



THE SKYLINE



Volume 49, Number 5

On the Web: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Meridian> and on facebook

March 3, 2011

On Base...

✓ **March Madness Bowling Tournament:** March 5 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at McCain Rec Center. \$15 per person. Must register by 11 a.m. on March 5. Call (601) 679-2651.

✓ **Post-secondary Informational Meeting** March 9 from 3-4 p.m. at Administration Building 255, Room 265. Meridian Community College NAS Meridian Program Director Ardra Govan will meet with high school students and their parents to discuss preparing for college, course requirements, college entrance exams, fees, scholarships, etc. For information contact, School Liaison Cynthia McDonald at (601) 679-2473.

✓ **Starbase Atlantis and NAS Meridian Child and Youth Programs presents Planetarium, Art & Information Showcase.** April 21, from 4-5 p.m. at Building 266 Ages 5-8: Cool Constellations: Starlab Planetarium & Constellation Art Ages 9-12: Activity sponsored by NAS Child and Youth Programs Spaces are limited. Please call (601) 679-2448 to register. Parents will be required to remain with children.

Spring Forward
Daylight savings time begins
March 13



A Day in Naval History

March 3
1871: Navy Medical Corps established.
1883 - Congress authorizes 4 modern ships of steel, "A,B,C,D Ships"; three cruisers, Atlanta, Boston and Chicago, and dispatch boat Dolphin.
1915: Office of Chief of Naval Operations established.
1915: Congress creates Federal Naval Reserve.
March 5
1942: Name "Seabees" and insignia officially authorized.

-- www.history.navy.mil

THE SKYLINE IS A CHINFO AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER

VT-7 flight instructor speaks at military museum

By MC2 (AW/SW) Flordeliz Valerio
Staff Writer

Ensign Jesse L. Brown was the Navy's first African American pilot and the first to lose his life in combat some 60 years ago.

Decades later, African American pilots like Training Squadron Seven (VT-7) Flight Instructor Lt. Mycel Scott are a common sight in the cockpit. Scott spoke about his Navy experience at the African American Military History Museum in Hattiesburg on Feb. 12. The audience consisted of representatives from Boy Scouts of America Pine Burr Area Council, a group from Community Cares Health Center and other visitors.

"I used to make paper and model airplanes in my childhood, and by the time I was in fourth grade I knew exactly what I wanted to do – attend the United States Naval Academy and be a pilot," said Scott who suffered from asthma as a child. "In high school, I started researching how I could get into the Naval Academy, and I set goals for myself."

A native of Clarksville, Tenn., Scott studied and worked hard during his training days as a midshipman and received a commission in 2001.

Scott said that while he was at the academy, less than 8 percent of midshipmen were African American. In his class, Scott was one of four African Americans who graduated and the only African American who earned a spot for jet pilot training.

● **Museum, page 3**



Photo by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio

Training Squadron Seven flight instructor Lt. Mycel Scott poses with Ensign Jesse L. Brown's niece and brother, Wanda Franklin and Lara Brown, at the African American Military History Museum in Hattiesburg, Feb. 12.

Black History Month Celebrations



Photo by Penny Randall

Dorothy Stamps, a member of the Special Emphasis Committee, speaks at the Black History Month Program and Celebration of Historical Events luncheon at the Roy M. Wheat Galley, Feb. 17. Topics presented included African Americans and the Civil War, Origin of African American History Month, Freedom Riders, the career of Shelby Foote, the Navy's first Yeoman Master Chief, the careers of Ensign Jessie L. Brown, the Navy's first black aviator, and Lt. J.G. Andrew Tripplett, a native Shuqualak, Miss., who was killed during the attack on the USS Cole, and Reflections of the African American Clergy.



Photo by Susan Junkins

Above, the MSU Praise Team performs at the Black Heritage Ball on Feb. 25 at Rudders on board NAS Meridian. Left, the guest speaker Philadelphia Mayor James A. Young addresses the crowd. Young served four terms as a District 5 supervisor before being elected mayor. Guests at the ball enjoyed a fashion show, entertainment, heavy hors d'oeuvres and dancing.



NAS Meridian seeks command ombudsman

The command ombudsman is a volunteer spouse of an active duty command member, who is appointed by the commanding officer, to serve as an information link between command leadership and Navy families.

Ombudsmen are trained to disseminate information both up and down the chain of command, including official Department of the Navy and command information, command climate issues, local quality of life (QOL) improvement opportunities, and "good deals" around the community. They also provide resource referrals when needed, and are instrumental in resolving family issues

before they require extensive command attention. The commanding officer tailors the ombudsman program to fit the needs of his command. The command ombudsman works under the guidance of the commanding officer.

If you are compassionate, professional, knowledgeable, committed, supportive, loyal, friendly and interested in being NAS Meridian's next ombudsman, please contact NAS Meridian Command Master Chief Sharon Laguna by March 15 at (601) 679-2629 or e-mail sharon.laguna@navy.mil for information concerning the selection process.

NAS Meridian's Starbase-Atlantis celebrates 100,000th student graduation

By Penny Randall
Staff Writer

After 16 years of inspiring fifth-graders in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), the Navy's Starbase-Atlantis program graduated its 100,000th student.

Starbase-Atlantis Meridian on board Naval Air Station Meridian is one of 15 programs located on Navy installations worldwide. It marked the celebration during a graduation ceremony on Feb. 18 for fifth grade students from Poplar Springs Elementary.

Eleven-year-old Mary Beth Hilliard was the class' top graduate.

"This week has been really fun," said Hilliard who earned the call sign "Atomic." "We have done so much that it's hard to decide what my favorite part was, but probably the rocket we made out of straws. We also learned about latitude and longitude – that's something I haven't even learned in school yet."

The first Navy Starbase academy was launched in September 1994 at NAS Pensacola, and began offering fifth-grade students the opportunity to participate in a variety of learning experiences designed to increase knowledge and interest in STEM subjects. The program has since expanded throughout the Navy.

NAS Meridian Starbase-Atlantis opened in 2002 and its sister-site on the Choctaw Indian Reservation in Philadelphia opened in 2003. Since then the Meridian site has graduated more than 5,500 students and the Choctaw site has graduated nearly 2,400 students.

Starbase-Atlantis course topics include Newton's Laws of Motion, fluid mechanics and aerodynamics, model rocketry and much more. Students 'fly' aircraft on a computer flight simulator, as well as build and launch a model rocket as the final project for the course.

Poplar Springs Elementary math teacher Diana Covington was with her students all week.

"It's a great program" ● **Starbase, page 3**

Look Inside



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Celebrating Black History Month during Centennial of Naval Aviation



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Southpaw Marine hooks, jabs toward Olympic dreams



~ Page 6 ~
MCPON designates Bill Cosby honorary chief



~ Page 6 ~
NMCRS hosts Baby Boot Camp March 5

Photo of the Week



Submitted Photo

Capt. Marcus Walton, Training Squadron 7 instructor, and Sgt. Anthony Tillman, Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron One, speak to students at the Diversity Career Fair held at Northwest Middle School on Feb. 18. The event was in conjunction with Black History Month activities. Also attending the event was Chief Tonjala Chavious.

Area Happenings

MARCH

5: The Meridian Little Theatre Ladies Guild is holding a Book Fair from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Meridian Little Theatre on Hwy 39 North. The Guild is a non-profit organization and we raise money to benefit the Meridian Little Theatre. Donations of unwanted books, magazines, comic books, audio books, movies, cookbooks, school books, etc. are now being accepted. Please bring donations to the theatre Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. For information, call (601) 482-6371 or (601) 462-9312.

5: Community Movie Night in Daleville. The Movie "Nanny McPhee" will be shown at 6 p.m. at the Sam Dale Firehall (white building next to the Post Office in Highway 39). Free and the community is invited to attend. For more information, e-mail dalevillecommunity@gmail.com.

7-April 7: Meridian Community College Miller Gallery hosts Lauderdale County High School Art Competition Exhibit. Opening reception will be March 7 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at 910 Hwy 19 North. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call (601) 484-8647.

9-April 23: Meridian Museum of Art Exhibit hosts the 37th Annual Bi-State Competition featuring the 2010 Bi-State Winner Larry Bustin and Tiffany McPeak. The museum is at 628 25th Ave., Meridian. Hours of operation are Wednesday-Saturday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. For information, call (601) 693-1501 or go to: www.meridianmuseum.org.

APRIL

1-3: Meridian Community College's Arts and Letters "Disney's My Son Pinocchio (Geppetto's Musical Tale)" will be performed in McCain Theatre, 910 Hwy 19 North on April 1 at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., April 2 at 7 p.m., and April 3 at 2 p.m. For information, call (601) 484-8696.



In the Spotlight...

Happy Birthday...

Happy Birthday wishes go out to **AC1 Dwayne Hinson** who celebrates his birthday on March 6.

Jimmy Rodgers celebrates his birthday on March 15.
-- Happy B-day from your friends at McCain Rec Center

Navy Gateway Inns & Suites staff members with upcoming birthdays are **Sharon Clayton** (March 22), **Jerry Royal** (March 24) and **Michelle Crowell** (March 25).

Happy Birthday to NAS Meridian ADMIN employees **Chitka Burrage** who celebrates on March 11 and belated wishes to **Kim McAfee** who celebrated on Feb. 23.

Jennifer Simmons celebrates her 4th birthday on March 28. She is the daughter of Antoinette R. Simmons (MWR) and attends the CDC.

Retirement....

Marlene E. Cacapit officially retired on Feb. 20, 2011, from the military. She joined the U.S. Army on Jan. 19, 1981, on the delayed entry program entering basic training in September 1981 at Ft. Leonardwood, Mo. Duty assignments as a supply specialist were in Ft. Bliss Texas, Nurnburg, Germany, Ft. Hood, Texas, Ft. Riley, Kan., and Augsburg, Germany. Cacapit is a Gulf War veteran as a supply specialist and served two tours in support of OEF/OIF as a MP (military police). She is retiring as an E7 -- sergeant first class. She earned several military awards with the highest being the Joint Service Commendation Medal. Over half of her military career was active duty while the other half was split between the Army National Guard and the Army Reserves.

Married to Melchor Cacapit, the couple has three children Stevie, Yinessa and Zachaeus; and two grandchildren, Stephanie and Tylin.

"I was born an Air Force brat at Mt. Home AFB, Idaho," Cacapit said. "I give God the glory for allowing my career to be a success and for the undying support of my husband who was Mr. Mom for much of my career."

Cacapit is currently a military instructor with San Diego City College at the LS "A" School at Naval Technical Training Center Meridian.



To include an item in this column, e-mail penny.randall@navy.mil or call (601) 679-2318. Photos may be included.

Off Limits Establishments

The following establishments located in the city of Meridian are off limits to military members stationed at NAS Meridian.

The Underground
(Bonita Lakes Mall)
Meridian Underground Music Exchange

Club Flame Throwers
(advertised as "Club End Zone")
Club Fusion (Formerly Club Swaggards and Club Midnight Sun)

Sailors, Guardsmen selected for 2011 Warrior Games Team

Mississippi Coast Guard lieutenant among group

PORT HUENEME, Calif. (NNS) -- Wounded warrior athletes selected to participate on the U.S. Navy/Coast Guard team at the 2011 Warrior Games aboard Port Hueneme, Calif., were announced Feb. 21.

The team members were officially announced at the conclusion of an adaptive sport training camp aboard Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme, Calif.

"In addition to their incredible athletic skills, our wounded warriors personify resilience and dedication," said Capt. Bernie Carter, Navy Safe Harbor director and Coast Guard's wounded warrior support program. "I am extremely proud of each one of them. The team cheer -- 'One Team, One Fight' -- reflects their commitment to one another, as well as their shared determination to making a significant mark at the competition."

Approximately 200 wounded, ill, and injured athletes from all branches of service will compete in the second annual Warrior Games, which will take place at the Olympic Training Center and U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., May 16-21. The games are a joint endeavor of the U.S. Olympic Committee and the U.S. Department of Defense.

"Events like the Warrior Games motivate me and encourage me to stay in shape," said Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Selemeni Johnson, a new addition to the team. "They remind me that my only limitations are those I set for myself, and that there's still so much I can do."

