

THE SKYLINE



Volume 54, Number 19

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September 15, 2016

On Base...

✓ Storytime

Wednesdays from 10-11 a. m. at the Andrew Triplett Library.

✓ Mountain Bike Race

Sept. 17 from 9-11 a.m. at the Ponta Creek Rec Center. For information, call 601-679-2526.

✓ Family Movie Night

Sept. 17 at Bernath Field. Gates open at 7 p.m.; show starts at dark. Free hot dogs and bottled water (while supplies last.)

✓ Friends of Bill AA Meeting will occur

every Wednesday at the NAS Meridian Chapel at 7 p.m. These are "open" meetings and available to anyone with base access. For information, contact the Chapel at 601-679-3635 or HM1 Bobbi Coleman-Johnson at 601-679-2209.

✓ Parent's Night Out

need to get away? The CDC offers a Parent's Night Out program for eligible parents to take a night off. For information, contact the CDC at 601-679-2625.

A Day in Naval History

Sept. 15

1942 - USS Wasp (CV 7) is torpedoed by a Japanese submarine while operating in the Southwestern Pacific in support of forces on Guadalcanal. USS O'Brien (DD 415) and USS North Carolina (BB 55) are also struck by torpedoes from the same submarine.

1943 - USS Saufley (DD 465) and a Catalina Patrol Bomber piloted by Lt. W. J. Geritz from Patrol Squadron Twenty Three (VP 23) sinks the Japanese submarine RO-101 100 miles southeast of San Cristobal, Solomons.

1950 - During the Korean War, after preliminary naval gunfire and air bombardment on Sept. 13, the First and Fifth Marines go ashore for the Inchon Invasion, which includes US Army and Korean forces.

2012 - USNS Choctaw County (JHSV 2) is christened and launched at Mobile, Ala. The joint high-speed vessel provides rapid transport of military equipment and personnel in theater.

--www.history.navy.mil

"The Skyline" is a Russell Egnor Navy Media Award recipient for Best Metro Newspaper

Investigation of T-45C mishap underway

From Staff Reports

An Aviation Mishap Board (AMB) has been established to determine the cause of the mishap of a T-45C Goshawk that occurred at approximately 1:15 p.m. Sept. 7, on board Naval Air Station Meridian. In addition, a Mishap Investigation Support Team from the Naval Safety Center in Norfolk, Va., is expected to arrive within days to assist the Meridian team.

"The AMB is actively looking at all possible causes of the mishap," said Capt. Paul Carelli, Training Air Wing One commodore. "Efforts to identify the cause of the mishap is of the highest concern for us. We are grateful for the community's concern for the two pilots. They are doing well."

One instructor pilot and one student pilot ejected from the aircraft. They were taken to a local hospital for medical treatment for their injuries and released the same day.

The jet was assigned to Training Squadron Nine which is one of two squadrons that make up Training Air Wing One. It crashed south of the east runway on Navy property during a routine training flight. There was no damage to structures.

"We also applaud the NAS Meridian first responders who were on the scene within minutes of the mishap," Carelli said. "These dedicated men and women controlled the scene and fire caused by the crash."

As a result of the mishap, all jets airborne at the time of the mishap were diverted to Key Field in Meridian, Miss. Training Squadron Nine held a safety stand-down today and will resume flight operations Sept. 9.

The safety investigation report (SIR) is to be submitted within 30 days of the mishap; however, extensions to this can be granted depending upon circumstances. Once submitted, the SIR is reviewed and



Archival photo

The T-45C Goshawk is the primary training platform for strike fighter pilots for the Navy and Marine Corps.

formally endorsed through the chain of command. This process can take several months. The Naval Safety Center is the final endorser of all Class "A" aviation mishaps. The process is not complete until the final

endorsement is completed.

For additional information or updates, contact the Chief of Naval Air Training Command Public Affairs Office at 361-961-3666 or 361-438-7846.

13th MCPON Retires, 14th Takes Charge

By MC1 Martin L. Carey
Office of the MCPON

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Michael D. Stevens was relieved by Fleet Master Chief Steven S. Giordano during his retirement and change of office ceremony held on Washington Navy Yard Sept. 2. Stevens served as the 13th MCPON for the past four years and served over 33 years on active duty.

"I will forever be humbled by the opportunity I was given to serve in the United States Navy and be trusted to lead and advocate for America's greatest treasure -- those that wear the cloth of our nation and have sworn an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic," Stevens said during his speech.

He continued, speaking about his service as the 13th MCPON.

"I've often been asked 'What was your number one goal as the MCPON?' My answer has never changed -- 'As a leader, it has always been my primary goal to establish and maintain the conditions that provide all of our people with the opportunity to be successful. And to do this while treating one another with dignity and respect,'" said Stevens.

He concluded, "Tonight I will remove my uniform for the last time and will not wear it again until my eternal rest -- but I do this with a smile on my face, knowing that I will always be a Sailor that served in the greatest Navy in the world."

After Stevens spoke, he and Giordano conducted the ceremonial 'Passing of the Cutlass,' symbolizing the change of office, and Giordano assuming the title of the 14th MCPON.

Giordano then delivered remarks saying, "Admiral, I am honored to have been afforded this opportunity and it is one I do not take lightly."

He continued, "Now with one foot anchored smartly on the history and heritage of our service, and one foot stepping forward into the future, I look forward to serving this great Navy of ours as the 14th master chief petty officer of the Navy with all the reverence, respect and action incumbent on the office."

Following the ceremony a small reception was held where friends, loved ones and shipmates bid MCPON Mike and Theresa Stevens farewell and welcomed MCPON Steven and Elka Giordano.



Photo by MC1 Martin L. Carey

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Steven right, passes the MCPON cutlass to Steven Giordano during his Change of Office & Retirement Ceremony. Stevens served as the 13th MCPON for four years, and was relieved by FLTCM Steven Giordano.

Chief of Chaplains visits NAS



Photo by MC2 Chris Liaghat

Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben, center, meets with the Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian leadership in the command officer's conference room on board NAS Meridian. The focus of Kibben's visit was to meet with the religious ministry team and spend time with the leadership of NAS Meridian.

Look Inside

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Remembering Sept. 11th



Photo of Week



Photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan

Marines, assigned to 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, fast rope from an MV-22B Osprey, attached to the Flying Tigers of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 262, aboard amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6). Bonhomme Richard, flagship of the Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group, is operating in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations in support of security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

Back to school health risks

The high school years are a critical time of teen development as young people are becoming increasingly independent, trying out new behaviors and activities, and navigating influences from a variety of sources.

Whether to use alcohol and drugs, become sexually active, or practice safe sex are only a few of the choices teens may be facing. Parents, schools, and communities are key sources of support in helping teens establish healthy behaviors now and as they transition into adulthood.

Although the adolescent and teen years are a relatively healthy stage of life, preventable causes of death, illness, and injury still occur during this period.

Unintentional injury, suicide, and homicide are the three leading causes of death in young people aged 10-19. Health risk behaviors such as violence, substance use, and risky sexual behaviors continue to contribute to negative health outcomes in this age group.

Results from the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) found:

- ✓ Nearly half of teens are sexually active, but condom use has decreased from 63% in 2003 to 57% in 2015 putting teens at risk for sexually transmitted diseases.
- ✓ Of those teens who are sexually active, 21% had drunk alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse.
- ✓ Only 10% of teens who reported being sexually active have been tested for HIV in the last 12 months.

Schools play a critical role in promoting the health and safety of young people by helping them learn and establish lifelong healthy behaviors. Research

has shown that school health programs can reduce health risk behaviors among young people and have a positive effect on academic performance.

To help young people develop healthy behaviors, schools can:

- ✓ Conduct standards-based health education that sets expectations for what students should know to protect their health.
- ✓ Provide cost-effective access to school-based health services.
- ✓ Implement school policies and programs designed to create environments that are safe, positive, and supportive of healthy behaviors.

Parents have a strong influence on their teens' lives. Research shows that parent and family involvement can reduce risk behaviors and improve health outcomes across multiple areas, including the age teens start having sex, when and if they exhibit delinquent behavior, and whether or not they engage in alcohol, tobacco, and drug use.

