

JAX AIR NEWS

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Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Weiss congratulates ET2 Corey Schell of Coastal Riverine Squadron 10, on his selection as Junior Sailor of the Year for his squadron during the Sailor of the Year Dinner, Dec. 13 at the River Cove Catering and Conference Center.



NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Weiss presents Navy Region Southeast Senior Sailor of the Year YN1 Britany Woodman with her certificate during the Sailor of the Year Dinner, Dec. 13.

Sailors of the Year Honored

By Kaylee LaRocque
NAS Jacksonville Public Affairs Officer

Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) and tenant command leadership recognized 57 top Sailors during the first-ever Sailor of the Year Dinner, Dec. 13 at the River Cove Catering and Conference Center.

The event kicked off with NAS Jax Command Master Chief Dylan Inger welcoming the crowd.

"I'd like to welcome everyone to our Sailor of the Year function for 2019 and offer a very special welcome to our Sailors of the Year," said Inger. "I'd also like to recognize our gracious supporters who help us conduct events like this – NAS Jax Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) and the Navy Exchange (NEX)."

"Today's Navy consists of over 440,000 Sailors on active and reserve and of those 440,000, over 365,000 are enlisted. And, tonight we are recognizing 57 of the best the Navy has to offer – our Sailors of the Year," said Inger.

The NAS Jax Honor Support Team paraded the colors as MU2 Holden Moyer of Navy Band Southeast sang the national anthem. Chaplain Kyle Boyer of the NAS Jax Chapel offered the invocation.

Retired Command Master Chief Mack Ellis was the guest speaker for the event.

"What a great opportunity and honor to be here with this year's 'best of the best,'" said Ellis. "Being a Sailor of the Year doesn't just happen overnight. It came with years of leading by example, being an inspiration, years of excellent character, great decision making, being receptive to others, and treating others with respect and dignity."

"It came by surrounding yourselves around good people who support you and want to see you succeed – parents, friends, leadership or peers but mainly from your spouse or significant other," he continued. "Warriors, you're not just serving – you're serving at the peak of your peer (See SOYs Honored, Page 5)



Retired CMC Mack Ellis praises the 57 NAS Jax and tenant command Sailors of the Year on their achievements during the Sailor of the Year Dinner, Dec. 13.

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Wins Leadership Award**
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Sustain • Enable • Support



Jax Sailors, Civilians Give Back to Vets in Need



Photos by MC2 (SW/IW) Nick A. Grim

From left, Eli Darkatsh, director of compliance & capability for Feeding Northeast Florida, presents Robin Keller, center director for Greater Jacksonville Area USO, and Jerry Warren, Jax International Airport USO Center director, with bags of non-perishable foods for military families in need at the NAS Jacksonville Chapel, Dec. 7.

By MC2 (SW/IW) Nick A. Grim
Editor

Sailors and civilian employees from Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) and local civilians volunteered packaging meals for veterans this holiday season at the base chapel, Dec. 7.

The event was coordinated by Trevor Morris, a Notre Dame alumni from New Jersey, along with Feeding Northeast Florida (FNF) and Hunger Fight and saw the volunteers package more than 11,600 meals for veterans in need.

“A lot of folks that help protect us are in need of some assistance especially during the holidays,” said Morris, “I thought this would be a great way for me to give back and do my part.”

Hunger Fight, a non-profit based in Jacksonville committed to ending hunger and illiteracy, contributed food products which the volunteers packaged into three types of pre-portioned meals. The meals were given to FNF, another regional non-profit, to be

distributed to veterans and their families during the holidays.

“Trevor Morris asked if FNF could help supplement their efforts today with additional food. So I brought an additional 33 bags of shelf-stable groceries for military families,” said Eli Darkatsh, director of Compliance & Capability for FNF. “We distribute regularly through USO and Five-Star Veterans. We just want to do what we can to help where we are needed.”

Nearly 40 volunteers bagged packages of macaroni and cheese, rice and beans, and outmeal during the event. The volunteers were happy to lend a hand in giving back to their community and fellow service members.

“I thought this would be a great opportunity to give back while working with my fellow Sailors, said AWO2 Justin White of Patrol Squadron 30. “People often thank us for our sacrifices, but volunteers across America who take part in programs and events like this give back to their country in their own special way.”



HM2 Lukman Kamara (left) and LSSN Tabernesha Victrum, along with other volunteers, prepare packaged meals during a volunteer event at the Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) Chapel, Dec. 7.



AWO2 Justin White of Patrol Squadron 30, compacts prepped meals to be boxed during a volunteer event at the NAS Jax Chapel, Dec. 7.

JAX AIR NEWS

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Questions or comments can be directed to the editor at (904) 542-3531 or email JaxAirNews@gmail.com.



Access Requirements for Commissary, Exchange and MWR Patronage Expansion

From Staff

Commander, Navy Installations Command has established new installation access requirements to accommodate authorized veterans and family members in accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019.

Commissary, Navy Exchange (NEX) and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) retail facility privileges are extended to certain eligible veterans and their caregivers. Purple Heart recipients, former POWs, or veterans who have a service-connected disability, and designated primary family caregivers of eligible veterans, are permitted to use these facilities on the same basis as a member of the Armed Forces entitled to retired or retainer pay.

