

## First Coast Navy Named Fire Department of the Year



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

**Firefighters with First Coast Navy Fire and Emergency Services battle a simulated aircraft fire at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Oct. 2, 2018.**

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

Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) recently recognized First Coast Navy Fire and Emergency Services as the Navy Fire Department of the Year in the large category.

First Coast Navy Fire and Emergency Services had been regionally recognized for Fire Department of the Year (large category), also being awarded for its Fire Prevention program.

"I am exceptionally proud of our awards recipients and all nominees," said Carl Glover, director of CNIC Fire and Emergency Services. "Each of our firefighters and emergency service providers contribute to the shore's mission and to the Navy's readiness. I commend them all for

what they do each and every day to support the fleet, fighter and family."

"We have been leading the way in technology and training, along with the great programs and interaction we have with the City of Jacksonville" said Mark Brusoe, fire chief of First Coast Navy and Emergency Services. "Being recognized at this level is the biggest honor in my career and is reflected through all the men and women of the fire department."

In the last year, the department has battled several fires on Naval Air Station Jacksonville, as well as providing rapid and effective emergency response during the Miami Air Flight 293 mishap, May 3, 2019.

The team provides services to both NAS Jacksonville and Naval Station Mayport, as well

as providing mutual aid and services to local civilian fire and emergency response teams in Jacksonville, Clay County, and Orange Park.

Their efforts include instructing more than 200 personnel on cardiopulmonary resuscitation and defibrillator usage, taking part in 40 public safety events, assisting in shoreline clean-up events, and providing emergency support to 260,000 guests during the Jacksonville Sea and Sky Spectacular. "The men and women of First Coast care about the people on base and the community," said Brusoe. "We will continue to build on this momentum and provide outstanding support to NAS Jax, NS Mayport and our surrounding communities."

First Coast Navy Fire and Emergency Services will next compete with other service branches for top honors across the Department of Defense.

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**Sustain • Enable • Support**





# JROTC Cadets Tour Naval Aviation Careers with VP-5

**By Lt. Reed Arce**  
*VP-5 Public Affairs*

Twenty-seven Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) cadets from Robert E. Lee High School received a tour of the “Mad Foxes” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 training facilities and P-8A Poseidon aircraft at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, March 6.

During the visit, the cadets had the opportunity to speak with Sailors and meet with the combat aircrew in this deployable squadron. NJROTC visits allow for cadets interested in the aviation community to get face-time with those who have real-world experience operating worldwide. While touring the hangar, a few of the “Mad Foxes” were able to pose for photos with the cadets, and answer questions about their daily life within the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance community.

“Speaking with young cadets is always a great opportunity for not only the future of Naval Aviation, but the Navy as a whole,” said Lt. Thomas Logan, a VP-5 pilot. “To introduce the importance of what we do to eager young students that show an interest in an admirable career gives me high hopes for the future.”

Lt. Logan spoke with the cadets while giving them a tour of where the aircrew perform pre-flight inspections before each flight. The students were able to get a look into the window of Naval Aviation and showed excitement while trying on helmets and being briefed on various survival equipment each crewmember is trained to operate.

The “Mad Foxes” are based out of Jacksonville, Florida, and are currently taking part in the year-long Fleet Readiness Training Program in preparation for their next operational deployment.



*Courtesy Photos*

**Cadets enrolled in the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at Robert E. Lee high school gather with members of Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 for a photo after touring a P-8A Poseidon and the VP-5 spaces, March 6. The “Mad Foxes” are based out of Jacksonville, Florida, and are currently taking part in the year-long Fleet Readiness Training Program in preparation for their next operational deployment.**



**PR3 Luis Reyes, speaks to cadets enrolled in the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at Robert E. Lee high school about the survival gear used by pilots, flight officers, and aircrewmen at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, March 6.**

## JAX AIR NEWS

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# -----NAS Jax Base Facilities/Service Update-----

\* All gates at NAS Jacksonville are open. In most cases, gate sentries will not handle ID cards. Anyone entering the station must hold up the barcode for scanning and follow all sentry instructions.

\* Currently, the NAS Jacksonville Commissary is utilizing 100 percent I.D. card checks at the entrance of the store and are revoking the visitor policy. This will reduce the number of people in the store and help with social distancing and crowd control.