Parents can influence healthy behaviors in teens by:

- ✓ Talking about healthy, respectful relationships.
- ✓ Communicating expectations about relationships and sex.
- ✓ Providing factual information about ways to prevent HIV, STDs, and pregnancy.
- ✓ Focusing on the benefits of protecting oneself from HIV, STDs, and pregnancy.
- ✓ Providing information about how teens can speak with a health care provider and receive sexual health services.

Area Happenings

SEPTEMBER

17: Nickelodeon Day of Play from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Highland Park. Join the City of Meridian Parks and Recreation Department for the annual Nickelodeon Day of Play. Free food, bouncers, games, water slide, prizes and many more fun activities will be available. For information, call 601-485-1806.

17: Bill Bellamy at the Temple Theater at 8 p.m. Tickets starting at \$20; reserved seating. Call 601-693-5353 for more information.

23: 20th Annual EMBDC Golf Classic from 8 a.m-5 p.m. at the Northwood Country Club. Registration is \$100. For information, call 601-693-1306.

OCTOBER

6-11: Meridian Little Theatre presents "The Addams Family." This entertaining musical, from the television classic, lights up the stage as Morticia, Gomez, Uncle Fester, and Lurch put on their macabre best when daughter Wednesday brings home a young suitor from the outside world. For information, call 601-482-6371.

8: Asurion Day of Caring 5k from 8-10 a.m. at the Asurion building at 1701 NEW Way. Come run our challenging course at the Asurion Day of Caring 5k. All proceeds will benefit the Care Lodge. There will be food, door prizes and age group medals. For information, call 601-553-9439.

10-16: Queen City Fair at 5 p.m. at the Lauderdale County Agri-Center. Rides, petting zoo, popcorn, cotton candy, etc. Bring the whole family out for a week of fun. Military discounts available. For information, call 601-482-8498.

25: Meridian Candy Crawl from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on the City hall lawn. The annual Meridian Candy Crawl is moving to City Hall Lawn! Join us for a "kid friendly downtown festival" featuring pony rides, a petting zoo, pirate ship, arts & crafts, costume contest, downtown scavenger hunt, trick or treating and much more! The event is open to children ages 12 & under who are accompanied by a parent or guardian. For information, call 601-485-1944.

27: Melissa Etheridge at the MSU Riley Center, show starts at 7:30 p.m. Known for her confessional lyrics and raspy, smoky vocals, Melissa Etheridge has remained one of America's favorite female singer-songwriters for more than two decades. She has won Grammy Awards for "Ain't It Heavy" and "Come to My Window" and an Academy Award for "I Need to Wake Up." For information, call 601-696-2200.

ONGOING

Earth's Bounty is held the first Saturday of the month from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at Singing Brakeman Park until November.

Farmers Market held every third Saturday of the month from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at Singing Brakeman Park until November. Don't miss the free samples and fresh fruits and vegetables from the vendors. For information, call Ronnie at 601-604-2892.

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group provides emotional, spiritual and practical support to mothers of preschoolers. Expectant mothers and mothers of preschoolers are invited to the meetings on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church. Child care provided for ages newborn to five. Visit us on Facebook at Fifteenth Avenue MOPS for meeting details or call 757-574-2557.

The official U.S. Navy App offers the same of mobile applications that are available to the public for free download on their smartphones or tablet devices.

The first official U.S. Navy App is interactive get the news and information in the hands of our sailors, Navy families and families, on the go.

Versions available for

Customize the app with content important to you!

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Hotlines & Helpful Numbers

SAPR Victim Assistance: 601-604-3037
 SAPR Civilian Victim Assistance: 601-486-3122
 SARC: 601-481-4274
 SAFE Helpline: 877-995-5247
 Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255
 Military OneSource: 800-342-9647
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VT-7 Marine earns volunteer service medal

From Staff reports

In February of 2012, U.S. Marine Capt. Jeremy R. Harbaugh founded Wounded Heroes Hunting Camp (WHHC), an all-volunteer 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to helping wounded combat veterans through their healing process.

"Captain Harbaugh's tireless efforts, dedication, and devotion have made a tremendous impact on our military family and civilian community," said Cmdr. Pavao Huldisch, commanding officer of Training Squadron Seven on board NAS Meridian. "His compassion for wounded heroes is heartfelt and unrivaled. His continued service to WHHC will no doubt help thousands. For his selfless efforts, he is most deserving of the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal."

Its mission is to get wounded heroes involved in the outdoors through hunting and fishing thereby challenging them, empowering them, and enabling them to do the things they love. The organization offers a multitude of all-expense paid trips that focus on uniting fellow wounded combat veterans while on an outdoor adventure. Through this unique healing process, Harbaugh was instrumental in bringing wounded veterans together to create fond memories and build friendships.

Harbaugh has coordinated more than

50 hunting and fishing trips since his organization was founded and has personally participated in 35. He has recruited a dozen volunteers to aid in his outdoor adventures and has orchestrated four large-scale fundraisers in order to provide all-expense paid trips for wounded combat veterans. He has brought attention to his organization through the use of the Wounded Heroes Hunting Camp website, YouTube, and Facebook. His hundreds of hours spent advertising and networking has drawn thousands of dollars in donations, all of which are used to provide future hunting and fishing experiences to wounded combat veterans.

Harbaugh has made a direct impact on nearly 100 wounded veterans. A testimonial posted by one Wounded Hero to the WHHC website after a hunting trip states: "The overall experience with WHHC has helped me to relax physically and mentally with the comradery of other fellow vets," while another testimony thanks Captain Harbaugh, "the founder of this great organization that gave me the opportunity to hunt and meet new people that I now consider friends." Finally, a third testimony says: "With my injuries, the event helped me with my fine motor skills and hand eye coordination." For more info, you can check out his website at www.whhcamp.org.



Submitted Photo

Capt. Jeremy R. Harbaugh, a student aviator assigned to Training Squadron 7, recently received the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal from Cmdr. Pavao Huldisch.

Navy Conducts First Live Fire NIFC-CA Test with F-35

The Navy hosted its first live fire demonstration to successfully test the integration of F-35 with existing Naval Integrated Fire Control-Counter Air (NIFC-CA) architecture Sept. 12.

During the test, an unmodified U.S. Marine Corps F-35B from the Marine Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron (VMX) 1, based in Edwards Air Force Base, acted as an elevated sensor to detect an over-the-horizon threat. The aircraft then sent data through its Multi-Function Advanced Data Link to a ground station connected to USS Desert Ship (LLS-1), a land-based launch facility designed to simulate a ship at sea. Using the latest Aegis Weapon System Baseline 9.C1 and a Standard Missile 6, the system successfully detected and engaged the target.

While the goal of this test was to prove the compatibility of these systems within existing NIFC-CA architecture, this future capability will extend the Navy's engagement range to detect, analyze and intercept targets in operational settings. Using any variant of the F-35 as a broad area sensor, the aircraft can significantly increase the Aegis capability to detect, track and engage.

"This test was a great opportunity to assess the Navy's ability to take unrelated technologies and successfully close the fire control loop as well as merge anti-surface and anti-air weapons into a single kill web that shares common sensors, links and weapons," said Anant Patel, major program manager for future combat systems in the Program Executive Office for Integrated Warfare Systems (PEO IWS).

The test was a collaborative effort across the Navy and Marine Corps, White Sands Missile Range and industry partners leveraging a U.S. Marine Corps F-35B and the U.S. Navy's Aegis Weapon System to support the distributed lethality concept in the fleet.

"This test represents the start of our exploration into the interoperability of the F-35B with other naval assets," said Lt. Col. Richard Rusnok, VMX-1 F-35B det. officer in charge. "We believe the F-35B will drastically increase the situational awareness and lethality of the naval forces with which it will deploy in the very near future," he added.

--From Program Executive Office Integrated Warfare Systems



Navy graphic illustration courtesy of Lockheed Martin

This graphic illustration depicts the U.S. Navy's first live fire demonstration to successfully test the integration of the F-35 with existing Naval Integrated Fire Control-Counter Air (NIFC-CA) architecture. During the test at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, Sept. 12, an unmodified U.S. Marine Corps F-35B acted as an elevated sensor to detect an over-the-horizon threat. The aircraft then sent data through its Multi-Function Advanced Data Link to a ground station connected to USS Desert Ship (LLS 1), a land-based launch facility designed to simulate a ship at sea. Using the latest Aegis Weapon System Baseline 9.C1 and a Standard Missile 6, the system successfully detected and engaged the target.

