

Joint Base Journal

Vol. 7, No. 39

September 30, 2016

News and information for and about
Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling

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JOINT BASE ANACOSTIA-BOLLING

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Kids sprint
to
NFL Play 60 fun

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U.S. Navy photo by Eric Ritter

JBAB showcases family support to Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force

Story and photos by Michelle L. Gordon
Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling Public Affairs

Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling welcomed Hitomi Takei to the base Sept. 26 to showcase family support programs in place for service members and their families.

As the spouse of Admiral Tomohisa Takei, Chief of Staff of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), Mrs. Takei said she wanted to gain a better understanding of the U.S. Navy's family support system. She referenced the 9.0 magnitude earthquake that struck Japan in 2011 as one example of the need for improvement.

"After the great earthquake in 2011 [we] noticed the importance of needing family support, because we had not had that kind of great disaster," she said. "We had a lot of challenges. You have such a great system in the U.S. Navy, so we need to know how to build-up the system in Japan."

During her trip Mrs. Takei received briefings about Fleet and Family Readiness programs, toured CDC II and JBAB Library, and watched a performance by the Navy Ceremonial Guard Drill Team.



Hitomi Takei, spouse of Admiral Tomohisa Takei the Chief of Staff of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) visited Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling Sept. 26 to learn more about the U.S. Navy's family support programs. During her visit, she received a briefing from Rick Kozlowski, director of Fleet and Family Readiness for Naval District Washington. The briefing included information about the Ombudsman program, on-base child care and other morale services offered throughout the fleet.



Children from Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling's Child Development Center II presented gifts they made to welcome Hitomi Takei, spouse of Admiral Tomohisa Takei, Chief of Staff of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force. Hitomie Takei visited JBAB Sept. 26 to gain a better understanding of the U.S. Navy's family support system.

JBAB October Promotions

By Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling Public Affairs

Congratulations to everyone who was promoted:
Chief Master Sgt. Kevin W. Bragg, from the Defense Intelligence Agency
Chief Master Sgt. Sara J. Hill, from Detachment 4 Global Activities Squadron
Senior Master Sgt. Gregory D. Lipscomb, from the 635th Air Force Petroleum Office
Master Sgt. Michael E. Booth, from the Defense Intelligence Agency
Master Sgt. Zachary J. Kuns, from the United States Honor Guard
Tech. Sgt. Caress N. Patrick, from Detachment 130 AFOTC Northeast Region
Staff Sgt. Thomas M. Anderson III, from the United States Honor Guard
Staff Sgt. Richard L. Dixon Jr., from the National Air and Space Intelligence Center

Staff Sgt. Joshua C. Sievers, from the 579 Medical Operation Squadron
Staff Sgt. Marc T. Thurman, from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Senior Airman Malcolm R. Brown from the United States Honor Guard
Senior Airman Esperanza I. Hernandez, from the 579 Medical Operation Squadron
Senior Airman Tyler W. Reynolds, from the United States Honor Guard
Senior Airman Christopher J. Rosa, from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Senior Airman Maggie E. Stanley, from the United States Honor Guard
Senior Airman Zachary W. Talley, from the United States Honor Guard
Airman 1st Class Jordan L. Cornelius, from the United States Honor Guard
Airman Monica J. Hayden, from the United States Honor Guard
Airman Dominique Hedges, from the United States Honor Guard
Airman Jeremy W. Luning, from the United States Honor Guard
Airman Mason Yu, from the United States Honor Guard

COMMANDERS PICK- 6						
	CAPT Mays JBAB CDR 10-8	Col Blanchette JBAB Vice CDR 12-6	CMSgt Kloeppel JBAB SEL 6-12	Col Raduege WHCA CDR 10-8	LT Miller Coast Guard CDR 11-7	CDR Reyes Navy CG CDR 11-7
Week 4						
Stan. @ Wash.	Washington	Washington	Stanford	Stanford	Washington	Stanford
Wis. @ Mich.	Michigan	Michigan	Wisconsin	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan
Lou. @ Clem.	Louisville	Clemson	Louisville	Louisville	Louisville	Louisville
Car. @ Atl.	Panthers	Panthers	Falcons	Falcons	Panthers	Panthers
K.C. @ Pitt.	Steelers	Steelers	Steelers	Steelers	Steelers	Steelers
Oak. @ Bal.	Ravens	Ravens	Raiders	Ravens	Ravens	Ravens

JBAB hosts NFL Salute to Play 60



NFL Players time children during a 50-yard dash competition as part of the NFL Play 60 event. Winners of the station competitions will be acknowledged on the field before this Sunday's Redskins' game.



