



MC1 Dominique A. Pineiro
Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks to British Army Gen. Sir Nicholas Carter, chief of the defense staff, prior to the start of a session during the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Military Committee in Chiefs of Defense (MC/CS) Session in Warsaw, Poland Sept. 29, 2018.

DUNFORD PLEASED DOD ENTERS FISCAL 2019 WITH BUDGET

By Jim Garamone
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

MADRID
For the first time in a long time, the Defense Department entered the fiscal year with a budget, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said troops should be extremely pleased with the development.
Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks to British Army Gen. Sir Nicholas Carter, chief of the defense staff, prior to the start of a session during the NATO Military Committee Conference in Warsaw, Poland.
Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman

of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks to British Army Gen. Sir Nicholas Carter, chief of the defense staff, prior to the start of a session during the NATO Military Committee Conference in Warsaw, Poland.
“What the troops have seen is a commitment from the executive and legislative branches of government to give them the wherewithal to do their jobs,” Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford said during an interview with reporters traveling with him.
President Donald J. Trump signed the appropriations bill on Friday meaning the Defense Department starts fiscal year 2019 with money in the bank. The president signed the John S. McCain National Defense Authoriza-

tion Act in August. Both bills must be passed before DOD can operate.
Defense leaders had made the case for the budget through “identifying the challenges we face and also the demonstrated performance of our men and women in uniform every day,” Dunford said. Congress understood that the U.S. military needs these capabilities, “and we can be entrusted to make good use of them.”
His message to Congress and the American people this year is for an appropriate, sustained level of funding. “It took us years to get into this problem and you don’t spend money efficiently, you don’t spend money as good steward, if you lurch from year to year,”

he said. “You can’t plan a program and develop capabilities over time.”
Predictability will allow the department to build effective partnerships with industry. This will allow companies to deliver capabilities on time and on cost.
“We need to have predictability to properly prioritize what we are going to invest in,” he said. “Every year, no matter how big the budget is, you have to make choices. We are much better at making choices if we are informed by a three-to five-year look ahead and predict what level of funding we will have.”

3 things to know: Navy College Program updates

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

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.
As part of the software backbone used to support the functionality of the Navy College Program website and Navy College Virtual Education Center (NCVEC), the Navy College Management Information System (NCMIS) is continually updated.
“Our recent NCMIS upgrades include the latest updates to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, including online acknowledgement of Transferability of Education Benefits (TEB) requirements; Improvements to the MyEducation Application including individual notifications to Sailors; and Upgraded Advanced

Education Voucher/Graduate Education Voucher (AEV/GEV) functionality,” said Steve Ramey, NCMIS program manager for the Naval Education and Training Professional Development Center.
Here are three things to know about the NCMIS enhancements:
- **Updated Post-9/11 GI Bill Process.** As announced in NAVADMIN 236/18, all Sailors are required to sign a Statement of Understanding (SOU) to begin the process of transferring unused GI Bill Education Benefits to family members. Once logged into MyEducation from the Navy College Program website, the service member reviews the SOU and agrees to the statement. Further instructions will guide the Sailor to the milConnect website (<https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>) to transfer benefits. All Transfer of Education Benefit (TEB) requests must be approved by Navy Personnel Command or Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command. Sailors can see the status of their TEB by
» See COLLEGE | A7



Rear Adm. Kyle Cozad, right center, commander of Naval Education and Training Command and co-lead for the Ready, Relevant Learning (RRL) Executive Steering Committee (ESC), welcomes members of the ESC for their inaugural meeting.
Carla McCarthy

Ready, Relevant, Learning Executive Steering Committee holds initial meeting

From Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs
PENSACOLA, FLA.
Members of the Ready, Relevant Learning (RRL) Executive Steering Committee (ESC), responsible for integrating the individual efforts of stakeholders as RRL is implemented, came together formally for the first time as a group Oct. 3.
RRL is one of three pillars for Sailor 2025, which is the Navy’s program to more effectively recruit, develop, manage, re-

ward and retain the force of tomorrow. The initiative’s goal is to provide Sailors the right training at the right time and in the right way.
“RRL is a substantial strategic change and long-term innovation, and while so much has already taken place to get us to this point, coming together as a formalized group today is another step in the process,” said Alfred Gonzalez, Jr., U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF) director, fleet personnel development and allocation (N1). “It indicates how
» See RRL | A7

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CUB SCOUTS EXPLORE USS OAK HILL

Sailors and Marines gave guided tours to Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts aboard the Harpers Ferry-class amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) as part of Maryland Fleet Week and Air Show Baltimore (MDFWASB) on Oct. 6.

» see A6

US-JAPAN ADVANCE NEW AMPHIBIOUS CAPABILITY

The USS Ashland (LSD 48) became the first U.S. Navy ship in the 7th Fleet to conduct operations with the Japan Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade (ARDB) troops Oct. 2.

» see B1

2018 FLEET WEEK HAMPTON ROADS

Check out the complete 2018 Fleet Week Hampton Roads schedule! There’s plenty of entertainment and activities for all!

» see C1

Easing the way: DOD, VA release online tool to help Veterans with discharge upgrades

From Department of Defense

The Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs have announced the launch of a web-based tool that will provide customized guidance to veterans who need to upgrade or change the conditions of their military discharges.

“We are thrilled to have partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs in developing this wonderful and easily accessible tool,” said Robert Wilkie, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. “We support our veterans, whether they served recently or long ago, and we are excited to introduce a tool that will individualize the

guidance for those who desire an upgrade or change in their military discharge.”

Over the years, some veterans have criticized the review process as daunting or difficult to understand. Supplemental guides, while helpful to many, have had the side effect of creating multiple documents that can be confusing to some. Furthermore, some veterans suffer from mental health or other conditions that can make sorting through resources especially difficult.

Now, by answering a few short questions, veterans will know which boards they need to go to, what forms to fill out, any special guidance applicable to their cases and

where to send their applications. They can also learn helpful tips for appealing their discharges. Any veterans who believe their discharges were unjust or erroneous, or who believe their cases warrant upgrades are encouraged to use this tool and then apply for review.

The tool can be found on Vets.gov at www.vets.gov/discharge-upgrade-instructions. The link is also available on Military OneSource (www.militaryonesource.mil/), and via each of the review board’s websites (listed below).

Navy Board for Correction of Naval RecordsWebsite: www.secnav.navy.mil/mra/bcnr/Pages/home.aspx
Phone: 703-607-6111
Email: BCNR_Application@navy.mil
Navy Discharge Review Board
Website: www.secnav.navy.mil/mra/CORB/Pages/NDRB/default.aspx
Phone: 202-685-6600
Email: NDRB@navy.mil

Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records
Website: www.afpc.af.mil/Career-Management/Board-for-Correction-of-Military-Records/
Phone: 240-612-5379
Email: usaf.pentagon.saf-mr.mbx.saf-mrbc@mail.mil
Air Force Discharge Review Board
Website: www.afpc.af.mil/Separation/Discharge-Review-Board/
Phone: 240-612-0995
E-mail: usaf.pentagon.saf-mr.mbx.saf-mrb@mail.mil
Army Board for Correction of Military Records
Website: http://arba.army.pentagon.mil/
E-mail: army.arbainquiry@mail.mil
Army Discharge Review Board
Website: http://arba.army.pentagon.mil/
E-mail: army.arbainquiry@mail.mil

Getting TRICARE for your child

From TRICARE

You can get TRICARE for your child in two steps:

1.Register your newborn or adopted child in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). You must enroll in DEERS for TRICARE coverage.

2.Choose a TRICARE health plan and enroll your child if necessary.

You don’t need a Social Security number to register your child in DEERS. Once you have one, update DEERS with that number.

How you enroll your new child depends on who you are. This includes newborns, newly adopted children, and children placed with sponsors as wards.

ACTIVE DUTY FAMILY MEMBERS

When do I need to register my child in DEERS?

Stateside

- Within 90 days of birth

Overseas

- Within 120 days of birth

What happens when I register my child in DEERS?

Stateside

- If you live in a stateside PSA, your child is automatically enrolled in TRICARE Prime
- If not in a PSA, your child is auto-enrolled in TRICARE Select
- You have 90 days from the day you enter your child in DEERS to change their plan, to include TRICARE Prime Remote or USFHP
- TRICARE won’t pay on any claims starting when the child is 91 days old

Overseas

- Your child is automatically enrolled in TRICARE Select
- You have 90 days from the day you enter your child in DEERS to change their plan to TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Prime or TOP Prime Remote, if command sponsored

What if I don’t register my child in DEERS?

Stateside & Overseas

- Your child won’t show as TRICARE eligible
- Claims for your child deny starting when the child is 91 days old (stateside only)

What if I register my child in DEERS, but don’t enroll in a plan?

Stateside & Overseas

- Your child is automatically enrolled in a plan

What if I register my child in DEERS late?

Stateside

- Your child will be automatically enrolled in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select when entered in DEERS. Coverage is backdated to the date of birth
- You have 90 days from the date entered in DEERS to change to a different plan, e.g. TRICARE Prime Remote, USFHP. The new plan is backdated to the date of birth
- You will need to ask the contractor to re-process any claims that were denied or that should be processed under the new plan

Overseas

- Your child is automatically enrolled in TRICARE Select when entered in DEERS
- Coverage will be backdated to the date of birth
- You have 90 days from the date entered in DEERS to change to a different plan, e.g. TOP Prime or TOP Prime Remote. The new plan is backdated to the date of birth

- You will need to ask the contractor to re-process any claims that were denied or that should be processed under the new plan

RETIREES

When do I need to register my child in DEERS?

Stateside

- Within 90 days of birth

Overseas

- Within 120 days of birth

What happens when I register my child in DEERS?

Stateside & Overseas

- Your child isn’t automatically enrolled in a TRICARE plan
- You have 90 days from the date of your child’s birth to enroll him or her in a plan (Prime, Select, or USFHP where available)
- Claims for your child deny starting when the child is 91 days old (stateside only)

What if I don’t register my child in DEERS?

Stateside & Overseas

- Your child won’t show as TRICARE eligible and won’t have access to military or civilian health care
- Claims for your child deny starting when the child is 91 days old (stateside only)

What if I register my child in DEERS, but don’t enroll in a plan?

Stateside & Overseas

- Your child shows as direct care only, meaning he or she can only get care and pharmacy services at a military hospital of clinic on a space-available basis. Your child doesn’t have access to civilian health care or retail or mail order pharmacy services
- TRICARE won’t pay on any claims starting when the child is 91 days old (stateside only)

What if I register my child in DEERS late?

For 2018 only:

Stateside & Overseas

- Your child will be direct care only when entered in DEERS
- You need to enroll your child in a TRICARE plan as soon as possible
- Coverage won’t be backdated. You are responsible for all costs from day 91 (stateside only) until you child is enrolled in a plan

Starting in 2019:

Stateside & Overseas

- Your child is eligible for direct care only when entered in DEERS
- You will need to wait for the open enrollment season or another qualifying life event to enroll your child in a plan
- Coverage won’t be backdated. You will be responsible for all costs from day 91 (stateside only) until your child gets enrolled

You need to register your child in DEERS within one year (365 days) of his or her birth or adoption. On day 366, your child won’t be able to receive benefits until you register them in DEERS.

For more information visit: <https://www.tricare.mil/LifeEvents/Baby/GettingTRICAREforChild>



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Editorial Staff

Military Editor | MCC Shannon Warner
757-322-2860 / news@flagshipnews.com

Graphic Designer | Mike Doyle

Flagship, Inc.

MNV Military Manager | Pam Bullock, 757-446-2795
Advertising Inquiries | Pam Bullock, 757-446-2795

Creative Coordinator | Allyson Garner, 757-222-3955

Free Classified Advertising, 757-222-5373
Distribution, 757-222-5629
Home Delivery, 757-222-3900

Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic (CNRMA):
Rear Adm. Charles W. “Chip” Rock
Regional program manager for Navy Region Mid-Atlantic (NRMA):
Public Affairs Director | Beth Baker

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NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic to host Career Fair October 14 in Chesapeake: Naval Facilities Engineering Command recruiting for hundreds of open positions

From NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs Office

NORFOLK

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Mid-Atlantic will host a career fair Oct. 14 at the Chesapeake Conference Center, 700 Conference Center Drive, Chesapeake, Va. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in an effort to recruit and fill 600 career vacancies.

“This dynamic hiring initiative is key to enabling NAVFAC’s mission of supporting the fleet, says NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic Business Director Tom Barstow. “The workload we have in support of the Navy and Marine Corps mission is on the rise and finding the right people to fill out our team is our top priority.”

NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic will use direct hiring authorities by the Department of Defense in order to quickly fill vacancies. Hiring specialists will conduct interviews during the career fair, and for qualified candidates, offer tentative job offers on site.

“We are motivated to secure the very best professionals because this ultimately means that only the best are serving the fleet,” says NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic Human Resources Director Rebecca Rowe. “There is an incredibly accomplished talent pool out there and we want to offer them the kind of meaningful opportunities, coupled with great pay and benefits, that make up the heart of a first-rate civil service career.”

The organization is recruiting for hundreds of federal positions in a variety of professional disciplines and geographic areas to include, but not limited to: Architects, Elec-

trical, Mechanical, Civil, Fire Protection, and Environmental Engineers; Construction Managers; Engineering Technicians; Community Planners; Realty Specialists; Contract Specialists; Financial Management Specialists; and Information Technology Specialists.

The command is likewise seeking to fill craftsman trade positions to include: High Voltage Electricians; Electricians; Air Conditioning Equipment Mechanics; Carpenters; Maintenance Mechanics; Heavy Mobile Equipment Mechanics; Riggers, Crane Operators; Plumbers and Pipefitters.

NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic recruitment efforts are focused on the Hampton Roads area with openings at all area bases – Naval Station Norfolk; Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story and Naval Air Station in Va. Beach; Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth; and Naval Weapons Station Yorktown.

Because the command spans the east coast from Maine to Georgia, and as far west as Illinois, applicants may also apply for opportunities in Kittery, Maine; Philadelphia; Mechanicsburg, Penn.; Newport, R.I.; New London, Conn.; Great Lakes, Ill.; Earle, N.J.; Crane, Ind.; Havelock, N.C.; Jacksonville, N.C.; Albany, Ga.; Parris Island, S.C.; and Beaufort, S.C.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their resumes ahead of the event to NAVFAC_ML-HRO@navy.mil. It is further recommended they bring additional copies of their resumes to the job fair as well transcripts, professional licenses and certifications to help determine qualifications for vacancies and to set up interviews.



OCEANA POW/ MIA CEREMONY



Photos MCSN Mark Thomas Mahmood

Members of the Patriot Guard Riders parade the colors during a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) ceremony held at the Naval Air Station Oceana Chapel of Good Hope. POW/MIA recognition day is observed every year on the third Friday of September and honors those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action.



Ceremony wreaths arranged for the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action ceremony at the Naval Air Station Oceana Chapel of Good Hope honoring those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action.



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FLEET AND FORCE MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS PARTICIPATE IN TYCOM SYNCH ABOARD USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN

By MCSN Nikki Custer

NORFOLK

U.S. Navy fleet and force master chief petty officers converged to participate in Type Commander Synchronization (TYCOM SYNCH) aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CNV 72), Sept. 28.

TYCOM SYNCH was the first face-to-face meeting with this group of fleet and force master chief petty officers. Senior enlisted officials discussed several topics involving mission readiness, the importance of unity of effort throughout the chain of command and the significance of job proficiency and material readiness.

Leaders in attendance included U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief James M. Honea, and U.S. Fleet Forces Command (FFC) Fleet Master Chief Richard P. O’Rawe.

“The purpose of the meeting was to synchronize the efforts of TYCOM and FFC,”

said Honea. “Some topics of the conference included self-sufficiency, technical capability, resiliency programs, and basic and advanced training for units approaching deployment cycles. We collaborated on these topics in support of the continued effort to build upon warfighting readiness throughout the Navy.”

TYCOM SYNCH acted as a forum of communication among leaders to align goals and fleet-wide responsibilities.

“The Navy’s message is one team, one fight,” said O’Rawe. “This is accomplished by assuring unity of effort. All manned and trained Pacific and Atlantic force master chiefs came together to unify certification and training standards that are being implemented throughout the Fleet.”

Getting a group of senior enlisted leaders together in one place like this helps to strengthen the chain of command at all levels by communicating the responsibilities and viewpoints of enlisted members from across

the Navy.

Operational success can be achieved by upholding knowledge of personnel and by maintaining material readiness.