On Thursday, March 19, the commissary will eliminate “early bird” shopping hours to allow more time for cleaning and re-stocking of our stores. Anyone with concerns should go to <https://www.commissaries.com/shopping/store-locations/jacksonville-nas> and click on the store email address.

*Region Legal Service Office*

The Legal Assistance Office is closed to the public until further notice.

Staff will provide remote legal assistance on a case-by-case basis, with active duty deploying personnel given priority for services. Please call 904-542-5895 or 904-542-5896 for screening/evaluation for an appointment.

Powers of Attorney/Notary Services are restricted at this time. Staff will make exceptions on a case-by-case basis for time-sensitive needs. Active duty personnel can continue to obtain some Special Powers of Attorney from the JAG website for notarization by command legal officers and legalmen by visiting [www.jag.navy.mil/legal\\_services/SPOA.htm](http://www.jag.navy.mil/legal_services/SPOA.htm).

Will executions are restricted to clients with legitimate time-sensitive needs ONLY (e.g. imminent deployment or upcoming medical procedure). Other needs may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

*Child Development Center*

\* Child Development Center and Youth Activities remain open with normal operating hours. except for the following changes:

All programs/services that are NOT full-time childcare (ages 0-12) are cancelled/postponed until further notice.

All hourly childcare is cancelled (unless emergency/ mission essential).

All youth sports, Teen programs, and field trips away are cancelled.

No new childcare enrollees will be allowed into Navy operated programs (unless emergency/ mission essential).

If parents are required to self-care their children at home due to the Navy executing a full-time telework agreement during the COVID-19 pandemic, parent fees will be waived and childcare space will be saved.

\* Until NAS JAX PSD reopens (still TBD), all ID card services are being rerouted to Kings Bay and Mayport ID Card Offices. CAC resets (\*\*the error message is “BLOCKED PIN”\*\*) can be

performed at Bldg. #1, and/or at the Base Hospital on station, on a limited basis. Additional CAC-related issues (e.g. can’t access OWA, certificates not recognized, “LOCKED” PIN – there is a difference btw locked/blocked, etc.) should be addressed by your respective IT staff or NMCI Help Desk. For all other PSD issues, TOPS and NSIPS work/access has been transferred to the Team in Millington, TN, headed up by PSCS Nikita Maher (901) 874-2931 and her team.

\* Starbucks, Subway, McDonalds and the Navy Exchange Food Court remain open for business however, *the inside restaurant areas are closed*. Order to go available only. The outside seating area at Starbucks will remain open. Starbucks update: The restaurant will close at 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, however the drive-thru will remain open until 5 p.m. Saturday/Sunday hours (inside/drive-thru) are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\* All Catholic Sunday services are cancelled except daily mass at St. Edward’s Chapel. All Protestant Sunday services are cancelled until further notice. *The Easter Sunrise service is cancelled.*

\* The free RealSense Tax Service at the Chapel Complex is closed until April 1.

\* The following MWR events are cancelled: MWR Job Fair (March 21), Clay County Spring Break Lifeguard Classes (March 23-28), Movie Night at Dewey’s (March 27), Chuck Cornett Navy Run (April 4 – event is being postponed to a later date), Easter Eggstravaganza (April 8) and Bounce-a-Palooza (April 25), DIY Craft Series (May 8), Family Fun Run (May 9), Mother’s Day Brunch (May 10), Senior Military Invitational Golf Tournament (May 11).

\* Bingo is cancelled at Dewey’s until further notice.

\* All CPO Birthday events are cancelled in April.

\* Navy College: Navy College Programs supporting colleges and universities, have moved their administrative services to an on-call format. All students or prospective students should reach out to their college representatives for further information. Additionally, all testing in the National Testing Center/Pearson VUE test have been suspended until further notice. For questions regarding TA or Navy College Programs, contact the Virtual Education Center at [www.navycollege.navy.mil](http://www.navycollege.navy.mil) or 877-838-1659.

\* The NAS Jax Thrift Shop is closed until further notice.

\* All AAA Driver classes on base are cancelled until further notice. Motorcycle safety courses are still ongoing at this time.

\* Base galley will remain open with normal

operating hours.

\* Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Branch Health Clinic and pharmacies will remain open with normal operating hours. however customers at the pharmacy should use the drive-thru at the Satellite Pharmacy.

\* Navy Gateway Inns and Suites and the Navy Lodge will remain open to support guests.

\* The Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society is open and available to provide services. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 542-3515 for information. All Budget for Baby classes and the Visiting Nurse program are suspended until further notice. The nurse will work with patients via phone or Skype.

\* Navy Exchange: The hospital coffee bar and food operations upstairs in the hospital are suspended.

- Hangar 1000 Snack Bar will operate from 6:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., closing earlier than normal.

- VP-30 Gedunk hours are: 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

- Building 797 Cafeteria hours are: 6:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

\* All operations at the three Greater Jacksonville Area USO Centers and the Jacksonville International Airport have been temporarily suspended until further notice. The USO will continue to support service members and their families through outreach and other programs.

\* PPV Housing (Balfour Beatty) is only responding to emergency and urgent work orders. All Life Works events have been cancelled. Scheduled move-ins may be delayed.

\* All TAP classes at the Fleet and Family Support Center are cancelled until further notice. CAPSTONE is still being scheduled with individual appointments.

\* The NAS Jacksonville Restoration Advisory Board meeting on March 24 at the Holiday Inn in Orange Park has been cancelled.

\* VyStar Credit Union will be drive thru only during normal operating hours for personal business. Command accounts will be handled inside the bank.

\*\* A new webpage dedicated to COVID-19 updates from Commander, Navy Region Southeast is available at <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/om/covid19.html>



# NAS Jax Hosts Regional K9 Ruck March



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

**Military Working Dogs (MWD) and their handlers participate in a five-mile K9 Ruck March, March 13. The K9 Corps originated on March 13, 1942, during World War II. The dogs were used by the military as sentries, patrols, messengers, and mine-detectors. Today, military units all over the world are protected by MWDs.**

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

The Military Working Dog (MWD) units of Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) and Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay teamed up for a 'ruck march' at NAS Jax, March 13.

The march was in celebration of the 78th anniversary of the Department of Defense (DoD) MWD program and included MWD's, their handlers and Army veterinary staff members participating in a 4.5-mile march at NAS Jax.

NAS Jax kennel master.

The march also allowed for MWD's, their handlers, and veterinary teams from Navy Region Southeast to build stronger working relationships.

"I think this march is a fantastic idea, I've never had a kennel do this before," said Army Capt. Sean Curry, the officer-in-charge of the NAS Jax Veterinary Clinic. "It is a great way to build camaraderie and show a united force with our MWD's."

March 13 marks the anniversary of the

establishment of the K9 Corps in 1942. The anniversary allows handlers and veterans of the MWD community to reflect on past and present K9 partners. "MWD programs date back to the messenger, detector, and scout dog teams of the past and more recently the phenomenal job



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

**Service members and their Military Working Dogs start the five-mile K9 Ruck March, March 13. The K9 Corps originated on March 13, 1942, during World War II.**

"The intention of the march is to celebrate K9 Veteran's Day and take the time as MWD handlers and Veterinarian Corps to strengthen our small but proud community," said MA1 James Jones, the

that our dog teams have done in the global war on terror keeping our fellow Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, and Airmen safe from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), ambushes, and other potentially deadly encounters down range," said Jones. "As warfare changes and technology takes a larger role, there has still been no machine or program that has been able to do what an MWD can do in the area of counter-IED operations."

The original K9 Corps accepted seven breeds of dogs including German Shepherds, Doberman Pinschers, Belgian Sheep Dogs (Belgian Malinois), Siberian Huskies, Collies, Eskimo Dogs and Malamutes. The dogs were trained to work as sentries, scout/patrol dogs, messengers and mine-detector dogs. During World War II, 15 War Dog platoons were established.

MWD teams have served in every major American conflict and continue to be an effective force in the fight for freedom. Modern MWD teams provide patrol/explosive detection, patrol/drug detection and combat tracking to military forces around the world.

"Many MWD handlers are passionate about what we do. We work very long days and often weekends and put our hearts into each dog that we are partnered with," said Jones. "I am grateful for the opportunity I was given many years ago to work with MWDs, and I feel that it is my obligation to cultivate a culture of pride for my handlers and a high standard of training and operational readiness for my teams."

