

# THE SKYLINE



Volume 49, Number 7

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

March 31, 2011

Celebrating the Centennial of Naval Aviation ~ 50th Anniversary of NAS Meridian

## On Base...

### ✓ Front Gate Closed

Due to construction the NAS Meridian front gate will be closed to traffic from 9 a.m. on April 4 to 6 a.m. on April 11. All incoming and outgoing traffic, including pedestrians, will be directed through Allen Road toward Ponta Creek Golf Course.

### ✓ Positive Parenting Circle:

Meets every Thursday in April from 5-6 p.m. at the Fleet and Family Support Center. A FFSC counselor will be on hand to help the group untangle difficult problems and brainstorm solutions.

### ✓ Calling all active duty and retired Chief Petty Officers!

You are invited to take part in the Chiefs' birthday and NAS Meridian's 50th anniversary commemorative photo shoot. Two separate photos will be taken. First Photo: Active duty and retired personnel in service khakis with combination covers. This photo will be black and white with 1950's era traditional Chief's garb (coffee cup, cigar, etc.). Second photo: Color with service khakis uncovered or appropriate civilian attire for the retired CPOs. Date: April 1, 10 a.m. Place: ADMIN Building 255 in of the aircraft Alternate location if raining: CPO Mess at NTTC

## A Day in Naval History

**April 1**  
1893: Navy General Order 409 of Feb. 25, 1893, establishes the rate of Chief Petty Officer.  
1942: First Naval Air Transportation Service squadron for Pacific operations commissioned  
1945: Over 1200 Navy ships and Army troops begin invasion of Okinawa  
1966: The command, U.S. Naval Forces Vietnam established

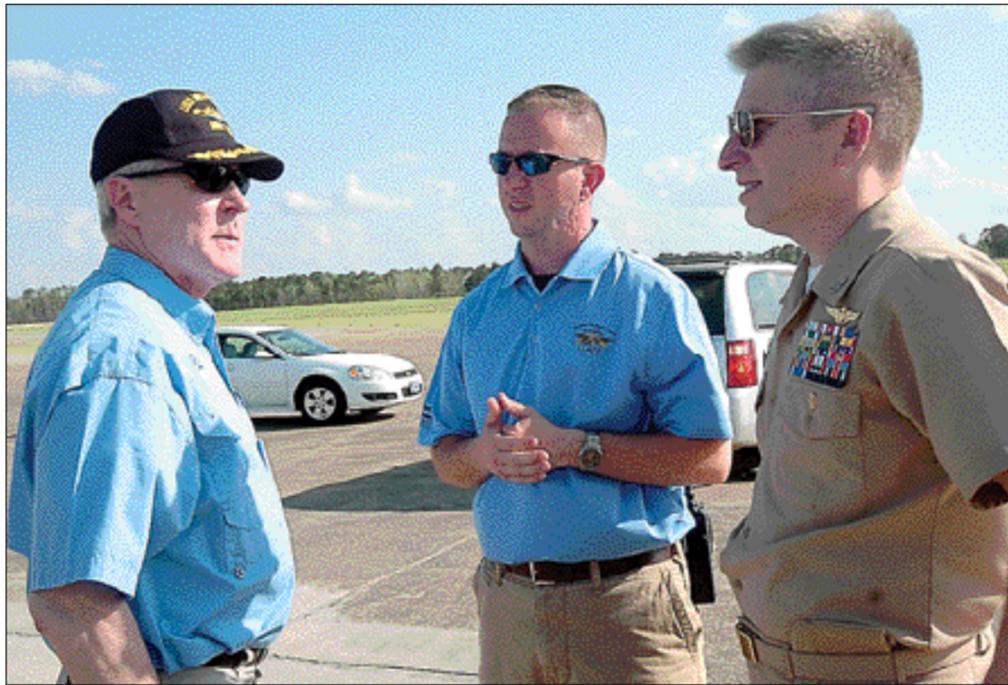
**April 2**  
1827: First Naval Hospital construction begun at Portsmouth, Va.  
1947: UN places former Japanese mandated islands under U.S. trusteeship  
1951: First Navy use of jet aircraft as a bomber, launched from a carrier, USS Princeton.

**April 3**  
1942: Adm. Nimitz named Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas, a joint command, and retained his other title, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet  
1949: Establishment of NATO

-- [www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil)

**THE SKYLINE IS A CHINFO AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER**

# SECNAV visits air show



Secretary of the Navy the Honorable Ray Mabus talks with Air Traffic Controller 1st Class, NAS Meridian's senior sailor of the year, and Capt. Charles Gibson, NAS Meridian's commanding officer, following the Golden Wings Over Meridian air show on March 26. Mabus, former governor of Mississippi, was touring the state promoting Mississippi's first Navy week which began March 18 with an air show at Keesler Air Force Base on the Gulf Coast, followed by many activities and events in Jackson and other cities around the state, and concluded with the NAS Meridian air show.

Photo by MCC F. Julian Carroll

## Air show brings crowd first day, rain second day

By Penny Randall  
Editor

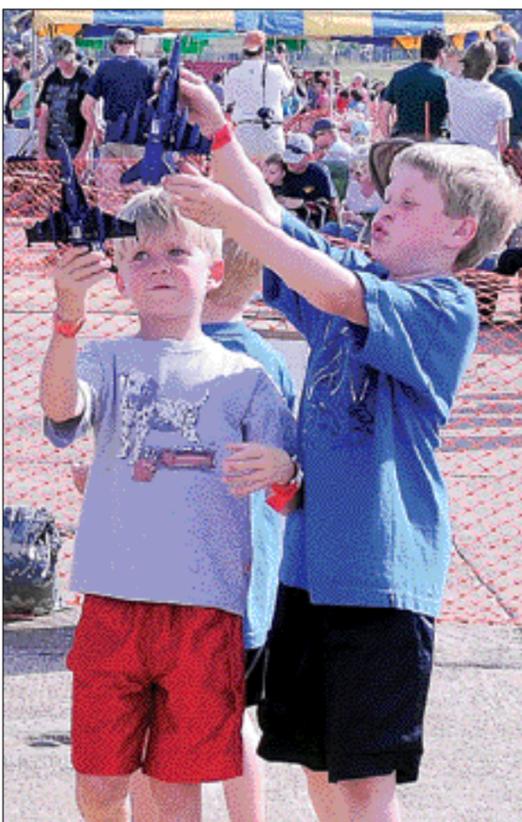


Photo by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio

Keenan Covington and Cade Hamm, both from Meridian, mimic the Blue Angels exhibitions with their toy planes during the Golden Wings Over Meridian air show on March 26.

Aviation enthusiasts had waited three years to see the Blue Angels grace the skies over Naval Air Station Meridian. The first day of the 2011 Golden Wings Over Meridian air show was amazing showcasing some of the most spectacular flying.

Nearly 20,000 spectators lined the tarmac of the flight line sitting on blankets and lounging back in their lawn chairs to watch the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels put on a rousing show in the F/A-18 Hornet.

Because of low cloud cover, the U.S. Army Black Daggers were unable to jump either day, but military and civilian pilots were able to warm the crowd up on Saturday.

Capt. George Clifford, a Hollandale native, and the Viper West F-16 Demonstration Team performed early in the afternoon, but at about 2 p.m. rain showers began moving into the Lauderdale County area. Air show spectators waited for the shower to pass and the sky opened up with sunshine just in time for the Blue Angels to perform.

Blue Angel #1, Cmdr. Dave Koss, led the five other blue and gold jets out onto the runway. For about 40 minutes they zigged and zagged across the sky as air show fans, young and old, watched, some holding their hands over their ears to muffle the thunder from the powerful jet engines.

Weather played a huge role on the second day of the air show. The Federal Aviation Administration rules require a minimum ceiling of 1,500 feet but the cloud cover never rose more than 700 feet.

Sadly, no planes or jets performed, but an estimated crowd of 8,000 people enjoyed the static displays and filled their stomachs with some great air show food.

● Air Show, page 10

## Sailors Share Life at Sea during Mississippi Navy Week

By MC1 (SW/AW)  
Davis Anderson

Navy Office of Community Outreach  
Public Affairs

JACKSON, Miss. (NNS) -- New Orleans Naval Recruiting District Sailors visited Walton Elementary School in Jackson, Miss., to read to students and promote literacy, March 21.

This event was part of Mississippi Navy Week 2011, a week-long celebration which brings Sailors from the fleet into areas that do not have a significant naval presence.

"I think they (the students) were really excited," said Walton Elementary School Principal Gwen Gardner. "I mean just seeing Sailors in uniform; they wanted them to put their hats back on. The questions they asked, I thought they asked very good questions. They were very impressed. The students really enjoyed it."

The event kicked off with an assembly where the 5th grade students interacted with the Sailors, asking them questions about life at sea and what it took to be in the Navy.

"The children see (Sailors) being role models for them, and then they (the Sailors) came out and read in the classroom, which is really wonderful, because we promote literacy" said Gardner. "It's great for them to see that even men in uniform like to read."

The Sailors in the schools also showed the students that there are opportunities for everyone in the service.

"I think having the Navy to come out and talk to the students was a wonderful opportunity and experience for them," said Gardner. "It really lets them see that there are careers out there."

Navy Weeks are designed to show Americans the investment they have made in their Navy and increase awareness in cities that do not have a significant Navy presence.

## 1st Marine strike pilot returns to NAS Meridian where she made history

By MC2 (AW/SW)  
Flordeliz Valerio  
Staff Writer

Naval Air Station Meridian hosted a Women's History Month luncheon on March 24 in the Roy M. Wheat Galley. In celebration of NAS Meridian's 50th anniversary and the 100th anniversary of Naval Aviation, committee members invited one of our own back to where she made history.

Lt. Col. Karen Tribbett Brannen returned to NAS Meridian nearly 13 years after she made history becoming the Marine Corps' first female strike

● Marine, page 3



Photo by Penny Randall

Lt. Col. Karen Tribbett Brannen speaks to fifth graders at Starbase Atlantis Program on March 24. Brannen was also the speaker at the Women's History Month Luncheon.