“It is important that material maintenance is scheduled appropriately to ensure our ships, aircraft and submarines operate at a very high level of capability,” said O’Rawe. “It is also vital that we provide Sailors with the training they need to become subject matter experts in their rate. With this knowledge, they can properly execute tasks and operate equipment safely and efficiently.”

The TYCOM SYNCH was a cohesive effort to strengthen mission readiness and increase deployable forces for the U.S. Navy, and Abraham Lincoln was proud to host the distinguished guests attending the meeting.

“I would like to thank the crew of Abraham Lincoln for hosting this event,” said Honea. “It is clear that hard work has been done to create the culture of excellence that is demonstrated by these Sailors.”

After the conclusion of TYCOM SYNCH, many of the senior enlisted stayed in the area to attend and celebrate the retirement of Fleet Master Chief Paul Kingsbury, who completed 31 years of naval service. Fleet Master Chief O’Rawe assumed his role at FFC upon Kingsbury’s retirement.

“Fleet Master Chief Kingsbury is extremely influential,” said O’Rawe. “In assuming this new position, the aperture of my responsibilities broadens. I look at tasks before me through a lens of what I call ACPO (accountability, competency and character, procedural compliance and proficiency and ownership). If I can help Sailors improve in these four areas, the nation will be provided with the Navy it needs.”

A culture of excellence is fostered when experience and strength are shared between senior enlisted members and with the crew. A boost in morale and increased mission readiness is generated through collaborations like this one and can be shared among all who serve in the United States Navy.

Abraham Lincoln is moored in Norfolk and stands ready to respond to the mission of the U.S. Navy.

For more news from USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), visit www.navy.mil/local/cvn72/.

Iwo Jima, Gunston Hall, New York, MAGTF depart for Trident Juncture 18

From Expeditionary Strike Group 2 Public Affairs

NORFOLK

More than 2,000 Sailors serving aboard amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7), amphibious dock landing ship USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44) and amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21) departed Oct. 2-3 for NATO-led exercise Trident Juncture 18.

Iwo Jima and New York are homeported at Naval Station Mayport, Florida, and Gunston Hall is homeported at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story in Virginia.

The nearly 2,000 Marines with a Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF), built around the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit command element from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, will also embark the ships. The MAGTF is comprised of battalion landing team, a composite aviation squadron and a combat logistics battalion.

Exercise Trident Juncture 18 will take place in Norway, Sweden and Finland beginning this month, with expected participation of more than 40,000 troops from more than 30 NATO member and partner nations. It will be one of

NATO’s largest exercises in recent history.

“It’s important for U.S. amphibious forces to conduct operations in the European area of responsibility and for us to work with multinational amphibious forces,” said Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 2, Rear Adm. Brad Skillman. “Exercises like Trident Juncture 18 provide and reinforce security measures; maritime and amphibious capability development and presence; synchronized operational planning; and better options for political-military decision making.”

The majority of U.S. troops participating will be a part of ESG-2 and the Marine Corps’ II Marine Expeditionary Force. En route to Norway, U.S. forces will conduct training in Iceland, host a Marine assault landing rehearsal, cold-weather training, a Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO pre-sail conference, and a commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic, which took place during World War II.

In Norway, the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps will participate primarily in the live training portion of Trident Juncture 18. This includes maneuvers on land, at sea, and in the air.

New lateral transfer and redesignation board schedule announced

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON

Navy announced a new schedule and board sponsor for the biannual Lateral Transfer and Redesignation Board, Oct. 2, in NAVADMIN 246/18.

Effective immediately, the board will be conducted in February and August, with Bureau of Naval Personnel, Officer Community Management Branch (BUPERS-3) as the board sponsor.

Historically, the board has been held in June and November, with Navy Personnel Command, Officer Career Progression Department (PERS-8) serving as the board sponsor.

Navy shifted the lateral transfer and redesignation board to August in order to increase the likelihood that officers receive promotion results prior to the August board results.

The process change, part of Navy’s Sail-

or 2025 personnel system modernization efforts, will better match officer skill sets with individual community needs.

A NAVADMIN announcing the convening and application deadline for the February 2019 Board will be released in the coming months. Additional information will be made available on the NPC Lateral Transfer/Redesignation website at <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/boards/administrative/TransferRedesignation/Pages/default.aspx>.

The lateral transfer and redesignation process is a key tool, by which the Navy manages the talents of its officers. It provides flexibility in officer community manning and maximizes the Navy’s return on investment in officer training and education, by leveraging the specialized skillsets of officers throughout their careers.

For more information on the board read NAVADMIN 246/18 at www.npc.navy.mil.

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp/.

Cub Scouts explore USS Oak Hill

By MC2 Victoria Kinney

Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 1 Public Affairs, Maryland Fleet Week and Air Show Baltimore Public Affairs

BALTIMORE

Sailors and Marines gave guided tours to Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts aboard the Harpers Ferry-class amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) as part of Maryland Fleet Week and Air Show Baltimore (MDFWASB) on Oct. 6.

Scouts were taken aboard the ship as special visitors and given private lessons about precision guided missiles, a howitzer, Light Armored Vehicle-Recovery (LAV-R) and various weapons used by the 2nd Marine Division attached to the ship.

“It is such a great opportunity for these scouts to see what the military does for us day in and day out,” said Mike Nolan, a Cub Scout Pack 478 leader. “I think the kids will be talking about this day for a long time.”

Oak Hill is expecting to receive more than 1,300 visitors while berthed in Baltimore as a part of the festivities scheduled around the city. For many Sailors, this is a chance to share their daily lives to the public.

“This has been such a flashback for me,” said Ship’s Serviceman Seaman Apprentice Donald Ryder, assigned to Oak Hill. “I remember being a Boy Scout and climbing into a Humvee. Honestly, that was one of the reasons I wanted to join the military way back when. I hope today we were able to leave a lasting impression.”

Throughout Maryland Fleet Week and Air Show Baltimore, Oct. 3-9, U.S., Canadian and British navy vessels will be available for embarking visitors in the Inner Harbor, Fells Point and Locust Point. Service members will be participating in an array of other activities, including visiting local schools, conducting ship tours, attending receptions and sporting events, participating in community service projects and experiencing Baltimore.

MDFWASB is Baltimore’s celebration of the sea services and provides an opportunity for the citizens of Maryland and the city of Baltimore to meet Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, as well as see firsthand the latest capabilities of today’s maritime services.



Photos MC3 Julio Martinez

Marine Cpl. Roynell Bias, from New Orleans, shows children from Boy Scouts of America Troop 1000 an M777 Howitzer during a tour of the Harpers Ferry-class amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) while participating in Maryland Fleet Week and Air Show Baltimore.



Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Shanique Williams, from New York, shows children from Boy Scouts of America Troop 1000 equipment from a high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle.



Marine Sgt. Joseph Leitsch, from Indianapolis, shows a child from Boy Scouts of America Troop 1000 an M240 machine gun.

Sister-in-laws share a touching moment aboard USS Wisconsin (BB-64)

By Max Lonzanida

Naval History and Heritage Command

NORFOLK

For centuries service men and women have answered the call of duty in national defense. Nothing so solemnly affirms one's commitment to that duty better than the enlistment oath of office. This is according to the U.S. Navy's Military Personnel Manual (MILPERSMAN) 1160-20. But aside from that, why settle for a re-enlistment ceremony in an office cubicle or a hangar bay; when you can re-enlist on a battleship? And even better, have the re-enlistment oath given by your sister-in-law.

This was the case this afternoon aboard the U.S.S Wisconsin (BB-64). In front of the iconic turret #1, which has fired countless 16 inch projectiles in support of operations that span decades; AZ2(AW) Jasmine James from the Fleet Readiness Center Mid-Atlantic, was discharged from the US Navy. She was provided an opportunity to say a few words to reflect on her service. The mood was light, and there were many smiles and the echoes of laughter resonated on the teak wood decks of the ship while she contemplated. Then, under the intermittent shade of the towering gun barrels, she raised her right hand and took the Oath of Re-enlistment. Administering the oath was a very familiar face to the re-enlistee; Lieutenant Valeta Wilson James, her sister-in-law, who had travelled from Afloat Training Group-Mayport. After the oath was administered, the two hugged and reflected on their time spent together over the years. This was a rare but touching ceremony for those present, including members of the public who were aboard watching the ceremony.

According to Commander, Naval Air Forces:

Fleet Readiness Center Mid-Atlantic (FRCMA) performs scheduled integrated maintenance inspection and repair, unscheduled emergency in-service repair, structural and electronic system modification, weight and balance and Non-Destructive Inspections on numerous carrier based aircraft, as well as Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (ALRE) on aviation capable ships, saving the Naval Aviation Enterprise (NAE) thousands

of dollars while maintaining state-of-the art war fighting capability. The FRCMA vision is to be an enduring World Class Aviation Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) Organization, focused on leveraging the full potential of our diverse capabilities and skills with the center of our attention on war fighting mission requirements, quality products and services for our customers, and cost wise readiness.

The U.S.S Wisconsin (BB-64) is an Iowa-Class Battleship that was first commissioned on April 16, 1944. She was finally decommissioned in on September 30, 1991 and struck from the Naval Register on March 17, 2006. She is moored permanently as a museum ship adjacent to the Hampton Roads Naval Museum in Downtown Norfolk, Virginia.

About the Museum:

The Hampton Roads Naval Museum is one of ten Navy museums that are operated by the Naval History & Heritage Command. It celebrates the long history of the U.S. Navy in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia and is co-located with Nauticus in downtown Norfolk, Virginia. Admission to the museum is free, simply by-pass the ticket line and take the stairs or elevator to the museum on the second deck. The museum hosts a robust educational program for area schools and commands, with free educational programs to area schools aligned with state curriculum standards, a travelling sea chest program, a premier Lego outreach program, and historical presentations for area commands. To inquire, contact their Educational Director, Laura Orr at Laura.L.Orr@navy.mil or at (757) 322-3018. The museum is also host to a robust volunteer corps, who serve as docents, support special events, and assist in museum archives. To inquire, contact their Volunteer Coordinator, Darcy Sink at Darcy.Sink@navy.mil or at (757) 322-2992. Lastly the museum proudly hosts military ceremonies, such as re-enlistments, retirements, and promotions for area commands aboard the U.S.S Wisconsin and in the museum's gallery. To inquire, contact their special events coordinator, Tom Dandes at Thomas.Dandes@navy.mil or call (757) 322-3106.



Photos by Max Lonzanida

The Hampton Roads Naval Museum hosted a re-enlistment ceremony aboard the USS Wisconsin (BB-64) this afternoon. AZ2 Jasmine James, from the Fleet Readiness Center Mid-Atlantic, proudly held up her right hand and re-enlisted today in front of members of her family and her command. The re-enlistment was a special one; the re-enlisting officer was Lieutenant Valeta Wilson James, from the Afloat Training Center Mayport; the re-enlistees' sister-in-law. The Wisconsin is a retired Iowa-Class Battleship that is moored permanently next to the Hampton Roads Naval Museum as a museum ship. The museum hosts military ceremonies aboard the ship for area commands free of charge. To inquire, contact Thomas.Dandes@navy.mil or at (757) 322-3106.



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NMCP’s commanding officer, Diversity Committee members, and the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration local speakers cut the celebration cake.

U.S. Navy photo

NMCP observes National Hispanic Heritage Month

By Christina Johnson
Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Public Affairs

PORTSMOUTH, VA.
Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP) ’s Diversity Committee hosted a celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month with Hispanic Heritage videos, local speakers, and cake, Oct. 2.
This year’s theme, “Hispanics: One Endless voice to Enhance our Traditions,” was highlighted during the celebration with several speakers who shared their personal history and stories of their native countries.
Hospitalman Gabriella Murillo was the first to speak and she shared that her family moved from Nicaragua to Chicago when she was six years old.
“I’m proud to be a Latina, and to be in the Navy – because there’s so many of us,” said Murillo.
There are approximately 59,000 active and Reserve Sailors of Hispanic heritage currently serving in the U.S. Navy, and their service to this country stretches back to the Civil War. Recognizing Hispanic heritage started in 1968 when President Lyndon Johnson designated a week in mid-September as Na-

tional Hispanic Heritage Week to 1988 when President Ronald Reagan extended the week to last an entire month, Sep. 15 to Oct. 15.
Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Ivonne Mumford was born in Mexico, and her family moved to Georgia when she was eight years old.
“I’m proud to call myself a Latina,” said Mumford. “I love being able to speak both languages, it really has benefitted me and others. I’ve been translating for people since I was 10 years old. My daughter is half white, half Mexican so that’s a fun little project I’m working on in trying to teach her Spanish. I was brought up with the belief that you treat everyone like family and you treat your family well. What I love about where I grew up is everyone is so proud of their heritage, children, teenagers, young adults, keep up with the traditions of their grandparents and they do everything they can to make sure these traditions will not be forgotten.”
Lt. Lidia Kruse-Peralta was 14 years old when her family moved from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, so she vividly remembers her time there.
“Dominicans have the ability to be positive, have this positive energy around them.

Always finding little ways to be thankful and appreciative,” said Kruse-Peralta. “Coming to this country I had so many opportunities that I am so very thankful for, and joining the Navy and serving this country was one of the ways that I found to give back. I’m very excited to be able to continue to share my culture with others in the Navy and continue to speak Spanish.”
“I was born at the Roosevelt Roads Naval Hospital (Puerto Rico),” said Chief Hospital Corpsman Wilmary Rivera. “So I was destined to be in the military. My father was a retired HMC so I guess I was always destined to be a Chief.”
Rivera said her family moved to New York when she was five, but she still remembers the sounds and smells of Puerto Rico.
“I remember waking up to the sounds of roosters and the smell of bread. We make some amazing bread,” said Rivera. “To be a Latina to me means good food, amazing music – Salsa is our music. Puerto Ricans are very loving, we love to eat. We welcome you into our homes by feeding you, we like to entertain, and we like to welcome people into our homes so they feel like family.”
Lt. Cmdr. JoAnn Martinez-Garcia spoke about her being a second-generation Mexican-American from San Antonio, Texas.
“My grandparents immigrated in the 50s, and they did it to seek opportunity and they instilled in me education. Education is number one,” said Martinez-Garcia. “If I were asked the question, what it means to be Hispanic, Latina, Mexican-American, I think

to me is to make good on that promise and sacrifice that they made for me. It’s being a mother and sharing that culture with my children.”
The ceremony concluded with comments from Capt. Christopher Culp, NMCP’s commanding officer. “We do this because everybody brings something, not just different, but additional, to the table. Every culture, every sub-culture, every geographic location has a way of looking at things, a way of doing things, a set of traditions, that just enriches how you look at life. When you add us all together, we have a much more skilled, and able and adaptable and created and fun place to work,” said Culp. “We do this to remind each other to celebrate diversity, to celebrate the unique things that each of us bring to the work place, to the understanding of our patients and our mission, just to the enjoyment of coming to work every day.”
As the U. S. Navy’s oldest, continuously-operating hospital since 1830, NMCP proudly serves past and present military members and their families. The nationally acclaimed, state of the art medical center, including its ten branches and TRICARE Prime clinics, serves the Hampton Roads area; in addition to premier research and teaching programs designed to prepare new doctors, nurses and hospital corpsmen for future roles in healing and wellness.

For more news from Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, visit www.navy.mil/local/NMCP/.

