

THE SKYLINE

Celebrating
55
Years of
Training
Excellence

Volume 54, Number 10

<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/meridian> ~ www.facebook.com/NASMeridian ~ Twitter: @nasmeridianms

May 12, 2016

On Base...

✓ DJ Leflore

May 20 at Rudders
Doors open at 5 p.m.;
DJ starts at 8 p.m.
For more information
please call
601-679-2636.

✓ Outdoor Family Movie Night

May 21 from 7-11 p.m.
At Bernath Field.
Free hotdogs, popcorn
and bottled water
(while supplies last).

✓ Bowling Kids Camp

June 13-17 9-11 a.m.
McCain Rec Center.
Registration ends
May 15. For
information, call
601-679-2651.

✓ Friends of Bill AA Meeting will occur every Wednesday at the NAS Meridian Chapel at 7 p.m.

These are "open"
meetings and
available to anyone
with base access. For
information, contact
the Chapel at
601-679-3635 or
HM1 Bobbi
Coleman-Johnson at
601-679-2209.

✓ SAC Summer Camp

10-week program for
youth during summer
break. Starts May 23.
Register by calling
Erica White at
601-679-2652.

A Day in Naval History

May 12
1780 - The city of Charleston, S.C., falls to the British when Continental Gen. Benjamin Lincoln surrenders during the American Revolution. Three Continental Navy frigates (Boston, Providence, and Ranger) are captured; and one American frigate (Queen of France) is sunk to prevent capture.

1938 - USS Enterprise (CV 6) is commissioned. Notable service during WWII include the Doolittle Raid, the Battle of Midway, the Guadalcanal Campaign, Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands, the Battle of the Philippine Sea, the Battle of Leyte Gulf, and the Okinawa Campaign, where she was badly damaged by a kamikaze strike.

1942 - USS Massachusetts (BB 59) is commissioned. She serves in both the Atlantic and Pacific during World War II -- notably participating in the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

1986 - USS David R. Ray (DD 971) deters an Iranian Navy frigates attempt to board SS President McKinley in the Gulf of Oman.

—www.history.navy.mil

"The Skyline" is a Russell Egnor Navy Media Award recipient for Best Metro Newspaper

NAS Meridian preparing for hurricane season

U.S. Fleet Forces Command, headquartered in Norfolk, Va., and Washington, D.C.-based Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) are conducting a natural disaster preparedness exercise, Hurricane Exercise/Citadel Gale 2016 (HURREX/CG 16), May 9-20.

Naval Air Station Meridian will be actively participating in HURREX/CG 16; which will involve two simulated storm systems developing and intensifying to hurricane strength, threatening the Gulf Coast and East Coast regions.

"Training conducted during the exercise allows Navy installations and tenants commands to ensure we are prepared to address the ramifications that come with severe weather conditions," said NAS Commanding Officer Capt. Scott Bunnay. "NAS

Meridian personnel will use this training event to maintain our prescribed level of readiness and determine if there are any needed improvement should we need to respond to a natural disaster."

All Navy commands with personnel in these regions will participate by reviewing and exercising heavy weather instructions and procedures and accounting for Sailors, Department of the Navy civilians, and Navy families in the affected regions through the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS).

For more information about HURREX/CITADEL GALE 16, contact the Public Affairs office at 601-679-2602.

—From Navy Installations Command Public Affairs

D'Antonio assumes command of VT-9

From NAS Meridian Public Affairs Staff

Training Squadron Nine (VT-9) held a change of command ceremony on board Naval Air Station Meridian, April 29.

Cmdr. Todd D'Antonio relieved Cmdr. Christopher Demchak as commanding officer.

"It's a tremendous opportunity and I don't, for one second, take it for granted. I promise you I'll give you my very best; I expect nothing less from you," D'Antonio said. "I feel very humbled and fortunate to have such an incredible opportunity."

D'Antonio has served as the squadron's executive officer since March 2015. He was commissioned an U.S. Navy ensign in December 1998. After completing flight training at NAS Meridian, he was designated a naval aviator in December 2000 and transferred to the E-2C/C-2A Fleet Replacement Squadron, VAW-120, at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

Demchak has served as the squadron's commanding officer since March 2015.

"VT-9 is in very good hands," said Demchak, who retired after 21 years of Naval service. Under Demchak's leadership the squadron professionally executed 7,000 training missions and 11,000 training flight hours in the T-45C Goshawk.

A consummate professional, the squadron was lauded for achieving a flawless Chief of Na-

val Air Training Safety and Standardization Inspection. During his tenure, the squadron completed four Carrier Qualification Detachments, graduated four international military officers along with 39 Navy and Marine Corps aviators.

Both men praised the squadron support staff for all their hard work.

"The team of civilians in VT-9 is second to none," Demchak said.

The ceremony was presided over by Capt. Brian Goszkowicz, professor of naval science at the mid-south consortium. Goszkowicz thanked Demchak for his dedication to the squadron.

"His inspirational leadership allowed VT-9 to safely execute their mission to train future naval aviators," Goszkowicz said. "What a great way to wrap up a 21-year naval career; solidifying the future of naval aviation. You will be missed."

D'Antonio's career has included completing training in the C-2A Greyhound, D'Antonio reported to VRC-40 in June 2002. With the "Rawhides," he served as the Ground Safety Officer, Aviation Safety Officer, Detachment One Assistant Operations Officer and Detachment Five Assistant Officer-in-Charge deploying twice aboard the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

In June 2005, D'Antonio transferred back to the Fleet Replacement Squadron, VAW-120, as



Photo by MC2 Chris Liaghat

Brandy D'Antonio, right, places a Navy Command Ashore Pin on her husband, Cmdr. Todd D'Antonio, at the Training Squadron Nine (VT-9) change of command ceremony on board NAS Meridian, April 29. D'Antonio relieved Cmdr. Christopher Demchak.

an instructor pilot. During his tour, he served as the C-2A Pilot Training Officer, Assistant Pilot Training Officer and Public Affairs Officer. Additionally, he was selected to serve as the chairman

of the Greyhound Advisory Team (GAT).

D'Antonio served with the "Greyhawks" until February 2008 when he returned to VRC-40.

• VT-9, page 3

Three buildings achieve LEED status

By Carlos Alfaro
NAS Meridian Installation
Energy Manager



Photo by MC2 Chris Liaghat

Gary Matthews with NAS Meridian's Public Works installs the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification plaque on the front of the fitness center on board NAS Meridian, May 10.

Two buildings on board Naval Air Station Meridian and one at Joe Williams Field have been recognized through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Program.

The Fitness Center and Child Development Center on the main installation, and the Fire & Emergency Services building have all achieved Silver LEED ratings. NAS Meridian is proud to be part of a leaner, more energy efficient Navy, achieving occupant comfort and energy savings without sacrificing mission objectives while remaining good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

One of several standards for building construction, operation and maintenance, LEED is a certification program from the U.S. Green Building Council which ensures that building performance and design meets mandated energy efficient and eco-friendly requirements. LEED Certification identifies a facility as a "green building."

Achieving a LEED certification rating (Silver, Gold, or Platinum), often requires high initial investment costs. However, management and maintenance practices made possible by the investment, result in increased productivity, reduced energy waste, and realized cost savings.

May is Military Appreciation Month

Look Inside



~ Page 3 ~
Navy
COOL
App



~ Page 9 ~
Raising
Awareness
on board
NAS Meridian



~ Page 10 ~
Northeast
Lauderdale
NJROTC award
night; Master Chief
Deen retires

Photo of Week



Photo by MCSA Daniel P. Jackson

An F/A-18E Super Hornet from the Argonauts of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 147 launches from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70). Carl Vinson is underway conducting carrier qualifications off the coast of Southern California with embarked Carrier Wing Eleven (CVW 11).

