

THE SKYLINE

Volume 54, Number 7

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March 31, 2016

On Base...

Give Parents A Break & Parent's Night Out

April 7 at CDC and SAC from 6-10 p.m. Call 601-679-2652 to register.

Month of the Military Child Craft Day

April 21 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. FFSC is hosting a craft day for children ages 4-12 to make patriotic-themed crafts. Refreshments will be served. Registration is required. Call 601-679-2360.

Military Teens: Globally Connected

Join us at the Fitness Center from 7 p.m. on April 29 to 7 a.m. on April 30 for "Familiar Faces in Different Places." Register by calling Erica White at 601-679-2652.

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.

SAC Summer Camp

10-week program for youth during summer break. Starts May 23. Call 601-679-2652 to register.

A Day in Naval History

March 31
1992: USS Missouri (BB-63), the last active American battleship, is decommissioned. Commissioned in June 1944, she served during World War II, notably for the location of the official Japanese surrender on Sept. 2, 1945. Today, the "Mighty Mo" is open for visitors in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, as the Battleship Missouri Memorial, under the care of the USS Missouri Memorial Association, Inc.

1993: Two 2 EP-3E aircraft, from Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 2 (VQ-2), are on station over the Adriatic providing crucial support to the delivery of humanitarian air drops over eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina in Operation Provide Promise. This operation becomes the longest running humanitarian airlift in history at the time and operates from February 1993 to January 1996.

--www.history.navy.mil

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

How the military created the best child care system in the nation ... And what states can learn

By Sarah Butrymowicz and Jackie Mader
 Special to The Skyline

Editor's Note: This article is the 10th in a series investigating the child care system in Mississippi. What would it take for Mississippi to transform its child care system from one of the lowest ranked in the nation to one of the best? The Department of Defense (DoD), whose services for children went from a struggling system to what many experts now say is the national gold standard of child care, may have the answers. The DoD prides itself on having high standards, holding centers accountable to meeting them and providing the support they need to do so.

Roughly 95 percent of the Department of Defense's more than 800 centers - some in the U.S., some abroad - are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, or NAEYC. Compare that to Mississippi, where fewer than 30 centers in the state's system - or about 2 percent of licensed centers - meet the basic criteria for accreditation, which includes meeting standards for curriculum, teaching and community relations.

In national surveys of state oversight and program standards for child care, the Department of Defense repeatedly comes out on top. In a 2013 report from the nonprofit Child Care Aware, the



Submitted Photo

Children at the Child Development Center play outside the center in the controlled playground environment. The playground is sectioned off for each age group so teachers can properly assist students.

Fun at the Library



Photo by Bryan Haught

Children enjoy story time at the Library recently. All activities were centered around the theme "Plant a Flower Day." Books and snacks with flower themes were read and served to dozens of children who also enjoyed planting a flower in a cup that they were given to take home and care for.

Military couple assignment policy: Five things you need to know

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- In an effort to improve support for dual military families, Navy Personnel Command updated the current collocation policy. These changes are reflected in the new MILPERSMAN 1300-1000, which was released on March 12.

Here is what you need to know:

1. Existing policies were primed for review and update.

The Navy realizes how important families are, and when they're not whole it can add stress to a Sailor's life. Collocation of dual-military couples is part of supporting families. It is a priority, along with balancing fleet readiness. The revised policy updates the collocation and distribution procedures and makes orders negotiation less cumbersome.

2. Changes are being made to existing person-

nel information technology (IT) systems.

Adjustments to personnel IT systems will better identify dual-military families, providing detailers a better means to coordinate collocation during Sailors' orders negotiation window.

3. Instead of opting in, the Sailor can decide to opt out.

In the past, a Sailor had to request collocation during each orders negotiation. Now Sailors will submit a one-time request that will remain in effect until the Sailor tells their detailer otherwise. If a Sailor chooses not to be collocated, they contact their detailer and negotiate appropriate orders.

4. A flag officer review is required when detailers can't collocate dual-military families.

To ensure Navy Personnel Command has done everything possible

● **Couple, page 2**

'Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans'

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12124, along with several community sponsors, will host "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" Saturday, April 2 at the Frank Cochran Center in Highland Park. The Veterans Affairs Mobile Unit will be on site for veterans to sign up for services. Veterans should bring their DD-214 or other proof of eligibility. Sign up for other military organizations will include: The Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Legion, Fleet Reserve Association, Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Doors will open for registration at 9 a.m. Parade of Veterans is at 11 a.m. with lunch and special guest speakers to follow. Preregistration is required for preparation of food. Lunch for Vietnam-era veterans is free. All others are \$7 per person. Register by calling 601-282-5866 or e-mail: meridianvfw@comcast.net

Look Inside

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 Kids Safety Day set for April 15



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 Carter: U.S. military targets key ISIL terrorists



~ Page 9 ~
 April is Month of the Military Child





Photo of Week



Photo by MCSN Timothy Hale

RATMALANA, Sri Lanka -- Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Alexandra Griffin, attached to the U.S. 7th Fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19), plays with children during a community service project at the Ratmalana Orphanage. Blue Ridge is conducting a regularly scheduled port visit during its patrol of the 7th Fleet area of operations strengthening and fostering relationships in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

USS Mississippi visits Yokosuka during Indo-Asia-Pacific deployment

By Lt. j.g. Tamsyn Thompson
USS Mississippi Public Affairs

YOKOSUKA, Japan (NNS) -- The Virginia-class attack submarine USS Mississippi (SSN 782) arrived at Fleet Activities Yokosuka March 11 for a routine visit as part of its maiden Indo-Asia-Pacific deployment.

The visit strengthens the already positive alliance between the U.S. and Japan through the crews' interaction with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force. It also demonstrates the U.S. Navy's commitment to regional stability and maritime security in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.

"The crew has worked extremely hard to prepare for our maiden deployment," said Cmdr. Eric J. Rozek, commanding officer. "As we begin deployment, I'm excited at the opportunity my crew has to interact with our Pacific partners and allies."

Aligned with a compliment of 139 Sailors, Japan is the first port of call

for its 2016 deployment. With this being the first deployment for 86 percent of the crew, many are excited to experience the Japanese culture and visit the tourist sites.

"I'm excited to finally get to tour Japan," said Sonar Technician 1st Class Adam E. Copeland, assigned to Mississippi. "I plan on visiting the Akihabara district, Imperial Palace and Tokyo Tower."

Mississippi is one of the most technically advanced and stealthiest submarines in the world and has the capabilities of fulfilling multiple missions. Mississippi adds tremendous capabilities from the undersea domain to provide the United States, its allies and partners with capabilities to ensure access to trade routes, and keeping stability throughout the region.

Mississippi is homeported in Pearl Harbor. It is one of 10 submarines forward deployed and serving the nation's defense.

Area Happenings

APRIL

2: Threefoot Arts Festival at Meridian's City Hall Lawn from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. With hands-on activities (enjoyed by more than 700 children last year!), entertainment, Threefoot Bloody Marys and fine art from throughout the Southeast. Admission is free.

2: Earth's Bounty at Meridian's City Hall Lawn from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Greater Meridian Health Clinic presents Earth's Bounty Festivals. Join us the first Saturday of April through November for a bountiful harvest at Earth's Bounty. We'll have fresh fruits, vegetables, honey, jams, jellies, breads, soaps, shrubs, flowers and more! There are bouncy houses for the kids, Tiny-the Belgium mare, live music, a food truck and tons of vendors.

2: MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) Mega Yard Sale at Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church, 318 15th Ave., Meridian from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Lots of household items, clothes, baby items, etc. MOPS is a non-profit organization for Mothers of pre-school children.

6: Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide To School at MSU Riley Center at 7 p.m. Junie B. Jones is the bestest guide ever to carpools, bus rules, and everything else about the educational experience. After all, she's been going to school for a whole year and a half already. Feisty, grammatically-challenged Junie B., the title character of the beloved book series by the late Barbara Park, charms both children and their parents. Theatreworks USA, a New York-based family theater company that has visited the MSU Riley Center several times, has created an energetic show. Kids from kindergarten through fifth grade will love the catchy songs and lively humor. Admissions is \$18 and \$10.

14: Mary Poppins show at Meridian Community College, McCain Theater at 7 p.m. One of the most popular Disney movies of all time is capturing hearts in a whole new way; as a practically perfect musical! Based on the books of P.L. Travers and the classic Walt Disney film, This performance is presented by the MCC Fine Arts Division and is suitable for audiences of all ages. Admission is adults \$10; and children \$5.

15-17: Meridian's Temple Theatre presents "Titanic" on the big screen at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and a matinee at 2 p.m. Sunday. Brought to life on the Temple Theatre's giant 40' screen with full-theatre sound. This 1997 epic film runs 3 hours, 30 minutes ... longer than it took the Titanic to sink after striking an iceberg during her maiden voyage on April 14, 1912, taking 1,503 souls with her. A true movie palace experience awaits with full concessions available. Tickets are \$5 for all ages. Doors open one hour before the show.

23: Agape Storehouse Apostolic Church presents "Testimonial Interview Outreach Day" -- help for men and women with drug addiction, sexual addiction, fornication, stealing, gambling, child abuse as well as physical and mental abuse. Free hot dogs and drinks from 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. at Frank Berry Courts, Meridian. For information, call 601-485-1802.

23-24: The Meridian Little Theatre Guild will be holding its annual Spring Variety Sale on April 23 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and April 24 from 1-4 p.m. at the Meridian Little Theatre on Hwy 39 North, Meridian. Items for sale include: ladies, men's and children's clothing, purses, shoes, linens, kitchen items, knick-knacks, home decorations, toys, books, magazines, and many other items. We also have a special boutique area with name brand items at slightly higher prices, several beautiful wedding gowns and evening wear. Sunday most items, except boutique, will be 1/2 price. For more information call the box office at 601-482-6371 or 601-679-7671.

ONGOING

MOPS 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. Fees: Free for first meeting, only \$50 a year to become a member. Military discounts available.