## Look Inside



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Mississippi lawmakers honor Navy, namesake submarine



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Marines receive Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award



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MCPON says Happy 118th Birthday CPOs



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Liberty Events for April for Single Sailors & Marines

## Photo of the Week



Photo by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio

**NAS Meridian Command Master Chief Sharon Laguna, left, Navy Recruiter from New Orleans NC1 Andrew Tomlinson, NAS Meridian's Bluejacket of the Year ABH3 Brian Clark, look on as Meridian Mayor Cheri Berry reads the Mississippi Navy Week Proclamation. Also pictured are NAS Meridian Commanding Officer Capt. Charles Gibson and NAS Meridian Senior Sailor of the Year AC1 Dwayne Hinson. The event was held March 21 at City Hall.**

## Area Happenings

### 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.

**2:** Fifteenth Avenue Baptist MOPS is hosting a parking lot yard sale at 1315 15th Ave., Meridian. This is an excellent way to get rid of unwanted items while making money at the same time! Parking spaces are available for purchase (1/\$15 or 2/\$25). We will do ALL the advertising & you keep ALL the profits. Tables & chairs are not provided, but you may bring your own. As a Christian organization we reserve the right to ask you to remove offensive items (pornography, alcohol related items, etc.) Coffee, soda, hot dogs, & more will be available for purchase. Sale starts at 8 a.m. For more information on buying a parking spot contact FABMOPS@yahoo.com or call Beth Blankenship at (601) 678.6090.

**2:** Threefoot Festival featuring a fine art exhibit, competition, and sale. There will be art demonstrations, live entertainment, food and beverages. The festival will be along 6th and 7th Streets between 23rd and 25th Avenue in downtown Meridian. Times: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission is free.

**2:** Bonita Lakes Duathlon sponsored by the Bonita Lakes Running Club and Meridian Athletic Association. Race begins at 8 a.m. at Bonita Lakes Park. For information, call Lora Blackledge at (601) 938-0120 or email Stacy Barr at jsbarr57@hotmail.com.

**2:** The Jimmie Rodgers Foundation presents its annual Gospel and Country Talent Competition at the Temple Theatre Ballroom in downtown Meridian. Youth and adult divisions. Winners will receive prize money. Pre-registration is required by March 31. Registration forms can be found at www.jimmierodgers.com or picked up at the City of Meridian Community Development offices, 711 23rd Avenue, Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For information, call (601) 416-1630 or e-mail rf2ndmile@hotmail.com.

**7:** Meridian Community College presents the 7th Annual Job Fair from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the college's Webb Hall in the Dulaney & Great Southern Rooms. Come dressed for success and bring a resume. For information, call (601) 481-1370 or (601) 481-1327.

**8:** Meridian Community College Band performs in the McCain Theatre, 910 Hwy 19 North at 7 p.m. For information and tickets, call (601) 484-8696.

**9:** Anderson Cup Road Race begins at 8 a.m. in downtown Meridian at 2124 14th St. For more information, call (601) 553-6622.

**9-10:** The Meridian Little Theatre Ladies Guild will hold its annual Spring Variety Sale at the Meridian Little Theatre on Highway 39 North, Meridian. Hours of operation are Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 1-5 p.m. Sunday will be ? price day. Items for sale include ladies, men's and children's clothing, purses, shoes, and other accessories. We also have miscellaneous furniture items, luggage, linens, lots of kitchen items, knick-knacks, home decorations, luggage, toys and many other items. For more information, call the box office at (601) 482-6371 or (601) 679-7671.

**23:** Meridian Symphony Orchestra's annual Crawfish Boil from 6-11 p.m. at the Frank Cochran Center. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Live music by Second Chance. T-shirts and huggies for sale at the event. Tickets available at Belle G, The Daily Grind, The Deli on 5th, Cater's Market, Cater's Café & Meridian Symphony office.

### 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.

The link below is a one-stop source for information on the Japan Earthquake Evacuation for family members and others who have already departed  
[https://community.apan.org/hadr/japan\\_earthquake/p/dependents.aspx](https://community.apan.org/hadr/japan_earthquake/p/dependents.aspx)

### 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)

## Navy Exchange System celebrates its 65th anniversary

The Navy Exchange System will celebrate its 65th anniversary on April 1. Over the past 65 years, the NEX has worked diligently to support Sailors and their families around the world.

"The Navy Exchange System has changed over the years, but the one thing that hasn't changed is our mission to serve our military service members and their families," said Rear Adm. (Sel) Glenn Robillard, Commander, Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM). "We are part of the Navy and proudly serve alongside our service members wherever we're needed. We have been an important benefit for the past 65 years and will continue to be for many years to come."

NEXs have come a long way since the days when bumboats sold their wares to Sailors aboard Naval vessels in the 1800s. Back then, Sailors had to depend on these unreliable boats to get their personal items while aboard ship. Unfortunately, goods sold by the bumboats were typically inferior and sold at very high prices. As an alternate to bumboats, many Navy ships operated canteens so that the money spent by the crew members stayed on the boat to improve the quality of the food served by the general mess. The first canteen opened on board USS INDIANA in 1896.

By 1909, the Naval Appropriations Act established the first official resale activity, the Ships Stores and Commissary Stores. The act allowed the Navy to procure and sell merchandise to Navy and Marine Corps officer and enlisted men and to civilian employees at naval stations outside the continental United States and Alaska. In 1925, the

Ships Service was created to provide Navy crew members nearly any legal article of merchandise without the profit restrictions placed on the Ships Store. However, these Ships Services had no foundation in law.

It became clear by 1942 that there was no need or space for two ships service type stores aboard Navy ships. A recommendation was made to the Chief of Naval Operations by the Supply Officer, U.S. Atlantic Fleet to merge the two stores into one official ships store operation. The recommendation was accepted and by 1944, the Secretary of the Navy made the establishment of the merged stores mandatory on all ships that had a supply officer and permissive on all Naval activities.

Ships Service Stores ashore also began steps towards centralization in 1945 when a committee was formed to study the resale activities. The recommendation of the committee, headed by Capt. Wheelock H. Bingham, SC, USNR, was that all resale activities be operated like a large chain of retail stores and that a central office be established to oversee the operation of the Navy Resale System. The new central office for the Navy Ships Store Office was established in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Apr. 1, 1946. This office was later renamed NEXCOM and relocated to Virginia Beach, Va., in 1993.

Today, NEXCOM provides oversight for 102 NEX complexes with nearly 300 stores, as well as Navy Lodges, ship's stores and the Uniform Program Management Office. Worldwide, the Navy Exchange System employs over 14,000 associates, 27 percent of whom are military family members.

- From NEXCOM PAO

## VT-9 instructor earns role in 'Hairspray'

Capt. Chuck Enderlin, an instructor at Training Squadron Nine on board NAS Meridian, has won two parts in Meridian Little Theatre's upcoming production of "Hairspray," a Tony Award winning play that will run May 12-18.

Enderlin will play Mr. Spritzer, the sponsor of the Collins TV Show, and the high school principal.

"Hairspray" has broken the all time record of individuals auditioning for a MLT musical with 182 people tried out for this production.

Abby Dennis received the starring role of Tracy, the optimistic girl who is determined to sing and dance on Corny Collins TV Show. Dennis is Minister to Children and Youth at the First Baptist Church in Meridian.

Co-starring will be Zena Limerick as Edna, Tracy's overweight and controlling mother. The role is always performed in drag.

Sissy Guidry received the part of Velma Von Tussle, a former beauty queen who is primarily interested in keeping her daughter, Amber, in the spotlight.

The attractive bratty Amber will be played by Alanna Hall who is Meridian's newly named Distinguished Young Woman (formerly Junior Miss).

Kendall Allen received the role of Penny (winning over 42 other girls), Tracy's best friend. Penny is a sheltered girl under the control of her mother, Prudy, who will be played by Clair Huff.

Scott Stevens, operations manager at The Radio People, received the role of Corny Collins, the bubbly host of a popular TV dance show.

Wilbur, Tracy's easy going and loveable dad, will be played by Alan Hunt. He is the general manager of Hooper's and is seen on many of the company's TV ads.

James Romano received the role of Link, Amber's good looking boyfriend who thinks he may be the next Elvis. Romano is a senior at Meridian High

School.

Motormouth Maybelle, Baltimore's rhythm and blues radio disc jockey, will be played by Lisa Mercer, a teacher at MHS.

Maybelle's son, Seaweed, a skilled dancer will be played by Nate Latham. Latham is a sophomore at Meridian Community College.

Angela Fowler won over 28 other girls the role of Little Inez. Fowler is a student at MHS.

David Miller, a popular actor at MLT, will make a guest appearance as Mr. Pinky, a comic dress shop owner. The school's gym teacher is played by Tanya Sigfried.

The school's council is made up of: Mary Paige Griffin (Tammy), Haley Sowers (Shelley), Laura Huff (Lou Ann), Margaret Griffin (Brenda), Benjamin Johnson (Brad), Kevin Williams (Fender), Austin Smith (Sketch), and Tanner Goldman (IQ).

The chorus and dancers are: Khalyn Sottarman (Judine), Tonizium Ball (Kamilah), Brandon Rodgers (Thad), Telvin Lewis (Gilbert), Ortez Stevenson (Duane), Monterio Ridgley (Stoioe) Dancers: Jennifer Hunter, Becca Denney, Paige Ip, Lallie Bennett, Alex Hicks, Katie Bruister, Mia Hall, Grant Guidry, Ian Perry, Damian Harman, Jacob Williams, Brandon Davidson, Raven Roberts, Shelea Sims, Aisha Robertson, Tabitha Williams, Miracle Jemison, Shabria Amos, Latreeia Gamble, Dalvin Brown and Luther Ellis.

Jimmy Pigford is the play's director with Carol Merrill as choreographer, David Benson as music director, Scott Merrill is the producer, Jennifer Jones is assistant to director and Carey Smith will be the orchestra conductor.

Guest tickets go on sale April 11. Prices are \$20 for adults and \$18 for senior citizens, military and youths. For further information call the box office at (601) 482-6371 weekdays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

### 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.

Ombudsman 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 instrumen-

tal 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 at (601) 679-2629 or e-mail sharon.laguna@navy.mil for information concerning the selection process.

### Understanding your TRICARE Explanation of Benefits

After you receive health care services, you will receive a TRICARE explanation of benefits (EOB) that can also be viewed online at [www.myTRICARE.com](http://www.myTRICARE.com).

Your EOB is not a bill. An EOB is an itemized statement that shows the action TRICARE took on your claims and the health care services and supplies you received.