Play 60 coaches show some dance moves that can help keep children in shape and how to have fun doing it. The Salute to Play 60 Military Challenge will also be coming back to JBAB next year.



Former Redskins Super Bowl winning quarterback Doug Williams signs the shirt of an NFL Play 60 attendee during the event at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Sept. 26.

Story and photos by Eric Ritter

By Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling Public Affairs

Members of the Washington Redskins football team, past and present, emphasized the importance of play as a way to combat the ongoing national battle with childhood obesity.

The Salute to Play 60 Military Challenge is a partnership between the Washington Redskins and the military community.

"Basically it's geared toward getting [kids] outside to play 60 minutes a day," said Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling Commanding Officer Navy Capt. Frank Mays. "When I say play, I'm not talking about getting on your video games. I'm talking about actual physical exercise. For us in the military, we have to be fit and ready at all times, so we have to do about 60 minutes of physical activity almost every day."

According to former Redskins quarterback and 1988 Superbowl MVP, Doug Williams, the relationship with the military is close, and it's only natural they want to see military children lead a healthy lifestyle through play.

"Since I've been [in the DC area], all we talk

about is what the military does for us," he said. "This is our opportunity to give back to them. To see everyone who showed up to have fun, and to see the players who volunteered to be here on their off day, is just great. All it takes is rolling up your sleeves for 60 minutes a day and having fun [to start toward a healthier lifestyle]."

Around 250 Children from military installations throughout the National Capital Region came to JBAB. They were placed in color-coded groups based on their installation and teamed up with Redskins celebrity coaches which consisted of players Jamison Crowder, Pierre Garcon, Arie Kouandjio, Anthony Lanier, and Isaiah Williams. Several wives of players, cheerleaders, and other members of the Redskins' staff were also on hand to help as celebrity coaches.

After being paired with their celebrity coaches, the children went off to different stations and competed in events that children could do as a healthy form of daily physical play like running, jumping, ball throwing, and even dancing.

Doctors and leaders throughout the country have acknowledged that obesity among the country's youth is a growing problem which is proving to have negative longer term effects.



JBAB Commanding Officer, Navy Capt. Frank Mays greets the crowd of 250 children and explains why exercising 60 minutes a day is important for healthy lifestyles.

So, for Williams, the Play 60 program is more important than ever toward contributing to a healthier country and future.

"We all know obesity is a problem here," Williams said. "If we can get it into their mind that getting outside and playing is good for them, then it's the direction we need to take. Having these players and coaches here to show them how being fit can help



Redskins wide receiver Pierre Garcon looks on as kids test their jumping ability at one of the competition stations during the NFL Play 60 event at JBAB.

them is a great way to entice them to do that."

The winners of the station competitions will be acknowledged on the field before this Sunday's Redskins game against Cleveland.

Joint Base Journal

JOINT BASE ANACOSTIA-BOLLING
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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JBAB kids find way to Sesame Street

Story and photos by Christopher Hurd
Joint Base Journal

Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling kids danced, laughed and sang along with Elmo and his friends during the Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families Sept. 22 and 23 at the base Youth Center.

Each day the event featured two shows, 'Katie is Moving to a New Base' and 'Katie's Family Transitions to Civilian Life.' The shows were designed as a way to entertain while also providing a way to touch on key topics military kids and families face.

"We really believe that when one family member serves, the entire family serves," said Nicole McClendon, USO tour manager. "This is a way to let our youngest military family members know that we understand what they are going through. The shows are like we are hand delivering a live, singing and dancing thank you card to all of our military families letting them know that we care and we know it's not always easy."

