

# THE SKYLINE



Volume 49, Number 10

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

May 12, 2011

## On Base...

✓ **Safety Stand Down** will be May 27 at Rudders. NAS Meridian civilian and military are highly encouraged to attend one of the two sessions at 7:30 a.m. or 1 p.m.

✓ **A Legal Assistance Attorney** will be on board NAS Meridian from June 7-9 in the Legal Office (Administration Building 255, Suite 222) to assist with the following:  
- A Will, Medical Directive, Estate Planning, or Power of Attorney  
- Basic advice and assistance with tax related questions, state tax exemptions, and SSCRA

- Help with family and domestic relations or consumer law/affairs or landlord-tenant relations, etc.  
Appointments are required and made by calling (601) 679-2340. Personnel needing will services need to stop by and complete a will worksheet for planning purposes NLT May 31. This FREE service is available to active duty military and their family members, retirees and their family members, and pre-mobilization assistance for reserve personnel.

✓ **On June 3**, the nation will celebrate one of the Navy's and history's most significant naval victories -- the Battle of Midway. Movies honoring this historic battle are available in the Public Affairs Office for check out. Call 679-2809 for more information.

**All Hands POOL (beside Rudders on Higley Road) is scheduled to open May 28**

## A Day in Naval History

**May 13**  
1908: Navy Nurse Corps established.  
1908: Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, later called Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, was officially established in the Territory of Hawaii as a coaling station for U.S. Navy ships transiting the Pacific Ocean.  
1943: Bureau of Navigation renamed Bureau of Naval Personnel

**May 17**  
1973: First woman to hold a major Navy command, Capt. Robin Lindsay Quigley assumes command of Navy Service School, San Diego, Calif.  
-- [www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil)

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

## Bin Laden buried at sea

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Osama bin Laden received a Muslim ceremony as he was buried at sea, a senior defense official said in Washington, D.C., May 2.

The religious rites were performed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) in the North Arabian Sea and occurred within 24 hours of the terrorist leader's death, said the official.

"Preparations for at-sea [burial] began at 1:10 a.m. Eastern Standard Time and were completed at 2 a.m.," said the official.

The burial followed traditional Muslim burial customs, and bin Laden's body was washed and placed in a white sheet, said the official.

"The body was placed in a weighted bag. A military officer read prepared religious remarks, which were translated into Arabic by a native speaker," the official added.

Afterward, bin Laden's body was placed onto a flat board, which was then elevated upward on one side and the body slid off into the sea.

The deceased terrorist was buried at sea because no country would accept bin Laden's remains, a senior defense official said.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Defense Department officials are sure it was the body of bin Laden. CIA specialists compared photos of the body with known photos of bin Laden and said with 95-percent certainty it was the terrorist leader, a senior intelligence official said.

In addition, bin Laden's wife identified the al-Qaida leader by name while the strike team was still in the compound, said the intelligence official.

CIA and other specialists in the intelligence community "performed the initial DNA analysis matching a virtually 100-percent DNA match of the body against the DNA of several of bin Laden's family members," the official added.



Photo by Sgt. Randall Clinton

A crowd cheers and chants in excitement at the corner of Vesey St. and Liberty St. next to Ground Zero after hearing that Osama Bin Laden is dead. Bin Laden planned the attacks, Sept 11, 2001, and has been hunted by American forces in the years since. He was killed by a raid in Abbottabad, Pakistan near the country's capital. The Freedom Tower, the skyscraper being built where the World Trade Center towers once stood, is now 60 stories tall and was lit up and visible from the street. Eventually the Freedom Tower will be the tallest building in the country.

## Subway opens



Photo by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio

Sandwich artist Frances Terranova makes a chicken teriyaki submarine sandwich for Fred Jacob on May 9. Subway opened May 9 inside McCain Recreation Center. Hours of operation are Sunday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

*Memorial Day Ceremony will be May 30, at 10 a.m. at the Lauderdale County Courthouse, 21st Avenue between 6th and 5th Streets in downtown Meridian. The public is invited to attend.*

## Aviation enthusiasts amaze me

By Penny Randall  
Editor

I have a great job which I truly enjoy, but sometimes my job is just plain fun.

Last week, I had the pleasure and I do mean pleasure of escorting three groups of aviation enthusiasts around the flight line.

The first day, 31 residents of The Netherlands, France, England and Japan were waiting on me at the front gate when I arrived to pick them up in government vehicles. Luckily I had the help of a very dedicated student pilot from Training Squadron 7 who assisted me for several hours while the group walked around the flight line and took photos of aircraft, recorded tail numbers in their pocket notebooks and just asked questions about the aircraft.

But let me explain a little further... when I say took photos of the aircraft, I mean they took a photo of each and every T-45C "Goshawk" they laid their eyes on.

● **Enthusiasts, page 3**



Photo by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio

A group of aviation enthusiasts from The Netherlands and France pose for a photo in front of a T-45C Goshawk on board NAS Meridian.

## SECNAV Retiree Council address key concerns

By Wm. Cullen James  
Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The annual Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Retiree Council began meeting May 2 in Washington, D.C., to discuss matters of importance to Navy and Marine Corps retirees.

"A number of issues have not changed in recent years," said retired Vice Adm. John Totushek, SECNAV Retiree Council co-chair. "One of our major issues is getting the word out that we even exist."

"There will be several very important

issues brought up this year," said Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman Brian Conroy, event coordinator and representative from the assistant SECNAV for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. "One of the biggest issues will be Tricare and the delivery of care as well as the cost."

Communication with retirees is another issue that both Totushek and Conroy believe will be discussed at the meeting.

"I expect the board to look at and address how to effectively inform the retired population on what changes in benefits and law are coming their way," said Conroy.

"We have been pushing hard to get at

least one printed copy of our newsletter a year to get the word out," said Totushek. "Thus far budget pressures have kept that from happening."

The council meets for four days and spends the final day presenting their recommendations.

"Once the council meeting ends on Friday (May 6), the co-chairs will meet with (Deputy Assistant SECNAV for Reserve Affairs) Dennis Biddick and give their final recommendation to him. He will then give it to his staff who will prioritize the recommendations and

● **Retiree, page 7**



## French admiral visits

By Penny Randall  
Editor

Rear Adm. Henri Bobin, commandant of the French Naval Aviation Command was on board NAS Meridian May 5 to visit with the 11 French Naval aviators currently undergoing instruction at Training Squadron 7.

This was Bobin's second visit to Meridian. His first came two years ago when he witnessed France's first female strike pilot earn her Wings of Gold during a winging ceremony. The purpose of Bobin's visit was to evaluate the training the French students receive in Meridian and at NAS Pensacola, Fla.

"I told the students that we are here in the U.S. to experience the tight Navy culture -- the Navy spirit," Bobin said. "I'm fully convinced that training here is the way go."

● **French, page 3**

## Look Inside



~ Page 3 ~  
NAS Meridian wins Best of Show Non Profit Booth at The Main Event



~ Page 3 ~  
New Tactical Air Network antenna installed



~ Page 5 ~  
Crops unleashes Labradors in counter-IED fight



~ Page 8 ~  
CDC graduates Head Start students

## Photo of the Week



Photo by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio

Education Tech Ayminah Hassan, left, and SAC supervisor Sheila McCoy stand with children who were participants in the fun run during the Family Fitness and Fun Festival on May 6. The festival was sponsored by the Commissary and MWR. Activities included a bounce house, snacks and refreshments, and face painting for the children to enjoy. Fun run participants also received T-shirts.

## MCPON West sends military Spouse Appreciation Day message

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West and his wife, Bobbi, Ombudsman-at-Large, released the following Military Spouse Appreciation Day message to the Fleet May 6.

"Shipmates and families, Bobbi and I would like to say thank you to all Navy spouses and families for your steadfast support of your Sailor, our great Navy and our nation.

We know that the lives of a Navy spouse and Navy family are unlike any other. The Navy asks for you to give us your husbands, wives, sons and daughters for months at a time. The Navy asks for your support and understanding of weekend duty, deployments, missed holidays and birthdays, and we owe you a huge debt for the sacrifices you make.

Your role in your Sailor's life and the Navy is vitally important to family readiness and has a direct impact on your Sailor, their job satisfaction, performance and retention. A strong family

support structure enables your Sailor to excel both personally and professionally. Our Navy simply would not be the Global Force for Good it is without your contributions.

Communication is key. It's important that you stay engaged with your Sailor and your Sailor's command through your ombudsman and family readiness groups, as well as each other. We encourage you to take advantage of the numerous command, and fleet and family support center Web sites available, as well as Facebook pages and other media to stay up-to-date on the issues. Through these channels, you will be better connected to the programs and policies that affect your lives as Navy spouses.

Thank you, spouses and families, for what you do every day and for your continued service and dedication to your Sailor, our Navy and the United States of America.

Very Respectfully,  
MCPON and Bobbi"

## Final concert of Symphony's 50th season celebrates Maestro Hillard and Beethoven

Maestro Claire Fox Hillard celebrates 20 years at the helm of the Meridian Symphony Orchestra in this special all Beethoven concert on May 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the MSU Riley Center.

It is no secret that our Music Director's favorite classical composer is Ludwig Van Beethoven, and this concert will be a bonanza of Beethoven's greatest and most widely acclaimed and recognized compositions.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with the special "Concert Preview" featuring Maestro Hillard and pianist Marina Lomazov beginning at 6:30 p.m. Attending "Concert Preview" enhances the overall concert experience, as you get to learn more about each piece before hearing them. Take advantage of this opportunity to meet Maestro and guest artist before the performance.