Area Happenings

MAY

12-15: US 11 Antique Alley is held each year on the Thursday - Sunday after Mother's Day. This 502-mile yard sale begins in Meridian and follows Hwy. 11 to Bristol, Virginia. Towns along the route plan their own events, festivals, antique sales, flea markets, carnivals, and many other activities. Visitors get to do what they like to do best -- travel the scenic highways of the Deep South, shop for treasures, eat good home cooking, and meet friendly folks. For more information, contact East MS/West AL Coordinator Teresa at 601-917-3727.

18: OAM Billiards Tournament from 1-5 p.m. at the Meridian Activity Center. It's building to the left as you drive into the gate. Park on that side of the compound and enter through the double doors. The Billiards Room is on your immediate left. The game begins at 1 p.m. playing with standard eight-ball rules. Winners play winners until three players are remaining for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. Refreshments will be provided by Humana. Admission is free to seniors 55+ of Meridian and Lauderdale County. For more information contact Kathy Anderson at 601-485-1812.

19: City-wide Prayer for Meridian and surrounding areas at 6:30 p.m. at Dumont Plaza. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. There will be Ministers from all across the city representing different faiths.

21: March for Babies Community Walk at Bonita Lakes on Saturday from 9-10:30 a.m. The March of Dimes of Central Mississippi in conjunction with local chapters of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, are sponsoring the event. The March of Dimes plays a vital role in prematurity awareness and many illnesses that are commonly associated with pregnancy and childbirth. For more information, please contact Chrissy Christian at jaclynbuford03@yahoo.com.

ONGOING

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group provides emotional, spiritual and practical support to mothers of preschoolers. Expectant mothers and mothers of preschoolers are invited to the meetings on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church. Child care provided for ages newborn to five. Visit us on Facebook at Fifteenth Avenue MOPS for meeting details or call 757-574-2557. Fees: Free for first meeting, only \$50 a year to become a member. Military discounts available.

Fleet Reserve Association local FRA branch holds monthly meetings the last Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. For more information visit FRA Branch 264 on Facebook or 8874 Hwy 39 North, Meridian. Open Monday-Wednesday 2-7 p.m.; Thursdays 2-10 p.m.; Friday 2 p.m.-1 a.m.; Saturday noon-1 a.m.; and open at noon on Sundays. Thursday Ladies Nite begins at 7 p.m.; and Saturday Karaoke Nite begins at 8 p.m. Free billiards and shuffleboard.

FY16 Aviation Department Head Retention Bonus Released: 8 things aviators should know

The fiscal year 2016 and 2017 Aviation Department Head Retention Bonus (ADHRB) for active duty aviators was released in NAVADMIN 099/16 and for Full-Time Support (FTS) aviators in NAVADMIN 100/16, May 2.

Here are eight things to know about ADHRB:

- ✓ ADHRB provides incentives to retain skilled pilots and naval flight officers (NFO) to fill critical aviation billets and is part of the Aviation Career Continuation Pay (ACCP) program.
- ✓ Active duty officers who sign ADHRB contracts incur five years of obligated service and agree to be considered by the Aviation Department Head Screen Board (ADHSB) and, if selected, to accept department head orders and complete a department head tour.
- ✓ FTS officers who sign the ADHRB contracts incur three years of obligated service to finish their department head tour and accept a follow-on assignment.
- ✓ Active duty aviators who accept ADHRB are eligible for the Career Intermision Pilot Program (CIPP). Officers interested in both ACCP and CIPP should contact the ACCP program manager and their detailer for more details.
- ✓ Aviators with an active duty service obligation (ADSO) that expires in FY16 and FY17 are eligible to apply. FY16 and FY17 ADSO cohorts have separate programs with the same total bonus amounts:

HM Pilot ----- \$75,000

HSC Pilot ----- \$75,000

HSL/HSM Pilot --- \$75,000

VAQ Pilot ----- \$125,000; VAQ NFO ----- \$100,000

VAW/VRC Pilot -- \$125,000; VAW NFO ----- \$75,000

VFA Pilot ----- \$125,000; VFA NFO ----- \$75,000

VP/VQ(P) Pilot --- \$75,000; VP/VQ(P) NFO --- \$75,000

VQ(T) Pilot ----- \$75,000; VQ(T) NFO ----- \$75,000

- ✓ FY16 ADHRB is paid out in five equal annual installments. To promote early commitment, FY17 ADHRB is paid out in six equal installments if the contract is signed prior to September 30 and changes to five equal annual installments if the contract is signed on or after October 1.
- ✓ The FTS FY 16 Aviation Department Head Retention Bonus is paid out in installments over three years for FTS aviators. Total bonus amounts are:

HM Pilot ----- \$30,000

HSC Pilot ----- \$45,000

HSM Pilot ----- \$45,000

HT Pilot ----- \$15,000

VAQ Pilot/NFO ----- \$30,000

VFA/C Pilot ----- \$75,000

VP Pilot/NFO ----- \$30,000

VR Pilot ----- \$75,000

VT(JET) Pilot ----- \$45,000

VT(PROP) Pilot/NFO --- \$30,000

- ✓ For details and eligibility and application procedures for active duty go to <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/officer/Detailing/aviation/OCM/Pages/ACCP.aspx>; for FTS go to <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/officer/Detailing/fulltimesupport/Pages/Aviation.aspx>.

-From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Naval aircrew rescues Marine pilot

By MC3 Rawad Madanat
USS Wasp Public Affairs

A Navy search and rescue team rescued a Marine Corps pilot off the coast of North Carolina after he ejected from his jet, May 6.

The jet -- an AV-8B Harrier from Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 542 of Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in Cherry Point, North Carolina -- was found by another Marine aircraft. A distress call was sent to USS Wasp (LHD 1), which was operating nearby.

A SAR crew from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 22 was aboard the Wasp when they received notification of the call.

Within five minutes, the crew was aboard an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter and en route to the downed jet. In less than 20 minutes, the helicopter arrived at the scene, deployed the SAR swimmer, and recovered the pilot.

Lt. j.g. John Smaok, the helicopter's

pilot, said his training kicked into action immediately after word was given to save the pilot.

"We train for this so much," said Smaok. "From my perspective, we just execute when we get a call for something like this."

The Sea Hawk, the U.S. Navy's primary search helicopter, has a crew of four Sailors, including a rescue swimmer.

"This was our crew's first rescue, so this is exactly what we have been training for," said Naval Aircrewman (Helicopter) 3rd Class Logan Parkinson. "In the end, it all worked as we planned and got him up safely."

The pilot was taken nearby to Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune and was released later that evening.

The cause of the incident is currently under investigation.

Wasp is underway with the Wasp Amphibious Ready Group participating in composite training unit exercise.

UPDATE YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS!

Practice proper OPSEC everyday!

PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR SHIPMATES! OPSEC ONLY TAKES A MINUTE!

Kids back to school and do you want to fill your time?

Help other military families!

VOLUNTEER

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society covers the cost of childcare while you are volunteering and provides monthly/quarterly mileage reimbursement.

Call NMCRS Meridian at 601-679-2504 or email alice.huffman@nmcrcs.org to learn more about how you can help.

