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THE Currents™

Vol. 27 No. 11

Serving the New Orleans Regional Military/DoD Communities

November 2016

Navy Announces Enlisted Rating Modernization Plan

By Petty Officer 2nd Class
 Edward Gutierrez
The Currents' Staff

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Steven Giordano announced Sept. 29 that the Navy would immediately modernize all rating titles for Sailors and would begin the use of a new classification system that would use codes to describe the jobs Sailors do, moving the seagoing branch closer to the way the other military services categorize skill sets.

The new plan has been controversial throughout the fleet with many current and retired Sailors feeling that the plan eliminates hundreds of years of Navy tradition.

"We are all Sailors and changing our rating titles does not affect that," said Giordano. "While we certainly understand that this represents a significant cultural shift for the Navy and will take time to become fully adapted throughout the fleet, this is about giving

Sailors more choice and flexibility and ultimately providing the Navy opportunities to get the right Sailors with the right training and experience in the right billets."

The biggest change will be the switch from rating titles to occupational codes.

"Sailors will no longer be called, yeoman second class or YN2, for example," said Giordano. "Instead they will be second class petty officer, or petty officer. However, Sailors' rates will not change: an E-7 will remain a chief petty officer and an E-3 will remain a seaman. Additionally, there will no longer be a distinction between airman, fireman and seaman."

The plan originated with Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus' decision to order a review of rating titles to eliminate the word man from job titles in keeping with the Department of Defense's decision to open all military jobs to women. A working group was formed in July to identify personnel policies, management programs and information technology sys-

tems that may require modifications over the years and months ahead, including changes to recruiting, detailing, advancements, training and personnel and pay processes.

The goal of the shift is to allow the Navy to accurately identify Sailors' skill sets by issuing them a Navy Occupational Specialty (NOS) code. This will give Sailors greater flexibility to train in a variety of career fields and enable the Navy to more accurately match Navy career fields with civilian occupations to help Sailors get credentials and certifications that are valued by the civilian workforce.

Sailors will be able to hold more than one NOS, which will allow them to train in both the job corresponding to their initial NOS, as well as others that are closely related. This will allow them the opportunity to broaden their professional experience and the flexibility to move between occupational specialties within the grouped career fields.

"What we're going to try

to do is put a lot of these specialties that are close to each other together," said Mabus. "So that while you're a specialist in one thing, you could also train and become a specialist in three or four other areas so that you could promote in one if you can't promote in the other."

While the plan has been hotly debated by Sailors many are willing to give the new plan a chance.

"I have my likes and dislikes about the rate title changes," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Taylor Banta. "I do like how it is going to be easier to transition between jobs based on the code that has now replaced our rates, but I dislike taking our rate names away. In my opinion, Sailors should still be able to be referred to as YN2, MC2, or BM1. I don't know what exactly this is going to do for advancement, but my guess is its going to be similar to how the other branches advance. Overall, this could use some tweaking but the Navy isn't necessarily headed in the wrong direction with this."

Chief of Navy Reserve Holds Change of Command

By Navy Reserve Force
Public Affairs

NORFOLK (NNS) -- Vice Adm. Luke M. McCollum relieved Vice Adm. Robin R. Braun as chief of Navy Reserve and commander, Navy Reserve Force, during a change of command ceremony at Admiral Leutze Park on the Washington Navy Yard, Sept. 26.

McCollum, the 14th chief of Navy Reserve, is a Texas native, son of a World War II veteran and a 1983 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy.

The keynote address came from Chief of Naval Opera-

tions, Adm. John M. Richardson.

"Thank you Robin, for paving the way," said Richardson. "It just goes to show what a great job you have done and what can be accomplished. Today, it seems natural for a woman to be the commanding officer of an aviation squadron, but when Robin became the very first commanding officer of a Reserve squadron, it was not natural; it was Robin that made that happen."