Presidential Proclamation

PATRIOT DAY AND NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE, 2016

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Fifteen years ago, nearly 3,000 innocent lives men, women, and children who had been going about their normal routines were taken from us, depriving families and loved ones of a lifetime of precious moments. But the acts of terror of September 11, 2001, sought to do more than hurt our people and bring down buildings: They sought to break our spirit and destroy the enduring values that unite us as Americans. In the years that followed, our capacity to love and to hope has guided us forward as we worked to rebuild, more sound and resilient than ever before. With the hearts of those we lost held faithfully in our memories, we reaffirm the unwavering optimism and everlasting strength that brought us together in our darkest hour, and we resolve to give of ourselves in service to others in that same spirit.

The pain inflicted on our Nation on September 11 was felt by people of every race, background, and faith. Though many young Americans have grown up without knowing firsthand the horrors of that day, their lives have been shaped by it. They hear of the many acts of service that occurred coworkers who led others to safety, passengers who stormed a cockpit, and first responders who charged directly into the fire. Many Americans did everything they could to help survivors, from volunteering their time to donating food, clothing, and blood. And many signed up to don our Nation's uniform to prove to the world that no act of terror could eclipse the strength or character of our country.

United by a common creed, a commitment to lifting up our neighbors, and a belief that we are stronger when we stand by one another, we must find the courage to carry forward the legacy of those who stepped up in our time of need. By devoting ourselves to each other and recognizing that we are a part of something bigger than ourselves just as heroic patriots did on September 11 we are paying tribute to their sacrifices. On this National Day of Service and Remembrance, we must ensure that darkness is no match for the light we shine by engaging in acts of service and charity. I invite all Americans to observe this day with compassionate and selfless deeds that embody the values that define our people, and to visit www.Serve.gov to find opportunities to give back to their communities.

America endures in the tenacity of our survivors, and in the dedication of those who keep us safe. Today, we honor all who lost their lives in the heartbreaking attacks of September 11, and all who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country in the years that followed. In memory of these beautiful souls, we vow to keep moving forward. Let us have confidence in the values that make us American, the liberties that make us a beacon to the world, and the unity we sustain every year on this anniversary. Above all, let us stand as strong as ever before and recognize that together, there is nothing we cannot overcome.

By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), the Congress has designated September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day," and by Public Law 111-13, approved April 21, 2009, the Congress has requested the observance of September 11 as an annually recognized "National Day of Service and Remembrance."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2016, as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance. I call upon all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the United States to display the flag of the United States at half-staff on Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. I invite the Governors of the United States and its Territories and interested organizations and individuals to join in this observance. I call upon the people of the United States to participate in community service in honor of those our Nation lost, to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, including remembrance services, and to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time to honor the innocent victims who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.

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NAS Meridian NMCRS

Office is open

Tuesdays from

8 a.m.-noon &

Thursdays

from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Call 601-679-2504.

Administration Building

255, Suite 283

•••••

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Scholarship contest is open to all middle school and high school students.

Themes this year are:

Middle School "The America I Believe In" High School: "My Responsibility to America."

Deadline is Nov. 1.

Contact VFW Post 12124 at 601-282-5866 for more information. Applications can be found at <http://www.vfw.org/Youth/>

A historic perspective of Admiral James Farragut

The Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment are illustrated through the story of a pioneer Navy Sailor, Admiral David Farragut.

In addition to being the first full admiral of the Navy, David Farragut is also known as one of the Navy's greatest. While his career is a hallmark of Navy history, his background is often overlooked.

Admiral Farragut's father, Jordi Farragut Mesquida, was from Minorca, Spain and was the captain of a Spanish merchant ship. This ship was operating around the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico when the United States declared its independence from Britain in 1776. After Spain announced its support of the United States, Jordi changed his name to a more Anglican moniker, George Farragut. He then enlisted as a lieutenant in the South Carolina Navy and went on to serve with great distinction. During his career, he married and had a son, James Farragut.

After losing his wife to yellow fever in 1808, George called on his friend and fellow Navy Officer, David Porter, to help with family matters. Since he felt that he was unable to care for a small child, George Farragut asked Commodore Porter if he could take his son to raise him as his own. His friend agreed, and in 1809, James Farragut was adopted into his new family. Immediately, Commodore Porter introduced the eight-year-old Farragut to the Navy. James went to sea with his newly adopted father and received his first naval appointment to midshipman one year later at the very young age of 9. At this time, James changed his name to David to show respect for his new family.

After Commodore Farragut's astonishing victory over the Confederate Navy in New Orleans on April 28, 1862, the United States Navy honored him by creating the rank of rear admiral. It was on June 16, 1862, that David Farragut became Rear Admiral Farragut. He went on to support the Union campaign at Vicksburg and was instrumental in the success of securing the Mississippi River fort, Port Hudson, from the Confederates.

In 1864, Admiral Farragut displayed his tenacity in battle by confronting the last Confederate stronghold of the Gulf of Mexico, Mobile Bay. As his armada arrived in the bay, they were met with mines anchored to the sea bottom, known as torpedoes. One of his ships, the *Tecumseh*, struck a mine and sunk immediately. The entire armada came to a halt. Understanding the importance of moving forward in battle, he uttered his famous words, "Damn the torpedoes, all ahead full." Inspired by his bravado, the armada steamed through the mines and won a decisive victory. For his efforts, the Navy again created a new rank, vice admiral, to which he was appointed.

His promotions were not finished, however, because shortly after the war, President Lincoln promoted Farragut to the newly created rank of full admiral.

Admiral David Farragut died in 1870 and received a hero's farewell. His funeral procession, escorted by 10,000 Soldiers and Sailors, was led by Ulysses S. Grant through the streets of New York.

-- From Naval History and Heritage Command



Photos from Naval History and Heritage Command

The Battle of Mobile Bay.

HISPANIC AMERICANS IN THE U.S. NAVY

1861-1865

REUNITING THE NATION

Decades of westward expansion prior to the period of domestic tragedy resulted in increased numbers of Hispanic Americans in uniform serving both the Union and Confederate navies.

During the Civil War, David G. Farragut, son of Jorge Farragut, rose to prominence to become America's greatest naval officer of the 19th century and the Navy's first full admiral. During the Battle of Mobile Bay in August 1864, he commanded his force while lashed to the rigging high in the mainmast of his flagship. Amidst the clash of arms, he witnessed his fleet fight past the guns of the Confederate-held Fort Morgan, guarding the bay's entrance.

When the skipper of the lead ship in the column reported a line of enemy torpedoes blocking the channel, Farragut bellowed the order "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" his flagship USS *Hartford* led the rest of the ships into Mobile Bay, securing a storied victory in American naval history.

Admiral David Glasgow Farragut

Born in eastern Tennessee, Farragut joined the Navy at age nine in 1815, and served continuously until 1873. Promoted to Rear Admiral in 1862 amidst the Civil War, by 1864 Farragut was proclaimed the victor of New Orleans and the Battle of Mobile Bay. In 1865, Congress and the President made Farragut a full admiral, equivalent to a four-star admiral today, the first in the nation's history.

Seaman John Ortega

The first Hispanic sailor awarded the Medal of Honor, Ortega emigrated from Spain before the Civil War and resided in Pennsylvania. Assigned to the USS *Saratoga*, he participated in raiding parties in Charleston, South Carolina in August-September 1864. For his valor in capturing prisoners and destroying Confederate war supplies, he received the nation's highest honor.

Shop, drop and enroll

"Three decorative pillows or just two?" my daughter Anna asked in front of a colorful display of bedding at a local Homegoods store. It was 7:00pm, and we had been shopping since the stores opened that morning.

COLUMN



Lisa Smith Molinari

The first place we stopped was the Apple Store, where I spent over a thousand bucks in less than 15 minutes buying Anna a new laptop that was required for her major. After that we hit Zara, H&M, Macy's, JC Penny, Target, Walmart, Bed Bath & Beyond, JoAnn Fabrics, TJ Maxx and Homegoods.