Johnson was struck by a vehicle while riding his motorcycle in April 2010. He sustained a spinal cord injury that damaged his T7 and T8 vertebrae.

"It's great to be a part of this family again," said Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Nathan Dewalt, a returning team member. "I hope to serve as a mentor to some of our new

● **Warriors, page 9**

The 32 Sailors and three Coast Guardsmen selected for the 2011 Navy/Coast Guard team are:

- Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Angelo Anderson, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va.
- Michael Bell, former U.S. Coast Guard electrician's mate 3rd Class, Union, Mo.
- Culinary Specialist Seaman Judith M. Boyce, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.
- Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Tyler Burdick, Naval Medical Center San Diego, Calif.
- Jim D. Castaneda, former Navy boatswain's mate 1st Class, San Antonio, Texas
- Lt. Dan Clossen, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.
- Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Holly Crabtree, Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Fla.
- Special Operations Chief Jon Cummings, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.
- Machinist Mate 1st Class Michael Dayton, Intermediate Maintenance Support Facility, Pacific Northwest, Bangor, Wash.
- Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Nathan Dewalt, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.
- John C. Edmonston, former Navy Lt., Bremerton, Wash.
- Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Jacob Emmott, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.
- Joseph A. Frank, former Navy operations specialist 2nd Class, San Diego, Calif.
- Rodolfo Garcia, former aviation boatswain's mate 1st Class, San Antonio, Texas
- Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Oswald Gould, Naval Air Station Oceana, Va.
- Chief Special Warfare Boat Operator Daniel S. Hathorn, Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va.
- Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Aaron Heldreth, Underwater Construction Team 2, Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme, Calif.
- Peter A. Johns, former chief electrician's mate, Kingsville, Texas.
- Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class Andrew K. Johnson, Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.
- Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Selemeni Johnson, Naval Medical Center, San Diego, Calif.
- Sancho V. Johnson, former U.S. Coast Guard lieutenant, Jackson, Miss.
- Michael Johnston, former Navy parachute rigger 3rd Class, San Diego, Calif.
- Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Sonny Lemerande, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, Twentynine Palms, Calif.
- Logistics Specialist 1st Class Robert "Steve" Lipscomb, Commander, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group, Williamsburg, Va.
- Douglas McCarron, former builder 1st Class, Whittier, Calif.
- Lt. Melanie Monts de Oca, Navy Safe Harbor, Tampa, Fla.
- Hull Maintenance Technician 2nd Class Brandon Norris, Naval Medical Center San Diego, Calif.
- Steve Peace, former Navy Lt. Cmdr., San Diego, Calif.
- Dan Peters, former Navy builder constructionman, Chicago, Ill.
- Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Max R. Rohn, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.
- Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Justin E. Rose, Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, N.C.
- Chief Equipment Operator Ana Sarver, Maritime Civil Affairs Security Team, Little Creek, Va.
- Andre Shelby, former Navy boatswain's mate 1st Class, Jacksonville, Fla.
- Christopher J. Shunk, former U.S. Coast Guard operations specialist chief petty officer, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- Gerald W. Williams, former chief operations specialist, McKinney, Texas

TRICARE Dental Programs offer variety of plans

The TRICARE Active Duty Dental Program is available in the United States, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Administered by United Concordia Companies, Inc. (United Concordia), this program provides civilian dental care to ensure dental health and deployment readiness for all active duty service members (including activated National Guard or Reserve members).

Contact the A.D. Dental Program, United Concordia at 1-866-984-2337 or www.addp-ucci.com

The TRICARE Dental Program is a voluntary, premium-based dental insurance plan administered by United Concordia Companies, Inc., (United Concordia).

The program is available to the following beneficiaries: Active duty family members, family members of National

Guard and Reserve members, members of the National Guard and Reserve (who are not on active duty orders). Contact the TRICARE dental program United Concordia Stateside: 1-800-866-8499; Overseas: 1-888-418-0466 or www.TRICAREdentalprogram.com

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program is a voluntary, premium-based dental insurance plan administered by Delta Dental of California.

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program is available to the following beneficiaries: Retired service members and their family members, retired National Guard or Reserve members and their family members, Medal of Honor recipients and their families, survivors.

For more information, contact the TRICARE retiree dental program Delta Dental at 1-888-838-8737 or www.trdp.org.

Meridian NEX to offer NMCRS benefit sale tickets

Beginning in March, 42 NEXs will be selling a Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) benefit sale ticket to customers for \$5.

The NAS Meridian NEX is participating in this special event.

The money collected from the sale of each ticket will be given to NMCRS to help Sailors and their families in need. When purchased, the sale ticket will entitle customers to specific percent-off discounts for a one-time purchase on either April 11 or 12.

The benefit sales ticket entitles customers to 10 percent off merchandise storewide, excluding: tobacco, alcoholic beverages, electronics, cameras, computers, video game systems, uniforms, gas, DVDs, CDs, NEX Gift cards, prepaid

cards, e-commerce, Exchange catalog and concession departments. It does not apply to merchandise previously purchased, existing lay-a-ways or special orders.

Other percent-off discounts may not be combined with storewide offer. It also gives customers 10 percent off regularly priced furniture, major appliances, tires and merchandise at NEX Autoport locations; 15 percent off entire stock of apparel and shoes, and 20 percent off regularly priced diamonds and fine and consignment jewelry, excluding Rolex and Omega watches as well as Trollbeads and Pandora jewelry; and 30 percent off already reduced furniture ending in .94, .96 and .97 prices.

-- From NEXCOM PAO

The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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Celebrating Black History Month during Centennial of Naval Aviation

Jesse LeRoy Brown, the first black naval aviator and the first to die in combat, was born in Hattiesburg, Miss., on Oct. 13, 1926, and like many young black men of his day he worked the cotton fields of Mississippi.

But Brown had a dream and vowed to one day achieve his dream of flying aircraft.

Brown's accomplishments are even more significant during this year as the U.S. Navy celebrates the Centennial of Naval Aviation and the 50th Anniversary of Naval Air Station Meridian at which more than half of the Navy and Marine Corps strike fighter pilots are trained.

Educated in the public schools of Hattiesburg, Brown excelled scholastically. He was tutored in additional subjects after school hours by his school principal, and he graduated class salutatorian from Eureka High School. He attended Ohio State University where he studied architecture, maintaining a 4.0 average while working nights loading boxcars for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

While still a student at Ohio State, Brown, at the age of 19, enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve on July 8, 1946. After graduating from Ohio State University, he was sent to the Navy Pre-Flight School in Ottumwa, Iowa, for flight training.

Ensign Brown received further flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla. He was detached June 22, 1948, to

Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla., for duty with Fighter Advanced Training Unit (VF-ATU) 2 flying the Grumman F6F Hellcat.

Brown was designated a naval aviator on Oct. 21, 1948. Wearing his new "wings of gold," Brown reported to Fighter Squadron (VF) 32 on Jan. 4, 1949, where he flew the F4U-4 Corsair and subsequently deployed with his squadron on USS Leyte (CV-32).

Ensign Brown flew 20 missions while assigned to VF-32, with the Leyte having joined the 7th Fleet by then, in the combat operating area off the northeast coast of Korea.

For this service, Brown earned the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Air Medal.

On Dec. 4, 1950, Ensign Brown was among a group of pilots including his squadron mates Lt. Cmdr. Richard Cevoli, Lt. j.g. Bill Koening and Lt. j.g. Thomas Hudner Jr. who departed the ship in a gallant attempt to save American soldiers trapped by Chinese forces.

These aviators were to fly cover while the American troops hiked 40 miles to escape down a narrow valley road to safety.

About an hour into the flight, flying about 500 feet above ground level at about 150 knots, Brown's plane was hit by enemy fire. He crash landed 10 miles behind enemy lines in mountainous, snow-covered terrain near the Chosin Reservoir in east central North Korea.

Brown's F4U-4 Corsair



Ensign Jesse Leroy Brown

was badly damaged and smoke rose from the forward section. His squadron mates, fearing the worst, circled to see if Brown had survived. Shortly, they saw that he had opened the canopy and was waving. Seeing that Brown was making no attempt to flee the burning aircraft, Lt. Cmdr. Cevoli radioed for a Marine Corps helicopter.

Hudner, thinking the helicopter would take too long to arrive, decided he had to attempt a rescue himself if Brown was to have any chance of surviving either the fire or the freezing temperatures. Hudner brought his Corsair down in a wheels-up landing on a hard and icy 25 degree upgrade. The aircraft came to rest about 100 yards from Brown.

Suffering a minor back injury during his landing, Hudner scrambled to the downed plane. He found Brown, legs pinned between the edge of the fuselage and the hydraulic controls,



Navy photo

Ensign Jesse Leroy Brown (third from left), becomes the first African-American to receive his aviator wings through the Naval Aviation Cadet Program during a graduation ceremony at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla., on Oct. 23, 1948. Brown, a native of Hattiesburg, is remembered at Naval Air Station Meridian by having the Combined Bachelor Quarters named in his honor.

drifting in and out of consciousness.

Hudner gave him words of encouragement and worked furiously to dislodge him. After an hour of attempting to free Brown, Hudner who was now assisted by 1st Lt. Charles Ward, was never able to free the wounded aviator.

Never voicing despair, but possibly realizing his fate, Brown, during a moment of consciousness, said to Hudner: "If anything happens to me, tell Daisy (Brown's wife) I love her." A few minutes later, Brown died. It was his 20th mission over Korea.

Ensign Brown was entitled to the Korean Service Medal. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal and the Distinguished Flying

Cross for his courage, airmanship and devotion to duty.

Brown is survived by his wife, Daisy Brown Thorne of Hattiesburg, daughter, Pamela Knight (who was 23 months old when her father died) and several grandchildren.

Naval Air Station Meridian honored the Navy's first black aviator in October 1997 by dedicating the Ensign Jesse L. Brown Combined Bachelor Quarters in his honor. His wife, daughter and granddaughter were in attendance at the ceremony.

In addition, the first U.S. Navy ship to be named in honor of a black Navy officer was named in honor of Brown. USS Jesse L. Brown (DE 1089), a Knox-class ocean escort ship, was

launched March 18, 1972, at Avondale Shipyards in Westwego, La. She was designed to operate as an anti-submarine ship, a screening unit, or as a patrol or convoy ship. Upon commissioning early in 1973, she was homeported at Newport, R.I., as a unit of Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla Two. Ensign Brown's widow served as sponsor of the ship.

The USS Jesse L. Brown was transferred to the Naval Reserve in January 1992, and was redesignated FFT-1089. The USS Jesse L. Brown was decommissioned in July 1994 and transferred to the Egyptian Navy, in which she served as Damietta (F-961).

-- From Staff Reports

●Museum

The audience, composed of children, parents, teachers and other visitors, also included two special visitors.

Lura Brown and Wanda Franklin, the brother and niece of Ensign Jesse L. Brown, made a stop at the museum while visiting family in Hattiesburg. The two reside in California.

"I am glad we came and heard (Lt. Scott) speak," Lura Brown said. "I remember hearing my brother talk about landing on ships."

The African American Military History Museum currently has an extensive exhibit honoring Ensign Jesse L. Brown.

"The displays and presentations are very impressive," Franklin said. "I like how the museum made it interactive for the kids to enjoy and have fun."

Scott said that some of his experiences have similarities to Ensign Brown's.

"Ironically, I was asked to join the same squadron that Ensign Jesse Brown was in which was VF-32... it's now re-designated as VFA-32," Scott said. "VF-32 was where Ensign Brown received his Distinguished Flying Cross. I was astonished upon learning I was in the same squadron as Ensign Brown."

Children in the audience eagerly asked Scott questions. Scott stirred the audience's imagination as he explained what it felt like flying a jet and landing it on an aircraft carrier. He also talked about the other countries he's visited.

"Flying is fun and exciting at the same time," Scott said. "The whole experience is a rush but at the same time you have to remain in control."

Scott said it is very inspirational to have shared his experiences with the audience.

"Growing up I didn't really have role models that helped me to get where I am today," he said. "This is a great opportunity to talk to the children and to be a role model. Ensign Brown paved the way for me and others to be pilots."