These new measure will take effect in phases:

Phase One: Starting on Jan. 1, 2020, veterans with a Purple Heart, former POW or a VA-documented service-connected disability with ratings of 0-90 percent who possesses a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) from the VA can sign up for access to Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax). The VHIC must display the veteran's eligibility status. The designated primary family caregiver of an eligible veteran who has an official caregiver letter from the VA

can also sign up for access to NAS Jax. To obtain a VHIC card, go to: <https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic>.

Phase Two:

At this time, the effective date is unknown. Veterans who qualify for privileges but are not eligible for a VHIC will be issued a letter from the VA indicating eligibility for access to Department of Defense installations to access Commissary, NEX and MWR facilities. For information on how to obtain a letter of eligibility, please call the VA at 1-877-222-8387.

While not all veterans are eligible for in-person privileges and base access to NAS Jax, all honorably discharged veterans are eligible for online military exchange shopping through the Veterans Online Shopping Benefit.

All VHIC cardholders MUST stop at the NAS Jax Visitor Control Center (VCC) to enroll in the Defense Biometric Identification System (DBIDS) before entering the station the first time. Primary family caregivers can present



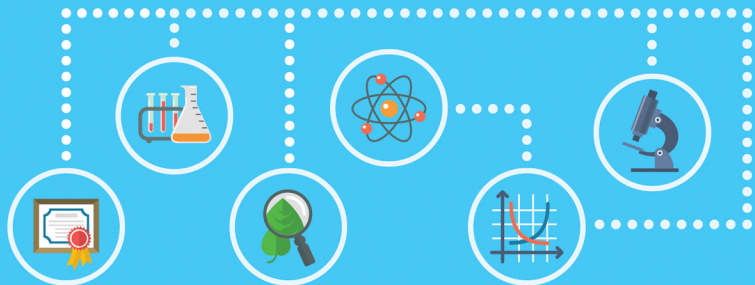
their letter of eligibility from the VA at the VCC and enroll in DBIDS for installation access. VHIC cardholders will need to bring their VHIC card, and a picture ID (i.e. driver's license, U.S. Passport or any other REAL ID). For more information on how veterans can obtain a Real ID compliant identification card at <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>. DBIDS authorization must be renewed each year. Veterans must visit the VCC at all bases they wish to access. VHIC cardholders are NOT allowed to sponsor visitors aboard the station.

The NAS JAX VCC is expecting a significant increase of eligible veterans requesting access to the installation. Veterans are encouraged to make an appointment by calling 542-0389 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. The VCC is located in Building 9 before the NAS Jax Main Gate on the right.

INFORMATION SESSION



DUVAL SCHOOL CHOICE



JAN 8
5 PM

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School Choice Director

Pauline Andrews
School Choice Military Liaison

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ASN Niemeyer Stresses Shore Readiness Link to “Lethality of Naval Power”

From Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs

The Honorable Lucian Niemeyer, performing the duties of Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, visited the Northeast Florida tri-base area Dec. 10-13 to review the installations and be briefed on ongoing projects to improve base infrastructure.

His trip included visits to Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE), Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Naval Station Mayport and Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay.

“As our installations are weapon system platforms, the Jacksonville area is critical to sustaining Navy and Marine Corps capabilities across all domains.” Said Niemeyer. “I want ensure we are providing the infrastructure and facilities on time and within budget to support our Columbia Class submarines, P-8A’s, Tritons, Littoral Combat Ships, and the systems maintained at the Fleet Readiness Center.”

During his visit, Niemeyer received briefs on more than a dozen topics. Specific areas he sought information about included: the NSB Kings Bay Drydock facility, the P-8A airfield and adjacent facilities at NAS Jacksonville,



Photo by Anthony Casullo

Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment Lucian Niemeyer, right, speaks with Daniel Simon, the Facility and Plant Planning Department director during a walking tour of the production areas within Fleet Readiness Center Southeast, Dec. 8.

military housing managed by the Navy’s Public Private Venture (PPV) partners, and energy resiliency projects.

“One of my highlights of the trip was meeting with military families residing in privatized military housing to hear their concerns with the quality of care being provided to the maintenance of the homes by our private sector partners,” said Niemeyer. “Our residents are our front line of quality assurance and we will continue to enhance this program for their benefit.”

Rear Adm. Gary Mayes, CNRSE, emphasized that Niemeyer’s visit highlights the value of shore installations to the Navy mission.

“We appreciate the extensive amount of time Assistant Secretary Niemeyer spent with the Jacksonville-area Navy bases. It emphasizes the importance he places on our facilities and the support we provide to our operational forces.”

Niemeyer added, “This visit also offered the opportunity to personally

thank regional community leaders for their strong support for the Department of the Navy’s missions, military personnel, and their families. We want to continue as partners to contribute to the economic vitality of the region while preserving our military capabilities.”

Since assuming responsibilities June 26, Niemeyer has focused on improving base resiliency to protect against foreign, domestic and natural threats.

Resiliency takes many forms, according to Niemeyer. During his October address to the Congressional Sub Committee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats, he addressed threats to data networks, energy, water, physical security, control systems and more. Threats could be cyber, physical attacks, political influence, or natural events.

“Installation readiness, in all its dimensions...is inextricably linked to the readiness and lethality of naval power to represent, and if necessary, defend America’s interests anytime, anywhere,” he said.



Photo by MCI Jerome Johnson

Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment Honorable Lucian Niemeyer, receives a brief about P-8A Poseidon aircraft mission systems from Lt. Eric Mahler assigned to the “Fighting Tigers” of Patrol Squadron 8, Dec. 11.



Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment Lucian Niemeyer, center, discusses housing issues with Naval Air Station Jacksonville housing residents and housing representatives during a town hall meeting at the base chapel, Dec. 11.



Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) Command Master Chief Dylan Inger welcomes Sailors of the Year and guests to the first NAS Jax/Tenant Command Sailor of the Year Dinner, Dec. 13.

Sailors Recognized

Naval Computer and Telecommunications
Area Master Station Atlantic
Detachment Jacksonville
SSOY: IT1 Taylor M. Milford
JSOY: ET2 Hiawatha C. Fryer
Commander, Navy Region Southeast
SOY: YN1 Britany Woodman
Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11 (sea)
SSOY: AWO1 Jaron Butler
Wing 11 (shore)
SSOY: IT1 Michael Stratford
Transient Personnel Unit
SSOY: ETR1 Mario Canas
SOY: BM2 Anjelica Trevino
Unmanned Patrol Squadron 19
SOY: AWO1 Ryan S. Gray
JSOY: YN2 Olmar Anthony D. Aguilus
BJOY: IS3 Tiara J. Vincent
Patrol Squadron 5
SSOY: AM1 Harrison Zamudio

SOYs Honored

(Continued from Page 1)

Your appearance, initiative, self-motivation and integrity is second-to-none. Regardless of what happens in your lives, you will always be one of the best because if you can be the Sailor of the Year at any command, in a Navy of over 440,000 superstars, you can be anything you want.” NAS Jax Commanding Officer Brian Weiss presented each of the Sailors a certificate as they gathered for command photos. I feel honored and humbled that I was selected as Junior Sailor of the Year for my command,” said

SOY: AO2 Colton Dull
JSOY: AE3 Andrew Gray
Mad Fox of the Year: AN Thomas Crothers
Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training,
Unit Jacksonville
SSOY: AWO1 Amanda M. Hernandez
JSOY: LS2 Minhnguyet T. Hoang
Junior Instructor of the Year:
ET1 Timothy B. Donough
Patrol Squadron 62
SSOY: AO1 Shatondra R. Smith
SSOY: YN1 Whitney Brown
JSOY: AWO2 Jacob Briggs
BJOY: IS3 Jayde Hoban
Patrol Squadron 8
SSOY: AWO1 Jared Larsen
SOY: AZ1 Scarlett Villareal
JSOY: IT3 Madalyn Davis
BJOY: AOAN Carlos Nunez
Reserve Component Command
SOY: PS1 Terrance Dillard
JSOY: YN2 Ranisha O. Jackson
Patrol Squadron 16
SSOY: AWO1 Dennis P. Hunt
SOY: AE2 Delford A. Lassiter
JSOY: AO3 Desi E. Washington
Patrol Squadron 30
SSOY: AWO1 Timothy A. Moradi

AWO2 Jacob Briggs, Patrol Squadron 62 Junior Sailor of the Year. “And, it’s really great being here tonight to be recognized.” “I think this is really cool because I’ve been here less than a year and I’m working out of rate in the base admin office. To me, it’s shocking because this isn’t my rate and I’m just doing my job,” added MMFA Madysleidys Alvarez, NAS Jax Blue Jacket of the Year. “So my leadership obviously sees something good enough and that I’m making a difference, and I really appreciate that.”

SOY: AWO2 Makala L. Herrera
JSOY: AM3 Caitlin E. Tanner
BJOY: AN Damarquis L. Chapel
Aircrewman of the Year:
AWV1 William R. Schmier
Maintainer of the Year: AD1 Oliver O. Clark
Plane Captain of the Year: AT2 Canaan M. Stowe
Naval Air Station Jacksonville
SSOY: ET1 Christopher R. Stark
SOY: ABH2 Dakota J. Thompson
JSOY: MA3 Adam Watchman
BJOY: MMFA Madysleidys Alvarez
Navy Entomology Center for Excellence:
SSOY: HM1 Lydia D. Alphonse
Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility
SSOY: OS1 Stuart M. Caswell
SOY: OS2 Megan D. Niehoff
Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 60
SOY: AWR1 Nicholas G. Satriano
SOY: AM1 Justin W. Ryan
JSOY: AM2 Joseph A. Gonzalez
BJOY: YN2 Michel L. Mosquera
Coastal
Riverine Squadron 10
SSOY: IT1 Kevin M. Stanton
SSOY: MA1 Cory E. Donaldson
JSOY: ET2 Corey H. Schell

MWR Hosts Jingle Jog 5K at NAS Jax



Santa gives a high-five to David Jackson as he wins first place overall with a time of 20:25 at the Jingle Jog 5K on NAS Jax, Dec. 13.

Photos by Demi Cruz



Santa gives a high-five to Catherine Sears, the first female winner with a time of 25:49, at the Jingle Jog 5K on NAS Jax, Dec. 13.



Santa poses with Lt. Aaron Bishop, left, and Lt. Cmdr. Phillip Dobbs of Aviation Survival Training Center Jax, at the Jingle Jog 5K on NAS Jax, Dec. 13.



Courtesy photo

The Flight Line Cafe galley team is presented awards during the Mayport Winter Culinary Competition Dec. 12. The winning dessert was a poached pear with apple cinnamon glaze.

