LEADERSHIP CORNER
WITH THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

New year...new look. There’s something about the start of each new year to provoke resolution and change. We’re adopting that principle for the Skywriter. While we didn’t redesign the entire Skywriter, you will notice that we’ve retired some content to make way for new ideas and initiatives. ‘Leadership Corner’ is one of these new columns.

As NAF Atsugi develops its new operational character after Carrier Air Wing FIVE completes its relocation, this initiative will allow base leadership a direct, monthly opportunity to explain important changes to programs and facilities as well as respond to issues, or simply break down “Big Navy” announcements and how they impact you, the members of our community.

The Public Affairs Office makes every effort to provide the community with accurate, up-to-date information regarding command and quality of life issues on multiple platforms: Skywriter magazine (both hardcopy and digital), Facebook, Twitter, Base Information Channel (Ch. 28 or Ch. 117), and CNIC website. But we still need you, our valued readers, to help us inform you. Remember, you can always reach us on directly on Facebook (www.facebook.com/naf.atsugi)

Here’s to a great 2018!

Sam Samuelson
Public Affairs Officer

FEB 4, 1779
Capt. John Paul Jones takes command of Bonhomme Richard (formerly Duc de Duras), which was given to the United States by King Louis XVI of France.

FEB 15, 1898
The battleship Maine explodes in Havana Harbor and nearly three-quarters of the battleship’s crew die as a result of the blast.

FEB 22, 1909
The Great White Fleet returns to Hampton Roads, Va., following its 14-month round-the-world cruise.

FEB 23, 1945
Four days after landing on Iwo Jima, an invasion where uncommon valor was a common virtue, the United States flag is raised on Mt. Suribachi.
Sprawled out in northeast Tokyo lies one of the biggest parks in the city, Ueno Imperial Gift Park or Ueno Park. This district of the city is part of Taito City, extending from Ueno train station all the way to Shinobazu Pond. This park is a huge part of what would lead to the modernization of Tokyo and Japan.

Ueno Park was first founded in 1625 by Buddhist monks and was populated by many temples that were destroyed in 1868 during the Boshin War, an event more commonly known as the Meiji Restoration, when the Emperor of Japan was restored to power over the Tokugawa Shogunate. The land was privately held by the Imperial family until January 1873 when the government issued a proclamation for the creation of public parks, turning the land into Ueno Park. In 1924, in honor of the Prince Hirohito’s marriage, Ueno Park was presented to the city by Emperor Taisho, receiving the official name that lasts to this day of “Ueno Imperial Gift Park.”

When arriving at Ueno train station visitors will see the entrance to the park by the Ueno Royal Museum. The park covers more than 133 acres and contains over 8,800 trees, the most famous being the Japanese cherry tree which, during the spring, becomes a popular tourist attraction when the sakura (cherry blossoms) are in bloom. Several dancers, magicians and food vendors also populate the area.

Lining up around the north and east sides of the park are the many museums that make Ueno Park an important historical and cultural center of Tokyo. There are eight museums ranging from western art at the National Museum of Western Art, the Tokyo National Museum specializing in historical pieces throughout the region’s history, and the science-focused National Museum of Nature and Science.

On the west side of the park is the Ueno Zoo which was originally founded in 1881 as part of the National Museum of Natural History. The zoo is home to 3,000 individual animals making up more than 400 different species and is the largest zoo in Japan. Notable animals found at the park include snow monkeys, pandas, tigers, gorillas and other animals found throughout Asia. The nation’s first monorail was constructed in the zoo and connects the upper and lower half of the area for park guests. When exiting, visitors will come across a small amusement park for children featuring a roller coaster and a carousel.

At the southernmost tip of the park a shrine and mausoleum was built for one of the country’s greatest warlords of the Sengoku (warring states), Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first Tokugawa Shogun whose family ruled Japan for almost 300 years before the Boshin War. Visitors can purify themselves at a well and pray to the Tokugawa shrine.

Ueno is a district of Tokyo steeped in history of the past but was also known for being very forward and an example of the westernization of Japan. In this one area was one the first public parks, zoos and museums founded for the benefit of not just the ruling class of this nation, but for all people from around the world to enjoy. Here one can learn about the much storied history of Japan before walking out into the modern heart of the nation.
Besides the eight-point cover, the Navy blue and coyote brown ballcaps are also optional with the type III uniform.

The Rank insignia has shifted away from being sewn on the uniform, which also means it is easier to be misplaced. Best practice might be to have spares at work or in your car.

Black steel toe boots remain the standard with the alternate being the coyote brown boots at the CO's discretion.

The pants now feature velcro-sealing pockets and two new pockets just above the boots. For correct wear the bottom most pockets should be fully visible and not tucked in by your boot straps.

For more information check out the official Navy Uniform Regulations App.