Scott gave the audience, especially the children, a few words of wisdom.

"Everything you do in school is very important," Scott said. "Grades are very, very important...it will lay a foundation for what you will do in college and your profession."

Exercise Solid Curtain/Citadel Shield



Photos by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio and Penny Randall

Exercise Solid Curtain/Citadel Shield occurred on all Navy shore installations and activities in the continental U.S., Hawaii, and Guam, Feb. 21-25 including NAS Meridian where security was elevated at various times and at all entrances. Above right, Patrolman David Younce and MA2 Robert Perdue handcuff the simulated gunman as Security Training Officer Eric Scott and Master-at-arms Chief Russell Treider monitor the scene during the "Active Shooter" drill which involved security personnel, safety and fire and emergency services.

Construction begins on Navy's newest aircraft carrier

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (NNS) -- Advance construction started on the nation's newest aircraft carrier Feb. 25 with a "first cut of steel" ceremony at Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding Newport News, Va.

The steel plate cut will be used in the construction of the carrier, which has yet to be named, but will be designated CVN 79.

The carrier represents the second in a new class of ships designed to replace Enterprise and Nimitz-class carriers and save more than \$5 billion in total ownership costs during its planned 50-year service life when compared to Nimitz-class carriers.

"Today we mark the beginning of the advance construction of CVN 79, second of the Gerald R. Ford-class of aircraft carriers," said Rear Adm. Michael McMahon, Program Executive Officer (PEO) for Aircraft Carriers. "It's an important step in continuing carrier construction using advanced technologies and efficiencies to reduce both ownership and procurement cost in this new class of carriers."

Ford-class aircraft carriers, while retaining the same hull form as the Nimitz class, contain several advanced technology systems including Electromagnetic Aircraft Launching Systems, advanced arresting gear, dual band

radar, a redesigned smaller island and a new propulsion plant. The first ship in the class, Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), is also under construction at Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding-Newport News and is scheduled to be delivered to the fleet in September 2015.

The PEO for Aircraft Carriers, an affiliated PEO of Naval Sea Systems Command, focuses on the design, construction, system integration, delivery and life-cycle support of all aircraft carriers.

From Program Executive Office Aircraft Carriers Public Affairs

●Starbase

Covington said. "They introduce so much math and science and make it fun for the kids. It's a very visual program and the kids get so much hands-on experience. Schools should be begging for their students to come here."

Fifth-grader Jacob Moore, 10, said his favorite part of the week was flying the jets in the simulator.

"It was so cool," said Moore who earned the call sign "Gravity." "You have to be very coordinated and use your hands and feet at the same time."

During their week-long training on board NAS Meridian, fifth graders are treated to tours of the Simulator building, Air Operations, the hangar and Fire & Rescue Station #1. These tours allow the students to see the STEM

subjects they are learning in the classroom applied directly in the real world.

Mackenzie Jones is no stranger to the military world. Her dad, Joel, is in the Mississippi Air National Guard at Key Field.

"Everything we've done this week has been really fun," Jones said. "The teachers have taught us so much and we saw so many different demonstrations that involved math and science. They let us experience everything and actually do it ourselves."

NAS Meridian's Starbase partners with schools in the city of Meridian and Lauderdale County, rotating class attendance throughout the school year. Students from schools that are not in rotation for a particular year can get the STARBASE

experience by applying to attend one of several week-long sessions during the summer break.

Fifth grade students spend 25 hours over five days at Starbase Atlantis. The instructors teach 60 percent of the public schools' objectives in science and 80 percent of public schools' math objectives.

"We are proud to have Starbase Atlantis on board NAS Meridian," said Capt. Charles Gibson who was the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony. "Very few Navy bases are special enough to have such a great program."

Operated by each of the armed services, there are more than 60 Starbase programs throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico, funded by the Department of Defense through Congressional appropriation



Photo by Penny Randall

NAS Meridian Starbase Atlantis Instructor Dianne Barnes pins graduation wings of gold on Mary Beth Hilliard during the ceremony celebrating Starbase Atlantis worldwide 100,000th student.

tion since 1989. For more information on the Navy's Starbase-Atlantis programs,

visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil/communitystarbase/sa.html> or www.starbasedod.com.

Pvt. Jorge Barrera

MATSS-1 Student
Hometown: Dallas, Texas

Pfc. Jorge Barrera said he joined the Marine Corps for “the challenge and the pride of belonging -- the title of U.S. Marine.”

Barrera, 19, is waiting to begin his Aviation Supply Specialist Course at Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron One on board NAS Meridian.

He joined the Marine Corps on Dec. 17, 2010, and attended boot camp.

“My most memorable experience in boot camp was ‘The Reaper’. It’s the final challenge in boot camp and is 54 hours of physical and mental drills,” said Barrera who is the oldest of three children.

His hobbies include soccer, listening to music and video games.

After graduation from MATSS-1, Barrera hopes to be stationed on the West Coast or overseas.

The person he most admires is his father. “He has worked hard to help me through school and get me what I needed in life.”

OOORAH!**Pfc. Lucian Karimi**

MATSS-1 Student
Hometown: Palm Springs, Calif.

At a very young age, Lucian Karimi knew exactly what he wanted to do with his life.

“I remember the first time I saw a Marine -- it was in a Veteran’s Day parade,” he said. “I knew I wanted to be a Marine since I was 8 years old.”

Karimi, 19, is currently a student at Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron One and is waiting to for his course to begin.

His hobbies include working out and martial arts.

After graduation from MATSS-1, he wants to volunteer to go to Afghanistan.

“I plan to make the Marine Corps a career -- I want to stay in at least 30 years,” Karimi said. “The Marine Corps is the best career you can imagine.”

The person he admires is MATSS-1 staff member, Gunnery Sgt. Johnson.

“He shares his personal experiences with us and is honest with the students.”

Southpaw Marine hooks, jabs toward Olympic dreams

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Jessica Switzer
Headquarters Marine Corps

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- She runs countless miles before dawn, spends hours in the gym honing body and mind into a single, well-oiled machine. She purses heart and soul with equal amounts of blood, sweat and tears into what has become her normal routine.

That routine for Lance Cpl. Melissa O. Parker has helped her qualify as a competitor in the 2011 Armed Forces Boxing Championships, and she has been training for this moment for what seems like a lifetime.

“It started as an after school activity, but I fell in love,” said Parker, a generator operator assigned to Company A, Headquarters Support Battalion, at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The lightweight boxer has been in the ring for eight years in April.

“A friend of mine, former Junior Olympics Champion Marty Wilson, passed away and part of the wake was at the boxing gym. Before that, I didn’t even know amateur boxing existed,” said Parker, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. “I didn’t even know women really did it. But one of the coaches told me to come in, just to try it out, and I fell in love. You couldn’t get me out of the gym after that.”

The bell rings, signaling the start of potentially two of the longest minutes in Parker’s life.

In women’s amateur boxing, the combatants fight four two-minute rounds with a one-minute break between each round. The fighters earn points for each punch that lands cleanly and with sufficient force on their opponent’s head or torso. Competitors wear gloves with a white stripe across the knuckle and only punches that connect with this part of the glove count.

“She’s very tough,” said Jesse Ravelo, head coach of the All Marine Boxing Team. “She’s got good stamina and her mechanics are great. She’s also very strong -- strong enough that she spars with the men on the team.”

“One of her main strengths is that she’s left handed,”

said Ravelo. “It’s very difficult to fight left handers and she’s got good defense. She’s a good all round boxer, she’s got power in both hands and she moves very well in the ring.”

Boxers can win a bout by either scoring more points or knocking out their opponent either truly or technically. A win can lead to more opportunities for the boxer, though not all boxers are in it for the glory.

“My favorite part of being here is the competition,” said Parker. “My goal is to continue winning every competition up to the Olympics. I won the 2009 U.S. Nationals, 2009 National Police Athletic/Activities Leagues and the 2009 National Women’s Golden Gloves, and I was ranked number one in the country that year.”

The 2011 Armed Forces Boxing Championships featured 35 service members from duty stations around the world in bouts arranged to see who the top fighter is in each of 10 male and four female weight divisions.

Just getting to the competition was an accomplishment for the boxers. Parker and her fellow athletes had to battle members of their own service and prove they were the top of their weight class before being chosen to compete at these championships.

“There is honor and pride in representing the best branch of the military,” said Parker, who has been in the Marine Corps for five years. “It’s my life, and I’d encourage anyone who is interested in boxing to give it a try. You never know if you’re going to like something if you never try it.”

The bell rings out again ending the round. It’s an exhausting exercise in taking hits and delivering them. Though the fighters wear protective head gear, injuries still happen and only the gloves and a fighter’s training protect them from body shots.

As the rounds progress, the fighters rely on the training and practice they’ve had up to this point. They’ve already proven they are the best in their service. They just have to win this bout to prove they are the best in all the armed forces.



By Tech. Sgt. Sean M. Worrell

Lance Cpl. Melissa O. Parker lands a punch on her opponent, Army Reserve Spc. Caroline R. Barry, during her bout at the 2011 Armed Forces Championships at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Feb. 18.

“She can make it all the way to be an Olympian this year,” said Ravelo. “For what I see I don’t think there’s a 132-pounder tougher than she is. She was a three time national champion, so she’s been around and I think her experience and her strength is going to take her all the way.”

“If she makes the Olympic team I’m pretty sure she’s going to step it up,” he said. “She’s going to go to the next higher lever. I think she’s got the potential to be an Olympic gold medalist.”

After the final bell rings the winner is announced. Parker was outpointed by her opponent in a close, 13-10, bout. In spite of this loss, Parker will go on to compete in the 2011 Golden Gloves Boxing Championships in San Antonio.

Safety is Our Duty**Make a emergency supply kit, make a plan and be informed**

According to Weather.com an average of 1.2 million acres of U.S. woodland burn every year and more than four out of every five wildfires are caused by people.

The U.S. Fire Administration’s Wildfire Statistics webpage reported that in 2005 alone, 66,552 wildfires took place and 8,686,753 acres were burned. If you live where there is an abundance of plants and other vegetation that can easily catch fire, you may be vulnerable to wildfires and you should take the following three simple steps to prepare.

Step 1: Make a Kit

Make an Emergency Supply Kit, which includes items like non-perishable food, water, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra flashlights and batteries. You may want to prepare a portable kit and keep it in your car. This kit should include:

- Copies of prescription medications and medical supplies;
- Bedding and clothing, including sleeping bags and pillows;
- Bottled water, a battery-operated radio and extra batteries, a first aid kit, a flashlight;
- Copies of important documents: driver’s license, Social Security card, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, tax records, etc.

Step 2: Make a Plan

•Plan places where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate

neighborhood.

•Plan to Evacuate

Identify ahead of time where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate neighborhood.

Identify several places you could go in an emergency, a friend’s home in another town, a motel or public shelter.

If you do not have a car, plan alternate means of evacuating.

If you have a car, keep a half tank of gas in it at all times in case you need to evacuate.

Take your Emergency Supply Kit.

Take your pets with you, but understand that only service animals may be permitted in public shelters. Plan how you will care for your pets in an emergency.

•Report hazardous conditions that could cause a wildfire.

•Teach children about fire safety. Keep matches out of their reach.

•Teach each family member how to use the fire extinguisher (ABC type) and show them where it’s kept.

Step 3: Be Informed

•Install a smoke detector on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms; test monthly and change the batteries at least once each year.

•Keep a ladder that will reach the roof.

•Consider installing protective shutters or heavy fire-resistant drapes.

•Keep handy household items that can be used as fire tools: a rake, axe, handsaw or chainsaw, bucket and shovel.

•Identify and maintain an adequate outside water source such as a small pond, cistern, well, swimming pool or hydrant.

•Have a garden hose that is long enough to reach any area of the home and other structures on the property.

•Install freeze-proof exterior water outlets on at least two sides of the home and near other structures on the property. Install additional outlets at least 50 feet from the home.

•Create a 30- to 100-foot safety zone around your home:

Within this area, you can take steps to reduce potential exposure to flames and radiant heat. Homes built in pine forests should have a minimum safety zone of 100 feet. If your home sits on a steep slope, standard protective measures may not suffice. Contact your local fire department or forestry of fire for additional information.

