products. The www.conagracommissarydeals.com site also provides details. Customers at participating stores may also enter to win a variety of prizes such as mountain bikes, Xbox game systems, PlayStation game systems or 40" television sets.
- Acosta Military supports the Fisher House Foundation with the **Celebrating Our Heroes** sale. A Fisher House is a home away from home for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers. The Fisher House program serves more than 22,000 families annually. Commissary patrons will save big on numerous products through this promotion, while participating brands will make donations for every item sold from May 7 to June 3. Look for flyers in commissaries worldwide for details and coupons.
- **Outnumber Hunger** is a partnership event between Feeding America®, Big Machine Label Group and General Mills dedicated to fighting against hunger. Some 13 million Americans struggle with hunger issues, according to cause organizers, who seek to raise awareness and help Feeding America's nationwide network of food banks. From May 7-May 20, patrons can go online to enter codes listed on specially marked packages of General Mills items. For each code entered General Mills will direct five meals to a food bank. Look for General Mills displays in your local commissary.
- Gatorade and Naked Juice sponsor the fifth annual **Honoring Our Heroes** promotional event from May 21 to June 3. Patrons worldwide can nominate their military heroes in 200 words or less at www.gatorademilitary.com to win cash and free groceries for their heroes. Those honored can include active and veteran military patrons, spouses, their families, friends, neighbors or organizations that benefit the military community. Essay entrants will get a Gatorade product commissary coupon as a special thank you. The first 25 essay entrants will also get a unique Gatorade and Naked Juice prize. In addition, all winners will be recognized at their commissary and on www.gatorademilitary.com. Check your local commissary for details on this event.
- **Memorial Day Celebration.** Kraft Foods Group is offering the following savings promotions:
 - From May 7 to May 17, commissary patrons have the opportunity to win two grand prizes chosen from participating stores in the continental United States: 1) a Back Yard Kit with 70-quart Coleman Cooler (\$100 value) includes Slip 'N Slide, Super Soakers, Horse Shoe, Wham Golf Game and more; and 2) two \$50 Commissary Gift Cards. Check your local commissary for details on this contest.
The drawing for these giveaways will be the week of May 18 at each participating commissary. Check your local commissary for details on this event.
 - May 21-June 3, there will be a Commissary Rewards Card offer to save \$1 off meat or produce with the purchase of three participating Kraft products. There will also be an in-store, return-trip coupon with the purchase of five participating Kraft products, redeemable for \$5 off your next commissary visit in June.
- Kellogg's presents the **Special K Spring** event to inspire new approaches to weight management and personal wellness. Special K will feature new food products worldwide and a chance to win free athletic gear – a \$100 value. Special K will also offer from May 21 to June 3 a bundling coupon – purchase three participating Special K products and receive a \$3-off produce coupon.



LOCAL HISTORY BY TWO OLD GOATS

THE MIDGETMAN

Thirty years ago does not seem like the forgotten past. But many of our Sailors here on the installation were not even born yet. To them, the event described below might seem rather "old."

Devout followers of the 2OG might remember when we brought you the story of the batbomb. Years later, a new bomb was considered for NAF El Centro...the Midgetman!

The Imperial County was considered a possible location for up to three of these mobile, potentially nuclear missile systems. But what was the Midgetman?

The MGM-134 missile was envisioned by the US Air Force to be a mobile deterrent to the possibility of a Soviet nuclear first strike against the USA. The missile was 46 feet long and could carry a single 475 kilo-ton nuclear warhead. The system was stored and transported on a Hard Mobile Launcher (HML).

These missiles would move around the US on the interstates making them very hard to track and hopefully ensuring their survivability in the event the Soviets decided to attack the nation.

When interviewed by the Imperial Valley Press years ago, Captain Emil Gram, the station's commanding officer mentioned that due to the Navy's position on nuclear weapons he could not confirm or deny if the warheads would be nuclear. "I don't even know," Gram added.