By Jessica McClanahan

Fleet Logistics Center Jacksonville Public Affairs

The cooking competition format is common these days, but the technical skills and creativity required to compete at a high level are rare. It was this display of uncommon ability that brought excitement and suspense to Naval Station (NS) Mayport's Oasis Galley on Dec. 11.

Each of four teams were supplied with a mystery basket that included beef tenderloin, whole yellowtail snapper and an assortment of fresh fruit and vegetables. Participants were also supplied with staple ingredients such as pasta, butter, milk, and flour. The requirements were to prepare beef and snapper and find creative ways to incorporate artichoke, apple, and pear into the main course or dessert – all within a three-hour timeframe.

The four teams hailed from the Jacksonville Tri-Base area, to include NAS Jacksonville's Flight Line Cafe, NS Mayport's Oasis Galley, Naval Hospital Jacksonville's Child Street Galley, and a team from Naval Submarine Base (NSB) Kings Bay's Pirate's Cove Galley.

Each of the teams received high praise from the five judges, who included NS Mayport Commanding Officer Capt. Jason Canfield; Fleet Logistics Center Jacksonville (FLC Jax) Commanding Officer Capt. William Clarke; NS

Mayport Executive Officer Cmdr. Patricia Tyler; NSB Kings Bay Command Master Chief (SS) Terence Propes; and retired Navy CS Master Chief Rory Bacon. Highlights included bacon wrapped tenderloin, coconut curried rice, Beef Wellington, artichoke cream sauce, strawberry mousse with pear, apple fritters, and apple tartelettes.

The winning team, from Naval Air Station Jacksonville's Flight Line Café took first place in both the entrée and dessert categories. The top entrée was sliced beef tenderloin, pasta with an artichoke Alfredo sauce, and a yellowtail snapper ceviche. The winning dessert was a blueberry poached pear topped with fresh whipped cream.

When asked what her team's winning strategy was, CS2 Jazmen Wilkerson said, "We wanted to take advantage of the quality of the fresh ingredients, which is why we chose to make a ceviche with the snapper and use whole fresh pears in our dessert." The colorful ceviche was a clear favorite among the judges.

Second place went to Submarine Base Kings Bay, who were awarded for their sweet and savory beef roulade and pan-seared snapper. When asked how they managed to work as a team to plan their strategy, CS2 Andrews, who attended culinary school prior to joining the Navy said, "As the team leader I came up with the initial plan, but each member contributed ideas to make it better; we relied on each member's own expertise."

The skills competition was supervised by CSC Keis Hamilton, CS1 Xuan Nguyen, and CS2 Noah Reed. When asked about his supervisory role in the cooking competition, Hamilton of FLC Jaxe Navy Food Management Team said, "I love training junior CS's and giving them the opportunity to showcase their amazing talents; it's not something they get to do on a daily basis."

The skills competition was sponsored by FLC Jax' Navy Food Management Team with support from the Oasis Galley and its director, former Presidential Food Service Team member, CWO4 Michael Carter.

NAS Jax Flight Line Cafe Triumphs in Tri-Base Holiday Cooking Competition



Courtesy photo

CS2 Lakisha Reese serves the main course, cooked by culinary specialists from Flight Line Cafe galley during the Mayport Winter Culinary Competition, Dec. 12.



Photo by Jessica McClanahan

NAS Jax Flight Line Cafe won first prize for dessert during the Mayport Winter Culinary Competition, Dec. 12. NAS Jax prepared a blueberry poached pear, topped with fresh whipped cream.



Photo by Jessica McClanahan

CS2 Jazmen Wilkerson, from NAS Jacksonville's Flight Line Café, accepts the first place trophy from NS Mayport Commanding Officer Capt. Jason Canfield, during a Holiday Cooking Skills Competition, Dec. 11. Wilkerson's team was awarded first place in both entrée and dessert categories.

Gold Star Memorial Tree on Display at NEX



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Weiss places an ornament on the Gold Star Memorial Tree at the NAS Jax Navy Exchange, Dec. 16. The tree is on display at the NEX to recognize fallen service members this holiday season.

By Kaylee LaRocque
NAS Jax Public Affairs Officer

Several Gold Star family members paid tribute to their fallen heroes by placing gold star ornaments on a special Christmas tree at the Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) Navy Exchange (NEX), Dec. 16.

The tree features photos of local fallen heroes in remembrance of their service to their country. Gold star ornaments are available for those who would like to write a special message to pay their respect.

“I’m here today to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our Gold Star families who have sacrificed so much,” said NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Weiss. “I know this is an especially tough time of year

but I think every day is difficult when you are talking about the ultimate sacrifice of losing a loved one. But I just wanted to say ‘thank you’ for all that you do and for what your loved one has done to support our country.”

Gold Star family member Sonny McClintock, who lost his son, Sgt. 1st Class Matthew McClintock in January 2016 attended the event.

“Christmas was his favorite time of year and to have him honored this way is special,” said McClintock. “It’s so difficult. One day you’re happy and the next day your sad. You just have the fond memories to keep you going.”

There are currently 200 Gold Star Navy family members in Duval, Clay and St. Johns Counties and 400 Gold Star family members of other branches of service within the local area. For more information about the Gold Star program, contact the Navy Gold Star Coordinator Jamie Banther at 542-5706.