The Sesame Street/USO Experience for Mil-

itary Families started in 2008 with their first show called 'Elmo's Dad is Deployed.' In 2011, a new character named Katie was added to help military children relate to the Sesame Street characters. That's when they introduced 'Katie is Moving to a New Base.' Following a great reception for the show, they decided to touch on other topics and added 'Katie's Family Transitions to Civilian Life.'

Bases have the option to have one or both shows depending on their needs.

During the event, kids received USO bandannas, an Elmo toy, as well as a chance to meet some of their favorite characters in person. That was something Theresa Hiatt, military spouse and Navy veteran who attended the show Sept. 22, says was a treat for her 18-month-old son.

"To see those great characters for my little one was super fun," she said. "He thought it was crazy, like 'Wow! My favorite characters are life-sized.' That was really interesting."

For more information on upcoming shows, or to get a copy of the group photo taken at each show, visit www.uso.org/sesame.



JBAB participates in Bells Across America to honor fallen service members

Story and photos by Michelle L. Gordon
Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling Public Affairs

Joint Base -Bolling stopped to reflect Sept. 22 as 54 bells rang out during a remembrance ceremony in honor of fallen service members from throughout Naval District Washington.

Held in conjunction with Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day, which is observed on the last Sunday of September each year, Bells Across America commemorates the contributions, commitments, and sacrifices made by fallen service members.

"It started in Navy Region Southeast last year, and this year, it rolled out across the Navy," said Rick Kozlowski, director of Fleet and Family Readiness for Naval District Washington. "The intent was to have each [Bells Across America] ceremony on the same day all across the Navy."

The ceremony was a little extra special for Amy Looney, whose husband Navy Lt. Brendan Looney was killed in a helicopter crash Sept. 21, 2010.

"Yesterday was the sixth anniversary of his helicopter crash. He was part of SEAL Team 3, and he was on the tail end of his final operation about to come home when things did not go well," she recalled. "One thing led to another, and he, along with eight other service members, all perished on that day."



Seaman Kenyon Chrisp, a Navy Ceremonial Guardsman, rings the bell 54 times at the inaugural Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling Bells Across America ceremony held Sept. 22. The ceremony honored 50 fallen service members from throughout Naval District Washington and then the bell was rung four additional times for those fallen, but not named.

Amy said although it's difficult to be a Gold Star spouse, she attends events like this because of the sense of community among the survivors.

"Unfortunately, no one wants to be a part of this group, but it is nice to have other survivors who understand the different parts of that journey after you lose a loved one," she said. "You



Navy Gold Star families attended a Bells Across America remembrance ceremony at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling Sept. 22. Held in conjunction with Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day, which is observed on the last Sunday of September each year, Bells Across America commemorates the contributions, commitments, and sacrifices made by fallen service members.

know, grief is a wide rollercoaster of ups-and-downs throughout the process, and I think at different times, you need different people who can help with some of the issues that you're dealing with at that time."

Basmattie and Bhola Bishundat also attended the ceremony, and they echoed what Amy said about the Gold Star community. They lost their only son, Chris "Romeo," in the Pentagon attack on 9/11.

"I spoke to Romeo that morning at 8:30 a.m.," said Basmattie. "He called his best friend and he called his girlfriend. He did not get them, so he

left them both a message, and he called me. We just chit chatted."

She chuckled as she remembered their conversation from that morning. She said he had recently purchased a new car, but he didn't want to drive it every day so he asked her to get the number of a used car he had seen. He wanted to test drive it later that day. He told her he loved her, and they said "good-bye."

Less than an hour later American Airlines Flight 77 slammed into the building, killing all 59 passengers onboard and 125 personnel in the Pentagon – including Romeo.

"It helps," the Bishundats said in unison when asked about attending Gold Star events. "We don't have close family here, so we feel included," added Basmattie. "We can relate to one another, because we all know what heartbreak is like."

The Navy Gold Star program is designed for families of service members who die while on active duty. It was launched Oct. 1, 2014 to provide long-term, holistic survivor assistance and support. It is an all-inclusive program that serves all military survivors, regardless of their loved one's military service branch, location, or manner of death.