"What's another \$20 bucks at this point?" I replied to Anna in utter defeat and near starvation. "Definitely get three."

Two weeks later, we pulled up to her dorm at Syracuse University, our mini-van packed to the gills with fluffy new bedding, posters, a clip on lamp, school supplies, a throw rug, a shower caddy, towels, a desk set, a fan, pop-up laundry bins, six months worth of toiletries, various snacks, cases of bottled water, a microwave, a coffee maker, and yes, three decorative pillows.

Happy, helpful sophomores garbed in blazing orange, whose parents had been victims of "The Dorm Room Shakedown" the previous year, were awaiting our arrival with huge rolling bins to cart thousands of dollars worth of unnecessary products up to assigned rooms.

"Hi!" they shouted with rehearsed enthusiasm, shaking us out of our road trip stupor, "I'm Sean/Cassandra/Matt! I'd love to help you move in!" They filled two of the rolling carts to capacity, then guided us like sheep to slaughter to the dorm elevators.

In the newfangled co-ed hallway, Anna found her room, which was a "split double" — one room separated down the middle by a wall of closets and dressers.

This gave Anna and her roommate their own private spaces within one room.

Anna's roommate had already moved in, and her side was so spectacular, it looked like something straight out of a Pottery Barn catalogue. We stared at her shabby chic bedside table, complete with a vase of peonies and a trendy mirrored lamp. There were whitewashed faux ironwork wallhangings, cool enlarged letters, clear canisters filled whimsically with popcorn and pretzels. Her rug was larger, her bed risers were higher, and she had way more than three decorative pillows.

Concerned that Anna's room would look a cell at Rikers Island by comparison, we quickly unloaded everything we'd already purchased, and left to find the nearest Target. Two-hundred more bucks later, we added modern shelving, storage bins, two strings of twinkle lights, curtains, a coat rack, hangers, plastic drawers and a bowl of fresh fruit.

While Anna and I scrambled to decorate, Francis retreated to the busy co-ed hallway. "Eyes forward!" we heard him bark in military fashion when passing boys tried to sneak a peak at his daughter.

Before saying good-bye to Anna the next day, we all went to her dining hall to take advantage of the free lunch offered to new parents. I contemplated filling my purse with chicken tenders to supplement the beans and rice we'd be eating at home for the next six months, but selected a modest plateful of quinoa-spinach-mango salad and coconut shrimp instead.

"You know, Anna," Francis said between mouthfuls of made-to-order chicken salad panini, "when I went to college, all I brought was the blue quilt off my bed and a Journey poster. And our dining hall only had things like casseroles and meatloaf. Do you have any idea how lucky you are?"

Looking confused, Anna chomped her gourmet veggie pizza, and said, "Want anything from the Froyo Bar?"

When it was all said and done, Anna's room looked better than the hotel room we stayed in at the Syracuse Holiday Inn, and had much better coffee. But then again, our hotel was only \$100 with our military discount. I guess the old adage is true: you get what you pay for.

Or in this case, your college kids get what you pay for.

Change to NEX layaway policy

The NEX has made a change to its popular layaway policy. The amount of time clothing and shoes may be put on layaway has increased from 45 to 90 days. The policy still requires equal payments to be made every 15 days. Customers may take their layaway purchase home once the items are paid in full.

A minimum deposit of 10 percent of the purchase price plus a \$5 non-refundable layaway fee is required when merchandise is put on layaway. Layaway cancellations will incur an additional charge of \$5. Some NEXs must limit the type or number of items permitted on layaway due to space constraints.

General merchandise may be put on layaway up to 90 days with equal payments required every 15 days. Jewelry and watches with a single item retail price of \$500 or more may be put on layaway for up to 180 days with equal payments required every 15 days. Computers, tablets, monitors, digital cameras, peripheral computer equipment, software and video games are not permitted on layaway. Clothing on clearance with prices ending in .96 is not authorized for layaway. However, sale priced clothing ending in .97 is permitted on layaway.

More Van Drivers Needed!



Driving Veterans to VA Hospital in Jackson, MS

WHEN: Leave Meridian at 8:00 a.m., Mondays through Thursdays

WHERE: To the VA Hospital in Jackson, MS; Free Lunch; and Leave Jackson about 2:00 p.m. back to Meridian

WHO: Licensed drivers who care about our Veterans

PROVIDED at No Charge: Free Physical, Driving Orientation, VA Hospital Orientation and basic Background Check

CONTACT: Ken Storms at 601-527-8885 or krstorms5496@gmail.com or Ricky Nelson at 601-917-1007 for details

Sponsored By



Pfc. Lance Rasa
MATSS-1 Student
Hometown: Saipan.

OOORAH!

Pfc. Grace Anttila
MATSS-1 Student
Hometown: New Orleans.

Pfc. Lance Rasa enjoys training and playing guitar. "My brother inspired me to play the guitar," said Rasa. "I always followed in his footsteps during my early teens."

Rasa joined the Marine Corps on Nov. 3, 2015. He wanted to join the military for a long time and was eager to be part of the Marine Corps.

Rasa also said joining the military will help in his goal of becoming a federal detective. A very memorable experience for Rasa was his first day at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot. "I'm from a small island," said Rasa. "It was a huge culture shock."

In his career Rasa is looking forward to learning more about his job and the unexpected opportunities to come that he believes will make him part of something greater.



Pfc. Grace Anttila enjoys long walks around base and listening to music. "It's DMX or Tupac at the gym or mellowing out while I study to Marvin Gaye, Johnny Cash or Dean Martin," said Anttila.

Anttila joined the Marine Corps on Dec. 3, 2015. "I was fortunate to meet some outstanding mentors," said Anttila. "Retired Col. Dell Dempsey, 1st Lt. Karen Holliday and Col. Gary Lynard were the three people who motivated me to enlist."

A very memorable experience for Anttila was receiving her eagle, globe, and anchor and training with her instructor Staff Sgt. Amy White.

The people that inspired her most were her grandparents who were married for 71 years before her grandmother passed away in January.

Marine F-35 operational tests increase combat capability

Three F-35B aircraft and 75 U.S. Marines from Marine Operational Test & Evaluation Squadron 1 F-35B Detachment at Edwards Air Force Base, CA, along with 21 test personnel from the JSF Operational Test Team at Edwards deployed to Eglin AFB, FL., from August 9 to September 1, 2016 to complete Operational Test missile shots of the AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile.

These employment scenarios differed from those conducted in Developmental Test in that they were specifically designed around operational employment scenarios with the aim of further validating and developing tactics, techniques, and procedures for all three variants of the F-35.

"Due to the commonality of the F-35 mission systems and weapons, everything we learned during this detachment directly translates to combat capabilities for the Marine Corps, our sister services, and partner countries," Lt. Col. Richard Rusnok, VMX-1 F-35B Detachment Officer-in-Charge, said of the test missile shoot.

The detachment completed multiple engineering runs in preparation for the expenditure of five AIM-120 missiles and one

Guided Bomb Unit-12 LASER guided bomb. The operational test team developed complex air-to-air and air-to-ground scenarios and the F-35 weapons system performed as expected to deliver weapons on target. On day one of live fire testing, the team was able to shoot two missiles on two separate test set-ups within 12 minutes – an exceptional level of efficiency in a test environment. Another test mission involved an F-35B dropping a GBU-12 and supporting it with LASER guidance while simultaneously engaging a QF-16 drone. Both weapons successfully guided to their targets.

"This was a phenomenally successful deployment that was made possible by the close coordination between the JSF Operational Test Team, U.S. Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and industry," Rusnok said.

During the past year, VMX-1's F-35B Detachment has been involved in multiple high profile events including:

- ✓ Block 2B, 3i, and 3F Developmental Test support
- ✓ Block 2B Air-to-Surface Weapon Delivery Evaluation
- ✓ Global Position System testing
- ✓ A deployment to the United



Photo Marines.mil

An F-35B Lightning II with Marine Operational Test & Evaluation Squadron 1 fires an AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile during U.S. Marine F-35B operational tests.