Fleet Reserve Association local FRA branch holds monthly meetings the last Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. For more information visit FRA Branch 264 on Facebook or 8874 Hwy 39 North, Meridian. Open Monday-Wednesday 2-7 p.m.; Thursdays 2-10 p.m.; Friday 2 p.m.-1 a.m.; Saturday noon-1 a.m.; and open at noon on Sundays. Thursday Ladies Nite begins at 7 p.m.; and Saturday Karaoke Nite begins at 8 p.m. Free billiards and shuffleboard.

"Give Parents a Break"

"Parents Night Out"

April 7, 14, 21 and 29

Times: 6-10 p.m.

"Give Parents a Break" is a free program for military families!

"Parents Night Out" is for others such as DoD civilians and is \$16 per child

Registration is required, call 601-679-2652

Davidson sworn in as under secretary of Navy

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Dr. Janine Davidson was sworn in as the 32nd under secretary of the Navy March 22. Davidson serves as the Navy's chief management officer and performs other duties assigned by the secretary of the Navy.

A former Air Force pilot and Pentagon official, Davidson brings nearly 30 years of experience in military operations, national security policy and academic research to her new role.

From 2009 to 2012, Davidson served as deputy assistant secretary of defense for plans, where she oversaw the formulation and review of military war plans and global force posture policy. Previously, she served as director for stability operations capabilities in the Office of Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, where she was the founding director of the Center for Complex Operations, an interagency organization focused on enhancing civilian and military performance in the field.

Davidson also served as a presidentially-appointed member of the Na-

tional Commission on the Structure of the Air Force, as a member of the Reserve Forces Policy Board and as a senior advisor to the Supreme Allied Commander, NATO. As an analyst and academic, Davidson has taught national security policy and political science at Georgetown University, George Mason University, and Davidson College, and is the author of numerous articles across a range of defense issues.

A native of California and Virginia, Davidson was commissioned as an Air Force second lieutenant in 1988. She flew combat support, airdrop and humanitarian air mobility missions in the C-130 and C-17 cargo aircraft, and also served as an instructor pilot at the U.S. Air Force Academy. She was the first woman to fly the Air Force's tactical C-130.

Davidson received her doctorate and a Master of Arts in international studies from the University of South Carolina and holds a Bachelor of Science in architectural engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

-- From Navy Office of Information

• Couple

to accommodate dual-military collocation, the Assistant Commander, Navy Personnel Command for Distribution will review instances where the Navy cannot support collocation for any reason other than when a Sailor chooses to opt out.

5. The Navy is serious about making this work.

The fleet is invested in collocation. For example, the submarine commu-

nity is currently expanding homeport options for female officers and will be extending options for female enlisted in the future.

To keep the system working properly, the Navy requires Sailors to keep their records updated, especially if there is a change in marital status.

For more information, visit <http://www.npc.navy.mil> and read MILP-ERSMAN 1300-1000

-- From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

Why civilians cannot shop at NEX/Commissary

Authorized Commissary and Exchange patrons, as defined by Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1330.17, Armed Services Commissary Operations, and DoDI 1330.21, Armed Services Exchange Regulations, include active duty, guard and reserve members, military retirees, Medal of Honor recipients, 100 percent disabled veterans, and their authorized family members. Unfortunately, DoD civilians are not included as authorized patrons at installations within the continental United States.

You can refer to these instructions for a complete list of authorized patrons, including organizations and activities, along with qualifications and any exceptions such as access by DoD civilians to U.S.

commissaries and exchanges overseas. The commanding officer of Naval Air Station Meridian unfortunately has no authority to determine whether a person is authorized to shop in the Commissary or Exchange, or to grant a person authority to shop there if they do not fall under the categories established by the Department of Defense. If you believe you fall within a category of people listed in the instructions as authorized patrons, you should visit the installation ID office for information about military benefits and to obtain an ID card consistent with your entitlements.



Kids back to school and do you want to fill your time?

Help other military families!

VOLUNTEER

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society covers the cost of childcare while you are volunteering and provides monthly/quarterly mileage reimbursement.

Call NMCRS Meridian at 601-679-2504 or email alice.huffman@nmcrs.org to learn more about how you can help.

Volunteer staff our office two days a week. Tues/Thurs 0830 - 1300



The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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Hotlines & Helpful Numbers

SAPR Victim Assistance: 601-604-3037
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SARC: 601-481-4274
SAFE Helpline: 877-995-5247
Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255
Military OneSource: 800-342-9647
CEAP (DoN Civilian): 844-366-2327
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Chaplain: 601-604-2015
NMCRS Duty Cell: 601-604-2206
EEO (NAF): 866-295-0328
EEO (GS): 904-542-2802

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'Start Smart' helps children ages 3-5 learn sports skills



Submitted Photos

Recently, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Program began in the Start Smart Program on board NAS Meridian at the fitness center. The Start Smart Program started after the National Alliance for Youth Sports, a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization that aims to make the sports experience safe, fun, and healthy for all children, conducted a survey in 1989 and determined that children in the 3-5 year-old age group didn't have the motor skills they would need to play sports later. "The Start Smart program teaches and develops skills to get the children better prepared to start out in the organized leagues when they're old enough," said Erica White, CYP Teen Coordinator for NAS Meridian. "The children spend hour-long sessions learning how to develop and execute a variety of developmental skills under the watchful eyes of CYP staff, volunteers, and parents. Parents are given instructions to guide and coach their children through the program. By working together, parents and children will have an opportunity to bond and learn. The turnout has been consistently low every Saturday for the Start Smart Development sessions. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to the classes. The parents who have participated have enjoyed getting to see smiles of excitement and accomplishment on their children's faces. The children learn and have fun; and that's what it's all about." Start Smart will run Saturday mornings until April 16. Classes are free and will be from 9-10 a.m. at the fitness center. Contact Erica White at Erica.d.white1@navy.mil or call (601) 679-5252 for additional information. Margie "Beth" Brown and Megan Solomon at (601) 679-2652 are also able to assist with any questions parents may have.

Join Us On

KID SAFETY DAY

Join Navy Federal and the NAS Meridian Military Police Department to get a free Kids' ID kit.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15
2 pm to 4 pm

VISIT US AT:
255 Rosenbaum Avenue, Suite 164, Meridian, MS

SEE YOU THERE.

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Retirement



Photo by MC2 Casey H. Kyhl

Lt. Cmdr. Roy Bertrain, training site director for Naval Aviation Technical Training Command, presents AZCS (AW) Douglas W. Feist with his retirement certificate.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE CONTACT INFORMATION

NAS MERIDIAN HOUSING SERVICE CENTER
 718 GILL STREET
 MERIDIAN, MS 39305
 HOURS: MON-FRI 7 A.M.-3:30 P.M.
 PHONE: (601) 679-2520
 EMAIL: MERIDIANHOUSING@NAVY.MIL

Friends of Bill Meeting

(Open Meeting)

EVERY Wednesday
Base Chapel @ 1900
 Anyone with base access is welcome to attend.
 You are welcome to bring a friend too.

For questions call
601-679-3635 or 601-679-2209

Command Belt Buckles

Gold: \$30
 Silver: \$25

On sale at
 PAO office, Building 255, Suite 163 - See MC2 Kyhl
 or at Air Operations see ABH1 Thomas, ABH1 Demeterio or AC1 McKernan



Tips for a successful deployment

By MC3 Emiline L. Senn
Navy Public Affairs Support Element

WATERS SURROUNDING THE KOREAN PENINSULA (NNS) -- The crew of the guided-missile destroyer USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110) is two months into a seven-month deployment and many have settled into productive routines.

There are plenty of seasoned veterans, and a few new faces aboard who can offer a wide range of advice to help other Sailors be successful through the remainder of the Western Pacific deployment.

Fire Controlman 1st Class Russell Rauch, from Pollock Pines, California, is on his fifth deployment, and knows that some of his shipmates don't have a lot of free time. He recommends using any free time to keep in touch with loved ones who remain stateside.

"Don't forget to write the people you like," said Rauch. "Don't forget to write the people you love. Don't forget to write the people you don't like at all because later on down the road, you may need a favor from them."

Yeoman 2nd Class Priscilla Goodall, from Houston, is on her second deployment, and believes personal attitude plays an important role during deployment.

"Just stay positive," said Goodall. "Check your attitude towards small things, and remember you are out here for your family back home."

Of course, there are plenty of tasks to accomplish. Gunner's Mate 2nd Class McJohn Holden, from Jacksonville, is on his fourth deployment, and his advice is to keep busy and stay focused on the mission.

"I tell myself not to worry about home so much," said Holden. "Everything will be fine. Just focus on your job and your qualifications. Get as much as possible done so that when you get back home, you won't

have to worry about it."

Fire Controlman 1st Class Leighanne Aquino, on her fourth deployment, believes setting deployment goals can help you accomplish more during the many months at sea.

"Have a plan of what you want to achieve. You'll get more done and won't find yourself waiting around," said Aquino. "Idle hands, idle minds. Keep yourself busy."

There are many new Sailors aboard William P. Lawrence who are still learning the ropes after experiencing their first time at sea. Personnel Specialist Seaman Bethany Akosa has learned to give herself a little bit of time every day, in order to decompress.

"Find your own thing that you need to do to get away from the day-to-day stuff," said Akosa. "For me, it's always been books and movies. Get away from the monotony and repetitiveness. Have something else to do to get your mind elsewhere."

Eventually, there will be bad days. Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Danny Meadows is on his first deployment and has learned not every day is easy.

"[You should] go to bed knowing that tomorrow is a new day, and forget about what happened today," said Meadows. "Take everything for what it's worth."

No two Sailors will experience deployment the same, and there are many different ways to capitalize on this time at sea. The key to success is balance. Focus on the mission and get involved in different activities to better yourself.