Innovative internships: SEAP grooms the future naval civilian force

By Warren Duffie Jr.
Office of Naval Research Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, VA.
Addressing a group of science-loving high school students, Dr. Sophoria Westmoreland issued a challenge. “Raise your hands if you like money,” she said. “Now raise your hands if you don’t mind working for that money — because the Navy and Marine Corps need you.”
Pleased by the number of hands that shot upward, Westmoreland touted the benefits of the Office of Naval Research’s (ONR) Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP), which provides summer internship opportunities to academically talented students to perform research alongside scientists and engineers at naval laboratories and warfare centers.
Westmoreland, a SEAP support contractor at ONR, recently spoke to students studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) during an outreach visit at Harrison High School in Atlanta, Georgia.
The goals of SEAP, an eight-week program for 10 to 12th-graders, are to encourage students to pursue STEM careers, and to further their education through mentoring and participation in research. The program is

intended to make participants aware of naval research and technology efforts, which can lead to future employment within the Department of the Navy.
“It’s critical to engage young people to explore STEM careers,” said Dr. Michelle Skoorka, ONR’s director of Laboratory Research Programs. “They’ll get paid to do a cool job and will understand that their work matters to the Navy and Marine Corps.”
Interested students must apply and be accepted into SEAP, which places them as apprentices at laboratories and warfare centers for two months during the summer. Participants work full time with naval scientists and engineers, who also act as mentors. SEAP offers students a unique and positive experience in their fields of interest, encouraging them to pursue careers in science and engineering.
“You won’t be making coffee or getting donuts,” Westmoreland told the students at Harrison High School. “You’ll be assigned a mentor and work on actual naval research. You’ll also be learning professional skills like how to dress appropriately for work, how to interact with your co-workers and how to give presentations.”
Applicants must be 16 years of age and have completed the ninth grade. Those ac-



John F. Williams

Dr. Sophoria Westmoreland, from the Office of Naval Research (ONR), and Anthony C. Smith, program director for the Department of Navy (DoN) Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions (HBCU/MI) Program, visit with faculty and staff at Georgia State University to discuss internships, grants, and other opportunities available for students and faculty at Navy labs.

cepted receive a federal salary while participating in SEAP, as well as a stipend (\$3,300 for new students and \$3,800 for returning ones). Skoorka said that SEAP usually accepts approximately 300 students for internships each year.

Applications are currently being accepted for SEAP’s 2019 summer internships, and must be submitted by Nov. 2, 2018. For more information, visit <http://seap.asee.org/>.
For more news from Office of Naval Research, visit www.navy.mil/local/onr/.

Secretary of the Navy names newest Freedom Variant Littoral Combat Ship

From SECNAV Public Affairs

WASHINGTON

Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer announced today that the next Freedom-variant Littoral Combat Ship will be named USS Beloit (LCS 29).

The future USS Beloit (LCS 29) is named in honor of Beloit, Wis. and is the first ship to bear the name.

“The city and citizens of Beloit have been a steadfast supporter of the Navy and Marine Corps,” said Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer. “From building engines for freedom-variant LCSs to manufacturing components for the Ford-class aircraft carriers, the contributions of Beloit citizens make our Navy stronger, more capable, and more lethal. I am proud to name the next ship in honor of the city and citizens of Beloit.”

USS Beloit will be constructed by Lockheed Martin with Marinette Marine in Marinette, Wis. This ship will be 387 feet long, have a beam length of 57.4 feet and travel at speeds in excess of 40 knots.

The Navy has accepted delivery of 16 LCSs. Including the recent contract modifications, a total of 32 LCSs have been procured with 10 ships under construction (LCS



MC2 Paul L. Archer

Graphic illustration of the future Independence-variant littoral combat ship USS Beloit (LCS 29).

15, 17, 19-26).

LCS is a modular, reconfigurable ship, designed to meet validated fleet requirements for surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare and mine countermeasures missions in the littoral region. An interchangeable mission package is embarked on each LCS and pro-

vides the primary mission systems in one of these warfare areas.

Media may direct queries to the Navy Office of Information at 703-697-5342. For more news from Secretary of the Navy, visit www.navy.mil/SECNAV

For more information, visit www.navy.mil,

www.facebook.com/usnavy, or www.twitter.com/usnavy.

For more news from Secretary of the Navy, visit www.navy.mil/local/secnav/.

Normandy arrives in Zeebrugge, Belgium

By MC3 Michael Chen

USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) Public Affairs

ZEEBRUGGE, BELGIUM

The Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Normandy (CG 60) arrived in Zeebrugge, Belgium, for a scheduled port visit, Oct. 5.

Normandy is here to enhance U.S. — Bel-

gian relations and demonstrate the enduring partnership and mutual commitment to regional security and stability while giving Sailors time for a much needed rest.

“The most effective way of enhancing partnerships is through joint cooperation and what better way to facilitate cooperation than visiting for a port call,” said Capt. Chris Stone, commanding officer of Normandy.

“As our Sailors immerse themselves in the rich and vibrant local culture, we bring ourselves to a better understanding of our long-standing NATO ally.”

Sailors will have the opportunity to experience the culture and heritage as well as visit historical sites in the local area.

“I’ve heard a lot of great things about Zeebrugge from the [Executive Officer] and I’m excited to check it all out,” said Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanical) Fireman Andrew Baird. “I’m especially excited to see the picturesque towns, the medieval castles and Renaissance art. But you can’t forget to get beer, frites and Belgian waffles or you won’t get the full experience.”

The Normandy is scheduled to host a reception to celebrate the partnerships be-

tween the two nations as they work together for a stable, secure and prosperous Europe.

Normandy is homeported in Norfolk, Va., and is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility. Normandy is currently deployed as part of the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group. The Harry S. Truman carrier strike group will continue its deployment by conducting sustainment operations in the North Sea.

For more information, visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy, or www.twitter.com/usnavy.

For more news from Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet, visit www.navy.mil/local/naveur/.

For more news from USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), visit www.navy.mil/local/cvn75/.

RRL | Initial meeting held

Continued from A1

important RRL is and how invested the fleet and Navy leaders are to improving the individual development and performance of our Sailors and enhancing mission readiness and execution.”

Co-led by USFF N1 and commander, Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), the RRL ESC was established in June. Stakeholders attending this meeting also included representatives from Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Naval Air Systems Command and fleet type commanders.

The group is responsible to the also recently formalized RRL Integration Board (IB), a senior leader forum, chaired by the vice chief of naval operations, for the commanders involved in various RRL aspects, such as strategic direction, implementation oversight, and resourcing requirements. The ESC will present the latest recommendations, decision briefs, and status of RRL at

an upcoming convening of the RRL IB.

“For the last few years, the focus of effort has been on doing the foundational analysis that will be used to create career learning continuums for each of our enlisted ratings. That focus has transitioned to execution – implementing Block Learning modules, as well as delivering the modernized training systems and delivery methods our Sailors deserve,” said Rear Adm. Kyle Cozad, NETC commander. “Much of what’s happening is transparent to Sailors themselves and the fleet, but it’s important for everyone to understand that RRL does and will impact them and those they lead.”

For this initial meeting, the ESC reviewed a variety of aspects of RRL implementation, including budget execution, assessing how well requirements are being developed, and discussing future learning management system requirements to support modernized training requirements.

When talking about new training technologies, for example, the ESC approved principles that resource sponsors can use now to guide how technology is acquired and devel-

oped while ensuring today’s investments will meet the intent of RRL later.

“Up to now, different communities have pursued technology for training and understandably made investments that made sense for their specific needs,” said Bill Marvel, NETC RRL program manager. “Any new technology that we adopt for training going forward needs to align with the RRL strategy as we transition over the coming years with more modern, mobile and modular training.”

USFF as the RRL executive agent and type commanders are responsible for developing fleet-driven training requirements under the RRL initiative. Naval Air Systems Command and Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division acquire modernized software and hardware systems to support individual Sailor training, and NETC delivers the training.

The new RRL training model will eliminate the current practice of front-loading training at the very beginning of a Sailor’s career by providing incremental training across a career-long learning continuum that delivers the training closer to when a Sailor

is expected to perform the specific work.

“Transforming our industrial, conveyor-belt-training model into a modern one is already well underway,” said Cozad. “The goal here is a simple one — to ensure that Sailors have the right technical skills at the right time during their careers. We aim to provide Sailors with more hands-on training – ‘reps and sets’ of practice in simulations, on gaming-based computers and eventually, bringing that technical training to the waterfront or the flight line, which will better prepare our Sailors to succeed in the fleet.”

Sailor 2025 is the Navy’s program to more effectively recruit, develop, manage, reward and retain the force of tomorrow. It consists of approximately 45 living, breathing initiatives and is built on a framework of three pillars — a modern personnel system, a career learning continuum and career readiness.

For more on RRL, visit the USFF RRL website at <https://www.public.navy.mil/usff/rri/Pages/default.aspx>.

For more news from Naval Education and Training Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnet/.

COLLEGE | Updates to the Navy College Program

Continued from A1

logging into milConnect.

- Sailors will now receive individualized messages within MyEducation. The MyEducation Application is used by Sailors to submit funding requests for tuition assistance (TA) and for Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) distance learning (DL) courses. Updates to the Navy College Program Notification Center functionality will keep all communication with a service member within MyEducation and the Navy College Management Information System (NCMIS). This will allow any Navy College staff member to access the Sailor’s record of communication to ensure continuity of service resulting in an improved counseling experience.

- Updates to the Advanced Education

Voucher (AEV) and Graduate Education Voucher (GEV) program functionalities. For participants in the AEV or GEV program, changes have been made to prevent FY crossovers, allow school fees to be entered for reimbursement, and provide better visibility of remaining program funding on the service members’ record.

Navy College staff are always seeking feedback about the VOLED program. The link to the new NCP customer service opinion survey is: https://www.research.net/r/NCVEC_CSAT_SURV_V2

More information can be found by visiting the Navy College Program website: <https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/index.htm> including how to start the education process, complete required training, submit a Help

Request through the NCVEC, initiate a Live Chat session, or review knowledge management articles. The NCVEC can be reached toll free by calling 1-877-838-1659; DSN 492-4684, Monday-Friday 7 a.m. — 7 p.m. EST.

An additional program, the United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) works closely with the Department of Labor to provide nationally-recognized apprenticeship programs that result in journeyman-level certificates of completion for members of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

For more information about USMAP or to register for an apprenticeship, visit <https://usmap.netc.navy.mil/usmapss/static/index.htm>.

NCMIS updates are part of the Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (MPT&E) Transformation, a modernization

effort that will overhaul the way human resources (HR) services are provided to all Sailors, their families, and future recruits. Over the next several years, the Transformation will change how services are offered throughout a Sailor’s entire “Hire-to-Retire” life cycle, by streamlining processes and systems to improve the speed, accuracy, and quality of HR services.

Get the latest information by following Navy Voluntary Education on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NavyVoluntaryEducation/>.

Additional information about the Naval Education and Training Professional Development Center can be found via <https://www.netc.navy.mil/netc/netpdc/Default.htm>.

For more news from Naval Education And Training Professional Development Center, visit www.navy.mil/local/NETPDTCL/.



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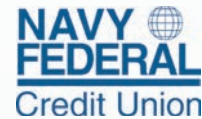
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Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Mammograms for early detection » See **B6**

US-JAPAN ADVANCE NEW AMPHIBIOUS CAPABILITY



Marines from the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade (ARDB) sit inside an AAV-P7/A1 assault amphibious vehicle aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland (LSD 48) after conducting amphibious operations as part of a training exercise for KAMANDAG 2.



Photos MC2 Joshua Mortensen

Brig. Gen. Chris A. McPhillips, commanding general of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, observes Marines attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade (ARDB) conduct assault amphibious vehicle operations with the amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland (LSD 48) as part of a training exercise for KAMANDAG 2. KAMANDAG 2 is a military training exercise led by Philippines between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and U.S. military, along with participants from the Japan Self-Defense Force featuring military-to-military exchanges through various training events, capabilities development training, and humanitarian and civic assistance projects. KAMANDAG is an acronym for the Filipino phrase “Kaagapay Ng Mga Mandirigma Ng Dagat,” which translates to “Cooperation of Warriors of the Sea,” highlighting the partnership between the Philippine and United States Militaries.

By MC2 Joshua Mortensen
USS Ashland (LSD 48) Public Affairs

PHILIPPINE SEA

The amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland (LSD 48) became the first U.S. Navy ship in the 7th Fleet to conduct amphibious operations with the newly established Japan Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF) Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade (ARDB) troops and their equipment Oct. 2.

JGSDF assault amphibious vehicles were recovered by Ashland Sailors and embarked Marines from 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) during humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR) training as a part of exercise Kaagapay Ng Mga Mandirigma Ng Dagat (KAMANDAG) 2.

The ARDB, formed on March 27, 2018, brings new capability to the Japanese Self Defense Force (JGSDF) by combining ground forces, aviation support and logistical capa-

bilities into a cohesive unit capable of operating from the sea and reacting to a variety of scenarios, including self-defense and humanitarian assistance-disaster relief.

“This is a milestone achievement and a significant step forward in capability development for Japan’s newly established amphibious force,” said Rear Adm. Brad Cooper, commander, Amphibious Force 7th Fleet. “The JGSDF and JMSDF (Japan Maritime Self Defense Force) have made enormous strides in their amphibious capability since establishment of the ARDB just six months ago. We are proud to work side-by-side with our friends from Japan and the Philippines during this exercise and look to the future with great anticipation to train together.”

KAMANDAG 2 is a bilateral, U.S., Philippine, military training exercise with U.S. forces being led by the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade. This year, Japan Self-Defense Forces are participating in HADR

portions of the exercise to expand the capabilities of their newly formed ARDB.

“The Ashland crew is proud to participate in this exercise with both the Philippine and Japanese Forces,” said Cmdr. Patrick L. German, Ashland’s commanding officer. “I’m sure there is much to experience during the next couple of days as we conduct various evolutions with our friends from both countries.”

Ashland will be working with allied nations and their marine forces conducting various amphibious operations focused on humanitarian and disaster relief (HADR) during the exercise.

In addition to HADR, exercises conducted during KAMANDAG 2 will consist of amphibious operations, counterterrorism, live-fire training, as well as jungle survival and combat lifesaving training.

“Once again we have the opportunity to work with the Philippine Armed Forces,”

said Brig. Gen. Chris A. McPhillips, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade Commanding General. “As we strengthen and improve our capabilities, I look forward to the continued growth that we will achieve during KAMANDAG 2.”

KAMANDAG, an acronym for the Filipino phrase “Kaagapay Ng Mga Mandirigma Ng Dagat,” which translates to “Cooperation of Warriors of the Sea,” refers to the partnership between the Philippine and United States militaries.

Ashland, part of the Wasp Amphibious Ready Group, with embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, is operating in the Indo-Pacific region to enhance interoperability with partners and serve as a ready-response force for contingency operations.

For more news from Commander, Amphibious Squadron 11, visit www.navy.mil/local/cpr11/.



Navy Undersecretary Thomas B. Modly speaks to the Defense Writers Group in Washington about developing capabilities with the island nations of Oceania, Oct. 4, 2018.

Jim Garamone

U.S. could help Pacific allies build capabilities, Navy Undersecretary says

By Jim Garamone
Defense.gov

WASHINGTON

The United States can help Pacific island nations with security needs, Navy Undersecretary Thomas B. Modly told the Defense Writers Group here today.

Modly just finished a trip through the island nations of Oceania. The trip involved stops in Kiribati and its capital on the island of Tarawa. He also visited Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia and the U.S. island of Guam.

The area is vast, he said, and there was hardly an island that was not a battlefield during World War II. The undersecretary said he

was sobered by the scale of sacrifice and the scale of distance.

“The vastness of the region is matched by the vastness of the issues and the challenges we have in trying to keep it secure,” he said.

Modly met with civilian and military officials in each nation, as well as U.S. representatives. “The overarching theme I got from the government officials I met with there were the paramount value of freedom of navigation and the protection of their economic zones,” he said.

The land area in Oceania is small, but the economic zones are huge, and they are

» See **PACIFIC** | B7

Navy supports HESTEC with SeaPerch Challenge Competition

By Burrell Parmer
Navy Recruiting Command

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

Continuing to spark students’ interests in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), Sailors of Navy Recruiting District (NRD) San Antonio put students’ ingenuity to the test with a U.S. Navy SeaPerch Challenge Competition held at the Margaret M. Clark Aquatic Center during the 17th Annual Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology (HESTEC) Week.

SeaPerch is an innovative underwater robotics program sponsored by the Office of Naval Research that equips teachers and students with the resources they need to build an underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV) in an in-school or out-of-school setting.

More than 35 five middle and high school teams from throughout the Rio Grande Valley participated in the competition which also served a SeaPerch regional qualifier.

After completing the obstacle and challenge courses, the teams were interviewed by Sailors assigned to NRD San Antonio and personnel from the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV).



Burrell Parmer

Left to right: Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class David Cumpian of Harlingen, Texas, Lt. Cmdr. Markel Zatarain of San Antonio, and Navy Counselor 1st Class Juan De Leon of Harlingen assigned to Navy Recruiting District (NRD) San Antonio served as judges during the U.S. Navy-sponsored SeaPerch Challenge Competition held at the Margaret M. Clark Aquatic Center during the 2018 Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology Week (HESTEC).