Volunteer staff our office two days a week
Tues/Thurs
0830 - 1300

YOU'VE EARNED IT

DON'T WASTE IT

KEEP WHAT YOU'VE EARNED

IT WASN'T EASY GETTING HERE.
DRINK RESPONSIBLY.

www.nadep.navy.mil

The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

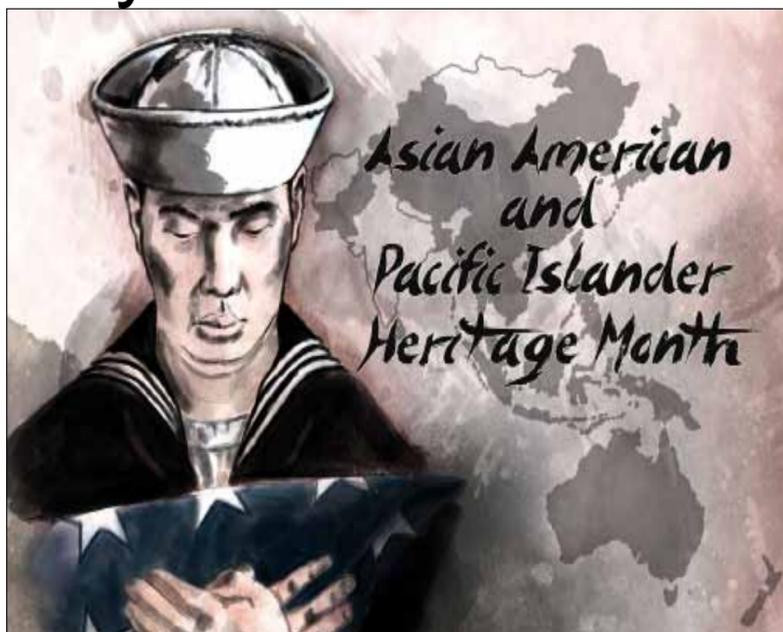
<p>Command Staff</p> <p>Commanding Officer ~ Capt. Scott Bunney</p> <p>Executive Officer ~ Cmdr. Robert Michael II</p> <p>Command Master Chief ~ CMDCM Jonas Carter</p>	<p>Editorial Staff</p> <p>Public Affairs Officer ~ Penny Randall</p> <p>Public Affairs Specialist~ Adam Prince</p> <p>Staff Writer/Photographer ~ MC2 Chris Liaghat</p>
--	--

Hotlines & Helpful Numbers

SAPR Victim Assistance: 601-604-3037
SAPR Civilian Victim Assistance: 601-486-3122
SARC: 601-481-4274
SAFE Hotline: 877-995-5247
Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255
Military OneSource: 800-342-9647
CEAP (DoN Civilian): 844-366-2327
EAP (NAF Civilian): 800-932-0034
FFSC Meridian: 601-679-2360
Chaplain: 601-604-2015
NMCRS Duty Cell: 601-604-2206
EEO (NAF): 866-295-0328
EEO (GS): 904-542-2802

This DoD newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The Skyline are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or NAS Meridian, Mississippi. The Skyline is published every other Thursday by The Meridian Star, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Navy, under exclusive written contract with the commanding officer of Naval Air Station, Meridian, Mississippi. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the NAS Meridian Public Affairs Office. The Skyline solicits news contributions from military and civilian sources. It reserves the right to edit material selected for publication. The deadline for material is 4:30 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Send submissions to: The Skyline, 255 Rosenbaum Ave., Suite 163, Public Affairs Office, Naval Air Station, Meridian, MS 39309-5003 or e-mail: penny.randall@navy.mil or adam.prince@navy.mil. For more information, call (601) 679-2318 or (601) 679-2809. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or The Meridian Star of products or services advertised. 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.

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month



May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. A rather broad term, Asian-Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

Like most commemorative months, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month originated with Congress. In June 1978, Frank Horton of New York introduced House Joint Resolution 1007. This resolution proposed that the President should “proclaim a week, which is to include the seventh and tenth of the month, during the first ten days in May of 1979 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. This joint resolution was passed by the House

and then the Senate and was signed by President Jimmy Carter on Oct. 5, 1978 to become Public Law 95-419.

This law amended the original language of the bill and directed the President to issue a proclamation for the 7 day period beginning on May 4, 1979 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. During the next decade, presidents passed annual proclamations for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week until 1990 when Congress passed Public Law 101-283 which expanded the observance to a month for 1990.

Then in 1992, Congress passed Public Law 102-450 which annually designated May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

--Asianpacificheritage.gov

Upgrade to Navy COOL mobile app includes advancement BIBs

By Ed Barker
Naval Education and Training Professional
Development Center Public Affairs

The Navy Credentialing Opportunities Online (COOL) app for mobile devices received a significant upgrade April 28 with the addition of advancement exam bibliographies (BIBs).

Added to the Navy COOL website last month, BIBs on COOL allows Sailors, including the Reserve forces, who are preparing for advancement examinations to access their references without the need for a Common Access Card (CAC). The direct links to the Navy COOL website BIBs enhance the functionality of the COOL app for mobile devices.

“Adding the BIBs to the Navy COOL CAC-free website was a major win for the Sailor,” said Master Chief Electronics Technician - Nuclear Power (SS) James Berhalter, command master chief for the Naval Education and Training Professional Development Center (NETPDC). “Add-

ing that same tool to the Navy COOL app makes it even more convenient, with the ability for active-duty and Reserve Sailors to prepare for advancement exams virtually anywhere.”

According to Keith Boring, Navy COOL program manager, adding the BIBs to the app is a major accomplishment, but is just one of the upgrades.

“Many of the documents in the app have been compressed, making downloading it easier,” said Boring. “We’ve also added supporting files for the Learning and Development Roadmaps, Rating Information Cards and Joint Service Transcript files. App users should see noticeable improvements after downloading the update.”

The Navy COOL app is a bring-your-own device tool designed to work on personal devices outside of the NMCI domain.

Users can download the Navy COOL app from the Apple store and Google Play Store at no cost.

To find the free Navy COOL app,

search “Navy COOL” in app stores or in your web browser. To update the existing Navy COOL app on your mobile device (if you haven’t received a notification), check the page in the device store and there will be an upgrade option -- choose ‘upgrade’ and download.

The Navy COOL office is located at the Center for Information Dominance at Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station. CID is the Navy’s learning center that delivers information warfare professionals to the Navy and joint services, enabling optimal performance of information warfare across the full spectrum of military operations.

NETPDC, located on board NAS Pensacola Saufley Field, provides products and services that enable and enhance education, training, career development, and personnel advancement throughout the Navy. Primary elements of the command include the Voluntary Education Department, the Navy Advancement Center and the Resources Management Department.



Photos by MC2 Chris Liaghat

Above: Cmdr. Todd D’Antonio, right, reads his orders at the Training Squadron Nine (VT-9) change of command ceremony on board NAS Meridian, April 29. D’Antonio relieved Cmdr. Christopher Demchak as commanding officer of VT-9. Left: Demchak speaks to the audience during ceremony. Demchak was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal for “outstanding meritorious service” as commanding officer of VT-9 since March 2015. Below: An officer removes the name plate from a jet revealing the name plate of the incoming commanding officer, D’Antonio. Below: Demchak, left, congratulates D’Antonio upon his assumption of command of VT-9. Both men thanked the squadron military and civilian staff for outstanding support and service.



● **VT-9**

While serving as squadron safety officer, he was responsible for leading the squadron’s transition to the newly introduced NP2K eight-bladed propeller and CNS/ATM “glass cockpit” aircraft modifications. His efforts during this tour culminated in his selection as the 2009 East Coast Greyhound Pilot of the Year.

In January 2010, D’Antonio accepted a Global Support Assignment (GSA) to Headquarters, U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. During this tour, he served in the Policy, Strategy, Partnering and Capabilities (J5/8) directorate for plans and plan development (J5P).

In October 2010, D’Antonio reported back to the “Rawhides” of VRC-40 for his Department head tour where he served as the operations officer and maintenance officer. He deployed in support of the French aircraft carrier FN

Charles de Gaulle (R91) and as the officer-in-charge of Detachment One aboard the USS Enterprise (CVN 65) for the ship’s final deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

From April 2013 until October 2014, D’Antonio was assigned to the staff of Naval Air Force, Atlantic in the Air Wing Readiness Office (N40) as the East Coast Flight Hour Program (FHP) manager. While there, he oversaw baseline and overseas contingency operations funding for 59 squadrons, including Six Fleet Replacement Squadrons.

D’Antonio has more than 3,000 flight hours and his personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (4 awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2 awards) and other various unit and service awards.



Mother's Day: A cautionary tale

I started dropping non-so-subtle hints last week. "You DO know that Mother's Day is coming, don't you?" I said rather loudly to my husband, Francis.