Rake leaves, dead limbs and twigs. Clear all flammable vegetation.

Remove leaves and rubbish from under structures and dispose of them properly.

Thin a 15-foot space between tree crowns, and remove limbs within 15 feet of

the ground.

Remove dead branches that extend over the roof.

Prune tree branches and shrubs within 15 feet of a stovepipe or chimney outlet.

Ask the power company to clear branches from power lines.

Remove vines from the walls of the home.

Mow grass regularly.

Clear a 10-foot area around propane tanks and the barbecue. Place a screen over the grill -- use non-flammable material with mesh no coarser than one-quarter inch.

Regularly dispose of newspapers and rubbish at an approved site. Follow local burning regulations.

Place stove, fireplace and grill ashes in a metal bucket, soak in water for two days, then bury the cold ashes in mineral soil.

Store gasoline, oily rags and other flammable materials in approved safety cans. Place cans in a safe location away from the base of buildings.

Stack firewood at least 100 feet away and uphill from your home. Clear combustible material within 20 feet. Use only UL-approved wood-burning devices.

Source: FEMA, Ready.gov

If you have questions on this or any other fire related topic, contact the NAS Meridian Fire Prevention Office at (601) 679-3866/3867.

Emergency Management**Tornado season is here: Learn the facts and fiction**

Although tornadoes occur in many parts of the world, they are found most frequently in the United States. In an average year, 1,200 tornadoes cause 60-65 fatalities and 1,500 injuries nationwide. You can find more information on tornadoes at www.spc.noaa.gov.

Tornado Facts

✓ A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a cumuliform cloud, such as a thunderstorm, to the ground.

✓ Tornadoes may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms within the funnel. The average tornado moves from southwest to northeast, but tornadoes can move in any direction and can suddenly change their direction of motion.

✓ The average forward speed of a tornado is 30 mph but may vary from nearly stationary to 70 mph.

✓ The strongest tornadoes have rotating winds of more than 200 mph.

✓ Tornadoes can accompany tropical storms and hurricanes as they move onto land.

✓ Waterspouts are tornadoes that form over warm water. Water spouts can move onshore and cause damage to coastal areas.

Be Ready Year Round

✓ Tornadoes can occur at any time of day, any day of the year.

✓ Have a plan of action before severe weather threatens. You need to respond quickly when a warning is issued or a tornado is spotted.

✓ When conditions are warm, humid, and windy, or skies are threatening, monitor for severe weather watches and warnings by listening to NOAA Weather Radio, logging onto weather.gov or tuning into your favorite television or radio weather information source.

Tornado Fact and Fiction

FICTION: Lakes, rivers, and mountains protect areas from tornadoes.

FACT: No geographic location is safe from tornadoes. A tornado near Yellowstone National Park left a path of destruction up and down a 10,000 foot mountain.

FICTION: A tornado causes buildings to “explode” as the tornado passes overhead.

FACT: Violent winds and debris slamming into buildings cause the most structural damage.

FICTION: Open windows before a tornado approaches to equalize pressure and minimize damage.

FACT: Virtually all buildings leak. Leave the windows closed. Take shelter immediately. An underground shelter, basement or safe room are the safest places. If none of those options are available, go to a windowless interior room or hallway.

FICTION: Highway overpasses provide safe shelter from tornadoes.

FACT: The area under a highway overpass is very dangerous in a tornado.

If you are in a vehicle, you should immediately seek shelter in a sturdy building. As a last resort, you can either: stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, covering with your hands and a blanket if possible, OR if you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, exit your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands. Your choice should be driven by your specific circumstances.

FICTION: It is safe to take shelter in the bathroom, hallway, or closet of a mobile home.

FACT: Mobile homes are not safe during tornadoes! Abandon your mobile home to seek shelter in a sturdy building immediately. If you live in a mobile home, ensure you have a plan in place that identifies the closest sturdy buildings.

MCPON designates Bill Cosby honorary chief

By MCC (SW/AW)

Sonya Ansarov
Office of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West, along with Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus recognized actor/comedian and former Sailor, Bill Cosby, as an honorary chief petty officer in a ceremony held at the U.S. Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center Feb. 17.

Cosby began his relationship with the Navy in 1956 when he joined as a hospital corpsman and attended recruit training at Naval Training Center Bainbridge, Md.

During his four-year tour, he was stationed at Marine Corps Base Quantico, National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, Naval Hospital Argentina, Newfoundland, USS Fort Mandan (LSD 21), and

Philadelphia Naval Hospital.

During his time at Quantico and Bethesda, Cosby worked in Physical Therapy helping to rehabilitate Korean War veterans, a duty he liked and excelled at.

He was also an athlete for the Navy playing football, basketball, baseball, and running track and field.

Cosby said that the Navy transformed him from an aimless, uneducated kid into a man with drive, discipline and self-respect.

"Bill Cosby is not just a comedian and an actor, although he's pretty good at both, he's also been a tireless advocate for social responsibility and education – and a constant friend to the Navy," said Mabus. "Last year was the highest compliment I've ever received – being made an honorary chief petty officer, and now Dr. Cosby – you're

about to get the same honor."

MCPON and SECNAV placed the Chief anchors on Cosby in front of a huge gathering of Chief Petty Officers and Sailors. MCPON helped Cosby don a Chief Hospital Corpsman service dress blue jacket and SECNAV presented Cosby with a Chief's cover.

"I will tell to you like I tell all of our new chiefs ... when I pin these anchors on you, your job isn't over and your journey is just beginning," said West. "There is no greater honor than having earned the title 'Chief' and the responsibility to our Sailors and our Navy that comes with it and we will expect more of you."

"Thank you all," said Cosby. "The years I spent in the Navy and so many moments remembering that the Navy gave me a wake-up call. The Navy



Photo by MC2 Jason M. Graham

Honorary Chief Hospital Corpsman Bill Cosby stands between Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick West, left, and Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) the Honorable Ray Mabus during his pinning ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

showed me obedience and that's the thing that pushed me to realize the mistakes I had made in my young life at 19-years-old and that I could do

something with myself and become somebody." Cosby was honorably discharged in 1960 as a Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class. His awards includ-

ed Navy Good Conduct Medal and National Defense Service Medal. He also received the 2010 Lone Sailor Award from the U.S. Navy Memorial.

Naval Research TechSolutions moves aircraft launch bulletins into digital age

By Geoff Fein

ONR Corporate Strategic Communications

ARLINGTON, Va. (NNS) -- Flight crews responsible for launching aircraft had the opportunity to test and evaluate the Catapult Capacity Selector Valve (CSV) Calculator Jan. 27 aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75).

The Catapult Capacity Selector Valve (CSV) Calculator, Office of Naval Research (ONR) TechSolutions effort to move paper tables onto handheld devices, could eventually eliminate the need for paper-bound launch bulletins.

The capacity selector valve is used to set the energy level needed for a launch on an aircraft carrier. Calculations are based on aircraft type, weight and wind speed, among other variables. All that information is contained in a loose-leaf notebook, and crews must manually look up the data to determine the energy level for each launch.

Launch bulletin updates are e-mailed to the ship from Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), and

Sailors have to print, than put them into the notebooks by hand.

"(Now) instead of relying on the book, the launch bulletins are stored in the calculator, and they are updated automatically," said Stephanie Everett, ONR's TechSolutions program manager.

The ruggedized Catapult CSV Calculator will fill a technology gap, and is expected to increase efficiency and safety, while also reducing wear on catapult machinery. The calculator also performs automatic error checking.

"There will be a final project assessment before it goes to the fleet," said Everett.

The purpose of the final assessment is to verify that the device is usable under operational conditions, and to verify that it produces the same results as the paper tables.

The goal is to eventually outfit all Nimitz-class carrier flight deck crews with the calculator. During testing, the device will be used in parallel with paper notebooks to verify the electronic



U.S. Navy Photo by John F. Williams

Shooters aboard the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) test a catapult capacity selector valve (CSV) calculator provided by the Office of Naval Research during flight operations. The CSV calculator is a personal digital assistant that would replace paper lookup tables and allow flight deck personnel to compute the proper settings for an aircraft carrier steam catapult.

calculations, said Master Chief Charles Ziervogel, ONR's command master chief, who oversees TechSolutions.

"The calculator is not yet certified for use by itself," said Ziervogel.

The request for an electronic replacement for the paper launch tables came to

TechSolutions from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash., in April 2009.

ONR selected NAVAIR Lakehurst, N.J., and New Jersey-based Specialty Systems to develop the calculator. The transition sponsor is NAVAIR Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (PMA 251).

MLT announces auditions for 'Hairspray'

The Meridian Little Theatre will hold auditions for the award winning musical "Hairspray" on March 7-8 at 7 p.m. at the Highway 39 Playhouse.

NAS Meridian is cordially invited to try out for the vast variety of characters.

Winner of eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical, "Hairspray" has inspired a major motion picture, and has audiences dancing in the Aisles and begging for more all around the globe.

It's 1962, and pleasantly plump Baltimore teen Tracy Turnblad has only one desire – to dance on the popular Corny Collins Show. When her dream comes true, Tracy is transformed from social outcast to sudden star, but she must use her newfound power to vanquish the reigning Teen Queen, win the affections of heartthrob Link Larkin and integrate a TV network – all without denting her 'do! The New York Times cheers, "If life were everything it should be, it would be more like HAIRSPRAY. It's irresistible!"

Some of the many characters are:

•**Tracy Turnblad** is an optimistic, overweight teenage girl who loves to dance. Tracy's main purpose in life is to dance and sing on the Corny Collins afternoon TV show. Unfortunately she is not one of the "in" teens in Baltimore, but things change rapidly. Sings six songs.

•**Edna Turnblad** is Tracy's

mother and agent, an agoraphobe ashamed of her obesity. John Travolta's casting as Edna continued the tradition of having a man in drag portray the character. (Hairspray's Broadway version featured Harvey Fierstein as Edna). Sings four songs.

•**Velma Von Tussle** is the story's antagonist. As manager of station WYZZ, and former beauty queen, Velma is primarily interested in keeping her daughter Amber in the spotlight. Sings three songs.

•**Wilbur Turnblad** is Tracy's father, the easy going proprietor of the "Hardy-Har Hut" joke shop below the Turnblad family's loft apartment. Sings two songs.

•**Penny Pingleton** is Tracy's best friend, a sheltered girl who falls in love with Seaweed, despite the efforts of her stern mother, Prudy.

•**Corny Collins** is the good looking bubbly host of The Corny Collins Show. Corny's politically progressive attitudes lead him to fight his show's imposed segregation. Sings three songs.

•**"Motormouth" Maybelle** is a Baltimore Rhythm and Blues radio jockey. Maybelle also runs a record shop on North Avenue. Queen Latifah portrayed Motormouth in the film. Sings two songs.

•**Amber Von Tussle** is Velma's attractive bratty daughter and the lead female dancer on The Corny Collins Show. Amber becomes Tracy's enemy

when Tracy threatens both Amber's chance to win the "Miss Teenage Hairspray" crown and Amber's relationship with her boyfriend, Link. Sings two songs.

•**Link Larkin** is Amber's handsome boyfriend and the lead male dancer on The Corny Collins Show. Link is a singer who gradually becomes more attached to Tracy. Zac Efron, a popular actor from the Disney Channel TV film High School Musical portrayed the part in the film. Sings three songs.

•**Seaweed J. Stubbs** is Maybelle's son, and a skilled dancer who teaches Tracy some dance moves and falls in love with her friend, Penny. Sings two songs.

•**Prudy Pingleton** is Penny's mother whose strict parenting keeps Penny from experiencing social life. She ties up Penny when she lets Tracy inside their house.

Other roles include adult parts and chorus of teenagers. Music from the musical will be supplied by theatre staff at auditions.

"Hairspray" will be presented May 7-18, Jimmy Pigford directs with Carol Merrill as choreographer. Carey Smith and his orchestra supply the beat.

For more information or to purchase tickets call the box office at (601) 482-6371. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tickets can also be purchased on the Web site at meridianlittletheatre.com.