Braun, the daughter of a career naval aviator and a 1980 graduate of Northern Arizona University, was designated a naval aviator Feb-



Vice Adm. Robin Braun salutes Vice Adm. Luke McCollum during a change of command ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard, Sept. 26. McCollum relieved Braun as chief of Navy Reserve and commander, Navy Reserve Force. Braun retired after 37 years of service in the Navy.

Navy photo by MCC Elliott Fabrizio

ruary 1981. She accumulated **Change of Command, Page 4**

<p>This month in Navy & Marine History</p> 	<p>November 18, 1890 USS Maine USS Maine, first American battleship, is launched.</p>	<p>November 10, 1775 Marines Congress votes to raise two battalions of Continental Marines, establishing the Marine Corps.</p>
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By Capt. Mark Sucato
NAS JRB Commanding Officer

What a great time to be Navy in New Orleans! My heartfelt appreciation goes out to the New Orleans Navy Ball planning committee for the incredible celebration they prepared for each of us who attended. It was a perfect salute to our service's 241st birthday.

Further salutes continue this month when Belle Chasse High School holds its annual Our Veterans, Our Heroes day Nov. 18. For more than a decade the school has honored veterans of all ages and service branches at the school the Friday before Thanksgiving. The program brings together active-duty, reserve, retired and former military members of all branches of service who are able to speak with students about their military service. I encourage participation in this extraordinary event.

Soon, many of us will enjoy personal and family celebrations as Thanksgiving and Christmas draw near. As a military community we have much to be thankful for and because of our work we understand service, sacrifice and giving of ourselves to a greater cause. Many of us came to serve because these qualities were ingrained into us. Some of us have come to adopt these traits as a result of our service. Our work provides a unique life from which we



may view this ever-changing world and use our perspective as a spring board to shape positive change. The opportunities to do for others are all around us - we only have to seize them!

In as much, our Shipmates surround us as well, most who eagerly anticipate the enjoyment of the holiday season. It can also be a hectic, taxing time – and, for some people the holidays represent less than the ideal. My request, and pledge to each of you, is that we look out for each other this coming holiday season. Plans, festivities and celebrations should be inclusive – not exclusive. Reaching out to give may be the neighbor next door or the coworker across the hall or hangar. Do not underestimate the power of a kind word or action. I know that one person can make a difference; what you may start can spread goodness throughout an entire community. To paraphrase: what you do for self dies with you – what you do for others and the world remains.

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THE Currents

Vol. 27 No. 11 November 2016

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The next issue of The Currents will be published on Thursday, December 1, 2016. Questions concerning content for publication are heartily encouraged and must be received at the Public Affairs Office, Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB), 400 Russell Ave., New Orleans, LA. 70143-5012, phone (504) 678-3260, by close of business on Friday, November 18, 2016.

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Naval Air Station JRB New Orleans
Capt. Mark Sucato
Commanding Officer



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Holiday Cooking and Kitchen Fire Safety

By Wendy Shimmin
NAS JRB Fire Inspector

The holidays are just around the corner and many people are planning menus and shopping lists. The Fire and Emergency Services staff at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans wants everyone to add kitchen fire safety to that list.

Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. It's important to be alert to prevent cooking fires.

Be on alert!

Anyone who may be sleepy or have consumed alcohol

should not use the stove or stovetop.

Always stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, boiling or broiling food. When simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly and use a timer as a reminder that food is cooking and that it needs attending to.

Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from the stovetop.

Keep a lid nearby when cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled. For an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If a cooking fire occurs, just get out! When leaving, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. Call 911 or the local emergency number after leaving.

If you have an extinguisher and try to fight the fire, be sure others get out and that you have a clear way out.

According to a 2013 survey by Liberty Mutual Insurance, nearly half (45 percent) of consumers say they have left the room to watch television or listen to music while cooking. Multi-tasking during the busy holiday season is tempting. But DO NOT succumb to multi-tasking. It's important not to leave the stove or oven unattended.

For more information on



kitchen fire safety or other fire safety topics, visit <http://www.firepreventionweek.org>.