OPNAV Uniform Regulations

Available on the
App Store

Get it on
Google Play
In any rate in the Navy, there are Sailors who are not only knowledgeable in the basic duties demanded of them in their specific career field, but also have to be part of smaller community within their rate to perform specific jobs far beyond the routine. Some are chosen to be specific, almost esoteric, subject matter experts, but others seek it out and want to be more and do more.

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Matthew Friend, from Clearwater, Fla., is just one of these people looking to elevate himself by becoming one of Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi’s Military Working Dog (MWD) Handlers.

“I’ve been trying to work with the K-9 unit pretty much since I first arrived here (at NAF Atsugi),” said Friend. “I’ve always had a pretty high passion for working with dogs and once I got into the kennels and started working with the other handlers, they became closer family than my own family. Those guys take care of me, they’d do anything for each other and I just love it over there (in the kennel).”

According to the Navy’s Center for Security Forces, the Continuation School (C-School) to be trained as an MWD Handler is held at the Naval Technical Center (NTC) Lackland in Texas. NTC Lackland says that MWDs and their handlers are a highly trained, highly skilled formidable duo. These teams are deployed throughout the world to perform duties of law enforcement and support a wide range of security operations. The course trains selected Master-at-Arms and Department of Defense personnel in the knowledge and skills needed to partner with patrol and detector dogs.

“For a regular Master-at-Arms their main focus is patrolling the streets, community service, and customer relations,” said Atsugi Kennel Master, Chief Master-at-Arms Mark Anthony Garcia, from Granbury, Texas. “Those are the things that the MWD handlers do as well but we have an additional tool at our disposal. Our job is to fill the shoes as a Master-at-Arms with the addition of utilizing a dog for what necessities come about depending on the situation, i.e. finding bombs, narcotics or finding suspects that can’t be found through regular tactics.”
While Friend cannot yet go on patrol with an MWD, he does have to participate in and complete preliminary work at the kennels before he can depart for C-School to receive proper training and instruction.

“I’ve been on kennel support since Aug. 2016,” said Friend. “What that entails is when we come in in the morning we feed the dogs, we clean out the kennels of any waste, afterwards we plan out any training that needs to be done for the day. I cannot plant any simulated explosives yet, as I’m not an explosive team member, but I have become a secondary drug custodian under MA2 Adames, who is the primary drug custodian for the base. I am allowed to plant narcotics in controlled simulated training exercises for him.”

Garcia noted that these tasks are important in order for Friend to understand the commitment that is needed from potential handlers before they can even put in a package to attend the program.

“He has to understand that these animals are living creatures and that they depend us for their nourishment, care, to show them affection whenever they need it,” said Garcia. “Any new handler trying to be in this program needs to understand that before they even go to the school that you have to dedicate a required amount of time to these dogs. I find it very important that they at least understands how much commitment it is going to take to complete these tasks put before him.”

Even with having to complete these assignments put before him, as well as his routine work as part of the installation’s security force, Friend says that it hasn’t been difficult at all.

“They (the handlers) have been pretty straightforward with me from the start,” said Friend. “I’m here every day and I come even in my off time or whenever I get a chance to come over to the kennels and work.”

In fact, Garcia said that Friend has really impressed everyone in the unit with his dedication and professionalism.

“We knew that he could perform his duties as a regular MA but the amount of motivation he has brought into the kennels, showing us how bad he actually wants this is why were are working so hard to get him into the school,” said Garcia.

Friend has shown the ideals necessary through motivation and dedication to not just be successful Master-at-Arms but to also become part of specifically trained group of Sailors within a very large community in the Navy.

“I love everything about the K-9 program. It’s a really close family and I love that about it,” said Friend. “Plus you get to work with MWDs, so I think it’s the coolest job in the Navy.”
throughout their service to the nation,” said Laura Law-Millett, area director, USO Japan. “At hundreds of locations worldwide, the USO is united in its commitment to connect service members and their families through countless acts of caring, comfort and support.”

While some service members may be in a location where visiting a USO is not feasible, they would be hard pressed to not be able to find one while traveling via air as more than 48 major airports in the U.S. offer support with a USO lounge that service members and their families can relax in during their travels.

“As today’s USO continually adapts to the needs of our men and women in uniform and their families from the start of one’s military career to even after it has ended.”

As another year passes, the USO continues to provide support for service members and their families without a local site to provide them services.

“USO Japan conducts outreach support for installations that do not have USO Centers near them,” said Millett. “The USO supports these installations through community event support and conducts service programs such as; Operation Birthday Cake, Cookie Caravan, and Operation Donut Drop. Service members are welcome to reach out to USO Japan though our website https://japan.uso.org/ or Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/USOMainlandJapan to request services at their bases without centers.”

The USO has many sites spread across the globe but there are still locations where service members are without a local site to provide them services.