You should review your EOB to ensure it accurately represents the care you received. If you notice any information that looks incorrect, contact Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc. at the toll-free number listed on

your EOB. You also have the right to appeal certain decisions regarding your claims. You can file an appeal in writing within 90 days of the date of the EOB notice. You should keep EOBs with your health insurance records for reference.

#### Online EOB Statements

You can register to receive your EOB statements online. See the information for your region below:  
North: [www.mytricare.com](http://www.mytricare.com)  
South: [www.mytricare.com](http://www.mytricare.com)  
West: [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com)  
Overseas: [www.tricare4u.com](http://www.tricare4u.com)  
TRICARE For Life: [www.tricare4u.com](http://www.tricare4u.com)

## The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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# Mississippi Navy Week

## Mississippi lawmakers honor Navy, namesake submarine

By Lt. Patrick Evans

Submarine Group 2 Public Affairs Officer

JACKSON, Miss. (NNS) -- The Mississippi State legislature commended the crew of Virginia-class submarine Mississippi (SSN 782) for its commitment to naval and maritime service in observance and commemoration of Mississippi Navy Week 2011, March 24.

State lawmakers praised the crew in a concurrent resolution read on the floor of both the house and senate. Cmdr. John McGrath, commanding officer of the Virginia-class submarine, accepted the resolution on behalf of the crew.

"The uniform outpouring of support we have enjoyed throughout the state has been wonderful and unlike anything I've ever experienced in my 20 year naval career," McGrath told lawmakers.

McGrath and several crew members are in the Magnolia State for Mississippi Navy Week 2011, which runs March 19 - 27. Navy Weeks are designed to showcase the investment Americans have made in their Navy as global force for good and increase awareness in cities that do not have a significant Navy presence.

The 2011 Navy Week season will also help commemorate the Centennial of Naval Aviation and continues as a year-long celebration with a variety of commemorative events planned across the country throughout the year.

Mississippi Navy Week events include Navy Band musical performances, visits to area schools and community service projects. Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus, a former gover-

nor of Mississippi, also participated.

"I think Navy outreach is crucial. We're the away team. When we're doing our job, Sailors and Marines tend to be away from home. I think it is really important that people really understand the great job that they do, how skilled they are, and how hard a lot of these missions are," said Mabus.

Crew members of Mississippi have traveled throughout their namesake state reaching out to the community. They were involved in events along the Gulf Coast and in Hattiesburg, Jackson and Meridian. Some of the highlights were visits to hospitals, veterans homes, schools and the Boys and Girls Club.

"It's been absolutely wonderful. The people of Mississippi have really opened their arms to us and given us great hospitality and just a great time," said Chief Electronics Technician Tom Driscoll.

"I actually love it. The hospitality really stood out. I'm from Jacksonville, Fla., and we have hospitality there. But here, they've treated us like we're family. I really do like it," said Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Darrius Jenkins.

"It's been terrific. We had a chance to come down and get involved in the community, meet some of the locals and spread the word that we have a new ship being built that bears the state's name," said Yeoman 2nd Class Joseph Earomirski.

Mississippi, the ninth ship of the Virginia-class and the fifth Navy vessel to be named for the people of the Magnolia State, is about 80 percent complete. Currently, there are about 100



Photo by MC2 Kevin S. O'Brien

JACKSON, Miss. -- Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) the Honorable Ray Mabus, right, and Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour share a laugh with Sailors assigned to the Virginia-class submarine Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Mississippi (SSN 782) at the Mississippi state capitol building, March 24. Mabus is in Mississippi to honor and celebrate Mississippi Navy Week. Navy Weeks are designed to show Americans the investment they have made in their Navy and increase awareness in cities that do not have a significant Navy presence.

crew members. When fully staffed, the crew will consist of 120 members. Delivery to the Navy and commissioning are anticipated by the summer of 2012.

Upon completion and commissioning, Mississippi will join the other Virginia-class submarines as flexible, multi-mission platforms designed to carry out the seven core competencies of

the Submarine Force: anti-submarine warfare; anti-surface warfare; special operations forces; strike; irregular warfare; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; and mine warfare.

The submarine's sponsor is Allison Stiller, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) Ship Programs.



Photo by MCCS Gary Ward

Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Darrius Jenkins, assigned to the pre-commissioning unit of the Virginia-class attack submarine Mississippi (SSN 782) speaks with children at Central Mississippi Boys and Girls Club during Mississippi Navy Week, one of 21 Navy Weeks planned across America for 2011. Navy Weeks are designed to showcase the investment Americans have made in their Navy as a global force for good and increase awareness in cities that do not have a significant Navy presence.



Photo by MC2 Kevin S. O'Brien

Secretary of the Navy the Honorable Ray Mabus announces that the names of the next two littoral class ships will be USS Jackson (LCS 6) named for Jackson, Miss., and the USS Montgomery (LCS 8) for Montgomery, Ala. at Austal shipyard in Mobile, Ala.

### ● Marine

fighter pilot to earn "Wings of Gold." That historical moment occurred on Oct. 17, 1997.

At the luncheon, she recalled the many experiences that shaped her career.

"I got here because of the support of a lot of people. And I would actually say even though my mother is an amazing person, my dad was the driving factor in my life," Brannen said. "It was he that said to me, 'You've got to beat the boys.'"

Hardly anyone believed she would make it as a fighter pilot, not even her high school classmates.

"I said if I could be anything, I want to be a fighter pilot and all the guys in class laughed," Brannen recalled. "Those memories stalked me. So I said to myself 'I can do this.'"

She went on to college at Rochester Computer Technology and still thought she wanted to be a fighter pilot.

"Timing is everything," she said. "The timing of my final year, Congress passed the law that allowed women to fly in the Marine Corps. I applied, passed my flight physical and went to training."

Then married, Karen Fuller Tribbett, attended Officer Candidate School in the summer of 1994 where she finished as an honor graduate for her platoon and received the Physical Training Award for having the highest overall physical fitness scores in the company. She was commissioned second lieutenant on Aug. 26, 1994 and graduated with honors from Basic School.

Second Lt. Tribbett completed primary flight training in VT-3 in May 1996 and became the first female Marine to receive a jet training slot. First Lt. Tribbett completed intermediate jet training at Training Squadron 19 at NAS Meridian flying the T-2C and went on to fly the TA-4J with Training Squadron 7. She earned student of the month honors at both jet training squadrons.

"I didn't really think it was a big deal when I got to Meridian. The Navy had women pilots for years, but the Marine Corps was different," Brannen said. "It was hard for them to accept me, but I did well and was on the top. I got what I wanted, and I wanted jets."

Tribbett was the top graduate in her class and selected to fly the F/A-18 Hornet with a West Coast squadron. From there, "Stump" (that's her call sign) was assigned to Fleet Replacement Squadron VMFAT-101 first at El Toro, Calif., then Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar, Calif.

In 1999, Capt. Tribbett checked into Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 at MCAS Miramar. She deployed with VMFA-242 to Iwakuni, Japan from March 2001 to September 2001, and earned her Air Combat Tactics Instructor Certification in December 2001.

She returned to Quantico, Va. in July 2002 to attend Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS). After completing EWS, she was assigned as an active duty officer to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 321 at Andrews Air Force Base from July 2003 until the squadron was deactivated in September 2004.



Photo by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio

Lt. Col. Karen Brannen shakes hands with Kim Amis following the Women's History luncheon on March 24.

From there, Maj. Tribbett was assigned to VR-1 where she flew C-37B's (also known as Gulfstream's G550) from October 2004 to June 2007.

"I didn't know what a Gulfstream was at that time," she said. "It was a really fancy VIP plane and I flew around with the Secretary of the Navy, the Commandant of the Marine Corps and congressmen."

Maj. Tribbett left active duty and accepted a job as a Large Cabin Demonstration Pilot with Gulfstream in June 2007. She continues to participate in the Marine Corps Reserves and has completed command and staff positions. She was promoted to lieutenant colonel, and currently serves as the

Officer in Charge of the Peacetime Wartime Support Team (PWST) in Savannah, Ga.

In Oct. 24, 2010, she married Maj. Matt Brannen, a judge advocate in the Marine Corps.

Prior to the luncheon, Brannen visited with fifth graders at NAS Meridian's Starbase Atlantis program. The children asked questions about flying and her experiences in the military.

"It's very true that what people say to children and young adults can make a difference in their lives," Brannen said. "I think the real point is that if a few people believe in you and you believe in yourself, you will go a really long way." And timing is everything."

## U.S. Navy to provide 500,000 gallons of fresh water to Fukushima Power Plant

By Joe Schmitt

Commander, Fleet Activities  
Yokosuka Public Affairs

YOKOSUKA, Japan (NNS) -- Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) began transferring fresh water to two fuel barges, which will be used to support cooling efforts at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, March 25.

A total of 1.89 million liters (500,000 gallons) are being distributed between the barges that have been cleaned of fuel to support fresh water.

The first Barge YOGN-115 departed CFAY at approximately 11:00 a.m. and will be escorted by a Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) multipurpose support ship JS Hiuchi (AMS 4302). The second barge is scheduled to leave within the next 24 to 48 hours. The water will eventually be used to replace the seawater currently being used in cooling efforts at the plant.

"We have two barges here," said CFAY Operations Officer Lt. Michael

Weatherford. "They can both hold up to approximately 300,000 gallons of fresh water each. But the max capacity is reduced to make the barges seaworthy for ocean travel. The request was for one million gallons, so when I told them we could get 500,000 gallons we started working on getting these barges released from our custody over to the [Japan Maritime Self Defense Force]."

Japan Maritime Self Defense Force officers were present on the pier to watch workers finish

the final preparations before the barges left.

"This method was planned by the Japanese government after holding a council with Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) and others," said Capt. Fumiyuki Kitagawa, JMSDF officer. "After having a discussion with other ministries and agencies, [the Japanese government] decided to have Japan Maritime Self Defense to carry barges to Fukushima this time."

"Once it leaves Yokosuka, we figure about seven knots travel

speed because it's going to be towed by the JMSDF in the open ocean," said Weatherford. "We're estimating that it should reach its destination about 50 kilometers south of Fukushima within 35 hours from departure."

After watching the barge leave, Kitagawa had a personal message for the people that had helped make this event happen.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Americans and the U.S. Navy personnel who provided us with prompt

response in the wake of the earthquake," said Kitagawa.

"Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and the U.S. Naval ships off the coast of Sanriku are still searching for the missing people and delivering foods to the victims in the shelters together. The hearts of the U.S. Sailors have been reaching Japanese people. I really appreciate it and am very proud that JMSDF and the U.S. Navy once again can work together. Thank you all, again."

# Selective early retirement board exemption deadline extended

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Navy announced March 25, an extension to the deadline for those senior officers who wish to be exempt from the fiscal year 2012 Selective Early Retirement board.

Captain and commanders being reviewed by this board now have until May 15, to apply.

"High retention, reduction in officer end strength and low attrition among active component senior officers in the unrestricted line has led to an excess," said Rear Adm. Tony Kurta, director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy. "The board will select for continuation those officers who are best and most fully qualified, demonstrating superior performance in operational billets and possessing critical skills."

The Selective Early Retirement (SER) board,

originally announced in NAVADMIN 006/11, is designed to balance the force by ensuring sufficient senior officers are available at the right time in their careers to serve in critical billets in the Fleet.

To accomplish this, the SER board will consider the records of all active duty Unrestricted Line (URL) captains with at least four years time-in-grade as of July 1, 2011, and commanders who have twice failed for promotion to O-6.

Officers selected by the board for early retirement will be required to retire no later than the first day of the seventh month following the secretary of the Navy's approval of the board recommendations. The target date for this approval is Sept. 1, 2011.

Current projections indicate the SER board will select approximately 120 captains and 120 com-

manders for early retirement. These numbers may be adjusted based on the volume of voluntary retirement requests received prior to the board.

Captains and commanders who submit a retirement request ahead of the May 15 deadline will not be considered by the SER board and can choose a retirement date no later than Sept. 1, 2012.

"By electing to retire ahead of the board, these officers will be giving themselves and their families several more months to prepare for a career transition," explained Kurta.

For more information on the Selective Early Retirement board, visit <http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/Messages/>.

-- From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

## Miss America visits Naval Station Norfolk

By MC2 (SW/AW) Rafael Martie  
Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- Sailors socialized and ate breakfast with the reigning Miss America Teresa Scanlan at Navy Mobilization Processing Site (NMPS) United Service Organizations (USO) office at Naval Station Norfolk (NSN) March 22.

Scanlan is in town visiting several Norfolk-area commands to show her support to the military for all the sacrifices they make each and every day.

"Events like this help lift our Sailor's spirits with all that is going on in the world, and here at home," said Ann Morris, NMPS Norfolk center director of NMPS, NSN.

According to Intelligence Specialist 3rd Class Sharyn Thomas, it was nice to see someone famous visit the military.

"It's good that she came to see the troops because it helps boost morale," said Thomas who is stationed at Commander, U.S. Second Fleet.

The 18-year-old Scanlan was crowned Miss Nebraska June 5, 2010, and Miss America Jan. 15. She is the youngest person to win the crown in the pageant's 74 years, and the first Miss Nebraska to win it.

Many service members in attendance were shocked at Scanlan's age, however, they could relate to her youth and the responsibility she has in representing America.

"I was surprised at how much responsibility Miss America has at such a young age," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 3rd Class (AW) Daniel Galey stationed at Transient Personnel

Unit (TPU) at NSN. "I can relate to her because, in the military, a lot of us are right out of high school and we have huge responsibilities in leadership roles and we represent America wearing the uniform."

Miss America fielded many questions Sailors had for her.

"It's an honor to be here working alongside the USO," said Scanlan. "I am looking forward to working with them throughout the year because we get to do a lot of great things in support of the military. It is a privilege for me to be able to meet service members and I am very grateful for their sacrifices and what they do for our country."

Before the event was over, Sailors were able to take pictures with her, and were provided with an autographed photograph of her.

"I really enjoyed the breakfast with Miss America because I never knew there was a USO office on base," said Information Systems Technician 1st Class (SW) Cortez Mounger from Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet. "Since I know it is here now, I am going back to my command and inform my junior Sailors what the USO is all about so they can go there after working hours if they want to."

Master Chief Information Systems Technician (SW/AW) Yvonne Kitchen, 2nd Fleet's Staff command master chief, said the USO did a fantastic job setting up the event.

"Having Miss America [here] was priceless to me because these young men and women sacrifice so much day in and day out," said Kitchen. "I appreciate Miss America taking time out of her busy schedule for this great cause."

*"It is a privilege for me to be able to meet service members and I am very grateful for their sacrifices..."*

Miss America Teresa Scanlan

## First Total Force survey results released

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Chief of Naval Personnel announced the results of the Navy's first ever Total Force survey March 23.

This initial survey was sent to roughly 45,000 active and Reserve Sailors, and civilian employees throughout the Fleet, with the goal of providing a baseline understanding of their perceptions on work-life quality and other hot button issues.

While the Navy has used surveys in the past to uncover perceptions in the Fleet, none were shared across the active, Reserve and civilian workforce or used similar questions to allow for useful comparison.

"The Navy Total Force survey has taken the best aspects of previous questionnaires and applied them to all elements of the Total Force," said Vice Adm. Mark

Ferguson, chief of naval personnel. "In doing so, we can better understand how the entire team views their quality of life-work balance, job satisfaction and career intentions."

The survey was administered by the Navy Personnel Research, Studies, and Technology (NPRST) team from February to September 2010. NPRST was then tasked with compiling, and analyzing the results for senior leadership. Once completed, they were able to deliver a credible and valuable comparison tool.

Results of the survey among active and Reserve Sailors revealed consistent and positive results on key indicators such as job satisfaction, compensation, and intent to stay with Navy. When measuring career intentions, the survey found enjoyment of job and benefits such as retirement and healthcare

to be top reasons to continue serving, while the frequency and duration of deployments were cited as top reasons to leave.

Among Navy civilians, they were found to report fewer problems in balancing their personal life with their career, but were also shown to be less satisfied than their uniformed counterparts in career progression.

"Overall, the survey showed the Total Force is satisfied with the quality of their service, their leadership, and their compensation," said Ferguson. "We view these results as a baseline to measure our future efforts to improve our quality of life programs. This will be our 'Total Force' starting point for the future."

Navy Total Force survey results can be found at <http://www.nprst.navy.mil/Summaries.aspx>.

-- From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

## Navy stops non-essential civilian deployments to Japan

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) directed the immediate stop of movement for all Department of the Navy non-emergency essential civilian personnel to the island of Honshu, Japan March 26.

Due to the damages as a result of the recent earthquake and tsunami that occurred in Japan, it has been determined that the movement of non-emergency essential civilian personnel to commands and activities on the island of Honshu will be stopped effective immediately.

Emergency essential positions are designated as such in the civilian position description. Employees are typically notified of this determination in the "DOD Civilian Employee Overseas Emergency-Essential Position Agreement."

Non-emergency essential employees with permanent change of station (PCS) or temporary duty (TDY) authorizations to the island of Honshu, Japan, who have not yet commenced travel, are directed to stay with their current activity. Personnel who are already in transit, should contact their gaining activity's Human Resources Office (HRO) for guidance.

Department of the Navy civilian employees affected by this stop movement may be eligible for entitlements such as temporary quarters subsistence and other allowances. For questions regard-

ing these entitlements, employees should contact their nearest HRO.

Personnel who have additional questions or circumstances should contact their servicing HRO or the Department of the

Navy Human Resources frequently asked questions box at [donhrfaq@navy.mil](mailto:donhrfaq@navy.mil) for further guidance and assistance.

--From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs



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**Pvt. Chelsea Cox**  
MATSS-1 Student  
Hometown: Waller, Texas

# OOORAH!



Pvt. Chelsea Cox had the support of her entire family when she enlisted the Marine Corps on Oct. 25, 2010, including her husband, Cpl. Kelly Cox Jr. and her son, Colt Cox, age 3.

"I joined to better myself and to show that you don't have to be a man to have pride in your country and serve, but mainly because everything I do is for my son," said Cox who is currently a student at Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron One on board NAS Meridian.

"I'm looking forward to training for my job and learning everything I can," she said.

Her hobbies include crafts, sewing and learning about animals.

The person she most admires is her son.

"He is not here with me, but his picture pushes me through everything. I just tell myself I will see him soon."

**Pfc. Steven Saims**  
MATSS-1 Student  
Hometown: Hobart, Ind.

With his older brother, Pete, already in the Marine Corps Reserves, Steven Saims knew a lot about the military before he enlisted.

"I want to make my family proud and do something with my life," said Pfc. Saims who is currently a student at Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron One on board NAS Meridian.

"Going through boot camp I would never have made it if it wasn't for my family's support."

He enlisted on Sept. 20, 2010 and will graduate on May 10.

"I would like to be stationed in Miramar, Calif. I've always wanted to live on the West Coast," said Saims who is the son of Peter and Ida Saims.

His hobbies include playing soccer and working out.

The person he most admires is his father.

"He has always told me as long as I'm happy that's all that matters."

## Summer safety essential to keep Marines in the fight

By Pfc. Franklin E. Mercado  
2nd Marine Logistics Group

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. -- Last year the 2nd Marine Logistics Group lost no service members to safety-related injuries and keeping it that way is a goal that everyone would want to repeat.

So as the weather warms up, it is important for unit leaders and safety personnel to provide tools and guidance to help Marines and sailors remain vigilant and mission-ready without disrupting their off-duty leisure plans.

"We see all types of injuries, especially during the summer," said Staff Sgt. Sharp, safety chief for the 2nd MLG. "Marines get hurt doing everything from taking a walk in the park to bull riding."

Some of the most common mishaps during the summer months involve motorcycle riding, as well as an increase in water-related accidents due to more frequent visits to the beaches.

Sharp said the days of summer that see a jump in the amount of injuries are known as the 101 Days of Summer, which stretch from Memorial Day to Labor Day holiday weekends. During this time, units have a heightened awareness of injuries and urge their Marines and sailors to be cautious during this time of travel and extended liberty periods.

In order to minimize the potential for mishaps, all

units have a mandatory stand-down, which consists of periods of military education that cover five to six safety-related topics seen as the highest priority concerns by the commanding general of II Marine Expeditionary Force, Lt. Gen. John M. Paxton, who oversees more than 60,000 Marines and sailors serving on East Coast operational commands.

The purpose of the stand down is to prepare service members for situations they might encounter and urge them to practice proper operational risk management, such as wearing seatbelts and wearing personal protective equipment that could help save their lives. However, some situations cannot be controlled, so they must always remain vigilant and ready to react at a moment's notice, as Lance Cpl. Amanda Doubrava, a comptroller with Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd MLG, knows all too well.