Providing a ready force supporting security and stability in the Indo-Asia Pacific, William P. Lawrence, commanded by Cmdr. Walter C. Mainor, is operating as part of the John C. Stennis Strike Group and Great Green Fleet on a regularly scheduled 7th Fleet deployment.

95-year-old lost US Navy ship mystery solved

By MC2 David Zeigler
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Navy announced the discovery of World War I-era fleet tugboat USS Conestoga (AT 54), 95 years after her disappearance with 56 officers and Sailors, at the Navy Memorial, March 23.

NOAA located Conestoga, the last U.S. Navy ship to be lost without a trace, in the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of San Francisco. The exact location has not been disclosed to prevent unauthorized diving or looting.

"Today was the announcement of the 95th anniversary, which will be this coming Friday, March 25th, of the loss of the USS Conestoga," said Robert Schwemmer, West Coast Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator. "It was believed to have gone missing off the coast of Hawaii 95 years earlier. It was found off the coast of Southern California in the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary in September of 2014."

Conestoga was an ocean going tug built for commercial service in 1904 and was acquired by the Navy in 1917 for use as a fleet tender and minesweeper. Following service in World War I, Conestoga was formally classified as a fleet tugboat on July 17, 1920.

Ordered to duty in Tutuila, American Samoa, Conestoga steamed from Mare Island Navy Yard in California on March 25, 1921 and headed to Pearl Harbor. Her and her crew never reached their destination.

When the Conestoga didn't arrive on her scheduled arrival date April 5, the Navy mounted a massive sea and air search for three months off the Hawaii and Mexican coast near San Diego before announcing the tug was lost on June 30, 1921.

"Today was the first time we could reach out to the families in person, put faces to the long list of 56 Sailors lost 95 years ago," Schwemmer. "It's been an amazing honor to honor these Sailors and reach out to meet their families, bring them closure and let them know that the Conestoga lies in the National Marine Sanctuary and that it is protected by the sanctuary act and NOAA as a military gravesite."

NOAA conducted Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) survey dives to positively identify the ship and determine the cause of its wreck. Based on the location and orientation of the wreck, three miles off Southeast Farallon Island, NOAA and its consultants believe Conestoga sank as officers and the crew attempted to reach a protected cove on the island.

Video from cameras mounted on ROVs show the wreck lying on the seabed and largely intact.

● Wreck, page 8

Coffee shop confessions

"So Lilly, what did you tell Father Kris?" I asked our 15-year-old daughter recently at a local coffee shop. We had just picked her up from a confirmation class retreat, which included confessions with our parish priest. This sacrament is shrouded with an impenetrable veil of secrecy, but we knew Lilly would tell us.

"Well," she revealed between sips of hot cocoa, "I told him, 'Bless me father for I have sinned, it has been eight years since my last confession ...'"

"Yes, yes, we know that part ... we want to know what you confessed to?"

I felt twinge of fear when I realized that our youngest daughter may shock me with her answer, but Lilly responded, "I told him that I've been disrespectful to you guys a lot over the years."

Relieved, I plopped another puddle of ketchup alongside my fries, and let my mind wander back to Lilly's first confession to Father Jim when we were stationed in Virginia eight years ago.

Second grade was a dicey year for Lilly. Emerging from the shadow of her dominant older siblings, Lilly was making her mark in Mrs. Ryan's class at Fairfield Elementary School. However, it still wasn't clear whether Lilly's "mark" would be top grades, or graffiti on the girl's bathroom wall.

My Navy husband, Francis, was deployed for a year, and I was doing my best to

hold it all together. Between the exterminator bills, scout meetings, dog walks, soccer games, dryer lint, piano lessons, sinus infections, and football practices,

COLUMN



Lisa Smith Molinari

there wasn't much time left for mother-daughter chats about right and wrong.

As the third child, Lilly often got the short end of the stick, but she never once stopped to ask, "What about me?" With a smile full of awkward teeth, a fistful of her favorite Polly Pockets, and a carefree attitude, Lilly was easy to love. But as a happy-go-lucky kid, Lilly was also easy to overlook.

Until one day when I got a call from the school.

"Mrs. Molinari," Principal Stubblefield told me one afternoon, "we think Lilly has forged your signature. Can you come in?" Apparently, Lilly had bossed a boy on the playground, and was told to have a parent sign the Incident Report. Rather than draw any unnecessary attention to herself, Lilly decided to sign it for me.

Problem was, she couldn't write in cursive. So she conned her older brother into showing her "how Mommy signs her name," then cut out his best attempt (white paper), and

taped it onto the Incident Report (green paper).

Not exactly foolproof, but pretty sneaky for a six-year old.

As parents tend to do, I panicked. Thanks to my parental neglect, Lilly was now destined to rotate through dangerous county jails, maximum security facilities, and sketchy halfway houses on her way to a life of hard crime. My dreams for her future were suddenly reduced to hoping she'd get her GED while serving out a sentence for Grand Theft Auto.

In an attempt to set things right, I asked Principal Stubblefield to rough Lilly up a little bit. Well, not exactly, but we planned that she would call Lilly to the Office (every kid's worst nightmare), sit her down across from the big desk, and open the gigantic rulebook to the page that says dishonest kids get expelled from school.

In case that didn't scare her straight, I took Lilly to her first confession. I stood in the back of the church, as she walked down the center aisle to sit in a pew with Father Jim. I couldn't hear

what was said, but I saw Lilly's little head bobbing as she told Father Jim a long story. He listened intently and murmured back to her in solemn tones. Seeing Lilly confess, I bowed my own head and admitted that I should've paid more attention to my little girl.

At the coffee shop, Francis finished the last of his tuna melt and asked Lilly what she was given as a penance. Rolling her eyes, Lilly reported, "Between now and Easter, I'm supposed to perform acts of respect toward my parents."

Despite our own parenting missteps, Lilly has turned out to be a pretty honest kid, and we realize that these moments of contrition have helped all of us to be better people.

As for those "acts of respect", I confess, we're still waiting.

A 21-year Navy spouse, Lisa Smith Molinari and her family are currently stationed in Newport, R.I. Her self-syndicated columns appear on her blog, www.themeatandpotatoesofflife.com and she recently co-authored *Stories Around the Table: Laughter, Wisdom, and Strength in Military Life*. Follow Lisa @MolinariWrites.

Saint Patrick Catholic School est. 1873

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Pvt. Arcadio Estevezcastillo
MATSS-1 Student
Hometown: New York, New York

Pvt. Arcadio Estevezcastillo joined the Marine Corps Oct. 26, 2015, to become a better human and gain a sense of purpose.

Estevezcastillo enjoys playing baseball, watching good TV shows and working out.

He said he admires all of the senior non-commissioned officers he has met in the Marine Corps. "I admire SNCOs because they have hit pinnacles I plan to reach."

Waiting to be enrolled in the Aviation Operations Specialist course at Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron One, Estevezcastillo doesn't yet know where he will be stationed, but he hopes it will be on the West Coast.

OOORAH!



Pvt. Christopher Jacobson
MATSS-1 Student
Hometown: Canton, Ohio

Currently waiting to become an aviation supply specialist, Pvt. Christopher Jones became a Marine as a positive start to his future and to experience the brotherhood of the Corps.

Jacobson enjoys running, hanging out with friends and the theatre.

His most memorable experience in the Marine Corps was seeing his family for the first time after the motivational run at boot camp.

Jacobson is looking forward to going to the fleet and learning to be the best at his job.

"Gunnery Sgt. Randolph is the definition of a Marine," Jacobson said. "I want to be a Marine like him."

2nd MAW Marine rushes into crash scene, helps save injured

By **Cpl. Neysa Huertas Quinones**
Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT, North Carolina -- On an early morning while heading to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point for work, Cpl. Joseph Currey found himself rushing to aid the victims of a crashed ambulance on the side of a busy road. The Marine joined others at the scene as they quickly reacted to the crash and provided medical aid to the injured patient and paramedics.

Before Currey arrived, an ambulance took a sharp turn after a collision with a truck and flipped into a ditch. The ambulance, which was on its way to a local emergency room, was transporting a patient who had suffered a heart attack upon arrival at the scene. Currey, being certified at the time, executed CPR on the patient and aided the injured emergency response personnel in exiting the ambulance.

"It all happened so fast," explained Currey. "I realized the ambulance was on its side and the first thing that dawned to me was, 'well, their lights are on, so they must be transporting someone or

they are going somewhere.' I automatically assumed they were transporting someone because they were headed in the direction of the nearest hospital. I thought to myself, If there was someone in there, it must have been serious and this situation only made it worse."

Currey is an air support operations operator with Marine Aviation Support Squadron 1 and will be shortly deploying with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his actions while witnessing and responding to the incident. Currey demonstrated his devotion to serving others as he placed the wellbeing of the injured personnel above his own.

"I joined the Marine Corps so I did not have to look back 70 years from now and regret not becoming a Marine and being part of something greater," said Currey. "My favorite thing about the Corps is getting to help others. It's a trait that was instilled in me while I was growing. My mother always went out of her way to help others in any way she could. If you help someone out, it all pays off in the long run."



Photo by Cpl. Neysa Huertas Quinones

Cpl. Joseph Currey, left, salutes Lt. Col. Jeremy Winters, right, during an award ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina, March 1, 2016. Currey was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his actions after witnessing an ambulance wreck. Currey demonstrated his devotion to serving others as he placed the well-being of the injured personnel above his own by running towards the scene of an accident and rendering aide to those need.

Currey joined the Corps alongside his step brother after working with his family in a telephone company after high school. He decided joining the Corps would allow him to serve his country and

a title he would carry for the rest of his life.

"Being a Marine allows me to not only serve my country, but it also gives me many opportunities that being a civilian would

not have given me," said Currey. "Whether it's a crash on the side of the road, or giving a fellow Marine a hand. We all come together for one another regardless of where we come from."

LA FELIPE DROP ZONE, SPAIN



Photo by Sgt. Kassie McDole

A U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263, Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response- Africa conducts an external load operation during exercise Sky Soldier at La Felipe drop zone, Spain.