Jodi Arden of the Naval Air Station Jacksonville Fleet and Family Support Center, right, helps Cella Logan make an ornament in remembrance of her husband, Marine Cpl. Daniel Logan, to place on the Gold Star Memorial Tree at the NAS Jax Navy Exchange, Dec. 16. Cpl. Logan struggled with post-traumatic stress and a traumatic brain injury after several deployments to Iraq. He passed away Aug. 3, 2017.



AWR1 Jessica McCarthy of the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit Jacksonville, places an ornament on the Gold Star Memorial Tree at the Naval Station Jacksonville Navy Exchange in remembrance of Sgt. 1st Class Matthew McClintock, Dec. 16. McClintock was killed in Afghanistan four years ago. McCarthy works with his father, Sonny McClintock aboard the station.

The Season of Giving Comes to NAS Jax



Photo by MC2 (SW/IW) Nick A. Grim

From left, Angela Jones, NAS Jax Commissary grocery manager, Brenda Acevedo, sales representative for OSC-Webco, Mike O’Brien, president and CEO of the Greater Area Jacksonville USO, and Daniel Spicer, NAS Jax Commissary assistant store manager, pose for a photo with \$1,500 of donated groceries. The groceries are a donation from OSC-Webco Smuckers division to the NAS Jax base chapel and USO to be donated to Sailors and their families this holiday season. (No Navy endorsement implied or intended)



Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

Robert Penn, a volunteer at the Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) USO, sorts through piles of gifts donated through the Navy Exchange Giving Tree program, from local businesses and the NAS Jax Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department, Dec. 16. The gifts will be given to 233 military families designated by their commands who may need a little extra help this holiday season. “This is a whole community coming together to support our military members to make sure their holiday is special this year,” said Greater Area Jacksonville USO Director Mike O’Brien. “Our office has definitely turned into the North Pole!”

U.S. Navy P8A Poseidon Supports Chilean Search for C-130 Efforts



Courtesy photo

A P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 sits on Keflavik Air Base, Nov. 16

From U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command Public Affairs

U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) directed U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command to deploy a P-8A Poseidon multi-mission maritime aircraft to Punta Arenas, Chile, December 10 to support the South American nation's ongoing search for a Chilean Air Force C-130 Hercules that went missing in the Drake Passage while transporting 38 passengers and crew to the Antarctic.

In response to a request from the government of Chile, the aircraft and its 20-person crew departed El Salvador's Comalapa Air Base and arrived in Punta Arenas December 11. The aircraft and crew are expected to begin supporting the ongoing

search December 12.

Prior to the P-8A deployment, SOUTHCOM assisted the Chilean search efforts by providing satellite imagery of the search area.

The aircraft was in El Salvador's Comalapa Air Base supporting counter-illicit trafficking maritime patrol operations as part of a bilateral agreement between the U.S. and El Salvador.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Chile and with the families of the missing as we join other regional partners supporting Chile's ongoing search for the C-130, its crew and their passengers," said U.S. Navy Adm. Craig Faller, commander of U.S. Southern Command.

The P-8A Poseidon is the Navy's newest maritime, patrol and reconnaissance aircraft and is configured with state-of-the-art sensors and

communications equipment, allowing it to support a wide range of missions over large bodies of water, including sub-surface search-and-rescue operations. It can reach an airspeed of 564 mph, has a ceiling of 41,000 feet and a range of 1,200 nautical miles with four hours on station, allowing it to loiter over search areas.

In 2017, SOUTHCOM deployed two P-8A Poseidon aircraft to Bahia Blanca, Argentina, where they contributed to an internationally supported search for the Argentinean Navy's submarine A.R.A. San Juan after it went missing in Southern Atlantic waters.

SOUTHCOM is one of the nation's six geographically-focused unified commands with responsibility for U.S. military operations in the Caribbean, Central America and South America.



Jax Barracks Receive Seventh "A"-List Award

Photo by MC2 (SW/IW) Nick A. Grim
Sailor and civilian personnel of NAS Jacksonville Unaccompanied Housing gather for a photo to commemorate their seventh consecutive CEL and Associates "A-List" Crystal Award, Dec. 11. Unaccompanied Housing received the award for excellence in customer service with an overall score of 92 with a service rating of 92.4; property rating of 91.4 and a 39 percent response rate.

NAS JAX SPORTS

CAPTAIN'S CUP GREYBEARD BASKETBALL LEAGUE FORMING

The league is open to active duty, selective reservists, DOD civilians, DOD Contractors, Dependent spouses assigned to a command at NAS Jacksonville and Retirees age 30 and up. The games are played at lunch time on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All interested personnel should contact the Sports Department to obtain the rules and the required paperwork to join the league.

CAPTAIN'S CUP INTRAMURAL WINTER BASKETBALL LEAGUE FORMING

The league is open to active duty, selective reservists, DOD civilians, DOD Contractors, Dependent spouses assigned to a command at NAS Jacksonville and Retirees. The games are played in the evenings. All interested personnel should contact the Sports Department to obtain the rules and the required paperwork to join the league.

CAPTAIN'S CUP FLAG FOOTBALL 4 ON 4 LEAGUE FORMING

The league is open to active duty, selective reservists, DOD civilians, DOD Contractors, and military spouses assigned to a command at NAS Jacksonville and retirees. The games will be played during the week in the evenings. All interested personnel should contact the Sports Division to obtain the rules and the required paperwork to join the league.