• Warriors

teammates, and to show them how much they can accomplish both on and off the field."

In 2008, Dewalt was also involved in a traffic accident while riding his motorcycle. Throughout the training camp, he provided guidance to new wounded warrior athletes like Johnson, who will compete beside him in track and field events.

The Warrior Games bring together active-duty service members and mili-

tary veterans from across the country, fostering camaraderie and a healthy competitive spirit. The games help them discover new capabilities they can apply to everyday challenges and opportunities, and encourages them to reach and achieve a productive future.

The wounded warrior athletes include service members with upper-body injuries, lower-body injuries, spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, visual impair-

ment, and post-traumatic stress disorder. They will compete in the following sports: archery, wheelchair basketball, cycling, shooting, swimming, track and field, and sitting volleyball.

The team is sponsored by Navy Safe Harbor, the Navy's lead organization for coordinating the non-medical care of wounded, ill, and injured Sailors, Coast Guardsmen, and their families. Through proactive leadership, Safe

Harbor provides a lifetime of individually tailored assistance, designed to optimize the success of enrollees' recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration activities.

-- From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY

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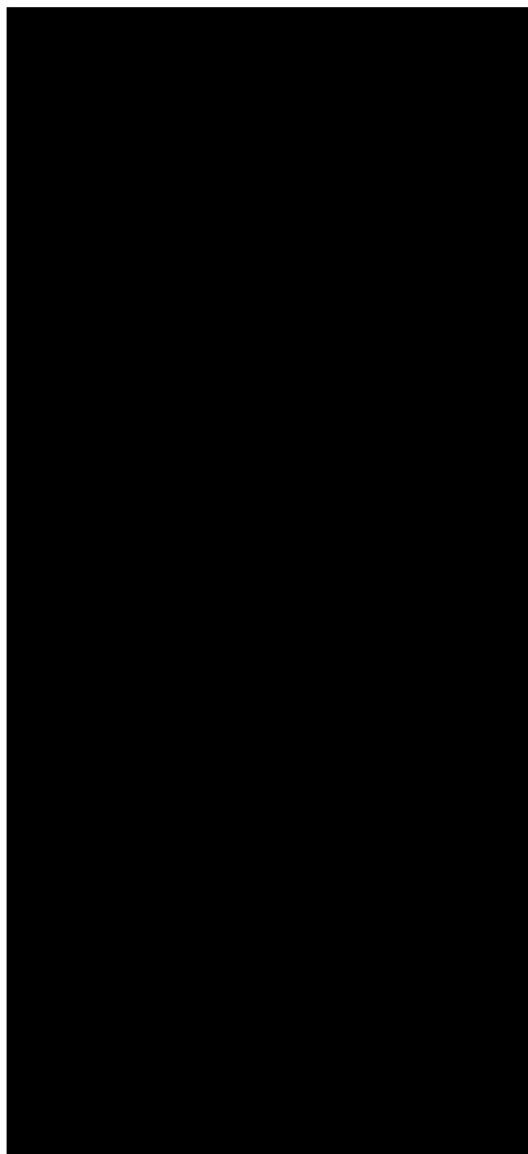
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Motorcycle Ride



Submitted Photo

NAS Meridian personnel from the chapel, Branch Medical Clinic, TW-1, Public Works and NTTC, joined riders from the local VFW on the monthly motorcycle ride on Feb. 19. "Another great ride with the NAS chapel motorcycle group," said Lt. Cmdr. Allan Ford, command chaplain. Future rides are planned. For more information, call the chapel at (601) 679-3635.

Engineers Week



Gary Bone, left, engineering technician, and Hank Burns, supervisory civil engineer, both of NAS Public Works Department, celebrate Engineers Week, sponsored by Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

Submitted Photo

NAS Meridian Chapel

211 Fuller Road

Protestant Sunday Services 9 a.m.

Wednesday Prayer Lunch 11:15 a.m.

Those wishing to attend Catholic service in Meridian should meet in Chapel parking lot no later than 10 a.m. for a ride to and from St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

Come Worship With Us! Call (601) 679-3635



Grandson of Navy's first black aviator speaks at NAS Jacksonville

By Kaylee LaRocque
Naval Air Station Jacksonville
Public Affairs

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (NNS) -- Hundreds of Sailors and civilians gathered at Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville Officers' Club Feb. 16 to learn about the life of the Navy's first black aviator, Ensign Jesse Brown, from his grandson, Jamal Knight, during the annual African-American History Month observance at the installation.

During his opening remarks, NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Jeffrey Maclay said, "Today and throughout our Navy's history, African-Americans have seized opportunities to serve. They have led and excelled in challenging assignments, and their contributions have shaped our

legacy. Since the Revolutionary War, African-Americans have participated in every war fought by and within the United States."

Maclay also praised the heroic actions of Brown who was killed during the Korean War. "On Dec. 4, 1950, Brown's aircraft was hit while making a strafing run against the enemy. With tremendous skill, he managed to crash land on a rough, boulder-strewn slope. He survived the crash, waving to his friends overhead. They knew he was in trouble when he remained in the cockpit as smoke began to billow from the wreckage," said Maclay.

"As others attacked and held off enemy troops, Lt. j.g. Thomas Hudner landed nearby and struggled desperately to get Brown out. I

would like to tell you they both made it and over the years have become the best of friends, but that was not to be. Brown died on that slope in Korea," Maclay continued. "When Brown risked his life to help a Marine regiment that day, he didn't consider their race. And when his fellow pilots saw him in danger, they did not think about the color of their skin. They only knew he was an American in trouble."

"Today, we are honored to host his grandson, Mr. Knight, and learn more about this heroic man's life," said Maclay. As Knight took the podium, he stood next to a portrait of his grandfather, then a young, 24-year-old in his Navy dress white uniform who earned his wings of gold at NAS Jacksonville in 1948.

"The impact of naval aviation and the Navy aviator can be viewed in all of its glory throughout history. We are here to celebrate 100 years of innovation, courage and devotion. My grandfather Jesse Leroy Brown's desire was not only to fly, but to fly and be of service to mankind. He wanted to be a Navy pilot," said Knight, a senior piping engineer in Houston, Texas.

"Growing up in Southern Mississippi, set the stage for the adventures that would lead to my grandfather's path to naval aviation. In an unjust south, he was often told about everything that he couldn't do or become," Knight continued. "The word 'can't' became the catalyst for my grandfather to navigate uncharted territory to set his own path. He

would become a Navy pilot, the first African-American pilot in Navy aviation history."

Knight went on to say, "My grandfather was the son of sharecroppers and had five siblings. It became apparent early on that he was smart. He skipped two grades and graduated from high school early. He soon left Mississippi for Ohio State with \$980 in his pocket to pay his expenses. There he spent the next three years getting a degree in architectural engineering and working full time for the Pennsylvania Railroad."

"My grandfather soon realized he could not continue at this pace, so he tried to join the Navy ROTC. After taking the test several times, he was eventually allowed to join. In March 1947, he reported to Navy Air Training Command in Glenview, Ill. and was finally sworn in as an aviation midshipman," said Knight.

"He then reported to NAS Pensacola for flight training where he was berated and discriminated against daily.

Knight continued, talking about his grandfather's proposal of marriage to his grandmother prior to their arrival at NAS Jacksonville in June 1948, where he'd eventually receive his gold wings 4 months later.

"His next assignment was at NAS Quonset Point, R.I. where racism still impacted his life as many were dismayed to see a black man with aviator wings. He then reported to Fighter Squadron 32 on board USS Leyte during the Korean

War," stated Knight.

"On Dec. 4, 1950, my grandfather's flight took off towards the Chosin Reservoir where he crashed and was pinned in the aircraft. As his squadron mate Tom Hudner rushed to him, my grandfather asked him to cut his leg off but he didn't have a knife. My grandfather died on that ridge. To this day, the plane wreckage can still be seen from satellites," said Knight.

"Although he faced immeasurable odds, his courage and devotion would not let him fail. My grandfather was 24-years-old when he was killed in action protecting Marine troops. I never knew my grandfather, but I carry his story with me of perseverance, endurance and a deep belief that with God's help and guidance, I can accomplish anything."

Following his speech, Knight was presented a special plaque from Maclay in appreciation for him attending the event.

Knight was also given a base tour where he was thrilled to stop at places where his grandfather might have visited during his time here. He also had the opportunity to "fly" in the MH-60R simulator using the same runway his grandfather flew on.

"He looked at the sky and said, 'one day I'll fly a plane.' He fulfilled his dream. I'm very mindful of what he accomplished and some of the things he went through. He was a strong, strong man. I'm proud to carry on the legacy of Jesse Leroy Brown and to tell his story."

Sale ... or

CAR POOL NEEDED

Shirley Portis, an employee of NAS Meridian ServMart is seeing a car pool from the Toomsaba area to NAS Meridian. Call (601) 513-7268 or (601) 938-1647.

KIDS STUFF

Children's play kitchen set with plastic plates & food. Asking \$50; 3 different girl's electric jeeps. All in pretty good condition, but need batteries. Asking \$40 each. Call (904) 923-9356/9357.

Graco color blocked play yard in good condition \$25. Call between 10 a.m. & 10 p.m. only please, (601) 917-6935.

Rainforest Jump-a-roo in excellent condition. Asking \$50. Call between 10 a.m. & 10 p.m. only please, (601) 917-6935.

Graco Playpen w/changing table and napper. Asking \$60. Call (601) 679-2447 or (601) 938-1683.

Welcome Home Playhouse from Step2. One year old and in EXCELLENT condition. It is VERY large and has only been used maybe 10 times. Paid \$500; willing to sell for \$350 OBO. Call (601) 513-3035.

ELECTRONICS

MUSICAL/COMPUTERS

Klipsch ProMedia 2.1 Speaker System in used, working condition. Call Bill at (601) 934-8718.

E-Machines Media Center T6520 Desktop with 17" CRT Monitor. 2.4 GHz 200GB HD. Asking \$200. Contact Kevin at (601) 604-3870.

Spiderman CPU & Case, see through and lights up - web design. Asking \$150. Call (601) 679-2447 or (601) 938-1683.

Fender American Standard Stratocaster. Humbucker pick-ups with S-1 switch, sunburst red, deluxe carrying case, purchased new last year, played very little. Also Peavey Vyper 30 watt modeling amp. Paid \$1,550. New, will sacrifice all for \$995. Call (601) 938-9627.

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

Bowflex Extreme 2 includes leg attachments. Max weight 310 pounds. Asking \$500. Call (601) 481-4893.

ProForm XP 160 Elliptical Crosstrainer. Asking \$399.99. Like new - was used a handful of times. Call (559) 410-1608.

BIG STUFF

NEW! 25 foot Prowler 5th Wheel camper. Call Darin at (601) 480-4132 or Ann at (601) 480-4134.

NEW! 16 foot aluminum fishing boat with 75 hp Mercury. Call Darin at (601) 480-4132 or Ann at (601) 480-4134.

2007 Fleetwood Revolution LE 40ft. Very low miles and very low hours. 400 Cat engine w/ Allison push button transmission w/ fuel economy mode. One piece fiberglass roof, 95 gal. Fresh water system, 40 gal. waste tank, 60 gal. grey water tank, Spartan chassis, automatic leveling, trailer hitch. Plenty of space for storage under coach, storage slide outs. There are 3 wall slide outs, 2 in the living room and one in the bedroom. Has 1 and 1/2 baths and a shower, washer dryer combo, bedroom includes a sleep number bed and wall mount 23" TV. With 26" LCD TV Digital Satellite System Home Theater System in the main coach, round table w/4 cushioned chairs (opens to seat 6 w/2 folding chairs to match). Galley has 4-door refrigerator/freezer w/ ice maker and water on the door. GE microwave/convection oven over regular 3 burner gas range w/oven. Cori counter tops in kitchen and baths. Beige colored carpet throughout, with ceramic tile in kitchen and baths. NON SMOKER RV is in really good condition. Must see to appreciate. Asking \$149,000. Call Gail Brennhofner at 601-679-2408 or 601-678-9504.