Once their service ends, the dogs are officially retired and often adopted by former handlers.

*Photo by MM2 Symonne Patrick*

**MA2 Luis Maldonado-Green from Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia, takes a water break with his Military Working Dog, Aiko during a five-mile K9 Ruck March, at NAS Jax, March 13.**







*Photos by MC3 Sergio Montanez*

**Vice Adm. DeWolfe Miller III, command, Naval Air Forces/commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, right, presents Capt. Craig Mattingly, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Eleven (CPRW-11), with the Legion of Merit Award for outstanding leadership during the CPRW-11 Change of Command ceremony at NAS Jax, March 12.**



**Capt. Matthew Pottenburgh, right, assumes command of Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Eleven (CPRW-11) from Capt. Craig Mattingly during the CPRW-11 Change of Command ceremony at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, March 12. Capt. Matthew Pottenburgh is the 58th commodore of CPRW-11.**

# CPRW-11 Welcomes 58th Commodore

**By Lt. Zachary Galczynski**

*CPRW-11 Public Affairs*

The Navy's Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing (CPRW) 11 held a change of command ceremony aboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, March. 12.

Vice Adm. DeWolfe Miller III, command, Naval Air Forces/commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, served as the guest speaker for the ceremony and highlighted the accomplishments of Capt. Craig Mattingly during his tenure while also welcoming Capt. Matthew Pottenburgh as the 58th commodore.

"He's a 'mission first/people always' leader and when he says, 'take care of your Sailors and their families and they will take care of the mission' he means it," said Miller. "He walks that walk and has walked that walk ever since his first day as an enlisted Sailor in 1987."

Rear Adm. Peter Garvin, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group, served as the presiding officer for the ceremony and discussed the stalwart professionalism, inspirational leadership, and operational focus exhibited by both Mattingly, and Pottenburgh.

"CPRW-11 has been very well served by Capt. Mattingly during his time in command, and we look forward to continuing that brilliant record of success under Capt. Pottenburgh," said Garvin.

Mattingly, a native of Austin, Kentucky, left the family dairy farm in 1987 to enlist as an aviation anti-submarine warfare operator in the Navy. He is a 1995 graduate of the United States Naval Academy where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Oceanography. He also holds a Master of

Science in National Security Strategy from National Defense University in Washington, D.C. He took command of CPRW-11 as the 57th commodore in June 2018.

"I am proud to have led this great team," said Mattingly. "I can only ask that you continue to strive to be a competent, professional force which has no equal; that you lead Sailors with compassion, that you excel in the air, and that most of all, you continue to be better today than yesterday,"

His flying tours include Patrol Squadron (VP) 50 during his enlisted days, and as a Naval Flight Officer (NFO) with VP-8 and VP-26 aboard NAS Brunswick, Maine, as a fleet instructor with VP-30, NAS Jacksonville and command of VP-9 at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii to name a few.

Mattingly spoke of the wing's accomplishments during his tenure as commodore, "Our focus will be to take care of our most precious assets, the men and women of CPRW-11. We will sustain current readiness of our P-8A squadrons and reserve P-3C squadron while incorporating the MQ-4C Triton in to the maritime patrol and reconnaissance force," said Mattingly.

During his time at CPRW-11, Mattingly oversaw continuous squadron deployments, along with supporting Mobile Tactical Operations Centers engaged in various areas of responsibility.

Pottenburgh, a Galena, Ohio native, assumed command of the largest P-8 Poseidon, P-3 Orion and MQ-4 Triton Wing from Mattingly.

"We will continue to man, train, equip, and operate combat-ready and lethal Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Forces who are

ready to deploy to any corner of the globe," said Pottenburgh. "We will continue to deter aggression and maintain freedom of the maritime domain."

In 1996, Pottenburgh commissioned as an Ensign earning his Wings of Gold upon completion of Naval Flight Officer training in May 1997. Pottenburgh holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design, a Master of Science in Operations Management from the University of Arkansas and a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University of Dwight D. Eisenhower School.

His recent flying tours include VP 40, VP-47 and command of the VP-5 "Mad Foxes" aboard NAS Jacksonville.