CAPTAIN'S CUP BADMINTON DOUBLES LEAGUE MEETING JANUARY 8

The league is open to active duty, selective reservists, DOD civilians, DOD Contractors, Dependent spouses assigned to a command at NAS Jacksonville. The games are played at lunch time on Mondays and Wednesdays. The meeting will be held at the NAS Jax Gymnasium in the conference room upstairs outside the women's locker room at 11:30am. Commands having their athletic officer or designated representative attend the meeting will receive 5 captain's cup points. All interested personnel should attend the meeting to discuss

rules and to get the required paperwork to join the league.

CAPTAIN'S CUP GOLF WINTER LEAGUE MEETING JANUARY 15

The league is open to active duty, selective reservists, DOD civilians, DOD Contractors, Dependent spouses assigned to a command at NAS Jacksonville. The matches are played on Wednesdays. The meeting will be held at the base gym, Bldg 614 in the second floor classroom outside the women's locker room at 11:30am. Commands having their athletic officer or designated representative attend the meeting will receive 5 captain's cup points. All interested personnel should attend the meeting to discuss rules and to get the required paperwork to join the league.

CAPTAIN'S CUP BOWLING WINTER LEAGUE MEETING JANUARY 15

The league is open to active duty, selective reservists, DOD civilians, DOD Contractors, Dependent spouses assigned to a command at NAS Jacksonville. The games are played at lunch time on Fridays. The meeting will be held at the NAS Jax Gymnasium in the conference room upstairs outside the women's locker room at 12:00pm. Commands having their athletic officer or designated representative attend the meeting will receive 5 captain's cup points. All interested personnel should attend the meeting to discuss rules and to get the required paperwork to join the league.

CAPTAIN'S CUP ULTIMATE FRISBEE WINTER LEAGUE MEETING JANUARY 22

The league is open to active duty, selective reservists, DOD civilians, DOD Contractors, Dependent spouses assigned to a command at NAS Jacksonville and Retirees. The matches are played Tuesdays and Thursdays. The meeting will be held at the base gym, Bldg 614 in the second floor classroom outside the women's locker room at 11:30am. Commands having their athletic officer or designated representative attend the meeting will receive 5 captain's cup points. All interested personnel should attend the meeting to discuss rules and to get the required paperwork to join the league.

For more information,
call Bill Bonser at 542-2930/3239 or e-mail bill.bonser@navy.mil

Visit www.cnic.navy.mil or
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Naval Hospital Jax Nurse Receives Leadership Excellence Award

By Yan Kennon

Naval Hospital Jacksonville Senior Writer

Patricia Gill, a Naval Hospital Jacksonville nurse, was presented with the Military Health System's Federal Civilian Nursing Leadership Excellence Award (junior leadership category) on Dec. 5, during the annual meeting of AMSUS, The Society of Federal Health Professionals, in National Harbor, Maryland.

Gill serves as NH Jacksonville's urology clinic manager and as Civilian Corps Representative on the Combined Executive Board.

Gill's accomplishments include: national certification in ambulatory care nursing; the 2019 "100 Great Nurses of Northeast Florida" award; the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal; 2018 Civilian of the Year at NH Jacksonville; and 2017 Vivian Ellis Ingram Health Service Award from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

The MHS Nursing Leadership Excellence Award was established to honor registered nurses who have demonstrated exemplary leadership skills, exceptional compassion and commitment, and contributing to improved nursing in the MHS.

Naval Hospital Jacksonville and Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Jacksonville deliver quality health care, in an integrated system of readiness and health. NH Jacksonville includes five branch health clinics across Florida and Georgia. It serves 163,000 active-duty and retired sailors, Marines, soldiers, airmen, guardsmen, and their families, including 75,000 patients who are enrolled with a primary care manager.



Courtesy Photo

Thomas McCaffery, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, presents Patricia Gill of Naval Hospital Jacksonville with the Military Health System's Federal Civilian Nursing Leadership Excellence Award (junior leadership category) on Dec. 5 during the annual meeting of AMSUS, The Society of Federal Health Professionals, in National Harbor, Maryland.

VP-45 'Pelicans' Come in for Landing at Diego Garcia



Photo by MC3 Jillian F. Grady

Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Lake Miller from Patrol Squadron 45, inspects a P-8 Poseidon aircraft onboard U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia Dec. 2.

By MC3 Jillian F. Grady

Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia Public Affairs

A U.S. Navy P-8 Poseidon aircraft detachment from Patrol Squadron (VP) 45 "Pelicans," visited U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia from Dec. 1 to Dec. 3.

"VP-45 was thrilled to operate out of the Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia," said officer-in-charge Lt. Jason Cuellar. "Not only is it the footprint of freedom, but it is a professional airfield that ensured VP-45's success during our

short two-day stay."

While on Diego Garcia, Cuellar met with Diego Garcia's commanding officer, Capt. Blake Tornga. The 20 personnel detachment from VP-45 made up of nine aircrewmembers and 11 maintainers based out of Naval Air Station Jacksonville, were able to see just a little of what Sailors stationed on Diego Garcia get to experience.

"It's been really great here," said Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Lake Miller of the squadron's quick stop to the Diego Garcia. "Wherever we're at, we're just going to try and

fulfill our primary mission."

"Most of the individuals that were onboard will more than likely not return, making this a truly once in a lifetime experience," Cuellar said. "Everyone was awestruck by the island's beauty and pristine condition."