2007 Chaparral 180 SSI Ski Boat, 66 Hours on engine, 190 HP Engine. Includes skis, wakeboard, pulling tube and all ropes. Asking \$17,000 OBO. Call Jessie Whittington at (601) 604-0876.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

NEW! MAYTAG Neptune front load washer, \$250. GE dryer \$175. Will sell as set for \$400. Call (601) 626-7703.

Butterfly couch and chair with the pillows. Asking \$500 set. Color is forest green. Call (417) 664-5420.

GE Chill Water Dispenser, great condition, includes 2 (5 gallon) jugs. Call Bill at (601) 934-8718.

Brand new in box, International Silver 70 Piece Service for 12 (San Marcos pattern) 24K Goldplated Flatware Set with Bonus Flatware Chest. \$25. Call between 10 a.m. & 10 p.m. only please, (601) 917-6935.

Seashell shaped coffee table, white/pink approx. 35" x 19" with 36" dia. glass top 1/2" thick. Asking \$100; 2 pair Pinch Pleat drapes, lined 75 x 84, burgundy. Asking \$30; 2 pair Pinch Pleat drapes, lined 50 x 84, sage green. Asking \$25. Call (601) 553-8298.

Solid Cherry Wood Entertainment Center, 7 1/2 foot tall,

Holds up to a 40" TV. Beautiful piece of furniture -- Like New. Asking \$600. Call (601) 679-8052.

Queen Size Airbed with electric air-pump built inside, used one time excellent condition. Asking \$60. Call Lisa at (601) 679-8052.

Two nice, light brown couches, less than 2 years old, no stains, no sagging and from a smoke free home. Asking \$150 each OBO. Call (904) 803-8776.

Two 36-inch TV'S (not flat screen). Asking \$200 each. Oak Entertainment Center, \$250. Pine Book Shelves, ready to stain for \$100 each. Call Clinton at (601) 323-1003.

Large 2-room capacity air conditioning window unit. Bought new 2 years ago for \$1,500. Asking \$500. Call (601) 632-4567.

White Kitchen Micro-Vent Hood/Microwave combination. Used, but in excellent condition. Changed out to match other appliances. Call (601) 917-6935.

NEW! 2004 Ford F-150 FX4 Off

AUTOMOBILES, ETC.

Road SuperCrew. 84k miles. Red/black exterior, charcoal/dark grey interior. New tires, 34" BFG All-Terrain T/A on custom 18" off-road black wheels. 2.5" Rough Country leveling kit in front. Black oval nerf step bars. Custom Flowmaster dual exhaust. 4x4 works perfect. Truck is mechanically flawless. Hood deflector and window ventshades. Parking sensors. Asking \$17,000. Call (601) 513-5345.

NEW! 60gal Auxiliary Tank/Tool box combo. Never used. Aluminum. Asking \$500. Call John at (601) 484-7244

20in Chrome rims and tires (Toyo Proxy-295/45R20), 6 lug. Only 10k miles. Asking \$750. Call (757) 814-9739 / (601) 479-3446.

1998 GMC Sonoma SLS 3rd door 4.3L Vortec V6, 5 speed, PW, PDL, PM, tilt, cruise, CD, new AC as of last year, has 205,000 miles, legal tinted windows, vent visors, new spray in bed liner, custom grill, integrated fog lamps, K&N air filter. Asking \$4,500. Call between 10 a.m. & 10 p.m. only please, (601) 917-6935.

Mercedes C230 Coupe, 2004, loaded -- mint condition, silver, leather, Bose, 6 CD Changer, A/C, 65K miles. Asking \$14,200. Call (361) 442-4489.

1 Goodyear Wrangler Tire P235 75 R16. Never touched the road! Asking \$50. Call JJ at (601) 553-8298.

2005 Pontiac Montana SV6,

3.5L, Minivan, 65k. Excellent interior and exterior condition. Dark grey, new tires, new front brakes, CD, DVD Video, power sliding door, power driver seat. Asking \$8,700. Call (210) 250-0187 or email: acrcalais@gmail.com.

Tonneau cover, black snap down roll up type -- brand new in box. Fits Ford F-250 1980-98 long bed. Made by Sure Fit. Bought at 4 wheel online. Asking \$100. Call John at (601) 484-7244.

NEW! 2005 350 Rancher 2

MOTORCYCLES/GEAR/ATV

wheel drive 4 wheeler. Call Darin at (601) 480-4132 or Ann at (601) 480-4134.

NEW PRICE! 2008 Kawasaki Ninja 250R, blue with jacket and helmet included, 3800 miles, Asking \$2000. Call (601) 562-6508.

NEW PRICE! 1999 Suzuki GS 500, black and yellow, 4,500 miles Like new. Asking \$2000. Call John at (601) 484-7244.

2004 Honda VTX1300C, burnt

orange, very clean, runs great, many accessories. Can email pics and more details. Call Frank at (601) 513-1738.

2007 Suzuki Burgman Motorscooter, automatic transmission, 50 MPG, easily carries 2 people at interstate speeds. Asking \$4,600. Call (601) 486-3482.

2006 Yamaha Raptor 80cc. Asking \$650 and 2007 Eton Viper 200c. Asking \$650. Call (601) 938-1683.

2005 Yamaha Scooter. In storage for 2 1/2 years, 3500 miles, like new, 75 MPG, perfect for commuting around the base. Asking \$1,650. Call Murvis at (601) 632-1167 or (601) 679-2361.

2006 Honda VLX, 3,500 miles with new windshield. Great bike in very good condition. Asking \$3,200. Call (601) 632-1167.

Honda CRF 100. Great dirt bike for a youngster to start on. Garage kept. Includes boots, pants, chest protector and gloves. Asking \$1,000. Call Jerry at (601) 513-2624.

2005 Yamaha FJR 1300. 145 hp., 8020 miles, electric blue, power adjustable windshield, ABS front & rear brakes, front & rear adjustable ride. 2 hardshell (removable) side bags with inserts. 2 helmets & 2 "Joe Rocket" jackets included. Just serviced and is in perfect condition. garaged kept. Call (601) 934-6615.

2006 Triumph Speed Triple 1050, white, 3k miles. Asking \$6,500. Call (210) 313-5874.

For Sale: Home in Poplar

HOMES/APARTMENTS

Springs School Dist. 3 BR/2 BA with split floor plan; upgraded kitchen with granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, new flooring and breakfast nook, formal dining room; master bath has jetted tub with separate shower. Indoor laundry; large garage with storage room. Nice yard with privacy fence and covered patio. Outside trim painted with new gutter in 2010. Asking \$185,000. Call (601) 604-2015.

Update - For Sale: Doublewide, 3 BR, 2 full BA. Master has shower and garden tub with 2 vanities. All bedrooms have walk-in closets. Central air & heat. Gas fire place. Large kitchen with all undated appliances with dishwasher. 10x20 covered front deck with 10x20 side deck. 12x15 Storage building included. Large yard with circle drive on 2 acres. Located Collinsville/Martin area on Mayatt Road. West Lauderdale school level 5A. 18 miles from NAS. Asking \$80,000 call (601) 479-9229.

For Rent: 2708 Russell Camp Road, Meridian, 1131 square foot, 2 BR, 1 BA house with a two car garage & washer and dryer. Available after March 16. \$565 per month and deposit \$565. Proof of military service get half off first months rent. Can be seen on www.ahm.com or call G. Barrett at (850) 855-8304. To be seen by appointment only. Currently the house is occupied.

For Sale: Home located in The Meadows, 3 BR/2 BA home with a 2 car garage. Open floor plan. Huge back yard with a deck and small sun room. 10 minutes to NAS Meridian and 10 minutes to town in the opposite direction. Asking \$161,500. Call (601) 701-3332.

For Rent: 1 bedroom cottage, private setting at 11117 Hill Thompson Rd, 2 years old, appliances, just off hwy. 19 north between Meridian & Collinsville. West Lauderdale just 10 minutes from Meridian and Reservoir. Asking \$400 month, \$200 deposit, 1 year lease. Call Jack at (601) 917-7752.

For Rent: Large modern, 3 BR/2.5 BA with den, dining, kitchen combination. The den has a wood burning heater. Laundry room with a washer/dryer already installed. Kitchen has refrigerator and gas stove. Huge yard with space for a garden if desired. House located 20 minutes north of NAS Meridian off Hwy 45. A must see if you desire country

living. Asking \$600/month plus deposit. Can see full details at www.ahm.com or call (504)244-0975 or (601) 469-1307. Direct deposit is required for monthly rental.

For Sale: 4 BR/2.5 BA Historic home in DeKalb, 20 minutes north of NAS Meridian, 2,500 square feet, hard wood floors, 5 fire places, living room, family room, dining room, multi-level deck, playground, workshop, carport, sitting on 0.5 acre lot. Asking \$80,000. Call (601) 604-3870.

For Rent: Very quiet home in North Meridian neighborhood. Very close to shopping and all fast food restaurants, supermarket, video store, and bowling alley. Call (601) 485-5546 for details and to view.

For Rent: Large 4 BR, 2 BA house in Poplar Springs School Dist., new central air and heat unit, new roof, new water heater, 2 living rooms, new window blinds, double garage, large deck. Asking \$1200 per month, plus deposit, minimum one year lease. Call (601) 917-9876.

For Sale: Beautiful home on Confederate Drive, 4BR/3.5 BA, 3 fireplaces, solid oak floors throughout, enclosed pool with shower, half-bath and hot-tub, 2.75 acre lot, new roof, remodeled master bath and updating throughout, two-car carport with large storage room and upstairs storage. Under appraised value at only \$328,500. Can see full details at MilitaryByOwner.com, or call (601) 693-8386.

Motorcycles any size any condition.

WANTED TO BUY

Will pay above salvage price. Also have a large selection of good used parts for sale. Call (601) 938-4295 anytime.

A inexpensive, reliable car for college student. Call (601) 701-3332.

Craftsman 10" compound miter saw. Works great. \$40. Call (757) 412-

MISCELLANEOUS

9411. Leave message.

ESPN 7.5 ft Pool Table. Asking \$150. Call (601) 938-1683.

ATV Push Blade with tapered design. Has manual lift and is easy to hook up. Great for driveway and field use. Stored in warehouse out of the weather. Call Tamara at (601) 479-7902 or email 1proudmom2@live.com for pictures. Asking \$250, paid over \$500.

10hp generator for sale used very little. Asking \$450. Call (601)

If you wish to add or remove an item from "Sale...or" please send your request to penny.randall@navy.mil or call (601) 679-2809. Deadline for submissions is 4:30 p.m. the Thursday before publication.

Mission First... Sailors Always



March Specials

Tuesdays: MATSS-1/NTTC Student Special, 5-9 p.m., \$2.50 a game including shoes.

Wednesdays: NAS Meridian Staff Special, 4:30 pm.-close, Bowl 2 games with shoes \$5.

Thursdays: RCTA Special, 4-9 p.m., \$2 a game, \$1 for shoes.

Fridays: Family Cosmic Bowling, 6-10 p.m. Up to 5 people bowl for \$20 a lane. Shoes not included. Time limit of 2 hours per lane.

AT THE MOVIES

There are three scheduled movies per week at McCain Lanes Theater. The movies are shown at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; and at 1 p.m. on Saturdays. On Fridays you can select from the 780 movies on file. Movies on this schedule will not be available for open viewing until after their scheduled showing date. Call (601) 679-2651.

Admission: Free!