It is only appropriate during MSO's 50th Anniversary season that every concert has been extra-special. Well, get ready for more, and then some. Dr. Hillard has put together a package that showcases the Meridian Symphony Orchestra, Meridian Symphony Chorus, soloists, a fantastic guest pianist, and musical selections which are sure to excite and entertain from start to finish.

To kick off the program, the audience is treated to, arguably, Beethoven's most frolicking, crowd pleasing creation. "Wellington's Victory" is an all smile composition to commemorate the British Duke of Wellington's victory over the French at the Battle of Vitoria in Spain on June 21, 1813.

Special guest pianist Marina Lomazov has been described as a "spectacular pianist," "mesmerizing risk taker", "diva of the piano." This Ukrainian-American, now a Steinway Artist performing around the globe, is known for her stamina, as well. She will display that trait here as she takes on a dual task in Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No.5 in Eb Major, ("Emperor"), and "Fantasy in C minor for Piano, Chorus, and Orchestra".

Joining the MSO Chorus as soloists for the "Choral Fantasy" are: Kristen Johnson, Soprano; Lester Senter, Mezzo - Soprano; John Brown, Tenor; and Andrew Webb, Bass/Baritone. All of these talented singers are well known and appreciated by Meridian audiences.

Dr. Bob Hermetz conducts the Meridian Symphony Chorus; Mr. David Benson is accompanist. The Chorus was featured, along with Meridian Cambiata Children's Chorus at the Peppermint Pops Concert in December.

The May 14 concert concludes the exciting 50th Anniversary Season of the Meridian Symphony Orchestra. The concert is funded by "The Marty and Linda Davidson Endowment Fund."

Tickets to the May 14 concert are available at the MSU Riley Center Box office by calling (601) 693-2200. As always, student tickets are only \$10 (includes college students with valid ID). For more information about the concert, visit the Web site at [www.meridiansymphonyorchestra.com](http://www.meridiansymphonyorchestra.com).

## Check out Navy lodging facilities for this year's summer vacation

Save money on vacation this summer by using Navy Lodge, NGIS, and MWR facilities located around the world. Guests will save between 40-60 percent compared to commercial hotels depending on where they stay.

"The Navy's lodging programs offer a variety of accommodations to meet the needs of all summer vacationers," said Mike Bockelman, Vice President, Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM), Director, Navy Lodge Program. "Guests can find everything from a family suite with WiFi availability to a tent in a campground. Plus, staying at a Navy lodging facility not only provides an outstanding value, it also offers the convenience of other base amenities, such as the NEX, the ITT ticket office and MWR facilities."

Navy Lodge guests will find oversized rooms and suites, Internet access, cable TV with ShowTime, a DVD player and a kitchenette with microwave and utensils as well as video rental service, guest laundry facilities and handicapped accessible and non-smoking rooms. Navy Lodges also offer guests a light breakfast in the morning, which will vary depending on the Navy Lodge. For an added convenience, dogs and cats up to 50 pounds in weight can stay at many Navy Lodges when traveling

with its owners. For reservations, call 1-800-NAVY INN (1-800-628-9466) or go on line at [www.navy-lodge.com](http://www.navy-lodge.com).

Military service members can also stay at Navy Gateway Inns and Suites (NGIS) when on vacation. NGIS amenities include in-room coffee, hairdryers, cable TV with premium channels and WiFi or high-speed Internet. All NGIS rooms are non-smoking and ADA compliant. Space "A" restrictions apply depending on the location and official traveler use. For reservations, call 1-800-STAGOV1 (1-800-782-4681).

The Navy's Recreational Lodging Program has many RV parks around the country that offer easy hook-ups for electricity, plumbing and cable TV and WiFi at most locations. Campgrounds offer rustic cabins, yurts and areas to pitch a tent. For more information about Navy Recreation Lodging facilities, visit [www.mwr.navy.mil](http://www.mwr.navy.mil) and click on the Cabins and RV Parks link.

Wherever your vacation takes you this year, remember the Navy's lodging programs can help save you money. To get more information on other military lodging locations visit [www.dodlodging.com](http://www.dodlodging.com).

-- From NEXCOM PAO

## TRICARE Young Adult enrollment open now

TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) is now open for enrollment with coverage beginning May 1.

Uniformed services dependents under 26, unmarried, and not eligible for their own employer-sponsored health care coverage may be qualified to purchase TYA, which offers TRICARE Standard coverage for monthly premiums of \$186. A premium-based TRICARE Prime benefit will be available later this year.

Dependent eligibility for TRICARE previously ended at age 21, or age 23 for full-time college students. Similar to

provisions in the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, TYA extends the opportunity for young adults to continue TRICARE health care coverage, as long as their sponsor is still eligible for TRICARE.

Complete information and application forms are available at [www.tricare.mil/tya](http://www.tricare.mil/tya). TRICARE officials encourage beneficiaries to explore all possible health care plan options and costs when choosing a plan that best meets their needs.

-- From [www.tricare.mil/tya](http://www.tricare.mil/tya)

## Area Happenings

### MAY

**12-18:** Meridian Little Theatre will present the Tony award-winning musical "Hairspray." Guest tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$18 for senior citizen, military and students. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.meridianlittletheatre.com](http://www.meridianlittletheatre.com) or at the box office weekdays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**16:** "Smarter Choices, Brighter Futures" seminar will be at the Kahlmus Auditorium on the campus of MSU Meridian, 1000 Highway 19 North. The featured speaker will be Mississippi native Patrick House, the 2010 "Biggest Loser." House will present a motivational talk about making healthy lifestyle choices, including avoiding underage drinking. The program is geared to parents and individuals who live and work with children. Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m. The program is free. For more information, call Pace Cooke Emmons at (601) 483-4821 or e-mail [pemmons@weemsmh.com](mailto:pemmons@weemsmh.com). The program is sponsored by Weems Community Mental Health Center and funded by grants from the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.

**20:** The Riley Center presents Robert Earl Keen in concert at 7:30 p.m. A preshow party will be held at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and \$29. The Riley Center is at 2200 5th Street, downtown Meridian. For information, call (601) 696-2200 or go to: [www.msurileycenter.com](http://www.msurileycenter.com).

**20:** The McKameys in concert at Northside Church of the Nazarene. The Southern Gospel group is known for songs such as "God on the Mountain" and "Who Put the Tears in the Eyes of the Lamb." Concert is at 7 p.m. For information, call (601) 482-2344.

**20-22:** Dixie Rodders 10th Annual Car Show featuring more than 200 classic automobiles, music, food, games and swap meet. Event is at the Best Western Motel, 2219 S. Frontage Road, Meridian. Show opens at 8 a.m. all days. Admission is free for spectators, and \$25 to enter a automobile in the show. For information, contact Johnny Knochenmuss at (601) 938-3060.

**21:** Bikers Against Breast Cancer Benefit Poker Run. Registration is at 9 a.m., ride starts at 11 a.m., all bikes should be in by 3 p.m. Registration before May 16 is \$20 for individual or \$30 with passenger. Registration after that will be \$25 and \$35 with passenger. \$15 for one extra hand. To register and for more information contact Clint Ticer at (808) 218-1914 or e-mail: [Ticercl@yahoo.com](mailto:Ticercl@yahoo.com). All proceeds donated to support Aimee Ticer's 60-mile walk in the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure benefit.

**21:** Jimmie Rodgers Festival "Jimmie Jam" sponsored by the Jimmie Rodgers Foundation in partnership with Meridian Main Street featuring Big Swig, Bo & The Show, Southern Drive, and No Requests. The festival will be at the Singing Brakeman Park on Front Street in downtown Meridian. Cost: \$5 per person or \$15 each at the gate. Times: 5 p.m.-11 p.m. For information, call (601) 482-0166 or Meridian Main Street (601) 693-7480.

**23:** Run For The Wall And National 9/11 Flag Stitching Tour at the Lauderdale County Agri-Center. Times: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Flag Stitching Ceremony at 3:30 p.m. followed by arrival of "Run for the Wall" bikers. For information, call Jim Swartz at (601) 938-0392 or (601) 693-6587.

**25:** Jimmie Rodgers Festival Gospel/Contemporary concert featuring "Shane And Shane." Concert begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Singing Brakeman Park on Front Street in Downtown Meridian. Admission is free. For information, call Kenny Walters at (601) 482-3498 or e-mail: [Kenny@northcrestbaptist.com](mailto:Kenny@northcrestbaptist.com).

**26:** The Meridian Little Theatre Ladies Guild Spring Dinner from 5:30 -8:30 p.m. at the Meridian Little Theatre on Hwy. 39 N. Tickets are \$40 and include a buffet dinner, wine and champagne, live music, a fashion show and a silent auction. Seating is limited to 60 guests. Tickets are available at the MLT Box Office or by calling (601) 482-6371.

## 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)

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

**Command Staff**  
Commanding Officer ~  
Capt. Charles M. Gibson  
Executive Officer ~  
Cmdr. Edward Donohoe  
Command Master Chief ~  
CMDCM Sharon Laguna

**Editorial Staff**  
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Penny Randall  
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MC2 Flordeliz Valerio

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Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.



## Main Event Winners

Community Planning Liaison Officer Jim Copeland, left, joins Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Flordeliz Valerio, Logistics Specialist Seaman Lauren West, Public Affairs Specialist Penny Randall, Logistics Specialist Seaman Zachary Green, Public Affairs Officer Susan Junkins, Logistics Specialist Airman April Wachendorf and Lt. j.g. Kyle Copeland as they pose for a photo in the NAS Meridian booth during the 23rd Annual Main Event Business and Industry Expo. The event was held at Bonita Lakes Mall on April 28. NAS Meridian's booth won Best of Show in the non-profit organization category. The expo is sponsored by East Mississippi Business Development Corporation (EMBDC). Not pictured is Lt. j.g. Nick Laviano who also assisted during the event.