Upon relinquishing command of CPRW-11, Mattingly will serve as the Executive Assistant for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans, and Strategy (OPNAV N3/N5) at the Pentagon in Washington D.C.

CPRW-11 squadrons include Patrol Squadrons (VP) 5, VP-8, VP-10, VP-16, VP-26, VP-45 and VP-62, along with the Unmanned Patrol Squadron (VUP-19).

There are two Patrol and Reconnaissance Wings in Florida and Washington State, composed of 14 Patrol and Reconnaissance squadrons, one Fleet Replacement Squadron and over 45 subordinate commands.

Patrol and Reconnaissance Wings serve as the Navy's premier provider for airborne Anti-Submarine Warfare, Anti-Surface Warfare, and Maritime Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance operations.



# American Red Cross Month

**From Naval Hospital Jacksonville Public Affairs**

Every year since World War II, the president of the United States proclaims March as Red Cross Month, recognizing the services provided to people across the country and around the world.

“Our American Red Cross volunteers work diligently and compassionately to deliver support to our patients and families,” said Capt. Matthew Case, Naval Hospital Jacksonville commander and Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Jacksonville commanding officer. “We’re honored to recognize these unsung heroes who answer the call to help others.”

The American Red Cross provides 24-hour support to members of the military, veterans, and families — at home and around the world. The Northeast Florida Chapter, founded in 1914, serves 13 counties.

At any given time, NH Jacksonville’s American Red Cross volunteers can be found counseling patients on personal and family issues; helping with plans and arrangements for emergency or convalescent leave; getting background information from patients for use by medical staff in diagnosis and treatment; providing for the reception and comfort of relatives of the seriously ill; and serving as NH Jacksonville ambassadors — lifting the spirits of patients, visitors and staff.



*Photo by Jacob Sippel*

**Beverly Petty, a retired Navy physician assistant and an American Red Cross volunteer of five years, discusses volunteer opportunities at Naval Hospital Jacksonville. Each year since World War II, March has been declared American Red Cross Month, recognizing the services provided to people across the country and around the world.**

# Nease High School Navy JROTC Wins State Championship

**From Nease High School NJROTC**

Nease High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (NJROTC) won the Area-12 State Academic, Athletic and Drill Championship for the sixth consecutive year, March 10.

Nease’s 40-cadet team competed against the top-16 high school Navy JROTC drill teams in Area 12, which includes all of northeastern Florida and the entire state of Georgia. Sixty NJROTC programs competed at local drill meets during the fall and winter with the top 16 advancing to the state championships. Nease won first place at each of its qualifying regional competitions earlier this year.

“This group is the hardest working team we’ve ever put together,” said Capt. Scott LaRochelle, senior naval science instructor. “The senior leadership is extraordinary.”

In addition to winning the overall championship, Nease claimed first place in personnel inspection, overall drill, armed exhibition commanded by Ethan Wissel, unarmed exhibition commanded by Genevieve Jacobi, armed basic commanded by Forrest Vosburg, unarmed basic commanded by Elkhan Bagirov and Color Guard commanded by Lindy Gostage; overall athletics, team sit-ups, and the 16x100 relay.

Cadet Emellee Neff earned an individual medal for the top female in sit-ups with 317. Cadets Isabella Rivera, Kaitlyn Boggs, Reef Hamilton and Brogan Donnelly also earned medals for top five in female or male situps. Cadets Yuan Tian, Abigail and Amber Vidler earned medals for top five in push-ups. Cadet Ben Prohovsky placed top 10 in academics.

“Winning Area-12 was a milestone for us,” said Cadet Ethan Wissel. “Our goal is the Navy National Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships. “We don’t simply want to go this year; we intend to do damage.”

Nease NJROTC travels to the Navy National Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships in Pensacola, Florida, April 3-4.

**Nease High School NJROTC celebrates winning their sixth consecutive Area-12 Drill Championship as the best unit covering the state of Georgia and Northeast Florida, March 10.**



*Courtesy Photos*

**The Nease High School NJROTC Armed Basic team performs its first place routine during the Area-12 Drill Championships in Douglas, GA, March 10.**





# NCIS: Beware of Coronavirus-Themed Scams

From Naval Criminal Investigative Service Public Affairs

The novel coronavirus pandemic presents an opportunity for malicious actors to conduct spearphishing campaigns, financial scams, and disinformation campaigns via social media to collect sensitive information, steal money via fake donation websites, spread false information, and deliver malware to victims.