Change of Command: *from page 1*

5,800 flight hours and became the first female chief of Navy Reserve and Reserve service chief.

Richardson recognized Braun's accomplishments, saying she was where the Navy needed her every time and at the center of action.

"You and your contempo-

raries opened paths for women that were simply not available when you started your career," said Richardson. "As the chief of the Navy Reserve, Robin has just smacked it out of the park. Our Reserve force exhibits incredible initiative. At the top of this performance is Vice Admiral Robin Braun."

McCollum accepted the responsibility as Chief of Navy Reserve by saying, "I stand in front of you honored to be this country's and this Navy's chief of Navy Reserve. I'm thrilled for the opportunity to work specifically for you, our Sailors."

Of Braun, he said, "I would

first like to thank Admiral Braun for her leadership and for setting such a firm foundation for me to take the next steps."

In her farewell speech, Braun, after four years as chief of Navy Reserve and 37 years of honorable service as a naval officer, thanked those who

served with her including family, friends and the CNO, after he awarded her the Distinguished Service Medal.

"Thank you for the award, sir," said Braun. "It really is a testament to what our Sailors are doing and to their hard work and dedication."



Maj. Gen. Les J. Carroll, 377th Theater Sustainment Command commanding general, joins Gold Star family members in cutting the cake during the Gold Star Mothers and Family Day celebration at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, Sept. 25. The families gathered to share stories and honor their loved ones who have died in service to the nation. Gold Star Mothers was formed shortly after World War I to provide support for mothers who lost sons or daughters in the war. The name came from the custom of families of service members hanging a banner in the window of their homes. The Service Flag had a star for each family member in the military. Living service members were represented by a blue star, and those who had lost their lives were represented by a gold star. Today, membership in the Gold Star Mothers is open to any American woman who has lost a son or daughter in service to the United States. On the last Sunday in September, Gold Star Mother's Day is observed in the U.S. in their honor.

Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Melissa Martens



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USDA Administrators Visit BCA During Farm To School Month

By Petty Officer 2nd Class
Edward Gutierrez
The Currents' Staff

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Dr. Katie Wilson and Southwest Region Regional Administrator William Ludwig visited Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans and Belle Chasse Academy (BCA) Wednesday, Oct. 12.

The pair visited BCA in recognition of Farm To School Month and National School Lunch Week. Wilson and Ludwig toured the school's Victory Garden and greenhouse facilities, met with members of the instructional and cafeteria staff and had lunch with 2nd and 3rd

grade students. Wilson also awarded BCA with the "One In A Melon" award for the state of Louisiana, recognizing BCA as a national leader in farm to school initiatives.

"At BCA we have three school gardens, interactive teaching garden, production garden, and an herb garden," said School Leader Jane Dye. "We use all of the gardens as interactive classrooms designed to incorporate all subjects into some aspect of the gardening/culinary curriculum."

BCA's Victory Garden provides students and their families with life skills, health literacy, and economic insight, through the integration of the garden and kitchen classroom experience into the daily school curriculum and the local economy. This is accomplished through a hands-on holistic approach that im-

merses every student in making healthy food choices, improving the environment, and giving the NAS JRB community a smaller carbon footprint and larger ecological "hand-print."

In addition to the school's teaching garden, there is also a class called "Guerrilla Gardeners." The purpose of the class is to help utilize urban spaces like schools, yards, sidewalks or wherever else ground is available to beautify communities and grow food. The hands-on class takes place in the school's teaching garden, greenhouse, and indoor classrooms. Students learn life skills, information about healthy foods, healthy lifestyles, environmental education, and economics. They also learn about local and seasonal food, know what and when to plant, and how this affects local communities.



USDA Deputy Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Dr. Katie Wilson talks with students during the lunch period at Belle Chasse Academy Oct. 12. Wilson visited BCA to tour the school's garden in recognition of Farm to School Month and National School Lunch Week.