Submitted photo



On April 29, dozens of children of NAS Meridian civilian and military members learned just what their parents do as part of Bring Your Daughters & Sons to Work Day. Children spent time in their parents' offices to get a glimpse into what their parents do for a living. Children were treated to demonstrations at the Regional Countering Training Academy and a show of nuclear power by the NAS Meridian Fire Department. Children of those at MA755-1 also had the opportunity to "PT" with their parents, and everyone enjoyed lunch at the galley.

● **French**  
Training from the sea is a bit different than the way Air Force trains. In France, the weight of training in the Navy and the Air Force is completely different. The Navy is a smaller very efficient force. For me, the Navy way of doing things is very important. There is a richness to be able to work from the sea and the land."

Robin said the training the French pilots receive in Meridian is invaluable.

"I can't find this training in France," Robin expressed. "The training here is very well structured. It's very good for the French students to learn Navy culture."

Prior to arriving at NAS Meridian to train, French pilots are educated on the English language in a nine-week language course at the

Defense Language Institute at Lakeland Air Force Base. They then attend primary training for about six weeks at NAS Pensacola. A few students remain in Pensacola. Currently three French aviators are located there, for advanced training while the majority transfer to Meridian.

In addition to the student aviators, VT-7 is also home to two French instructors, Lt. Cmdr. Jerome Laye and Lt. Benoit Leray who monitor their progress as well as train U.S. Naval aviators.

"The French students use the same grading scale as the U.S. pilots -- they are not treated any different or given any special treatment," Lt. Leray said. "The French pilots are going to the fleet in France when they leave here just like the American pilots."

## TACAN Antenna Install



A new Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN) antenna was recently installed on board NAS Meridian. TACAN provides aircraft with azimuth and distance information, and is a critical part of the complex air navigation system.

As part of the Navy's on-going systems improvements, the TACAN antenna at NAS Meridian was replaced with a modified unit that meets today's demanding requirements. The new antenna has a high-tech lightning arrestor system and includes a number of upgraded circuits. The modifications to the antenna will reduce the vulnerability to lightning damage and increase the reliability of the system. The antenna change was performed by a team from Space and Warfare Center (SPAWAR/San Diego), NAS Meridian technicians, NAVFAC Public Works personnel and local crane operators. After completion of the installation, the system was flight inspected and recertified by the Federal Aviation Agency.

-- By Joe Fedden

### ● Enthusiasts

Not just one photo, but several photos. They truly love aviation and everything about it. It's not just a hobby -- it's a passion for them.

As many of you know I take photographs for *The Skyline* and before coming to NAS Meridian I worked at *The Meridian Star* newspaper for several years as a reporter. I have a love for photography, so when I see a camera that I know is a very good camera I always ask questions about the equipment and how it handles. Photographers talk about their cameras like pilots talk about their planes.

I immediately noticed one of the Nikon cameras that a French guy was using and asked a few questions. He said with a smile on his face, that his lens alone was \$7,000 -- I could only wish for a camera and lens like his.

When I posed a question to the group, "Why do you take a photo of each and every one of the T-45s -- aren't they all the same?" a member of the group from The Netherlands spoke up and explained, "No my dear, each jet is different. It has a different tail number and a different story."

I wish I would have gotten his name because what he went on to say was truly groundbreaking and so true.

"Let's say your hobby is fishing, like many Americans do. You don't just catch one fish and say well that's a day. No, you want to catch lots of fish. It's the same with us, we don't just take one photo... we take lots of photos of the jets. It's our hobby."

The leader of the group from England was Clive Bartram who has made trips to NAS Meridian before.

He was and I say this with the honest truth, the most interesting person I've met in a long time. He was courteous and engaged me in conversation about the Royal wedding that had just taken place the weekend before the group arrived.

I told him I would have loved to be in England for the wedding and he said, "Oh, no, too many people for me." Instead he took a trip to the U.S. We had a big laugh about that.



Photo by Penny Randall

### Aviation enthusiasts enjoy looking at T-45C Goshawk at the NAS Meridian flight line.

He even brought me a tin of cookies from England that had Prince William and his new bride, Kate, on the front. I was thrilled!

Clive and his group were on a 10-day trip to the U.S. that started in Beaufort, S.C., then to Pensacola, Fla., Mobile, Ala., Keesler Air Force Base, NAS Meridian, Columbus Air Force Base and was ending in New Orleans.

"We are here to appreciate naval aviation," Clive told me. "In the 1960s aviation was a big mystery. Everything was kept so hush, hush when it came to military aircraft. So that really drew my attention. You could find out information about civilian aircraft, but military aircraft was a mystery."

Clive made his first trip to the United States in 1977. "We went to the bone yard in Arizona and it was just spectacular," he said as his eyes lit up.

I attempted to speak with one of the Japanese members, Katsuhiko Hirasawa, but it was a little more difficult to communicate. He understood everything I was saying, but it was difficult to understand some of his words. I have to say the Japanese aviation enthusiasts were very courteous and thanked me several times for allowing them to visit the base.

The Netherlands and French groups were lead by Jurgen van Toor who was no stranger to the United States. In fact, Jurgen is no stranger to NAS Meridian making trips here in November 1995 and May 2004.

"I was fortunate to visit Meridian two times before, but my friends have never been to the base. A simple walk along the flight line would really make our day," he said.

And it was the group from The Netherlands who asked if they could come back the next day because they had a break in their schedules. I said it shouldn't be a problem at all, and they were thrilled.

The group included Paul Betten and his 19-year old son, Dennis, who I have to say were my favorites to chat with. The Bettens are from the city of Sneek in The Netherlands and it was their first trip to Mississippi.

When you think of the Netherlands, many Americans think of blonde hair, blue eye, fair skin and very attractive people -- this father-son team were no exception. They were very handsome and loved to talk about aviation.

When it was time to go, Paul said his trip to NAS Meridian was "super and superb."

I could not agree more!

## Cleanup Help



Submitted photo

On April 23, NAS Meridian's Community Liaison Planning Officer Jim Copeland joined Rich Chase from NAS Meridian Ordnance, and Thomas Carlson, NAS Meridian fire inspector, along with other NAS Meridian employees in Kemper County to help clean up the home of the Carter family who lost everything in the tornado that struck the county.

## SUMMER ADVENTURE

### Navy Teen Scholarship Program

Who: 180 eligible Navy teens, ages 13-17

What: Choose from eight all-expenses paid camps

When: Summer 2011

How: Visit [www.cnmc.navy.mil](http://www.cnmc.navy.mil). Click "What We Do," then "Family Readiness." Or, visit [www.timurl.com/3vu7gz9](http://www.timurl.com/3vu7gz9) to read the brochure and complete the application.

APPLICATION DEADLINE  
MAY 20, 2011

Experience the summer of a lifetime!

CNIC Many Other USNVC Programs & DAC Quality of Life Programs



**Pfc. Andrea Hall**

MATSS-1 Student  
Hometown: Forrest City, Ark.

Pfc. Andrea Hall thought she was the only member of her family in the military when she joined, but shortly after she enlisted she got a special treat.

"I found out I had a cousin in the Marine Corps and he actually found me and came to visit me," said Hall who is a student at Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron One in the Aviation Supply Specialist Course. "I joined because I like a challenge. I expect the best of myself and so does the Marine Corps."

Her hobbies include writing poetry and songs and playing basketball.

The person Hall most admires is poet Kahlil Gibran.

"I admire is poetry. He has a way with words."

**OOORAH!****Pfc. Latea Massey**

MATSS-1 Admin Clerk  
Hometown: Leslie, Ark.

Pfc. Latea Massey is proud to carry on the tradition of serving in the military.

"Just about everyone in my family has been in the military at one time," said Massey who recently arrived at MATSS-1 to serve two years as an administration clerk. She transferred here from Camp Johnson, N.C., where she was attending school.

She has two older brothers and two younger siblings who she tries to be a role model for.

"I joined for financial reason and to carry on a tradition," Massey said.

Her hobbies include hunting, fishing, reading, drawing and sword collecting.

The person she most admires is her dad, Kevin. "He has always been there for me and supports me in every step I take."

**Special guest shares words of wisdom at MATSS-1 graduation**

Photos by Penny Randall

**Left:** Sgt. Maj. Harry Rivera places meritorious advancement pins on the collar of his son, Lance Cpl. Christian Rivera, who was the top graduate of the Aviation Supply Specialist Course 11110 on May 10. **Middle:** Capt. Michael Lupient presents MASS Class 11110 Class Leader Pfc. Chelsea Cox with her certificate. **Right:** Pfc. Jorge Barrera is congratulated by Sgt. Maj. Harry Rivera after Barrera received the Honor, Courage & Commitment Award which is voted on by the staff of MATSS-1. Sgt. Maj. Rivera is stationed at Camp Pendleton with Combat Logistics Regiment 17 and has served 30 years in the Marine Corps. His advice for the young Marines, "Don't allow yourself to procrastinate -- things will catch up to you. Do your best and always strive to learn more."

**The New Breed: Corps unleashes Labradors in counter-IED fight**

By Sgt. Jesse Stence  
Regimental Combat Team 1

CAMP DWYER, Helmand province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan — The Marine Corps believes it has found the right dog for the counter-IED fight, but it's not the traditional military working dog.

It's a Labrador Retriever, and it resembles Lassie more closely than Rin Tin Tin.

