

Newest Chiefs Frocked During Ceremonies

By Kaylee LaRocque
NAS Jax Public Affairs Officer

Several Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Pinning Ceremonies were held at Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax), Nov. 19 where new CPOs were officially pinned with their anchors. These ceremonies were the highlight of the past six weeks of intense training for these new CPOs.

At Hangar 117, 10 CPOs were pinned by family members and congratulated by their peers. NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Jeff Hill thanked the family members in attendance for their support. "While we're here to celebrate the success of these men and women, we all know that none of their success would have been possible without the support of their shipmates and, more importantly, their families," he said.

Hill also addressed the new CPOs. "Your role is that of a leader. We expect you to ensure your Sailors have what they need to succeed. We expect that you manage their time to meet the mission. We expect that you are there when they need leadership."

The event was also a highlight for NAS Jax Command Master Chief Dylan Inger as he is transferring to a new command and it was his last day aboard the station. Inger began his speech by carrying in his selectee's class guidon (flag) and placing his charge book and vessel on the table with the new CPO's books.



Naval Air Station Jacksonville Command Master Chief Dylan Inger displays the many chief petty officer (CPO) T-shirts he has collected from his various commands while speaking at a CPO Pinning Ceremony.



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

A group of chief petty officer (CPO) selects stand at attention as the Naval Air Station Jacksonville Honor Support Team presents the colors during the playing of the national anthem at a CPO Pinning Ceremony, Nov. 19 at Hangar 117.

"We were successful in initiating 62 new CPOs across 75 commands without any new cases of COVID for any selectee or chief. Job well done to all," he said.

"This past September marked my 21st year in the chief's mess," he continued. "I would like to go down the road of history but first an overview of what it takes to be selected to CPO. You must take exams for promotion and must have good evals by guiding your career which means starting early."

Inger then proceeded to display every T-shirt he received during CPO initiations and from the

many CPO Messes he's been part of since he was frocked in September 2000. With each one, he discussed a short piece of history of where he was, interesting facts about CPO initiations, and important Navy milestones or events.

"After 21 years in the Mess, and 12 of them as a CMC, my advice is that you should always own the process and still train chiefs, give back to the Mess and Navy, and continue to make tomorrow's leaders," he said.

As the new CPOs were called front and center,

See CPO Ceremony, Page 7



ABHC Jeff Garcia is pinned by his wife Kristy and son Tyler during the Chief Petty Officer Pinning Ceremony at Hangar 117, Nov. 19.



New NAS Jax CMC come 'full circle' on career

By Julie M. Lucas

NAS Jax Deputy Public Affairs Officer

In 2004, AC1 Shane Edwards, assigned to Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility, Jacksonville, was named Air Traffic Controller of the Year, but had his career plan on a different track.

"I dreamed of flying a jet, becoming a pilot and commanding an aircraft carrier," said Naval Air Station Jacksonville's (NAS Jax) incoming command master chief, CMDCM(AW/SW) Shane Edwards, who assumed the position, Nov. 15. "But when I made chief in just nine and half years, my plans shifted and I never looked back," he said.

Edwards, a native of West Palm Beach, Florida, has spent a large amount of his career in Jacksonville, and has called this newest assignment, a "full circle" on his career that he isn't ready to finish just yet.

"You know how it feels when you return from vacation and sleep in your own bed – that's how this feels being back at NAS Jax," he said. "It feels like I never left in a way, but I've grown up and have gotten some expertise that I needed."

Through many accomplishments such as being a plankowner on the USS

Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) and various deployments with 5th and 6th Fleet areas of responsibility, Edwards says his proudest moment of his 24-year career is helping Sailors with the Meritorious Advancement Program.

His personal philosophy is to never stop learning. Edwards made a promise to his mother after turning down a full scholarship for college that he would get a degree. He kept that promise by earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Professional Aeronautics from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University while serving in the Navy.

"I take a sense of pride in working hard and have never expected any handouts," he said.