Photo by PO2 Edward Gutierrez

"The 2nd and 3rd graders, with whom Dr. Wilson shared lunch, were thrilled to meet her and share their opinions of BCA school lunches," said Dye. "To

receive national recognition for our holistic, school-wide approach to our "farm to table" initiative, was obviously quite an honor."



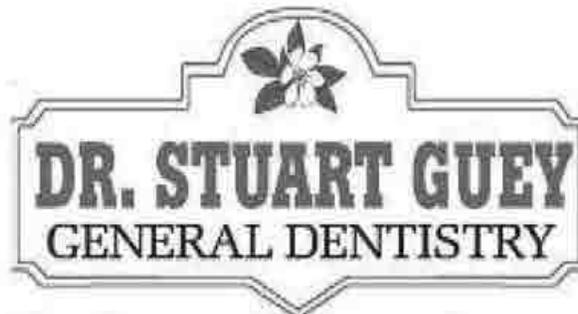
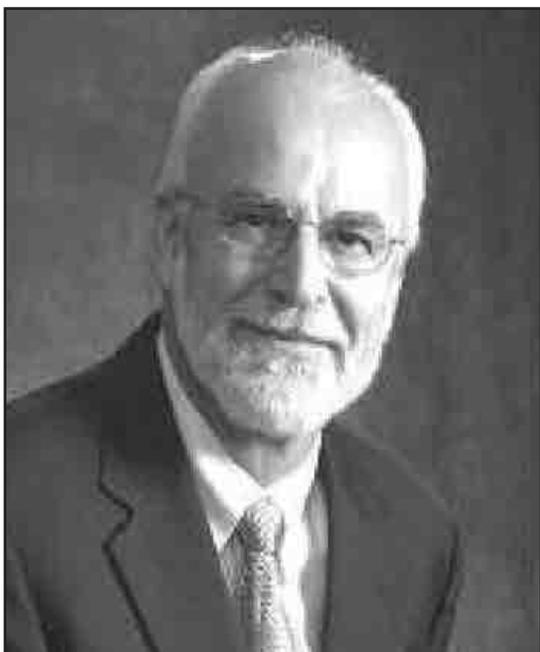
NEX General Manager Katie Wilson, left, and NAS JRB New Orleans Command Master Chief Chad Helms present Chief Petty Officer John Hanson with a \$500 NEX gift card on behalf of his wife Rhonda, the winner of Unilever's Back to School Sweepstakes at the Belle Chasse location.

Photo by PO2 Edward Gutierrez



The Coast Guard Cutter Razorbill crew and Audubon Nature Institute representatives prepare to release Peanut, a rehabilitated green sea turtle, south of Southwest Pass, La., Oct. 5. Under the Coast Guard's Marine Protected Species Program, the Coast Guard protects and maintains healthy populations of protected marine species and supports sustainability of federally protected marine areas.

Coast Guard photo by PO3 Brandon Giles



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2016 Navy Birthday Ball: Tough, Bold and Ready Sailors

By Tammy Prine
The Currents' Staff

On Oct. 15, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, civilians and guests from the New Orleans area gathered together at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans to celebrate the 241st birthday of the United States Navy. Revelers ate, danced, gave heed to the wise words of guest speakers and toasted to each respective branch of the military.

The Navy Ball is an annual event meant to memorialize the birthday of the United States Navy that can trace its origins to the Continental Navy, which the Continental Congress established on Oct. 13, 1775.

Guest speaker for the evening was Rear Adm. W. Michael Crane, commander, Naval Air Force Reserve.

The theme for the 2016 ball was "America's Sailor. For 241 Years: Tough, Bold and Ready."

"Imagine the powerful vision of our fore fathers that lead to today's big Navy," said Crane.

"We wouldn't be where we are today without the hard work and dedication of our Sailors. And that holds true today. What lies ahead for our Navy and Marine Corps? What will it take to maintain our Navy? There's no way to know the future but we can continue to maintain our superiority and remain the powerful Navy we are today."