- March 3: "The Social Network" (PG-13)
- March 5: "Megamind" (PG)
- March 8: "My Soul to Take" (R)
- March 9: "Tomorrow Never Dies" (PG-13)
- March 10: "Paranormal Activity 2" (R)
- March 12: "Secretariat" (PG)
- March 15: "The World is Not Enough" (PG-13)
- March 16: "Case 39" (R)
- March 17: "Red" (PG-13)
- March 19: "Alpha & Omega" (PG)
- March 22: "For Colored Girls" (R)



The following are activities scheduled for single and unaccompanied active duty military on board NAS Meridian. For information or if you have an idea for a trip or event, call (601) 679-3760. The Liberty Program is housed on the second floor of NTTC Admin Building 220. Hours of operation: Monday-Thursday: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-9 p.m.; Friday: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-11 p.m.; Saturday: 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

March

- 4th:** Sara Evans Concert at MSU Riley Center in Meridian. Bus leaves Library parking lot at 6 p.m. Cost is \$40 per person. Must preregister at Liberty Center
- 6th:** Indoor Basketball Hoop Shoot Contest begins at 7 p.m. in the Liberty Center. No entry fee – prize awarded to the winner. Register day of the event at Liberty Center.
- 9th:** Dart Tournament begins at 7 p.m. in the Liberty Center. No entry fee – prize awarded to winner. Register day of event at Liberty Center. Do not bring your own darts – specialized soft tip darts will be provided.
- 10th:** FREE bowling to all Liberty patronage at McCain Rec Center from 6-8:30 p.m.
- 14th:** Double Elimination Pool Tournament begins at 7 p.m. in the Liberty Center. No entry fee – prize awarded to winner. Register day of event at Liberty Center.
- 16th:** Trip to Skate Odyssey! Roller skating rink is reserved for all Liberty patrons from 7-9 p.m. Bus leaves Library parking lot at 5:30 p.m. and will stop for dinner before skating. Cost is \$10 per person. Pay and register at Liberty Center by March 13. Minimum of 20 people needed for event to run – NO REFUNDS (unless trip is cancelled).
- 17th:** Happy St. Patrick's Day! Come to the Liberty Center at 7 p.m. and test the luck of the Irish. The top two high scores receive a prize.
- 19th:** New Orleans Trip
A time for shopping, exploring the French Quarter & sampling a wide array of Creole food! Bus leaves Library parking lot at 8 a.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Pay and register at Liberty Center by March 16. Minimum of 20 people needed for event to run – NO REFUNDS (unless trip is cancelled).
- 20th:** FREE hot dogs, chips & soda served to Liberty participants beginning at 2 p.m. in the Liberty Center.
- 21st:** Ping-Pong Tournament begins at 3 p.m. in Liberty Center. No entry fee – prize awarded to winner.

... Upcoming ...

March 10: 5K run at 3:30 p.m.
April 2: Mountain Bike Duathlon at 9 a.m. ~ Stables

Sign up for these events at the fitness center or call Beth at 679-2379 for more information.

100 Mile Club

You may have seen Tom Fair traveling to work on his bike, running around the base or at the fitness center. 15,000 miles is amazing in itself for a lifestyle change, however, Tom is also a cancer survivor!

Tom lived through Hodgkin's Disease and he is my hero! His positive attitude, motivation and perseverance allowed him to accomplish his dream of being healthy and vibrant.

As a cancer survivor myself, I know first-hand how difficult this challenge can be. Tom sets the example we all need to live by. Can you imagine, 15,000 miles!

I want to give Tom a HUGE SHOUT OUT for his amazing accomplishments and continuing to motivate me and others as well.

Please join us for Relay for Life supporting those who have survived cancer, remembering those who have lost their battle and those who are currently living with the disease. Relay for Life will be May 6 at 6 p.m. at the Northeast Softball/Soccer Complex on Highway 39.