According to Milton Hernandez, program coordinator, Division of Governmental and Community Relations for UTRGV, the annual competition continues to foster relationships between the schools in the area and

» See **SEAPERCH** | B7



By Lisa Smith Molinari

Having grown up when kids roamed freely while parents smoked Salems, wore belted vests, ate pimento cheese and adjusted console televisions, my upbringing was undoubtedly different than my children’s. Without a 24/7 supply of internet information, my hopes, dreams and fears were based on my imagination, influenced by what others told me and what I saw in movies, television, and comic books.

Ask my kids what scares them, and they’d tell you ghosts, zombies, basements, evil clowns, serial killers, and shopping mall Santas. Pretty standard. But I feared a lot more as a child, including:

1. **Quicksand.** In the 20th Century we believed that while poking around in the woods we might inadvertently sink into a lethal pit of quicksand and meet an agonizing death. Why? Because this happened to actors in just about every television show and movie of our time, including “The Incredible Hulk,” “The Six Million Dollar Man,” “Scooby Do,” “Indiana Jones,” “Johnny Quest,” and “Gilligan’s Island.”

2. **Razor blades in Halloween treats.** Before the advent of economical “fun sized” candies, some neighbors weren’t willing to shell-out for full-sized Zagnuts, so they handed out more economical but boring fruit — the perfect hiding place for razor blades, according to our parents. Apparently, the razor blade threat is an urban myth and the real danger was trick-or-treaters coming back to toilet paper the houses of the cheapskates who didn’t give out candy.

3. **Hitchhikers.** Thirty years ago, hitchhiking was a relatively safe mode of transportation, but disturbing stories circulated at summer camp and slumber parties about murderous hitchers. I never saw Texas Chainsaw Massacre, and my own brother-in-law rode the D.C. slug lines without incident for years, but hitchhikers were creepy nonetheless.

4. **Stepping in poo.** When I grew up, it was everywhere. People let their dogs roam just like the kids, and called them back if they didn’t show up on the porch in an hour or two. No one picked up dog poo, except big brothers who speared it with sticks to chase little

sisters. (Trust me.) There were no signs with bag dispensers reading “Pick up after your pet!” Dog poo was a fact of life, and stepping in it was a real danger. Which leads me to the next terror ...

5. **Getting worms.** “Put on your flip flops or you’ll get worms!” my mother used to bellow between puffs of her Taryton 100. Apparently, people weren’t as conscientious about vet care back then, so getting worms was a real possibility for barefoot kids. When I didn’t heed her warnings, I was punished with few bee stings, but never got worms. Aside from the revolting thought of poo squishing between my toes, the fear of parasites feeding on my innards had me steering clear of piles.

6. **Any disease requiring a large brace, an iron lung, shock treatments, or a lobotomy.** Sure, needles aren’t fun. But I’d take a shot in the arm any day to the diseases that we faced as kids. Vaccinations were new, so we heard real cases of polio, mumps, measles, and chickenpox, and the rumors of treatments were terrifying. Plus, we all knew a kid at school who wore a humongous contraption to

brace his legs or spine, and feared we’d end up with a disease too.

7. **Getting chopped up in an outboard motor, locked in an abandoned refrigerator, or having an arm ripped off by a passing car.** Although we never knew people who had suffered these fates, grown ups told us that, if we weren’t careful, these things might happen. We couldn’t google to fact check their claims and accepted them as fact.

8. **People with tattoos.** Today, it’s normal to see a mom pushing a stroller with roses tattooed around her bicep. But in my day, with the exception of military men, it was assumed that people with tattoos had suffered some misfortune in life that compelled them to become dangerous deviants, probably carrying switchblades.

Being a kid used to be pretty scary. But nowadays, children can safely munch their fun-sized candy bars and dream of their first (or second) tattoo, knowing that helicopter parents, pharmaceuticals, and the internet will protect them.

Now that’s scary.
www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com

DINNER, FOR ONE.

By Amanda-Lee Pitzer

I had to stay late at work the other night for a few meetings. It was a marathon of a day that I was not looking forward to. However, it did allow me to spend time with a work friend of mine that I haven’t been able to see as much due to my extra-busy schedule this year. As soon as we finished our day and meeting number one, off we went to grab dinner and coffee. I was in line to get dinner when she decided to run next door to have a quick adjustment at our chiropractor. Normally, I’d take my meal to the car and sit and eat listening to the radio. As I walked that way I abruptly stopped and returned to the outside patio of the restaurant and proceeded to pull out my dinner and eat; all alone.

As I sat there very comfortably eating my dinner, I remembered that it wasn’t so long ago that I would have NEVER been able to do that. Eat alone? No way. I can’t tell you how many meals I ate alone in the comfort of my car to avoid being at a table by myself. But I spread out my dinner and proceeded to eat, without my phone to keep me company. I sat and people watched

and savored the few minutes to myself. I’d much rather be at home making dinner for my kids (that they’d probably complain about) than being stuck at work for a 15 hour day, but for the first time I learned to take that time alone and really enjoy it. I thought about the time I wasted in my car eating a meal to avoid being the girl at the table by herself.

One thing this Navy life has taught me is how to live my life alone. It may have taken me a decade to do it, but I’ve finally learned not just how to live alone — but to find some joy in it. I refuse to just survive in my husbands absence. I’m going to sit and prop my feet up on the patio and eat dinner without getting up 20 times to fill a cup of milk, grab napkins, or get my kids seconds while I’m struggling to eat my first serving. Being alone is not the worst thing in the world. Don’t get me wrong, I’m incredibly sick of being alone. But we won’t ever make it if we can’t find the silver linings in our situations-you just have to be willing to see them.

NavyLife101

“One thing this Navy life has taught me is how to live my life alone. It may have taken me a decade to do it, but I’ve finally learned not just how to live alone — but to find some joy in it.”



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MC2 Travis Litke
Lt. Jason Thill, Lt. Caleb Bekemeier, and Lt. Cmdr. Seth Powell “Warfare Tactics Instructors (WTIs) from Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center (SMWDC) (left to right), meet with Blue Angels™ spokesman Lt. Cmdr. David Gardner, far right, after meeting with the squadron members during their participation in the 2018 Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar Airshow. SMWDC™’s WTIs met with the team to observe their rigorous process for continuous process improvement in order to support increasing Surface Fleet readiness and lethality during underway advanced tactical training exercises. SMWDC is one of the Navy’s five Warfighting Development Centers and its mission is to increase the lethality and tactical proficiency of the Surface Force across all domains.

Much more than a show: Surface Fleet’s top tacticians join Blue Angels for a behind the scenes look to increase warfighting readiness

From Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO

A few of the Surface Fleet’s top tacticians from Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center (SMWDC) met with the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron – the Blue Angels — before, during, and after the team’s pre-show practice, Sept. 28.

The surface warfare officers who attended were all part of the cadre of Warfare Tactics Instructors (WTI) honing the Surface Fleet’s warfighting edge. WTIs are the surface community’s corollary to Weapons Tactics Instructors in Naval aviation who are trained at Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center (NAWDC). A number of this year’s Blue Angels are aviation WTIs. SMWDC and NAWDC are two of five Warfighting Development Centers (WDC) in the Navy which drive warfighting excellence in specified warfighting areas.

“Having the opportunity to get

a behind the scenes look at the preparation the team goes through for each and every demonstration was value-added to the way I look at training,” said Lt. Jason Thill, an Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) WTI from SMWDC Headquarters. “The level of humility they each bring to the table from the Boss [the Blue Angels’ Commanding Officer] down to the most junior pilot during the brief and debrief process was apparent in the cohesiveness of the team.”

The Plan, Brief, Execute, Debrief (PBED) process is a well-defined continuous process improvement tool that supports the development of rapidly learning teams. Surface WTIs in attendance at the event, were on hand to see how the Navy’s top tactical pilots keep their edge and ensure that they are able to maneuver safely in extremely close proximity to one another.

The PBED process is akin to the use of high-end video replay capabilities in collegiate and professional athletics to critically assess team performance.

While surface and aviation warfare are linked closely, cross-domain learning among communities is a key value of the WDC concept; ensuring that warfighters in all domains stay sharp. SMWDC was established in 2015 and the surface WTI community grounds itself through three characteristics – credibility, humility, and approachability. Since its establishment, the command has already begun to work with the technical community in the Navy to leverage technology to develop replay tools that provide rapid debrief capability during live, at sea training scenarios.

“Despite being top-notch aviators and team members on one of the Navy’s most elite programs, there wasn’t a shred of ego in the briefing process,” said Lt. Cmdr. Seth Powell, also an IAMD WTI and the WTI Program Manager at SMWDC. “Humility is clearly a part of being an approachable instructor, a credible professional, also providing the open mind necessary to learn and grow.”

“We don’t hold anything back in

our briefings,” said Lt. Cmdr. Tyler Davies, Blue Angels #5 Lead Solo. “Every move we make during one of our demos – and in every combat or routing mission we fly when we aren’t on the team – is critical. It’s much more important to be hard on ourselves during our pre- and post-show briefs than it is to take it easy and not get it right. We aren’t afraid to hurt feelings, if someone messed up, we let them know in the debrief so that they are aware of the faults and so that everyone learns from their errors so that the next performance is improved.”

Lessons learned from the WTI-to-WTI engagements here will be taken back to SWMDC headquarters to enhance the Surface Navy’s processes in order to improve fleet readiness, capability, and lethality.

WTIs play a significant role in planning and executing advanced tactical training at SMWDC. To achieve the high-level of tactical proficiency required to become an effective WTI, first WTI candidates complete an enhanced training course to provide junior officers

advanced training in one of four Surface warfare areas — Anti-Submarine/Anti-Surface Warfare (ASW/SUW), IAMD, Amphibious Warfare (AMW), or Mine Warfare (MIW). After they complete the course, they fill readiness production tours in key training positions throughout the Fleet, including SMWDC’s headquarters and four divisions located in California and Virginia.

“I’m very grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of this process,” said Thill. “We were discussing how we could use what we learned today through our participation in the training we do at SMWDC before we left the flight line after the show.”

SMWDC Headquarters is located at Naval Base San Diego with four divisions in Virginia and California. The command’s mission is to increase the lethality and tactical proficiency of the Surface Force across all domains. Its four lines of operation are advanced tactical training, doctrine and tactical guidance development, operational support to combatant commanders, numbered fleet commanders, and task force commanders, and capabilities assessments, experimentation and future requirements.

For more news from Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center, visit www.navy.mil/local/SMWDC/.

Navy to Christen Guided-Missile Destroyer Frank E. Petersen Jr.

From Department of Defense Public Affairs

WASHINGTON

The Navy will christen the newest guided-missile destroyer, the future USS Frank E. Petersen Jr. (DDG 121) Saturday, Oct. 6, during a 10 a.m. CDT ceremony at Huntington Ingalls Industries shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

The future USS Frank E. Petersen Jr. is the first ship named in honor of Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Frank E. Petersen Jr., the first African-American Marine Corps aviator and the first African-American Marine Corps officer promoted to brigadier general. When he retired in 1988 after 38 years of service, he was, by date of designation, the senior-ranking aviator in the Marine Corps and the United States Navy.

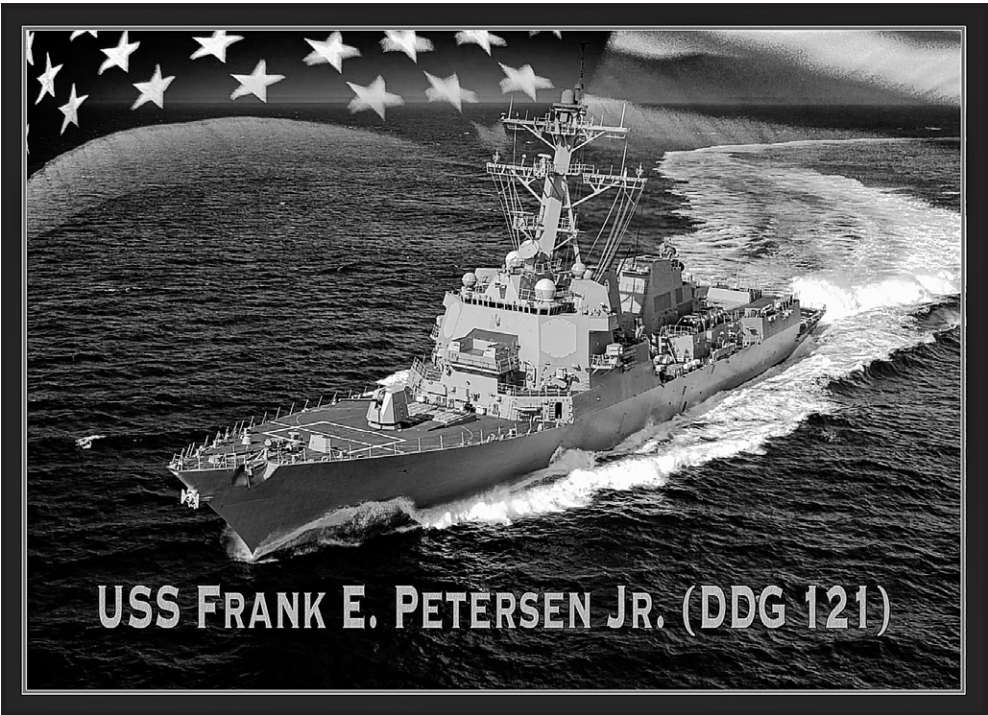
At the ceremony, the principal speaker will be Gen. Alfred Gray, 29th commandant of the Marine Corps. D’Arcy Neller, wife of Gen. Robert Neller, commandant of the Marine Corps, and Dr. Alicia J. Petersen, widow of Frank E. Petersen Jr., will serve as ship’s sponsors. In a time-honored Navy tradition, the two sponsors will christen the ship by breaking a bottle of sparkling wine

across the bow.

“The future USS Frank E. Petersen Jr. will serve for decades as a reminder of Lt. Gen. Petersen’s service to our nation and Navy and Marine Corps team,” said Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer. “This ceremony honors not only Petersen’s service but also the service of our nation’s industrial partners, who, for centuries, have helped make our Navy the greatest in the world.”

The future Frank E. Petersen Jr. will be the 71st Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, and is the fifth of 21 ships currently under contract for the DDG-51 program. The ship will be configured as a Flight IIA destroyer, which enables power projection, forward presence and escort operations at sea in support of low-intensity conflict/coastal and littoral offshore warfare, as well as open ocean conflict.

The future Frank E. Petersen Jr. will be equipped with the Navy’s Aegis Combat System, the world’s foremost integrated naval weapon. The ship will also incorporate Cooperative Engagement Capability that, when combined with the Aegis Combat System, will permit groups of ships and aircraft to link radars to provide a composite picture



P01 Armando Gonzales
A graphic representation of the future USS Frank E. Petersen Jr. (DDG 121).

of the battle space, effectively increasing the theater space. The capability is designed to provide the Navy with a 21st-century fighting edge.

The nearly 9,500-ton Frank E. Petersen Jr. is 509.5 feet in length, has a waterline beam of 59 feet, and a navigational draft of 31 feet. Four gas turbine engines will power the ship to speeds in excess of 30 knots.

Media may direct queries to the Navy Office of Information at (703) 697-5342.

Additional information on Arleigh Burke-class destroyers is available online at http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=900&ct=4.

Innovative Navy contract delivers Defense Department-wide benefits faster

By Rita Boland
Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications,
Computers and Intelligence Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO

The Navy’s Command and Control Systems Program Office (PMW 150) began work through its first Other Transaction Authority (OTA) contract in late September, finding a way to save time and money while gaining necessary capability for an effort that has worldwide ramifications.

Through the OTA, PMW 150’s Global Theater Security Cooperation Management Information Systems (G-TSCMIS) program will deliver a cloud-hosted database for the Defense Department to enable coordinated security cooperation across the globe. G-TSCMIS is being developed on behalf of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, or DSCA. PMW 150 is part of the Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (PEO C4I).

“PMW 150’s tenacious effort to get this work awarded through a non-traditional means—in this case an OTA—gets after what we’re trying to accomplish at PEO C4I,” said Rear Adm. Carl “Chebs” Chebi, the program executive officer for PEO C4I. “It strengthens our partnerships with our industry partners as well as our joint-service partners. It delivers necessary capability to the warfighter in a way that’s faster and more affordable so our forces can win tonight. We’re not innovating for innovation’s sake—we’re innovating to give our Sailors and their fighting partners the battlefield advantage.”

The approximately \$1.2 million, one-

year, firm-fixed-price contract for software development was signed with the company Modus21 through the SOSSEC, Inc.-managed System of Systems Consortium (SOSSEC). The consortium serves to give the military access to non-traditional companies by bringing them together under one umbrella while providing government clients one point of entry. For this effort, PMW 150 worked with the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) contracting office located in Rome, N.Y., that administers the OTA contract with SOSSEC. “OTA” is a commonly used term referring to a section of the U.S. Code that gives authority to the Defense Department for particular prototype projects.