The NDW Gold Star Program currently provides assistance for 527 survivors of 255 families. For more information about the program, contact Pam Valliere at 202-433-3059.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic Services Reconciliation Sundays @ 0900 Chapel Center Rosary Sundays @ 0910 Chapel Center Mass (Chapel Center) Tuesdays @ 1130 Wednesdays @ 1130 Thursdays @ 1130 Fridays @ 0700 Saturdays @ 1700 Sundays @ 0930	Protestant Services Contemporary Sundays @ 0900 Historic Chapel Traditional Sundays @ 1100 Historic Chapel Gospel Sundays @ 1130 Chapel Center Sunday School Sep-May 0930-1030 Chapel Center
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Christmas Cantata singers needed

Courtesy of Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling Chapel

Announcing this year's Christmas Cantata, "JESUS!" Please come and be part of this powerful musical, celebrating the season of Christ's birth and honoring the gift of our Savior. Rehearsals will be held Thursday evenings at 7:15 p.m. in the Historic Chapel. Voices of every range are needed, including young voices, ages 6 – 11 years old. The Christmas Cantata will be presented on Dec. 11, in the JBAB Chapel Center. For more information, please contact Gee Soo Hall at 202-583-5304 or pianogeessoo@verizon.net.

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AFDW celebrates the U.S. Air Force’s 69th birthday with a military tattoo



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY JIM LOTZ
Members of the U.S. Air Force Band and Honor Guard along with support elements from Air Force District of Washington, 11th Wing, and 11th Operations Group, presented the 2016 Air Force Tattoo Sept. 22, 2016, on the Ceremonial Lawn, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN JORDYN FETTER
Members of the U.S. Air Force Band and Honor Guard along with support elements from Air Force District of Washington, 11th Wing, and 11th Operations Group, presented the 2016 Air Force Tattoo Sept. 22, 2016, on the Ceremonial Lawn, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C.

By Air Force District of Washington, Public Affairs

Precision, pride and teamwork were hallmarks of the night as Airmen from across the Air Force District of Washington (AFDW) commemorated the Air Force’s 69th birthday with a military tattoo on the Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling Ceremonial Lawn, Sept. 22.

The theme “American Airmen . Bringing AIRPOWER to the Joint Fight” was woven throughout the celebration as elements of the U.S. Air Force Band and the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard brought to life the rich heritage, history, and culture of America’s youngest military branch, demonstrating the first Air Force Chief of Staff’s, Gen. Carl “Tooe” Spaatz, sentiment that, “We better be prepared to dominate the skies above the surface of the earth, or be prepared to be buried beneath it.”

Members of the Spaatz family, as well as some of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, were in attendance to watch the tattoo.

The military tattoo is a 300- year-old tradition dating back to the British Army of King William, III. Today, tattoo ceremonies are held around the world, showcasing the excellence and readiness of military troops exhibiting the precision and teamwork essential for mission success.

Co-hosting this year’s tattoo was the Secretary of the Air Force, the honorable Deborah Lee James, and the newly-appointed 21st Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. David Goldfein. Honorary attendees were air chiefs from our NATO allied countries. Also attending were government leaders from Capitol Hill, senior military leaders from across the Department of Defense, civic leaders, and community and business leaders from across the country.

“This evening we have all come together to honor Gen. Goldfein for his ceremonial assumption of responsibility as our 21st Air Force Chief of Staff” said Secretary James at the start of the ceremony. She added, “The Air Force mission is vital to our national security and simply put, our Airmen demand leadership of the highest caliber. Gen. Goldfein, I’m very proud to say that you are the ideal person for this job. You are ready to lead the Air Force into the next generation of air dominance.”

James also thanked the NATO Air Chiefs in attendance by saying, “These leaders work hand in glove with our Airmen to protect our collective security wherever that security may be threatened. Our allied partners are absolutely critical to our success. Your support is essential and we will always be stronger together.”

After Goldfein was presented his Chief of Staff flag he commented, “There are moments in a career when this whole idea of service in uniform and the opportunity to serve just washes over you. Tonight is one of those nights.”