By Beth Stephens
NAS Meridian Fitness Coordinator

March Madness

Bowling Tournament

~~~

March 5  
11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
\$15 per person  
(Must register by  
10 a.m. on March 5)  
Bowlers will face  
different challenges across  
six lanes.  
Call (601)  
679-2651.

Springtime is outdoor rental time at The Outpost!!

Come check out the new rental equipment... padalboats, jon boats & mountain bikes. And all new camping equipment such as tents, sleeping bags, coolers, etc... Call 679-2609 for more information & reservation policies.

## Child and Youth Programs...

The Child Development Center has two full time slots available in pre-toddlers and four full time slots available for toddlers. For more information, call Deridre Odom or Linda Griffin at (601) 679-2652.

The School Age Center has open slots available for before and after care. SAC also offers First Tee, Boys and Girls Club and 4-H. For more information, call Sheila McCoy at (601) 679-5252 or (601) 679-2652.

## ~~ MWR News ~~

**ITT** is now located next to Navy Federal Credit Union in Administration Building 255. Hours: Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Stop by the **ITT Office** to take advantage of the Walt Disney Military Salute today! For more information call (601) 679-3773.

**Ponta Creek Golf Course** hosts One Person Scramble on Feb. 26. Shotgun start at 10 a.m. Cost is \$30 per person and includes green fee, cart and lunch. For more information, call (601) 679-2526.

**The Library** has a new phone number -- (601) 679-2326.

**CDC/SAC** has spaces available for drop-in care. For more information, call (601) 679-2652.

**Child and Youth Programs** are looking for individuals interested in providing evening care in their homes. For more information, call (601) 679-2652.

Do-It-Yourself at the **Outpost** The Outpost has auto lifts that rent for \$4 an hour and stall rentals that

start at \$3 per hour. Call (601) 679-2609.

**MWR POV Lot** now has two covered parking slots available. Sizes are approximately 15'x30'. POV and Personal Storage units for rent. Starting at \$20 month for military & \$25 month for DoD. Call (601) 679-2609 or come by for more details!

**Rudders** hosts Hip Hop Night is every Tuesday and Saturday beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday is Ladies Night!

## Fitness Center

### NEW ... Group Exercise Schedule:

**Mondays ~ 11:30 a.m.:** Belly Dancing with Stacey  
6 p.m.: Self Defense with Dawg Kerwood

**Tuesdays ~ 11:15 a.m.:** Cardio Mix with Shannon

**Wednesdays ~ 11:30 a.m.:** Belly Dancing with Stacey  
6 p.m.: Self Defense with Dawg Kerwood

**Thursdays ~ 11:15 a.m.:** Cardio Mix with Shannon

**Fridays ~ 11:30 a.m.:** Belly Dancing with Stacey  
\*\*P90X and Insanity available any time!\*\*

Fitness Center Policy:

The Sonny Montgomery Fitness Center will conduct a 100 percent ID check of all fitness center patrons.

- 1.) ID check will be administered to ALL unless wearing issued PT gear or are in uniform.
- 2.) If NO issued PT gear is worn, then you must show ID to enter the workout zones.
- 3.) If any civilian is sponsored by authorized personnel, they must pay the daily fee of \$2.
- 4.) All contractors must pay the daily fees or monthly dues and show ID to enter workout zones.

The NAS Meridian Fitness Center is in its temporary location in Building 266 (Behind Starbase Atlantis). Call (601) 679-2367.

## Meridian/NAS Bus Schedule

Have exact cash change ready when boarding the bus. Fare: \$4.

| Union Station   | MATSS-1   | NTTC       | McCain Lanes | Bonita Lakes Mall          | Wal-Mart  |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|--------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| <b>FRIDAY</b>   |           |            |              |                            |           |
| 4:35 p.m.       | 5 p.m.    | 5:05 p.m.  | 5:10 p.m.    | 5:30 p.m.                  | 6:40 p.m. |
|                 | 6 p.m.    | 6:05 p.m.  | 6:10 p.m.    | 6:30 p.m.                  |           |
| 7 p.m.          | 8:10 p.m. | 8:20 p.m.  | 8:30 p.m.    | 9 p.m.                     |           |
|                 | 10 p.m.   | 10:05 p.m. | 10:10 p.m.   | Drop off if any.....       |           |
| <b>SATURDAY</b> |           |            |              |                            |           |
| 9:30 a.m.       | 10 a.m.   | 10:05 a.m. | 10:10 a.m.   | 10:50 a.m.                 | 11 a.m.   |
| 11:10 a.m.      | 12 p.m.   | 12:05 p.m. | 12:10 p.m.   | 12:50 p.m.                 | 1 p.m.    |
| 1:10 a.m.       | 2 p.m.    | 2:05 p.m.  | 2:10 p.m.    | 2:50 p.m.                  | 3 p.m.    |
| 3:10 p.m.       | 4 p.m.    | 4:05 p.m.  | 4:10 p.m.    | 4:30 p.m.                  |           |
|                 | 5 p.m.    | 5:05 p.m.  | 5:10 p.m.    | 5:30 p.m.                  |           |
|                 | 6 p.m.    | 6:05 p.m.  | 6:10 p.m.    | 6:30 p.m.                  |           |
| 7:40 p.m.       | 7 p.m.    | 7:05 p.m.  | 7:10 p.m.    | 7:30 p.m.                  |           |
|                 | 8:10 p.m. | 8:20 p.m.  | 8:30 p.m.    | 9 p.m.                     |           |
|                 | 10 p.m.   | 10:05 p.m. | 10:10 p.m.   | Pass. Drop off if any..... |           |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>   |           |            |              |                            |           |
| 12:30 p.m.      | 1 p.m.    | 1:05 p.m.  | 1:10 p.m.    | 1:30 p.m.                  |           |
|                 | 2 p.m.    | 2:05 p.m.  | 2:10 p.m.    | 2:30 p.m.                  |           |
| 3:40 p.m.       | 3 p.m.    | 3:05 p.m.  | 3:10 p.m.    | 3:30 p.m.                  |           |
|                 | 5 p.m.    | 5:05 p.m.  | 5:10 p.m.    | 6 p.m.                     | 6:05 p.m. |
| 6:10 p.m.       | 6:40 p.m. | 6:45 p.m.  | 6:50 p.m.    | Pass. Drop if any          | 7:20 p.m. |

**Applebee's Restaurant** ..... (upon request only)

# It's Your Turn...

In anticipation of NAS Meridian's Golden Wings Over Meridian air show we asked these Sailors, "What act, besides the Blue Angels are you most looking forward to seeing and why?"

Photos by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio



**HM3 (FMF) Andre Lewis**  
Aviation Medicine Tech

"I'm really looking forward to seeing the SBD-5 Avengers because they have the best static displays."



**HM3 Justin Arnold**  
Medical Lab Tech

"I am looking forward to seeing the B-17 and all the families having a good time."



**HA Jay Cherluck**  
Preventive Medicine Tech

"I am looking forward to all the fast jets and loud noises."



**YNSN Jack Bersch**  
NTTC Student

"I want to see the P-51 Mustang because I love the classics."



**HM2 John Kippes**  
X-Ray Technician

"I'd like to see the F-18E/F. They are fast and mean."

## Fleet & Family Support Center

### Military spouses' careers are important, too!

The Family Employment Readiness Program (FERP) is one of the Fleet & Family Support Center's focus programs for March. Read on to find out what it is and why you should look into it if you haven't already!

The Navy recognizes that moving every few years creates career challenges for military spouses. The Family Employment Readiness Program (FERP) addresses those challenges by providing services that include launching a job search, career planning, résumé writing, interview techniques, federal employment information, conducting self-assessments, goal setting, and vocational tests.

FERP was established on Nov. 8, 1985, as part of the "Military Family Act of 1985." Changes in economic and labor market conditions, and research conducted in the early 1980s, indicated that spouse employment issues could have an effect on retention and readiness of military members. In other words, a spouse's career options and opportunities are big factors in a military member's decision to stay in the service or not. FERP is a valuable resource for our military families and should be the first place you call with any questions or concerns about career changes.

What kinds of services can you expect to find at the Fleet & Family Support Center's FERP office? Lots of stuff, including:

- Self-help resource center (Career Resource Computer Lab) that has tools you'll need for a job search including Internet access, books, journals, and software
- Workshops on all aspects of job searching including résumé writing,

interviewing, self-employment, working for the federal government, etc. (See our listing of March workshops to find out what we're offering this month!)

- Self-assessment tools if you are not sure what type of job you're looking for

- Coaching and career counseling

- Mock interviews to allow you to do a practice interview before the real thing. We can even video it for you to help you pick out the subtle, unconscious things you might not even realize you're doing!

- Job listings and information about employers in your area

If you've made the decision to start (or re-start) your career, what should you do first? Prepare! Identify your career options; research businesses and companies in your area; write a resume and cover letter that sell your skills and abilities. FERP can help you with all of these.

Once you're ready to actually start searching for jobs, keep these four methods in mind:

**Network:** One of the most overlooked, but incredibly effective, methods of looking for a job is to network. This just means telling everyone you can that you're looking for a job, or – better still – that you're looking for information about jobs in the area (some people are put off by direct requests for employment). Face-to-face meetings are preferable, but you can also network over the phone or through e-mail. You never know – your neighbor's friend could work in an organization that would be perfect for you, and they may have a job opening now or in the near future.

**Direct Employer Contact:**

You can send your targeted résumé and cover letter to specific employers, or call them to ask about employment opportunities. You should always thoroughly research the company and draw parallels between what they need and how you can contribute. Even if you're told that there are no positions currently available, you can always ask to call back later or meet with them for information about future positions.

**Published Sources of Information:** Respond to any sources of advertised positions (newspaper classifieds, web page postings, professional or trade journals, etc.). Target your résumé and cover letter to the advertised position and company, if it's listed (research again!). Follow all application instructions, and provide all the requested information. It's OK to follow up with a phone call 5-10 days later, unless the ad specifies "No phone calls please".

**Staffing Agencies:** Once known primarily as "temp agencies", many staffing agencies now list many full-time, permanent positions. Many companies choose to hire employees initially through staffing agencies because the agency often provides much of the testing and screening once incumbent on the employer. Make sure you find out what type of agency you're contacting – do they only do temp jobs, or do they have "temp-to-perm" or permanent positions? You should never have to pay a fee to a staffing agency or sign agreements that limit your ability to work with other agencies.

For more information or help with your job search, contact the Fleet & Family Support Center at (601) 679-2360.

## FFSC Briefs

*To register for any of the following workshops, please call (601) 679-2360. The class will not be presented if no one registers, so please make sure you sign up if you're interested. If you can't attend at the scheduled time, call anyway -- the workshop facilitator may be able to meet with you one-on-one, give you materials, or let you know when the class will be scheduled again. All active duty, reserve, retired military and their families are eligible for programs and services provided by the FFSC. Civil service employees can utilize the services on a space available basis.*

**Command Financial Specialist (CFS) Training: March 7-11 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.** Each command with at least 25 active duty service members is asked - in accordance with OPNAVINST 1740.5B and SECNAVINST 1740.4 - to select individuals to attend CFS Training. Commands are required to maintain a ratio of 1 CFS to every 75 active duty personnel. Current CFSes must attend CFS Training every three years to remain active. Only E6 and above service members are eligible to attend this training and serve as CFSes. For more information about eligibility, or to register for the class, please contact the FFSC.

**Writing Your Best Resume: March 14 from 2-4 p.m. or March 23 from 9-11 a.m.** This workshop will review the basic types of resumes, discuss which types of resumes are appropriate for different job seekers, and what information should be included. It will also cover the essential elements of cover letters to use in conjunction with the resume, and how to market a resume effectively in the current job market. Bring your current resume if you have one, or come prepared to start a new one!

**American Red Cross Babysitter Training: March 15 from 8-4 p.m.** Are your kids interested in babysitting AND looking for something to do during Spring Break? American Red Cross, FFSC, and Balfour Beatty Communities are partnering to offer Babysitter Training for young people aged 12-18. Red Cross Babysitter Training IS required for all on-base sitters. Cost for materials is \$25 per student (\$15 for Balfour Beatty Communities residents). T-shirts (optional) are available for \$10. The class is limited to 12 participants, and will be held at the Balfour Beatty Housing Community Center. Call FFSC at (601) 679-2360 to register.

**Networking Your Way to Your Next Job: March 16 from 10-11:30 a.m. or March 22 from 3-4:30 p.m.** This interactive workshop will discuss the most effective methods for job searching in today's competitive environment, using both technology and more traditional in-person methods. It will also explain how to build and maintain relationships in your career network.

**Raising Financially Fit Kids: March 17 from 3-4:30 p.m. or March 21 from 10-11:30 a.m.** This program, designed for parents of children of all ages, will teach parents how to explore their own financial habits and skills and learn techniques to teach their children sound financial management skills.

**IA Spouse Discussion Group: March 18 from 9:30-11 a.m.** FFSC hosts this Individual Augmentee (IA) Spouse Discussion Group over coffee! Join other military spouses to talk about the challenges of IA deployment, share survival tips, discuss the impact of deployment on kids, remind one another about the benefits of deployment, or just kick back and chat!

**Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Seminar: March 28-31 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.** Military personnel who are voluntarily or involuntarily separating or retiring and are within 180 days of separating should attend this seminar, held at the FFSC. It is highly recommended that spouses attend. You may also attend if you're up to 18 months away from your separation or retirement date. The following topics will be covered: resumes, job search skills, job interviewing, employment (state and federal), veterans' benefits, pay and travel, movement of household goods, PSD/ID cards, TRICARE, emotional transition to separation, financial planning, forms and documents, benefits and services, Naval Reserve programs, military obligations, and more!

**10 Steps to a Federal Job: March 29 from 4-6 p.m.** The government is hiring! But if you want to be successful in landing a federal job, you need to understand the government's unique and complex application process. This workshop, based on the writings and training of federal job search guru, Kathryn Troutman, will walk you through the 10 steps to finding and applying for a federal job. We'll cover: finding and analyzing federal job announcements; crafting a federal-style resume and an electronic resume; interpreting the cryptic language of federal hiring process ("core competencies," etc.); the incredible importance of including "keywords" in your application; writing "KSAs"; and much more!

### Military Saves Week

Naval Technical Training Center Meridian students fill out pledge cards vowing to be financially responsible during Military Saves Week while others sample chili. Ten different varieties of chili were featured in the 2nd Annual Command Financial Specialists Chili Cookoff, Feb. 22.



### Cook off Winner

Chief Michael Nelson, NTTC Staff member, was the winner of the Command Financial Specialists Chili Cookoff. RP3 Monnie Harwell placed second.



## Sexual Assault Prevention and Response procedures

The Navy's Sexual Assault Victim Intervention Program (SAVI) is now called Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR).

The name change aligns with the mission of the program, underlining the importance of providing standardized and consistent sexual assault awareness and prevention efforts as well as response to victims Navy-wide.

### Reporting a sexual assault

To report a sexual assault to SAPR, notify the installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) or the on-call SAPR Victim Advocate (VA). The SARC coordinates sexual assault response efforts for the installation. The SARC activates the SAPR VA on-call list to provide immediate support to victims of sexual assault. The SAPR VA is a trained volunteer who provides immediate support to victims of sexual assault explains reporting options and assists victims with getting the help they need.

NAS Meridian's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator may be contacted at (601) 917-5019.

24-hour SAPR Victim Advocate may be contacted at (601) 604-3037.

If you have been sexually assaulted and are an active duty military member, you have reporting options:

### Restricted Report

Report must be made only to the SARC, SAPR VA, health care provider (including FFSC counselors) or chaplain.

Gives a victim time and the opportunity to get information and professional advice to include information on victim rights and available services, so they can make informed decisions. Victims may initially choose the restricted reporting option and later decide that they want the chain of command and law enforcement notified so that the offender is held accountable.

SAPR Victim Advocacy, medical services and counseling will be offered.

### Unrestricted Report

The assault can be reported to those listed above in addition to the chain command or NCIS/law enforcement. An investigation will begin and protective services will be offered.

SAPR Victim Advocacy, medical services and counseling will be offered.

Regardless of how you choose to report the sexual assault, you will be offered a full range of advocacy, medical services and counseling. Victims of sexual assault might feel comfortable talking with their healthcare provider, but fear that the command and/or law enforcement would be notified. Some victims avoid seeking medical treatment following sexual assault because they fear the information will be disclosed to others. Under the restricted reporting option, military victims may speak to a healthcare professional (at a military facility), but it is important that the victim is direct and asks up front about restricted reporting.



NAS Meridian, Fleet and Family Support Center and MWR are all on Facebook. Become a fan!

# GOLDEN WINGS OVER MERIDIAN AIR SHOW

March 26-27

Naval Air Station Meridian - Gates open at 9 AM  
[www.goldenwingsovermeridian.com](http://www.goldenwingsovermeridian.com)



Blue Angel #1 - CDR David E. Koss  
 Earned Wings of Gold at NAS Meridian March 1995  
 Assumed command of Blue Angels November 2010



Blue Angel #2 - LCDR Jim Tomaszewski  
 Earned Wings of Gold at NAS Meridian May 2003  
 Joined the Blue Angels September 2009



Blue Angel #3 - MAJ Brent Stevens  
 Earned Wings of Gold at NAS Meridian September 2002  
 Joined the Blue Angels September 2010



Blue Angel #4 - LT Rob Kurrie Jr.  
 Earned Wings of Gold at NAS Kingsville, Texas, January 2004  
 Joined the Blue Angels September 2009



Blue Angel #5 - LT Ben Walborn  
 Earned Wings of Gold at NAS Meridian April 2004  
 Joined the Blue Angels September 2008



Blue Angel #6 - LT C.J. Simonsen  
 Earned Wings of Gold at NAS Meridian April 2005  
 Joined the Blue Angels September 2009



Blue Angel #7 - LT David Tickle  
 Native of Birmingham, AL  
 Earned Wings of Gold at NAS Meridian April 2005  
 Served as Instructor at Training Squadron 9 on board NAS Meridian in 2009  
 Joined the Blue Angels September 2010



Blue Angel #8 - LT Todd Royles  
 Earned Wings of Gold at NAS Pensacola October 2002  
 Joined the Blue Angels September 2010



LT Jason Smith - Flight Surgeon  
 Received his Naval Flight Surgeon Wings in May 2007  
 Joined the Blue Angels September 2010



LT John "Ted" Thompson - Maintenance Officer  
 Joined the Blue Angels September 2009



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Adolfo DeMontalvo - Executive / Administrative Officer  
 Completed Personnelman Class "A" school at Naval Technical Training Center Meridian, December 1982.  
 Joined the Blue Angels September 2008



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Clive Dixon - Supply Officer  
 Completed Aviation Storekeeper Class "A" school at Naval Technical Training Center Meridian. In December 1995, Clive reported to Naval Aviation Management Support Activity (NATMSACT) Detachment Meridian, Miss., as the Industrial Property Management Specialist and Simulator's Quality Assurance Specialist. He was selected Senior Sailor of the Year in 1996 and "Military Citizen of the Year" in 1997 by the Meridian Area Navy League. Joined the Blue Angels September 2009

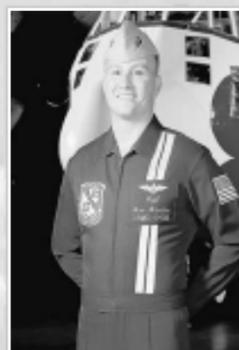


LT Katie Kelly - Public Affairs Officer  
 Joined the Blue Angels July 2010

## Crew of Blue Angel's "Fat Albert"



CAPT Edward Jorge  
 Eared Wings of Gold at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, May 2003  
 Joined the Blue Angels September 2008



CAPT Benjamin Blanton  
 Eared Wings of Gold at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, January 2005  
 Joined the Blue Angels September 2009



CAPT John Hecker  
 Graduate of Randolph High School in Huntsville, AL and Auburn University.  
 Earned Wings of Gold at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, April 2004  
 Joined the Blue Angels September 2010

## We salute Blue Angel Flight Crew members from Mississippi and Alabama



AM1 Christopher Phillips  
 Hometown: Montgomery, AL



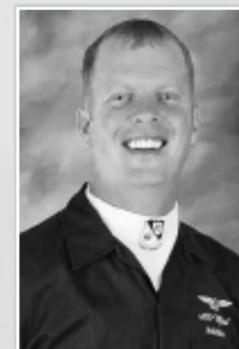
AT2 James Tangman  
 Hometown: Hattiesburg, MS



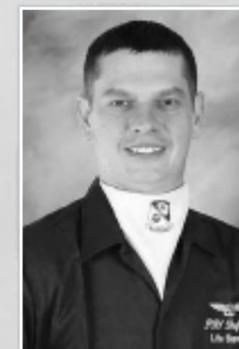
AT1 James Buchanan  
 Hometown: Toxey, AL



MC3 AJ Johnson  
 Hometown: Pelham, AL



AE1 Charles Hejnal  
 Hometown: Andalusia, AL



PR1 Stephen Bradford  
 Hometown: Clinton, MS