"Yeah," he replied defensively, "what about it?" "Don't you remember what happened last year?" I could tell from his blank stare that Francis was thinking about peanuts, or Greco-Roman wrestling, or "Deadliest Catch", because he had no clue what I was talking about.

It was Sunday morning, May 10th, 2015, and I was the first one awake. Surprised that no one in my family had brought me with a cup of coffee, I thought, "Surely they've got something planned for Mother's Day."

When I woke our teens for church, they were particularly grumpy. "Seriously?" Anna sassed. "I never get to sleep in!" In protest, Lilly hopped into the minivan wearing a ratty pair of jeans and flip flops.

Late, as usual, we slipped into a side pew during the first reading. Francis yawned during the gospel, Anna wouldn't hold my hand during the "Our Father," and no one but me sang the hymns. I would normally be annoyed, but I figured they were just pretending to be lazy, disrespectful and negligent, because then I'd be really surprised when they revealed their fabulous Mother's Day plans.

"Go in peace, the mass has ended," Father Kris said, adding, "And Happy Mother's Day!"

COLUMN



Lisa Smith Molinari

I was halfway down the aisle before I realized that my family was still in the pew, whispering to each other. "Oh, this is going to be fun," I thought.

Francis drove us to La Forge, a locals' favorite brunch spot. "Do you have reservations, Sir? We're all booked up," the host said politely. After exploring a few more dead ends, we got a mixed dozen in the Dunkin' Donuts Drive Thru and headed home, Francis promising that something special was in store.

Francis and the kids darted into the house, presumably to get ready for those fabulous Mother's Day plans, and I sat in our sunny backyard to get out of their way.

Suddenly, Francis, who didn't see me in the backyard, rushed out to the minivan, the tires squealing as he drove away. Fifteen minutes later he was back, and as he ran past the backyard gate, he saw me sitting there.

In his hands were a 7-11 plastic bag that appeared to be holding a greeting card, and a cellophane cone wrapped around a sad-looking bouquet. From the look in his eyes, I knew the truth.

My family had completely forgotten about Mother's Day.

If that weren't bad enough, Francis had bought me something he knows I don't like: cut flowers. When the kids were young, I loved the sticky bunches of dandelions they'd pick for me out of our backyard. I was so proud of their thoughtfulness, and I'd place the oozing stems in a little jelly jar in the center of our kitchen table. But I have never liked cut flowers bought from the store, and my family has known this for years.

Seeing Francis sneaking in the house, something

snapped. Mothers work tirelessly and selflessly to raise kids and create a homes for their families. Many, like me, put their careers aside, giving up all aspirations for professional rewards and respect, to dedicate themselves to their families. This is the one day when mom should expect a pat on the back.

Determined that my family would not "get the check in the box," I calmly walked into the house, called everyone into the kitchen and announced, "Mother's Day is hereby cancelled."

Thanks to the year-long guilt trip I put them on, I'm fairly confident that my family will have a fabulous day planned for me this year.

More not-so-subtle hints: Bring me a cup of coffee without spilling it on the staircase. Make your beds without griping. Let's go to church on time for once, and at least pretend to sing the hymns. Find a sunny spot for a family picnic, without anyone complaining that someone else took the last bag of ranch Doritos. Later, the kids can cook something for dinner that doesn't have chocolate chips, and clean up without suctioning each other with the Shop Vac. And lastly, a thoughtful homemade card with personal sentiments would be nice, instead of "Have a good Mother's Day - Hayden Molinari."

And if you must get flowers, I prefer dandelions.

A 21-year Navy spouse, Lisa Smith Molinari and her family are currently stationed in Newport, R.I. Her self-syndicated columns appear on her blog, www.themeatandpotatoesofflife.com and she recently co-authored *Stories Around the Table: Laughter, Wisdom, and Strength in Military Life* Follow Lisa@MolinariWrites.

Tips to increase sustainability

Environmental sustainability practices incorporate wise resource use as a core principle of daily activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, prevent pollution and waste, and reduce energy use. Here are some quick tips applicable in and out of the workplace!

The mode of transportation you choose and how often you use it affect fuel use, transportation costs, and environmental impact. Whether commuting long distances or making short trips, transportation choices matter.

Reduce GHG emissions from transportation by:

Adjusting your commute by walking, riding a bike, or using public transit instead of driving. If you have to drive, try carpooling

Reducing electricity use from elevator operation by taking the stairs. Burn some calories and conserve energy at the same time

Reducing unnecessary travel by replacing in-person meetings with video calls, webinars, and recorded presentations

When driving is necessary, learn how to save money on gas or buy and drive fuel efficient and alternative fuel vehicles.

Reduce, reuse, and recycle are the core principles of wise resource use. Deploying these principals preserves and protects natural resources by reducing landfill waste, energy consumption, and pollution.

Reduce pollution and waste by:

Reducing paper use by replacing printed documents like agendas and reports with electronic versions

Printing double-sided to save paper and energy when hard copies are necessary

Choosing reusable water bottles, cups, and utensils instead of disposable ones

Disposing of plastic, aluminum, and paper in the proper recycling bins.

When appliances are turned off, they continue to consume small amounts of electricity, known as standby power.

Reduce energy consumption from standby power by:

Unplugging cell phone and laptop chargers when not in use

Turning off speakers, lights, and other electrical equipment when not in use

Simplifying evening shut down by plugging all devices, except your computer, into a power strip

Trading or upgrading a desktop to a laptop, which use less energy and is portable.

-From www.energy.gov



What's on your mind...

CO SUGGESTION BOXES ARE LOCATED IN ADMIN BUILDING 255, GALLEY, FIRE STATION #1, AIR OPERATIONS AND NAVY EXCHANGE. VOICE YOUR CONCERNS AND THEY WILL BE HEARD!!!!

GET \$50

WHEN YOU REFER ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL, DOD CIVILIANS AND CONTRACTORS, AND THEIR DEPENDENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP*

In honor of Military Appreciation Month, we're saluting those who serve with this and other great military-exclusive offers on checking accounts, certificates, auto refinances and credit cards.

**ARMY
MARINE CORPS
NAVY
AIR FORCE
COAST GUARD
FAMILY**

navyfederal.org/thankyou 1.888.842.6328

Federally insured by NCUA. *Offer valid between 5/1/2016 and 5/31/2016 and can expire anytime without prior notice. Recipient is solely responsible for any personal tax liability arising out of the acceptance of these incentives. This offer may not be combined with any other new-member offers at the time of the account opening. Must be eligible to join. Eligible referees include DoD civilians, contractors, Active Duty, retired, reserve, and Guard of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, and their dependents. Any current Navy Federal member 18 or older may be a referring member. Accounts must be in good standing for credits to be processed. Recruiters are not eligible to refer recruits. \$5 minimum balance to open and maintain savings account, and to obtain bonus. Annual Percentage Yield 0.25%, effective 4/1/2016. Bonus deposited within 14 business days of account opening. Program must be mentioned at time of joining for account to be credited. Fees may reduce earnings, and rates may change. Limit five referrals per member. Navy Federal employees and their immediate family are not eligible to participate in this program. If the referred person is ineligible for membership, Navy Federal reserves the right to reclaim the referral awards and related bonuses, and to close any resulting new accounts. Referrals may only be made by members in good standing. © 2016 Navy Federal NFCU 13133 (4-16)

Lance Cpl. Tyler Clark
MATSS-1 Student
Hometown: La Palma, Calif.

Lance Cpl. Tyler Clark enjoys surfing, skating and skateboard building. He became a Marine for access to financial stability. His most memorable experience in the Marine Corps so far was the look on his father's face when he saw him for the first time since leaving for boot camp. Wearing the same uniform and marching down the same parade deck as his father was also very memorable for Clark. In his military career, he looks forward to moving out of the barracks. Clark admires his father most for raising him as a single father and for being the most motivated sergeant he has ever met. Clark is enrolled in the Marine Aviation Operations Specialist Course.