Planning for this year's ball began in January said Chief Petty Officer Amy Grasse, ball chairperson.

"We hosted fund raisers all year to help defray the costs for the Sailors," Grasse said.

The events included car washes, restaurant fundraisers and committee volunteers working events at sporting events in New Orleans.

"I'd like to pass along a huge thank you and congratulations to the entire Navy Ball committee and to those who attended," Grasse said. "I'm proud to have helped with this year's birthday celebration."

The Navy Ball was not quite complete until the second line parade began. Dancers of all ages and ranks, waving their napkins through the air celebrated the Navy in accordance with New Orleans tradition.

A special thanks and certificates were presented to the sponsors of this year's ball. Those recognized were the NAS JRB Credit Union, Patrician Military Housing, Greater New Orleans Chief Petty Officers Association, Geico, USO and Big Ez Seafood.



Navy Ball committee members help lead a New Orleans-style second line dance around the ballroom.



Rear Adm. W. Michael Crane and SN Travis Sills, NAS JRB security, cut the birthday cake during the New Orleans Navy Birthday Ball. Sills, who has been at NAS JRB New Orleans since April, is serving his first duty assignment with the Navy.



Navy ROTC members from Tulane University in New Orleans, present the colors to begin the Navy Birthday Ball at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans.



Guests to the Navy Ball check in with committee members at the registration desk.



Veronica Billiot, Patrician Military Housing manager, accepts a commemorative paddle from Capt. Mark Sucato, NAS JRB commanding officer, as appreciation on the group's sponsorship of the Navy Ball.



CPO John Baxter, from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 204, welcomes guests to the 2016 Navy Birthday Ball in New Orleans. Baxter served as master of ceremonies for the event.



Guests raise their glasses during a toast to the Navy during the New Orleans Navy Birthday Ball.

Top, middle and bottom – guests dance to the music after the official ceremonies at the ball.

MARFORNORTH Hosts DSCA Executive Seminar

By Cpl. Gabrielle Quire
Marine Corps Forces North

Marine Forces North hosted a Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) executive seminar, Sept. 28-29 at the Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans.

The DSCA seminar brings in a team of subject matter experts from agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross to address how disaster civil support is directed and requested to agencies in need of Department of Defense capabilities to senior leaders in the local area.

“We brought in the experts to MARFORNORTH here in New Orleans to discuss and

explain what happens on a really bad day if our fellow citizens are in need of assistance from the DOD,” said Joe Bonnet, director of joint training and exercises, for the North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command.

The seminar provided a forum to educate a wide variety of senior officials in emergency response

Senior leaders from New Orleans, the state of Louisiana, local service members, and the New Orleans fire department were invited to the seminar.

“The goal is make sure the local businesses get back up and running in the event of a crisis,” said Bonnet. “During emergency management we all work as a team to help our citizens in need.”



Attendees of the Defense Support of Civil Authorities Executive Seminar hosted by Marine Forces North pose for a group photo at Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans, Sept. 28. The DSCA seminar brings in a team of subject matter experts from agencies such as DHS, FEMA and the American Red Cross to address how disaster civil support is directed and requested to agencies in need of DoD capabilities to senior leaders in the local area.

Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Melissa Martens

La. Airman Saves Firefighters after Grisly Crash

By Airman 1st Class Cindy Au
Louisiana National Guard
Public Affairs Office

Louisiana Air National Guardsman Staff Sgt. Santiago St. Clair of the 159th Security Forces Squadron from Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans in Belle Chasse, La., who is also a Louisiana State Trooper, was in the right place at the right time to help save fellow first responders in a grisly bus crash that caused two deaths and dozens of injuries on, Aug. 28.

After south Louisiana received devastating flooding Aug. 13, a bus full of workers made its way from New Orleans to Baton Rouge with plans to help with flood relief efforts.