Unlike the German Shepherd, which was carefully bred to herd sheep and fend off predators, the Labrador Retriever was bred to go fetch.

Originally created to help Canadian hunters catch game, today's typical Labrador is catching Frisbees. The energetic yet even-tempered canine has become arguably the most common household pet in the world.

Yet the Labrador remains an able hunter, and therefore a competent aid to Marines conducting the delicate search for makeshift explosives, say those familiar with the Marine Corps' counter IED efforts.

Sgt. Steven Basham, the kennel supervisor with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, said the Marine Corps began taking more interest in Labradors after an Auburn University study highlighted the breed's hunting instinct, disposition and controlability, or "how you could control the dogs with whistles and arm signals."

Although some German shepherds have been converted to "bomb dogs," they're more difficult to remotely control than the Labradors — a disadvantage in the current counterinsurgency environment.

"Bomb dogs were mainly created for the urban terrain, whereas the [Labradors] were meant to work off leash," explained Basham, from Hawesville, Kentucky.

Typically, Marines push the Labradors out front during patrols, Basham said. Labradors can smell 17 different odors associated with homemade explosives, and the dogs' noses can some-

times detect what the Marines' combat metal detectors can't, he explained.

With its unique abilities, the Labrador has created a tactical niche for itself within the Corps' counter-IED strategy. The trained Labradors are officially called IED Detection Dogs, and Marine Corps Systems Command has designated a program manager to further incorporate the IDD's into counterinsurgency operations.

Lt. Col. Kenneth Burger, the program manager, said the IDD force is already slated to increase from 315 to 647 dogs.

"The first handler course that reflects the increase in IDD's started April 9, 2011, but will not be realized in-theater until September 2011, when the first unit will deploy with an increased number of dogs," said Burger, from Tacoma, Wash. "The number of IDD's deployed will go for some 130 to approximately 285. A typical infantry battalion that used to get 13 dogs will now get 34."

Not only is the program increasing in size, it's increasing in sophistication.

Burger said the Marine Corps is signing on more Field Service Representatives to provide ongoing training to the IDD's and their handlers.

"In conjunction with the increase in IDD's," Burger said, "each unit receiving IDD's will also be given a FSR who will not only train in the [U.S.] with the unit, but will deploy with them as well."

The FSRs are necessary because IDD handlers receive limited training, Burger said. Traditional dog handlers attend a formalized Department of Defense school to earn a secondary military occupational specialty, whereas IDD handlers receive about five weeks of basic instruction and four weeks of integration training with their unit. The IDD training is simply designed to give the handlers basic skills without interfering with their predeployment training, he said.

"Due to the limited training the IDD handlers receive," Burger said, "FSRs become very important, as they provide oversight on in-theater training and can conduct in-theater homemade explosive



Photo by Sgt. Jesse Stence

**Sgt. Steven Basham, a native of Hawesville, Ky., gathers with approximately 20 dog-handlers and improvised explosive device detection dogs throughout the RCT-1 battalions to conduct training at Camp Dwyer, Helmand province, Afghanistan, April. 13**

imprinting."

"Our FSR requirement has increased dramatically," added Burger. "Where we once had three FSRs in theater supporting the IDD program, we'll now grow to 12: one per unit with IDD's, and two at [each Regimental Combat Team]. This increase in FSRs will not go into effect until Sept. 11, on par with the increase of IDD's in theater."

Currently, two private contracting companies conduct the IDD training: American K-9 Interdiction, based out of Carrsville, Va.; and K2 Solutions, Inc., Southern Pines, N.C.

"The IDD's undergo 14 weeks of training prior to being presented for certification; however, even upon certification, IDD's must continually undergo sustainment training to maintain proficiency and conditioning," Burger said.

The training for the handlers is also continuous, he said.

"Full unit integration training occurs during the unit's participation at Enhanced Mojave Viper, [Marine Corps

Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.]," Burger said. "Prior to deployment, handlers will also participate in one week of refresher training." According to Burger, there is plenty of anecdotal evidence to show the program is helping in the counter-IED fight; however, because the program is new, progress is difficult to quantify.

"We have just recently begun to receive qualitative data on a monthly basis that provides a correlation between the number of patrols with IDD's and the number of IED finds," he said. "We continue to try to improve the reporting process and how to adequately determine IDD success."

Basham said Marines should remember that there is no perfect solution to IEDs. Just as metal detectors can't detect non-metallic bomb parts, dogs may not be able to smell trouble every time.

However, as the counter-IED fight evolves, the Corps has yet another weapon.

**Safety is Our Duty****Tornadoes in the month of May**

May is historically the most active month for tornadoes. A tornado can occur anytime of the year with April 2011 was a record high with 871 tornadoes in the U.S. As many as 125 were recorded in Mississippi. Statistically speaking and according to the National Weather Service this number should double in May from what we've seen in the month of April.

**Watch versus Warning**

Many people confuse the meaning of a tornado "watch" and tornado "warning" issued by the National Weather Service. What is the difference you ask?

**Watch:** Tornadoes are possible in your area remain alert for approaching storms

**Warning:** A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. If a tornado warning is issued for your area and the sky becomes threatening, move to your pre-designated place of safety.

Preparedness and safety is key. It is important to remain alert to signs of an approaching tornado and seek shelter if threatening conditions exist.

— From NAS Meridian EOC Staff

**Energy Myths vs. Reality****MYTH**

When buying an air conditioner, the bigger the better.

**REALITY**

A bigger unit is not necessarily better. The unit should be sized properly to cool and dehumidify (dry) the intended space. A small unit running for an extended period of time operates more efficiently and is more effective at dehumidifying than a large unit that cycles on and off too frequently. An air conditioner that is too large will not cool an area uniformly and may not provide proper dehumidification. In areas that have high humidity during the cooling months, proper dehumidification may be as important to feeling comfortable as lowering the air temperature. Lower humidity reduces skin temperature and makes you feel cooler in warm weather. Conversely, high humidity level produces a "clammy" feeling even though the air temperature is cool.

**MYTH**

We don't need to turn off equipment at night, since there is no energy used if no one comes into the office to use the equipment.

**REALITY**

Many people are unaware of the "phantom" loads that lurk in the office and the home. Equipment such as computers, printers and photocopiers consume energy when turned on and left in their "idle" mode (when they are not being used). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is sponsoring an ENERGY STAR® program to encourage equipment manufacturers to produce equipment that goes into a "sleep" mode when left idle for a certain period of time. This "sleep" mode consumes far less energy than in the conventional "idle" mode, but powers up almost instantly when the user wants to use the equipment. So, unless your equipment is ENERGY STAR compliant, turning it off at night when not in use can save a considerable amount of energy.

## SECDEF thanks Sailors of USS Independence

By MC2 Sunday Williams

Navy Public Affairs Support Element Detachment Southeast

MAYPORT, Fla. (NNS) -- Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates held an all hands call with Sailors stationed on board the littoral combat ship USS Independence (LCS 2) during a visit May 6.

The small community of 50 Sailors gathered around Gates as he answered questions and addressed their concerns about the ship and its future in the Navy.

"June 30th marks the end of my four and a half year tenure as Secretary of the Defense and will put me just a couple of months shy of 45 years since I first joined the government," said Gates who indicated he has always wanted to visit a littoral combat ship prior to leaving government service.

Gates spoke to the crew about the mission capabilities of USS Independence and the desire to ultimately see the Navy purchase about 55 more of the ships.

"One of the reasons I support these ships is because I think they are exactly the kind of versatile platform that we need," said Gates. "They can operate in blue water or green

water and they can be available for a variety of missions."

During his visit to the ship, Gates also administered the oath of enlistment to Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (SW/AW) Nathan Ellsworth.

"I think being reenlisted by the SECDEF is a huge honor," said Ellsworth. "He is the sixth in succession to the president and I really agree with a lot of his views as far as the Navy is concerned so this is a big deal for me."

Gates continued to answer questions but made a point to thank the Sailors for their service.

"My main purpose here is to just come and thank you for your service, your sacrifice and to ask each of you to thank your families for me. Without their support, your service would be a lot harder if not impossible," said Gates. "I can tell you that of all the things that I do, serving and leading you all and other men and women of the armed services has been the greatest honor of my life."

Sailors aboard Independence said it was great to hear from a senior leader like Gates and it left them feeling positive about the future of the Navy.

## USS Ronald Reagan arrives in 5th Fleet

ARABIAN SEA (NNS) -- Aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), along with embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 14 and Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 7, arrived in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR), May 9.

Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group (CSG) relieved USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) to conduct maritime security operations (MSO) while providing support to Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn.

Ronald Reagan departed from its homeport in San Diego Feb. 2 for a regularly scheduled deployment to the 7th and 5th Fleet AORs.

On March 13, while operating in 7th Fleet, the ships of Ronald Reagan CSG were the first to arrive and begin humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts after a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and ensuing tsunami struck the coast of

northern Japan.

Ronald Reagan CSG is comprised of Ronald Reagan, guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville (CG 62) and Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 7, which includes guided-missile destroyer USS Preble (DDG 88). Embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 14 includes the "Black Knights" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 154, the "Argonauts" of VFA-147, the "Blue Diamonds" of VFA-146, the "Death Rattlers" of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 323, the "Black Eagles" of Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 113, the "Cougars" of Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VAQ) 139, the "Providers" of Carrier Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 30 and the "Black Knights" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 4.

From USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76)  
Public Affairs

## Camp Hansen BBQ Cook Off heavy on flavor

By Gunnery Sgt.  
Cindy Fisher

Marine Corps Bases Japan

CAMP HANSEN, Okinawa, Japan -- The tantalizing aroma of succulent barbecue ribs wafted through the air at the Camp Hansen exchange as six Marines and a sailor battled for bragging rights to the best ribs at the annual Camp Hansen BBQ Cook Off April 30.

The cook off is one of the many events coordinated by Camp Hansen's Operations throughout the year to enhance the quality of life for the Marines and sailors living and working here, said Gunnery Sgt. Hewitt Ballard, Camp Operations chief.

Events like this provide Marines and sailors with activities that do not focus on the consumption of alcohol, said Ballard who coordinated the competition, oversaw the judging and announced the winners.

"We have 6,000 Marines on Camp Hansen, so we're always trying to do things to get everyone involved," said Mark Roberts, a competitor and Hansen's deputy camp commander.

The best ribs was definitely the focus here, as it is a serious endeavor, said Gunnery Sgt. Jaworski Cherry, a competitor, with Special Operations Training Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. He brought one of his Marines as an assis-

## First female submariners report to school

NORFOLK (NNS) -- Eight female officers selected for assignment to submarines will report May 9 to the Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) in Groton, Conn., for initial submarine training.

These female officers will join 74 male counterparts to make up SOBC Class 10040.

The officers are among 18 women from the U.S. Naval Academy, Reserve Officer Training Corps and Officer Candidate School commissioning programs who were selected last year to enter the submarine service.

Female SOBC graduates will be assigned to eight different crews of guided-missile and ballistic-missile submarines once they have completed their training program, including six months of Nuclear Power School, six months of Naval Nuclear Prototype Training and 10 weeks of SOBC.

From Commander, Submarine Forces Public Affairs

**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.

tant and began slow cooking his ribs about 10:30 a.m.

Many of the other competitors had begun grilling or smoking their ribs by then, and all had tips for the art of creating the perfect ribs.

Time is essential to produce the best flavor and texture, Cherry said.

"Prior to cooking, you have to season and marinate the meat at least overnight," Cherry explained.

To cook the ribs, charcoal grills are preferred to propane grills, he said.

"Charcoal adds that smoky flavor, and you can use different flavors of charcoal," he said.

Gunnery Sgt. Renobia Williams, a competitor, with 3rd Intelligence Battalion, III MEF Headquarters Group, III MEF, agreed slow-cooking was key. However, it is alright to marinate for as little as 30 minutes and use a propane grill, she said.

A non-tomato-based sauce is her secret, she said, adding she prefers to boil her ribs before putting them on the grill.

A mustard and liquid smoke sauce combined

with dribbling apple juice on the ribs as they grill results in very tasty ribs, said Lance Cpl. Joshua Bowen, a competitor, with III MHG.

Roberts goes one step further when it comes to barbecue sauce.

"Barbecue sauce is not necessary for good ribs," he said. He only used sauce during the competition because that is what people expect.

"The best tip I can give is that you have to smoke the ribs. I use a mixture of hickory, mesquite and oak," he added.

Sauce is a must – just plain old barbecue sauce, according to Gunnery Sgt. Benjamin Smith, a competitor, with 3rd Maintenance Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF.

Goods ribs are more about the time put into the process, he said, adding he too believes in marinating overnight.

The essential step in the process is the grilling, he said.

"You can't leave the grill, or you'll burn it," he said.

The true test came at 2 p.m. when exchange

patrons were allowed to judge everyone's ribs. More than 70 lined up for a taste.

Judges were advised the taste should be a balance of spice and smoke; the texture of the meat should be tender and melt in the mouth; and the appearance of the ribs should be inviting, Ballard said. They were told their personal rib preference should not influence their decision.

Judging this competition was not easy, said one judge, Sgt. Rick Schebesta, with Battalion Landing Team 2/5, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

"The different flavors, they were pretty good," he said, as he headed back to the end of the line for a second helping.

In the end, gunnery sergeants ruled the competition – nabbing first, second and third place. Cherry took first, Smith second and Williams third.

"This was truly the people's choice, and we're already looking forward to next year," Ballard said.



Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Cindy Fisher  
Gunnery Sgt. Benjamin Smith, with 3rd Maintenance Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, pours barbecue sauce on his ribs during the annual Camp Hansen BBQ Cook Off at the Hansen exchange April 30. "The secret to good ribs is not the sauce; it is marinating overnight, and watching the grill to keep the meat from burning," Smith said. His secret worked for him, as he took second place in the competition.

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<http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?released=14410>



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# Nimitz Sailors celebrate ship's 36th birthday

By MC2 Nathan Gomez  
USS Nimitz Public Affairs

BREMERTON, Wash. (NNS) -- USS Nimitz (CVN 68) Sailors celebrated the 36th anniversary of the ship's commissioning with a ceremony held at the bow of the ship while in dry-dock May 3.

Crew members and Puget Sound Naval Shipyard workers signed their names on the hull of the ship during the ceremony.

"This is a unique experience; once in a lifetime of a ship where you get to do something like this," said Capt. Paul O. Monger, USS Nimitz commanding officer. "President Gerald Ford spoke at the commissioning, and he said 'only in America can we build this machine, there's nothing else like it in the world.'"

Prizes were awarded by USS Nimitz Executive Officer Capt. John C. Ring, during the beginning of the

event to Sailors who correctly answered trivia questions about the ship's history.

"It was a fun to see the event be interactive with the Sailors getting quizzed on Nimitz' history," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Jonna Obermiller. "Sailors were jumping at the chance to get the hoodies and other prizes given out."

During the ceremony, Monger spoke about the history of the ship's commissioning and was presented a plaque constructed by Hull Technician 3rd Class Brent Carlson and Machinery Repairman 3rd Class Stephen Hughes. After the speech, Sailors were encouraged to approach a section of the starboard side of the ship and sign the hull with permanent marker.

"There are very few things you get to do like this," said Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman Joseph Burds. "It's a neat experience to say you signed the

bottom of the first nuclear aircraft carrier of its class. Those opportunities don't present themselves often; you've got to take advantage of them."

"This is a once in a lifetime thing to do," said Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Recruit Lauren Conner. "This is my first ship and command, and a week of me being here; I'm writing my name on it."

Nimitz was commissioned May 3, 1975, at Naval Station Norfolk.

Nimitz is participating in a year-long Docking Planned Incremental Availability at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, where the ship is receiving major upgrades to its combat, self-defense, navigation and potable water systems and numerous other components.

For more news from USS Nimitz (CVN 68), visit [www.navy.mil/local/cvn68/](http://www.navy.mil/local/cvn68/).

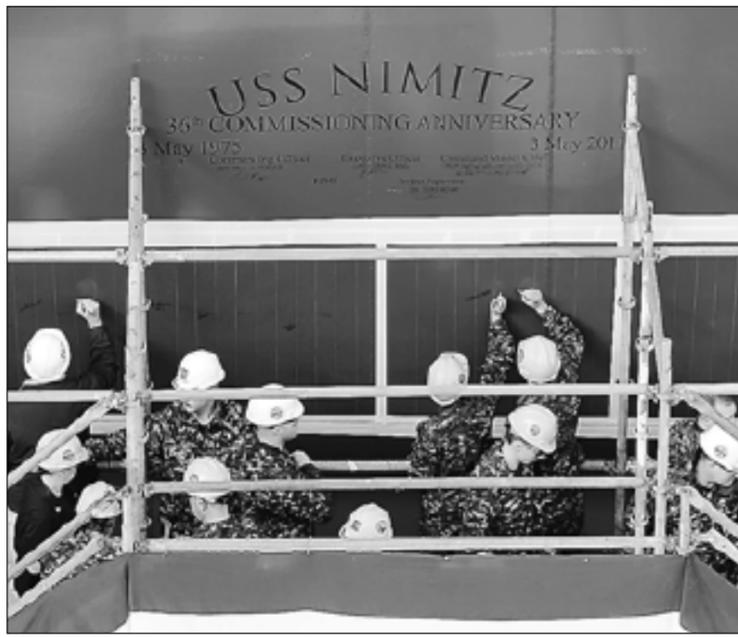


Photo by MC3 Nichelle Whitfield

Sailors assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) sign the ship's hull during a celebration for the ship's 36th commissioning anniversary. Nimitz is conducting a yearlong docking planned incremental availability for major upgrades to its combat, self-defense, navigation, potable water systems and other components.

## "IT'S ALL ABOUT ME"

Your photos will be featured in The Meridian Star the last day of each month

Types of photos include: birthday parties, proms, getting ready for your wedding, pets, holiday get-togethers, vacations, reunions, sporting events, tail-gating, etc.

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### ● Retiree

send them to the services. Once the services give their recommendations – concur or non-concur – the report goes through the chain of command and is sent to the undersecretary of the Navy. Those issues that received a concurrence will then go on for further action," said Conroy.

Vacancies for the council are also determined at the end of every council session. Instructions for applying can be found on the "Shift Colors" website at [www.npc.navy.mil/reference/publications/shiftcolors](http://www.npc.navy.mil/reference/publications/shiftcolors). The deadline for applications is Aug. 31 and appointments are scheduled to take place in December 2011.

The council is made up of 24 members. One co-chair must be a retired vice admiral or lieutenant general, the

other must be a former master chief petty officer of the Navy or sergeant major of the Marine Corps. There are 15 council members from the Navy and seven from the Marine Corps who are both officer and enlisted.

"The council was established in 1970 as the SECNAV Retired Personnel Advisory Committee...because the secretary saw an untapped resource," said Todd Pike, head, Navy Retired Affairs Office.