"I was at Emerald Isle Beach with friends, and it was a nice day so there were hundreds of people at the beach," said Doubrava. "There was a big wave coming, so I dove under it and as I came out of the water and rubbed the salt out of my eyes I got hit with a surf board."

Doubrava sustained severe injuries to the face and has undergone numerous surgeries as a result.

The man riding the surf board didn't have it attached to his ankle by a rope or tether; he wasn't being aware of the people around him, said Doubrava.

"What if it didn't hit me and hit a little kid ... it could have been way worse," she said.

Although she wasn't able to control the situation, she acknowledges proper safety on the other party's behalf could have stopped the situation from happening. "You don't always know what's going to happen ... you must be prepared," said Sharp. "The thing that you least expect will injure you. You can not underestimate anything."

This is a big concern amongst leadership.

"Being in a leadership position, you have to make sure your Marines and sailors know that they need to follow rules," said Gunnery Sgt. Morris Holliday, company gunnery sergeant for Headquarters Company, CLR-27. "There isn't gray, there's only white and black ... just because you think it's safe doesn't mean it is."

Marines have to remember that they get injured here too, not just in combat, added Holliday.

"Marines need to know that they aren't indestructible," said Sharp. "Don't over look anything."

Whatever the activity may be, knowing the risks is a step toward enjoying a safe summer season.

For more information on safety tips, courses and statistics contact your unit's safety office, read Marine Corps Order 5100.30B, the recreational off duty safety order, or visit [www.iimef.usmc.mil/2dmlg/safety.nsf/main](http://www.iimef.usmc.mil/2dmlg/safety.nsf/main).

## Marine awarded Purple Heart Medal

By Bob Krekorian  
Naval Station Newport Public Affairs

NEWPORT, R.I. (NNS) -- Marine Cpl. Charles W. Martin III, 24, of Middletown, R.I., was awarded the Purple Heart Medal in a ceremony, March 23, for wounds received in action in Afghanistan on January 20.

Martin was serving as a fire team leader for 3rd Squad, 1st Platoon, Company E, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, Regiment Combat Team 1, 1st Marine Division Forward, when he was injured by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) while on patrol in Sangin, Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Family, friends, more than 50 Marines from Marine Corps Det., Newport, R.I., and representatives from the local Marine Corps League, attended the ceremony in Beirut Memorial Hall at Naval Station Newport, R.I.

"This award is the oldest military award given today and is a badge of military merit," said Lt. Col. Matthew Thomas, Marine Corps Det., Newport, commanding officer.

Thomas, who presided at the pinning ceremony, said Martin had shed his blood for his homeland and had passed along a legacy for others to follow.

Martin, a 2006 graduate of Middletown High School, enlisted after high school. He was on his fourth deployment when the injury occurred.

Martin said he was proud to wear the award. In a certificate of achievement awarded to Martin, it was noted that during his deployment, he performed over 200 combat patrols and operations in Marjah, Afghanistan and was continually exposed to war hazards.



## 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

The Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 color guard marches with the American flag and the squadron's battle colors during MWSS-373's transfer of authority to MWSS-272 at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, March 27. The transfer of authority ceremony not only symbolized the end of MWSS-373's operational responsibilities in support of Regional Command Southwest, but served as a beginning to MWSS-272's commitment in support of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) and its coalition partners in Afghanistan.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Samantha H. Arrington

## Staying in touch: How deployed Marines contact families

By Cpl. Jeff Drew  
2nd Marine Division

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. -- In times of strife, military families are often separated for long periods of time. In order to combat the separation, the Marine Corps offers several ways to keep in touch with loved ones while deployed.

E-mail may be one of the first things to come to mind when considering long-distance communication, however, many Marines and sailors do not have the luxury of an easily accessible internet. Instead, the hand-delivered letter is still used as a way for families to keep in touch with service members.

"They also have Motomail," said Suzanne M. McCurry the family readiness officer with Headquarters

Battalion, 2nd Marine Division.

"It is a great way for families to keep up with the Marines. It is an internet-based system where you type a letter much like an e-mail. When you hit send, it has the address of the unit the Marine is with and it goes to the post office in Afghanistan where a computer physically generates a letter, puts it in an envelope, and it is then hand delivered to the Marine. It can be there within 24 to 48 hours."

Some of the larger units also have the ability to conduct video teleconferencing. A Marine's family can set up a time with the battalion family readiness officer and coordinate a time to see and speak with their family members in Afghanistan. For Marines with smaller units, there are other ways for them to see their families.

"The USO has a program where

they videotape a Marine parent reading a book to their child," said McCurry. It gets sent home to their families on a DVD and makes long deployments easier, especially for younger children."

It is never easy to say goodbye to a family member as they deploy for a long period of time. While old-fashioned hand-written letters have a personal touch, deployed Marines usually receive them weeks later. Now, deployed Marines can receive e-mails and Motomail within days of them being sent.

"Everyone loved it," said Cpl. Christopher A. Bello, a rifleman with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division.

"Every chance we could, we would talk to our families. It had a great affect on moral."

## Safety is Our Duty

## Marines receive Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award

By Lance Cpl. Garry J. Welch  
31st MEU

ABOARD USS ESSEX -- Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 (Reinforced), 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, received the Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award for excellence in safety throughout fiscal year 2010.

"It is a great honor to receive this award," said Lt. Col. John P. Mee, commanding officer of HMM-262 (Rein). "I am very proud of the Marines and Sailors that contributed; this truly was an all-hands effort."

The CNO safety award is a very prestigious award given to both Navy and Marine Corps squadrons that have a very robust safety program that seeks to better Navy and Marine Corps aviation, according to Mee.

"It really takes a lot of hard work every day to get this," said Maj. David Hurst, the executive officer of HMM-262 (Rein). "Accidents or mishaps could happen very quickly, so everyone has to be paying close attention everyday to prevent them. This really validated that hard work."

From the Marines flying the aircraft,

to the Marines that repair them, everyone contributes to the squadron's safety record.

"Proper maintenance on the aircraft is extremely important because if we do one thing wrong it could result in a mishap," said Sgt. Brandon R. House, a CH-46E Sea Knight crew chief with HMM 262 (Reinforced). "We have to ensure everyone is wearing the proper personal protective equipment as they work, because if one Marine falls and seriously injures themselves, then it reflects on our safety record."

For every repair made to a helicopter, there are three Marines that inspect it, and ensure it has been done correctly. "This is not just about safety for us," said Mee. "It's about our ability to complete the mission and doing it safely."

The squadron received the award while conducting humanitarian aid and disaster relief missions, in the wake of a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami that struck Japan. As a direct result of these safety programs being implemented, there have been no reportable mishaps for HMM 262 (Reinforced) during more than 60,000 flight hours.



Photo by Cpl. Michael A. Bianco

Marines with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 (Reinforced), 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, secure a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter to the flight-deck of the forward-deployed USS Essex (LHD 2) during the aviation combat element's pre-deployment fly-on, Sept. 7. The 31st MEU is slated to participate in several bilateral training exercises including PHIBLEX 2011 in the Republic of the Philippines and the Korean Incremental Training Program 2011 in the Republic of Korea.

# Teachers, media rep have once-in-a-lifetime experience in Blue Angel #7

By Penny Randall  
Editor

Joey Long, Nolan Reynerson and Crystal Dupre' would all consider themselves extremely lucky people.

Long, a teacher with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians School District at Choctaw Central High School; Reynerson, district director for the Choctaw Area Council of Boy Scouts of America; and The Meridian Star Publisher Crystal Dupre' representing the media, were the backseat riders in Blue Angels #7 jet on March 23.

Lt. Dave Tickle, a native of Birmingham, Ala., is the pilot of #7. Tickle earned his Wings of Gold at NAS Meridian in April 2005. He returned to Meridian in 2009 to be an instructor pilot before learning he was accepted by the Blue Angels in September 2010.

The Blue Angles perform what is known as key influencer rides the week of air shows. Two community members along with one media representative are selected through a very extensive health and career evaluation process. The purpose of the rides is for the key influencers to go back and share their experience and what they learn about the U.S. Navy with others.

Tickle said it was his job to make

sure the riders enjoyed their time in the air.

"They all did great up there," Tickle said. "Had one who got a little sick but he handled it just fine."

Long said his ride was a thousand times better than he could have imagined.

"I am drained physically," Long said. "It is really demanding on your body, especially if you are out of shape like I am."

The three riders and their alternates met early Wednesday at the base and were examined by one of NAS Meridian's own doctors. Then they sat down with Travis Simpson, the crew chief for Blue Angel #7. Simpson went over the rules of the ride, what to touch and more importantly, what not to touch.

Each rider took their turn climbing the small metal ladder into the F/A-18 Hornet. Lt. Tickle personally spoke to each rider and explained what he would do in the air. The flights lasted between 30 and 45 minutes.

Reynerson was the second rider and watched as Long and Tickle moved out to the runway.

"I've never flown in a jet before so this is really going to be something new for me," he said. "If I get sick, then I get



Photo by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio

Blue Angel pilot #7 Lt. Dave Tickle poses with media representative Crystal Dupre', and key influencers Joey Long and Nolan Reynerson. All three got to experience the ride in a Blue Angel jet.

sick."

Dupre' was the last rider to experience the thrill.

"The very first move is an awesome feeling," said Dupre', who earned high

marks for pulling 7.5 Gs without passing out. "But then again the entire flight was awesome. I'd do it again. Well, not right now because my legs feel like jello."

## MCPON: Happy 118th Birthday CPOs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following Chief Petty Officer birthday message to the Fleet March 28.

"My fellow chief petty officers,

On April 1st, our entire Mess will pause to celebrate 118 years of the United States Navy Chief Petty Officer, and we're not just celebrating another year of chiefs serving the Navy, we're celebrating everything it means to wear the fouled anchors we all cherish.

Those anchors are the symbol of a culture and a way of life, representing character, loyalty, a strong commitment to leadership, our core values, and Navy ethos. Our anchors carry with them a responsibility to

live up to the tradition of selfless service, while remembering our proud heritage that we've spent 118 years building as we look toward our future.

Thank you Chiefs! Through your leadership of our Sailors, you continue to keep our heritage alive and our Navy strong — and as you know our Navy is the best it has ever been. Continue to make a positive impact on your command, your Sailors, yourself and our Mess.