Outside of New Orleans in LaPlace, La., the bus driver lost control while driving on Interstate 10, and ran into a fire truck that had responded to a minor accident earlier that morning. The bus then hit the car in front of them, causing the car to slide into the backend of the trailer in

front of it. The driver then swerved and hit the previously wrecked truck. The bus hit and knocked three firefighters from the St. John the Baptist Parish Fire Department, into the swampy waters off the Bonnet Carre Spillway.

As soon as the dispatch was heard through the radio, St. Clair and his team of state police reported on scene as quickly as they could.

St. Clair has been a state trooper for just one year with Troop B, Team D.

“One of the things I love about the state police and most, if not all, law enforcement [officers], is that if we hear something’s wrong, especially if it’s coming from another police officer or another service member, there’s no question about it; we are getting out there,” St. Clair said. “Thinking back at it, it was crazy. You always hear about those things happening, but it was a first time for me.”

St. Clair and the other responding troopers lowered a ladder over the rail. St. Clair then carried the firefighters out of the water to safety,



159th Security Forces Squadron Staff Sgt. Santiago St. Clair stands next to his Louisiana State Trooper unit with a 159th Fighter Wing F-15 fighter aircraft in the background at NAS JRB New Orleans.

Air National Guard Photo by Master Sgt. Dan Farrell

with the help of the other first responders.

“I want to make sure that it’s understood that I didn’t do this by myself. There’s no way I would’ve lifted a 240 pound guy up that ladder by myself with a bulletproof vest and my full uniform on,” St. Clair said.

“The St. John the Baptist Fire Department helped out [as well]. I’ve used the word ‘we’ a lot [telling the story] because it wasn’t me, it was

we. Even though they didn’t get in that water, they came out to help. They were out there on their hands and knees in the hot sun and rain. They were out there getting the job done.”

As a part of the 159th Security Forces Squadron and having deployed to Kazakhstan with the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing, St. Clair says military experience has helped him become a better state police officer. He has

built great relationships that have helped him both inside and outside of the Guard.

“There are a few other state troopers that are Guardsmen,” St. Clair said. “We have that relationship which is awesome.”

The military has also helped St. Clair learn how to deal with people going through troubling situations.

“The military helped mentally prepare me for all of the things I have to deal with,”

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NMCRS Honors Volunteers

By Tammy Prine
The Currents' Staff

Volunteers and staff from the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans came together to honor the volunteers that provide support to the many Sailors, Marines and their families.

The NMCRS, or the Society, provides financial assistance and education, as well as other programs and services, to members of the United States Navy and Marine Corps, their eligible family members, widows, and survivors. The Society also receives and manages donated funds to administer these programs and services.

The organization's main goal, no matter how small or large the office, is to educate each service member through a variety of ways to achieve financial self-sufficiency.

"Life-altering events as well as the normal cycle of military moves can wreak havoc on even the most well-planned budget; we are here to help in

that forward progress," said Dana Grigsby, NMCRS relief services assistant at NAS JRB New Orleans.

"As we are all in the same proverbial boat, so to speak, it is the selfless time and energy of our volunteers which often goes unnoticed," Grigsby said. "This is why we don't wait for the once a year celebration of Volunteer Appreciation Month to recognize our volunteers. We know they could go anywhere and do anything. We are blessed to call them ours."

Volunteers go through hours of training so they may provide the most up-to-date financial education, provide multiple resources outside of organizational guidelines and acquire a respectful cross-service partnership to assist those who may be far from their own aid societies.

"Through the efforts of our 11 active-duty, intermittent and office volunteers, a total of 2,891 hours have been donated so far this year," Grigsby said. "The combined lifetime hours of service of these volunteers, not including myself or the director is 13,234."

Volunteer hours remain move with those who give their time.

"When one of our volunteers transfers or moves from the area and begins work at another NMCRS location we send all their records so their time can continue to accumulate," said Alice Huffman, NMCRS director from Gulfport, Mississippi.

In addition to education, NMCRS is able to help with finances.