Kingdom in support of the Royal International Air Tattoo and Farnborough International Air show

- Upcoming events for VMX-1's F-35B Detachment include:
- ✓ Naval Integrated Fire Control – Counter Air testing
 - ✓ Developmental Test Period 3 aboard USS AMERICA

"I want to congratulate the VMX-1 / JOTT team that did a

magnificent job planning and executing this OT missile shoot," Col. George Rowell, VMX-1 commanding officer said. "It is a huge achievement for the squadron and the F-35B program. We look forward to many more opportunities to provide positive impact."

Marine Operational Test & Evaluation Squadron 1 is charged with testing the full range of Marine Aviation Combat Ele-

ment (ACE) Operational Test and Evaluation including MV-22, CH-53E/K, F-35B, UH-1Y, AH-1W/Z, Command and Control Systems, and Unmanned Aerial Systems. VMX-1 is headquartered at MCAS Yuma, AZ, with detachments at Marine Corps Air Station New River, NC; West Palm Beach, FL; and Edwards AFB, CA VMX-1 was formerly called VMX-22.

--From Headquarters Marine Corps

PACIFIC OCEAN

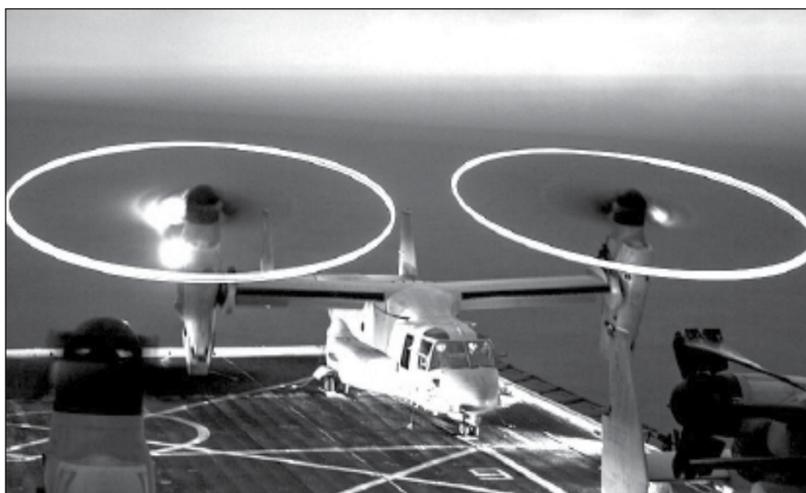


Photo by Sgt. Carlos Cruz, Jr.

A U.S. Marine MV-22 Osprey does a functions check during WESTPAC 16-2 aboard the USS New Orleans, at Sea. Following its development as the world's first production tilt-rotor aircraft, the MV-22B has not only emerged as a safe and reliable aircraft, with 242 operating around the globe today, but continues to transform the way the Marine Corps conducts assault support.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



Photo by Cpl. Chris Garcia

The Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon performs during the opening ceremony of Marine Week Nashville in Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 7. Marine Week is a chance to reconnect our Marines, Sailors, veterans and their families from different generations.

Safety & Energy Efficiency is Our Duty

Efficient personal vehicles

Electric vehicles are just one option for buyers interested in fuel efficient or alternative fuel vehicles.

When purchasing a vehicle, consider fuel efficient and alternative fuel vehicles. Use the tips and tools below to select the right vehicle for you, and to get the most out of your purchase.

Choose your vehicle according to your need. For example, if you mostly drive in cities, a smaller hybrid might be right for you because it gets better mileage in city driving and is easier to park. If you have more than one vehicle available to you, drive the most fuel-efficient vehicle whenever possible.

If you need a vehicle for towing or heavy use, consider a clean diesel vehicle. Diesel engines are more powerful and 30-35 percent more efficient than similar-sized gasoline engines.

New diesel engines are much smoother and quieter than their pre-

decessors. The new generation of clean diesel vehicles must meet the same emissions standards as gasoline vehicles. Drivers of diesel vehicles can be even more sustainable by fueling up with a biodiesel blend.

All manufacturers allow the use of B5 (diesel with up to 5 percent biodiesel) and some accept the use of B20 (diesel with up to 20 percent biodiesel).

Many vehicles produced by U.S. auto manufacturers are flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs), which can run on E85 (up to 85 percent ethanol, 15 percent gasoline) and other ethanol-gasoline blends. Check your owner's manual to find out if your vehicle is an FFV.

Consider buying a highly fuel-efficient vehicle. A fuel-efficient, hybrid electric, plug-in electric, or other alternative fuel vehicle could cut your fuel costs and help the environment.

Hurricane & Tornado Fire Safety

A wide range of natural disasters occur within the United States every year. Natural disasters can have a devastating effect on you and your home. While we are in the middle of hurricane season which runs from 1 June-30 November each year, the NAS Meridian Fire Department encourages you to use the following safety tips to help protect yourself, your family and your home from the potential threat of fire during or after a tornado or hurricane. You can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a fire casualty by being able to identify potential hazards and following the outlined safety tips.

Some Types of Fire Related Hazards Present During and After a Tornado or Hurricane:

- Leaking gas lines, damaged or leak-

ing gas propane containers and leaking vehicle gas tanks may explode or ignite.

- Debris can easily ignite, especially if electrical wires are severed.
- Pools of water and even appliances can be electrically charged.
- Generators are often used during power outages. Generators that are not properly used and maintained can be very hazardous.
- Alternative heating devices used incorrectly create fire hazards. Proper use and maintenance can decrease the possibility of a fire.
- Appliances that emit smoke or sparks should be repaired or replaced.

If you have any questions, please contact the NAS Meridian Fire Department at 601-679-2589.





Sports

Captain's Cup
Flag Football
 Registration: Aug. 30 - Sept. 28
 Season Begins Oct. 3
 Games will be played on Mondays & Thursdays
 Players need to register online @
www.navywmrmeridian.com

NAVY RECREATION **Captain's Cup** **NAVY FITNESS**
Paintball Tournament
 Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016 - 10am Start
 \$5 Field Fee plus Paint
 Teams will consist of 5 players. Play format will be "Capture the Flag". Register before 10/3/16 by calling 601-679-2379

Get Prizes for doing cardio. **100 Mile Club**
 100 miles T-Shirt
 500 miles Ball Cap
 1,000 miles Gym Bag
Are You A Member?
 Track your progress at the Fitness Center!

500 lb & 1,000 lb Club
 For info please see the fitness center or
 call (601) 679-2379

Upcoming at The Fitness Center

To sign up for Captain's Cup sports, please go to navymwrmeridian.com.

Under the Fitness tab, Click on:

1. Intramural Sports then
2. Click appropriate link, The Team Captain(s) will need to enter Names, emails and phone numbers for everyone on the team.

Fright Night Halloween 5K
 October 29, 2016
 7pm at the Ponce Creek Community Rec Complex
 Register Online at www.navywmrmeridian.com
 until October 28, 2016, 12:00pm

NAVY FITNESS
 SPONSORED BY
 USAA

September Group Exercise Schedule

All Group Exercise Classes are held in the Multi-Use room of the Fitness Center and is first-come, first-serve, with no registration required. FREE to all authorized patrons. For info call 601.679.2379

Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6am-7am		Fusion Wellbeats™	Stomp Wellbeats™	Fit 4 Duty Wellbeats™	Stomp Wellbeats™	Fusion Wellbeats™	
7:30-8:30am		Stomp Wellbeats™	REV Wellbeats™	Vibe Wellbeats™	REV Wellbeats™	Stomp Wellbeats™	
9am-10am		Anything Goes Erin	Anything Goes Erin	Anything Goes Erin	Anything Goes Erin	Anything Goes Erin	
11am-12pm		HIIT Erin	HIIT Erin	HIIT Erin	HIIT Erin	HIIT Erin	
11am-12pm		REV Wellbeats™	REV Wellbeats™	REV Wellbeats™	REV Wellbeats™	REV Wellbeats™	
12pm-1pm	Rev Wellbeats™						Stomp Wellbeats™
1pm-2pm		TKO Wellbeats™	Vibe Wellbeats™	TKO Wellbeats™	Vibe Wellbeats™	TKO Wellbeats™	
3pm-4pm	Fusion Wellbeats™						REV Wellbeats™
8pm-9pm		REV Wellbeats™	REV Wellbeats™		REV Wellbeats™		

Naval Medicine leader in financial management

By Mariah Felipe

U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery public affairs

Navy Medicine was recognized as a leader in financial management at an awards ceremony Aug. 30.