“We worked with a couple of our joint partners as we pursued this OTA, and AFRL and SOSSEC were best for what we needed,” said Capt. Allan Walters, program manager of PMW 150. “This effort has been so successful that we’re exploring additional OTAs right now.”

Those additional OTAs include another one for G-TSCMIS and a separate one for work on the Naval Operational Business Logistics Enterprise, or NOBLE.

According to the personnel leading the G-TSCMIS effort, the use of OTAs offered several benefits to this particular project compared to traditional contracting/acquisition. The biggest advantage is the ability to work closely with non-traditional industry partners, exposing the system and program needs to different, innovative companies that normally wouldn’t participate in the bidding process.

The Chief of Staff at DSCA, Anna Nelson, explained that, “The award of this OTA is a successful milestone for PMW 150 and DSCA. In 2017, DSCA challenged PMW 150 to identify a way to develop software in a more accelerated fashion, one that would be able to keep pace with today’s evolving security cooperation needs.”

The OTA made meeting that challenge easier.

Eric Hollenbeck, the assistant program manager for G-TSCMIS, said, “We are making changes, adjusting from developing custom software to using software already developed. The OTA widened the aperture of companies with access to our work and opened the door for us to see more capabili-

ties. We had about 15 companies participate in various phases of the process.

Another benefit is flexibility. Throughout the pre-award phases, G-TSCMIS program personnel could reformat and refine requirements, collaborating with the companies involved to make sure the right capabilities were put on contract. The dialogue and shorter timelines helped ensure contracted work was technically relevant when it began and not made obsolete through delays. In the final stages before award, alterations to requirements were established in two weeks.

With my previous experience awarding contracts, the process for this kind of work could take significantly longer,” said Hollenbeck. “With the OTA, the effort went from receiving responses to our RFI [request for information] to awarding the contract in months.

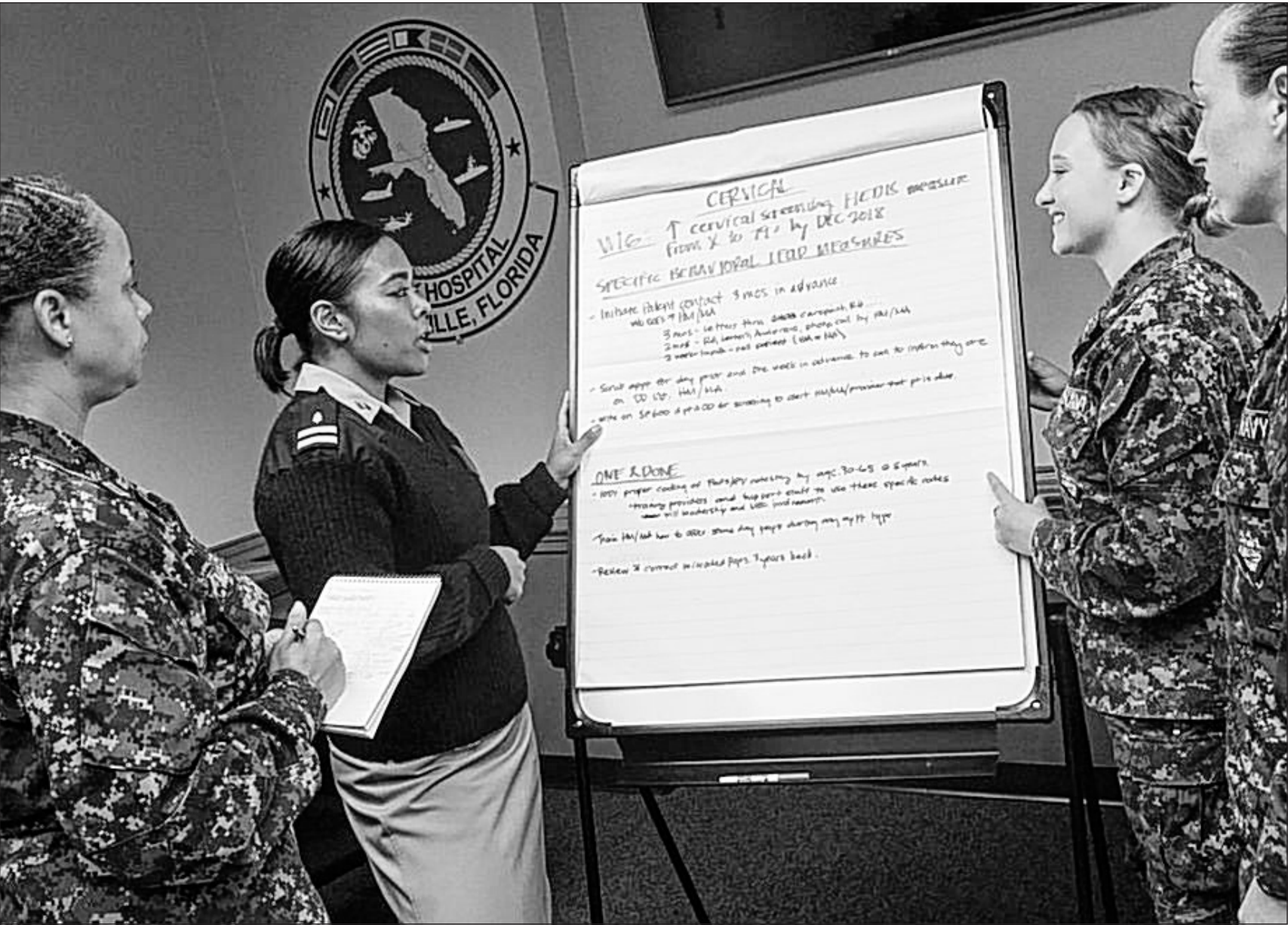
OTAs streamline many parts of the traditional contracting process. Lessons learned from the G-TSCMIS experience will be applied in the future to expedite additional programs where applicable.

Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (PEO C4I) provides integrated communication and information technology systems that enable information warfare and command and control of maritime forces. PEO C4I acquires, fields and supports C4I systems which extend across Navy, joint and coalition platforms. More information can be found at <http://www.public.navy.mil/spawar/PEOC4I/Pages/default.aspx>

For more news from Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/spawar/.



U.S. Navy graphic



Lt. Emily Crowell, a registered nurse at Naval Hospital Jacksonville’s family medicine clinic, discusses cervical cancer screening rates at a “4 Disciplines of Execution” planning meeting at the hospital. The 4DX system enables organizations to achieve their most important goals, by focusing on and relentlessly measuring core daily activities. Crowell, a native of Jacksonville, Florida, says “Creating these small groups helps us work together to reach our daily goals for a better patient experience.”

Jacob Sippel

Naval Hospital Jacksonville using innovative 4DX projects to improve readiness and health

By Rodney Foushee, Deputy Public Affairs Officer
Naval Hospital Jacksonville

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

Naval Hospital Jacksonville has launched a “bottom-up” approach to improving readiness and health, building on ideas from the front-line staff who encounter patients every day at the hospital and its branch health clinics.

NH Jacksonville has begun using The 4 Disciplines of Execution® (4DX), to achieve higher levels of performance. This Franklin Covey program launched at the command in August.

“It’s one thing to give a directive to improve an aspect of the patient experience,” said Cmdr. Duneley Rochino, 4DX project leader at NH Jacksonville. “It’s the clinicians and staff down at the deck plate who best understand what it takes each day, to meet and exceed our goals.”

As the 4DX name implies, there are four disciplines. It begins with focusing on the most important organizational goals (also known as “wildly important goals”). Then, front-line teams define a few “lead measures,” which show early (while there’s time to act) whether the team is likely to achieve the goal. Teams develop a visual scoreboard, to track progress. And teams meet weekly, with each member sharing what they’ve done this week and committing to actions for the next week, to influence the lead measures and achieve

the goals.

Clinics and units across NH Jacksonville focus on different 4DX projects, depending on the type of care provided in each area, and all in support of the patient experience. Current projects include: increasing active duty patients’ medical readiness to deploy, increasing the rate of women getting mammograms and pap tests, and increasing the rate of diabetic and pre-diabetic patients who come in for blood sugar monitoring.

“All of these projects have real-world implications that enhance the health of the entire population we serve (active duty, retirees, and families), while also improving the medical readiness of our sailors and Marines to deploy around the world to defend our nation,” Rochino said.

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 84,000 patients who are enrolled with a primary care manager. To find out more, visit www.med.navy.mil/sites/naulhospitaljax.

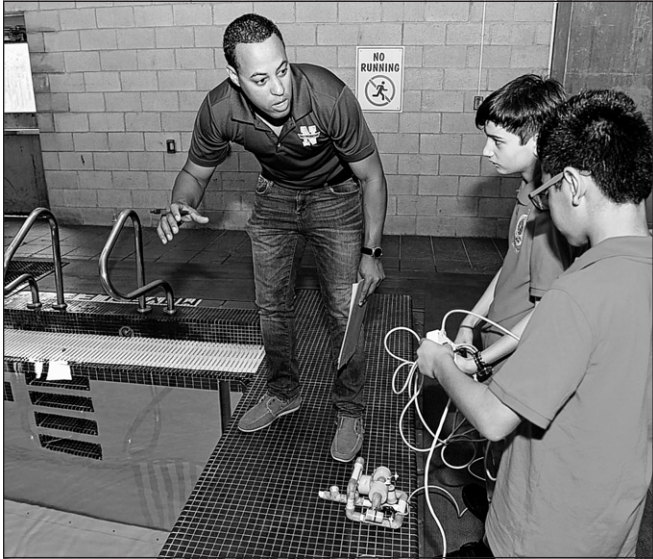
For more news from Naval Hospital Jacksonville, visit www.navy.mil/local/nhjax/.

“All of these projects have real-world implications that enhance the health of the entire population we serve (active duty, retirees, and families), while also improving the medical readiness of our sailors and Marines to deploy around the world to defend our nation”

Cmdr. Duneley Rochino, 4DX project leader at NH Jacksonville



Students from San Benito High School maneuver their underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV) through the challenge course during the U.S. Navy-sponsored SeaPerch Challenge Competition held at the Margaret M. Clark Aquatic Center during the 2018 Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology Week (HESTEC).



Navy Counselor 1st Class Joel Pallero of New York City assigned to Navy Recruiting Station Brownsville and other recruiters assigned to Navy Recruiting District San Antonio served as judges during the U.S. Navy-sponsored SeaPerch Challenge Competition held at the Margaret M. Clark Aquatic Center during the 2018 Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology Week (HESTEC).



Photos Burrell Parmer

Sailors assigned to Navy Recruiting District (NRD) San Antonio, event coordinators from the University of Texas — Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV), and representatives of the Brownsville Independent School District pose with students of Los Fresnos High School who placed first in the U.S. Navy-sponsored SeaPerch Challenge Competition held at the Margaret M. Clark Aquatic Center during the 2018 Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology Week (HESTEC).

SEAPERCH | Challenge stimulates students STEM interest

Continued from B1

motivates students to remain in STEM.

“The students really like this event,” said Milton. “Not only because it is tied to an international competition, but of the learning experience the students gain by building the ROV as a team.”

The winner of the competition was Los Fresnos High School with Lopez High School placing second and Harlingen High School placing third.

Javier Martinez, coach of Los Fresnos’ Team Millennium, said that the students knew they had to work hard to be the

best.

“They knew that the team to beat was themselves,” said Martinez. “It means a lot to the students to advance to international competition again.”

Through the support of sponsors and partners, to include the U.S. Navy, HESTEC strives to empower teachers and administrators with the resources to inspire their students to pursue STEM careers through Educators Day, Student Leadership Day, Latina Day, Robotics Day, the STEM + ME Expo, and the Navy’s SeaPerch Challenge Competition.

First Saudi helicopter arrives at Naval Station Mayport

By MC1 Brian G. Reynolds

Naval Station Mayport Public Affairs Public Affairs

NAVAL STATION MAYPORT, FLA.

The first of several MH60-R Seahawk helicopters purchased by the Royal Saudi Arabian Navy arrived at Naval Station Mayport Oct. 2, 2018.

The helicopters are part of a training program for Saudi pilots and crew that is expected to last for the next three years.

“This is an exciting day!” said Lt. Cmdr. Ryan Miller, the training officer for the “Airwolves” of Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 40. “This is the first of a series of five aircraft

that will be joining us here at HSM 40.”

HSM 40, a helicopter squadron based out of Naval Station Mayport, is playing an imperative role in the training of Royal Saudi Naval officers and crewmen.

“We are responsible for providing the training that the foreign military sales office has contracted with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,” Miller said. “[We will be providing the training] for their 250 plus, pilots, aircrew and maintainers.”

The Saudi detachment was excited to receive their new aircraft.

“We’ve been waiting for this moment for a long time,” said Lt. Cmdr. Mazin Alshahrani,

the officer in charge of the Saudi detachment. “We appreciate our partnership with the U.S. Navy and especially the squadron, HSM 40.”

The MH60-R helicopter that the Royal Saudi Navy received is one of the most advanced helicopters in the world and is capable of a multitude of missions.

“This helicopter is really a game changer,” Alshahrani said. “It’s the top of the line and one of the best helicopters that the Saudi government will provide our navy and will be the main mission helicopter of our fleet.”

Once the detachment is fully trained, 10 aircraft, including five from Mayport, will be shipped to Saudi Arabia where a new squadron will be stood up.

“The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has purchased 10 MH60-R helicopters,” Miller said. “Five of those aircraft will be homebased in Mayport for the next three years. [This one] is the first of those aircraft. We expect one more per month for the next four months.

The remaining five aircraft will remain in the United States until all of the remaining aircraft are ready to be shipped back to Saudi Arabia to join the Royal Saudi Naval fleet.”

The addition of the aircraft and the training of the Saudi naval personnel is a step to promote global security in the U.S. Fifth Fleet area of operations.

“This is a big milestone for us in the partnership,” Miller said. “We look forward to providing the highest quality of training to the Kingdom. Once the training program is complete in about three years, we look forward to sending all of the aircraft and personnel back home and strengthening the relationship that both nations have towards global security.

For more news from Naval Station Mayport, visit www.navy.mil/local/nsmayport/.

Decatur renders assistance to Sri Lankan fishermen

From Commander, Task Force 70 Public Affairs

INDIAN OCEAN

The Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Decatur (DDG 73) rendered assistance to seven distressed mariners, Oct. 7 — 8, whose fishing boat had suffered an engine malfunction, rendering the vessel inoperable.

Decatur was conducting a routine patrol Oct. 7, in the waters south of Sri Lanka when watch standers sighted a fishing vessel with fishermen onboard frantically waving rags in the air.

After pulling alongside the fishing vessel in a rigid-hull inflatable boat (RHIB), two of the fishermen were brought onboard Decatur. The

fishermen stated that their vessel had experienced engine trouble and was unable to return to shore.

The Decatur crew immediately offered to provide medical and towing assistance. The fishermen requested for the ship to contact the Sri Lankan authorities. Decatur provided food and water to the fishermen while they waited for the arrival of the Sri Lankan Off-Shore Patrol Ship SLNS Jayesagara (P 601) which arrived Oct. 8.

Decatur is forward-deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations in support of security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

For more news from Commander Task Force 70, visit www.navy.mil/local/ctf70/.



U.S. Navy photo

Sailors bring Sri Lankan fisherman aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Decatur (DDG 73) using a rigid-hull inflatable boat (RHIB) after the ship stopped to render assistance to a stranded fishing vessel. After providing food and water, Decatur contacted the Sri Lankan authorities who came and towed the stranded vessel back to port. Decatur is forward deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations in support of security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.



PACIFIC | U.S. could help with security needs

Continued from B1

80 percent water, he said. “They are very far flung,” he added.

The officials are also very clear about their desires to maintain a strong relationship with the United States, Modly said. The United States developed relations with the nations — many of them colonial possessions at the time — during World War II. Those continued through the Cold War to today.

But things have changed, he told the defense writers, and the United States is no longer the only major power operating in the

area now.

Expanded Chinese Influence

China is exerting influence into Oceania, he noted. “There is no question China is becoming much more assertive in the region,” he said. “They are looking for a variety of different ways to expand their influence. The Chinese government is making investments tied to loans, as well as grants.”

These projects are largely around infrastructure — extension of runways and construction of buildings and a conference cen-

ter. “It is apparent they are there and plan to stay there for the long term,” he said.