Edwards' words of advice for young Sailors is to write down goals and find a mentor who will challenge you on both your strengths and weaknesses.

When off duty, Edwards enjoys bowling and freshwater fishing. Some of his plans while serving here, include focusing on helping the tenant commands and assisting the community.

"I love the family atmosphere that exists here, so now it's just finding out how can I contribute to that and continue a relationship with our tenant commands," he said. "There is no other place in my career where I'd rather be."



Photo by Julie M. Lucas

Naval Air Station Jacksonville Command Master Chief Shane Edwards recently reported to the station replacing CMDCM Dylan Inger, who is transferring to Washington D.C.

NEXCOM supports students with NEXT gen Scholars Program

The Navy Exchange Service Command's (NEXCOM) NEXT gen Scholars Program offers qualified students the opportunity to win \$2,500, \$1,500, \$1,000 or \$500 each quarter for earning good grades in school. The next drawing is at the

end of December 2021.

To enter the drawing, students must be full-time with a "B" grade point average equivalent or better, as determined by their school system. Homeschooled students can also qualify with acknowledgement that the student has a "B" average or equivalent record of accomplishment.

Students must bring their current report card or other performance document to any NEX, fill out an entry card and have any documentation validated by an NEX associate.

Once entered, the students will be given a coupon good for \$10 off a one-time NEX purchase of \$20 or more.

Eligible students include dependent children of active duty members, reservists and military retirees as well as U.S. civilian Department of Defense employees stationed outside the continental United States and U.S. civilian employees of firms under contract to the Department of Defense outside the continental United States. Students must be enrolled in first through 12th grade.

Dependent children without an individual Dependent Identification Card must be accompanied by their sponsor to submit their entry. Each student may enter only once each grading period and must re-enter with each qualifying report card.

Thanks to its vendor partners, NEXCOM has awarded a total of \$804,500 in savings bonds and monetary awards to students since the program's inception in 1997.

For more information on the NEXT gen Scholars Program visit myNavyExchange.com/NEXTgen.

JAX AIR NEWS

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NAS Jax Civilians of the Quarter Honored

By **Kaylee LaRocque**

NAS Jax Public Affairs Officer

Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) Commanding Officer Capt. Jeff Hill recently congratulated Senior Civilian of the Quarter (SCOQ) Ken Moreland and Junior Civilian of the Year (JCOQ) Paul Stewart. Both are employees at the NAS Jax Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC).

“It is my absolute honor to announce the Civilians of the Fourth Quarter,” said Hill before presenting the awards. “These awards are highly-deserved and I am thrilled to recognize Ken and Paul for their tremendous dedication to our military families.”

He also thanked all staff. “You take care of the families and the troops and without doing this, there would be no way the tenant commands could complete their missions. So thank you all for what you do every day.”

Moreland is a native of the state of Ohio and joined the Navy after graduating high school. “I retired as a chief fire controlman. After retirement, I earned my Bachelor’s Degree in Information Technology,” he said.

“I continued working for the military in the Countermine, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) program teaching handheld landmine detection to U.S. Army and Marine Corps member for about six years,” said Moreland. “Then I spent two-plus years in Afghanistan working as the program manager for Hull Mounted Detection System vehicle route clearance IED detection for all of Afghanistan.”

Moreland then switched paths and worked at two FFSC locations in Japan before arriving here in 2018 where he works as the Gold Star coordinator for the entire state of Florida and the Caribbean.

He was selected as SCOQ for coordinating five Gold Star events including a virtual Bells for America event with six different commands participating. The event reached more than 100 Gold Star families. He continues to reach out to other organizations collaborating with their Gold Star programs. He also facilitates “Daddy Boot Camp” for the FFSC.

“I work directly with more than 400-plus Gold Star families assisting them with finding resources

for education, finance, long-term non-medical case management and job assistance,” he said. “I love that I get to help Navy families navigate through loss and grief, and let them know they are not forgotten and they are part of our Navy family.”