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On January 1st, 2018, the Department of Defense (DOD) will officially change over from its legacy retirement system, commonly known as the “high three”, to the Blended Retirement System (BRS).

Fleet and Family Service Center Atsugi’s Personal Financial Manager Oral MacDonald, from Kingston, Jamaica, said the BRS was created after the DOD realized that service members were separating early with little to no money saved for retirement.

“This (BRS) was created to reduce the number of retirees and those who separate early without any savings for the future,” said MacDonald. “While Sailors who have served over 12 years are exempt from the new system, service members under 12 years do have a choice between which system would suit them better, depending on how long or short they are considering staying in.”

“BRS is a modernized retirement plan built for retirement savings,” said Navy Counselor 1st Class David Pruitt, from Grants Pass, Ore., Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi’s command financial counselor. “Beginning in 2018, service members can get automatic and matching Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) contributions, as well as mid-career compensation incentives, in addition to monthly retired pay for life.”

BRS works on a sliding timeline. From a Sailor’s first 60 days of contributing to their TSP, the DOD will match up to 20 years in service until retirement. The BRS combines features of the legacy retirement system, the high three, with the TSP contributions a Sailor has made throughout their career. Instead of the 2.5% multiplied by years served at the highest three years of base pay, the BRS...
time in service a Sailor has and if they can catch up to where they need to be financially?” said MacDonald. “If we end up doing the numbers and it doesn’t meet their retirement goal and having to work a job post-service may be a contributing factor to which system they choose to stay under.”

In addition, Pruitt advised Sailors to carefully research the benefits of BRS for their future retirement needs and decide if those benefits and options of BRS fit their retirement goals.

While the legacy retirement system and BRS have similarities, they also have their own stark differences. Both systems are there to benefit and aid service members’ post-military life but only one is in place for those not looking to complete a full 20 year career in service. While the choice will ultimately come down to individual Sailors and where they see themselves in the future, they will have the option to be better equipped than they were before.

That’s the power of compounding!

will be 2.0% but will also add automatic and matching contributions to a service members TSP account.

“There about 85% of Service members will receive some form of government retirement benefit,” said Pruitt. “They will receive an automatic 1% DOD and up to 4% DOD matching contribution to their Thrift Savings Plan. Service members can also elect 25% or 50% lump-sum of their discounted retired pay in exchange for reduced monthly retired pay at retirement.”

Notwithstanding, MacDonald said that a certain amount of forethought from service members is needed when planning whether or not to opt into the BRS. Those choosing to opt in need to think about what they see their retirement life looking like, how much money do they need to retire with and what sort of lifestyle after the military do they see themselves in.

“As it going to be worth it to lose that half percent multiplier factor in the legacy retirement system depending on how much

Dine in Tonight: Feast on More Savings in Retirement

A night of pizza and drinks is fun, but nights out add up. Chill at home and watch your savings increase, $50 monthly and drinks a month ...

Forgo one night of pizza and drinks a month ...

$50

$30

$50

$30

$50

$30

How would you describe your department’s primary mission?

NMCPAC EAD Detachment Atsugi’s primary mission is to safely and effectively perform receipt, storage, segregation, issue procedures, and to maintain and operate a resupply ordnance facility at Naval Air Station Atsugi in support of CVW-5, CVN 76 and various tenant commands and units. We are also responsible for scheduling maintenance and upkeep of 434 Armament Weapons Support Equipment (AWSE) records, verifying Technical Directives Compliance and maintaining SESS database in Naval Aviation Logistics Command Management Information System.

What primary services do you provide and who are your primary customers?

As stated above, we provide resupply of ordnance to units from CVW-5, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) and various tenant commands in the area. We also provide scheduling for maintenance and upkeep of AWSE records and other subject matter expert assistance.

How do the services you provide support the command’s mission?

Other than providing services we run the Aircraft Weapon Support Equipment (AWSE) work center. AWSE provides support to all squadrons on NAF Atsugi with having "movable storage equipment" that assists in handling, transporting and securing all missiles, bombs, mines, torpedoes, and launching equipment when not in use.

What can you tell us about your department that others may not know?

Before 2007 NMCPAC EAD Detachment Atsugi was known as NAF Atsugi Station Weapons.

Something Special?

We just completed the intergradation of new components that includes 2D bar code labels and hand held scanners that work with our OIS operating system. This new addition of equipment to our current system allows us to improve our process receipts, issues and inventories in half the time it would take to do by hand.

How can your customers reach you?

Our command point of contacts are Chief Holman (DET OIC) email: spencer.holman@fe.navy.mil and AO2 Hudders (NMC LPO) email: travis.hudders@fe.navy.mil. Phone numbers are 264-3771 or 264-3216.
It is now one hundred years since a great American, in whose bosom the spirit of revolution was宿在人,