Dr. Susan Rabern, assistant secretary of the Navy (ASN) financial management and comptroller (FM&C), presented Navy Medicine's financial management team with seven out of 28 ASN (FM&C) awards for the 2015 fiscal year at the Pentagon.

"These awards demonstrate the high caliber and creativity of our financial management workforce," Rabern said.

Lisa St. Andre, director of business operations, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), accepted the awards on behalf of the Navy Medicine financial management team.

"The awards our team received this year confirm that we have a group of truly incredible people around the globe who are doing their absolute best to support the warfighter," St. Andre said. "Our team is focused on ensuring that our medical personnel have what they need to provide the best care we can offer to our Sailors and Marines. That focus is what really drives our team to continue to do the

phenomenal work that they do."

ASN (FM&C) selected the Navy Medicine team for their management and oversight of contract close-out controls and procedures. Navy Medicine was recognized in all other categories including audit, budget and execution, financial management certification, as well as outstanding trainee.

Samuel Fontanez-Berrios, BUMED's Financial Management Career Program (FMCP) trainee, was recognized as one of three outstanding FMCP trainees in the Navy. The recent graduate was given the opportunity to rotate among different Navy organizations to give him a better understanding and insight into how the Navy's financial management and comptroller system operates.

"What set me apart was being ready to lead and contribute to special projects, always meeting deadlines and staying focused on doing the right thing and ensuring the organizational audit is ready, not only at BUMED, but wherever I was," Fontanez-Berrios said.

"Our team consistently performs in these categories because we're focused on audit readiness," said David Howell, deputy director of financial



Photo by Jacob Sippel

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Lyndon Acosta, left, a surgical technician at Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville, prepares surgery sutures during a total hysterectomy procedure at the hospital. NH Jacksonville's priority since its founding in 1941 is to heal the nation's heroes and their families.

policy and internal controls at BUMED. "Audit readiness is critical not only for our leadership or our command, but also for our Sailors and Marines out in the fleet."

Navy Medicine is a global health care network of 63,000 personnel that provides health care support to the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, their families and veterans in high opera-

tional tempo environments, at expeditionary medical facilities, medical treatment facilities, hospitals, clinics, hospital ships and research units around the world.

Sale... Or

BOATS/CAMPERS/TRAILERS

1983 McGregor Sailboat, 22', 10 HP outboard, all rigging and hardware, custom built trailer. \$4,000. Call 601-513-6374.

1996 Ragin Cajun Bass Boat, 200hp Mariner, Loran depth finder and a GPS/depth finder duel livewells mortar guide trolling motor. Runs great and fast. \$4,500. Seats in good condition. Call Clint 601-479-7043.

2006 Fleetwood Discovery 39 ft. 3 slide, Cat Diesel, motor home. New tires & A/C, "fully equipped," original owners, non-smokers. Serious Inquiries Only. Will e-mail pictures, full information or set appointment to see RV call 601-479-6145.

MOTORCYCLES/GEAR/ATV

1994 Honda Goldwing \$3,200. Call Greg at 601-490-

3835. **2010 Honda Sabre** very direct drive, less than 10k miles. Sale includes trailer ready cover and two sets of keys. Asking \$8K (negotiable). Serious inquiries only. Call 301-919-7972.

2004 Honda TRX450R four wheeler \$2600, **2005 Honda TRX250EX** four wheeler \$1600, **2002 Yamaha TTR-125L** dirt bike \$800, and **2006 KTM 250SX-F** dirt bike \$2200. All in good shape ready to go. Overseas move forcing sale. Make offer ready to deal! Call Ben at 843-597-4221.

AUTOMOBILES, ETC.

2006 Corvette 52k miles unique color and accessories. Asking \$23,000. Call 850-797-9462.

2006 Saturn Ion 52k miles looks great drives like new 5,000. Call Greg at 601-490-

3835. **1991 Corvette Coupe**, white, red leather interior, 6-speed manual, ZR-1 wheels with extra wheel and tire, two tops. 89k miles. Call 601-917-9181.

2008 Jeep Liberty, 75k miles, 4-wheel drive, automatic, has a roof rack and a tow hitch, as well as skylight. V6, 3.7 liter, 4-spd w/over-drive. \$13,000, negotiable. Call 434-604-0428. Text for photos or Carfax report.

HOMES/APARTMENTS

New! For Rent: 3 BD/2BA 1800 sq. ft. 3205 10th Ave. 15 minutes from NAS Meridian. \$1,200 per month; \$500 refundable deposit; pet deposit required. Call Ralph at 702-769-9121.

For Rent: 3 BD/2BA home located in military-friendly neighborhood only 15 minutes from NAS. Nice fenced

yard, non-smoker and no pets. Home available Sept. 1. Asking \$1,200 per month; \$1,000 refundable deposits. Call 601-227-1493.

For Rent: 2BD/1BA mobile home at Dalewood. Very peaceful and quiet; 100 ft. of water frontage. Call 601-683-6038.

For Sale: 4BD/4BA home -- includes guest house. 2017 sq. ft. remodeled (interior/main home) in 2010. Poplar Springs School District -- currently rents for \$550/month. 2714 45th Street, Meridian. Asking \$196,000. Call Matt at 601-527-2741

For Rent: 4BD/2BA in West Lauderdale school district. All New paint, all new carpet & tile flooring. Brand new farmhouse style kitchen with open floor plan. Call 601-934-9161.

For Sale: Home in the Meridian downtown area, 2

story, approximately 2800 sf, 3 BD/2 BA. Call John at 228-380-1139.

For Sale: 4BD/2 full BA, very quiet settled neighborhood, Poplar Springs School District - Meridian. Asking \$90,000 as is and will accept serious offers. Contact Betty-alford@outlook.com or 601-527-5244.

For Rent: 4 BD/3 BA located home on Windmill Drive about 10 minutes from NAS. Split bedroom plan with two master bedrooms. \$1300 a month/\$1300 deposit. Call 601-227-1493. Family or multiple single individuals will be accepted.

For Sale: 3 BD/2 BA, 1500 sq. ft. brick home with carport and outbuildings. Additional carport and plenty of room to build on adjacent lot. Located at 3678 North Lake Dr. across from Little Beach. Call 870-223-3197.

For Sale by Owner: 3 BD/2 BA, 2100 square feet living area, 900 square feet basement. 3 acres of land. Call 601-490-0692 before 7 p.m. for details.

For Sale: 3 BD ranch-style home on 1.3 acres, finished basement. Lots of room to roam. \$89,000 Call Bill at 601-681-6609 or 601-481-5124.

MISCELLANEOUS

New! AKC Lab puppies for sale. They are up to date on shots and wormer. Two males left with great bloodlines; asking \$200 each. Call Brandon at 601-934-1016.

To submit an item to the "Sale...Or" column, e-mail adam.prince@navy.mil. Deadline is the Thursday prior to publication.

Listings in the "Sale...Or" column are free for anyone who works at NAS Meridian. You can purchase an ad for a business or organization in "The Skyline," by calling The Meridian Star at 601-693-1551 -- ask for Elizabeth or email: advertising@themeridianstar.com

American connections outreach program surpasses 100 million impressions in 2016

By MC2 Brian T. Glunt
Navy Office of Community Outreach

The Navy's American Connections Media Outreach Program, which this year replaced and modernized the legacy Fleet Home Town News (FHTN) Program, passed a major milestone last month, eclipsing 100 million media impressions for the year.

Media impressions indicate the potential reach of a story or photo appearing in print, broadcast, online or social media, among an audience of readers, viewers or listeners, according to the Public Relations Society of America. While not an exact predictor of readership or viewership, it is considered a public relations industry standard for measuring an audience's exposure to a piece of content.

The program, announced via NAVADMIN 148/16, was established to share the Navy story in media across the country serving markets which generally do not receive Navy news and information. It leverages Sailors' local connections to communities across America—hometown, location of high school or college attended, a family member's hometown, etc.—as well as the relationships that exist between Navy units and their namesake cities and states, to ensure Americans throughout the country understand their Navy, its mission and its contribution to national security.