Remember those who have gone before us and those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great nation.

Happy birthday Shipmates! I truly appreciate your leadership and the hard work you do every day.

Anchor Up and Hooyah Navy Chiefs!"



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West speaks with Command Master Chief Linda Handley during his first visit to the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) and congratulates Handley on her 31 years of naval service.

Photo by MCC John Lill

# 12 aviators earn 'Wings of Gold' March 25

In conjunction with NAS Meridian's 50th Anniversary and the centennial of Naval Aviation, Naval Air Station Meridian hosted a winging ceremony at which 12 Navy, Marine Corps and Royal navy aviators received their "Wings of Gold."

The ceremony was March 25, in the chapel on board NAS Meridian.

The guest speaker was Rear Adm. Ted N. Branch, Commander, Naval Air Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Branch, a native of Long Beach, Miss., had been traveling the state to promote the first Mississippi Navy Week. He had speaking engagements in Biloxi, Long Beach, Gulfport, Jackson and concluded his trip in Meridian.

Branch graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1979 and earned a master's degree in International Relations from the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

A naval aviator, Branch's operational assignments include Light Attack Squadrons 15 and 37, USS Forrestal (CV 59), and Strike Fighter Squadron 37. He served as executive and commanding officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 15, executive officer in USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), commanding officer in USS Coronado (AGF 11) and USS Nimitz (CVN 68), and commander of Carrier Strike Group One/Carl Vinson Strike Group. He assumed command of Naval Air Force Atlantic in February 2011. Naval Air Force Atlantic is composed of more than 40,000 men and women who maintain and operate five aircraft carriers, 80 aircraft squadrons flying 1,000 aircraft, and a number of supporting shore facilities. They provide combat-ready air forces to commanders operating from the North Pole to the Antarctic, and from the East Coast of the United States to the Indian Ocean.

The naval aviator designation ceremony is not prescribed specifically by U.S. Navy regulations,

but has emerged as an honored product of the rich heritage of naval tradition. It marks the culmination of nearly two years of specialized training, which has prepared these officers for the rigorous demands of aerial combat and carrier operations -- earning each the title of "Naval Aviator" and the right to wear the coveted "Wings of Gold."

Those who received their Wings of Gold included:

**Lt. j.g. Nicholas William Clouse, USN**, who earned one Navy "E" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) on Feb. 9. Clouse completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

**Lt. j.g. Charles Michael Hallum, USN**, who was selected as VT-9's Student of the Month for September 2010 and earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) on Feb. 11. Hallum completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine;

**1st Lt. Benjamin Michael Hopkins, USMC**, who carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) on Feb. 10. Hopkins completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

**Lt. j.g. Robert William Kershner**, who was named to the Commodore's List during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Harry S. Truman on Feb. 10. Kershner completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine;

**Lt. Matthew King**, Royal navy, completed Jet Training in the UK and spent one year flying the



Clouse



Hallum



Hopkins



Kershner



King



Laginess



Latham



Leary



Manna



Porter



Shockley



Vessichelli

Hawk for the Royal Navy. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) on Feb. 11. King completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine;

**Lt. j.g. Jacob Robert Laginess, USN**, who was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training and earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Harry S. Truman on Feb. 9. Laginess completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine;

**Lt. Daniel Geoffrey Latham**, Royal navy, who completed jet training in the UK and flew the Hawk for the Royal Navy. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS

Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) on Feb. 11. Latham completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine;

**1st Lt. Bridger Leary, USMC**, who was named to the Commodore's List and received the Academic Award during Primary Flight Training. He earned one Navy "E" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) on Feb. 10. Leary completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

**1st Lt. Michael Benedict Manna, USMC**, who was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training and earned two Navy "E's" for bombing

accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) on Feb. 10. Shockley completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven; and

**Lt. j.g. Ryan Andrew Vessichelli, USN**, who was selected VT-9's Student of the Month for August 2010 and VT-9's Student of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2011. He was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training and earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) on Feb. 10. Vessichelli completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

**Capt. Evan Livingstone Shockley, USMC**, who was VT-7's Student of the Month for January 2011. He earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy During Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qual-

# Voucher program streamlines advanced education for senior enlisted

By Ed Barker

Naval Education and Training Command  
Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- The Chief of Naval Personnel announced funding for the FY-11 Advanced Education Voucher (AEV) program March 21, providing advanced education opportunities for top performing Chief and Senior Chief Petty Officers.

Announced by Naval Administrative Message (NAVADMIN) 095/11, AEV provides financial assistance to selected senior enlisted personnel (E7-E8) to complete post-secondary, Navy-relevant degrees through off-duty education. Senior Chief Electronics Technician (SW/AW) Jason Szot, enlisted education program coordinator at the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), called the educational program one of the most significant in the military, as the Navy invests in the future of enlisted leadership.

"The senior enlisted members accepted into this program will further develop and hone the knowledge and skills necessary to lead our Navy in the future," said Szot. "The AEV program gives them the opportunity to get a degree from a university without having to worry about finances or Tuition Assistance (TA) restrictions, as it pays for 100 percent of tuition, books and fees up to a specified limit."

The AEV program will fund bachelor's and master's degree completion in desig-

Deadline for applying for FY11 programs is May 27, 2011.

Applications should be sent to Naval Education and Training Command (N523), 250 Dallas Street, Pensacola, FL, 32508-5220. See NAVADMIN 095/11 for specific requirements and application guidelines. Packages must be endorsed by the applicant's commanding officer and command master chief. For more information on the program, call Jason Szot, AEV and Enlisted Learning & Development coordinator (NETC N523) at (850) 452-7268 (DSN 922) or e-mail at [jason.szot@navy.mil](mailto:jason.szot@navy.mil).

nated, Navy-relevant areas of study. Examples include: strategic foreign languages, construction management, emergency and disaster management, homeland defense and security, human resources, business administration, leadership and management, engineering, information technology, nursing, business administration, education and training management, and electrical/electronic technology. All degrees, including any not listed above must be approved by the AEV program coordinator at NETC to validate Navy relevance.

One of the Sailors who recently completed the AEV program is Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW/AW) Chris Fowler, multimedia instructor, Visual Communications Department, Defense

Information School, Fort Meade, Md.

"The AEV program is a remarkable program - it allowed me to finish my bachelor's without incurring any debt," Fowler said. "An advanced education has always been important to me, but today, more than ever, that degree shouldn't come at the expense of financial readiness."

Fowler added that the AEV gives chiefs one more tool to help lead Sailors. "As an MC, I see the way people communicate evolving," Fowler said. "Leading by example is a communication strategy that transcends personality, culture and any age differences. People talk about earning college degrees all the time, but the AEV has allowed me to do more than just talk; it allows me to show Sailors that a degree is within their grasp - all they have to do is reach out and grab it."

Eligible applicants include E7s with no more than 16 years of time in service, and E8s with no more than 18 years of time in service. Time in service for all pay grades is computed to October 1, 2011. Proven superior performers with continued upward mobility are encouraged to apply.

AEV will support bachelor's degree completion in approved, Navy-relevant areas of study through off-duty education, capped at \$6,700 per year for a maximum of 36 months from the date of enrollment and covers 100 percent of tuition, books, and related fees. Total program cost per student is limited to \$20,000. Qualified candidates must have an associate degree from an accredited institution or the equivalent amount of college credit applicable to the degree being sought.

The AEV master's degree program covers 100 percent of tuition, books, and related fees up to a maximum of \$20,000 per year for up to 24 months of enrollment, with the total program cost per individual

capped at \$40,000. Qualified candidates must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution recognized by the Department of Education. For FY-11, Navy-relevant master's degrees are required.

Applicants should be transferring to (or currently on) shore duty with sufficient time ashore to complete their approved degree program. Applicants on sea duty may apply provided they submit an education plan, with commanding officer endorsement, which demonstrates the ability to complete the degree program. Senior enlisted members who have already invested in their professional development by pursuing college education and those who are currently enrolled in a qualifying post-secondary degree program using tuition assistance (TA) or other financial assistance programs are eligible to apply for the AEV program. Reimbursement for any education expenses incurred prior to participation in AEV is not authorized. AEV and TA benefits may not be used at the same time.

Upon completion of, or withdrawal from education for which any authorized expenses were paid, participants shall agree to remain on active duty for a period equal to three times the number of months of education completed or three years, whichever is less. This obligation is discharged concurrently with any other service obligation program participants may have already incurred. The AEV agreement does not obligate the Navy to retain the member on active duty. If a program participant fails to complete the period of active duty specified in the agreement, the Sailor will reimburse the United States for the cost of the advanced education received, prorated for the obligated time served.

The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy will convene the AEV Program selection board in June 2011 and program selectees will be expected to enroll in studies in the summer or fall 2011 terms.

The AEV program is a supporting element of the Enlisted Learning and Development Strategy, which includes post-secondary education as an integral part of the career roadmap for each rating career track.

Additional information about the AEV program may be viewed on the Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) Web site ([www.nko.navy.mil](http://www.nko.navy.mil)). After logging on, click the 'Learning' tab, then go to the quick link for AEV located on the left hand side of the page.

## 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.

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Worship  
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Call (601)  
679-3635

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### Did You Know?

NAS Meridian NEX offers Western Union money transfer. Located in Building 214 at the Personalized Services counter at the front of the store.

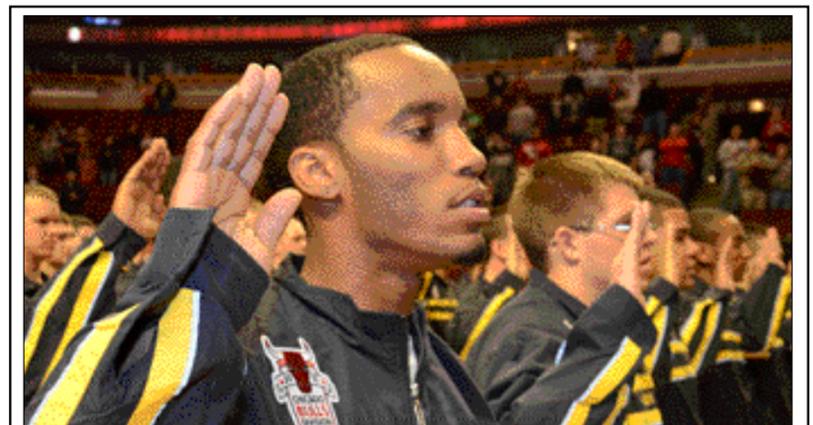


Photo by Sue Krawczyk

Russell Bonds of Chicago recites the oath of enlistment with 85 Chicago-area recruits at a swearing-in ceremony at the United Center, the home of the Chicago Bulls before a game. The ceremony has been an annual event for the past three years and is in partnership with the Bulls and the U.S. Navy.