The United States, Australia and New Zealand have a strong partnership in the region, and the moves in the area are complementary. “From my perspective,” Modly said, “it is critical to reinforce these partnerships and look for opportunities to help these nations.”

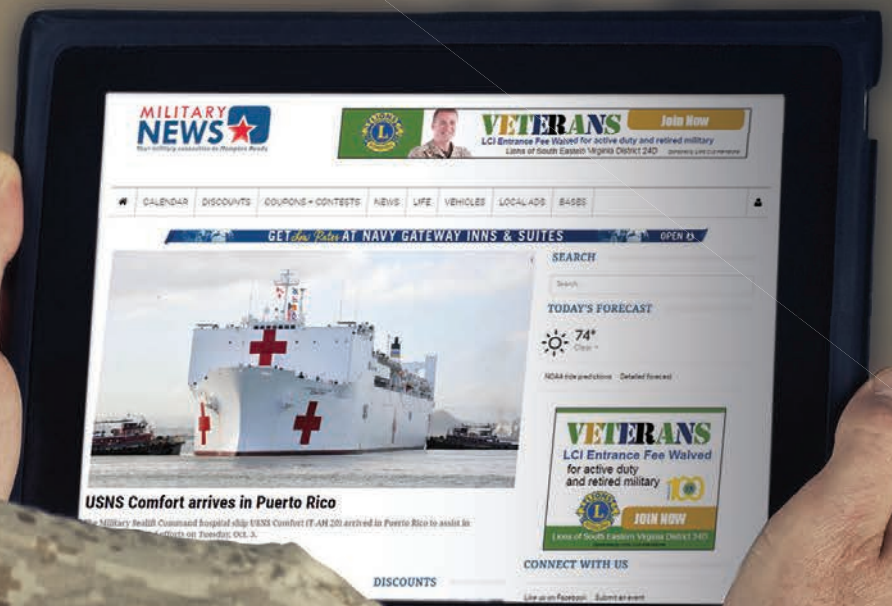
One opportunity, he said, is to invest in developing capabilities to use, patrol and police their vast watery economic zones. The countries do not have navies, and their coast guards are limited as well. Modly suggested that the United States could work with these nations to develop fusion centers that channel

all sorts of information where it is needed and when it is needed. This information could be as simple as weather reports and fishing information or could be warnings about incursions by illegal fishing ships.

The nations don’t have large populations. Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets could give them an unmanned way to search their territory and only have patrol boats go out when they are needed, the Navy undersecretary said.

“It’s a pretty modest investment, and the technology is so good right now that it would be helpful,” he told the writers.

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CHESAPEAKE NATIVE KEEPS NAVY WING FLYING

2013 Oscar Smith High School graduate and Chesapeake, Virginia, native, Xavier Alexander, is serving in the U.S. Navy aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville, home to the U.S. Navy's newest maritime, patrol and reconnaissance aircraft.

» See **C2**

SECTION C | FLAGSHIPNEWS.COM | 10.11.18

By David Todd

Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs

NORFOLK

The U.S. Navy, local businesses and civic organizations will celebrate 2018 Fleet Week Hampton Roads Oct. 11-20, held in conjunction with the Navy's birthday, with a variety of events to honor the sacrifices and contributions of Sailors, past and present, who are our neighbors, volunteers, and citizens who actively work each day to enhance the quality of life for Hampton Roads residents and its visitors.

The Navy will celebrate its 243rd birthday on Oct. 13. The theme for this year's celebration is, "Forged by the Sea."

Many Fleet Week events are free and open to the public. Media interested in attending scheduled events on-base or in the community, or to schedule interviews with Fleet Week organizers and event participants, contact Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs at (757) 322-2853.

This year's Fleet Week calendar of events includes:

Thursday, October 11

U.S. Fleet Forces Band Concert on the Virginia Beach Town Center Fountain Plaza — The U.S. Fleet Forces (USFF) Four Star Edition Rock Band will perform a concert from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the Virginia Beach Town Center Fountain Plaza. The concert is free and open to the public.

Friday, October 12

Military Citizen of the Year Lun-



cheon sponsored by the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce (HRCC) at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott — The event starts at noon. Sponsored by the HRCC — Norfolk Division Armed Forces Committee, the award luncheon has been held since 1955. The event recognizes outstanding junior enlisted active duty personnel for their off duty volunteerism. For more information, call Contact Candace Reid at (757) 664-2572.

Friday, October 12

Navy Birthday School Outreach — Sailors from local commands throughout the area are scheduled to visit select area schools from 7 a.m. to noon to participate in morning colors, read to students and other activities in conjunction with the Navy birthday celebration.

Saturday, October 13

Annual Grunt Run on Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads-Northwest Annex — Race day registration begins at 7 a.m., with the race starting at 10 a.m. The Runt Grunt Kid's Obstacle Challenge begins at 9 a.m. for children 12 and under. Test your agility on a 6.5 mile obstacle/endurance course. The event will also feature kid's activities, complimentary food/beverages for registered participants, and food and beverage sales for spectators. The event is free and open to all DOD cardholders. For more information, visit www.navymwrmidlant.com/runs.

Saturday, October 13

3rd Annual Military Appreciation Day at the Children's Museum of Virginia — The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring military static displays; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities; and various demonstrations throughout the day inside and outside the museum. Additionally, the USFF Brass Band will perform at noon. Discounted admission is \$5 for all DOD cardholders. For more information, visit www.childrensmuseumvirginia.com.

Saturday, October 13

Hampton Roads Navy Ball at the Virginia Beach Convention Center — Sponsored by The Flagship Inc., this annual event will celebrate the Navy's 243rd birthday and the 25th anniversary of The Flagship newspaper. The event will run from 6 p.m. to midnight, and is open to active duty, reserve, or retired service members, and DOD civilians. For more information, visit www.hamptonroadsnavyball.com.

Sunday, October 14

Annual Rumble Through The Tunnels — Sponsored by Bayside Harley Davidson, 2211 Frederick Blvd., Portsmouth, Va. (Registration is 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; safety brief at 11:30 a.m.; kickstands up at noon). Entrance fee is \$20 per bike – 100 percent of gate proceeds will be donated to Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. The ride is one of the largest motorcycle events in honor of our armed forces. Riders will start and end at Bayside Harley Davidson, and will travel through the Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge Tunnel, the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, and the Downtown Tunnel. Event will also include live music, food and beverages, games and prizes. For more information, visit <https://www.baysidehd.com/~Rumble-Through-the-Tunnels>, or call (757) 397-5550.

Tuesday, October 16 through Thursday, October 18

Navy Birthday School Outreach — Components of the USFF Band will perform various concerts at area elementary, middle and high schools in

Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Chesapeake and Portsmouth. Events are not open to the general public.

Friday, October 19

Naval Station Norfolk STEM School Outreach — Norfolk Public School fifth-graders will visit Naval Station Norfolk for a special STEM Laboratory Day. The students will have an opportunity to tour U.S. Navy ships, take part in hands-on activities, and learn about STEM careers in a real-world setting. Event is not open to the general public.

Friday, October 19

3 Doors Down Concert at Naval Station Norfolk — Naval Station Norfolk will host a free and open to the public concert on-base with national recording artists 3 Doors Down. Gates open at 5 p.m., concert begins at 7 p.m. Additionally, the USFF Brass Band is scheduled to open the concert. For more information, visit www.navymwrmidlant.com/fleetfest.

Saturday, October 20

Naval Station Norfolk Fleet Fest — Naval Station Norfolk will open its gates to the general public from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The free, open to the public event will include guided ship tours, car show, chili cook-off, food trucks, kids area, a variety of static displays, entertainment, and more. For more information, visit www.navymwrmidlant.com/fleetfest.

For more information about Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, like and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CNRMA.PAO.



Navy vets represent U.S. at the Revenant – One of the toughest footraces in the world

By Connie Womack

U.S. Navy veterans Chadd Wright (Coon Dog) and Shawn Webber (Catfish) are representing the United States as "Coondog & Catfish," against some of the toughest endurance athletes in the world as they take on the Revenant, an Ultra Adventure Run to be held January 18-20, 2019 in New Zealand. The 118 mile race covers a wide variety of terrain, from alpine grassland to ravine-like forest with over 105,000 ft. of total vertical ascent and descent in backcountry mountain range. The event has an unmarked course between a number of checkpoints that must be navigated and reached in sequence by map and compass only. The total allowable time is 60 hours and will run continuously. More information about the race can be found at www.facebook.com/revenantnz/ and www.revenant.co.nz.

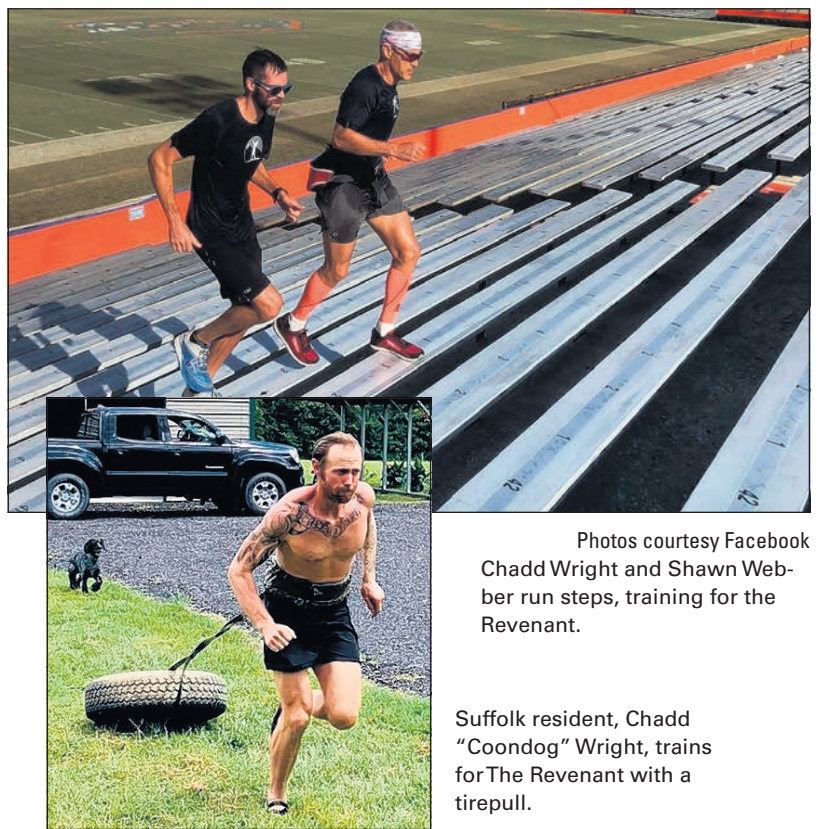
Chadd is an active duty Navy Seal in the process of medical retirement due to traumatic brain injuries and PTSD. Shawn was a Navy aviation rescue swimmer from 1995-2000. He is now ranked among the top ultra runners on the East Coast. Chadd and Shawn bonded

while competing against each other in the late stages of a 106 mile race called the Cruel Jewel 100.

The Revenant's motto is "A true challenge is when failure is the most likely outcome." When asked why he was taking on such a challenge, Chadd explained, "I decided to take on this race to test myself as well as represent my country." Chadd is from Georgia but makes his home in Suffolk, Virginia with his wife. Shawn lives in Gainesville, Florida with his wife and two children and works as a civil engineer.

They are seeking product sponsors and donations to help cover expenses. The gear alone will cost more than \$4500, and they need to cover additional expenses for two others to support them before and after the race, as well as airfare and lodging. Donations can be sent to C-Fit Studio, Attn: Coon Dog and Catfish, 143 N Main Street, Suffolk, VA 23434.

Follow Team Coon Dog and Catfish through their training and competition at www.facebook.com/CoondogandCatfish



Photos courtesy Facebook Chadd Wright and Shawn Webber run steps, training for the Revenant.

Suffolk resident, Chadd "Coondog" Wright, trains for The Revenant with a tirepull.

NAVY BALL THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, October 13
at the Virginia Beach Convention Center

For all of those who purchased tickets – prepare for an epic night of dinner and dancing at the Navy Ball this Saturday night from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. This year's theme is celebrating *25 Years of The Flagship!* This event, a long standing naval tradition, is open to all ranks as well as local business and civic leaders interested in supporting our Navy community. This is a formal dinner dance featuring Key Note speaker, Admiral Christopher Grady, Commander of U.S. Fleet Forces, and hosted by Mistress of Ceremonies, Kerri Furey, co-host of WAVY TV's "The Hampton Roads Show." DJ Eric Emerson will provide a hard hitting blend of contemporary music that includes today's top Rock and Country hits, as well as Classic Rock and songs that help us remember our pride in America. You can also enter a raffle to win an exquisite \$1500, 5ct blue topaz necklace, set within a 1.5ct halo of blue sapphires with small diamond accents. Seating is limited and ticket sales are now closed – see you Saturday night!



Calendar

For a complete list of events in Hampton Roads or to submit your own, visit www.flagshipnews.com/calendar

NSAHR Northwest “Grunt Run & Kid’s Obstacle Challenge

- Oct. 13. 10 a.m. \$25 or \$19 Non-alcohol – each ticket includes all you can eat.
- Parade Field, NSAHR
- 757-421-8263

NSA Hampton Roads - Northwest annual Grunt Run & Runt Grunt is approximately 6.5 miles of obstacles, rough terrain, climbs, swamps and other challenges under the watchful eyes of personal drill instructors. OORAH! The Runt Grunt Kid’s Obstacle Challenge for youth ages 12 and younger starts at 9 a.m. Registration for the Runt Grunt is completed onsite and the day of. Race day Grunt Run registration begins at 7 a.m. on the NSAHR Northwest Parade Field. Join MWR, fellow competitors, and families for an Oktoberfest-style post-race party. There will be music, kid’s activities, adult beverages (available for purchase), brats and more. Open to all DoD ID card holders and guests.

Combat Wounded Coalition: Jumping for a Purpose XII

- Oct. 13. 9 a.m.–6 p.m.
- Skydive Suffolk, 1200 Gene Bolton Dr., Suffolk, Va.
- 757-512-8439

Come and support our combat wounded warriors and Gold Star Family members at the Combat Wounded Coalition’s Jumping for a Purpose XII, on Saturday October 13th from 9a till 6p. Open to the general public and family friendly. Enjoy food, drinks, music entertainment, kids activities, and a vendor fair. For more information go to CombatWoundedCoalition.org. For more information contact CWC at 757-512-8439. If interested in jumping with warriors please book jumps with Skydive Suffolk by calling 757-539-3531 or online. \$20 of every tandem booked goes back to the CWC!

243rd Birthday Celebration of the US Navy with the Brian Grilli Band at The Barrel Room

- Oct. 13. 9:30 p.m. FREE
- The Barrel Room, 437 Granby St., Norfolk

The Barrel Room is Honored to Celebrate The 243rd Anniversary of The United States Navy and we are Throwing Mega Birthday Party all Day & All Night Long! As always Active Duty & Retired Military will get 15% off all discount Lunch & Dinner Non-discounted items! But we are also having a Battle of The Beers with Coast Guard Veteran Owned Fairwinds Brewery verses High Seas Brewery From 5-9 p.m. and They Are Giving Out Bar Swag. At 9:30 p.m. we are proud to Present Iraq War Veteran & Former Member Of The US Navy’s EOD, National Recording Artist, The Brian Grilli Band and he is Going to Rock The Barrel For This Celebration! Dinner Reservations Highly Suggested For Dinner!

NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic Seeking Applicants at Chesapeake Job Fair

- Oct. 14, 2018 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
- Chesapeake Conference Center, 700 Conference Center Dr., Chesapeake, Va.
- www.facebook.com/navfacmidatlantic

NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic is actively seeking candidates who can fill immediate needs in a variety of disciplines. We offer a wide array of skilled tradesman and professional positions to include: Electrical, Mechanical, Civil, Fire Protection, and Environmental Engineer, Construction Manager, Community Planner, Contract Specialist, Financial Management Specialist, Information Technology Specialist, High Voltage Electrician, Electrician, Air Conditioning Equipment Mechanic, Maintenance Mechanic, Pipefitter and more! We would like to meet with local students, alumni, veterans and other qualified candidates in the area to discuss career opportunities. Candidates are encouraged to send resumes to NAVFAC_MLHRO@navy.mil and to bring several copies with them to the event.

The Price Is Right – LIVE!