"This year's retiree council is highly motivated to ensure that its recommendation get addressed in the quickest fashion possible," said Conroy. "They are here to represent all retirees...to ensure that their voices are heard and their concerns are met."

For more information, visit the SECNAV Retiree Council website at [www.npc.navy.mil/support/retiree\\_cou](http://www.npc.navy.mil/support/retiree_cou)

## NEX rewards students through A-OK program

The Navy Exchange wants to help its customers pay for their children's college education through its A-OK Student Reward Program. Four times per school year, four students will be the recipients of a \$5,000, \$3,000 \$2,000 or \$1,000 U.S. savings bond, denominations at maturity. The next drawing will be held at the end of May 2011.

Any eligible full-time student that has a B-grade point average equivalent or better, as determined by their school system, may enter the drawing. Eligible students include dependent children of active duty military members, reservists and military retirees enrolled in first through 12th grade. Dependent children without an individual Dependent Identification Card must be accompanied by their sponsor to submit their

entry. Each student may enter only once each grading period and must re-enter with each qualifying report card.

To enter the drawing, stop by any NEX with a current report card and have a NEX associate verify the minimum grade average. Then fill out an entry card and obtain an A-OK ID, which entitles the student to discount coupons for NEX products and services.

The Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) has been offering students a chance to win a savings bond through its A-OK Student Reward Program since 1997. Since the program began, NEXCOM has awarded \$504,000 in savings bonds with the help of its generous vendor partners.

—From NEXCOM PAO

## Sale ... or

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**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.

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**Klipsch Proedia 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 for \$995. Call (601) 938-9627.

### EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

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

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**Solid Cherry Wood Entertainment Center**, 7 1/2 foot tall, Holds up to a 40" TV. Beautiful piece of furniture -- Like New. Asking \$600. Call (601) 679-8052.

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

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

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

### AUTOMOBILES, ETC.

**2008 Honda CR-V EXL** Fully Loaded 43k miles. Asking \$19,999. Call (559) 410-1608.

**2006 Dodge Stratus**, good condition, White, SXT Sedan 4 Door, 4cl-2.4 Liter, tilt, cruise, CD player has 103,252 miles. Asking 4,500. Call Kita (601) 479-2564 or email Chitka.burrage@us.army.mil

**2005 Ford Explorer**, sunroof, leather interior, low mileage. Asking \$75,000 OBO, Call (601) 490-3905.

**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. Packing 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.

**2005 Pontiac Montana SV6, 3.5L, Minivan**, 65k. Excellent interior and exterior condition. Dark grey, new tires, new front brakes, CD, DVD Video, power sliding door, power driver seat. Asking \$8,700.

Call (210) 250-0187 or email: [acrcalais@gmail.com](mailto:acrcalais@gmail.com).

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

### 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.

**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, 2k miles. Asking \$6,500. Call (210) 313-5874.

### HOMES/APARTMENTS

**For Rent: Unique Tri-level home in Northeast School District. Spacious, over 3,000 sq. ft. 4 large BR/3 full baths, study, den, huge room that can be used as game room, new roof, cook top/hood, sink. Ideal for big family or bachelors sharing a home, Minutes from NAS Meridian (About 6 miles) Call (601) 616-2263.**

**For Rent: Home at Dalewood, 2BD/1BA**, screen porch overlooks main lake, covered patio, storage building, recent complete remodel, stainless appliances and fully furnished. Asking \$1200 per month.

One year lease with military clause. No pets/non smoker. Contact Ross at (601) 513-5505.

**For Rent: 2,400 sq. ft. 4 BR/2 BA home with bonus room upstairs**, Southeast School District (level 5 school). Quiet country location 15 miles from Meridian and Naval Air Station. Asking \$1,800 a month with deposit of \$1,800. Lawn care is included. Call (601) 604-4000.

**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 updated 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 \$75,000. Call (601) 938-1903.

**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 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 quite 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 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) 938-4255 anytime.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**NEW! Golf Taylormade Driver R9 \$225; Taylormade R9-3 Wood \$125; Bobby Jones Workshop Edition Driver \$125 -- all in like new condition. Call or text George at (361) 442-4489.**

**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.

**U 12 Ga. shotgun** with checks and cleaning kit, asking \$1,200; **40 round bales 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



## May Specials

**Mondays:**

**MATSS-1/NTTC Student Special**

5-9 p.m., \$2 a game and \$1 for shoes.

**Wednesdays: RCTA Special**  
4:30-9 p.m. Bowl for \$2.50 a game including shoes.

**Fridays:**

**Cosmic Kid Bowling Night**  
6-10 p.m. kids age 16 and under bowl for \$1.50 a game when parent bowls at regular rate.

### During May...

Active duty bowl free of charge Monday through Friday between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.! Shoe fees will be \$1 per player. All bowling that is free must be completed by 2 p.m. Special applies to active duty, not their dependents.

(Not valid on holidays)

### Base Bowling Championship

May 28, at 10 a.m., McCain Lanes

• All entrants must bowl 10 games. Format is total pins scratch

• Open to patrons of McCain Lanes age 16 and up

• Cost is \$20 per person  
Call (601) 679-2651

## Demo Day



Photo by Matt Davis/MWR Marketing Director

Golfers participate in the Nike Demo Day at Ponta Creek Golf Course on May 6. The event allowed golfers to try any new Nike Golf equipment and receive free club fittings as well.

## Achievement



Photo by Matt Davis/MWR Marketing Director

Members of the preschool and Head Start class at the NAS Meridian CDC await the start of the Achievement Program on May 5. Those graduating from Head Start were Blaine Myers, Gemira Colvin, Traven Culpepper, Antaliyah Burrage, Delvin Lurvey, Joshua Thomas, NyAsia Carpenter and Tyler Hughes.

## Teen Job Fair



Photo by Matt Davis/MWR Marketing Director

Child & Young Program Director Deridre Odom assists an applicant during the Teen Summer Job Fair held outside the NAS Meridian Administration Building on May 4.

## Celebration Feast



Photo by Matt Davis/MWR Marketing Director

Members of the preschool class at the NAS Meridian CDC enjoy lunch with their family during the Month of the Military Child celebration on April 29.

## 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!

May 12: "127 Hours" (R)

May 14: "Remember the Titans" (PG)

May 17: "Cady Shack" (R)

May 18: "True Grit" (PG-13)

May 19: "Season of the Witch" (PG-13)

May 21: "Tron: Legacy" (PG)

May 24: "Little Fockers" (PG-13)



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.

### May

**14th:** Paintball Trip

Hit the field with Liberty as we enjoy a day of fun and action. Leave the Liberty parking lot at noon. Cost is \$5 per person. Minimum of 20 people needed for trip to run - NO REFUNDS (unless trip is cancelled).

**16th:** Double Elimination Pool Tournament begins at 7 p.m. in the Liberty Center. No entry fee - prize awarded to winner. Register day of the event at Liberty Center.

**19th:** FREE bowling to all Liberty patronage at McCain Rec Center from 6-10:30 p.m.

**21st:** Travel to Pensacola, Fla., for a day of relaxation on the beach, shopping and dinner. Bus leaves Liberty parking lot at 8 a.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Must register & pay for the trip by May 18. Minimum of 20 people needed for trip to run - NO REFUNDS (unless trip is cancelled).

**22nd:** Dog Day Sunday FREE hot dogs, chips & soda served to Liberty participants beginning at 2 p.m. in the Liberty Center.

**23rd:** "Don't Be That Guy" Rootbeer Pong Tourney ~ Refreshing rootbeer and "Don't Be That Guy" prizes. Game time 7 p.m. at Liberty Center.

**25th:** 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.

**30th:** Birthday Bash A celebration of May birthdays! FREE cookies and soda at 7 p.m. in the Liberty Center.

## BUS TRIP!



The NAS Meridian ITT Office is planning a bus trip to a Mississippi Braves baseball game in Jackson on May 14. Game time is 6:05 p.m. Cost for ticket and bus ride is \$32 per person. Departure Time from Administration 255 Parking Lot is 3 p.m. To sign up or for information, call (601) 679-3773.

## Ponta Creek Golf Course

Weekday Special Monday-Thursday  
18 Hole Green & Cart: \$20  
9 Hole Green & Cart: \$12

Carts Rates for Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays:

18 holes: \$14 ~ 9 holes: \$7

	Greens Fees	
	18 holes	9 holes
E-1-E-5	\$9	\$5
E-6 and up	\$12	\$7
DOD/NL	\$14	\$8
Others	\$16	\$9

Pro Shop Hours: Monday-Sunday: 8-5 p.m.  
For more information, call the Pro Shop at (601) 679-2526.



### 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.

# 2011 POOL Fees

**General Info**  
Pool opens May 28.  
Hours of Operation  
Tuesday-Friday 1200-2000  
Weekends/Holidays 1200-1800

**Pool Fees**  
MWR is excited to announce that for the 2011 season Active Duty/Retirees swim free at all times.

Daily	Monthly	Active Duty/Retirees (E1-E5)	Active Duty/Retirees (E6-O10)
Active Duty/Retirees: \$2 per family member. DeD/Guest: \$3 per person.	Active Duty/Retirees (E1-E5) With 1 Dependent: \$20.00 With 2 Dependents: \$30.00 With 3 Dependents: \$35.00 With 4 Dependents: \$40.00 With 5 Dependents: \$45.00	Active Duty/Retirees (E6-O10) With 1 Dependent: \$50.00 With 2 Dependents: \$75.00 With 3 Dependents: \$85.00 With 4 Dependents: \$105.00 With 5 Dependents: \$120.00	With 1 Dependent: \$50.00 With 2 Dependents: \$75.00 With 3 Dependents: \$85.00 With 4 Dependents: \$105.00 With 5 Dependents: \$120.00

**Swim Lessons**  
All swim lessons will take place Monday-Friday from 0800-0945 for adults age 12 and up and from 0900-0945 and 1000-1045 for all others. There will be no swim lessons on Memorial Day.