Alas, due to the enormous cost and more importantly, the fall of the Iron Curtain, the program never moved past the prototype stage. No missiles were brought to the valley and the whole event faded from memory.

Until next time, keep a weather eye out on the events happening around you. It's possible you are witnessing history in the making!



A prototype MGM-134 Midgetman missile in flight.



The Hard Mobile Launcher for the Midgetman.

**NAFEC
THRIFT
STORE**

Open Monday and Wednesday from 0900-1200.

We have tons of clothes, toys, books, housewares, and a little bit of random stuff to make you go "HMMMMMM."

Come check us out!

JOB Links for Employment

Federal Jobs: <http://www.usajobs.gov>
DoD Jobs: <http://www.militaryconnection.com/dod.asp>
Employment Development Department's California Jobs: <http://www.caljobs.ca.gov/>
Imperial County Jobs: <http://imperialcountyjobs.org/>
Energy Conservation: <http://www.tetrattech.com>
HOUSING/ Contract ALUTIIQ: <http://www.alutiq.com>
AOC: <http://aocwins.com/>
HAZMAT/ SERCO: <http://www.serco-na.com/Default.aspx?Page=HomePage>
JET MART/NEX: <https://www.nexnet.nexweb.org/pls/nexjobs/work4us>
MWR: <http://navylifesw.com/sandiego/about/jobs/>
NMCI: <http://h10134.www1.hp.com/services/>
SECURITY/CONTRACT/LOCKHEED MARTIN : <http://www.lockheedmartinjobs.com>

CO Suggestion Box Locations

**Jet Mart
AOC Bldg
NGIS Bldg 401
Weapons
Oasis**

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Chaplain's Office--760-339-2290
Drug and Alcohol Advisor--760-339-2603
Medical Emergency Room--911
Duty Corpsman--619-804-1037 / 619-804-1520
FFSC--1-800-273-8255
Suicide/Crisis Center Hotline--1-800-342-9647
SAPR--760-540-1053
Victim Advocate Duty Phone--760-644-2913

DEFY Summer Program August 2-7, 2015

By AZ2(AW) Minerva Flandes

FREE DOD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (DEFY) OPEN FOR REGISTRATION (9-12 YEAR OLDS ONLY). Hurry only 5 open spaces available! Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) is a year-long, 2-phased program that begins with a "leadership program" during the summer and continues throughout the school year. DEFY Phase I begins with a 5-day/4-night overnight leadership program 02-07 August 2015. Phase 1 will be located at Indian Hills Camp in Jamul, CA. Phase II will meet on a monthly basis to continue the curriculum along with a lot of fun activities.

FREE for any military, retired, or DOD employee children ages 9-12. Availability is based on a first come first serve basis. Please email completed applications AZ2(AW) Flandes at minerva.flandes@navy.mil or 760-339-2306. Program guidelines restrict the program to first year attendees. Prior year graduates may join ONLY IF there is room available after the registration deadline of 15 May 2015.



The Navy Hymn

By Chaplain Cox

Eternal Father, Strong to Save, often known simply as The Navy Hymn, dates back to 1860 when William Whiting wrote it for a student of his about to travel by ship from England to America.

Original verses testified to the protection of God the Father, Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Trinity.

In 1940, the U.S. Episcopal Church rewrote the hymn to include travel on land and in the air.

Many verses have been written since: for Navy SEALs, submariners, astronauts, military families, ship dedications and more.

The following verse was written for Memorial Day:

*We thank you, God, for loved ones dear
Who clung to faith beyond their fear,
Who served and paid the highest price
For freedom bought with sacrifice.
May they remind us of your Son
Whose death our final freedom won.*



As we celebrate Memorial Weekend this month, the unofficial beginning of summer, we are thankful for our wonderful community at NAF El Centro and the many freedoms we enjoy in our land.

Pray for our nation, our President and all in authority, our schools, our work and our families. Especially give thanks for veterans who have served and sacrificed for our country.