- Oct. 15. 8 p.m. \$49.50-\$69.50
- The Sandler Center for the Performing Arts – Performance Hall. 201 Market St. Va. Beach
- www.sandlercenter.org

The Price Is Right Live™ is the hit interactive stage show that gives eligible individuals the chance to hear their names called and “Come On Down” to win. Prizes may include appliances, vacations and possibly a new car! Play classic games just like on television’s longest running and most popular game show...from Plinko™ to Cliffhangers™ to The Big Wheel™ and even the fabulous Showcase. Playing to near sold-out audiences for more than 14 years, the Price Is Right Live™ has entertained millions of guests and given away more than 12 million dollars in cash and prizes. If you’re a fan of The Price Is Right™ on TV, you’ll no doubt love this exciting, live (non-televised), on-stage version of the show!

FM99 and 106.9 The Fox present: Tesla

- Oct. 17. 7:30 p.m. \$29.50 advance, \$35 day of show. All ages.
- The Norva, 317 Monticello Ave., Norfolk, Va.
- www.thenorva.com

Over the course of their thirty-year career, the critically acclaimed iconic Sacramento melodic hard rock quintet—Frank Hannon [guitar], Brian Wheat [bass], Jeff Keith [lead vocals], Troy Luccketta [drums], and Dave Rude [guitar]—sold more than 25 million albums and performed to sold out crowds across the world. Their journey kicked into high gear with 1986’s platinum-certified debut, Mechanical Resonance, which solidified them as a household name and yielded signature anthems such as “Little Suzi,” “Modern Day Cowboy,” “Cumin’ Atcha Live,” and “Gettin’ Better.”

Community

■ Submit YOUR events, news and photos

The Flagship welcomes submissions from our readers online.

Please submit **events** here: www.militarynews.com/users/admin/calendar/event/

Please submit **news** and **photos** here: www.militarynews.com/norfolk-navy-flagship/submit_news/.

CHESAPEAKE NATIVE KEEPS NAVY WING FLYING

By MC1 Jerry Jimenez

Navy Office of Community Outreach

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

A 2013 Oscar Smith High School graduate and Chesapeake, Virginia, native is serving in the U.S. Navy aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville, home to the U.S. Navy’s newest maritime, patrol and reconnaissance aircraft.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Xavier Alexander is a Navy aviation ordnanceman serving with Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11 (CPRW-11).

A Navy aviation ordnanceman is responsible for inspecting, maintaining and repairing aircraft armament and ordnance systems.

“My favorite part is the people I work with,” Alexander said. “They’re all gems or diamonds in the rough.”

Alexander credits success in the Navy to many of the lessons learned in Chesapeake.

“I learned to never give up and always push for what you want,” said Alexander.

The P-8A Poseidon is a multi-mission aircraft that is replacing the legacy P-3C Orion. Those who fly in the P-8A hunt for submarines and surface ships as well as conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

The P-8A operates with a smaller crew than the P-3C, and it also delivers an extended global reach, greater payload capacity, and higher operating altitude. It also has an open-systems architecture with significant growth potential.

According to Navy officials, there are more than 15 Navy patrol squadrons in the U.S. and eight of those squadrons belong to Wing Eleven, headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida. This means that those who serve here are part of the first “Super Wing” in Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance history, ready to deploy and defend America and allies around the world.

Wing Eleven recently added the Navy’s newest squadron to its arsenal: Unmanned Patrol Squadron Nineteen (VP-19), flying the MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aerial System (UAS). The P-8A and MQ-4C will serve as the future of the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force, according to Navy officials.

When asked about his plans following his assumption of



Mc2 Theodore Quintana

command ceremony in June, Capt. Craig T. Mattingly, Commodore, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11 said, “Our focus will be to take care of our most precious assets, the men and women of (Wing Eleven). We will sustain current readiness of our P-8A squadrons and reserve P-3C squadron while incorporating the MQ-4C Triton into the maritime patrol and reconnaissance force.”

Though there are many ways for sailors to earn distinction in their command, community, and career, Alexander is most proud of helping junior sailors earn their qualifications.

“It makes me feel like I’m helping others as much as I can,” Alexander said.

As a member of one of the U.S. Navy’s most relied upon assets, Alexander and other sailors know they are part of a legacy that will last beyond their lifetimes, one that will provide a critical component of the Navy the nation needs.

“It means despite how you’re feeling that day, you come and work as hard as you can and help others however you can,” said Alexander.

Bank of America supports Virginia Zoo’s “World of Reptiles”

By Ashley Grove Mars

The Virginia Zoo has received a \$10,000 award from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation as part of the Virginia Zoo’s Defining Moments Capital Campaign. This campaign supported the renovations to the Zoo’s World of Reptiles & Friends that opened in June.

“Every member of our community plays an important role in preserving our environment and wildlife,” said Hans VonKruger, Senior Vice President and Market Manager of Bank of America. “We recognize and support the Virginia Zoo’s leadership in our region’s environmental and wildlife conservation efforts,” VonKruger added.

“We are grateful for our outstanding partnership with Bank of America. Their significant contributions to the Virginia Zoo allow us to increase educational opportunities to the thousands of children who visit the Zoo each year which is core to our mission,” said Greg Bockheim, Executive Director of the Virginia Zoo.

The Virginia Zoo offers a one-of-a-kind relaxed and fun environment for learning to nearly 500,000 visitors from around Hampton Roads each year. In its latest addition, guests can wander the 13,000-square-foot World of Reptiles building and meet its more than 300 new inhabitants, from the most fascinating frogs to critically endangered crocodiles.

For more information, visit www.virginiazoo.org/world-of-reptiles



Courtesy Virginia Zoo

Virginia Zoological Society Board President, Ben Miles, Virginia Zoological Society Board Member Carolyn Betz, Bank of America Hampton Roads Market President Charlie Henderson and Virginia Zoological Society Board Member Debi Waitzer.

The USAA Foundation provides \$50K grant to help hurricane victims with lost wages

From United Way of South Hampton Roads

Though the effects of Hurricane Florence were thankfully much less devastating to the local area than expected, for those working hourly, low-paying jobs and already struggling to make ends meet, a few days of missed work can be catastrophic. The USAA Foundation, Inc. recognized the need for post-hurricane support in our community and generously donated \$50,000 to United Way of South Hampton Roads for hurricane relief efforts.

The funds are being used to support our neighbors in need of assistance after missing work due to mandatory evacuation orders and job closures issued in anticipation of Hurricane Florence. Veterans, active duty military and their

families can get help by calling 757-858-7777. Anyone else needing post-hurricane support should call 757-587-4202.

“We are incredibly thankful for the unwavering support we have received from USAA and The USAA Foundation,” said Carol McCormack, president and CEO of United Way of South Hampton Roads. “They called us even before the hurricane made landfall to offer their help. The USAA Foundation is a true friend to this community and to our organization.”

“The USAA Foundation, Inc. and the nearly 600 USAA Chesapeake employees are grateful to support the United Way of Hampton Roads,” said Harriet Dominique, Senior Vice President of USAA Corporate Responsibility and

President of The USAA Foundation, Inc. “We salute their work that fulfills so many needs and enhances the lives of those within the local community.”

In South Hampton Roads, one in three families is either living in poverty or are one unexpected life event from it. Many of them make too much to qualify for government services but not enough to pay for the basic costs of living. They are trapped in a gap between public assistance and self-sufficiency. A lost job, health issue, disabled car or even a hurricane can throw them and their family into complete crisis, often resulting in a downward spiral.

These are the people most affected by work hours lost to Hurricane Florence. The funds given by The USAA Foundation will help fill the earning gap created by the hurricane, hopefully keeping these victims out of crisis and making them whole again.

To learn more about United Way’s efforts in our community and how you can donate, visit their website at united-wayshr.org.

Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood ‘Scared Scriptless Tour’ comes to Norfolk

By **Yiorgo**

This Friday, Oct. 12 at Chrysler Hall in Norfolk, VA Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood of ‘Whose Line is it Anyway?’ fame will be bringing their latest two-man show “Scared Scriptless”. You will experience the hit show “Whose Line is it Anyway?” as the show becomes truly interactive as audience members are called to the stage to participate in the fun.

Yiorgo: Thank you Colin, it’s an honor to talk to you, I am a big fan of your work. I see that you were born in Scotland and then your family moved to Canada.

Colin Mochrie: Yes, I was 6 when we moved to Canada. My childhood was fairly unremarkable I guess. I had friends, but I was also a bookworm and spent many hours in the library. I was also a big comic book guy. I also watched old movies. My childhood was fairly dull I’m thinking.

Y: You mentioned comic books witch ones did you enjoy reading?

CM: Batman, Superman and Spiderman.

Y: I read that you were shy as a child and still are as an adult. How did you get into the entertainment business?

CM: Yes I still am shy. As I said I was a big fan of old movies and TV shows. I was actually planning to be a marine biologist, and a friend dared me to try out for the school play. So I did and I got it. Then I got my first laugh in that play and it was pretty much the end of anything else. I thought this is what I want. I changed all of my majors to theatre and then it was a slow, slow process to steady income and work.

When I’m on stage the shyness disappears. I’m confident and I know what I am doing with people that I trust and we are having fun so it overrides any kind of shyness. There are times that I am shocked as to what I would do for a laugh. My wife calls the person who is on Whose Line “The Other Colin”. The audience allows you to do what you want.

Y: You eventually joined the Vancouver TheatreSports League. What was that like and what happened to make you realize I can make a living at this?

CM: I saw a demonstration of TheatreSports and was intrigued by them. I got involved and took to it right away. Improv was just starting out in Vancouver and nobody at that point knew what improv was. It was not in the vernacular. We literally had to drag people in from McDonalds next door to see our show. They would ask, ‘What is the show about?’

and we would respond, ‘Well, we don’t know quite yet, we’re going to make it up in front of you!’ Within a year, it was the big cult thing to do in Vancouver. We had lines around the block. That allowed us to do other things such as improvise plays but I never thought that this would be nothing more then just something I enjoyed doing. Nobody made a living being an improviser at that point. If “Whose Line” had not come along, we would not be having this conversation.

Y: You did “Second City”, then the opportunity came to do the British version first of “Whose line is it Anyway?” Tell us about it.

CM: We are talking around 1990 and Improv was a new art form in Britain so they started bringing North Americans over to do the show in addition to their English players. They did an across the continent audition. They saw our “Second City” show loved it and we auditioned as a cast. Everybody was very supportive, nobody stood out because we all did what you are suppose to do in an improv show, you support each other’s ideas, so nobody was hired.

The following year, they were auditioning in LA and I got the part then. I would go there for a month or 6 weeks to film the show in England, we would film it on the weekends, and the rest of the time we were on our own to site see. The show was really popular and we were all well known over there. Then I would come back to Canada and I was back in square one. Then it moved over to America and that’s when it all exploded and gave us all a chance to work.

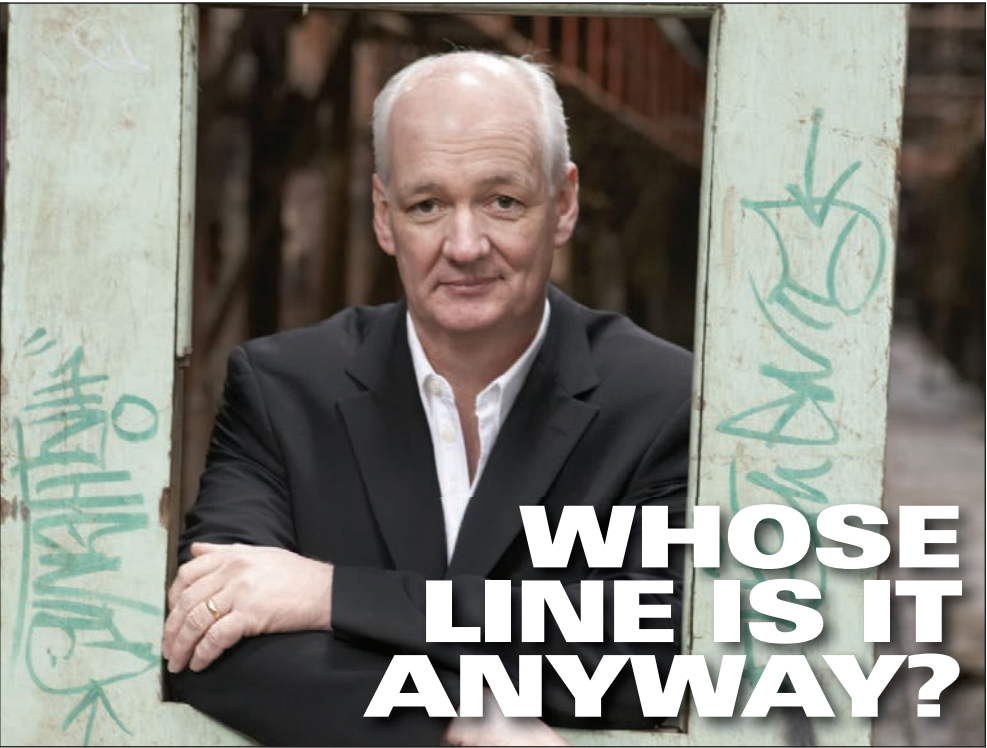
Y: How did the transition to the American, ‘Whose line’ occur?

CM: The producers of the show always wanted to do an American version. They were looking for young good-looking improvisers. Ryan Stiles was on the British ‘Whose Line’ and on the ‘Drew Carry Show’ and Drew was a big fan of our show. Ryan introduced the producers to Drew and on Drew’s clout ABC gave us a show. It sounds so easy yet I still try to figure out how this whole thing came together. These four guys you don’t know, who do a show until they stop taping and somehow that became the show.

Y: Any great stories of that show and any Drew Carry anecdotes?

CM: I wish I had some. All the shenanigans happened on camera. We would get there a couple of hours before the show taped, we would hang out and do the show, so we really did not have time for backstage shenanigans, we saved it for airtime.

I can’t say enough about Drew: the sweetest most generous person I have ever known. Every year he would take the cast and crew of both his shows on some trip somewhere just to thank them for helping him become a star — just the sweetest human being. I cannot say



Photos courtesy Jonas Public Relations

anything bad about the man.

Y: You and Brad actually were asked to do President W. Bush’s Presidents Correspondence Dinner.

CM: It was so exciting and surreal. First of all I can’t believe I still get paid to do this thing I love and it has taken me all over the world. The evening started with President W. Bush doing a 20-minute stand up routine, witch killed, then we came on. We did a sketch and a rap song with Karl Rove. It went well and was a lot of fun. The next day we got a call from Karl Rove’s secretary, offering a tour of the White House. Our wives were with us so we all went and they also took us to the Oval Office where President Bush and Vice President Chaney were there. President Bush gave us a history of the office. He was very charming and said how nervous he was doing his stand-up the night before. Again it was surreal, what am I doing here? I’m a Canadian boy.

Y: You have done so much in your career. Any ‘wow pinch me’ moments?

CM: There have been so many of these little moments: When we were doing ‘Whose Line’ with Drew, we were in New York and I bumped into Dianne Sawyer and she said to me “I am such a big fan”. All I could think was my God you’re married to Mike Nichols, one of my hero’s. I am also a big hockey fan and I’ve had a lot of hockey players I admire come up and say they are big fans of the show. Those moments are always special because I have no athletic activity so I’ve always felt a part of the team.

Earlier this year I was in a production of Shakespeare’s King Lear, as the fool, with some of the best Shakespearean actors in the country, the cream of the crop of actors. For me

that was an incredible WOW!

Y: Why did you and Brad decide to do this two-men show?

CM: I first met Brad 30 years ago through a play that he and my wife were in and we hit it off ever sense. The idea to do the tour came from Brad. When we were filming ‘Whose Line’ with Drew, every available weekend Drew would take us to Vegas to the MGM Grand Hotel to do shows there. It was all the cast so there was like 10 people on the stage. It was crazy fun but you never felt like you were doing anything substantial because of all the cast up on the stage and trying to be fair with everyone. One night Brad said, I’ve been thinking of doing a two-men show. Do you want to give it a try? We booked a two-week trial period, it went well, and that was 16 years ago.

Y: What should your fans expect to see at the current “Scared Scriptless Tour,” and why should they come to the show?

CM: A live version of ‘Whose Line’ with a lot of familiar games from the show, some games we had to adopt or condense because there are two of us. It’s a fun evening, good for the whole family. Our shows always have a pretty wide demographic of kids and grand-kids. It’s a wacky night of fun.