"Just this year our New Orleans office has served 201 clients with 232 cases," said Dana Grigsby, NMCRS relief services assistant at NAS JRB New Orleans. "The total assistance provided has been \$163,753 with \$153,892 in interest free loans and \$9,861 in grants. We also assist members of sister services."

Awards for volunteers vary. The first one, given after just 25 hours of volunteering, is the NMCRS name tag. As more hours are donated awards include NMCRS polo shirts, bags, sweaters and clocks.

Those who want to support the Society but are not able to volunteer can donate money by visiting the website,



NMCRS volunteers and directors gather at a luncheon and awards ceremony honoring the many hours of time spent helping fellow Sailors and Marines and their families. Back row from left: Clara Chandler, Dana Grigsby, Marine Corps Lt. Col. James Eelman, Jonathan Waters, Mary Fisher. Front row from left: Rhonda Humphrey, Denise Zavala, Alice Huffman, Saada Oualette Ibrahim and Joseph Shepard. Volunteers not available for photo were: Kathryn Jones, Binti Dade, Brooke Brandt, Amanda Szamprach, and Chairman of Volunteers, Colette Paulino.

Photo by Tammy Prine

<http://www.nmcrs.org> or dropping it off at their office in Building 555 at NAS JRB New Orleans.

Volunteers honored for their service were: Kathryn Jones with a Presidential Certificate; Jonathan Waters with 5000 volunteer hours; Colette Paulino for 1500 volunteer hours; Saada Oalette Ibrahim for 600

hours; Amanda Szamprach with a Presidential Certificate and 600 hours; Rhonda Humphrey with 300 hours; Binti Dade with 100 hours; Brooke Brandt and Clara Chandler with 50 hours; and Denise Zavala with 25 hours.

For more information or to volunteer with NMCRS call 504-678-4652.



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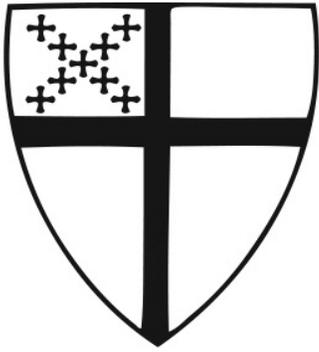
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Chalmette National Cemetery Cleanup

By Petty Officer 1st Class Ivory Johnson-Watson
Naval Operational Support Center New Orleans

Members of the Naval Operational Support Center New Orleans at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans volunteered a Saturday morning in late September to help spruce up the Chalmette National Cemetery located in St. Bernard Parish, south of New Orleans.

The Sailors and their family members worked alongside volunteers from Brother Martin High School to beautify the battlefield's historic Chalmette

National Cemetery.

The beautification included cleaning more than 150 headstones of fallen heroes with non-toxic cleaning solution, water, and scrub brushes. Some of the historic headstones cleaned included Sarah Wake-man, who disguised herself as a man to fight in the American Civil War; Buffalo Soldiers; U.S. Colored Troops; Union Soldiers; unknown Soldiers; and many men and women from around the world who were buried at the Chalmette National Cemetery.

Volunteers from NOSC included Cmdr. Joseph Kovacy, NOSC commanding officer and his family; PO1

Ivory Johnson-Watson; PO2 John Ledesma; PO2 Dennis Dockery; and PO3 Charly Moreno-Vasquez and family.

Established in 1864, Chalmette National Cemetery is one of the oldest national cemeteries and one of 14 national cemeteries managed by the National Park Service. The cemetery is an integral part of both the history of New Orleans and of the nation. Its graves recount various conflicts throughout American history, from the War of 1812, the Civil War, and the Vietnam War. Though the cemetery is now closed to new interments, it is the burial place to more than 15,300 veterans of military campaigns.



Volunteers and their family members from NOSC New Orleans clean gravestones at the Chalmette National Cemetery, Sept. 24.