The P-8A Poseidon (P-8A) is the U.S. Navy's multi-mission maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft. The P-8A efficiently conducts anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and humanitarian response.



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Community Recreation

Call 542-3227

Movie Night

Dec. 21, 7 p.m. at Dewey's

Come to Dewey's Bingo Hall to watch "The Polar Express" on the giant screen and everyone is encouraged to wear their pajamas to board! Bring your own picnic blankets or chairs and hangout in the hall free! Dewey's will also have chairs available if needed. Free popcorn and hot chocolate will be available and Dewey's will have food for purchase. If you believe, do not forget to pick up a bell as you are leaving the event!

River Cove Catering & Conference Center

Call 542-3041

Did you know you can book weddings, luncheons, retirements, birthday parties, conferences and more at the River Cove Catering & Conference Center?

Dewey's

Call 542-3900

Super Bowl Watch Party

Feb. 2, doors open at 4 p.m. with food and beverage specials before and during the big game.

Mondays and Thursdays: Free Texas Hold'em Tournaments at 7 p.m.

Bingo: Great cash payouts, even better jackpots! Lunch and evening sessions available. Call (904) 542-8449 for current promotions and times.

Freedom Lanes Bowling Center

Call 542-3493

Command Functions: Looking for a great command function? Why not a bowling event? Fun for all! Call to set up an event for commands, families, spouses groups & more!
Monday: \$7 All you can bowl, 4-6 p.m.
Wednesday: \$9.95 All you can bowl, 4 - 10 p.m.
Thursdays: Active Duty Appreciation Day!

Games are \$1 each for Active Duty & their guests, Noon - 3 pm. Reservations accepted.
*Start time subject to change based on league finish time

Thursday Nights: \$10 All you can bowl, 6 - 10 pm, includes bowling & shoe rental. Food & beverage specials available. Chances to win prizes just by participating!

Friday: \$10 Extreme Bowling, 10 p.m. - midnight. Shoes included.

Saturday: Extreme Bowling, call for current pricing & times.

Please note, the specials do not include shoes unless stated otherwise

Fitness, Sports & Aquatics

Call 542-2930

Push Pull Competition

Jan. 31, weigh ins 4 - 5 p.m., competition begins at 5 p.m. at the outdoor pavilion behind the Fitness Center. \$10 for Active Duty and Reservists, \$15 for Dependents, DOD and Retirees.

Swim lessons now available! Call the Base Gym for more information.

Indoor Pool and Outdoor Pool

Visit www.navymwrjacksonville.com for the current hours of operation.

Group and private tennis lessons are now available.

Call the base gym for pricing information.

Patrons can select from a variety of massage types, including Swiss, Deep Tissue/Sport, as well as other spa services, such as facial & body treatments. For a complete list of services, visit the base gym or fitness center.

The Liberty Recreation Center

Trips & events are for all E1-E6 single or unaccompanied active duty members & reservists only. Call 542-1335 for information.

Dec 22: Paintball

Dec 28: Jacksonville Zoo

Dec 29: Jags vs. Colts

Jan 5: Durbin Creek Hike

Jan 11: Horseback Riding

Jan 16: Burger Hunt: Poe's Tavern

Jan 17: Mall and a Movie

NAS Jax Golf Club

Golf Course: 542-3249

Mulligan's Restaurant: 542-2936

Appreciation Days

Jan. 9 & 23 for all Military members & DoD employees. Play 18-holes with cart for \$20.

Frostbite Open Jan. 31, 11 a.m.

There is a \$50 entry fee, which include range balls, golf, food and prizes.

Remember to sign up at the Pro Shop by Jan. 28.

Swing It & Wing It Special: Play 18 holes with a cart and enjoy 10 wings and two draft beverages for only \$35 after 1 p.m. daily.

Daily Twilight Special: Play 18-holes with cart for only \$20 after 3 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Monday & Tuesday: Play 18-holes for \$20. Cart & green fees included. Not applicable on holidays.

Mulberry Cove Marina

Call 542-3260

Fridays: Free kayak & canoe rental all day for Active Duty members & guests only.

Private Sailing Lessons: One on one instruction available at \$20/hour by appointment only.

Minimum 2-hour session.

Stand Up Paddleboard Lessons: Open to all first-timers by appointment only. Free & taught by a World Paddleboard Association Certified Instructor.

Auto Skills Center

Call 542-3681

The center has 22 work bays, wheel balancing, tool checkout, paint booth and welding ASE certified mechanic onsite.

Youth Activities Center

Call 778-9772

Before & After School Care

Open to children 5-12 years

Register today!

Family Fitness Center

Call 771-8469

The Family Fitness Center is open Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Bring your children! Children 5 and older are welcome to workout with you. Group classes are available from 10 - 10:30 a.m.

Jax Navy Flying Club

Call 542-8509

Learn to fly at NAS Jax

Call for introduction flight

Additional ratings are available including instrument, complex and commercial

Find more info online at jaxnfc.net

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Community Recreation Tickets & Travel Office

Call 542-3318, Email nasjaxtickets@navy.mil
Jacksonville Jaguars Sections 147 & 148: \$101.25.

Jax Icemen—Vystar Veteran's Memorial Arena, ALL HOME GAMES: \$12-\$33.

Orlando Magic Basketball—Amway Center Orlando, ALL HOME GAMES: \$10.75 and up.