He added, “I accept the challenge and I’ll share what it means to me. To be a leader of character and a trusted partner for our joint and coalition teammates, I can never lose sight of the greatest treasure in our nation’s arsenal, which are the young men and women who sign up



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SCOTT ASH
Secretary of the Air Force, the honorable Deborah Lee James, Air Force Chief Staff Gen. David Goldfein, and Gen. Manuel Teixeira, Chief of Staff, Portuguese Air Force, make their way through an Honor Guard cord at the start of the 2016 Air Force Tattoo Sept. 22, 2016, on the Ceremonial Lawn, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C.

to join big blue and to stand next to their fellow Soldiers, their fellow Marines, and their fellow Sailors. My job as chief is to organize them, to train them, to equip them, to lead them, and to marry them up with the greatest technology on the planet through our domains of air, space, and cyberspace.”

Goldfein acknowledged a former Air Force Chief of Staff in attendance, retired Gen. John Jumper.

“I’m reminded tonight of words from the former U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander, Gen. Jumper, who told me when I was a young squadron commander, ‘It is the highest honor to be chosen to lead in the United States Air Force. Your job every day is to be worthy of that honor.’ Gen. Jumper, I accept that honor again and it will be my honor to lead along with Secretary James over the next four years. Fight’s on!”

Air power history was brought to life in the skies over the tattoo with a series of flyovers including: a formation of F-16s, a B-25, and a B-2 Stealth Bomber. Also flying over the tattoo was a heritage flight made up of a P-51 Mustang and the Air Force’s newest fifth generation fighter, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

Non-commissioned officer in charge of the Air Force’s premier rock band Max Impact, Senior Master Sgt. Ryan Carson, said during the band’s performance, “Tonight has been an awesome display of the professionalism in the United States Air Force.” He added, “Gen. Goldfein spoke about it taking a team whether at home or on the battlefield. Two words come to mind when I think about our joint forces: service and sacrifice.”

Chief Master Sgt. Robert McConnell from the Air Force Band explained that the Air Force Tattoo combines elements from the USAF Band and Honor Guard, to showcase how Airmen come together from around the globe each and every day to accomplish the mission.

“It’s that precision teamwork represented here by members of the 11th Operations Group that allows the Air Force to project Airpower through air, space and cyberspace,” he said.

The newest Air Force member on the field was Airman Basic Dominique Hedges from Indianapolis, Ind. Hedges recently graduated from the Honor Guard’s rigorous technical training program. When asked what he thought about participating in the tattoo he said, “When we do something like a tattoo, it shows all Airmen at every rank — from Airman Basic all the way up — our appreciation for what they do in service to our country.”

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody said of the evening, “This has been a tremendous celebration of the courage and passion of our Airmen. Tonight was a celebration of our history, and our heritage, but most importantly we celebrated the millions of Airmen who have lifted us to greater heights for 69 years.”

If you were not able to attend the tattoo or if you want to view it again, you can see it in its entirety at: <https://www.dvidshub.net/vid-eo/484464/united-states-air-force-69th-birthday-tattoo>.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SCOTT ASH
Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein gives his remarks at the start of the 2016 Air Force Tattoo Sept. 22, 2016, on the Ceremonial Lawn, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY JIM VARHEGYI
Air power history was brought to life in the skies over the tattoo with a series of flyovers Sept. 22 during the 2016 United States Air Force Tattoo at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SCOTT ASH
Secretary of the Air Force, the honorable Deborah Lee James, gives her remarks at the start of the 2016 Air Force Tattoo Sept. 22, 2016, on the Ceremonial Lawn, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C.

WARFIGHTER AND FAMILY READINESS EVENT CALENDAR

FRIDAY/ SEPTEMBER 30

OKTOBERFEST

5:30 p.m. | Slip Inn
Don't miss the end of the Tiki Bar season at the Slip Inn with the Annual Oktoberfest Celebration, featuring live polka music from The Continentals!

German food and drink specials will be available, along with limited collector beer steins!