Several spearphishing campaigns since January have falsely represented various healthcare organizations, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization. In many cases, victims receive coronavirus-themed emails requesting the victim to open an attachment or click on a link to obtain details about the coronavirus. Once a victim clicks on the attachment or link, they are directed to a malicious website requesting the victim to enter login credentials.

Law enforcement agencies have observed campaigns wherein victims received hoax emails from what appear to be the CDC requesting donations via Bitcoin to fund an “incident management system” in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Agencies also observed in February a spearphishing campaign targeting Japan-based Internet users with emails that appeared to provide information relating to coronavirus prevention. The emails included malicious Microsoft Office files that upon opening would initiate the download of a sophisticated Trojan known as Emotet. U.S. officials have released statements advising Russia is likely behind coronavirus disinformation campaigns that are being spread via social media. Reports indicate thousands of Twitter, Facebook,

and Instagram accounts have been used to spread false information about the coronavirus pandemic.

Although there is no evidence that the Department of the Navy has been targeted, NCIS urges DON personnel to remain vigilant and use the following best practices to identify and avoid online scams:

- Use complex passwords, use different passwords for different services, and change passwords often.

- Go directly to a trustworthy website for information rather than clicking on email attachments, links, or pop-ups.

- Double-check a website address prior to typing it in as scammers typically slightly alter URLs so they closely resemble a legitimate URL.

- Do not enter sensitive data such as username and password into websites that do not typically ask for it.

- Use multi-factor authentication whenever possible.

- Check for spelling and grammatical errors within the contents of emails or suspicious websites.

- Keep systems updated and running antivirus software.

- If you have been targeted with this scam, please report it to NCIS using the NCIS Tips app or at [www.ncis.navy.mil](http://www.ncis.navy.mil).

## MWR Ticket and Travel Office Hosts Ticket and Travel Fair



Photos by Demi Cruz

Connie Lorey of Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility Jax wins a two-night stay to the Buena Vista Suites Orlando after visiting the Tickets & Travel Fair, March 14 at the MWR's Tickets & Travel Office.



Visitors to the Tickets & Travel Fair learn more about the variety of local special attractions, such as Legoland, and the discount pricing available at MWR's Tickets & Travel Office, March 14.



# NAS Jax Standings

**\*\* All upcoming sporting events are currently cancelled until further notice. \*\***

For more information,  
call Bill Bonser at 542-2930/3239  
or e-mail [bill.bonser@navy.mil](mailto:bill.bonser@navy.mil)  
Visit the MWR website at [www.cnic.navy.mil](http://www.cnic.navy.mil)  
or [www.facebook.com nasjaxmwr](https://www.facebook.com/nasjaxmwr)

## Winter Golf Standings

As of March 13

TEAMS	WINS	LOSSES	TIES
CPRW-11	5	0	
GEMD	4	1	1
MPRWS	4	2	
SRSS	3	2	1
FRCSE	3	2	1
VP-62 Tweet-Tweet	3	3	
SERCC	2	3	1
NOSC	2	4	
FACSFAC 2	1	5	
FACSFAC 1	0	6	

## Ultimate Frisbee Winter League Finals

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
NAS Jax Disc in a box	7	0
CNATTU Larry's last leg	6	1
RLSO/DSO	5	2
NAVFAC	3	4
FRCSE Trons	2	5
NOSC Disc Slingers	2	5
VP-5	2	5
VP-16	1	6

## Commissary Adjusts Operations to Help Prevent Spread of COVID-19

**By Kevin L. Robinson**

*DeCA Public Affairs Specialist*

The Defense Commissary Agency announced several operational policies to help stores better serve customers during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak.

These policies include the following actions:

- Effective immediately, a 100-percent ID card check at all commissaries, so that only authorized customers – this includes disabled veterans with VHIC cards – will be able to shop. While this policy is in effect visitors will not be allowed to enter the commissary. This is designed help with social distancing and crowd control. Children under 10 with their parents don't have to have an ID card.