OOORAH!



Pfc. Malone Daclan
MATSS-1 Student
Hometown: Torrance, Calif.

Pfc. Malone Daclan enjoys playing basketball and video games. He joined the Marine Corps to serve his God and country. Daclan's most memorable experience so far in his career was completing the "reaper", part of the final test a Marine must go through to earn his eagle, globe and anchor. The person he admires most is Sgt. Gill from MCT because he was a smart motivator. He looks forward to deploying and traveling during his military career. He would like to get stationed at Camp Pendleton after school because he has been told that it is a Marine paradise. Daclan is enrolled in the Marine Aviation Operations Specialist Course.

40th MCAS Iwakuni Friendship Day 2016 air show demonstrates U.S.-Japan alliance

By Sgt. Antonio J. Rubio
Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni opened its gates to approximately 200,000 guests for the 40th anniversary of the MCAS Iwakuni Friendship Day Air Show, May 5. Since 1973, MCAS Iwakuni has conducted a single-day air show and open house specifically designed to foster positive relationships between the air station and Japan. This year is the 40th annual Friendship Day, offering a culturally enriching experience that displays the mutual support that the U.S. and Japan share. This annual event showcases a variety of static displays, aviation performances and demonstrations, and provides food and entertainment for guests of the largest single-day event in Iwakuni. Guests attending the event will have the unique opportunity to experience a once-in-a-lifetime air show, according to Lt. Col. Robert E. Carlson, air show coordinator and sta-

tion operations officer. "Friendship Day is MCAS Iwakuni's largest annual community outreach event, and it extends beyond the local and regional area," said Carlson. "This year is even more significant due to it being the 40th anniversary event and being an opportunity for people to show their support and encouragement to those impacted by the earthquakes in Kyushu. It promises to be a truly unique air show and open house experience." According to Col. Robert V. Boucher, commanding officer of MCAS Iwakuni, Friendship Day is an opportunity to display the solidarity with Japan and expand the relationship. This event is more than an air show, it's an event that helps reaffirm our long-standing friendship with Japan, the same friendship where personnel and resources actively supported humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts. "Friendship Day is about bringing the Iwakuni community and the station

community together," said Boucher. "Today is for local Japanese to have a better appreciation for what the Marine Corps is and what we are about. I hope that this is an educational opportunity for everyone and that we get to know each other a little bit better." The AV-8B Harrier and the MV-22 Osprey flight demonstration is one of the most sought-after aerial demonstrations offered by the U.S. military. For the first time, Friendship Day thrilled audience members with an air show demonstration that combined the maneuverability of the MV-22 Osprey and the power of the AV-8B Harrier. The same Marines and aircraft that train and deploy in support of real-world contingencies, such as the Kumamoto earthquake relief effort, performed at the air show. For this reason, only a handful of events receive this demonstration. The MAGTF is the organizational structure of the Marine Corps and is made up of four elements: command, ground combat,



Photo by Cpl. Nathan Wicks

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni hosted Friendship Day Air Show, May 5. Since 1973, MCAS Iwakuni has conducted a single-day air show and open house specifically designed to foster positive relationships between the air station and our Japanese hosts. The event offers a culturally enriching experience that displays aviation performances.

aviation combat and combat assets that perform in expeditionary environments. Located throughout the event were numerous U.S. and other aircraft static displays for visitors to take pictures with. Displays included: an F/A-18C/D Hornet, AV-8B Harriers, a MV-22B Osprey, and KC-130J Super Hercules from III Marine Expeditionary Force, and a KC-135 Stratotanker.

USS WASP, ATLANTIC OCEAN



Photo by Cpl. Ryan G. Coleman

Marines fire stinger simulation rounds aboard the USS Wasp in the Atlantic Ocean, April 17. The Marines are assigned to Medium Marine Tiltrotor Squadron 264, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, which is underway for an amphibious exercise.

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA



Photo by Cpl. Ryan G. Coleman

An aircraft flies near Las Pulgas Lake, California during Wildland Firefighting Exercise 2016 hosted by Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, May 5. The WFE combines elements of aviation and ground units from Camp Pendleton.

Safety & Energy Efficiency is Our Duty



You can save money on your heating and cooling bills by simply resetting your thermostat when you are asleep or away from home. You can do this automatically without sacrificing comfort by installing an automatic setback or programmable thermostat. Using a programmable thermostat, you can adjust the times you turn on the heating or air-conditioning according to a pre-set schedule. Programmable thermostats can store and repeat multiple daily settings (six or more temperature settings a day) that you can manually override without affecting the rest of the daily or weekly program.

Outdoor electrical safety

The beginning of summer means it is time to enjoy the weather and start playing competitive and recreational sports. Apply risk management when planning your activity. Most sports injuries can be easily anticipated and avoided if you apply your risk management appropriately. A few smart decisions go a long way toward maintaining our Navy and Marine Corps combat readiness. We all know that our force is operating at a high tempo, and it can be tempting to let off steam with some high-risk activities during leisure time. Just remember, our forces are affected just as drastically by an off-duty mishap as by one occurring at work. Have fun but be smart. Sports injuries often seem like

an inevitable part of the game, but you can do some things to help prevent them: make sure you have the proper skills and training before participating in any sport; use the proper protective gear for the particular sport you are playing; allow your body and muscles to warm up and stretch before you start participating in a game or practice; apply sunscreen and wear a hat if you can; if someone receives a soft tissue injury, immediately treat with R-I-C-E (Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevate); and schedule frequent water breaks during practices and games. Use a misting spray to keep your body cool. If you have any questions, please contact the NAS Meridian Fire Prevention Office at 601-679-3866.



MWR Sports

Naval Air Station Meridian

Captain's Cup Softball Standings

	Total Wins	Total Losses	Total Forfeits
AirOps - Blue	5	1	0
AirOps - Gold	0	6	0
Air Nat. Guard	5	0	0
Field Support	2	2	0
Goslings	2	5	0
MATSS-1	2	3	0
NTTC	0	5	0
NBHC	2	2	0
VT-9	6	1	0

May Group Exercise Schedule

All Group Exercise Classes are held in the Multi-Use room of the Fitness Center and is first-come, first-serve, with no registration required. FREE to all authorized patrons.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6am-7am	Fusion Wellbeats™	Kinetics Wellbeats™	Stomp Wellbeats™	Fit for Duty Wellbeats™	Rev Wellbeats™
7am-8am	Kinetics Wellbeats™	Stomp Wellbeats™	Fit for Duty Wellbeats™	REV Wellbeats™	Fusion Wellbeats™
4:30pm	Boot Camp Erin	Boot Camp Erin	Boot Camp Erin	Boot Camp Erin	Boot Camp Erin
7pm	Triple Threat Erin	Triple Threat Erin	Triple Threat Erin	Triple Threat Erin	Triple Threat Erin
8pm-9pm	Stomp Wellbeats™	Vibe Wellbeats™	TKO Wellbeats™	Fusion Wellbeats™	REV Wellbeats™

Certified Personal Trainers Available Free of Charge

Beverly Pritchett
Monday - Friday 5am - 1pm

Evelyn Watkins
Monday - Friday 11am - 7pm

Erin Fountain
Monday - Friday 2pm - 10pm

Call (601) 679-2379 for additional information



Military Appreciation Month 10K
May 14, 2016
7am at the Ponta Creek Community Rec Complex
Register Online at www.navymwrmeridian.com until May 13, 2016, 12:00pm

Sponsored by: NAVY FITNESS, MWR, Final MWR, USAA



Operation Megaphone

To help close out Month of the Military Child, Operation Megaphone #OMP2016 brought 38 teens together for a lock-in at the Sonny Montgomery Fitness Center, April 29. Capt. Scott Bunnay and LaTanya Hopson spoke to teens during the event which highlighted the importance of teens in leadership roles with this year's theme "Military Teens: Globally Connected - Familiar Faces in Different Places." The event also allowed participants to connect with other teens from the Gulfport base. Operation Megaphone provided the opportunity to collaborate and discuss common issues affecting military teens to help bring about change. The teens discussed dating and the issues that come along with it, social media dangers and etiquette; and burned off energy with bubble soccer, zip lining, inflatable obstacle course, meltdown challenge, game trailer, dodge ball, basketball and movies.