WEDNESDAY/ OCTOBER 5

SEAFOOD BUFFET

5-8:30 p.m. | Bolling Club
Feast on an abundant selection of crab legs, steamed and spiced shrimp, fried oysters, fish and shrimp, the Club's famous fried chicken, numerous sides, clam chowder, salad bar and homemade banana pudding, dozens of assorted cakes and pies.

THURSDAY/OCTOBER 6

NAF SALE

8 a.m.- 2 p.m. | Fitness Center II
Looking for a great deal? Come out to MWR's NAF SALE!

FRIDAY/ OCTOBER 7

NAVY BIRTHDAY 5K

7 a.m. | Aerobic Center
Celebrate the Navy's Birthday! Free shirts while supplies last!

FRIDAY/ OCTOBER 14

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

AWARENESS & PREVENTION 5K

7 a.m. | Aerobic Center
Take a stand against Domestic Violence! Free shirts will be given to participants while supplies last!

SATURDAY/ OCTOBER 15

OLD TOWN

FREDERICKSBURG

GHOST TOUR

1-9 p.m. | Bus departs from the Community Rec Parking Lot
Join us for a horse-drawn carriage ghost tour! \$25 per person. All ages welcome. Call 202-767-9136 to reserve your spot!



HALLOWEEN PARADE & CARNIVAL

October 31 | 5:15 p.m. | Giesboro Park & Youth Center
Walk with us from Giesboro Park back to the JBAB Youth Center in your favorite costume. After walking in the parade, we'll be hosting a Halloween Carnival in the Youth Center gym for the whole family!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WFR EVENTS AND PROGRAMS, PICK UP OUR MONTHLY MY WFR MAGAZINE AT ANY JBAB WFR FACILITY.

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Welcome to Naval District Washington

Creating comfortable guest services for those we serve: Today and Tomorrow.

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Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling and Visiting Flag Quarters

Room features:

- NGIS Signature Bed
- Flat screen TVs
- Microwaves and refrigerators
- Keurig coffee makers
- In-room safes
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Absentee voter tips for military, overseas citizens

Courtesy Federal Voting Assistance Program News Release

With less than two months until the general election on Nov. 8, absentee voters are beginning to receive their state ballots.

During Absentee Voting Week — Sept. 26 through Oct. 3 — the Federal Voting Assistance Program reminds military and overseas citizens to submit their ballot as soon as possible and to follow up to ensure that their ballot is received by their election office. Here are FVAP's top reminders for ensuring Americans vote successfully — wherever they are:

Know that your absentee ballot counts the same as ballots cast at the poll site

All ballots submitted according to state laws are counted in every election. The media often will report the projected outcome of an election before all of the ballots are counted. In a close election, the media may report the preliminary results or say that the outcome cannot be announced until after the absentee ballots are counted. However, all ballots, including absentee ballots, are counted in the official totals for every election — and every vote (absentee or in-person) counts the same.

Check your state deadlines, instructions, and options

Each state sets its own deadlines for registering to vote and its options for how absentee ballots are sent to voters. States can also differ in their requirements and deadlines regarding how to complete and submit absentee ballots. Some states require ballots to be postmarked by Election Day while others must receive ballots by Election Day. FVAP.gov has your state's deadlines and requirements.

Postmark and send your ballot on time

Every election, states receive some absentee



DOD PHOTO

Members of the Army's Golden Knights parachute team pass on the Federal Voting Assistance Program's message for U.S. military and overseas citizens to submit their absentee ballots in time for the upcoming general election.

ballots past the deadline for acceptance — but this is easily preventable. Follow your state's specific deadlines and recommended mailing dates for returning your voted ballot. If you're a registered military or overseas voter and don't receive your requested state ballot early enough to submit it on time, you can go to the FVAP website and use the backup ballot called the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot. Voters who end up receiving a state ballot after submitting a FWAB should still complete and return it, as well. States only count your backup ballot if your voted state ballot is not received by the deadline.

Fill out your ballot and election materials correctly

Many states have specific requirements for signing the envelope or an affidavit enclosed with your ballot. Be sure to follow the instructions sent with your ballot to ensure it gets counted.