Nights of Lights, St. Augustine—Nov. 23 to Feb. 2: \$11.50 Adult, \$5 Child (3-12).

Taxslayer/Gator Bowl—TIAA Bank Field, Jan. 2: \$35.

PBR (Professional Bull Riders) Velocity Tour—Vystar Veteran's Memorial Arena, Jan. 4, 2020: \$32.25/\$43.

Monster Jam—Vystar Veteran's Memorial Arena, Feb. 29, 2020: \$32/\$42. Pit passes also available.

Jeff Dunham—Vystar Veteran's Memorial Arena, March 5, 2020: \$60.

Josh Groban—Times Union-Moran Theater, March 13: \$148.50.

Michael Buble—Vystar Veteran's Memorial Arena, March 17: \$166.50.

Disney On Ice-Mickey's Search Party—Vystar Veteran's Memorial Arena, April 3-5: \$19.50.

Lit AF Tour ft. Martin Lawrence, Rickey Smiley & more! Vystar Veteran's Memorial Arena, May 8: \$70.75.

Jo Jo Siwa—Vystar Veteran's Memorial Arena, May 28: \$56.

Dude Perfect—Vystar Veteran's Memorial Arena, May 29: \$47.

Hella Mega Tour ft. Green Day, Fallout Boy, and Weezer—TIAA Bank Field, Aug. 6, 2020: \$113.

Impractical Jokers—Vystar Veteran's Memorial Arena, Aug. 7: \$79.

Journey—Vystar Veteran's Memorial Arena, Aug. 24: \$94-\$116.

Jimmy Buffett—Vystar Veteran's Memorial Arena, Dec. 8, 2020: \$100.

FSCJ Artist Series – Broadway in Jacksonville: Wicked, Rent, Bandstand, Anastasia, and more. Prices vary depending on date and show time. Call or visit the Ticket Office for further details.

Current Ticket Promotions Include the Following:

Adventure Landing Dry pass: \$22.

Alhambra Dinner Show: Prices range \$40 - \$50.

Autobahn Indoor Speedway: (28% Savings) \$25 Gift Card - \$20. \$50 Gift Card - \$40.

Biltmore Estates Asheville, NC—Premium Season now – Jan. 5: Adult - \$70, Youth - \$35; includes Christmas at Biltmore, Downton Abbey, Visit Santa & more!

Catty Shack Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary: \$8.50 - \$13.50.

Disney World Orlando Armed Forces 2020 Salute 4-Day ticket with hopper option - \$259.75; 4-Day Hopper ticket with water park fun & more - \$308.50. 5-Day ticket with hopper option - \$277.75; 5-Day Hopper ticket with water park fun & more - \$326.00; 6-Day ticket with hopper option - \$294.75; 6-Day Hopper ticket with water park fun & more - \$343.50. Tickets valid Jan. 1, 2020 and expire Dec. 18, 2020. Only Active and Retired U.S. Military Personnel (including Active or Retired members of the National Guard, Reservists, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service (PHS), and the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) "or" their spouses are authorized to purchase Military Promotional tickets. - (6) Promotional Maximum purchase per service member, including member- If service member has an annual pass or multi-day ticket they can purchase (5) Promotional Maximum and Must enter with party.

Jacksonville Symphony: \$31.

Jacksonville Zoo, General admission & admission w/unlimited train rides: \$12.50 - \$21.50.

Sea World Orlando Military Special: \$49 (limit 4 tickets per member ID).

Six Flags: \$46.50.

Spanish Military Hospital Museum: \$5 - \$7.50.

St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zipline: \$37, Park admission \$9.50 - \$15.

St. Augustine Aquarium: Adult \$8. Child Admission - \$5. Snorkel Adventure (Includes Admission) \$32.

St. Augustine Old Town Trolley: \$7.50 - \$21.25 BOGO.

St. Augustine Oldest Store Museum: \$5 - \$8.

St. Augustine Pirates Museum: \$3 - \$8.

St. Augustine Potters Wax Museum: \$5.75 - \$8.

St. Augustine Sight Seeing Train: \$5.50 - \$12.

Universal Orlando Military Special EXTENDED through 03/31/20 (Not available at the gate! Maximum of 6 tickets per valid military ID): 3-Park, 4-Day Park to Park Ticket, Adult \$200, Child \$196 (Redeemable through 03/31/20, ticket expires on this date). Valid for 4 days of admission to Universal Studios Florida, Universal's Islands of Adventure, and Volcano Bay water park. Must be purchased by 01/28/20. Visit the Ticket Office for further details.

Velocity Air Sports Jacksonville: 1 Hr. (socks included): \$15.50. 2 Hr (socks included) \$26.

Wild Adventures (Valdosta, Ga.): Gold Pass – \$81 Special—use now until the end of 2020.

World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum: \$14.75.

Breakfast with Santa

Photos by
Demi Cruz



Santa's little helpers provide free toys to children after they have taken pictures with Santa at the Breakfast with Santa event at Dewey's on NAS Jax, Dec. 14.



Children await their turn for a holiday-themed balloon creation at the Breakfast with Santa event at Dewey's on NAS Jax, Dec. 14.

AE1 Karl Grantham of VR-58 grabs a free Christmas book for his daughters during the Breakfast with Santa event at Dewey's on NAS Jax, Dec. 14.