Moreland is very appreciative of his selection. “I am absolutely honored to be selected as Senior Civilian of the Fourth Quarter 2021,” he said. “I thank God for blessing me, my wife for supporting me, and the NAS Jax FFSC staff for being the best team I have had the chance to work with and learn from.”

In his free time, Moreland enjoys hiking, playing with his dog Chief Waffles, volunteering with Scouts and he is a Stephen Minister at his church.

In the future, he plans to continue supporting others, and trying to be a blessing to those he is in contact with daily.

Stewart is a native of Adel, Georgia, where he was a UPS Driver, until he joined the Navy in 1984. After serving for 25 years, he retired and began working at the FFSC Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in December 2009.

In 2011, he transferred to the NAS Jax FFSC until he volunteered to go to Camp Lemonnier Djibouti, Horn of Africa in January 2016, to man the FFSC as a work and family life consultant. Stewart returned to NAS Jax in February 2017.

Stewart earned the JCOQ recognition for helping train new FFSC employees, volunteering to teach the Learning Management System platform ensuring geographically dispersed individuals could receive informative and developmental training, and was hand-selected to attend the Transition Pre-Separation Train-the-Trainer course and volunteered to attend the 10 Steps to a Federal Job workshop. He immediately created training schedules to share the knowledge he gained. He also brought in several local companies to participate in the Navy’s Skill Bridge program.

As a family life specialist, Stewart is responsible for all aspects of the Department of Defense Transition program, including both federal and civilian employment. He facilitates numerous workshops not only here, but at Naval Station Mayport, and Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay.

“I help with family employment,



Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

Ken Moreland, Navy Gold Star coordinator at the Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) Fleet and Family Support Center, displays the NAS Jax Senior Civilian of the Fourth Quarter award as NAS Jax Command Master Chief Shane Edwards, left, and NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Jeff Hill look on.



Naval Air Station Jacksonville Junior Civilian of the Fourth Quarter Paul Stewart proudly displays his certificate as Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) Director Ron Downs, left, and NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Jeff Hill, look on. Stewart is a family life specialist at the NAS Jax FFSC.

transition, and relocation services to all military service members and their families,” he said. “I really like the interaction between myself, service members, and their families. It allows me to provide them with information on transition and relocation, so they have the knowledge to make informed decisions during the process.

Stewart is thankful for the recognition but helping military families is what makes his job so rewarding.

“I am extremely honored to be selected as the Junior Civilian of

the Quarter,” he said. “I am very grateful for the recognition and I feel blessed to be a member of the Fleet and Family Support Center Team. I would like to thank my great team of colleagues who I work with; this team is second to none.”

When he’s not working, Stewart enjoys spending time with his family, playing the guitar and writing music. Someday when he retires, Stewart plans to volunteer at the Retired Activities Office at the FFSC.



Courtesy photos

Naval Air Station Jacksonville Environmental Director Jenna Kobischen, right, is presented the 2020 Keep Jacksonville Beautiful award in the military category by Katie Blandford, chair of the Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission, during a ceremony at the University of North Florida, Nov. 17.



From left; Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) Commanding Officer Capt. Jeff Hill, NAS Jax Environmental Director Jenna Kobischen, NAS Jax Public Works Officer Cmdr. Chris Casne, and NAS Jax Executive Officer Capt. Marc Cantu attended a ceremony at the University of North Florida where they were presented the 2020 Keep Jacksonville Beautiful award, Nov. 17. The station won the award for the team's commitment to improving and beautifying the community.

Environmental Team Receives 'Keep Jacksonville Beautiful' Award

By Kaylee LaRocque
NAS Jax Public Affairs Officer

Leadership from Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) attended a ceremony at the University of North Florida, Nov. 17 where they were presented the 2020 Keep Jacksonville Beautiful award.

NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Jeff Hill, Executive Officer Capt. Marc Cantu and Public Works Officer Cmdr. Chris Casne attended the event to cheer on NAS Jax Environmental Director Jenna Kobischen who accepted the award from Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission Chair Katie Blandford.