## Sale ... or

### CAR POOL NEEDED

Car pool from North Hills Street to NAS Meridian and back to split gas expenses. Hours of work: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Call JJ at (601) 679-3180 or (601) 604-9700.

### 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 Cross Trainer. Asking \$399.99. Like new - was used a handful of times. Call (559) 410-1608.

### BIG STUFF

25 Foot Prowler 5th Wheel camper. Call Darin at (601) 480-4132.

or Ann at (601) 480-4134.

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 floor, 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 numbers 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 an 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

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.

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, using 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 TVs (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.

### AUTOMOBILES, ETC.

NEW! One owner 2001 BMW 325 Convertible in great shape. One owner all maintenance records available. Asking \$7000. Call (601) 462-1376.

2004 Ford F-150 FX4 Off 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.

20in Chrome rims and tires (Toyo Proxy-295/45R/20). 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 \$4500. 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: [acr-calais@gmail.com](mailto:acr-calais@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.

### MOTORCYCLES/GEAR/ATV

2005 350 Rancher 2 wheel drive 4 wheeler. Call Darin at (601) 480-4132 or Ann at (601) 480-4134.

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

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 70cc. 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 \$1000. 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.

### HOMES/APARTMENTS

NEW! Want to Rent: 2/3 bedroom house no more than \$800 a month. Contact Monica at (601) 938-0182.

NEW! For Rent: Beautiful brick 3 BR/2 BA home approximately 1800 sq. ft., large kitchen, large laundry/mud room, W/D, fireplace, skylights, large covered back patio, double car garage, large storage building in back of property, 3 acres, close to Okatibbee Reservoir. House sits at

the end of a cul-de-sac, great for children. Beautiful well maintained neighborhood. Great for all outdoor activities, close to schools and close to shopping. Location: 8380 Oak Ridge Estates, Meridian. Asking \$1400 per month plus utilities. If interested call (228) 872-4916.

For Rent: Country living in the city. 4 BR/2 1/2 BA, central heat and air, fireplace, formal dining room, living room an den, large hobby shop, green house and a garden spot. Call (601) 527-1426 or (601) 644-3003.

For Sale: Home in Poplar 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.

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](http://www.ahm.com) <<http://www.ahm.com>> or call G. Barrett at (850) 855-8304. To be seen by appointment only. Currently the house is occupied.

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 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](http://Militarybyowner.com), or call (601) 693-8386.

### WANTED TO BUY

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

### MISCELLANEOUS

NEW! Basketball Hoop Stand for sale \$30. Call (601) 462-1376.

Craftsman 10" compound miter saw. Works great. \$40. Call (757) 412-9411. 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 Tamra at (601) 479-7902 or email [1proud-mom2@live.com](mailto:1proud-mom2@live.com) for pictures. Asking \$250, paid over \$500.

10hp generator for sale used very little. Asking \$450. Call (601) 323-1003.

O/U 12 Ga. shotgun with chocks and cleaning kit, asking \$1,200; 40 round boxes of hay, fescue and clover mix cut this year, \$25 each; Pure local honey for sale, quart size bottles, \$10 each (other sizes available). Call Clinton at (601) 323-1003.

If you wish to add or remove an item from "Sale...or" please send your request to [penny.randall@navy.mil](mailto: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



## April Specials

**Mondays ~ NTTC/MATSS-1 Student Special**  
\$2 a game, \$1 shoe rental from 5-9 p.m.

**Wednesdays ~ RCTA Special**  
\$2.50 a Game Free Shoe Rental from 4:30-9 p.m.

**April 8 and 22 ~ 9 Pin No-Tap Tournament**  
Sign up by 6 p.m. that night. \$10 Entry Fee.

**Saturdays ~ 7-10 p.m.**  
Family Cosmic Bowling \$2 a game

## 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!

- April 2: "Tangled" (PG)
- April 5: "Due Date" (R)
- April 6: "Here After" (PG13)
- April 7: "The Tourist" (PG13)
- April 9: "Heaven Can Wait" (PG)
- April 12: "Morning Glory" (PG13)
- April 13: "Skyline" (PG13)
- April 14: "The Warrior Way" (R)
- April 16: "Gulliver's Travels" (PG)
- April 19: "Troy" (R)
- April 20: "The Next 3 Days" (PG13)
- April 21: "Burlesque" (PG13)



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.

### April

- 3rd:** Ping-Pong Tournament begins at 7 p.m. in the Liberty Center. No entry fee – prize awarded to winner. Register day of event at Liberty Center.
- 6th:** 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.
- 9th:** Birmingham Shopping Trip to Riverchase Galleria Mall where a combination of 200 shops and restaurants awaits you. Bus leaves Liberty parking lot at 8 a.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Must register & pay for trip by April 6. Minimum of 20 people needed for trip to run – NO REFUNDS (unless the trip is cancelled).
- 10th:** Dog Day Sunday FREE hot dogs, chips & soda served to Liberty participants beginning at 2 p.m. in the Liberty Center.
- 11th:** Head over to the football field across from Medical Clinic for an end of the day flag football game. Game time is 6:30 p.m. -- be at field by 6:15 p.m. No registration necessary just come to field and be ready to play!
- 14th:** FREE bowling to all Liberty patronage at McCain Rec Center from 5-9 p.m.
- 16th:** Hit the field with Liberty and enjoy a day of paintball fun and action. Please ask staff at the Liberty Center for further trip details and cost.
- 17th:** Egg Roll-Round Up Head to the Liberty Center for a night-time egg hunt beginning at 8 p.m. Eggs will be scattered outside and filled with candy or valuable "coupons" which are redeemed for a variety of prizes. Don't forget to bring a flashlight!
- 18th:** 3-on-3 Basketball at basketball courts next to the Marine barracks and across from Rudders. Game time is 6:30 p.m. -- be at court by 6:15 p.m. No registration necessary - come ready to play!
- 20th:** Chuck-a-Peep How many peeps can you chuck in a basket within 30 seconds? Crazy silly fun in the Liberty Center at 7 p.m.
- 23rd:** Video Game Tournament at 3 p.m. Prize awarded to winner. Register day of event at Liberty Center.
- 24th:** Easter Dessert Day! We will help you spring into a great day by offering cake, cookies and soda in the Liberty Center at 3 p.m.

## Registration for MWR's All-Military Wilderness Challenge Opens April 1

By Mark O. Piggott

Naval Weapons Station Yorktown Public Affairs

YORKTOWN, Va. (NNS) -- Registration for the Mid-Atlantic Region, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Department's annual all-military Wilderness Challenge opens April 1.

The Wilderness Challenge will take place, Oct. 6-8, in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains and on the New and the Gauley Rivers in West Virginia. The event is hosted and co-organized by ACE Adventure Resort, West Virginia's largest outdoor outfitter.

More than 300 military personnel representing teams from around the world are

expected to compete. Only the first 60 teams will secure a spot in the Wilderness Challenge, so teams are encouraged to register early.

"The MWR Wilderness Challenge continues to bring together the best athletes in the armed forces and puts them to the test," said Michael Bond, event coordinator. "The competition gets tougher and tougher every year as more teams battle for the title."

The challenge contains a series of five outdoor adventure races in a team format designed to bring camaraderie, competition and team spirit between all five branches of the Armed Services.

Teams participating in this year's challenge will compete in an 8K mountain run,

a 14-mile mountain bike race, a 14-mile forced hike through the mountains, a 13-mile whitewater raft race on the Gauley River and a 7-mile kayak race on the New River. Last year's winner was Team "Amphibia" from the Office of the Chief of Navy Reserve, Washington, D.C.

"It is not an easy competition and only the strong survive, so the winning team will be the best of the best in outdoor recreation and physical endurance," Bond added.

Registration is open to all branches of the military. Teams must be comprised of four active duty military, one of which must be female. Registration can be made online at [www.wildernesschallenge.net](http://www.wildernesschallenge.net) or by calling (757) 887-7256.



## Upcoming

### 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.**

## Springtime is outdoor rental time at The Outpost!!

Come check out the new rental equipment... paddle boats, 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.

## Belly Dancing Group Class

Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at the Gym. Not just for ladies either, men welcome



...that means come join us~! (harder exercise than most may think) Stacey Jemison is the instructor. For information, call (601) 679-2379.

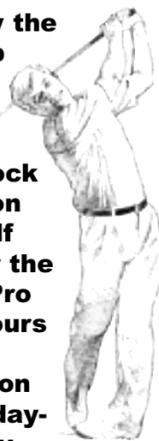
## Golf Special

**Ponta Creek Golf Course**  
**Monday-Sunday, Ride 18 Holes for \$20**  
**Monday-Thursday, Ride 9 Holes for \$12**  
**Friday, Saturday, Sunday's and Holidays after 3 p.m., Ride 9 Holes for \$12.**

Stop by the Pro Shop today and

stock up on new golf gear for the year! Pro Shop Hours are Monday-Sunday

7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. **GolfLogix** Garmin GPS is now in all golf carts Use this new tool to see how far you are from the pin. For more information, call



## ~~ 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.

**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.

**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!

**The Library** has new hours. It is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information call (601) 679-2326.

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.

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



### 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.
<b>Applebee's Restaurant</b> ..... (upon request only)					

# It's Your Turn...

We asked these spectators at Golden Wings Over Meridian air show, "What was your favorite part of the air show?"

Photos by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio



**Ed York**  
Daleville, Miss.

"I love the old planes... the warbirds. The air show is much better than years ago."



**Jordan Reed**  
7 years old

"The Blue Angels -- they're awesome. But I don't like it when they blow up stuff because it's loud."



**Sarah Valerio**  
7 years old

"I like the Blue Angels very much. It was loud, but they are very cool. It was fun!"



**Joseph Reed**  
9 years old

"I like it when they blew up stuff. It was cool. Then there were big clouds of smoke. Awesome!"



**Jayla Reed**  
6 years old

"I like the Blue Angels, because they are cool."

## Fleet & Family Support Center

# April is Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Month

April is Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program month, a time to look at sexual assault and how it impacts individuals, commands and unit readiness.

Sexual assault is incongruent with the Navy and Marine core values of honor, courage and commitment. Help stop sexual assault by learning the facts, by being alert to your surroundings. Follow your instincts (trust what your gut is telling you) and adopt a personal policy of zero tolerance.

### QUESTION: What does a typical sexual assault look like?

- Sexual assault usually involves a junior enlisted victim and junior enlisted perpetrator -- but can happen to anyone.

- The victim and perpetrator usually know each other as friends, co-workers, or acquaintances.

- Most interactions that lead to sexual assault begin in social settings.

- Many sexual assaults occur after the victim and/or perpetrator have been drinking.

- While the majority of sexual assault reports are made by women, the sexual assault of men actually occurs in greater numbers in the Department than the sexual assault of women.

### QUESTION: How does a sexual assault harm an individual?

- Physical injuries and sexually transmitted infections can sometimes occur.

While some sexual assaults can result in very serious injury, many involve minor or non-visible injuries to victims.

- Psychological injuries may occur immediately following the assault and/or several weeks or months later. They often do not resolve without treatment -- victims cannot just "get over it" -- rather victims often suffer in silence.

Fear, irritability, confusion, and sleep disruption, may often occur during or immediately following the assault.

In about one third of cases, victims may experience post-traumatic anxiety symptoms that interfere with their work, social or home life. Some victims may also experience serious depression or problems with alcohol and substances as they try to reduce the intensity of the symptoms.

### QUESTION: What do you think it means "Hurts One; Affects All"?

- Sexual assault happens directly to an individual, but can indirectly affect everyone in a unit, as well as the victim's family and friends.

- Sexual assault can have a long term impact on our fellow Service members and on the military as a whole.

- Sexual assault is a readiness issue because it diminishes the DoD's ability to function proficiently at all levels: individual, unit, and command.

- Almost daily there is an article on sexual assault in the military in the media, and so sexual assault damages the reputation of the institution we are a part of and care about.

### QUESTION: What do we mean by "mission ready"?

- A unit is "mission ready" when it can deploy quickly and efficiently, determining its competence to intervene in combat situations.

- DoD's mission is to provide the military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of our country.

- Our mission not only includes national defense, but the defense



and safety of the Americans who voluntarily risk their lives for our country.

### QUESTION: How does a sexual assault impact mission readiness?

- The mention of mission readiness together with the toll sexual assault takes on the victim is not meant to be callous, but we all need to understand the far reaching impact a sexual assault can have on the victim and everyone else.

- Sexual assault might not have happened in someone's unit, but unfortunately if a service member sticks around long enough, he or she is likely to see it at some point in their career, and we want everyone in the DoD to be prepared to respond or prevent it from happening in the first place.

- There is a connection between sexual assault and mission readiness:

There is a possible loss of trust in the victim, unit members, or leaders.

Victims and subjects may not be available to do their jobs in a unit that already does not have enough people.

Victims and subjects may be permanently unable to fulfill their obligation to the military due to their physical condition, mental state, or incarceration.

A sexual assault can undermine strategic good will. Examples include:

- Japan's hesitation to renew bases in Okinawa;

- Strained relations in Iraq because of incidents of sexual assault and murder of foreign nationals;

- International problems caused by the actions of a few are often preventable if people act when they see questionable behavior.

- Sexual assault diminishes leadership's ability to focus on the mission because the seriousness of the crime and the safety issues involved appropriately demand a commander's full attention.

- There may be a larger issue of mistrust in peers and leadership that keeps a Service member from reporting the incident, either Restricted or Unrestricted.

### QUESTION: Why does DoD need your help to prevent sexual assaults?

- Most sexual assaults occur between people who know each other -- friends, acquaintances, coworkers, etc.

- Very few sexual assaults are committed by "strangers" in dark alleys.

- Most sexual assaults are never reported to police.

- DoD estimates that 20% of sexual assaults are reported to law enforcement, SARCs, or SAPR VAs.

- Police rarely have a chance to "prevent" a sexual assault.

- Interactions between people that might eventually lead to a sexual assault often begin in social settings -- parties, gatherings, clubs, etc.

- You might have the opportunity to say or do something that keeps events from escalating.

- You can make a difference in people's lives by preventing them from becoming a victim or a perpetrator.

- If you do not intervene and a sexual assault occurs, you will remember it for the rest of your life.

### QUESTION: How can you help prevent sexual assault?

- Bystander intervention is a strategy the DoD has launched in an all out effort to get its people to engage in preventing sexual assault.

- It is part of what all members of the U.S. military can do to stand by their fellow Service members.

- Active bystanders take the initiative to help someone who may be targeted for a sexual assault. They do this in ways that are intended to avoid verbal or physical conflict.

- Active bystanders also take the initiative to help friends, who aren't thinking clearly, from becoming perpetrators of crime.

- Intervention does not mean that you directly intervene to stop a crime in progress; rather, these steps are "early intervention" -- before the crime begins to occur.

- There are three important components to Active Bystander Intervention we refer to as the ABCs:

- Assess for safety. Ensure that all parties are safe, and whether the situation requires calling authorities. When deciding to intervene, your personal safety should be the #1 priority. When in doubt, call for help.

- Be with others. If it is safe to intervene, you are likely to have a greater influence on the parties involved when you work together with someone or several people. Your safety is increased when you stay with a group of friends that you know well.

- Care for the victim. Ask if the victim of the unwanted sexual advance/attention/behavior is okay -- does he or she need medical care? Does he or she want to talk to a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) or SAPR Victim Advocate (SAPR VA) to see about reporting the matter? Ask if someone they trust can help them get safely home.

### QUESTION: What do you think "Readiness=Respect" means?

- Readiness refers to how prepared we are to perform our duty or accomplish our mission.

- Respect, in this context, refers to how we treat our fellow Service members.

- Readiness and Respect relate to each other in many ways:

- Readiness goes way beyond just combat capability. We are talking about the total person.

- The person accused of committing the crime might also be in the unit. Rumors, "sidetalking," and misunderstandings might all distract from the mission. If the person is convicted, they may be sent to prison or put out of the service. Losing a fellow service member will degrade mission readiness.

- If someone in the unit witnessed some part of the assault and failed to intervene, that person may be unable to fully concentrate on his or her job.

## 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.

**Bystander Intervention 101: April 4 from 3-4 p.m.** You are at a party. During the past hour you notice one of your male friends has been talking to a young woman. They seem to be having a good time but it is clear that the woman has had too much to drink. At one point your friend walks by you and you hear him say he is just going to get her "one more" and "that should be enough." A few minutes later you see him put his arm around the young woman and start to lead her upstairs. What do you do? Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation and not known what to do, even though you knew you needed to do something? This seminar will discuss various reasons why individuals who witness a range of inappropriate behaviors may or may not take action, and present ways to encourage and develop greater bystander involvement.

**Recognizing & Reporting Child Abuse: April 6 from 9-10:30 a.m. or April 12 from 5-6:30 p.m.** This workshop will focus on how to recognize signs of child abuse and how to report suspected abuse. We can all do something to stop child abuse -- to stand by silently is tragic and only helps establish the next generation of violence. We can and should do everything we can to end the cycle... knowledge is power.

**Welcome Aboard & New Spouse Orientation: April 7 from 8 a.m.-noon (Spouses noon-1 p.m.)** FFSC welcomes you to Meridian by providing current information and policies regarding NAS. Topics covered will include: Navy career choices, FFSC services, medical, dental, Exceptional Family Member Program, TRICARE, vehicle registration, on- and off-base driving regulations, legal services, community services, Chapel and other religious services, MWR, things to do at NAS and in Meridian, and more! The New Spouse Orientation will include a Q&A session with command Ombudsmen and other briefs of interest to military spouses. Whether you're a spouse new to military life or just new to Meridian, you'll be able to pick up important information and meet other spouses.

**Positive Parenting Circle: Every Thursday in April from 5-6 p.m.** Every feel like you're the only parent dealing with a particular behavior problem or other parenting "issue"? Join this group to compare notes with other parents who are experiencing (or have experienced) the same things. An FFSC counselor will be on-hand to help the group untangle difficult problems and brainstorm solutions.

**IA Readiness Fair: April 8 from 9-11 a.m.** FFSC hosts this deployment readiness event to help Individual Augmentee (IA) deployment candidates and their families prepare. We'll have representatives from various departments and agencies on hand to answer your questions and provide valuable information. Just stop in and get whatever you need to help you & your family gear up for deployment.

**IA Spouse Discussion Group: April 8 from 9:30-11 a.m.** FFSC hosts this 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!

**First Term CONSEP: April 11-14 from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.** This version of the Career Options and Navy Skills Evaluation Program (CONSEP) targets Sailors with one to five years of active duty service. The four-day class will present you with information and involves a series of practical applications that will help you identify your knowledge, skills, and abilities, pinpoint areas of career interest, organize your financial goals, and develop a specific plan to move you in the direction of the success you desire. Registration is required.

**Command Financial Specialist Training: April 18-22 from 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 one CFS to every 75 active duty personnel. Current CFSes must attend CFS Training every three years to remain active. Only E6 & 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.

**Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program Overview: April 27 from 2-3:30 p.m.** SAPR is a comprehensive, victim-sensitive program that puts all the pieces together -- victim advocacy, awareness, prevention, education, and data collection -- to respond to sexual assault Navy-wide. SAPR services are available to all Sailors and their families. This workshop will cover what SAPR is, services offered within the program, the definition of sexual assault, prevention strategies, and what you can do if someone you know has been assaulted.

In pictures...

# Golden Wings Over Meridian 2011



• Air Show

Officials were able to put together a ground parade of war birds from the past that rumbled slowly in front of the fans so they could get up-close pictures. Then the pyrotechnic experts, who had provided the bang and boom Saturday, set off scores of explosions. Air show officials said once the charges and gasoline are set there is no way to recover them so to the joy of many, the charges were ignited and clouds of fire and smoke filled the sky.

On Sunday, the Blue Angels pilots, five of which earned their "Wings of Gold" at NAS Meridian, signed autographs and took photos with spectators for nearly one hour which made many children happy.