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA



Photo by Cpl. Jonah Lovy

A pilot greets his family at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina, March 15. More than 180 Marines and 10 F/A-18D Hornet aircraft have been deployed to the Western Pacific since October 2015 as part of the Unit Deployment Program. The pilot is with VMFA(AW)-224.

Safety & Energy Efficiency is Our Duty

<p>Lights</p> <p>Switch off lights when you don't need them</p> <p>Switch off appliances when not in use: Turn off TV's, DVD players, computers, microwaves and other electrical items that don't need to be running all the time.</p>	<p>Recycle</p> <p>Reduce consumption, waste and pollution</p> <p>Reuse what we have</p> <p>Recycle everything we use</p> <p>Together we can make a difference.....</p>	<p>Washing</p> <p>Washing Machines: Save energy by only washing with a full load. Use cold water washes whenever you can.</p> <p>Drying your Clothes: Clothes dryers use up a lot of energy. If you must use one, remove your clothes as soon as they are dry.</p>
<p>Heating</p> <p>Keep Your House Warm: Seal the curtains or blinds. Using a good set of curtains and blinds saves energy costs, keeping the warmth inside.</p> <p>Turn Down your Heater: During the Winter months it's tempting to crank your heater up. Resist the urge by putting a jumper on.</p> <p>Draught Busting: Cracks and gaps around doors and windows provide an easy escape for energy. Use door snakes to keep the draught in.</p>	<p>Kitchen</p> <p>Dishwashers: If you must use a dishwasher, only use it with a full load.</p> <p>Replace Fridge Seals: When your fridge seals mean that your fridge will be working overtime to maintain its temperature.</p> <p>Leave the Lid on Pots: Energy is wasted by not putting lids on pots and pans during cooking.</p>	<p>Water</p> <p>Showers: Showers use less water than baths, making them more economical and better for the environment.</p> <p>Circulate Air: Ceiling fans are great in Summer to keep the house cool and in winter they help to circulate the rising warm air.</p>

Hoverboard safety

Hoverboards have become a big hit in our society. They have even been something fun for people of all ages to try their self-balancing skills. However, hoverboards have also been linked to fires and injuries. The National Fire Protection association (NFPA) would like you to follow these tips below to help alleviate fires, injuries, or any other mishap.

- Choose a device with a seal of an independent testing laboratory.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's recommendations. If you do not understand the recommendations, please ask for help.
- An adult should be responsible for charging the hoverboard.
- Do not leave a charging hoverboard unattended.
- NEVER leave the hoverboard plugged in overnight.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the hoverboard.

Stop using the hoverboard if it overheats.

- Extreme hot or cold temperatures can hurt the battery.
- Hoverboards are fairly new to the mass market so be on the lookout for updates from manufacturers and safety groups.

Some hoverboard fires have involved the Lithium-Ion battery or charger. Signs you could have a problem include but not limited to:

- Leaking fluids
- Excessive heat
- Odor
- Sparking
- Smoke

If you notice any of those issues, STOP using the hoverboard!

If you have any questions, please contact the NAS Meridian Fire Prevention Office at 601-679-3866.



NAS Meridian, MS • Morale, Welfare and Recreation

On the Web: www.navymwrmeridian.com Facebook: www.Facebook.com/MWRMeridian

Facility Phone Numbers

Fitness Center	679-2379	Library	679-2326	SAC	679-5252
Liberty Center	679-3760	Rudder's	679-2636	SLO	679-2473
Tickets	679-3773	Sandtrap Grill	679-2780	P.C. Golf Course	679-2526
McCain Rec Center	679-2651	Tutto Bene	679-2345	MWR Admin.	679-2551
Equipment Rental	679-2609	CDC/CDH	679-2652	MWR Jobs Line	679-2467



Coming Attractions

McCain Rec Center

- Thursday, March 31**
5pm, Breakfast at Tiffany's
7pm, Bedazzled PG13
- Friday, April 1**
5pm, The LEGO Movie, PG
7pm, About Last Night, R
- Saturday, April 2**
1pm, Rush Hour, PG13
5pm, Paranormal Activity, R
7pm, About Last Night, R
- Sunday, April 3**
1pm, Breakfast at Tiffany's
5pm, Bedazzled PG13
7pm, Love Actually, R
- Monday, April 4**
5pm, The Awkward Moment, R
7pm, Mockingjay Part 2, PG13
- Tuesday, April 5**
5pm, The Peanuts Movie, G
7pm, Pawn Sacrifice, PG13
- Wednesday, April 6**
4:40pm, Love Actually, R
7pm, Rock the Kasbah, R
- Thursday, April 7**
5pm, The Awkward Moment, R
6:40pm, Mockingjay Part 2, PG13
- Friday, April 8**
5pm, The Peanuts Movie, G
7pm, Pawn Sacrifice, PG13
- Saturday, April 9**
1pm, Love Actually, R
5pm, Rock the Kasbah, R
7pm, Pawn Sacrifice, PG13
- Sunday, April 10**
1pm, The Awkward Moment, R
5pm, Mockingjay Part 2, PG13
7pm, Rock the Kasbah, R
- Monday, April 11**
4:10pm, Out of Africa, PG
7pm, Our Brand Is Crisis, R
- Tuesday, April 12**
5pm, Mr. Peabody and Sherman, PG
7pm, Scout's Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse, R
- Wednesday, April 13**
5pm, Heaven is for Real, PG
7pm, Love the Coopers, PG13

The Liberty Center

- Thursday, March 31**
7pm, About Last Night, R
- Friday, April 1**
7pm, Paranormal Activity, R
- Saturday, April 2**
1pm, Bedazzled PG13
7pm, Bedazzled PG13
- Sunday, April 3**
1pm, About Last Night, R
7pm, About Last Night, R
- Monday, April 4**
7pm, Pawn Sacrifice, PG13
- Tuesday, April 5**
7pm, Rock the Kasbah, R
- Wednesday, April 6**
7pm, Mockingjay Part 2, PG13
- Thursday, April 7**
7pm, Pawn Sacrifice, PG13
- Friday, April 8**
7pm, Rock the Kasbah, R
- Saturday, April 9**
1pm, Mockingjay Part 2, PG13
7pm, Mockingjay Part 2, PG13
- Sunday, April 10**
1pm, Pawn Sacrifice, PG13
7pm, Pawn Sacrifice, PG13
- Monday, April 11**
7pm, Zombie Apocalypse, R
- Tuesday, April 13**
7pm, Love the Coopers, PG13
- Wednesday, April 14**
7pm, Our Brand Is Crisis, R
- Movies shown at McCain Rec Center and the Liberty Center are shown FREE of charge.

MWR Held 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26, 2016



Weekly Events



DJ Leflore Live at
Friday, April 15
Doors open at 5pm, the fun starts at 6pm

Get your Rudders T-Shirt! Only \$12 per shirt, sizes M-XL

Tutto Bene Pizzeria & More
Located inside Rudders
Sunday-Thursday 4pm-9:30pm
Friday-Saturday 4pm-10:30pm
(601) 679-2345

The Smoothie Shop
Hours of Operation
Mon., Tue., Thur. 4pm - 8pm
Fri., & Sat. 4pm - 9pm
Wed. & Sun. Closed
*located in the McCain Rec Center

Rubber Eraser Day Tuesday, April 12, 2016 4:30pm-5:30pm at the Andrew Triplett Library.

It's Rubber Eraser Day! So, let's have a party at the Library! Erasers have been around since 1770 - that's 246 years - so we should celebrate by making art with erasers, decorating erasers, and guessing the number of erasers in a jar. We'll even have a little story time and read a book about a pencil and eraser! All children are invited!

SAC Summer Camp

Enrollment has begun for our 2016 Summer Camp! Our 10 week program has lots to offer this year, including field trips to Infinity Space Center, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, High Heaven Trampoline, WTOK, Skating Rink and much more. First day of summer camp will be May 23rd, 2016. For more information about Summer Camp please contact the Child & Youth Program at 601.679.2652 or 601.679.5252.



18 Hole • 4 Person
Scramble
Saturday, April 9 • 9am
Ponta Creek Golf Course
\$100 per team - Cash & Gift
Certificates will be awarded.
Sign-up by April 6, 2016.
For more info call (601) 679-2526.

MWR Website!
• Facility and program information right at your fingertips
• Find out everything about MWR Meridian
• Current Events; dates, time and locations
• Local MWR Job Announcements
www.navymwrmeridian.com

#OMP2016
Military Teens: Globally Connected
Familiar Faces in Different Places
April 29-30, 2016
Join us at the Fitness Center from 1900-0700.
Contact Erica White at 601.679.2652 for info.
Register until April 28, 2016

Give Parents A Break & Parent's Night Out
April 7, 14, 21 & 29
at CDC & SAC
6pm-10pm \$4 per hour
Call (601) 679-2652 for info.

New Hours
Monday - Friday 6:30am - 2pm
Saturday - Sunday 8:30am - 4pm
Weekly Specials listed at NavyMWRMeridian.com

The Sandtrap Weekly Specials

- Thursday, March 31**
Taco Salad
Don't miss the Sandtrap's famous Taco Salad. Served with a drink for \$6.
- Tuesday, April 5**
Chicken Fried Steak
Mashed Potato with Gravy, Fried Okra, Cornbread and Drink for only \$6.
- Wednesday, April 6**
Chicken Spaghetti
Garden Salad, Garlic Bread and Drink for only \$6.
- Thursday, April 7**
Taco Salad
Don't miss the Sandtrap's famous Taco Salad. Served with a drink for \$6.
- Tuesday, April 12**
Smothered Hamburger
Mashed Potato with Gravy, turnip Greens, Cornbread and Drink for only \$6.
- Wednesday, April 13**
Anthony's Fried Chicken
Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Corn on the Cob and Drink for only \$6.
- Limited Time Special - April 5 - 22**
Tuna Sandwich
with Chip and Drink for only \$6.