"The NAS Jax Environmental Team is so grateful for this award," said Kobischen. "It is a privilege to help the environment not only aboard the station, but in the Jacksonville community. Even small actions can lead to big change, and we are honored to do our part. The environmental team has worked hard and accomplished so much, even

in the midst of pandemic restrictions. They are a superb group and have my sincere gratitude, as do our incredible volunteers and supportive base leadership. We look forward to building upon these efforts and accomplishing even more in the coming years!"

The installation was recognized for its commitment to improving and beautifying the community through positive, trusted, collaborative partnerships with the City of Jacksonville and the State of Florida.

As part of ongoing annual cleanup efforts, 175 volunteers from 11 commands across the installation participated in a COVID-mitigated International Coastal Clean-Up Day. They collected more than 600 pounds of trash recycling four bags of debris.

An installation-wide grounds beautification project saw landscaping improvements to the entrances of several buildings. Sailors volunteered to pick up storm debris after high winds and rain caused damage across NAS Jax during Hurricane Isaias.

Base leadership planted a live oak tree in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the station in October 2020.

In support of public education and awareness, the Environmental Department staff made several improvements to the butterfly-pollinator garden, including planting 35 native pollinator species, installing educational signs, as well as a new fence to protect the area.

Dedicated to responsible consumption and production, station personnel recycled more than 8,500 gallons of vegetable oil and more than 3,000 tons of metals, glass, paper, cardboard, wood, and other materials, diverting them from landfills.

To enhance water quality and reduce future algae blooms while leveraging technology and innovation, NAS Jax further reduced nitrogen discharge into the St. Johns River through the re-use of treated water on two golf courses and through an automated spray irrigation system.



Courtesy photos

Left: Naval Air Station Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Jeff Hill shows his enthusiasm as he rides in a Ford Mustang participating in the annual City of Jacksonville Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 11.

Right: Naval Air Station Jacksonville's Junior Civilian of the Year Verna Summerville waves as she prepares to participate in the City of Jacksonville's Veterans Day Parade.



NAS Jax Sailors of the Fourth Quarter Announced



Senior Sailor of the Quarter AC1 Alyssa Lewis

AC1 Alyssa Lewis has been named Naval Air Station Jacksonville Senior Sailor of the 4th Quarter. Lewis joined the Navy 10 years ago and hails from West Milford, New Jersey. Her duties include serving as Flight Planning Branch Chief and her favorite part of the job is leading Sailors and taking care of them. Her future goal is making chief and when not working she enjoys hanging out with friends. “You are your biggest advocate - stay true to yourself,” is Lewis’s advice to others.

Sailor of the Quarter MA2 Ronald Ellis

Naval Air Station Jacksonville recognizes Sailor of the Fourth Quarter, MA2 Ronald Ellis. A native of Fairfield Beach, Ohio, Ellis joined the Navy seven years ago, “for the opportunity to be a part of something greater than myself.”

According to Ellis the best part of his job is mentoring and educating junior Sailors.

His future goals include finishing his bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice. Outside of work, Ellis enjoys collecting sports memorabilia and collectable action figures, as well as being a devoted Ohio State Buckeyes fan. His advice to others is to keep striving to educate yourself.

“Knowledge is the one thing that can not be taken away. Make yourself as knowledgeable as you can and share with others,” he said.



Blue Jacket of the Quarter ACAA Anthony Balbuena

ACAA Anthony Balbuena was named Naval Air Station Jacksonville’s Blue Jacket of the Fourth Quarter. Balbuena, a native of San Antonio, Texas, said his motivation to join the Navy nearly a year ago was a desire to live near a beach. Balbuena’s job duties include filing flight plans and assisting aircrews. “My favorite part of the job is the people I work with,” he said.

Balbuena’s goals include becoming fully qualified in his job duties, running a marathon and becoming a realtor. Outside of work he enjoys running, surfing, snorkeling and calisthenics.