Photo by Erica White

The Personal Procured Move (PPM) claim office can be contacted at:
1-888-742-4467 or by e-mail: pptas.fiscn@navy.mil.
For the members convenience, claim packages can also be e-mailed to the above address.



Sale... Or

BOATS/CAMPERS/TRAILERS

1983 McGregor Sailboat, 22', 10 HP outboard, all rigging and hardware, custom built trailer. \$4,000. Call 601-513-6374.

1996 Ragin Cajun Bass Boat, 200hp Mariner, Loran depth finder and a GPS/depth finder duel livewells mortar guide trolling motor. Runs great and fast. \$4,500. Seats in good condition. Call Clint 601-479-7043.

2006 Fleetwood Discovery 39 ft. 3 slide, Cat Diesel motor home. New tires & A/C, "fully equipped," original owners, non-smokers. Serious Inquiries Only. Will e-mail pictures, full information or set appointment to see RV call 601-479-6145.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Crate and barrel glider and ottoman, pillow included, cover on both are machine washable. Slip cover can be ordered through crate and barrel with item code located on the bottom of the glider. Original price \$900. Very good condi-

tion, moving and don't need anymore, great for new moms! Asking \$150. **Computer or office desk**, great condition. Has four USB locations in the desk and room for computer cords to be hidden. Asking \$40. **King (horizontal) or full/twin (vertical) headboard**. Squares can be easily removed and reupholstered. Real wood frame. Newly reupholstered. Asking \$50. **Kids train table**, good condition. Asking \$40. All items are negotiated. Call or text for photos 812-219-9376.

MOTORCYCLES/GEAR/ATV

2004 Honda TRX450R four wheeler \$2600, **2005 Honda TRX250EX** four wheeler \$1600, **2002 Yamaha TTR-125L** dirt bike \$800, and **2006 KTM 250SX-F** dirt bike \$2200. All in good shape ready to go. Overseas move forcing sale. Make offer ready to deal! Call Ben at 843-597-4221.

2007 Suzuki GSXR 1000, less than 7,000 mile garage kept. Orange and Black, no damage, \$7500 (601) 462-1043.

2012 Kawasaki 900 Vulcan

Custom Classic motorcycle; 550 miles. Asking \$6400 pay-off. Call 601-527-5717.

AUTOMOBILES, ETC.

NEW! 2015 Nissan Altima SL: \$21,500 fully loaded with tinted windows 23k miles. Call 601-604-0297.

1991 Corvette Coupe, white, red leather interior, 6-speed manual, ZR-1 wheels with extra wheel and tire, two tops. 89k miles. Call 601-917-9181.

2008 Jeep Liberty, 75k miles, 4-wheel drive, automatic, has a roof rack and a tow hitch, as well as skylight. V6, 3.7 liter, 4-spd w/overdrive. If you want some serious off-road ability in a small SUV, look no further. \$13,000, negotiable. Available July 2015. Call 434-604-0428. Text for photos or Carfax report.

HOMES/APARTMENTS

NEW! For Sale: Home in the Meridian downtown area, but willing to rent, 2 story, approximately 2800 sf, 3 BD/2 BA. Call John at 228-380-1139.

NEW! For Sale: \$225,000

4 BD/3 BA home in West Lauderdale school district; 2133 square feet -- 1 acre lot, 1 owner; will help with closing costs. Listing with a realtor May 15th (will hold off if I have earnest money and a signed contract) Call 601-604-0297.

For Sale: 3 BD/1 BA home at 3624 Poplar Springs Drive, Meridian. Great home with lots of character, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, skylights, huge fenced backyard, 3/4 acre with lots of trees. Asking \$105,000. Contact Tricia Collier at Pigford and Corey Realtors.

For Rent: 2BD/1BA, fenced yard 2 carports with a 10x12 storage shed (approximately), central air and gas heat. Walking distance to MCC off Hwy 19. New paint, roof, windows, and flooring. Alarm system and lawn care available. \$600 per month, \$600 security deposit. A 3 BD is available, but access to washer/dryer room requires walking through it. Stove, refrigerator and dryer included. Available after July 15. Call John at 601-484-7244.

For Sale: 4BD/2 full BA, very quiet settled neighborhood,

Poplar Springs School District - Meridian. Asking \$90,000 as is and will accept serious offers. Contact Bettyalford@outlook.com or 601-527-5244.

For Rent: 4 BD/3 BA located home on Windmill Drive about 10 minutes from NAS. Split bedroom plan with two master bedrooms. \$1300 a month/\$1300 deposit. Call 601-227-1493. Family or multiple single individuals will be accepted.

For Sale: 3 BD/2 BA, 1500 sq. ft. brick home with carport and outbuildings. Additional carport and plenty of room to build on adjacent lot. Lots 53 and 54 for sale also. Perfect location with a great view of Dalewood Lake. Located at 3678 North Lake Dr. across from Little Beach. Call 870-223-3197.

For Rent: 1 BD/1 BA, furnished apartment in quiet neighborhood in North Meridian, 20 minutes from NAS, convenient to North Hills shopping area and Meridian Community College. \$650 per month, all utilities paid including DirecTV and high-speed internet. \$100

security deposit required. Contact Phil at 601-479-7962 or on base at 601-679-2485.

For Sale by Owner: 3 BD/2 BA, 2100 square feet living area, 900 square feet basement. 3 acres of land. Call 601-490-0692 before 7 p.m. for details.

For Sale: 3 BD ranch-style home on 1.3 acres, finished basement. \$89,000 Call Bill at 601-681-6609 or 601-481-5124.

MISCELLANEOUS

Remington Model 700 CDL 300 Win Mag with leopard scope mounts and 1 inch rings. With 12.5 boxes of ammo (worth \$600) \$1000 firm. Call 601-681-6609 or 601-481-5124.

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

To submit an item to the "Sale...Or" column, e-mail adam.prince@navy.mil. Deadline is the Thursday prior to publication.

Listings in the "Sale...Or" column are free for anyone who works at NAS Meridian. You can purchase an ad for a business or organization in "The Skyline," by calling The Meridian Star at 601-693-1551 -- ask for Elizabeth or email: advertising@themeridianstar.com

Dunford: Narrative, Momentum in Anti-ISIL fight has shifted to Iraqis

By Jim Garamone
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

The narrative and the momentum in Iraq has definitely shifted from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant to Iraq and its coalition allies, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said at the conclusion of his latest trip here.

This was Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford's fourth visit to the country since being named as DoD's highest ranking military officer. When he came to Iraq in August last year, ISIL still controlled the plot and momentum in Iraq and Syria.

In August, he said, "the narrative was that there was inevitability in ISIL's success in Iraq, the confidence in Iraqi security forces was really low."

As recently as May 2015, the terror group was still grabbing ground from Iraq,

Dunford told journalists traveling with him.

The chairman said he now uses the negative reports from Iraq and Syria in August 2015 as the baseline of the efforts in the country.

"I am not unmindful of the challenges, nor am I going to blow sunshine ...," he said, "but when I look at August and I look today there [are] a couple of things that are indisputable," he said. "No. 1 is ISIL holds far less ground than they held last year. No. 2, we've had a significant impact on their resources."

A third change is the impact operations have had on ISIL's senior leaders. And finally, "their freedom of movement has been severely limited," the chairman said, and the number of foreign fighters that has been able to get in the country has been significantly cut.

"Another thing that is indisputable is that Iraqi security forces have gone from 'Hey, when are they going to start doing something?' to now having secured Ramadi and most of Hit and they are moving out the Euphrates River Valley farther into Anbar province," Dunford said.