Check that your voted ballot reaches its destination.

If you're wondering if your vote made it home, check the status of your ballot by selecting your state at the FVAP website and contacting your election office directly.

Military and overseas voters who need to register or request a ballot can do so by filling out a Federal Post Card Application at the FVAP website — by hand or using the online assistant — and sending it to their election office.

For additional information on this election or any upcoming federal election visit the FVAP website, email Vote@FVAP.gov or call 1-800-438-VOTE (8683).

Federal Voting Assistance Program

The Federal Voting Assistance Program is a Defense Department organization that works to ensure service members, their eligible fam-

ily members, and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so — from anywhere in the world.

FVAP assists voters through partnerships with the military services, Department of State, Department of Justice, and election officials from the 50 states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. State and local governments administer U.S. elections, including those for federal offices. FVAP supports state and local election officials by providing absentee voting information, materials, training and guidance.

Voters can contact FVAP's call center at 1-800-438-VOTE (8683), DSN 425-1584 or at vote@fvap.gov. Toll-free phone numbers from 67 countries are listed at the FVAP website. Find FVAP on Facebook at [facebook.com/DoDFVAP](https://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP) and follow @FVAP on Twitter.

Info on new retirement system released

Courtesy Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Navy has released information on the transition to the Blended Retirement System (BRS) and training requirements Sept. 27, in NAVADMIN 217/16.

Signed into law in November 2015, the FY16 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) created a new military retirement system for service members. The new Blended Retirement System goes into effect Jan. 1, 2018. However, Sailors who are currently serving in the Navy will be grandfathered into the current retirement system. Active Component Sailors with less than 12 years of service (as of Dec. 31, 2017) and Reserve Component Sailors with fewer than 4,320 retirement points (as of Dec. 31, 2017) will be able to opt-in to the new retirement plan if they choose to do so.

Unlike the current retirement system which provides a retirement pension of 2.5 percent of base pay for every year of service

(YOS), BRS provides automatic and government matching Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) contributions, a mid-career Continuation Pay and a retirement pension of 2.0 percent of base pay for every YOS.

Under BRS, members that leave the military before earning a retirement pension take with them their TSP account including government contributions after completing two years of service. Additionally, members enrolled in BRS that earn a retirement pension can choose to receive a portion of their pension in a lump sum in exchange for a reduced retired pay until reaching full retirement age.

In an effort to facilitate a smooth transition to BRS, all Navy service members will be required to complete either the BRS Leader's Training course, which is now available on Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) and Navy E-learning or the BRS Opt-in Training course that will go live early in 2017 according to the NAVADMIN.

To ensure service members have the information they need to make informed choices on BRS, four targeted education courses are being developed and deployed including, the recently re-

leased training for leaders in October 2016, a course for financial and retirement counselors in early 2017, a course for Opt In Eligible members and in January 2018 a course that is specific for new accessions. Training will be available on JKO, Navy E-Learning or via DVD's which can be ordered from Defense Imagery Management Operations Center (DIMOC).

Sailors can also find information on BRS at the Department of Defense BRS web page <http://militarypay.defense.gov/blendedretirement/>. This page will be routinely updated with the most recent information and tools on the new retirement system.

Command pass liaisons have been tasked with ensuring that all command members have updated email addresses in Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) Web to facilitate BRS eligibility notifications.

Command career counselors and command financial specialists are tasked with ensuring that they are knowledgeable on BRS and are able to provide Sailors' with information on the resources available for members that wish to learn more about BRS.

Read NAVADMIN 217/16 at www.npc.navy.mil.

DOD's Feds Feed Families campaign breaks record to fight hunger

By Amaani Lyle

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

Defense Department military and civilian members participated in a worldwide campaign that resulted in the donation of nearly 3.3 million pounds of perishable and non-perishable food to fill local food banks that provide food for families in need.

Despite this year's campaign being delayed for a month, the department has surpassed last year's total by collecting 3,289,418 pounds. This year's campaign is an even bigger success because it collected 12,338 more pounds than last year in only 60 days, said Thompson, who served as the DoD champion, or the person who oversaw this year's Feds Feed Families campaign for the Defense Department.