His advice to other Sailors is not forget the basics. “Just show up in the right uniform and do your job to the best of your ability,” he said.



DoD Civilian Employees Can Now Shop Navy Exchange Online

Active and retired Department of Defense (DoD) and Coast Guard civilian employees now have access to shop online at myNavyExchange.com per a DoD directive.

“We are excited to welcome these new customers to our NEX online store,” said Robert Bianchi, chief executive officer at the Navy Exchange Service Command. “Expanding online shopping to a new group of authorized customers will allow us to increase our contribution to Navy quality of life programs which will greatly benefit our military community.”

To access the NEX online store, DoD and Coast Guard civilian employees will need to sign up for an account at myNavyExchange.com using their DoD ID or last four digits of their social security number and birthdate. For account creation questions or issues, customers can contact 877-810-9030.

To shop online, you must have a U.S. mailing address. The online military exchanges cannot ship merchandise to local addresses in foreign countries.

NAVFAC Southeast announces 2022 Military Engineer of the Year

From NAVFAC SE Public Affairs

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Southeast Commanding Officer Capt. Jorge Cuadros announced Lt. Cmdr. Nathan Chenarak as his selection for the 2022 NAVFAC Southeast Military Engineer of the Year award on Oct. 13.

Chenarak serves as the Assistant Operations Officer for the Gulf Coast Area and the command's Production Officer.

"Lt. Cmdr. Chenarak provided key leadership establishing the NAVFAC Southeast Emergency Operations Center to respond to severe storms including Sally, Zeta, Claudette, Elsa, and Ida." said Cuadros. "Additionally, during the COVID-19 pandemic, he was responsible for tracking and reporting cases, and disseminating information to the 2,000+ NAVFAC Southeast personnel across our Southeast installations."

Chenarak oversaw the command's response over the past three hurricane seasons, providing support during 14 named storms.

"The work associated with the Hurricane Sally recovery effort has been the most challenging project I have had while at NAVFAC Southeast," said Chenarak. "Numerous people and organizations were involved in this effort, making the coordination and communication a challenge, especially in light of changing COVID-19 policies



Lt. Cmdr. Nathan Chenarak

and procedures."

Chenarak has covered two engineering officer billets. He was responsible for delivering products and services supporting the personnel and facilities sustainment programs for eight Public Works Departments while managing and disseminating all pertinent COVID-19 information across 19 installations.

"Chenarak's ability to multi-task and respond to emergencies makes him highly qualified and most

deserving of this honor," said NAVFAC Southeast Operations Officer Capt. Brent Paul.

Chenarak is a member of American Society of Civil Engineering, Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), and the American Society of Healthcare Engineering. He also volunteers for Habitat for Humanity.

"It's a huge honor for me to be selected," said Chenarak. "I am very grateful for my coworkers and all the support they have given me over the last year."

"I attribute our success to our team's good working relationship; it makes the heavy rocks easier to lift."

NAVFAC Headquarters selects a military engineer of the year from the award winners of each regional NAVFAC command. This individual is then nominated as the NAVFAC candidate for the prestigious National Society of Professional Engineers Federal Engineer of the Year award. The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony held in Washington, D.C. Feb. 24.

Chenarak has proven to be truly among the elite in the Navy and will now compete for the NAVFAC Headquarters Engineer of the Year award.

NAVFAC Southeast announces 2022 Civilian Engineer of the Year

From NAVFAC SE Public Affairs

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Southeast Commanding Officer Capt. Jorge Cuadros announced Michael Singletary as his selection for the 2022 NAVFAC Southeast Civilian Engineer of the Year award Oct. 13.

Singletary serves as the Senior Environmental Engineer in the command's Environmental Restoration department.

"Singletary is a subject matter expert in the Navy's Environmental Restoration Program," said Cuadros. "His efforts contributed to the successful redesign and construction of three treatment units that will provide safe drinking water for personnel and residents onboard Naval Air Station Whiting Field."