Iraqi forces are also moving up the Tigris River Valley and are now just south of Makhmur and starting to establish positions "that will ultimately lead to operations against ISIL in Mosul," he said.

The trajectory is good for the Iraqi forces, Dunford said. Success breeds success, and Iraqi forces are having successes against the terror group. They are also applying pressure against the group across the country, he noted.

Coalition forces in Iraq operate at the express request of the Iraqi government. "We're filling in the gaps of the Iraqi security forces that are doing the fighting," the chairman said. "We didn't fight for them in Ramadi and we didn't fight for them in Hit, and with two exceptions, we didn't bleed for them. They have been bleeding themselves and conducting the operations."

And, Dunford said, he expects more progress. He met with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi yesterday. "In terms of level of cooperation, and his willingness to accept our support and work with us, we have a partner in Baghdad," he said.

Abadi not only accepted the forces the coalition has offered but also a U.S. increase in forces, Dunford said.

"Frankly, we spoke last night about the need for cooperation with the Kurds and I was able to deliver a message today to President [of the Iraqi Kurdistan region] Masoud Barzani that Prime Minister Abadi would work with his folks to get a plan developed for Mosul right away, and that he would consult with Barzani soonest to ensure that all the stakeholders agreed upon the plan," the chairman said.

This is a significant change, and will help all the stakeholders in actions against ISIL, he added. "There are defi-

nitely challenges and Mosul is not going to be tomorrow," Dunford said. "There are real political issues that need to be worked through in the coming weeks."

First, the chairman said, there has to be what Barzani called "a plan for the day after Mosul." All players need to know what the plan is after Mosul is liberated, he said. Looming questions to be answered include determining who patrols the neighborhoods, who ensures people in the city of around 1 million are fed and who ensures ISIL doesn't just go to ground inside the city, Dunford said.

But it is more than that, the chairman added. "The Sunnis have to be enfranchised," he said. "There's got to be some accommodation for Kurdish interests with the government in Baghdad dominated by, obviously, the Shia."

That's not news, Dunford said, it's what has to happen "to get to a multi-sectarian unified Iraq."

Not all this has to happen before liberating Mosul, "but there has to be an agreed-upon grand vision as the detailed plan for Mosul is written," he said.

The next step in the sequence is the continued generation of forces for the operation, the chairman said.

Dunford stressed that the offensive against ISIL in Mosul has already started, even though Iraqi troops are not yet directly attacking the city.

"It's like tightening a noose," he said. "We tighten the noose with positioning forces. We're tightening it with strikes. We're tightening it with targeted strikes against leadership and we're stopping the flow of fighters between Iraq and Syria."

Under the best circumstances, the chairman said he expects to see Iraqi forces continue to move up the river toward Mosul and make their way into the city to secure it. "It will take time," Dunford said. "This is incredibly difficult and complex. This is a million people in a complex urban terrain with a determined enemy who has had a long time to prepare. This is going to be a tough fight."



Photo by MC2 Dominique A. Pineiro

An Air Force crew chief boards the C-17 Globemaster III that will transport Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on his departure from Irbil, Iraq, April 22. Dunford visited Iraq to assess the campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

YARD OF THE MONTH



Submitted photo

Balfour Beatty Communities is happy to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Alderson for having the best lawn at NAS Meridian Homes- Juniper Ridge.



Submitted photo

Balfour Beatty Communities is happy to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Price for having the best lawn at NAS Meridian Homes- Pine Crest.

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
1999 Antioch Rd • Columbia, MS 39205 | www.amb-church.com
APRILEE CLEVELAND HAYES, SR., PASTOR
THEOLOGY SCHOOL CLASSES
BIPT403 The Theology of Relationships
Dr. Gary Stewart June 9-11 (Register by 6/1/16)
BINT124 The Book of Galatians
Dr. Ronald E. Cottle July 7-9 (Register by 7/1/16)
Dot Stamps, Academic Dean 601-480-5417
Office Administrator: Mrs. Redia Cannon 601-917-1368
Churches from 1-2014 to 2015. Churches that got 104 of 1-2015, from Hwy 60 N for approx. 20 miles, turn right on Hickory Grove Rd, towards 1-2 miles, turn left on Antioch Rd. This Church is on the right.

WMDN 24 FOX 30 WGBD 30 UNCE MERIDIAN COZI 24 MERIDIAN THE MERIDIAN STAR
MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Honoring Outstanding Teachers and Educators in East Mississippi and West Alabama
Do you have a teacher who has made an impact on you or your child's life?
Do you have a teaching colleague whose style you admire?
Nominate them for the Golden Apple Award! Then, encourage others to do the same!
Nominations may be submitted by students, parents, faculty, or community members.
Nominations must be someone employed full-time in the K-12 education field (public or private) within the following counties: Lauderdale, Neshoba, Kemper, Clarke, Newton, Choctaw & Sumter
EMEP A Southern Energy Corporation L A Z BOY Live life Comfortably. MISSISSIPPI POWER A SOUTHERN COMPANY
Woodstock FURNITURE AVERY RICHARD SCHWARTZ & ASSOCIATES, P.A. ATTORNEYS AT LAW
T & D Furniture* LaBiche Jewelers* John O'Neil Johnson Toyota Southern Pipe and Supply* Newell Paper Company* EBCO Cooperation Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling Company
To nominate a teacher, log on to wmdn.net, wgbctv.com, goldenappleawards.com or meridianstar.com

15% Discount - Military
Educators | Healthcare | Police | Fire
Mom 2 Be
...Not your Mother's maternity store!
Now accepting Tricare prescriptions for breastpumps & accessories!

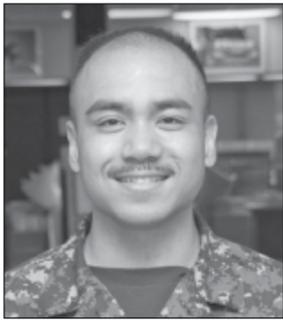
"I was able to get my breastpump and supplies through Mom 2 Be with ease. I took my prescription in, they knew exactly what paperwork and info was needed for Tricare. As soon as it all cleared, they notified me and had a bag ready for my pick-up at the store. They were great."
Littlewoods Plaza (across from Bell)
449 Wildcat-Wise Road | Columbus, MS
662.570.4991 Tuesday - Saturday 10-6
mom2bematernity.com

If you have any questions or we can be of any help please contact the NAS Fire Prevention office at (601) 679-3866.

IT'S YOUR TURN...

This week, in honor of Mother's Day, we asked, "Why are you grateful for your mother?"

By MC2 Chris Liaghat



YNSN Jerahmeel Aveno
NTTC Student
"I'm grateful for my mother because of her unconditional love."



PSSR Sidney Dihangbala
NTTC Student
"I'm grateful for everything my mother has sacrificed for me to make sure I had the best of everything."



LSSR Nick Tinson
NTTC Student
"She has given me the support I need, not just for the Navy, but in life as well."



Pfc. Maria Jose Rojas
MATSS-1 Student
"She motivated me to get this far, and also it makes me appreciate her more being this far away from her."



Pfc. Tanya Castillobalbuena
MATSS-1 Student
"Throughout all my struggles she has always been there for support and she gives me a good role model to look up to."

Fleet & Family Support Center

Military Spouse Appreciation Month

Military Spouse Appreciation Month is an occasion to honor the Navy spouses who support our Sailors and manage the balancing act of military life, family, career and children day after day. Spouses, we thank you for your service through deployments and relocations, and for your resilience while stationed miles away from friends and family. President Ronald Reagan recognized the profound importance of spouse commitment to the readiness and well-being of military members when he declared May 23, 1984, the first Military Spouse Day.

The Department of Defense has since standardized the date, establishing the Friday before Mother's Day every year as Military Spouse Appreciation Day, and May as Military Spouse Appreciation Month. Join us in recognizing, celebrating and thanking our military spouses.