MWR Sports

Naval Air Station Meridian

Month of the Military Child



5K Run

Duathlon



10 Mile Bike

April 2, 2016 • 9am

at the Ponta Creek Community Rec Complex

Register Online at www.navymwrmeridian.com until April 1, 2016, 12:00pm

Sponsored By:



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Find MWR on:

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.

Mission Nutrition

Thursday, Apr. 7 - 1pm - 5pm

NOFFS

Thursday, Apr. 14 - 7am - 11am

April 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.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6am-7am	Fusion Wellbeats™	Kinetics Wellbeats™	Stomp Wellbeats™	Fit for Duty Wellbeats™	REV Wellbeats™
7am-8am	Kinetics Wellbeats™	Stomp Wellbeats™	Fit for Duty Wellbeats™	REV Wellbeats™	Fusion Wellbeats™
4:15pm-5pm	Couch to 5k Evelyn	Couch to 5k Evelyn	Couch to 5k Evelyn	Couch to 5k Evelyn	Couch to 5k Evelyn
6:30pm-7pm	TRX Evelyn	Butts & Guts Evelyn	TRX Evelyn	Butts & Guts Evelyn	TRX Evelyn
8pm-9pm	Stomp Wellbeats™	Vibe Wellbeats™	TKO Wellbeats™	Fusion Wellbeats™	REV Wellbeats™

Zombie Apocalypse 5K

April 9 - 10am Start

at the Ponta Creek Community Recreation Complex

Register at: www.navymwrmeridian.com

Sign up as a team of 6, individuals will be assigned to teams prior to start of race. Participants are encouraged to dress up or come early to get zombified out! This is a timed race but participants will be stopping at 2 stations to receive disaster info. Teams will be penalized for not finishing as a complete team.

Find MWR on:

Prizes will be awarded to first place team! Teams in costume will also receive a head start!

Sponsored the American Red Cross

Not interested in running? Sign up to be a Volunteer Zombie



Carter: U.S. military targets key ISIL terrorists

By Cheryl Pellerin
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military killed several key Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant terrorists this week, including a senior ISIL leader and finance minister who led certain external affairs and plots, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said here March 25.

During a Pentagon press briefing, joined by Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Carter said the coalition is systematically eliminating ISIL's cabinet, including Haji Imam.

"He was a well-known terrorist within ISIL's ranks, dating back to its earliest iteration as al-Qaida in Iraq when he worked under [the group's leader Abu Musab al-] Zarqawi as its liaison for operations with Pakistan," the secretary said.

Hampering ISIL Operations

"The removal of this ISIL leader will hamper the organization's ability ... to conduct operations both inside and outside of Iraq and Syria," he said.

Carter said Imam is the second senior ISIL leader the coalition has killed this month. Earlier this month defense officials confirmed the death of ISIL's so-called minister of war, Abu Omar al-Shishani, known as Omar the Chechen.

When the fight against ISIL accelerated a few months ago, the secretary said, the coalition began with storage sites where ISIL holds its cash, and now the leader who oversees all funding for ISIL operations is dead, hurting the terrorist army's ability to pay

fighters and hire recruits.

"Our campaign plan is first and foremost to collapse ISIL's parent tumor in Iraq and Syria, focusing on its power centers in Raqqa and Mosul," he added.

Repelling Counterattacks

In Syria, coalition-supported local forces recently took the town of Shaddadi, repelled ISIL's counterattacks and ultimately severed the main artery between Syria and northern Iraq, making it harder for ISIL's leaders and forces to travel between Raqqa and Mosul, Carter said.

Iraqi forces have moved from their staging base at Makhmur and are advancing to new positions as part of the early stages of operations to collapse ISIL's control over Mosul, the defense secretary added.

U.S. Marines near Makhmur now are providing artillery fire there at Iraq's request, he said, to help protect and support the Iraqi advance against ISIL.

"In both Syria and Iraq we're seeing important steps to shape what will become crucial battles in the months to come," Carter said.

Relentless Pressure

As local partners move forward, the coalition continues to bring relentless pressure on ISIL commanders in Mosul, the secretary added.

Along with killing Imam, U.S. forces targeted Abu Sara, a top ISIL leader charged with paying fighters in northern Iraq, and several ISIL associates who were directly involved in external plotting and training, he said.



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Tim D. Godbee

Defense Secretary Ash Carter and Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, answer questions about efforts against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant during a news conference at the Pentagon, March 25.

"These precise actions came after recent strikes that destroyed a significant quantity of improvised explosive devices and bomb-making equipment that could have been used against our partners headed for Mosul," Carter added, noting that the actions are believed to be successful and damaging to ISIL.

Campaign Momentum

The defense secretary said the momentum of the campaign against ISIL is clearly on the coalition's side.

"The United States military will continue to work intensively with our coalition partners

to build on this progress, as our counterparts throughout our governments work to defend our homelands at the same time," he said.

Carter also announced that yesterday he and his Saudi counterpart, Deputy Crown Prince and Defense Minister Mohammad bin Salman, agreed to convene a U.S.-Gulf Cooperation defense ministerial on April 20 in Riyadh ahead of President Barack Obama's participation in the U.S.-Gulf Cooperation Council leaders' summit there the next day. "This will be an important forum to build on our counter-ISIL defense ministerial in Brussels last month," Carter said.

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 dual 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.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

NEW! Entertainment center for sale asking \$350. Call 601-513-0071.

Crate and barrel glider and ottoman, pillow included, cover on both are machine washable. Slip cover can be ordered through crate and barrel with item code located on the bottom of the glider. Original price \$900. Very good condition, moving and don't need anymore, great for

new moms! Asking \$150. **Computer or office desk**, great condition. Has four USB locations in the desk and room for computer cords to be hidden. Asking \$40. **King (horizontal) or full/twin (vertical) headboard**. Squares can be easily removed and reupholstered. Real wood frame. Newly reupholstered. Asking \$50. **Kids train table**, good condition. Asking \$40. All items are negotiated. Call or text for photos 812-219-9376.

MOTORCYCLES/GEAR/ATV

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.

2005 Yamaha V-Star 1100 \$2900, 9K Miles, new rear tire, new battery. Has crash bars, saddle bags, sissy bar, new handlebars. Garage kept. Text for pictures or call: 321-480-6824

2007 Suzuki GSXR 1000, less than 7,000 mile garage

kept. Orange and Black, no damage. \$7500 (601) 462-1043. **2012 Kawasaki 900 Vulcan Custom Classic motorcycle**; 550 miles. Asking \$6400 pay-off. Call 601-527-5717.

AUTOMOBILES, ETC.

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-sp w/overdrive. If you want some serious off-road ability in a small SUV, look no further. \$13,000, negotiable. Available July 2015. Call 434-604-0428. Text for photos or Carfax report.

HOMES/APARTMENTS

NEW! For Sale: 3 BD/1 BA home at 3624 Poplar Springs Drive, Meridian. Great home with lots of character, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, skylights, huge fenced backyard, 3/4 acre with lots of trees. Asking \$105,000. Contact Tricia Collier at Pigford & Corey Realtors. **NEW! For Sale:** 4BD/2 1/2

BA, 2775 sq. ft home on 3 acres. Garage has been converted into family room. Unattached garage with carport located in back of property. This property is located in NE School District, walking distance from NE high school in a quiet neighborhood. Asking \$205,000 Call Linda at 228-243-8008.

NEW! For Rent: 2BR/1BA, fenced yard 2 carports with a 10x12 storage shed (approximately), central air and gas heat. Walking distance to MCC off Hwy 19. New paint, roof, windows, and flooring. Alarm system and lawn care available. \$600 per month, \$600 security deposit. A 3 BR is available, but access to washer/dryer room requires walking through it. Stove, refrigerator and dryer included. Available after July 15. Call John at 601-484-7244.

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

For Rent: 4 BD/3 BA located home on Windmill Drive about 10 minutes from NAS. Avail-

able in March. 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. Lots 53 and 54 for sale also. Perfect location with a great view of Dalewood Lake. Located at 3678 North Lake Dr. across from Little Beach. Call 870-223-3197.

For Rent: 1 BR/1 BA, furnished apartment in quiet neighborhood in North Meridian, 20 minutes from NAS, convenient to North Hills shopping area and Meridian Community College. \$650 per month, all utilities paid including DirecTV and high-speed internet. \$100 security deposit required. Contact Phil at 601-479-7962 or on base at 601-679-2485.

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 Rent: 2708 Russell Camp Road, Meridian, 1131

square foot, 2 BD/1 BA with two-car garage. Available now: \$675 per month and deposit \$675. Proof of military service receives one week off first month's rent. Can be seen on www.military-byowner.com or call G. Barrett at 850-855-8304. Seen by appointment only.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Remington Model 700 CDL 300 Win Mag with leupold scope mounts and 1 inch rings. With 12.5 boxes of ammo (worth \$600) \$1000 firm. Call 601-880-3237.

WANTED

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

To submit an item to the "Sale...Or" column, e-mail penny.randall@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





Remains of a World War II Corsair arrive at NHHC

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- A representative from Saiki City, Japan, presented the remains of a World War II F4U Corsair fighter-bomber to the U.S. Navy at the Naval History and Heritage Command's (NHHC) Archaeology and Conservation Laboratory March 22.

Yoshiro Kishida was present for the receipt of the shipment and NHHC Director Sam Cox accepted the artifacts on behalf of the command.

"The receipt of these artifacts marks the end of one journey and the beginning of another," Cox said. "The conservation stage will begin. Our archeologists and historians will learn from these artifacts and, ultimately, share the story of these important pieces of naval heritage."

Cox thanked Kishida, letting

him know the artifacts are in good hands.

The conservation team at the Archaeology and Conservation Laboratory will assess the condition of the artifacts and determine what treatment is necessary to stabilize them. The parts will also be documented and the data gathered will be cross-referenced with NHHC records to learn more about them.