Singletary supported efforts to redesign the drinking water system at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field to treat Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) recently detected in groundwater.

"The work supporting the redesign of the drinking water system to treat PFAS compounds was one of my most challenging projects," said Singletary. "But being part of this team was a truly rewarding experience."

Singletary works diligently to find and implement innovative technologies to perform environmental cleanups for soil and groundwater.



Michael Singletary

Singletary's expertise and coordination with industry experts led to the development of plans for risk-based corrective actions procedures that can be used to achieve remediation goals under a drastically reduced timeline.

"Michael has a unique blend of education and experience that enables him to engage some of the most challenging engineering and scientific issues we face in NAVFAC Southeast," said NAVFAC Southeast Environmental Business Line Leader

Mary Oxendine. "He leads by example and is a great mentor to junior staff further making him an outstanding nominee of this award."

Singletary is a member of the National Groundwater Association (NGWA) and the St. Johns Bass Anglers. He is a dedicated volunteer who has spent time educating and coaching youth at local schools, church, and community organizations.

"It's a great honor to be selected as the NAVFAC Southeast Civilian Engineer of the Year," said Singletary. "I want to thank Capt. Cuadros, Mary Oxendine, and the talented team of scientists and engineers with whom I work."

NAVFAC Headquarters selects a civilian engineer of the year from the award winners of each regional NAVFAC command. This individual is then nominated as the NAVFAC candidate for the prestigious National Society of Professional Engineers Federal Engineer of the Year award. The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony held in Washington, D.C. Feb. 24.

Singletary has proven to be truly among the elite in the federal government and will now compete for the NAVFAC Headquarters Engineer of the Year award.

Tridents rescue mariners in South Pacific

By Lt. Alex Williams
VP-26 Public Affairs

Crewmembers assigned to the “Tridents” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 26 rescued six mariners Nov. 11 from the Federated States of Micronesia whose vessel was adrift in the South Pacific for eight days without power.

The 23-foot skiff was first reported missing Nov. 3 after it lost power and was overdue near Oneop Atoll, Chuuk State in the Federated States of Micronesia. The crew of FSS Micronesia, multiple Coast Guard assets and local civilian volunteers searched for the vessel for several days before requesting assistance from the U.S. Navy.

The “Trident” aircrew and maintenance team were tasked to support the search and rescue (SAR) mission, responding on short notice traveling from Kadena Air Base, Japan to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. VP-26 operates the Navy’s newest maritime patrol aircraft, the P-8A Poseidon, which is equipped with an advanced APY-10 multifunction radar, MX-20 camera system, and other systems which make it ideal for detecting a small vessel. The disabled vessel was located after almost four days of searching the open ocean by utilizing the advanced radar and sensors to their maximum capacity.

Upon location, the aircrew elected to deploy



Courtesy photo

Air crew from Patrol Squadron 26 gather after a mission where they performed search and rescue operations saving six mariners in the South Pacific.

a UNI-PAC II SAR kit in order to provide the occupants with necessary supplies for survival and location. The SAR kit includes medical supplies, food, water, shelter and signaling equipment, but can be configured with additional supplies depending on the mission type.

The six survivors were subsequently rescued by the FSS Micronesia after being located by the Trident aircrew.

“It was incredibly rewarding to be able to help save six lives and ensure they made it home safely to their families and friends,” said Lt. Alex Shaffer, mission commander and aircraft commander of the VP-26 aircrew. “We once again success-

fully demonstrated the capability of the Maritime Patrol Reconnaissance Aircraft community to react quickly and effectively to operational requirements in the farthest corners of the globe. None of this could have been possible without the tireless effort and support from the maintenance crew, aircrew, combat support crew, and partners on station.”

VP-26, based out of Naval Air Station Jacksonville, is currently operating from Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. The squadron conducts maritime patrol and reconnaissance as well as theater outreach operations as part of a rotational deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.