- Effective March 15, to prevent customer-to-customer spread of germs, commissary cashiers no longer handle patron ID cards. Instead, customers will be asked to scan their own ID. Cashiers can use the handheld scanner if available or have the customer scan their own card.

- Effective March 19, all commissaries will suspend early bird shopping to allow more time to clean and restock the store.

In a move to lessen panic-buying, the agency instructed its store directors worldwide to use their discretion in placing the shopping limits necessary to help maintain stock availability.

Rear Adm. (Ret.) Robert J. Bianchi, DOD special assistant for commissary operations, announced the shopping limits policy March 14 in response to a growing number of customers engaged in unauthorized purchases for the purposes of resale or hoarding.

The shopping directive, effective immediately, gives store directors more authority to quickly tailor shopping limits, as required, to keep more products available for more customers, Bianchi said.

“These decisions should not contravene or override any restrictions or guidance provided by installation commanders,” Bianchi said. “However, in the absence of installation commander direction, our store directors are now authorized to make local decisions as they deem necessary to control stock shortages through instances such as panic buying and unauthorized purchases for resale.”

From the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, commissaries overseas – starting with stores in Italy, South Korea and Japan – instituted shopping limits on items such as hand sanitizers, disinfectants and toilet paper. As coronavirus fears ignited a surge of customer activity worldwide, it became necessary for commissary officials to counter panic buying to take care of all customers, Bianchi said.

“Now our store directors have the flexibility to institute shopping limitations if no directives exist,” he said. “They still must inform base leadership when they are implementing these restrictions, but they can use my authority to move forward.”

From a product availability standpoint, commissaries continue to work with their industry suppliers to support the needs of senior leaders on the ground at each location. This support manifests itself through increased deliveries to the commissaries that need it most. For overseas stores this means emergency airlifts of high-demand items to

counter delays of shipboard supply containers.

“We know this is a potentially stressful time for all concerned,” Bianchi said. “But together we will meet these challenges and support our service members and their families throughout the duration of this crisis wherever necessary. “We always recommend to our customers that they calmly purchase what they need and avoid any panic buying to ensure products are available for others in their communities.”

### Preventing virus spread at stores

The “No ID handling” policy is just one of many actions stores are implementing to help prevent COVID-19 exposure, said James “Jay” Hudson, principal deputy director of DeCA's Store Operations Group.

“We consider the health and welfare of our customers and our employees our No. 1 concern,” Hudson said. “Our stores are following the highest standards of the Department of Defense's health protection. This means we're using disinfectant cleaners to wipe down our checkout areas, restrooms and shopping carts frequently. We're also ensuring our associates practice routine hand washing and other basic sanitation measures to avoid spreading germs.”

Hudson also said DeCA encourages its employees to closely monitor their health, and asks them to stay home if they, or someone in their household, are sick.

Commissary customers should continue to refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Coronavirus site for updates and guidance regarding this virus. Updates related to the commissaries can be found on DeCA's Coronavirus page.



# MWR PROGRAM CHANGES

**MARCH 18 - MAY 11**

The following MWR group gatherings and special events have been cancelled:

## GROUP GATHERINGS

- Bingo
- Bowling Leagues
- Intramural Sports
- Golf Tournaments
- Group Fitness Classes
- Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Trip  
*April 18*
- Sailing Lessons
- Savannah Lady & Sons Trip  
*March 28*

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### MARCH

- Wing Down Wednesday
- MWR Job Fair
- Spring Break Lifeguard Classes
- Movie Night at Dewey's
- Twilight League *Postponed*

### APRIL

- 15th Annual Captain Chuck Cornett Navy Run *Postponed*
- NAS Jax Easter Egg Hunt
- Bounce-a-Palooza

### MAY

- DIY Series: Bread & Butter *Postponed*
- Family Fun Run
- Mother's Day Brunch 2020
- Senior Military Invitational Golf Tournament



## MWR Hosts Leprechaun Dash 5K

*Photos by Demi Cruz*  
**CTR1 Robert Nogales of Information Warfare Training Command takes the medal for overall male and first place for the Leprechaun Dash 5k fun run with a time of 20:37 at the Antenna Farm, March 13.**



**Fifty runners take off for the Leprechaun Dash 5k fun run at the Antenna Farm, March 13.**