

Subway coming to NAS Meridian

By Penny Randall
Staff Writer

There are 33,930 of these restaurants in 95 countries, and the next one is set to open in just a few weeks on board Naval Air Station Meridian.

What is the restaurant? Subway – the world’s largest submarine sandwich chain.

Gus Lisi of Meridian along with his wife, Debbie, and their son, Nick, will own the franchise that will be located inside the McCain Rec Center.

“We are very excited to get started at NAS Meridian,” said Nick Lisi, whose father has owned Subway franchises for 36 years. “We will offer all the traditional Subway sandwiches with an emphasis on healthy eating for the military.”

Subway will be housed in the location of Mean Gene’s Burgers and Smash Hit Subs which will cease operation on Jan. 30. Mean Gene’s opened on April 27,

2004, on board NAS Meridian and served burgers, fries, pizza and subs.

Construction will begin the following week to accommodate the new Subway.

“We will be bringing in all new equipment needed for the full operation of the restaurant,” Nick said. “Our plans are to be open by mid-February early March time frame employing about six to 12 employees.”

The Lisi’s also own the popular Nick and Al’s New York Style Pizzeria in Meridian. The most asked question on base is if the location will feature Nick & Al’s items such as pizza, pasta and calzones.

“At this time we are solely focusing on Subway and getting it up and running at NAS Meridian,” Nick said. “It may be an option down the road to bring some Nick & Al’s items.”

The NAS Meridian Subway location will feature the traditional sandwiches such as the Subway Club, but also popular sandwiches such as the Oven Roasted

Chicken, Sweet Onion Chicken Teriyaki, Philly Cheesesteak, BLT, Italian BMT, Meatball Marinara, Spicy Italian and Tuna. Vegetables and toppings will include banana peppers, cucumbers, green peppers, jalapeno peppers, lettuce, onions, pickles, olives and tomatoes. Cheeses include American, Monterey Cheddar, Mozzarella, Pepper Jack, Provolone and Swiss. Various salads including the ham, oven roasted chicken, roast beef, turkey and veggie delite will be served. Specialty breads will include the traditional Italian white bread, 9-grain wheat bread, parmesan oregano, honey oat, Italian herbs and cheese, and the new flatbread.

Subway was founded in 1965, by Fred DeLuca. The first store opened in August of that year in Bridgeport, Conn. Subway prides itself on serving nutritional food. Subway features eight varieties of sandwiches that are less than 400 calories and are low in total fat, saturated fat, cholesterol and trans fat free.