Photo by PO1 Ivory Johnson-Watson

NWU Type III Transition Begins: Five Things to Know

By Chief of Naval Personnel
Public Affairs

Last month the Navy began its transition from the Navy Working Uniform (NWU) Type I to the NWU Type III as its primary shore working uniform. Here are five things to know about the uniform switch:

1. Sailors can wear either the NWU Type I or III right now, but effective Oct. 1, 2019, all Sailors will be expected to wear the NWU Type III as

their primary working uniform when ashore or in port.

2. Until further policy guidance is issued, black boots will be the standard boot worn in the United States and its territories with the NWU Type III, but units can set a command-wide policy authorizing use of the tan boot. In addition to black boots, the black fleece is authorized for wear with the NWU Type III. Expeditionary forces in the United States or any forward deployed forces

may wear the desert tan or coyote brown boots at the discretion of the unit commanding officer with the NWU Type III. A future NAVADMIN will be released to specify the revised manner of wear to include authorized components worn with the NWU Type III.

3. Sailors will be able to purchase NWU Type III components for personal wear through Navy Exchange (NEXCOM) uniform stores and call centers. NEXCOM ex-

pects to have Type III uniforms in select uniform stores next fall and will expand sales based upon inventory availability.

4. This change is the first step in a multi-phased process that will streamline and consolidate the Navy's uniform requirements, and ultimately improve uniformity across the force. The Navy has listened to Sailors' feedback and is incorporating their desires to have a working uniform that is better

fitting, more breathable and lighter weight.

5. Enlisted clothing replacement allowance will be adjusted to cover costs of these uniform changes and requirements. By law, commissioned officers pay for their uniforms with personal funds. Officers are currently entitled to a one-time uniform stipend (\$400), paid at the beginning of their careers. An additional stipend cannot be granted without a change in law.

TRICARE Pharmacy Changes

Express Scripts, Inc. (ESI) recently announced upcoming changes to the retail pharmacy network it manages on behalf of TRICARE.

On Dec. 1, Walgreens pharmacy locations will join the network. CVS pharmacies, including those in Target stores, will leave the network on the same day. The new network will have more than 57,000 locations nationwide, and ensures TRICARE beneficiaries have timely access to retail pharmacies in their community.

ESI is the TRICARE pharmacy contractor, responsible for developing the pharmacy network. This change is intended to provide better value and maintain convenient access for beneficiaries. The addition of Walgreens into the network means that 98 percent of TRICARE beneficiaries will still have a network

pharmacy within five miles of their home.

If beneficiaries chose to fill a prescription at CVS after Dec. 1, it will be a non-network pharmacy. This means they will have to pay the full cost of the medication upfront, and file for partial reimbursement.

ESI and TRICARE are working to notify all beneficiaries of this change, and ensure that people currently using CVS have time to switch to another network pharmacy. ESI is doing additional outreach to patients filling specialty drugs at CVS pharmacies to ensure they can move their prescription with no gap in their prescription coverage.

For complete details and to find a network pharmacy visit: <https://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/index.shtml>.



MWR Spotlights November 2016

Live Pro Wrestling

On Friday, Nov. 18th pro wrestling comes to NAS JRB New Orleans. The event will be live at the VR-54 hangar. The show starts at 7 p.m. and concessions will be available. An after party for those 18 and older will be at Boondoggles. To meet the wrestlers stop by Bayou Bowl on Friday, Nov. 17th in Building 301 from 6-8 p.m. For more information visit: www.wildkatwrestling.com.

Fitness Center

A racquetball tournament will take place at 10 a.m. at the Fitness Center on Thursday, Nov. 17. Stop by to sign up. Deadline to register is Nov. 11.

Thanksgiving Holiday Hours

All MWR facilities will be closed on Thanksgiving Day with the following exceptions: Bayou Bowling Center will be open for the Liberty Program celebration only. The Bayou Bowl Grill (Diner) will be closed Nov. 24th-27th. All other MWR facilities return to normal working hours on Friday.

Paintball

The NAS JRB Paintball Field is closed until further notice.

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