"We are delighted that the mayor and city have decided to send these artifacts to the Naval History and Heritage Command," said Jay Thomas, the assistant director for the collections management division at NHHC. "We look forward to conserving them, and to sharing them and their story in the United States."

Once stabilized, the artifacts will be made available for public

display through the NHHC Archaeological Artifact Loan aProgram. Currently 80 percent of the command's archaeological artifact collection is on loan to various institutions throughout the country and in Europe.

On March 18, 1945, 19 F4U Corsair fighter-bombers, including those of Fighter Squadron (VF) 10, took off from aircraft carrier USS Intrepid (CV 11). Their target was a naval air base on the northern end of Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's home islands. By attacking Japanese airfields in range of that island they could deny air support to the defending garrison.

The "Grim Reapers" hit their target but at a cost of two aircraft flown by two new pilots. One Corsair hit the ground during the attack itself and the other, damaged

in the air raid, made an emergency water landing off the coast of Saiki. The plane sank and according to U.S. historical documentation, the pilot's body was never recovered.

The Corsair was rediscovered by accident almost 50 years later when the propeller and engine became ensnared in a fisherman's net. A local citizen funded an attempted recovery of the rest of the aircraft, but in the end only the engine, propeller and part of a wing were salvaged. These items were put on display in 2007 at Saiki's Yawaragi Peace Memorial Hall alongside the parts of other aircraft from the Pacific War.

In 2015, the decision was made to return the Corsair parts to the United States as a goodwill gesture on the 70th anniversary of the war's end. Saiki City's inten-

tion was to return it to the aircraft carrier that launched it 70 years ago, Intrepid, now a museum ship in New York City.

The curation team at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum redirected the city of Saiki to NHHC to coordinate return of the Corsair components. All U.S. Navy sunken military craft, including warplanes, remain U.S. government property no matter when or where they were downed and are protected from unauthorized disturbance under the Sunken Military Craft Act.

Archaeological conservator Shanna Daniel commented, "We are really looking forward to working on these pieces and cannot wait to begin documentation and starting the conservation process."

From Naval History and Heritage Command Communication and Outreach Division

Naval War College Culinary Specialist Named Chef of the Year

By Daniel L. Kuester
U.S. Naval War College Public Affairs

NEWPORT, R.I. (NNS) -- Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Jeremy Andersen, assigned to U.S. Naval War College, earned top honors as Armed Forces Master Chef of the Year at the annual all-services training and competition event held at Fort Lee, Virginia, earlier this month.

Andersen was one of more than 240 competitors from throughout the Department of Defense to participate in the event.

The competition was sanctioned by the American Culinary Federation and is designed to introduce military cooks to new, modern methods to prepare food for service men and women.

All branches sent their best cooks to compete.

"We get a huge benefit at a conference like this where we train, expand our culinary knowledge, attend workshops, and learn lots of new techniques," said Andersen. "We also get tips from celebrity chefs so that part of it is fun. And we try things outside our comfort zones."

Andersen has been to this event for the past five years and each time he attends he learns new techniques to use in his cooking, he said.

While preparing the dishes is a valuable experience and great training, hearing from the experts is even more valuable to Andersen.

"Sometimes it's not the dish you put out, it's the critique you get from it," he said. "It's an invaluable resource."

The other top award, Senior Armed Forces Chef of the Year, went to another Sailor - Culinary Specialist 1st Class Frida

Karani, assigned to the Office of the Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The competition was not the first time Andersen and Karani have been in the same kitchen.

"Karani and I were stationed together three years ago on USS Forest Sherman (DDG-98)," said Andersen with a smile. "We would push each other to do better work and improve. On the ship, we would go to alternating competitions so we never faced each other."

The competition was for preparing a full meal, something Andersen doesn't get to do often at NWC. He works mostly on lighter fare.

"Here at Naval War College we do mostly lunches," he said. "We sometimes do an evening event. Or when we have dinner event or banquet function it allows some time to have some fun and prepare a bigger meal, so there are training opportunities."

Andersen's winning meal included foie gras, stuffed pheasant breast, wild rice pilaf, butternut squash puree, caramelized apples with pecan and maple, glazed root vegetable and roasted pheasant mustard reduction.

While it was a lot of learning and class time, Andersen also enjoyed himself and was proud of winning the award.

"I had an absolute blast," he said. "The icing on the cake is that I beat the Army, Air Force and the Marines. We gave the Navy bragging rights this year."

The conference was a week long, but Andersen said he never stops working on his cooking skills.

"It's a year-round journey," he said. "I never stop learning. If I had prepared just for the week before the competition, I



Photo by CCSMichael Edwards

Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Jeremy Andersen, assigned to U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, prepares apple strudel during a "Food Forward" culinary symposium at Tufts University. The symposium brought together a diverse group of regional chefs in an effort to educate and raise awareness of meat-free foods and recipes.

wouldn't have had the success that I did. It is an every day journey of constant learning."

NWC is a one-year resident program that graduates about 600 resident students and about 1,000 distance learning students each year. Its missions include educating and developing leaders, helping define the future of the Navy, supporting combat readiness, and strengthening maritime partnerships. Students earn Joint Profes-

sional Military Education credit and either a diploma or a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies or Defense and Strategic Studies. Established in 1884, U.S. Naval War College is the oldest institution of its kind in the world. More than 50,000 students have graduated since its first class of nine students in 1885 and about 300 of today's active duty admirals, generals and senior executive service leaders are alumni.

Wreck

Extensive marine growth, primarily white plume anemones, drapes the hull's exterior while various species of marine life, including wolf eels, ling cod and rockfish, inhabit the site.

NOAA confirmed a number of features consistent with the description and plans of Conestoga published in 1904 including: the size of the wreck; the four-bladed, 12-foot 3 inch diameter propeller; the steam engine and boilers; the number and location of portholes, mooring bits, and ventilator locations; a large steam towing winch with twisted wire on the drum; two porcelain marine heads; and a single, 3-inch, 50-caliber gun that was mounted on the main deck in front of the pilot house.

After the ship was identified, in 2015 the NOAA and the Navy held a memorial ceremony at sea to honor the family members of those that were lost during the incident.

"This coming season we will be looking at the area of the Farallones Sanctuary that has been recently expanded to the north," said James Delgado, director of Maritime Heritage for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuary. "We will not only be looking at the shipwrecks but we will be working with California State Parks and other partners to see how the sanctuary connects to the shore."

A plaque dedicated to the memory of those who were lost at sea on Conestoga was unveiled in the lobby of the Navy Memorial Museum.



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.



MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Honoring Outstanding Teachers and Educators in East Mississippi and West Alabama



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 & Sumter



T & D Furniture* LaBiche Jewelers *John O'Neil Johnson Toyota Southern Pipe and Supply * Newell Paper Company* ESCO Cooperation Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling Company

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

The Personal Procured Move (PPM) claim office can be contacted at: 1-888-742-4467 or by e-mail: pptas.fiscn@navy.mil. For the members convenience, claim packages can also be e-mailed to the above address.



IT'S YOUR TURN...

This week we asked Marine students, "Why did you want to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps?"

By MC2 Casey H. Kyhl



Pvt. Justin Brockman
MATSS-1 Student

"The pride of being a Marine and the comradery."



Pfc. Khuori Blake
MATSS-1 Student

"The brotherhood you feel after serving with Marines from different walks of life."



Pfc. Noella Otworl
MATSS-1 Student

"Gaining the ability to lead and developing other skills."



Pfc. Cassandra Heras
MATSS-1 Student

"Getting out of New Jersey and meeting new people."



Pfc. Devon Smith
MATSS-1 Student

"The pride that comes with being a part of something bigger."

Fleet & Family Support Center

April: Month of the Military Child

Did you know April is the month we honor military children?

If not, now you do, and now is a good time for you to remember your children. We have celebration days for fathers and mothers and grandparents, but not children. The military is unique in that it honors its children and recognizes the sacrifices and challenges required of them in order for their parents to serve in the armed forces. Children make special sacrifices when they are part of a military family, and it is important to recognize them.

April was designated the Month of the Military Child by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in 1986. This time was set aside as a time to applaud military families and their children for the special sacrifices they make and challenges they overcome. Military children face many obstacles: frequent moves, separation from their active duty parent, school changes and saying goodbye to friends, to name a few.

Some statistics for you to consider:

*There are over 1.2 million children under the age of 18 living in a military family.

*Approximately 331,000 children are under the age of three.

*400,000 children are between the ages of six to 12 years old.

*52 percent of the active duty

workforce is married.

*Six percent of military members are single parents.

So, recognize this month with your children, let them know they are appreciated, cared for and loved.



They deserve a special day, too. How about a special day for them—out to eat at their choice of restaurants or doing a special activity together -- bowling, skating, riding bicycles, fishing? It probably won't matter a whole lot what you do; they'll just enjoy sharing the time with you -- maybe even your teens would enjoy a special outing with you. Have fun; give them hugs; recognize to them how important they are to you; tell them so. And, if you're wondering what else you can do for your children every single day; you can give them the gift of self-esteem -- the

best and most-lasting gift you can ever give them.

Here are some simple ways you can build self-esteem in your children:

- *Hug and kiss them every day.
- *Praise your child. Acknowledge accomplishments big and small.
- *Help your child feel special. Emphasize the privilege, responsibility, duty and pride that go along with being a military child.
- *Concentrate on the positive. Remember, a child's self-confidence needs an extra boost when he/she fails at a task.
- *Treat your child as a unique, valued and respected individual, not just an extension of you.
- *Take time to hear your child's feelings and concerns, especially those that concern your military lifestyle.
- *Be a good listener. Children feel good about themselves when they know others value what they have to say.
- *Show respect for your child's interests and ideas, even when they differ from your own.
- *Encourage your children to do their best. Show your appreciation and pride in those efforts.
- *Love your children unconditionally. Express your love frequently.

-- 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.

Career Technical Training: Transition GPS Optional Track: April 4-5 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The purpose of the Career Technical Training Track of the GPS program, taught by the VA, is to assist those seeking job-ready skills and industry-recognized credentials in shorter-term training programs.

Transition GPS Capstone: April 6 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Ninety days before their separation from military service, service members will participate in a CAPSTONE event, which will verify that transitioning service members completed the Transition GPS curriculum and achieved Career Readiness Standards. Service members who require additional assistance will be referred to supplemental training opportunities. In addition, through the CAPSTONE event, all service members will be offered a 'warm handover' to appropriate government agencies and organizations that will be able to provide them continued benefits, services, and support as veterans. See your Command Career Counselor for more information.

IA Spouse Discussion Group: April 6 from 11 a.m.-noon FFSC hosts this IA Spouse Discussion Group over coffee (or tea). Join other military spouses to talk about the challenges of IA deployment, share survival tips, discuss the impact of deployment on children, remind one another about the benefits of deployment, or just kick back & chat!

Welcome Aboard & New Spouse Orientation: April 7 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. (NSO 2-3 p.m.) FFSC welcomes you to Meridian by providing current information and policies regarding NAS. Topics covered will include: Navy career choices, FFSC services, Suicide Prevention, Medical, Dental, Exceptional Family Member (EFM) Program, TRICARE, vehicle registration, on- & off-base driving regulations, legal services, community services, Chapel & other religious services, MWR, things to do at NAS & in Meridian, and more! The New Spouse Orientation will include a Q&A session with command Ombudsmen and other briefs of interest to military spouses.

Recognizing & Reporting Child Abuse: April 11 from 10-11 a.m. or April 19 from 4-5 p.m. This workshop will focus on how to recognize signs of child abuse and how to report suspected abuse. We can all do something to stop child abuse -- to stand by silently is tragic and only helps establish the next generation of violence. We can and should do everything we can to end the cycle... knowledge is power.

Troops to Teachers: "Transition to Teaching" Seminar: April 12 from 10:30 a.m.-noon This briefing will cover eligibility and registration for the DoD TTT program. It will address funding and counseling services given by TTT state offices. Considerations and individual preparations for becoming a public school teacher will be discussed in depth. It will include gaining teaching experience, requirements for teacher certification, and obtaining employment.

Bystander Intervention: April 13 from 2-3 p.m. or April 21 from 9-10 a.m. You are at a party. During the past hour you notice one of your male friends has been talking to a young woman. They seem to be having a good time but it is clear that the woman has had too much to drink. At one point your friend walks by you and you hear him say he is just going to get her "one more" and "that should be enough." A few minutes later you see him put his arm around the young woman and start to lead her upstairs. What do you do? Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation and not known what to do, even though you knew you needed to do something? This seminar will discuss various reasons why individuals who witness a range of inappropriate behaviors may or may not take action, and present ways to encourage and develop greater bystander involvement.

Month of the Military Child Craft Day: April 21 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. To celebrate military children, FFSC is hosting a craft day for children ages 4-12. Join us to make patriotic-themed crafts. Refreshments will be served. Registration is required.

Dear Military Child: We're moving

By **Deja Fisher**
Guest Columnist

The front door opened and the sound of my mother's combat boots hitting the hallway floor got louder as she neared my room. My mother entering the house without saying, "Sweet pea, I'm home," was rather unusual and so I assumed I was in some sort of trouble. I mentally prepared myself to be scolded for not washing the dishes as soon as I got home from school.



Fisher

As I looked up to greet my mother -- now standing at my bedroom door -- she said to me, "We're moving to Japan." There was a tense moment of silence, during which I just stared at her, and then warm tears began to stream down my face. I slowly stood up and walked to my bedroom door which, for the first time in my life, I closed in my

mother's face. And, for the first time in my life, she did not scold me for my attitude.

What was I going to do? In that moment my entire life was flipped upside down. Leave Gulfport? That was insanity! Did she expect me to just be excited about having to leave behind my family, my friends and my boyfriend? Ridiculous!

I walked out of my room and headed straight to my mother's room, I was ready to tell her off and inform her that I was not going anywhere. Especially not to some foreign country right before my freshman year of high school. As I got closer to her room I heard her speaking on the phone with someone: "Yeah, I just told her about my orders to Japan." My mother said. "I feel horrible. I know she doesn't want to move and I understand why but there's nothing I can do. I tried to pick a duty station that wouldn't require us to move but the only way for me to not have to leave her and go on the ship is to take overseas orders."

I stopped and just stood there,

staring at her door. Not once had I considered her feelings. Not once had I thought to myself that she probably spent that entire day stressing over thinking of a way to tell me that we both had to prepare for a big move to a country neither of us had ever been to. All I thought about was how much I resented her for not trying hard enough to keep us in Gulfport. She was not trying to ruin my life, she was only trying to keep us together. What a jerk I had been.

While she finished her phone call, I sat on the couch in the living room waiting for her to come out of her room so that we could talk. She exited her room and came over to sit on the recliner across from me. "Mom, it's okay," I said. "I apologize for how I reacted earlier and I'll begin preparing myself for the move. A new place may be exciting."

A 20-year Navy dependent, Deja is currently located in Tallahassee, FL. She is a junior at Florida A & M University where she is pursuing a BS in Public Relations with a minor in Communications. Her blog -- www.dejasvu.com -- was recently launched and is a site where readers can follow her and also her independent writings.

Suicide prevention: How to get help

Suicide is a preventable personnel loss that impacts unit readiness, morale, and mission effectiveness. Relationship disruption, substance abuse, financial problems, legal problems, and mental health problems (such as depression), can interfere with individual efficiency and unit effectiveness and may increase a person's suicide risk. Factors including positive attitude, solid spirituality and faith, good problem solving skills, sound financial management, and healthy stress control can increase individual efficiency, unit effectiveness, and reduce risk of intentional self harm. As such, preventing suicide in the Navy begins with promotion of health and wellness consistent with keeping service members ready to accomplish the mission.

- Prevention contact**
1. **Immediate emergency: 911**
 2. **Branch Health Clinic: 601 679-2633 Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-4 p.m., after hours 601 481-4148. Call to schedule emergency appointment if suicidal behavior appears evident.**
 3. **Fleet and Family Support Center: 601 679-2360, Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Call to schedule an appointment if warning signs are present.**
 4. **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800 273-TALK (8255) -- 24 hours/7 days.**



Navy Wounded Warrior-Safe Harbor Announces Team Navy Roster

By Shannon Leonard

Special contributor to Navy Installations Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Forty seriously wounded, ill and injured Navy athletes have been chosen to represent Team Navy at the Department of Defense (DoD) 2016 Warrior Games this summer.

The athletes were evaluated during the Wounded Warrior Pacific Navy Trials, which took place Feb. 20-26 in Hawaii.

During the trials 54 athletes competed in seven sporting events, including swimming, track and field, wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, shooting, archery, and cycling. Each athlete showcased his or her athletic skills while vying for a spot on the Team Navy roster.

"Nearly half of this year's trials participants were new to the adaptive sports program," said Navy Wounded Warrior - Safe Harbor Adaptive Sports and Recreation lead Megan Haydel. "This is a testament to the eagerness recovering service members have to bring sports into their recovery process."

"Our Navy wounded warriors exhibited tremendous drive, spirit and competition throughout the trials, making this year's team selection extremely difficult," said Haydel. "We could not be more proud of the efforts our Sailors and Coast Guardsmen put into the trials. We witnessed firsthand the great strides they have made in their athletic capabilities, and have seen the positive effects that adaptive sports can have on their recovery."

Navy Wounded Warrior (NWW) is the Navy and Coast Guard's wounded warrior support program. All of the athletes who participated in the trials are enrolled in the program, which has provided non-medical care throughout their recovery.

The 2016 Team Navy roster includes a diverse collection of athletes. It brings together service members from around the country, from both the enlisted and officer

communities, with incredibly varied backgrounds and skill sets. The team will practice together for the first time at a training camp that will be held April 8-11 at Naval Base Ventura County, California.

The 2016 DoD Warrior Games - a Paralympic-style competition among wounded warriors from all branches of the military service - will take place June 14-22 at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York. The Warrior Games were created in 2010 as a way to enhance the recovery and rehabilitation of wounded warriors and to expose them to adaptive sports. The games will feature more than 350 wounded warriors from five U.S. teams representing the Army, Marine Corps, Navy/Coast Guard, Air Force, and the Special Operations Forces, as well as international competitors. Once again, NWW will sponsor Team Navy.

The DoD Warrior Games will be preceded by the Invictus Games, an international wounded warrior athletic competition that brings together more than 500 competitors from 15 nations to compete in 10 sports. The U.K.'s Prince Harry started the games in 2014 to honor wounded warriors. NWW will send 18 wounded warrior athletes to ESPN's Wide World of Sports at Walt Disney World in Orlando May 8-12. The Navy's Invictus Games participants can be viewed on the official Invictus Games website at <http://invictusgames2016.org>.

The complete 2016 Team Navy Roster is below:

- Retired Navy Chief Logistics Specialist Leticia Baugher
- Navy Chief Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Ron Condrey
- Retired Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Zachary Crites
- Navy Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Christopher Custer
- Retired Navy Aviation Electrician's Mate Apprentice Steven Davis
- Navy Machinist's Mate 1st Class Michael Dayton
- Retired Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Joseph Derbak
- Retired Navy Builder 1st Class Robert Dodd
- Retired Navy Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Nathan Dewalt
- Retired Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Roel Espino
- Navy Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Matthew Estes
- Retired Navy Airman Austin Field
- Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Shane Gilley
- Navy Lieutenant Commander Maria Cristina Gomez-Mannix
- Retired Navy Engineman 3rd Class Jerrod Griffin
- Retired Navy Lieutenant Joan Hill
- Retired Navy Hospital Corpsman Adam Hygema
- Navy Musician 3rd Class Abbie Johnson
- Retired Navy Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class Andrew Johnson
- Retired Navy Airman Brittany Jordan
- Navy Operations Specialist 3rd Class Melissa Klotz
- Retired Navy Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 1st Class Daniel Kregstein
- Retired Navy Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class Steven Lee
- Retired Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Sonny Lemerande
- Retired Navy Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Bernard Lowe
- Retired Navy Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Christopher Lowe
- Retired Navy Aviation Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Stephan Miller
- Retired Navy Airman Brett Parks
- Retired Navy Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Stephanie Purpish
- Retired Navy Aviation Technician 3rd Class Kathleen Ray
- Retired Navy Fire Controlman 3rd Class Jason Reyes
- Retired Navy Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Michael Roggio
- Retired Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade Laura Root
- Retired Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Henry Sawyer
- Navy Information Systems Technician 1st Class Ryan Shannon
- Retired Navy Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Samantha Silke
- Navy Electronics Technician 1st Class Scottie Smith
- Retired Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Luis Surla
- Navy Chief Gunner's Mate Jeannette Tarqueno
- Navy Chief Culinary Specialist Maria Torres.



Photo by Shannon Leonard

NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY, Calif. -- Navy Wounded Warriors learn how to cycle safely during their track training session at the adaptive athletics camp on Naval Base Ventura County.

Shannon Leonard is a contributing writer for Navy Wounded Warrior-Safe Harbor under Navy Installations Command

● Children

DoD's child care system was the only one to earn a B, the highest grade awarded. Mississippi got an F, along with 20 other states. It was ranked 43 out of the 50 states, plus the Department of Defense and District of Columbia. (Child Care Aware works with the Department Defense to help military families find and afford care when they are not on a military base.)

"It is good news that the children of military families are in quality child care," the report said. "It would be great news if the rest of the children in America could also be in quality child care."

Related: Child care crisis: State's weak oversight puts children in harm's way in Mississippi

More than 95 percent of DoD child care centers are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Mississippi need not look far to find an example of what that quality looks like. The child development center at the Meridian Naval Air Station is one of the military's many accredited centers. Each classroom has its own playground and each has an area where children can play house, with a mini stove and sink. The rooms are full of books, blocks, puppets, dolls and other toys and staffed by at least two teachers at all times.

Like many people on the naval installation, the teachers have a uniform. Teachers who have passed an intensive background check wear blue smocks. Before passing, teachers must wear red and are never allowed alone with children. The colors make it immediately apparent when a teacher without clearance is unsupervised.

Deridre Odom, Child and Youth program manager at the Meridian Naval Air Station, says she embraces the high standards and accountability the military child care system has in place. Photo: Sarah Butrymowicz

On a March afternoon, the hallways at the center were lined with evidence of a recent unit on Dr. Seuss. Paper plates of "green eggs and ham" hung outside the toddler room. Photos of the preschoolers dressed as the cat in the hat covered their classroom door.

Inside the room, nine preschoolers sat on a rug bordered by numbers spelled out in English and Spanish. One of the teachers held up a plastic yellow clock and moved the hands from the current time - 2:35 - to 3:00, when the librarian would arrive to tell them a story. Some students counted aloud as the teacher moved the minute hand around the circle.

The teacher then moved on to the next activity: Holding up colored sheets she asked the children if they could identify the colors in English - which they shouted with glee - and then in Spanish, on which they were rusty. After some prompting, they remembered blue was "azul", and red was "rojo."

During the lesson, a little girl hit her classmate, received a swipe in return, and melted into tears. Without missing a beat, the teacher held off a full-blown meltdown by calmly calling the girl over to her. She reviewed with the whole class how they should sit on the rug - "criss-cross apple sauce" with their "spoons [hands] in the bowl." Then she asked what they should do when someone breaks the rules and hits. In the end, the class agreed they should say, "I don't like it. Can you please stop?"

After some prodding, the little girl agreed that she should use "nice touches" in the future and was sent back to her seat to apologize.

Such scenes in Meridian reflect not only the dedication of the Meridian staff, but also decades of hard work by the DoD. In 1982, the U.S. General Accounting Office issued a report which found that many Department of Defense centers failed to meet safety codes. Regulations and teacher training were both "inadequate."

Related: High turnover and low pay for employees may undermine state's child care system

In 1989, Congress passed the Military Child Care Act. It mandated - and funded - an overhaul of the system. The act required teachers to have significant training before they were allowed to work with children, increased teacher pay and based tuition rates for families on family income. The government began subsidizing the tuition payments to provide the centers with additional funding. Program standards were increased and a rigorous inspection process - four each year - was put into place to make sure centers were meeting them.

In fiscal year 2015, the government spent approximately \$700 million on military child care and after school programs, including "staff salaries, equipment and supplies, food costs, program accreditation fees and support services," according to DoD spokesperson Lt. Col. Gabrielle M. Hermes. In comparison, Mississippi budgeted \$2 million for the Department of Health's child care licensure office for fiscal year 2016.

In fiscal year 2015, the government spent approximately \$700 million on military child care and after school programs.

Kristen Johnson, senior director of NAEYC's accreditation program, said any state can follow in the military's path if it commits to making the effort and spending the money. Change wouldn't come overnight or cheaply, though. "It would just take a lot of planning and intentionality and collaboration among all of the parties within a state that are involved in the system," she said. The military "made a system-wide commitment to support child care programs. They built an infrastructure to support teachers."

The Department of Defense is the only child care system in the country that requires center directors to have a bachelor's degree in or related to early childhood education, according to Child Care Aware.

Centers must also hire a "training and curriculum specialist" with a four-year degree in or relating to early childhood education. As the title implies, that person is in charge of working with the center's staff to make sure they receive the necessary training and also implements the curriculum for all ages, including infants.

As in Mississippi's licensed centers, child care employees at Department of Defense centers need only a high school diploma to be hired. But Department of Defense mandates far more initial training than the center-run orientation required by the Mississippi Department of Health.

The DoD requires all new teachers to complete 40 hours of training within three months of starting the job. The training covers items like CPR, health and safety and child abuse reporting.

From the beginning, new teachers also work their way through 15 online modules used by all DoD centers. To complete each module, they must take a test and do an assignment. All modules must be finished within 18 months.

Related: Why is 'high quality' so elusive in Mississippi's child care centers?

Teachers are required to meet these benchmarks. "If they don't reach the milestone, they're no longer employed," said Barbara Thompson, the director of the DoD's Office of Family Readiness Policy, said. "It's really very stringent. We don't just take anybody."

Deridre Odom, Child and Youth program manager at the Meridian installation, said that the Navy has an additional benchmark for its employees. They have six months to work through training that helps them meet the academic and social-emotional needs of preschoolers, including classes in curriculum development, child observation and developmentally appropriate practices.

The DoD requires all full-time staff to do at least 24 hours of professional development every year. The Navy mandates 48 hours, said Odom. In Mississippi only 15 hours are required.

The pay for full-time staff is set by the federal government and designed to be competitive with other similarly demanding jobs on an installation. Teachers are paid on average \$15 an hour, according to DoD officials. That's about \$5 more than the national average and \$6 more than Missis-

issippi's average.

"We pay them well and we encourage them" to get a degree, said Odom. The degree doesn't mean an automatic pay bump, but it will make workers eligible for promotions within the center. Odom herself started as a part-time caregiver before working her way up the ladder.

"It is a lot, but we certainly don't apologize for being thorough because we're talking about keeping the environment safe for our children."

Carolyn Stevens, associate director in the DoD's Office of Children and Youth in the Office of Family Readiness Policy

Having well-trained staff is crucial in order to pass the four unannounced inspections DoD centers face each year. Three of these are conducted by personnel at the installation: one inspection looks at health and sanitation, another focuses on fire and safety, and the third is a multidisciplinary inspection that looks at the entire program, including education and staffing. The fourth inspection is done by a visiting team of officials from the military headquarters of the center's corresponding branch - Army, Navy, Air Force or Marines. The officials spend hours in classrooms, watch food being prepared, and talk to teachers, children and parents.

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Thompson performed these inspections for 10 years for the Air Force. She described the process as a "very intense" 18-hour day for officials. "We're observing the quality and interactions of the teacher, observing health and safety procedures," said Thompson. After a full day spent at the center, she would bring records to her hotel room to check that teachers had taken required training courses or that student information was up-to-date.

The checklist for the service team inspection is 60 pages long and is based on the comprehensive standards the military has established for its centers. Branches of the military may add information to it or look for additional items. The Navy has expanded its checklist to 147 pages, according to Odom.

All inspection lists cover big picture items - making sure that the centers paperwork is accounted for, that classrooms have age-appropriate materials - and many specific details: Are toddlers given the chance to participate in family style dining? Are cleaning supplies appropriately labeled?

The inspections go far beyond health and safety, Department of Defense officials said. Inspectors make a concentrated effort to evaluate what's happening in the classroom, from the daily lesson plans to how teachers interact with children of all ages.

For instance, teachers are supposed to "incorporate strategies for emotional support," according to the DoD checklist. To determine this in infant classrooms, inspectors are advised to "[o]bserve that teachers respond quickly and appropriately to infant's varying signs of emotions."

Odom embraces the accountability as a means of proving she's providing the best care possible for the children in her care. "This is a monster," she said gesturing at the Navy checklist. "But it's attainable. We can get it done."

If a center is out of compliance on any item on the checklist, no matter how minor it may seem, workers must create a corrective action plan outlining definitive steps to fix the problem. The commander of the installation must sign off on the plan and confirm the violation has been fixed within 90 days.

"These inspections really are key to maintaining a level of quality," said Carolyn Stevens, associate director in the DoD's Office of Children and Youth in the Office of Family Readiness Policy. "It is a lot, but we certainly don't apologize for being thorough because we're talking about keeping the environment safe for our children."

This story was produced by The Hechinger Report, a nonprofit, independent news organization focused on inequality and innovation in education. Next week this series will look at lessons learned from reporting the Child Care Crisis series.