"I'm proud of the milestone not for the number, but for the fact that it means that potentially 100 million Americans know more about their Navy because of a story they read or saw about a local Sailor," said Cmdr. John Gay, director of the Navy Office of Community Outreach (NAVCO), the activity that administers the program. "Because the Navy is concentrated largely on the coasts, getting news and information about the Navy into markets like Detroit or Kansas City is a challenge. By leveraging the ties our Sailors and our ships have to cities and states across the country, their American Connections, we can share the Navy story nationwide."

The American Connections Media Outreach Program has three primary components.

The first, NAVCO's Fleet Content Sharing Service, ensures that thousands of high-quality stories and photos produced for official Navy outlets each year are shared with civilian media. NAVCO has a team of specialists who search dozens of Navy web sites and other products, find stories and photos, identify local connections or name-



Photo from outreach.navy.mil

The Navy's American connections outreach program offers media outreach services designed to tell the Navy story through the eyes of individual Sailors by leveraging local ties, such as hometown, high school, college and family members.

sake ties and distribute them to media across the country. The key, NAVCO officials say, is the identification of local ties, such as a hometown, in all stories and photo captions submitted to official Navy media outlets. While NAVCO reviews photos and stories shared with Navy.mil, DVIDS and many other sources, commands are also encouraged to include navyoutreach@navy.mil when distributing photos and stories.

"It is great to hear and see the photos I take end up around the country," said USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Seaman Jamaal Liddell, from Jacksonville, Florida. "It is even better to let the person in the photo know that their parents got to see their photo because the local media was able to get their hands on the photo through the NAVCO program."

Under the second component, Media Production Visits, NAVCO deploys small production teams to commands to produce feature stories and accompanying photos on assigned Sailors. The stories are provided to the local media outlets where Sailors have local connections and posted on the NAVCO's media outreach blog, www.navyoutreach.blogspot.com. The blog makes it easy for Sailors to share

their stories using their own social media networks. NAVCO also provides each participating command with detailed media feedback reports with links to all coverage.

"Please continue your good work writing stories about enlisted personnel; it means a lot to families," said Arthur Biladeau in an email to NAVCO. His son, Missile Technician 1 Adam Biladeau, serves at the Strategic Weapons Facility, Atlantic in Kings Bay, Georgia, and was featured in a story that appeared in his hometown newspaper in Villa Park, Illinois.

The third component is NAVCO's Media Advisory Service, which preserves a popular capability from the legacy FHTN program, allowing Sailors to receive recognition in local media when they receive awards, earn qualifications, retire, reenlist, get promoted or reach other career milestones.

Since its inception, the American Connections Media Outreach Program has shared more than 14,000 stories, photos and other products with media across the United States, according to NAVCO officials.

For more information about NAVCO and the American Connections Program visit www.outreach.navy.mil.

Saint Patrick Catholic School
est. 1874
www.stpatrickcatholicschool.org
2700 Davis Street, Meridian
601-482-6044

On July 27, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) informed the Civilian Benefits Center (CBC) that there was a system error affecting some, but not all, employees regarding their life insurance premium deductions. The system error has been fixed.

Two types of errors were identified:

- Overpayment of premiums. These employees will receive a notice that they are owed a refund for the life insurance premiums during all or part of the period from Aug. 17 2008 to April 2 2016.
- Underpayment of premiums. These employees will receive a notice that they owe additional premiums and therefore incurred a debt for the period from April 3 to July 25 2016.

Affected employees with a government email address will receive an email notification regarding this matter. If an incurred debt is \$50.00 or more, those employees without a government email address will be notified via mail. In all cases the employee's Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) will reflect the refund or an indebtedness amount.

All employees should carefully review their LES and note any references regarding this matter in the "Notes/Remarks" section.

Logos for WMBN 24, FOX 30, WMBN 30, UNCE 24, COZI 24, MERIDIAN STAR.

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Honoring Outstanding Teachers and Educators in East Mississippi and West Alabama

Golden Apple Award

Do you have a teacher who has made an impact on you or your child's life?
Do you have a teaching colleague whose style you admire?
Nominate them for the Golden Apple Award! Then, encourage others to do the same!
Nominations may be submitted by students, parents, faculty, or community members.

Nominees must be someone employed full-time in the K-12 education field (public or private) within the following counties: Lauderdale, Neshoba, Kemper, Clarke, Newton, Choctaw & Sumner

Logos for SNEPA, Citizens National Bank, MISSISSIPPI POWER, Woodstock Furniture, AOTECH COMPUTERS, RICHARD SCHWARTZ & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

LaBiche Jewelers * John O'Neil Johnson Toyota
Southern Pipe and Supply * Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling Company

To nominate a teacher, log on to wmdn.net, wgbctv.com, goldenappleawards.com or meridianstar.com

NAS Meridian CSADD chapter meets every Thursday at 2:15 p.m. in the Air Operations conference room. CSADD is the Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions. It is for the Sailors by the Sailors. Topics discussed include drug abuse, suicide prevention, drinking and driving, and much more. CSADD is open to all E5 and below.

Off limits establishments in Meridian:

- The Underground, 1310 Bonita Lakes Circle
- Meridian Underground Music Exchange, 2220 8th Street
- Club Flame Throwers, 276 Hawkins Crossing
- Club Fusion, 1644 32nd Street

IT'S YOUR TURN...

This week we asked, "What is the significance of 9/11 to you?"

By MC2 Chris Liaghat



HR Tatiana Rivera
Dental Tech at NBHC
"9/11 showed us as a country the significance of coming together."



Lt. Joshua Ross
FEAD Director at NAVFAC SE, PWD
"It united Americans from every background and reminded everyone of the constant threat."



YNSN Ramel Bowman
NTTC student
"It brought a sense of pride to me after the attacks; our country came together to rebuild."



LSSN Dennis Chavez
NTTC student
"It shows how in a time of chaos Americans from different ethnicity can come together."



Pfc. John Callender
MATTS-1 student
"To me, the event made us realize how much we needed to come together as a country."

Fleet & Family Support Center**Suicide prevention**

When someone close to you says they are thinking of committing suicide, it can be deeply troubling and difficult to know how to respond. Part of you may want to comfort the person, and another part of you may feel angry that he or she is considering such a thing. You may feel scared that you'll say the wrong thing.

Learning the facts about suicide -- and the warning signs -- can help you recognize when and how to get the help your loved one needs.

Some facts about suicide:

Suicide is more common than many people believe. Following are some statistics on suicide in the U.S.:

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the eighth leading cause of death for all Americans.
- Among military members, young males who are unmarried or separated are most at risk.
- For the past 10 years, suicide has been the second or third leading cause of death among active duty Sailors and Marines.
- There are approximately 30,000 suicides a year in the United States (83 suicides a day; or 1 suicide every 17 minutes).
- Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people (ages 15 to 24), behind accidents and homicide.
- Males are three to four times more likely to die of suicide, while females are more likely to attempt suicide.
- It is estimated that there are 25 attempted suicides for each completed suicide.

More than 90 percent of people who have committed suicide suffered from significant psychiatric illnesses at the time of their deaths. A combination of genetic, psychological, and environmental factors can cause a depressive illness, which may lead a person to attempt suicide.

Those who attempt suicide or talk about suicidal feelings are not trying to "prove something" or get sympathy. Chronic depression can lead to feelings of hopelessness and desperation. Most people who attempt or commit suicide do not really want to die -- they just want their suffering to end.

Although there is no one "typical" suicide victim -- it can happen to young and old, rich and poor alike -- there are some common warning signs. Most people who are feeling depressed or desperate enough to consider suicide give clues to how they're feeling.

Some signs to look for are:

- Spoken or written threats of suicide. Suicidal people will sometimes say things like, "I wish the pain would

go away" or "I would be better off dead." If the person talks about committing suicide or has written notes or letters to that effect, take it very seriously, especially if the person has a history of suicide attempts. Never assume the person "doesn't really mean it."

