



NEWS RELEASE



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Release Number: 030-11
Sept. 1, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southeast Region Commander Signs Proclamations for Suicide Prevention, Ombudsman Recognition

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Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs

Rear Adm. John C. “Jack” Scorby Jr., commander, Navy Region Southeast (NRSE) signed proclamations in support of the Navy Family Ombudsman Program (NFOP) and Suicide Prevention on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville Sept. 1.

The proclamations commemorate the 41st anniversary of the NFOP and signals the beginning of National Suicide Prevention Week, which runs from Sept. 4-10. The NFOP designates Sept. 14 as NRSE Ombudsman Appreciation Day.

“Both proclamations are in support of very important causes,” Scorby said. “Suicide prevention is something that is obviously a very serious issue, and we need to do everything we can to raise the awareness and understanding of suicide prevention strategies. Then, of course, the ombudsman program has been integral to supporting our fleet, fighters and families for more than four decades now, and I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to ombudsmen throughout the region.”

The Suicide Prevention proclamation emphasizes the Navy’s “Act, Care, Treat” (ACT) training tool, which is designed to raise awareness of suicide warning signs and encourages

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PROCLAMATIONS/2/2/2/2

people to intervene with those at risk.

“Suicide is a major issue right now throughout the Department of Defense,” said Dianne Parker, NRSE deployment support program manager and ombudsman program coordinator. “I believe this proclamation is very important because it can help us raise awareness of National Suicide Prevention Week among the military community.”

According to Parker, those who suspect serious emotional issues with an individual should take the issue seriously and work with their chain of command or their installation’s Fleet and Family Support Center to get them help.

Parker also commented on the significance of the NFOP proclamation.

“It’s important to recognize the anniversary of the ombudsman program because our ombudsmen are a part of the command support team and they make sure that families know what resources are available to them and help them adjust to the military way of life.”

The NFOP was launched Sept. 14, 1970 by Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo Zumwalt to assist commands in maintaining the morale, health and welfare of Navy families.

“The program has proven itself to be essential to family support and mission readiness,” Scorby said. “Ombudsmen support has helped to relieve the stress on deployed Sailors, allowing them to focus on the details of preparing and executing the mission.”

CAPTIONS

110901-N-UA460-004 - JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Sept. 1, 2011) -- Rear Adm. John C. "Jack" Scorby Jr. signs a suicide prevention proclamation in front of members of the Navy Region Southeast Fleet and Family Readiness Program on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Greg Johnson/Released)

110901-N-UA460-007 - JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Sept. 1, 2011) -- Rear Adm. John C. "Jack" Scorby Jr. signs a suicide prevention proclamation in front of members of the Navy Region Southeast Fleet and Family Readiness Program on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Greg Johnson/Released)

110901-N-UA460-010 - JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Sept. 1, 2011) -- Rear Adm. John C. "Jack" Scorby Jr. signs an ombudsman proclamation in front of members of the Navy Region Southeast Fleet and Family Readiness Program on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Greg Johnson/Released)