Session 1: June 6-16 Session 2: June 20-30  
Session 3: July 11-21 Session 4: July 25-Aug. 4

**Lap Swim Schedule**  
Lap Swim sessions will take place Monday-Friday from 1045-1200. There will be no lap swim on Memorial Day.

**Pool Parties**  
Pool Parties must be reserved for a minimum of two hours.

**Water Aerobics Schedule**  
Water Aerobics begin on June 6, 2011. Sessions take place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1215-1300.

**For more info call 679-2379.**

Start your morning off right with breakfast at the Sandtrap Grill! Breakfast is served from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Tuesday-Friday. Call (601) 679-2780.

## 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 off any	7:20 p.m.

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

# It's Your Turn...

In celebration of NAS Meridian's 50th anniversary, we asked five people at The Main Event Expo, "What is your earliest memories of NAS Meridian?"

Photos by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio



**Rachel Clark**  
Retired from the NEX  
"I remember when it was built. I worked at the Navy Exchange in 1983."



**Ricky Nelson**  
Retired Seabee  
"In 1962, I was an E-4 working at Public Works. I helped build the back 9 of the golf course."



**Jack Turner**  
"I was a barber on base in the 1970's. I remember lots of airplanes."



**Lt. j.g. Nick Laviano**  
VT-9 Student Pilot  
"My dad came to NAS Meridian for pilot training in the 1990's. We're from Ellisville which is a couple hours away from Meridian."



**Tom Alsobrooks**  
"I remembered going fishing at the lakes on the base in the 1970's. I also remembered when President Nixon was there at the dedication ceremony for the Naval Technical Training Center."

## Fleet & Family Support Center

### Traveling with children: It's an adventure

Children are natural travelers and tend to view all parts of a vacation -- from packing to flying, to exploring a new hotel room -- as an adventure.

With some advance planning, a vacation can be fun and enjoyable for everyone in your family.

#### Planning your trip together

• Keep your child's needs and temperament in mind as you plan your trip. If your child has a hard time being in the car for long stretches, a 12-hour road trip may not be a great idea. Or if your toddler is fussy in the late afternoon, you may want to try booking your plane flight for earlier in the day.

• Choose a place to stay that best meets the needs of your family. If you have an infant or very young child, you might be more comfortable in a cabin where your child is free to make noise. If you want to prepare your own meals, look for a hotel with limited kitchen facilities, a cabin or cottage, or a condo. For a budget vacation with plenty of time outdoors, consider staying at a campground.

• Talk about the trip ahead of time and involve your child in the planning. Depending upon the age of your child, you might write away together to the Chamber of Commerce, visitor's bureau, or local tourism office of the city or town you will be visiting to request brochures and information. Or encourage your child to write a letter on her own. If your child is old enough, you can also explore sites together on the Internet to learn more about your travel destination. Or map out the trip together by studying roads, geography, and local attractions.

• Remember that your child may grow tired or bored more quickly than you do. When you plan excursions and outings, such as a sightseeing trip to a museum, keep in mind that your child's interest probably won't last as long as yours might. Try to have a "plan B" in mind in case your child gets tired or cranky.

• Find activities every member of the family can enjoy. For example, if your wish is to spend the morning touring a museum together, ask your child what she would like to do in the afternoon. She might want to visit a park, take a swim, or go to a movie together.

#### Making the trip easier and more fun

• Bring supplies for "bring still" activities. Bring travel games, story tapes, books, paper, and washable markers for drawing, and a book or tray to use as a lap table.

• Don't leave home without your child's favorite stuffed animal or "snuggly," and a small

### CAR/PLANE TIPS

Play games in the car to help prevent boredom. Here are some ideas:

- Watch for license plates from different states. Make a photocopy of a U.S. map for each of your children. Your child can color in a state every time she sees a car with that state's license plate. License plates can be a starting point for lots of other games as well.

- Play "I'm thinking of a number." Have your child think of a number and give you a starting range. ("I'm thinking of a number between 1 and 100.") Then ask questions until you can guess what it is. ("Is the number even?" "Is it higher than 50?" "Is it lower than 20?") Trade places and let your child have a turn asking and guessing.

- Make up a scavenger hunt. Give your child a list of 10 things to look for -- you can draw pictures for a younger child -- and have him check them off as he spots each one. You can make the game easy by listing common objects like pickup trucks or airplanes, or harder by including more specific things like a two-color car, a bicycle on top of a car, or a black horse.

- Play "21 Questions." One player thinks of an object or a person, and the other players try to guess what or who it is by asking questions that can be answered with a yes or no. Players can guess at any time, but if a player guesses wrong, she loses that round. After 21 questions, all the questioners must guess. No further questions are allowed.

- Bring along a favorite electronic toy or music player. Playing familiar tunes might provide some needed "down" time. Be sure to bring along necessary batteries or plugs to operate the device.

• When traveling by plane, here are ways to make your flight easier for you and your child:

- Ask for bulkhead seats when you book your reservations. (You'll have more room to spread out.)

- Get a window seat. Most children want to sit near the window, even if there is nothing to see. This also keeps them away from the aisle, where they are more likely to get bumped by beverage carts or passengers.

- Request a child's meal when you book your reservations. You might call the day before your trip to confirm that the meal is what you ordered.

- Ask the airline what their policy is about car seats if your child weighs less than 40 pounds.

- Prepare your child ahead of time for the security checkpoint. Explain about the metal detector and the x-ray machines. Let your child know that she may be asked to remove her shoes and will have to put her carry-on items through the x-ray machine, but will get them back right away. If your child seems frightened, reassure her that the airline just wants everyone to be safe.

blanket or pillow if you will be traveling by car.

• Pack healthy snacks that aren't too messy to eat. For young children, bring along bottles, a plastic covered cup, and any other special foods.

• Pack enough food, diapers, medications, and other essential supplies to last until the next stop or destination. If traveling by air, it is especially important to pack all of these in a carry-on bag, not your checked luggage.

• Keep this small bag of essentials with you in the front seat if traveling by car. This way you won't have to stop the car and search in the trunk for what you need.

• Try to establish regular routines as much as possible. If your child needs a two-hour nap to get through the day, try to work that into your schedule.

• Give your child an allowance to use for snacks and souvenirs. Having a set amount to spend each day will help

your child learn to budget money.

• Plan to make frequent stops if you are traveling by car, ideally every two hours. When you take a break, give your child a chance to get some exercise. Keep a soccer ball, a frisbee, or a jump rope in the car for this purpose. If your child is a toddler or preschooler, you might play an outdoor game together in a safe area at a rest stop. Or stop at a local playground. If it's raining, you might take a brief excursion to a local shopping mall so your child can let off steam while you take a walk together.

• In the car, encourage your child to be a copilot or navigator. Your older child might want to follow your route on a map and watch for signs to keep track of your progress. Children too young to follow a real road map may be able to read a simpler map you draw or trace yourself, marked with road names or route

numbers, towns you'll pass through, and other landmarks. Estimate distances and times together.

#### Health and safety tips

• Always follow the first rule of safety and make sure your child wears a seat belt in the car. If your child weighs less than 40 pounds, use a car seat. You can request a car seat in advance if renting a car, but be sure to specify whether you need an infant, child, or booster seat. Car rental personnel will help you install the seat, but there may be a small extra charge for this service. You can also bring your own car seat. Be aware that child safety laws vary by state. If there's a question whether your child should be in a car seat, it's always best to err on the side of caution and make sure your child is safely secured while traveling in the car.

• If your child has trouble with motion sickness, keep the car window open a crack to let in fresh air. Discourage your child from reading in the car and draw her attention to buildings or scenery in the distance. It might help to seat your child in the middle of the back seat where she can see out the front windshield. If the problem is serious, talk with your doctor about medication and other treatments for motion sickness.

• Be sure to bring medical insurance cards and know what procedures your insurer wants you to follow in the event of an out-of-town illness. Bring medical and emergency numbers with you in your pocketbook or wallet.

• Pack a small first-aid kit so that you're prepared if your child scrapes a knee or catches a cold. Your kit might include: a thermometer, children's aspirin or acetaminophen, cough syrup, adhesive strips, a liquid decongestant, an antiseptic spray or cream, tweezers, a sterile needle, Ipecac, cotton balls, sterile gauze pads, and insect repellent. Although this seems like a long list, you can buy most items in small travel sizes and keep them for your next trip.

• Make a plan about what to do if you and your child become separated during the trip. When visiting an attraction, choose a spot -- say, the front entrance -- to meet if you lose track of one another. Make sure your child knows his name and address, and your name and phone number, as well as the phone number of another adult who can be reached during an emergency. It is a good idea to dress your child in brightly colored clothing, or for both child and adult to wear a colorful hat. Carry a recent photo of your child in case you get separated.

• Review procedures about dealing with

## 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.*

#### Acing the Job Interview: May 17 from 2-3:30 p.m.

You've landed a job interview -- the hard part of your job search is over, right? Wrong! The interview will definitely "make or break" your chances of actually getting the job. Join us for this hands-on clinic to learn helpful techniques that can turn your job interview from a nerve-wracking ordeal to a chance to really sell yourself to your potential employer. We'll cover dos and don'ts, tough questions, the STAR (situation, task, action, result) method for responses, and conduct some mock interviews for practice!