- Reckless or high-risk behavior. Risky actions may include excessive drinking, reckless driving, gambling, Internet addiction, or acting in threatening ways with others.
- Withdrawal and loss of interest. No longer enjoying activities that used to be enjoyable, isolating oneself from family or friends and giving up on personal appearance are all common signs of depression.
- Recent important losses. Many people who attempt or commit suicide are facing problems they feel they cannot overcome. These may include a divorce, a break-up in a relationship, moving to a different area or the death of a loved one.
- Major changes in sleep or eating patterns. Excessive fatigue, not being able to sleep, sleeping excessively, and losing one's appetite or overeating are all signs that someone may be suffering from depression.
- Obsession with death. Suicidal people sometimes show an unusual interest in death through the books or movies they choose. They may even spend time preparing for death by making out a will, planning their funeral, or making final arrangements. Having decided to die, they may give away prized possessions and show ambivalence about things that were once important to them.

What to do when someone you know is suicidal; if you believe or even suspect that someone you care about may be suicidal, don't ignore your suspicions.

The Navy encourages individuals to "ACT":

- ASK - CARE - TREAT.
- ASK: Actively listen, Acknowledge their feelings.
- ARE: Listen, offer hope, don't judge
- TREAT: Take action, get assistance. Never leave the person alone!

Sources of help:

- NAS Meridian support services: The Fleet & Family Support Center (601-679-2360) and Chapel (601-679-3635) can provide counseling, referrals to community organizations and/or crisis intervention services. If someone is attempting suicide or is immediately suicidal, they should be taken to the Branch Medical Clinic (601-679-2633) for assistance.
- Navy Suicide Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- The National Hopeline Network: 1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433) / <http://www.hopeline.com>.

-- From FFSC Staff

FFSC Briefs

To register for any of the following workshops, please call the FFSC at 601-679-2360. The class may not be presented if no one registers, so make sure you call if you're interested! Can't make the scheduled time? Call anyway - the workshop facilitator may be able to work with you one-on-one, give you materials, or let you know when the class will be offered again. All classes held at FFSC (Building 405) unless otherwise noted

Transition GPS Seminar

Sept. 19-23 from 8 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Military personnel who are voluntarily or involuntarily separating or retiring and are within 180 days of separating are required to attend this seminar, held at the FFSC. It is highly recommended that spouses attend. You may also attend if you're up to 24 months away from your separation or retirement date. The following topics will be covered: résumés, job search skills, job interviewing, employment (state & federal), veterans' benefits, pay & travel, movement of household goods, TRICARE, emotional transition to separation, financial planning, forms & documents, benefits & services, military obligations, and more. You must see your Command Career Counselor or Admin Officer before attending Transition GPS to obtain several documents that are required for the seminar.

10 Steps to a Federal Job

Sept. 21 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 & analyzing federal job announcements; crafting a federal-style résumé and an electronic résumé; interpreting the cryptic language of federal hiring process ("core competencies", etc.); the incredible importance of including "keywords" in your application; addressing "KSAs"; and much more!

Children's Craft

Sept. 29 from 3:45-4:30 p.m.

Join us at FFSC to celebrate the beginning of Fall with cool crafts. Refreshments will be served. Registration is required for preparation of materials.

CYP Parent Resource Room

The CYP Parent Resource Room is open for business. Parents will find free CD's, DVD's brochures and booklets for the taking. There are also reference books and other materials for in-office review. Pick up a college preparation checklist or learn about Tutor.com, a free online tutoring service for children of active duty service members and deployed government civilian employees. Gather information about the Exceptional Family Member Program and the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children.

Find out how to borrow, read, and return audio books, e-books, and videos over the Internet with the MWR E-Library. Flip through the pages of Students at the Center, a book developed by the U.S. Department of Education Activity (DoDEA) to help military parents discover how to effectively manage their children's academic careers.

The Parent Resource Room is an extension of the School Liaison's office; these offices are located in the Administrative Bldg. 255, rooms 171 and 173. For more information, call Anita Lee, NAS Meridian school liaison officer, at 601-679-2473.

September is National Preparedness Month

PLEDGE to PREPARE

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Ready

Natchez National Cemetary holds 9/11 memorial

By Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Cragg

Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Public Affairs

Sailors, veterans, and Natchez city leaders conducted a solemn ceremony at Natchez National Cemetery to commemorate the 15th anniversary of 9/11.

Natchez National Cemetery, which overlooks the Mississippi River, was established in 1866 and has more than 8,000 internments to include a Medal of Honor recipient, Landsman Wilson Brown, who served on board Adm. David Farragut's Flagship, USS Hartford.

The ceremony at the national cemetery was held to reflect and remember the nearly 3,000 lives lost during the nation's worst terrorist attack on American soil.

Retired Army Maj. Sonjagela Johnson, Natchez Adams County Veteran Services Officer, helped coordinate the ceremony and reflected on how it brought back many memories of her service and of those she lost.

"Today's ceremony brings back a lot of memories, for me," said Johnson. "Freedom is not free."

Travis Patten, sheriff of Adams County in Natchez, who left the Navy in 2000 after serving three years on active duty reflected on the importance of remembering the first responders, police officers and firefighters who gave their lives to save so many others.

"For us 9/11 was the most tragic event of our generation, and to have my brother and sisters honored during this ceremony is remarkable," said Patten, who was elected sheriff of Natchez on Jan. 4, 2016.

Patten credits his time spent in the Navy to prepare him for a career in law enforcement.

"The Navy gave me a sense of responsibility and gave me everything I needed to become the sheriff of Natchez," said Patten.

Rodney Violette, who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, and now serves as the commander of the Mississippi-Louisiana Veterans Coalition Honor Guard participated in the ceremony.

"Our Honor Guard's motto is honor, dignity, respect and sacrifice," said Violette. "All of our members have honor, every one has respect and provides dignity to the families who have sacrificed."

Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Roger Jones, assigned to Navy Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, and Violette, folded an ensign during the ceremony and presented it to Natchez Mayor Darryl Grennell.

Grennell provided brief remarks during the ceremony emphasizing the shared impact of 9/11.

"Today is a very important day, and never shall we forget what happened 15 years ago," said Grennell.

A candle lighting ceremony was held to honor the tower of light in New York City.

More than 80 Sailors and U.S. Navy civilians will participate in Natchez Navy Week, Sept. 11-14. While in Natchez, members of Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, and the Navy Band Southeast will showcase America's sea service and give American citizens a greater understanding of the U.S. Navy and its capabilities.

The Natchez National Cemetery is located on the Bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. It has several unique features, one being its gravel roads, the other being its wedding cake shape at the back of the cemetery, due to its five level terrace. The city of Natchez lies on the southwestern border of Mississippi and is the oldest city on the Mississippi River.

Remembering 9/11

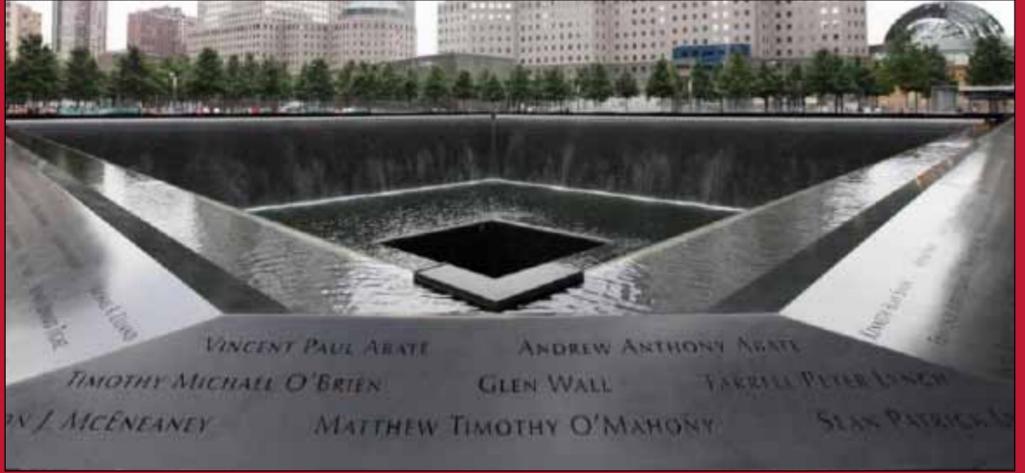


Photo from 911memorial.org



Photo by PH1 Michael W. Pendergrass



Photo from defense.gov

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