For ticket and more info go to:
www.sevenvenues.com/events/detail/colin-mochrie-brad-sherwood-scared-scriptless

Yiorgo is a Hampton Roads arts, entertainment and sports writer. A stage, TV and movie actor; he is also an educator, motivational speaker, writer, storyteller and columnist.

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Sports

25 COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS TO SKYDIVE AT JUMPING FOR A PURPOSE IN SUFFOLK

From Kevin Gaydosh

O'Brien et al Advertising

Twenty-five combat wounded veterans, Gold Star family members and Overcome Academy (OA) graduates will participate in the Combat Wounded Coalition's (CWC) Jumping for a Purpose XII event on October 13th. The event will begin at 9:45 a.m. with jumps taking place between 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Skydive Suffolk in Suffolk, Va. Mayor Linda T. Johnson, City of Suffolk, will be present to give opening remarks.

"We are beyond excited to have our Overcome Academy Class 002 graduates jump at this year's event," said Jason Redman, retired U.S. Navy SEAL and founder of both CWC and OA. "The goal of OA is to help these veterans forge their own paths forward and be their own leader to find success in anything they decide to do," Redman said. "For our other wounded veterans, these jumps give them the freedom they may not have in their everyday lives. They have no limitations in the air. For our Gold Star family members, they get to experience what many of their family members got to achieve while in the military and it gives them a sense of connection to that loved one."

There will be live entertainment, food and drink vendors, and a veteran resource fair, plus bounce houses for the kids during this family-friendly

event. The event's presenting sponsor is, once again, the Geico Military Team. "On behalf of the CWC team, we'd like to thank the City of Suffolk for its dedication to our cause through the donation of event security and equipment," said Redman.

Skydive Suffolk also deserves a special thank you for hosting the event. Tandem jumps are open to the public and interested participants should go online at www.skydivesuffolk.com to book in advance. Skydive Suffolk will donate \$20 to CWC for each tandem jump during the event. The public jumps will continue until dusk.

Event sponsors include the family of MSgt. (Retired) Donald Polcyn, America Strong Events, ADS, Sinclair Communications, Navy Federal Credit Union, Iron Works, Adams Outdoor and RGB Imaging.

Mission BBQ, 1329 N. Battlefield Blvd., Chesapeake, Va., has stepped up to provide meals for the warriors and their families again this year. "They continue to be a wonderful source of support for our organization," said Redman. "We thank them for their generosity and all they are willing to provide to these warriors and Gold Star families."

CWC's mission is to inspire wounded warriors to overcome and help them on a path of purpose and peace of mind following the impact of war. This is accomplished by providing connections to organizations

offering the best resources, programs and proven strategies for these warriors and families of the fallen. To learn more about CWC and OA or to donate, please visit www.combatwoundedcoalition.org and www.overcomeacademy.org.



Norfolk Admirals receive six players from AHL Tucson

From Norfolk Admirals

The Norfolk Admirals, ECHL affiliate of the Arizona Coyotes, announced Tuesday that goaltender Merrick Madsen along with defensemen Jalen Smereck and Jacob Graves have been loaned to the team by the Arizona Coyotes (NHL) from the Tucson Roadrunners of the American Hockey League (AHL). In addition, goaltender Ty Reichenbach, defenseman Romain Chuard and forward Patrick D'Amico have been returned to Norfolk from Tucson's Training Camp.

Madsen, 23, joins the Admirals after posting a 10-10-3 record, with a 2.27 goals-against-average and a .918 save percentage during his senior campaign at Harvard University last season. The 6-5, 190-pound rookie netminder posted a 28-6-2 record during the 2016-17 season and concluded his collegiate career with a 56-23-8 mark. The Acton, California native was originally drafted by the Philadelphia Flyers in the sixth-round of the 2013 NHL Entry Draft. Madsen is currently under contract with Arizona (NHL).

Smereck, 21, posted 34 points (10g, 24a) in 46 games played last season with the OHL's Flint Firebirds. After concluding his season in Flint, Smereck made two appearances with Tucson and also recorded an assist in two contests with the Fort Wayne

Komets (ECHL). The 6-1, 185-pound blueliner compiled a productive 104 points (24g, 80a) in 169 career OHL games split between Flint and the Oshawa Generals from 2015-2018. The Detroit, Michigan native also appeared in two games with Tucson during the 2016-17 season where he posted his first professional goal and assist. Smereck is under contract with Arizona (NHL).

Graves, 23, brings 42 games of AHL experience to the Norfolk defensive unit. Graves logged six points (3g, 3a) in 23 games played with the Cleveland Monsters (AHL) last season. Graves also chipped in four assists in 24 games with the ECHL's Quad City Mallards. The 6-2, 190-pound defenseman won a Memorial Cup and OHL championship with the London Knights in 2016. The Barrie, Ontario native amassed 42 points with 452 penalty minutes in 281 career OHL games split between stints with London, Oshawa, Kingston and Mississauga from 2011-2016. Graves is under contract with Arizona (NHL).

Reichenbach, 25, appeared in 45 games in goal for the Admirals during his first professional season. He posted a 19-22-3-0 record while adding one shutout. In addition, Reichenbach led the ECHL in saves (1,463) and ranked fourth in minutes played with 2,544. He signed a PTO with Tucson at the



end of the season, however did not appear in any games.

Chuard, 22, appeared in 23 games with the Admirals last season posting a goal and an assist. Before joining Norfolk, the 6-6, 218-pound blueliner played in Switzerland from 2015-2017.

D'Amico, 23, posted 33 points (10g, 23a) in 55 games played with the Admirals last season. In addition, he chipped in two goals and an assist in ten appearances with the Atlanta Gladiators (ECHL) before being acquired by Norfolk early last season. The 6-0,

211-pound forward has collected 76 points (33g, 43a) in 170 career ECHL games from 2015-18.

The Admirals open their 30th Anniversary Season on October 13 at home against the Wheeling Nailers. Game time is set for 7:00 p.m. Full and partial season ticket plans are now available by visiting NorfolkAdmirals.com or by calling the Admirals office at (757) 640-1212.

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What parents need to know about bullying

From Brandpoint

Unfortunately, bullying in schools is all too common. According to StopBullying.gov, between 1 in 4 and 1 in 3 U.S. students say they have been bullied at school. While the term “bullying” has certainly become a buzz word, it’s also important to understand what it means. The Centers for Disease Control and Department of Education define it as a pattern of unwanted aggressive behavior that causes physical or psychological harm.

“As a high school counselor for over 10 years, I’ve witnessed bullying and its impacts in different ways — from working with administrators and teachers to put a stop to it in classrooms, to supporting parents and students as they attempt to heal and find the best path forward,” said Carol Heavin, a school counselor for Arkansas Virtual Academy who has been in education for 28 years.

National Bullying Prevention Month is a reminder for all of us to think about how we can help stop this behavior in our schools. One of the best ways to help prevent bullying is to empower parents with useful advice, including warning signs to watch for, tips on how to talk to your kids about bullying and information on

where to go for help. Because the long-term effects of bullying can be serious for a child, a parent’s actions and support can help protect them from harm. Heavin offers the following warning signs and tips:

Warning signs

As a parent, you know your children well and what to expect from them. While some changes in behavior can be noticeable or sudden, others can be hard to spot.

If you suspect your child is a victim of bullying, watch for these warning signs:

- Change in your child’s attitude or visible loss of confidence; this includes nonverbal and verbal changes, from how they carry themselves (dejected, slumped posture) to expressing suicidal thoughts
- Any unexplained, physical bruising or injuries
- Withdrawing from usual hobbies and interests
- Change in dress
- Change in friend group or sudden loss of friends

How to talk to your kids

If you notice these warnings and suspect your child could be a victim of bullying, talking to your child is a critical step to understanding what is happening and building trust. Keep these things in mind as you decide how and when to talk to your child:

- Be available to your child and schedule at least one weekly family dinner or outing to connect and check in
- Ask your child about their day, every day, to keep the lines of communication open
- Find a time to talk to your child in a re-



Brandpoint image

laxing environment, such as listening to music, watching a sports game or doing an art project together

■ Start the conversation with your child with topics that interest and build a rapport with them

■ As hard as it may be, don’t push them to share something they may not be ready to share; however, consistent reminders that you are available to talk are important cues

What to do

After you’ve identified warning signs, and you believe that your child is a victim of bullying at school, there are a few things you should consider and keep top of mind.

■ Take a deep breath and stay as calm as possible

■ Document as many details as you can from your child, including what is being said or done to them, who may have witnessed the repeated behavior, etc.

■ Speak to the school administration, sharing as many documented details as you can

■ Ensure your child is a part of an environment that uplifts them (i.e., church events, sports, other clubs)

■ If possible, remove them from the bullying situation and consider other academic opportunities, such as a tuition-free online public school

Children can be cruel, and adults simply can’t chaperone 24-7. For this reason, many times schools don’t find out about bullying until it’s been taking place for a long time. Students are embarrassed and uncomfortable speaking freely about what’s been happening to them. By following this advice, you’re already helping to stop bullying and protect your child. For more information, visit www.stopbullying.gov.

For more information on tuition-free, online public schools, visit: www.k12.com.



BRADLEY COOPER as Jack and LADY GAGA as Ally in the drama “A STAR IS BORN,” from Warner Bros. Pictures, in association with Live Nation Productions and Metro Goldwyn Mayer Pictures, a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

Clay Enos

new in theaters

A STAR IS BORN (R)

In this new take on the tragic love story, Bradley Cooper plays seasoned musician Jackson Maine, who discovers—and falls in love with—struggling artist Ally (Gaga). She has just about given up on her dream to make it big as a singer... until Jack coaxes her into the spotlight. But even as Ally’s career takes off, the personal side of their relationship is breaking down, as Jack fights an ongoing battle with his own internal demons.

SMALLFOOT (PG)

A smart young yeti encounters a stranded human mountaineer, creating chaos amongst his small village of disbelievers. Desperate to prove the existence of the “smallfoot”, he sets out to find the mountaineer and bring an end to the debate once and for all.

THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS (PG)

Ten-year-old Lewis goes to live with his uncle in a creaky old house that contains a mysterious ticktock noise. When Lewis accidentally awakens the dead, the town’s sleepy facade magically springs to life with a secret world of witches and warlocks.

VENOM (PG-13)

Reporter Eddie Brock develops superpowers after becoming a host to an alien parasite.

THE HATE YOU GIVE (PG-13)

Starr Carter is constantly switching between two worlds — the poor, mostly black neighborhood where she lives and the wealthy, mostly white prep school that she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is soon shattered when she witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend at the hands of a police officer. Facing pressure from all sides of the community, Starr must find her voice and decide to stand up for what’s right.

NIGHT SCHOOL (PG-13)

Teddy Walker is a successful salesman whose life takes an

unexpected turn when he accidentally blows up his place of employment. Forced to attend night school to get his GED, Teddy soon finds himself dealing with a group of misfit students, his former high school nemesis and a feisty teacher who doesn’t think he’s too bright.

FIRST MAN (PG-13)

On the heels of their six-time Academy Award®-winning smash, La La Land, Oscar®-winning director Damien Chazelle and star Ryan Gosling reteam for Universal Pictures’ First Man, the riveting story of NASA’s mission to land a man on the moon, focusing on Neil Armstrong and the years 1961-1969. A visceral, first-person account, based on the book by James R. Hansen, the movie will explore the sacrifices and the cost—on Armstrong and on the nation—of one of the most dangerous missions in history.

HELLFEST (R)

On Halloween night, three young women and their respective boyfriends head to Hell Fest — a ghoulish traveling carnival that features a labyrinth of rides, games and mazes. They soon face a bloody night of terror when a masked serial killer turns the horror theme park into his own personal playground.

BAD TIMES AT THE EL ROYALE (R)

Seven strangers, each with a secret to bury, get one last shot at redemption at a run-down hotel.

THE SISTERS BROTHERS (R)

It is 1851, and Charlie and Eli Sisters (Joaquin Phoenix and John C. Reilly) are both brothers and assassins, boys grown to men in a savage and hostile world. They have blood on their hands: that of criminals, that of innocents... and they know no state of existence other than being gunmen. The older of the two, introspective Eli (Reilly) rides hard with his younger sibling yet dares to dream of a normal life. The younger of the two, hard-drinking Charlie (Phoenix) has taken charge with gusto as lead man on the duo’s assignments. Each increasingly questions, and quibbles with, the other’s methods. The Sisters brothers find themselves on a journey through the Northwest, bringing them to the mountains of Oregon, a dangerous brothel in the small town of Mayfield, and eventually, the Gold Rush land of California — a journey that will test the deadly family ties that bind. But, can it also be the path to rediscovering what remains of their humanity?

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Courtesy 20th Century Fox

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6 p.m. A Simple Favor (R)
9 p.m. The Predator (R)

Saturday, October 13
1 p.m. Alpha (PG-13)
4 p.m. Searching (PG-13)
7 p.m. The Predator (3-D) (R)

Sunday, October 14
1 p.m. Alpha (PG-13)
4 p.m. A Simple Favor (R)
7 p.m. White Boy Rick (R)

NAS Oceana, Aero Theater – 433-2495

Friday, October 12
6 p.m. The Predator (R)
9 p.m. White Boy Rick (R)

Saturday, October 13
1 p.m. Happytime Murders (R)
4 p.m. Alpha (PG-13)
7 p.m. White Boy Rick (R)

Sunday, October 14
12 p.m. A Simple Favor (R)
3 p.m. The Predator (3D) (R)
6 p.m. Peppermint (R)

Schedule is subject to change. For your weekly movie showtimes and more, check out the Navy Mid-Atlantic Region MWR website at discovermwr.com.

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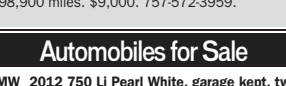
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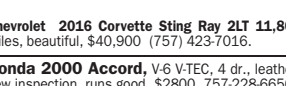
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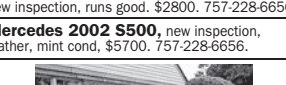
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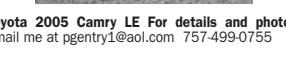
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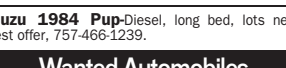
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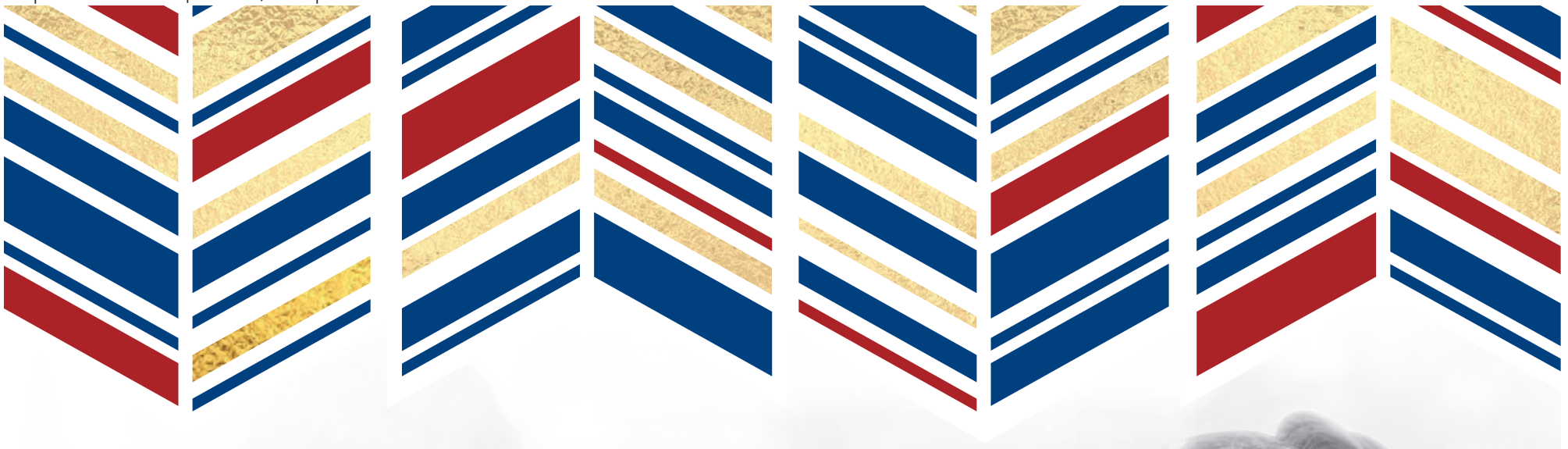


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