#### Controlling Anger: May 18 from 10-11 a.m.

Everyone gets angry every now and then from normal frustrating life events, but some people handle angry feelings better than others. Your upbringing, personality, and other factors affect how you display anger and how you argue with others. However, you aren't a slave to those patterns, and you CAN learn better ways to express angry feelings and argue constructively. If you frequently "blow up" or if the way you currently handle anger is threatening your relationships and/or work, come to this workshop to learn better anger management techniques.

#### Ombudsman Basic Training: May 19-21 from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

An Ombudsman (the spouse of an active duty Sailor) volunteers to support the command by providing communication, outreach, referrals, information, and advocacy to and for command family members. Every command, afloat and ashore, is required to appoint an Ombudsman. This class is the required training for all command-appointed Ombudsman candidates. For more information, please call the FFSC. Registration is required.

#### Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Seminar: May 23-26 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

#### 10 Steps to a Federal Job: May 24 from 4-6 p.m.

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

strangers. Instruct your child to yell "Help!" or "No!" if she is in an uncomfortable situation, and to find a police officer or security person. If at all possible, use family washrooms and accompany your child to the bathroom. If this is not possible, stand just outside the door and continue to talk to your child.

#### Creating family memories

Part of the fun of a family vacation is talking about it later and sharing memories of a happy time. Here are some ways to create memories your family will enjoy for years to come:

• Encourage your child to keep a travel journal. Or take turns writing in a family travel journal. Use a journal, simple notebook, or sketch pad.

and let your child take pictures of his favorite sights.

• Take a family picture at each stop you make.

• Make a scrapbook. You can use it to keep pictures your child drew on the trip, postcards, photographs, and other mementos.

• Encourage your child to write a postcard to himself while you're away. Or have your younger child draw a picture on a postcard. Mail the postcards home. When you return home, put the postcards in your family scrapbook. That way you'll always remember the family vacation you took together.

Written with the help of Amanda Cobb, B.A., Brown University. Cobb spent 20 years in the travel industry as a manager and senior consultant in both group and independent travel. She has traveled extensively throughout the world.

# 13 aviators earn 'Wings of Gold' at May 6 ceremony

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony on May 6, in the chapel at NAS Meridian.

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."

Thirteen U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aviators received "Wings of Gold." They were:

**Lt. j.g. Adam Anderson, USN**, who was selected as VT-7's Student of the Month for December 2010. 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 George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on April 1. Anderson completed Total Strike Training with Training Squadron Seven;

**Lt. j.g. Tristan Brandenburg, 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 George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on April 1. Brandenburg completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine;

**Lt. j.g. Joseph Camp, Jr., USN**, who earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on April 2. Camp completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

**1st Lt. Jordan Hedges, USMC**, who was named to



Anderson



Brandenburg



Camp



Hedges



Holeski

Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training and was VT-7's Student of the Month for February 2011. During Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on April 2. Hedges completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

**Lt. j.g. Bradley Holeski, USN**, who earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on April 2, when he was named "Top Hook" for that carrier qualification evolution. Holeski completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

**Lt. j.g. Terrence Kline, USN**, who was awarded the Academic Achievement Award in Primary Flight Training. During Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on April 1. Kline completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

**1st Lt. John Kress, USMC**, who was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training. He earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced



Kline



Kress



Lentz



Martin



Pfeiffer



Rheinhardt



Stuart



Wolcott

Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on April 3. Kress completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

**Lt. Jennifer Lentz, USN**, who was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on April 1. Lentz completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

**Lt. j.g. Joshua Martin, USN**, who earned two Navy "E's" for

bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on April 1. Martin completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

**Lt. j.g. Ryan Pfeiffer, USN**, who was named to the Commodore's List during Primary Flight Training. He earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on April 3. Pfeiffer completed

Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven;

**1st Lt. Erik Rheinhardt, USMC**, who was named to the Commodore's List during Primary 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 George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on April 3. Stuart completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven; and

**1st Lt. John Stuart, USMC**, who earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy

during Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on April 3. Stuart completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven; and

**Ensign Robert Wolcott, USN**, who earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy during Advanced Jet Flight Training and carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) on April 1. Wolcott completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine

## Meyer retires after 44 years of service

A veritable legend and daily fixture for literally thousands of Navy and Marine aviators -- both students and instructors -- who have come through NAS Meridian over the past 35 years is in the process of starting the "second half" of his extraordinarily rewarding life -- a chapter that has been well-deserved.

William K. "Bill" Meyer -- more commonly known as "Moose" -- will receive a heartfelt going away from his fellow simulator instructors and other assorted dignitaries this week. This wish for a Shipmate's "Fair Winds and Following Seas" will be bittersweet, as he will be truly missed but has undoubtedly earned the opportunity to spend more time with his family, enjoy the freedom to travel, and attend any and all Mississippi State University sporting events.

Bill is completing another phase in his life and closing out a combined 44 years of military and civilian service to his country.

His accomplishments span from his commissioning in the United States Marine Corps in 1967 to his retirement as the NAS Meridian flight simulator site manager on April 14, 2011.

Bill was winged as a naval flight officer in 1968

and subsequently received his naval aviator wings of gold in 1974 at NAS Meridian.

Bill served his country with honor as both a radar intercept officer and a pilot in the F-4 Phantom II and as a T-2 flight instructor with VT-19.

His time as an active duty Marine Corps officer was followed by 31 years of continued service to the naval aviation community by training future pilots as an instructor and simulator site manager with five different companies: Burnside-Ott, Loral Aerospace, Ford Aerospace, Lockheed-Martin, and finally with Fidelity Technology.

Bill and his wife, Becky, will remain in Meridian, continuing to enjoy the many adventures that await them both here and abroad. We wish them both the very best in this next chapter of their lives -- "Semper Fidelis," Moose!



Meyer



Submitted photo  
Bill "Moose" Meyer will be honored this week for his 44 years of combined military and civilian government service.

-- By Jody Richardson

## Enlisted retention board provides some benefits for fleet

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The recently announced enlisted retention board (ERB) will help the Navy achieve mandated end strength, the chief of naval personnel (CNP) said in an April 25 interview.

The ERB will eliminate overmanning in 31 ratings and will benefit high-performing Sailors in the long run by improving advancement opportunities. The Navy has witnessed improved retention over the past decade which can be attributed to factors such as work-life balance initiatives and improved recruiting. Additionally, the slow economic recovery has influenced many Sailors to re-enlist.

"We are attracting and retaining the highest quality force we've ever had and these Sailors are increasingly looking at the Navy as a great long-term career choice," stated chief of naval personnel, Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson. "With this sustained high retention, systems designed to help maintain the balance in our Force, particularly Perform-to-Serve, have become over-burdened. As a result, re-enlistment and advancement opportunities for our high-performing Sailors are being negatively impacted Fleet-wide."

The ERB will review Sailors in 31 of the most over-manned ratings and will look at performance to fill a specific number of retention quotas within competitive groups broken down by rating, pay grade and years of service. The board will value Sailors with proven performance in challenging billets, while Sailors with negative performance indicators such as convictions for drunk driving, declining performance evaluations, lost security clearances and non-judicial punishments will be less competitive for retention quotas.

By focusing on performance in addition to quotas, Navy reinforces its strategy to retain the best and brightest.

"In designing this board, we were determined to separate only those Sailors in ratings needed to rebalance

the force and stay within our congressionally mandated manpower limits," Ferguson said.

Although the number directly affected by the ERB represents a small percentage of Sailors, the impacts will be felt across the force.

While Navy-wide advancement opportunities to E-5 declined modestly over the past several advancement cycles and E-6 opportunities remained relatively stable over the same period, opportunities to both E-5 and E-6 in the 31 ratings being considered have dropped steadily. Reducing overmanning in these ratings will result in career stability and will likely result in increased advancements in these ratings.

Not only will the ERB help stabilize advancement opportunity in the 31 ratings, currently undermanned ratings will benefit from the expanded conversion opportunity Navy leaders approved in advance of the board. Several factors that are normally mandatory for rating conversion, including maximum years of service, maximum paygrade, and minimum activity tour requirements, are being waived. This will allow the greatest opportunity for Sailors who would otherwise be board-eligible to ensure their continued service, while increasing manning in ratings that the Navy has been challenged to fill.

"Our Sailors are dedicated to serving their country, and this is why we are providing additional opportunities for them to convert into undermanned ratings ahead of the board," Ferguson said. "Sailors will see the benefits of increased manpower support in some critical areas."

Sailors chosen for conversion into the undermanned ratings listed in NAVADMIN 129/11 will be exempt from the board and will be given an opportunity to continue serving in areas of need for the Navy. The procedures for requesting conversion will be released by the beginning of May and applications will need to be received by June



Photo by MC2 Casey H. Kyhl  
Sailors and Marines stand in formation during an award ceremony aboard the forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD2). Essex is part of the Essex Amphibious Ready Group on patrol in the western Pacific Ocean.

15 to be considered.

A more balanced force - the goal of the ERB - will benefit the entire Fleet, Ferguson said.

"Improved advancement opportunities, expanded PTS re-enlistment quotas, and increased manpower support in needed ratings over the long term - these are the positive results," he said.

For more information on the ERB, as well as over-manned and undermanned ratings, read NAVADMIN 129/11 at [http://www.public.navy.mil/bupersnpc/reference/messages/Documents/NAVADMIN\\_S/NAV2011/NAV11129.txt](http://www.public.navy.mil/bupersnpc/reference/messages/Documents/NAVADMIN_S/NAV2011/NAV11129.txt).

--From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs