

# THE Bluejacket

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY MID SOUTH

August 2021: Volume 79 No. 8

**Promotions  
& Awards**  
p. 15





# Naval Support Activity Mid-South Leadership



**Commanding Officer**  
Capt. Michael Mosbrugger



**Executive Officer**  
Cmdr. Chris Hahn



**Command Master Chief**  
CMDCM Donald Ates

## Installation Program Directors



**Admin**  
YNC D. Honadle  
MILL\_NSA-ADMIN\_  
DIRECTOR@NAVY.MIL



**Public Affairs**  
A. R. Moreno  
MILL\_NSA\_PAO  
@NAVY.MIL



**Chaplain**  
Lcdr. J. Campbell  
MILL\_NSA\_CHAPLAIN  
@NAVY.MIL



**Fire Chief**  
C. Dindl  
MILL\_NSA\_Fire\_Chief  
@NAVY.MIL



**Safety**  
C. Whitaker  
MILL\_NSA\_Safety\_Director  
@NAVY.MIL



**Emergency Mgmt.**  
C. Fowler  
MILL\_NSA\_EMO  
@NAVY.MIL



**Training**  
L. Jones  
MILL\_NSA\_IMRO  
@NAVY.MIL



**Security**  
D. Allen  
MILL\_NSA\_SECO  
@NAVY.MIL



**Program Integrator**  
D. Barker  
MILL\_NSA\_IBM  
@NAVY.MIL



**FFSC**  
R. T. Hatton  
MILL\_NSA\_FFSC\_  
DIRECTOR@NAVY.MIL



**IT**  
N. J. Doss  
MILL\_NSA\_INFORMATION\_  
TECHNOLOGY@  
NAVY.MIL



**MWR**  
D. Atkins  
MILL\_NSA\_MWR\_  
DIRECTOR@NAVY.MIL



**Housing**  
M. Kennard  
MILL\_NSA\_Housing\_Director  
@NAVY.MIL



**Public Works**  
Lcdr. A. Zajac  
MILL\_NSA\_PWO  
@NAVY.MIL



**Public Affairs Officer: Amanda Rae Moreno**  
**Editor: Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Corey Green**  
**Copy Editor: Kendra Lawler**





## Captain's Corner

It's been a little more than a month since I assumed command, and during that time the COVID-19 landscape has again changed significantly, and must remain at the forefront of our concerns. The Delta variant has prevented us from achieving HPCON A and beating the virus this summer.

Last week by the direction of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and with consideration of local community transmission rate, we expanded mask use on board the installation to all personnel and guests regardless of vaccination status.

Additionally, we have instituted the following additional measures within our support services:

- 1) The installation gym is currently only open to active duty service members.
- 2) The installation splash pad is closed.
- 3) Indoor dining at MWR facilities is reduced to 25%.

Last year this time we were talking about "COVID fatigue". I think at this point in the pandemic most of us have "COVID exhaustion" due to the prolonged stress of the changes to our daily routines and concern for the health of our friends and family.

I understand this, and where I can safely do so I will strive to maintain a sense of normalcy. But the higher priority is our force health and safety, which is core to meeting our mission. Remember the WWII posters that had the slogan, "Loose Lips Sink Ships!"? This helped everyone understand that no matter how far they were from the front lines, individual actions had a profound impact on the course of that war. Masks, sanitary practices, and the vaccines are the only ways we have to beat this pandemic. There is no "Plan B" to fall back on. I tried to think of a new "Loose Lips" slogan but all I came up with is, "Loose Masks Add Tasks", "Dirty Hands Take Down Commands", and "Do Your Part, The Shot's a Start". We all need to find the energy to keep our vigilance up on those things we know work to "Stop the Spread".

We have an obligation and responsibility to the greater good to take the threat of COVID-19 seriously and take reasonable measures to prevent the spread of the disease. Sailors across the fleet are counting on us. The nation is counting on us. We in the military are highly respected by our nation's citizens and often



times lead the way for social change.

The most important thing I can ask of our personnel and families this summer is for your patience and flexibility. A lot has changed in just this last month. Mitigation policies are changing daily.

We use several communication channels to spread the word about these changes, including emailing our tenant leadership, email distribution lists, and social media. I encourage you to "like" and "follow" our command Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/NSAMidSouth](http://www.facebook.com/NSAMidSouth) for the most current information about COVID-19 and its effects on our installation.

Additionally, ensure your AtHoc registration is current. For more information about updating or registering for AtHoc notifications, email us at [mill\\_nsa\\_emo@navy.mil](mailto:mill_nsa_emo@navy.mil).

Captain Mike Mosbrugger  
Commanding Officer

# Order Online: Click2Go at the Commissary



*Command Master Chief Donald Ates cuts the ceremonial ribbon marking the opening of Click2Go online grocery orders for the Commissary. Shelia Williams, left, is the general manager of the commissary. During the ribbon cutting ceremony, Ates spoke of the value the commissary adds to the installation, personnel, and their families.*

Commissary CLICK2GO, the Defense Commissary Agency's new online ordering/curbside delivery service, came to the Memphis NSA Mid-South Commissary Tuesday, July 27, 2021, according to Shelia Williams, the Store Director.

"This service really speaks to the needs of our customers who can now plan, order and pay for their purchases on-line and then just drive to the store to get them without having to get out of their vehicle," said Williams.

Here's a brief rundown of Commissary CLICK2GO's features:

- Easy-to-use navigation and search functions to help customers plan healthy meals and take care of their family's needs
- Enhanced product information
- Robust recipe features
- Featured sales and promotions
- Upgraded mobile-friendly experience
- No service fee (it was waived on all orders for a limited time starting June 28).

First-time customers will need to create an account.

"I encourage all our shoppers to access the CLICK2GO page on commissaries.com to learn more about it," said Williams.

Customers use a computer or mobile device

to make their orders online where they select from commissary products offered based on the store's stock assortment. After products are selected, the shopper selects a pickup time and pays for their order. At their appointed time they park in designated parking spaces where commissary workers bring their groceries.

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

1. How do I find my Military DoD ID Number?  
Please visit <https://www.commissaries.com/CLICK2GO-Military-ID> and follow the step by step instructions

2. How do I place a Commissary CLICK2GO order?

Access CLICK2GO from your computer/mobile device by logging into your shop.commissaries account. If you don't already have an account you can register on the login page. Choose your preferred commissary location Search for products by name or select the department and category links to browse our virtual aisles. When you're ready, choose your pickup time and complete checkout

3. What should I bring to pick up my order?  
Your military ID or authorized agent card is re-



quired and your confirmation email

4. Do I pay for my order online or at the time of pickup?

Payment is collected online. Your total payment may be slightly different (either higher or lower) than your estimated total shown online due to random weight items such as produce and meat. Additionally, DeCA's pricing policy, similar to that of retail grocery chains providing this service, is to charge you the item price in effect on the day and time of pickup.

5. What forms of payment do you accept?

Debit, Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover

We do NOT accept cash, check, EBT/WIC vouchers

6. Will I be charged a service fee when using Commissary CLICK2GO?

No, the \$4.95 service fee has been waived until further notice

There is no minimum order size or minimum dollar amount required

7. What are Commissary CLICK2GO's operating hours?

Monday – Friday, 11am-6:00pm (Dates and hours may vary by location)

Orders can be placed 24 hours a day, up to six days in advance of the desired pickup date

8. How soon can I pick up my order?

There is a minimum six hour lead-time from the time the order is submitted to the time of curbside pickup. For example, an order submitted at 5am can be picked up the same day as early as 11am. Orders placed after 11am will default to the next available pickup time the following day.

9. What happens if I am going to be late?

If you are running late or will be unable to pick up your order altogether, contact your CLICK2GO commissary via email or phone. That information is located on your confirmation email. The store will accommodate your schedule.

10. Should I tip the person handling my order when I pick up my groceries?

No, Commissary CLICK2GO employees are not allowed to accept tips.

11. How do I cancel my Commissary CLICK2GO order?

You can cancel an order up to 4.5 hours prior to your reserved pickup time

Log into shop.commissaries account

Select "My Account" then select "My Orders"

Select the order you want to cancel then scroll down and click "Cancel Order"

Select "Yes" to continue

12. How Do I add notes to my order?

To input notes for specific substitution requests or to add additional comments please select the grocery cart in the top right corner of the screen

Scroll down and select "View Full List"

From the drop-down arrow, select your substitution preference and provide any additional instructions in the "Add Notes" section

13. How does Commissary CLICK2GO substitute out of stock items?

You are able to make substitutions for all items or individual items in your order. You are also able to make specific substitution requests by adding notes to your order.

We will substitute a like item in the closest size and price of the actual item ordered.

If you do not approve of the substituted item it can be deleted from your order at curbside.

Most items sold in the commissary are available on CLICK2GO. If you know an item is sold in the store, but cannot find it on the website, ask for it in the comments box. And if that item is available we will add it to your order.

14. Does Commissary CLICK2GO accept coupons?

Yes, digital coupons on the DeCA Rewards Card. Paper coupons are not accepted at this time.

For Rewards Card coupons to be applied to your order please clip the coupon before you add that desired item to your basket.

Please add your Rewards Card number in the notes section

15. How do I return an item?

Per our return policy, returns must be handled inside the commissary at customer service.

16. Can I use my personal reusable bags?

Yes. If you would like us to use paper or reusable bags rather than plastic please let us know by adding comments to your order.

Helpful Hints

If you encounter website performance issues please switch to a different browser to improve your Commissary CLICK2GO experience. Supporting browsers: Chrome, Edge, Firefox and Safari.



# Health Promotion Topic: Preventive Health Month

## Month of August 2021

**Week 1 - Focus on living a healthy lifestyle now to prevent health problems in the future, especially things like chronic disease.** Sailors and Marines reported a variety of behaviors in the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center Workplace Health Risk Assessment (HRA) that could lead to health issues. In past years, the most common health risks were not flossing, an unhealthy diet, and not getting enough sleep. These three preventive health behaviors are easy to incorporate into your routine once you know how. To make these healthy behaviors a habit, set a specific goal, make a plan, and repeat the new behavior often.

**Week 2 - Floss once a day as part of your oral hygiene routine to reduce your risk of developing gum disease and cavities.**<sup>1</sup> If you already brush your teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, great! But remember, flossing once a day is equally important. Flossing gets between teeth to remove bacteria, food particles, and plaque that toothbrushes can't reach.<sup>2</sup> Plaque buildup can lead to gingivitis, the first stage of gum disease where you may develop gum inflammation, red gums, and bleeding.<sup>2</sup> Plaque buildup can also cause cavities, which can be painful and require costly and time-consuming dental care.<sup>3</sup> You can avoid these issues by taking just a few minutes to floss each day!

**Week 3 - Eat the recommended number of servings from the five food groups (fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy, and protein) and limit high fat foods to get the nutrients your body needs to maintain health and perform at its peak.** Processed and prepared foods, such as packaged, restaurant (both sit-down and fast food), and convenience foods often contain high amounts of calories, sodium, added sugars, and saturated and trans fats. When you avoid or limit eating these foods throughout the week, and prepare some of your own meals instead, you're on the right path to a healthier diet. An easy way to eat healthier is to replace some of your prepackaged snacks like chips and candy-like granola bars with fruits and vegetables, such as real-fruit smoothies. Try to make half your plate fruits and vegetables at every meal!

**Week 4 - Get at least seven hours of sleep each night to get the rest your body needs to recover from the day.** When compared to civilians, active duty service members are more likely to suffer from insomnia and short sleep duration due to stress, environment, and job requirements.<sup>4</sup> Lack of sleep can decrease productivity and impair cognitive function, and also put service members at greater risk for accidents.<sup>5</sup> Did you know that staying awake for just 17 to 19 straight hours impacts performance more than a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.05, and 24 straight hours impacts performance as much as a BAC of 0.10 – beyond the legal limit to operate a motor vehicle in the United States?<sup>6</sup> For wounded, ill, and injured Sailors and Marines, sleep aids in recovery. There are many sleeping tips you can try to start sleeping more soundly. Get better quality sleep when you avoid caffeine, nicotine, and alcohol later in the day, and when you unplug from technology 15 to 30 minutes before bed. If you have trouble falling asleep for longer than 20 minutes, get up and do something relaxing until you are sleepy. You may also benefit from counterintuitive sleeping tips, such as spending less time in bed and scheduling time to worry before getting in bed.



# Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Unit Memphis Recognized

*Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Unit (NMRTU) Memphis, formerly known as the Naval Branch Medical Clinic, recently earned the Navy Surgeon General's Blue H Award for the 10th consecutive year.*

*The Blue H Award, managed by Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center, encourages and rewards the promotion of primary prevention policies and activities in Department of the Navy and Marine Corps workplaces, communities and medical treatment facilities, which are critical to maintaining a fit and ready force. Specifically, this award recognizes excellent in clinical prevention, community health promotion and medical staff health in Navy medical organizations.*

*Pictured is NMRTU Memphis OIC, CDR Emily J. Sprague, (L) and NMRTU Memphis Nurse Educator/Disease Manager, Heather Brasfield, (R) who was directly responsible for compiling and submitting NMRTU Memphis' Blue H Award Submission.*



## INSTALLATION WIDE POWER OUTAGE

18 September 2021

0700 to 1200

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to improve our energy infrastructure for the installation.





*Children of military families make up a large portion of the EDA Flyers team, as seen in this*

## Millington Track Team Connects Military Children with Community and Values

*From the Naval Support Activity Mid-South Public Affairs Office*

One Naval Support Activity Mid-South personnel is taking military kids to new heights through a track and field club.

Dennis Alexander, retired Navy chief, works in the administrative department for the command. He started the EDA Flyers Youth Track Club in 2016 to bring a sense of community to the installation and Millington community.

“The program was started in honor of my son the late Elijah Damon Alexander (EDA),” said Alexander.

Partnering with Linda Mosley, also a Navy retiree, Alexander took his and her experience in coaching youth sports to develop a competitive youth track and field program as a feeder to local youth programs, middle school and high school track and field programs as well as offering athletes an opportunity to compete in elite competitions throughout the United States,

ultimately leading to a college track and field scholarship.

The team attracts military families for a variety of reasons.

“We bring smiles to young children, young men and women, and parents through the sport of track and field. We advance the development of youth sports and physical fitness through our program,” Alexander said. “We are part of AAU which is one of the largest, non-profit, volunteer, sports organizations in the United States.”

The club holds their athletes to high standards and pushes them to do their best on and off the track.

“We give children a chance,” said Alexander. “We compete in over 30 individual events that athletes have an opportunity to mature, grow and become competitive ultimately a Junior Olympian. We mentor, coach, and encourage athletes until they find their favorite event.

The experience inspires children off the track



as well, Alexander added.

“Outside of the track, the Flyers are learning life skills, accountability, responsibility, and team work. They abide by a Code of Conduct and they have to meet AAU and Flyers rules and standards which is very beneficial when they start competing at the middle school and high school, and ultimately college. They learn to market themselves for college recruits.”

The team is open to any child ages 5 through 18.

The most recent accomplishment of EDA Flyers Military kids competing for EDA Flyers are: 75 athletes joined the 2021 EDA Flyers Team 2021 Southeast District Champions. 35 Teams competing, EDA was First Place. All 75 athletes qualified for Southeastern Regional Championships At 2021 Southeastern Regional Championships EDA competed against more than 100 teams from Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama. EDA qualified 50 athletes in 68 events, earning 10 gold medals, 11 silver medals, and 39 bronze medals. Participants will go on to compete at the 2021 AAU Junior Olympics that will be held in Humble, Texas 30 July through 8 August 2021 for an opportunity to become a National Champion.

How can parents and kids learn more about joining the group? Visit the EDA Flyers Facebook Page or <http://edaflyers.weebly.com>.



*Children warm up with high kicks before a practice.*



*Military kids not only learn how to excel in track and field with the team, they learn values like dedication and teamwork.*



# NSA MID-SOUTH

# DEPARTMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## Training Officer



*Lane Jone, second from right, is the installation training officer. Here he speaks with members of the training team ahead of an active shooter drill.*

### Description & Mission:

Naval Support Activity Mid-South Training Department mission is to enable readiness by providing training and supervising the installation operational programs. Our vision is to provide the Installation Commanding Officer and staff with a subject matter and technical expertise to establish, implement and sustain Commander, Naval Installation Command and COMNAVREG SE training.

### What does your department do?

- Develop Installation Training, Readiness and Exercise Implementation Plans and plan of action and milestones (POA&M) for the implementation and execution of the Navy Warfare Training System (NWTs), Navy Training Information Management System (NTIMS) and Navy Training Management and Planning System (NTMPS) for implementation of the CNIC's Shore Response Plan (SRP) and Shore Response Training Plan (S RTP).
- Assess the Installation's current training, readiness, and exercise program capabilities, identify deficiencies and capability gaps, and provide a summary assessment report on necessary enhancements.
- Oversee Ashore response program development and integration of Navy Mission Essential Tasks (NMETs) into shore training programs, exercises and assessments to inject training performance/lessons learned feedback into shore training.

- Develop strategy and plan to provide continuous evaluation of Installation training inputs, processes and outputs to assess training effectiveness and to provide effective feedback to improve training quality and efficiency Coordinate promulgation of Training Reports and Lessons Learned from completed training, exercises and real-world events
- Maintain Defense Readiness Reporting System (DRRS-S) for installation training and readiness program.
- Assume responsibility for the management of Training and Exercise related programs.
- Installation Training Team (ITT) Coordinator - trains and qualifies Training Team Members and manages all administrative functions of the Installation Training Team.
- Quarterly submission of Installation Quarterly Operations Training and Exercise Summary (IQOTES), signed by CO and uploaded on G2 website.
- Coordinate Quarterly SAPR and Annual Suicide Prevention Program drills.

### What is your organizational structure?

Lane Jones is a department of one. "I'm my own Department Head, I work directly for the Installation Executive Officer."

### What services do you tenant commands, Sailors, and families?

The Training Department provides volunteering opportunities in participating in base wide Anti-Terrorism Drill, SAPR Drill, and Suicide Prevention Drill. Personnel from the following commands have been consistent in providing volunteers, Navy Personnel Command, Navy Recruiting Command, Navy Operational Support Center Memphis, Personnel Support Detachment Memphis, Navy Manpower and Analysis Center. NSA Mid-South could not run these drill mention without the support of tenant command. Many of the volunteers bring their own Subject Matter Expertise into the drill and their input have been documented and used to correct deficiencies. I'm very appreciative from the support in this area

### What changes have you made to provide your services during the pandemic?

The training office adapted to provide virtual means of to complete training requirements. The department worked with Installation Training Team come up with ways that would allow the continuation of drills while still in COVID-19 protocol.

***New Date!!!***



## ***CREDO Southeast Marriage Enrichment Retreat***

***Reach New Heights  
in Your Marriage!***



**17-19 September, 2021  
@ Hyatt Place  
Memphis, TN**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**\*\* Childcare is NOT provided \*\***  
All legally married active-duty service members and their spouses are eligible to attend.

Topics Include:

- Love Languages!
- Personality Types
- Communication Skills
- Problem Solving & Goal Setting



**TO REGISTER, EMAIL:**

Ray Doss

[Ray.doss.ctr@navy.mil](mailto:Ray.doss.ctr@navy.mil)

Phone: (228) 871-2925







## FACT SHEET

## Special Leave Accrual for the Navy

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Special Leave Accrual (SLA), which allows Sailors to carry more than 60 days of leave into the next fiscal year (FY), was authorized by OSD for FY20. Due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic limiting the ability for Sailors to take leave, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs approved SLA for leave accrued in FY21 as announced in NAVADMIN 159/21.

### What you need to know

SLA Basics	Taking Leave	Selling Leave
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SLA allows Sailors to carry over more than 60 days of leave into the next fiscal year.</li><li>• Sailors may not carry more than 120 days of leave as part of SLA.</li><li>• SLA is authorized for Sailors that performed active service during FY21 as defined in 10 U.S.C S 701(a).</li><li>• A Sailor's SLA leave balance may be retained until the end of FY24 (30 September 2024).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unit Commanders will continue to ensure maximum use of earned leave and minimize the loss of leave within the constraints of operational requirements.</li><li>• All leave, to include non-chargeable leave such as Convalescent leave and Caregiver Leave must be recorded via E Leave in Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enlisted members that will have more than 120 days of leave may sell back leave.</li><li>• This is limited to once in a career and counts towards the 60 day career limit.</li><li>• Officers are not authorized to sell back leave in this situation.</li></ul>
Affected Leave		SLA Balance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This SLA approval only protects your leave balance as of September 30, 2021 and will not affect leave earned after that date unless additional SLA is authorized for that fiscal year.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sailors are responsible for tracking and managing their own leave, which can be found on their Leave and Earnings Statement (LES)</li></ul>

### Policy Guidance:

- NAVADMIN 159/21
- TITLE 10 U.S. CODE SECTION 701 THE ENTITLEMENT AND ACCUMULATION OF LEAVE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES.
- DOD INSTRUCTION 1327.06 ON LEAVE AND LIBERTY POLICY AND PROCEDURES
- UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MEMORANDUM DATED APRIL 16, 2020 AUTHORIZING SPECIAL LEAVE ACCRUAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIVE TRAVEL
- ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY FOR MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS MEMORANDUM DATED JULY 28, 2021 AUTHORIZING SPECIAL LEAVE ACCRUAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021
- MILPERSMAN 1050-070, SPECIAL LEAVE ACCRUAL
- MILPERSMAN 7220-340, LUMP-SUM PAYMENT FOR ACCRUED LEAVE

## Special Leave Accrual for the Navy

### ~ Questions & Answers ~

**Q1. If a Sailor does accrue leave that is protected by Special Leave Accrual, can they choose to use that leave first?**

**A1.** Leave accountability operates on a Last-In-First-Out (LIFO) basis. When you take leave, DFAS charges the leave days you most recently earned. For example, if you take 5 days of leave in August, the charged days will be from those you earned in August and July.

**Q2. Where can a Sailor find if they have a SLA balance and how much regular leave they've accrued so far?**

**A2.** Your number of SLA days was established on 30 September 2020 and is the difference between "Combat Zone LV Carryover Balance" on your LES and the authorized maximum leave carryover balance (60 days). Sailors are responsible for tracking and managing their own leave and are reminded that this SLA approval only protects the leave balance as of 30 September 2021, and does not protect leave earned in future FYs unless SLA is approved for that FY.

**Q3. If a Sailor is retiring in the next two years, what do they need to be aware of in regards to SLA, selling their leave and using it for terminal leave?**

**A3.** If you are going to separate/retire in the next two years, and you want to save those extra SLA days for terminal leave, you need to be mindful on how you take leave between now and when you separate/retire. Sailors must remember that leave accountability operates on a Last-In-First-Out (LIFO) basis. The maximum amount of leave that can be sold in a career is 60 days. If an enlisted Sailor will lose leave due to having more than 120 days of leave, they are allowed to sell back up to 30 days in this situation. This can be done once in a career and count towards the 60 day career limit. Officers are not allowed to sell back leave in this situation.

**Q4. I've heard of commands not allowing their Sailors to take leave, even when they met all of the COVID precautions. Why are Sailors not being allowed to go on leave?**

**A4.** Leave is vital to the contribution of morale, level of performance and career motivation for our Sailors. Commanders must continue to encourage and provide Sailors with the opportunity to use their leave in the year in which it is earned. All leave, to include non-chargeable leave such as Convalescent leave and Caregiver Leave must be recorded via E Leave in Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS).

**Q5. When must a Sailor use any leave protected by SLA before losing it?**

**A5.** A Sailor's SLA leave balance may be retained until the end of FY24 (30 September 2024). Sailors are responsible for tracking and managing their own leave, which can be found on their Leave and Earnings Statement (LES).

**Q6. Where can a Sailor find more information on SLA?**

**A6.** Active-duty Sailors can visit [https://www.dfas.mil/MilitaryMembers/payentitlements/SLA\\_AC/](https://www.dfas.mil/MilitaryMembers/payentitlements/SLA_AC/) and reserve-component Sailors [https://www.dfas.mil/MilitaryMembers/payentitlements/SLA\\_RC/](https://www.dfas.mil/MilitaryMembers/payentitlements/SLA_RC/) for additional information on SLA.

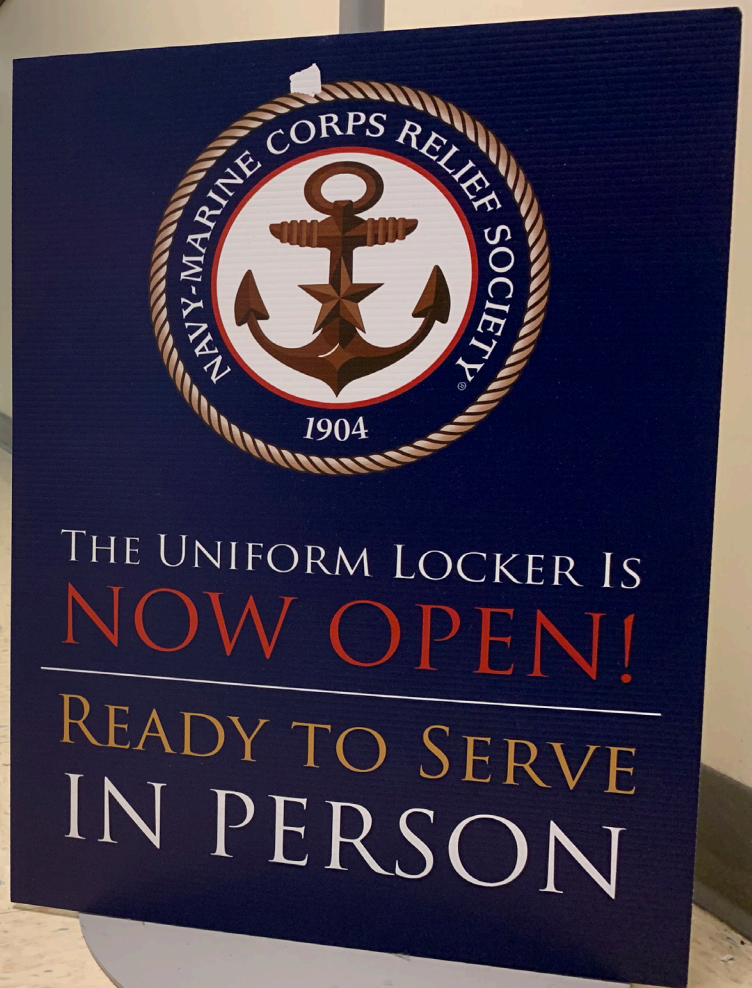




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the day!*

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information!*





# Congratulations!



*Ayesha McDonald is pinned to the rank of senior chief petty officer by Marilyn Kennard, command master chief (ret.) during a pinning ceremony on July 2. McDonald works in the housing department.*



*During a visit to the Commander, Navy Installations Command, Millington Detachment, Vice Adm. Yancy B. Lindsey, CNIC, presented two civilians of the quarter with their certificates. On the left, David Catt is presented with the Supervisory Civilian of the Quarter award. On the right, Dave Rosa is presented with the Junior Civilian of the Quarter award. This detachment of CNIC is the national headquarters for Morale, Welfare and recreation and the Fleet and Family Support programs, providing policy and programming for Sailors around the world.*

*On the cover: Devoda Owens, of the civilian Naval Security Force, is pinned to the rank of major by his wife and Commanding Officer, Capt. Mike Mosbruger, during a ceremony on Monday, August 2.*



# Sea and Shore Special Programs: Your next career move?

*Story by Petty Officer 3rd Class Jared Catlett  
Navy Personnel Command*

While Sailors are meant for sea, there are many special programs across the Navy that can provide unique and career enhancing opportunities for all rates and ranks, including right here in Millington, Tennessee.

All of these billets provide a unique Navy experience while also being very rewarding tours. Defense Courier Duty provides an opportunity to work out of your rate as well as a joint force working environment. Washington, D.C. billets provide Sailors the opportunity to make connections and learn how things are run there. Millington billets are essential to manning the fleet. A billet to USS John F. Kennedy, a pre-commissioned ship, will allow Sailors to build their systems from the ground up. The USS Constitution is a tour that is very unique in experiencing Navy heritage and history. SEA FA billets teach the future Senior Enlisted Leaders of the fleet.

“As a Defense Courier you get the opportunity to work outside of your rating and you’re working with other joint agencies.” said Senior Chief Petty Officer Shanika Jones, Shore Special Programs Department Leading Chief Petty Officer. “It is rewarding knowing that the mission you went out on may be a small piece of the puzzle, but it allowed a bigger mission to take place.”

The responsibilities during this tour are to receive, transport, store, transfer and account for highly classified and time sensitive material. Another benefit of the billet is a Special Duty Assignment pay of \$75 a month. A few requirements for Sailors are to be E-5 or have been selected to E-5, have mature judgement, have no physical condition that prevents travel onboard an aircraft or lifting heavy objects. A complete list of requirements and billet description can be found on MyNavy HR’s website or by contacting your detailer.

“Washington, D.C. billets are high visibility and they run our top echelon of the Navy.” said Chief Petty Officer Timothy Harrison, Shore Special Programs,

Millington/DC Lead Detailer. “Sailors, especially junior Sailors, can make good contacts and will have a better knowledge base working at these billets in Washington, DC.”

Ratings most often needed are YN, PS, IT, ET, CTI, CTM, CE, BU, UT, and MC. Opportunities often become available for other ratings as well. A few billets that are available in Washington, D.C. are Naval Support Facility Thurmont and Marine Helicopter Squadron (HMX-1). A complete list of requirements and billet descriptions can be found on MyNavy HR’s website or by contacting your detailer.

Billets at commands aboard NSA Mid-South in Millington, Tennessee, are very similar to those in Washington, D.C. in requirements and often work hand-in-hand.

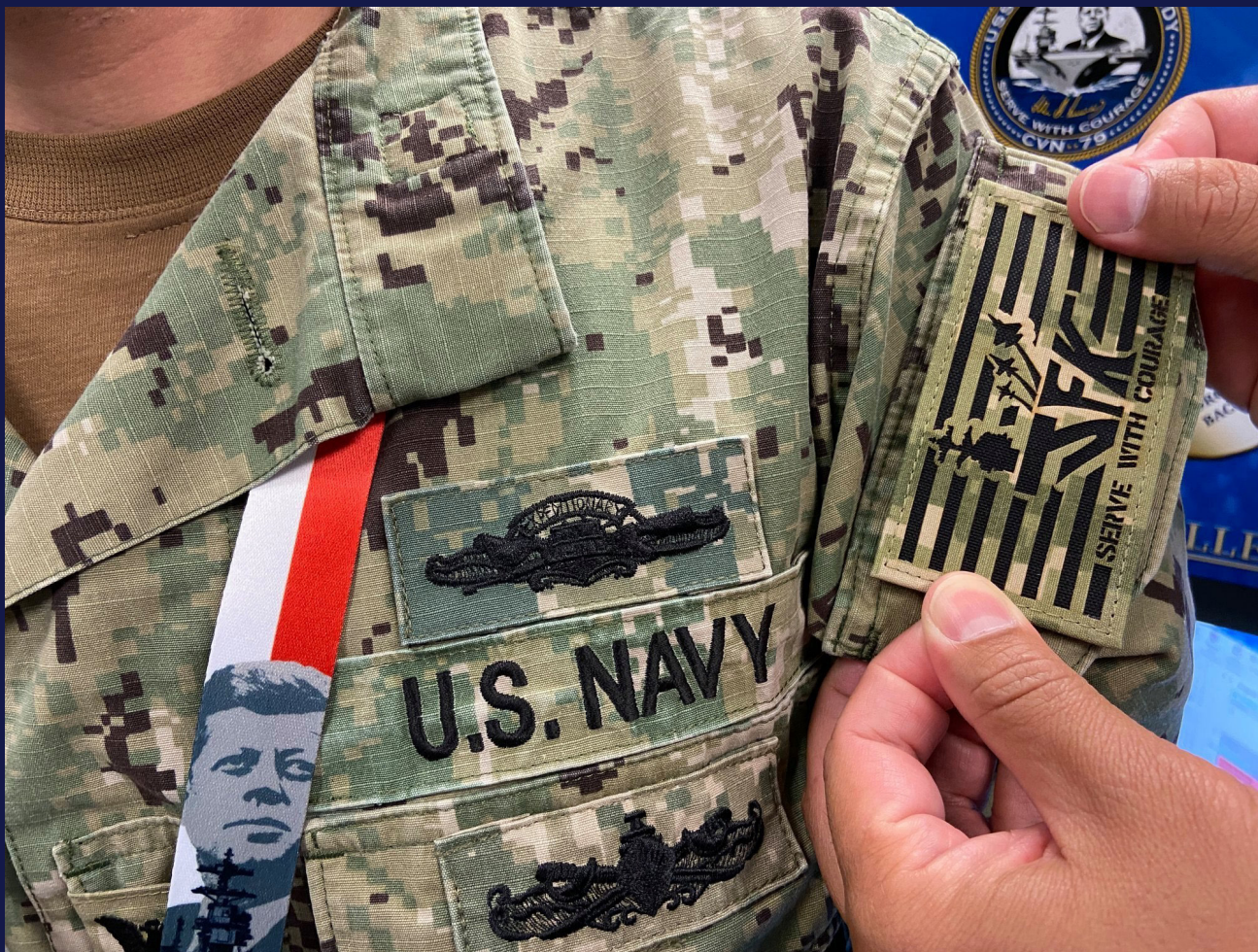
“Millington billets literally man the fleet, manage policies and programs and anything that is done here is usually sent up for review and then sent out. It’s like a 1-2 punch kind of thing between the Washington D.C. and Millington billets.” said Chief Petty Officer Timothy Harrison, Shore Special Programs, Millington/DC Lead Detailer. A complete list of requirements and billet descriptions can be found on MyNavy HR’s website or by contacting your detailer.

A billet aboard USS John F. Kennedy, a pre-commissioned ship, is a unique experience that not many Sailors get to have. Another benefit of this billet is becoming a plank owner, which is an individual who was a member of the crew of a ship when that ship was placed in commission.

“This billet is very career enhancing because these Sailors get to build their programs from the ground up and that gives them a sense of ownership over their equipment.” said Chief Petty Officer Eric Spisak, Sea Special Programs Detailer. “It’s also very important to the Navy to man these new ships with motivated Sailors to ensure their warfighting capability.”

A complete list of requirements and billet descriptions can be found on MyNavy HR’s website or by





*Sailors receive command patches. CVN 79 is the second aircraft carrier to honor John F. Kennedy for his service to the nation, both as a naval officer and as the 35th President of the United States. Photo by Senior Chief Jayme Pastoric*

contacting your detailer.

“The USS Constitution is a blend of traditional leadership styles linking back into all the traditions the Navy is built upon. The Constitution being ‘Old Ironsides’ and one of the first ships in the Navy is kind of the birth place of our roots there” said Petty Officer First Class Nicholas Belflower, Shore Special Programs Detailer. “It’s a rewarding shore experience that lets you connect with the community there in Boston through the tours that are given on the ship.”

USS Constitution is the oldest Navy ship still in commission. Duty aboard “Old Ironsides”, is like taking a step back into history. Being that the ship is made of wood, part of your primary duties will be to maintain her and her bright work. As a part of our history, USS Constitution receives numerous visitors every year and you may be tasked with giving a tour. There is a screening process, IAW MILPERS-MAN 1306-920. As part of that screening you will be required to do a telephonic interview with the USS Constitution, Command Master Chief. A complete list of requirements and billet descriptions can be found

on MyNavy HR’s website or by contacting your detailer.

The Senior Enlisted Academy provides an opportunity for students to engage in studies that broaden their educational experience and assist them in fulfilling today’s increasing senior enlisted responsibilities. SEA develops stronger leaders by preparing them to fulfill their expanded and ever-widening roles as global leaders. SEA FA is looking for highly motivated personnel, pay grades E8 – E9 of all rates, who are looking to enhance their careers through instructing duty, must currently hold the NEC 8SEA and be able to fulfill a 36 month tour obligation.

Enlisted Sea and Shore Special Programs provide great opportunities as well as unique and rewarding Navy experiences to Sailors. For more information about any Sea and Shore Special Programs please visit [www.MyNavyHR.Navy.Mil](http://www.MyNavyHR.Navy.Mil) or contact your detailer.



# NAVCO's Karin Burzynski

## Joins as WAVE, retires as Commander



*Cmdr. Karin Burzynski retired after a successful tour as the Director of the Navy Office of Community Outreach. She joined the Navy 43 years ago. Courtesy photo.*

By Stephanie Fox, Navy Office of Community Outreach

When Cmdr. Karin Burzynski joined the military 43 years ago, the Navy looked quite different than it does today—a lot more than the look of the uniform has changed. At Recruit Training Command in Orlando, Florida in 1978, she wore a uniform no one would recognize now. Her “uniform of the day” consisted of side-zip black slacks and a short-sleeve light blue blouse with small white buttons. At this time women in the Navy were referred to as WAVES: Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service.

The WAVES branch of the Navy, which was created on July 30, 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt signing the Navy Women’s Reserves Act, sought to bring women into the Navy to free up male personnel for sea duty. When Burzynski enlisted 36 years later, women still made up only a small percentage of the Navy with even fewer advancing to leadership positions. Burzynski

would go on to change this statistic by not only continuing her naval service, but also by advancing in rank and eventually retiring with the rank of commander.

Uninformed, youthful decision to join

Yet, reflecting on her early days of service, Burzynski admits to joining the Navy after briefly exploring life in Southern California – far away from her family on the East Coast -- without a plan or a clear understanding of what it meant to be a sailor.

“My father was a public affairs officer in the Air Force, so I thought I knew what military service entailed,” Burzynski said, laughing lovingly at her younger self. “I was 18 so I thought I was all grown up, but I was quite naive.”

“I signed up without telling anyone in my family, so I missed out on my dad’s guidance” said Burzynski. “I knew I wanted to be a photographer or journalist, but there were no openings at that time. But then the recruiter told me that I could sign a contract for a different school and when I got to boot camp I could tell them what I really wanted. I believed him.”

Instead, following basic training, Burzynski was to report for training as a mineman.

As a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania native, Burzynski’s initial assumption was that being a mineman had something to do with coal mines. As the seventh woman to attend mineman training, Burzynski learned how to assemble, test and maintain underwater explosive devices.

Though not assigned in her preferred career field, Burzynski decided to make the best of her position and learn as much as possible about the duties of a mineman.

“I had an instructor in mineman school who would end each class by asking if anyone had any questions,” said Burzynski. “He’d block his view of me with his hand because he knew my hand would be raised. I found mines and electronics fascinating and I always made our class run long with my questions. I bet my classmates hated it, but I didn’t care -- I wanted to know everything.”

Entering the Navy at the lowest rank of E1, a seaman recruit, Burzynski rose quickly to E5, a petty



*Burzynski receiving an award as a junior Sailor. Courtesy photo.*



officer second class, in three and a half years.

#### Harsh working conditions

While the training environment was professional, the work environment was not welcoming to women. Back then even the dungaree uniforms came only in sizes tailored for men. “The 70’s and 80’s were not particularly friendly towards women in the Navy, especially in male-dominated careers,” Burzynski said, adding, “It was not uncommon for my senior leadership to publicly disparage our service in front of the entire crew, saying we had no business being there.”

The Navy has learned much about implementing change since those days. As the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy regarding homosexual personnel serving in the military was about to be repealed in 2011, Burzynski said she, along with every sailor in the Navy, participated in small group discussions to talk about what this meant and how the Navy was going to function with homosexual personnel not needing to hide who they were. “We discussed realistic scenarios and considered how to ensure people were treated fairly and respectfully,” Burzynski said, “Sitting in that room with that small group, I reflected briefly on my memories as a young mineman, and I recalled thinking to myself ‘the Navy sure has come a long way.’”

When her first daughter was born, however, she decided to take a break from service and focus on family. Four years, and two more daughters later, Burzynski returned to the Navy as a Reservist, still as a mineman,

but determined to transition to photographer. For months, she spent Fridays at the nearby Fleet Imaging Center, fulfilling all the requirements to qualify as a Navy photographer. No openings for photographer were available, however, eventually she was able to cross rate to journalist, which included photography opportunities.

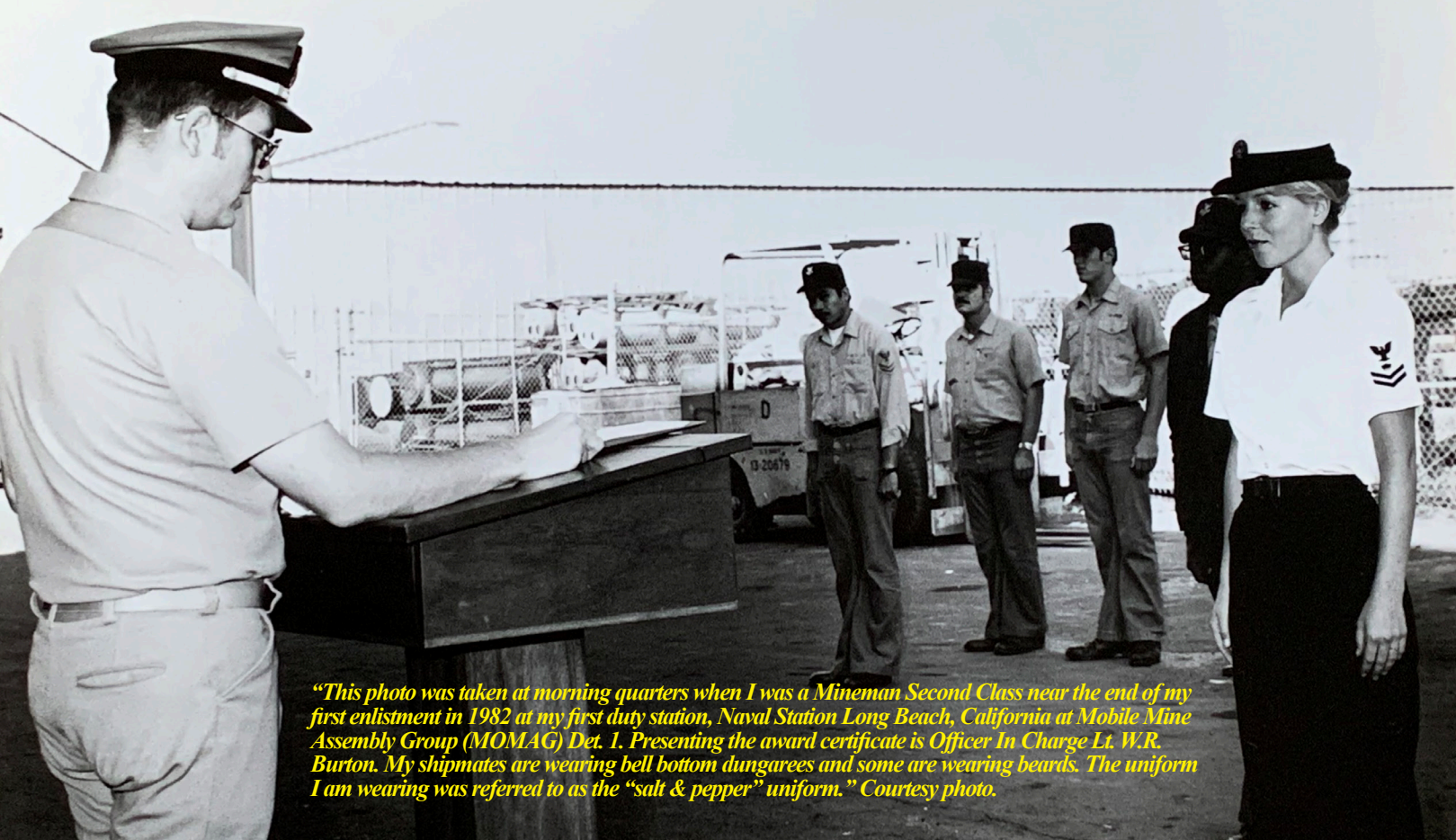
#### Transfer out of mine field

Prior to the official change to Navy Journalist, though, she had one last hurrah as a mineman, conducting two weeks of Reserve annual training at a mine shop near Ewa Beach, Hawaii.

“The last time I served as a minemen was in the 90’s at a mine shop with a crew that was about 50/50 men and women. There were no issues or comments like those I’d experienced. They worked side-by-side, just like regular shipmates,” Burzynski said. “It was heartwarming for this to be my last interaction with the minemen community – to see how far they’d come. None of them knew of my experiences in the 70s and none of them needed to know.”

Using her Montgomery G.I. Bill to earn her degree at TAMUK, Burzynski joined the staff of the university’s newspaper, The South Texan, first as a photographer, eventually working her way up to editor. Upon graduation in 1998 she continued to work at The Kingsville Record, then moved on as the editor of The Flying K, Naval Air Station Kingsville’s





*"This photo was taken at morning quarters when I was a Mineman Second Class near the end of my first enlistment in 1982 at my first duty station, Naval Station Long Beach, California at Mobile Mine Assembly Group (MOMAG) Det. 1. Presenting the award certificate is Officer In Charge Lt. W.R. Burton. My shipmates are wearing bell bottom dungarees and some are wearing beards. The uniform I am wearing was referred to as the "salt & pepper" uniform." Courtesy photo.*

newspaper.

Upon earning her bachelor's degree in 1998, Burzynski applied for a commission as a Reserve Public Affairs Officer. She recalls receiving the call from the officer recruiter in Houston, informing her of her selection for the appointment. "I was really busy copy editing when the call came, and I stood up while being given the exciting news and I remember my heart starting to race," Burzynski said. Receiving the officer commission meant that she would no longer be an enlisted sailor and be afforded much more opportunity and responsibility.

#### Recall to active duty

While on the staff of the Kingsville Record, Burzynski concurrently served in the Navy Reserve. As the lone Reservist on staff, her colleagues at the newspaper weren't quite sure what being a Reservist meant, until Sept. 11, 2001 happened and shortly thereafter, the President was calling up Reservists to serve on active duty.

As a Reservist, Burzynski was recalled to active duty in 2004 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. Enjoying the thrill and challenges as a full-time public affairs officer coordinating media trips to the Middle East, Burzynski applied and was accepted to be permanently assigned to active duty in 2007. Up until this time, she had not spent much time at sea and had a strong desire

to do so. Since then, she has served tours on two aircraft carriers, USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and USS Nimitz (CVN 68).

In addition to her sea-going tours, Burzynski's favorite assignments included traveling to Latvia to support the SeaBees with Cornerstone '99 and a medical mass casualty drill, MEDCEUR '99, and to McMurdo Station in Antarctica for Operation Deep Freeze in 2007.

#### Final tour in community news

Burzynski's naval tour concluded in Millington, Tennessee, where she sat at the helm of NAVCO. In this role, she oversaw an office dedicated to connecting Americans with their Navy. With most of the Navy's personnel and equipment logically concentrated on America's coasts, NAVCO oversees a number of community outreach programs designed to bring America's Navy to cities and towns throughout the country that do not enjoy a significant Navy presence.

After completing high-stress assignments involving crisis communication, she was happy the final tour of her naval career dealt with community outreach and garnering publicity and positive news stories about our sailors to their communities.

"With my background as a civilian journalist,





*Left: Cmdr. Karin Burzynski speaks about her 39 years of Naval service during her retirement ceremony on June 24, 2021 in Memphis, Tennessee. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ethan Carter.*

*Above: Burzynski as a junior Sailor. Courtesy photo.*

I knew the importance of NAVCO's work," Burzynski said. "Sending stories and images of sailors to their hometown media is terrific for the community and the Sailors' families are so proud to see their sailors recognized. Good news doesn't always get covered because it's not catchy or clickbait. But if the good news is about you or someone you know, you care. That's why the NAVCO mission works."

Like many others, Burzynski's year was uprooted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Much of her final tour in the Navy was spent from the comfort of her downtown Memphis apartment, where she led NAVCO primarily through video calls. Still, it was fulfilling.

"While teleworking during the pandemic, I knew I needed to make an extra effort to keep everyone at the command informed and connected. Participating in daily COVID-19 phone calls with our office at the Pentagon, I started sending out a daily update with relevant info and including a daily photo to the staff. The photo effort blossomed into the staff sending their photos of pets, new car purchases, home renovation projects to be shared in the daily update," she said.

"We got to know each other better because we were eager to feel connected. Working from home also made the transition to retirement easier after having spent so many years on the go. Instead of just

visiting my apartment, I've had the chance to enjoy my apartment."

It was on the rooftop of that apartment building where family and friends as well as NAVCO's sailors and civilians gathered to celebrate Burzynski's retirement. A family affair, the ceremony was emceed by son-in-law Army 2nd Lt. Nicholas Bunch, Tedi's husband, who added friendly military rivalry and levity, on a beautifully warm and breezy June evening as the sunset over the Mississippi River. Tasha, who was unable to attend in person, recorded the National Anthem for the ceremony, but technical difficulties arose, so Tedi stepped in and sang it a cappella. Both Tedi and Tina shared touching memories, as well as the inspiration and impact their mother's career has had on them.

The ceremony celebrating Burzynski's retirement occurred on June 24, 2021.

The event could be summarized in the statement that echoed through the crowd over the course of the evening: It is impossible to explain Burzynski's accomplishments and her impact on those she has served with. There isn't enough time; there aren't enough words.



# Youth Center Challenges Children and Parents with Escape Room Event

*Where did the idea come from? Coach Jaci and Coach Denise had been discussing ways to make a kid friendly version for our youth.*

*How was it set up? Each coach was a “host” in the room (there were 3 different rooms used). Rooms were decorated based on a theme, it was basically a scavenger hunt.*

*Why did you choose to do it with parent participation? It allowed our youth to bond with their parents and also other families.*

*Who developed the themes and challenges? Coach Denise. She also asked for youth involvement from those that were unable to attend.*

*What elements did you include to make it enjoyable for a wide age range? Costumes and interactive pictures (photo booth. We made sure each room was age appropriate.*

*What COVID mitigations were in place? Temperatures were checked upon entry into the building as well as our COVID health screening questions. Unvaccinated individuals wore masks throughout the event. (This event was hosted prior to the implementation of the current DoD-wide mask policy.)*

*How many people attended? More than 50 people attended this event.*

*How many staff members worked the event? 4 (Coach Kamill, Coach Sam, Coach Denise, Coach Helena)*

*What kind of feedback did you get from the families? Everyone enjoyed the event!! They wanted to do it again*

*Why was this a successful event? The youth were able to come together as a team to “escape the rooms”.*

*Do you have any plans to host another one? If so, when? Due to the popularity and success, it is highly*





# Military Youth of the Year Recognized



*Thursday, 22 July 2021, we celebrated our 2021 Tennessee Military Youth of the Year, Kymia K. She represented NSA Mid-South exceptionally well on the local, state, and regional levels. We were joined by our Commanding Officer, Captain Mosbruger, and MWR Director, Dave Atkins, in congratulating Kymia. CYP leadership and trainers were also present for the celebration. Kymia delivered her speech, shared her MYOY experience, and expressed her plans after senior year. She was presented with a coin from Captain Mosbruger for her great accomplishment! Again, congratulations Kymia! Photo courtesy of the Youth Center.*

## STORMWATER REPORT AND PLAN NOW AVAILABLE

*Naval Support Activity Mid-South's Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Annual Report for FY 2021, is now available for review and public comment until 20 August 2021.*

*The MS4 Report is required by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), and describes the installation's efforts during FY21 to ensure the stormwater leaving the installation meets MS4 Permit Standards.*

*To review, make public comments, or obtain a copy of the above listed reports, you may contact Lindsey Bidder, PWD Environmental Division, at 874-5904, [lindsey.a.bidder.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:lindsey.a.bidder.civ@us.navy.mil).*

*If you are interested in becoming a member of the Stormwater Team, please contact PWD Environmental or give Lindsey a call 874-5904.*





**A part of the Navy Region Southeast and Navy  
Installations Command,  
NSA Mid-South serves as the Navy's  
Human Resources Center of Excellence.**

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like to see featured in The Bluejacket?  
Email us at [mill\\_nsa\\_bluejacket@navy.mil](mailto:mill_nsa_bluejacket@navy.mil)  
Submission deadline is the last Thursday of each month!**