"When you're out of school that means you're home, and the need for food is greater. So, the federal government chose to conduct the campaign during the summer months to fill the shelves in the food banks across the country," Thompson said. "DoD pulled together and this donation was not only the most we've ever seen, but was done in less time."

She noted that this year's total equates to roughly 54,824 pounds of food donations or five semi-trucks full — each day — for 60 days.

The Feds Feed Families campaign was established in April 2009, when President Barack Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which encouraged federal employees to expand their service and support to communities, Thompson said.

The Office of Personnel Management answered the call and charged chief human capital officers to lead the program throughout the federal government, allowing the DoD in particular to campaign and collect food far beyond the National Capital Region in concert with the Department of Agriculture's efforts.

"We've been able to help others throughout the country and the world," said Berthina Jamison, civilian personnel policy strategic program analyst. She described "gleaning organizations" throughout the United States, including Washington, Ohio, Illinois, and Alaska, in which farmers allow DoD volunteers to visit crops and pick the second harvest for families in need.

"[The harvests] go directly to the food banks so people can put it on their tables," Jamison said.

Jamison said campaign-affiliated activities and services organizations have donated food from overseas and a fair amount of those donations also help military members in need.

Since the first crop harvests are typically sent to grocery stores, the second harvest may not always be shipped right away, Jamison explained. So DoD, in conjunction with farmers, has been able to gather and move crops from warehouses and farms to food banks, she added.

Rama Latin, charitable campaigns administrator for the Navy, has been with the campaign since its beginning and has worked extensively with the Navy chaplains to distribute food throughout the Washington, D.C., area, and other regions including Guam, Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, Key West, Florida, and more.

"It's part of the culture of philanthropy in the Navy and all the services," Latin said. "I appreciate knowing that a lot of people won't go hungry not just because of our efforts, but of the military members who've sacrificed and go the extra mile to pick, sort and deliver fresh food as a global force for good."

Latin also explained that Naval Air Stations Jacksonville and Pensacola in Florida have collected food through a combined effort with the Marine Corps to ensure the donations remain robust and military and civilians converge to share food collection opportunities.

Randy Eller, the Defense Commissary Agency's deputy direc-



COURTESY PHOTO

Valerie Thompson, DOD Feds Feed Families champion, and volunteer Orlando Lau collect tomatoes to help fight hunger at the nonprofit Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network, also known as MAGNET, food warehouse in Cheltenham, Md., Aug. 6.

tor of logistics, said 155 commissaries served as Feds Feed Families donation drop-off points, and customers also purchased prepared gift packages which also made their way around the world, thanks to year-round partnerships with food banks.

"We take those donations directly to the food banks," Eller said.

The commissary agency's contributions alone totaled about 1,101,852 pounds, roughly a third of DoD's total donations.

"Some of [our military members] are lower-ranking, but through their spirit of giving — even if it's just two cans of beans — they're doing it," Eller said. "It's a wonderful thing to see where their hearts are at when it comes to things like this."

Thompson said defense agencies and organizations and the military services conduct their own marketing campaigns and requests for Feds Feed Families campaign participation.

"For example, we had directors in Civilian Personnel Policy/Defense Civilian Personnel Advisory Service compete internally, and we actually ended up with more than 5,000 pounds of food donated," Thompson said. "The prize was just for some pizza. ... And we won, by the way."

Jamison shared her personal stake in the campaign.

"It's just the most patriotic thing that we can do to serve our community," she said. "This is America — nobody should ever go hungry ... so any time that we can give to our nation and our communities, we should."

Thompson said much more work needs to be done to fight hunger.

"I don't think hunger is going to end — so I hope the next administration will carry on the torch of this campaign," Thompson said. "As public servants, this is just a better way for us to give, to serve. We fight our nation's wars, but this is still a war, a war against hunger."

Over the past seven years, the federal workforce has collected 42.1 million pounds of food and nonperishable items, said officials, noting that during last year's Feds Feed Families drive food donations across the federal government totaled 15 million pounds of food items.




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