Military spouses are often unsung heroes, those who support their spouses' unusual jobs, move

every few years, and hold everything together at home while their service member is deployed. The military spouse is a special breed of person. Like their service member counterparts, military spouses are bound not to just a job but an adventure. Relocating many times during a typical career, sometimes into vastly different cultures, they must forge new lives for themselves and their families over and over again. Yet, the vast majority of military spouses maintain an unprecedented commitment and enthusiasm.

Even more amazing, many military spouses go out of their way to contribute to each new community in which they land. Logging hours of volunteer service, giving their all to every new job, looking for or creating activities for their children, military spouses tackle the challenges of even those less-than-desirable relocations by improving the communities they inhabit.

Another huge challenge that mil-

itary spouses manage with grace is taking charge of the whole household during deployments. Becoming essentially single parents, they must juggle child-rearing, finances, home & vehicle maintenance and the stress of being separated from their partners, often while working full time. Throw in the added anxiety of a service member's dangerous or wartime assignment, and it's hard to fathom how military spouses handle it all.

But they do, over and over. Many also take on added responsibilities, through spouses' clubs or other formal or informal support systems, in order to lend a helping hand to their fellow military spouses.

Make sure you take time this month to thank a military spouse for all their courage, perseverance, and personal sacrifice in support of those who support and defend us all. FFSC recognizes the importance and challenge of being military spouses, and we salute you all.

- From FFSC Staff

FFSC Briefs

To register for any of the following workshops, please call the FFSC at 601-679-2360. The class may not be presented if no one registers, so make sure you call if you're interested! Can't make the scheduled time? Call anyway - the workshop facilitator may be able to work with you one-on-one, give you materials, or let you know when the class will be offered again. All classes held at FFSC (Building 405) unless otherwise noted

10 Steps to a Federal Job

May 18 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 & analyzing federal job announcements; crafting a federal-style resumé and an electronic resumé; the incredible importance of including "keywords" in your application; addressing "KSAs"; and much more!

Smooth Move

May 19 from 1-2 p.m. This webinar offers tips to help make your move as painless as possible! Topics include hints on shipping household goods, travel and financial planning, entitlements, family preparation and ways to cope with relocation. Send an email request for course registration to livewellresilientweb@navy.mil. The request should include the title of the webinar that you would like to register for and your email address. Please remember to include the webinar title in the subject line of your email message. After you complete your online registration, a confirmation will be sent to the email address you provided. The confirmation will include your classroom link for the selected webinar and should be retained for class-room access.

Children's Craft Day

May 24 from 3-4 p.m. For children ages 6-12. Join us at FFSC to celebrate the beginning of summer with cool crafts. Refreshments will be served. Registration is required for preparation of materials.

Career Technical Training: Transition GPS Optional Track

May 25-26 from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The purpose of the Career Technical Training Track of the GPS program, taught by the VA, is to assist those seeking job-ready skills and industry-recognized credential in shorter-term training programs.

We remember: A prelude to summer

The month of May gets many thinking about Memorial Day, the unofficial kick off to summer, barbecues and a long holiday weekend. However, Memorial Day was originally set aside as a day of remembrance to honor those who paid the ultimate price to ensure our freedom.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it was dedicated to honoring the fallen of the Civil War. The Civil War connection held fast until World War I, when Memorial Day expanded to honor all who give their lives in service to our country. Today, when we remember fallen service members, we should also take time to recognize the sacrifices Gold Star family members make when a father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter or other loved one

dies in service to the nation.

The Navy Gold Star Program declares the entire month of May as Gold Star Awareness Month and dedicates May to recognizing Gold Star families. The Navy recognizes that no one has given more for the nation than the families of the fallen. As Memorial Day approaches, all Americans should think about the sacrifices made by military service members and their families: remember those who died and will no longer be able to celebrate a birthday, an accomplishment or a special family event, as well as those families who will have an empty seat at their tables...

- From FFSC Staff

NEX gives back to students with A-OK Student Reward Program

By Kristine M. Sturkie
NEXCOM Public Affairs

The Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) has been offering students a chance to help pay for college through its A-OK Student Reward Program since 1997. The A-OK Student Reward Program offers all qualified students to participate in a quarterly drawing for monetary awards of \$2,500, \$1,500, \$1,000 or \$500 for a total of \$5,500 per quarter. The next drawing will be held at the end of May 2016.

Any eligible full-time student that has a B-grade point average equiva-

lent or better, as determined by their school system, may enter the drawing. Homeschooled students can also qualify with acknowledgement that the student has a "B" average or equivalent record of accomplishment. Eligible students include dependent children of active duty military members, reservists and military retirees enrolled in 1st 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 re-

port card.

To enter the drawing, stop by any NEX with a current report card or progress report and have a NEX associate verify the eligibility. Then fill out an entry card and obtain an A-OK ID which entitles the student to 19 discount coupons for NEX products and services. Along with the award, each winner will receive a lapel pin, certificate and medallion ribbon "In Honor of Academic Excellence."

Since the program's inception, NEXCOM has awarded over \$640,000 to students with the help of its generous vendor partners.

Raising Awareness



Photos by MC2 Chris Liaghat

Above: Jim Copeland, NAS Meridian community liaison officer, talks to Sailors and civilians at the Emergency Operations Center booth educating visitors on emergency preparedness. Left: Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Diana Shields, left, stands behind an informational table while a visitor speaks to Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program Director Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Bobbi Coleman-Johnson. The purpose was to raise awareness of the Navy's sexual assault and substance abuse programs and services. Both events were held at the Commissary April 29.

NORTHEAST LAUDERDALE NJROTC ...



Photo by MC2 Chris Liaghat
 Master Chief Dexter Deen, right, presents the Most Improved Unit Achievement Award for Area 8 with Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) Naval Science Instructor retired Senior Chief Kent Malone at Northeast Lauderdale High School Awards Program, May 5. NAS Meridian is a sponsor of the Northeast NJROTC program, which was founded in 1971. The program also included a retirement ceremony for Master Chief Deen.

Happenings at NTTC:

Rear Adm. Haley visit flag writers course



Photos by Tom Childress
 Above: LSC(SW/AW) Jose Escobar, left, recites the oath of enlistment, presided over by Cmdr. Michael Moran, commanding officer of NTTC. Chief Escobar reenlisted for six years in the Supply Schoolhouse. Right: Rear Adm. J.R. Haley, Commander, Naval Air Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, was the guest speaker at YN "C" School Class 16030 graduation ceremony. Haley commended the Navy's newest Flag Writers for completing their training and congratulated them on their many accomplishments.



Military OneSource.com
 A 24/7 Resource for Military Members, Spouses & Families
 1-800-342-9647

Landmark Realty LLC
 Mona Boykin Clayton
 Your Real Estate Connection
 Happily dedicated to turning your dreams into reality...
 9093 East Parkway North
 Lauderdale, MS 39335
 (601) 480-2427 MBR & MLS Member

NISSAN of MERIDIAN ANNOUNCES
MILITARY BASE EMPLOYEES GET AN EXTRA \$1000 DISCOUNT
GUARANTEED SATISFACTION
 Or call me on my cell phone at **601-667-9743**
2016 NISSAN ALTIMA
ONLY \$179 PER MONTH*
NISSAN of MERIDIAN
 1200 N Frontage Road, Meridian, MS
 601-693-6821 | www.nissanofmeridian.com

Wade Folmer
 General Sales Manager
 Nissan of Meridian

NISSAN
 Innovation that excites

*Stock Number 333758 MSRP \$24,078. Lease \$1828 Military Discount, Lease \$1900 Rebate, Lease \$2900 Customer Down, 36 Month Lease at \$179 plus tax. Subject to prior sale. Must take delivery from dealer stock. Must qualify for NMAED financing up to 6%. Must be active with current ID Military or retired Military with DD214 to qualify. Sales promotion ends April 30, 2016.