YNC Myra Fetzer of Commander, Navy Region Southeast, is pinned by her husband AWOC Ben Fetzer of Patrol Squadron 30, daughter Lilianna and son Daniel during the Chief Petty Officer Pinning Ceremony.

CPO Ceremony - From Page 1

family members joined them to officially “pin” them with their new anchors. As each was introduced, they walked the red carpet saluting CPO sideboys. The ceremony ended with the reading of the CPO’s

Creed and benediction.

To close out the day, the newly frocked CPOs, families and shipmates celebrated by attending the annual Khaki Ball in downtown Jacksonville.



ITC Ermine Bulls of the Naval Air Station Jacksonville Executive Department, proudly salutes chief petty officer (CPO) sideboys after she was pinned with her new CPO anchors at Hangar 117, Nov. 19.

Photos by
Kaylee
LaRocque



EN1 Antonio Muller of Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 10, mounts a M2A1 50-caliber machine gun to the back of one of the command's patrol boats before heading out on the St. Johns River for a training mission, Nov. 5.



BM3 Aubrey Bishop explains how to check for sediment in gasoline to BM3 Michael Reiff before refueling a Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 10 patrol boat.

MSRON 10 Conducts Training for Boat Crew Certifications

By Kaylee LaRocque
NAS Jacksonville Public Affairs Officer

They train in all weather conditions because they respond in all weather conditions. Navy Reservists assigned to Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron Ten (MSRON 10), Bravo Company, proved this recently as they conducted training on the St. Johns River during several days of a Nor'easter.

"Our patrol boats and crews are capable of handling rough seas and all types of weather conditions to get our missions accomplished," said QMC Brian Scurr, a coxswain for one of the boat crews. "Our main mission is to protect high-value assets going in and out of ports and on the open seas. Our patrol boats are the 34-foot Sea Ark Dauntless model, propelled by water jets powered by two diesel engines, and a top speed of 30+ knots. They maneuver much differently than a normal speed boat."

Two boat crews arrived at Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) at the end of August to conduct operational training in preparation of their final evaluation problem (FEP) which certifies the boat crews prior to deployment. Each day, they

launched their high speed patrol boats from the Mulberry Cove Marina to hone their skills, test equipment and conduct maintenance checks. Besides patrolling for waterborne threat scenarios, the Sailors practice navigation and general boat-handling skills in a coastal water environment between NAS Jax and Naval Station Mayport.

Before heading out for training, the crews participate in a safety brief to discuss any issues which might affect the training mission such as maintenance of the patrol boats, weather, communication, and medical concerns. Each patrol boat has a four-person crew consisting of a coxswain, navigator, engineer, and crewman. The crewman and engineer double as the forward and aft gunners, respectively.

The two crews successfully completed their FEP, Nov. 10 and are now certified to deploy.

"MSRON 10's Bravo Company has been mobilized since March. The group that trained at NAS JAX consisted of two of the 16 boat crews that MSRON 10 is responsible for deploying. The main body, boat crews one through 10, completed their FEP at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, Virginia in August," said MSRON 10 Executive Officer Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Gullede.

To become part of the MSRON 10 team, Sailors must apply for a billet and go through a special screening before being assigned. One unique aspect of MSRON 10 is that military members attached to the command work in several different rating assignments, regardless of rank, or their position on a boat crew or security team.

"Our operation is not based on rank, but on what aspect each Sailor is qualified in. For example, a junior petty officer can be certified as a coxswain which means they are in charge of everyone and everything on their boat. This extensive training for all



ENC Curtis Wolpert, right, checks the batteries on a Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 10 patrol boat as GM2 Madison Otterson assists prior to a training mission on the St. Johns River.

MA1 Cory Donaldson, right, a patrol leader for Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 10, gives a safety brief to his team prior to a training mission on the St. Johns River. Donaldson is in charge of six patrol boats and all team members ensuring their safety and to make sure all procedures are followed during training evolutions.



(See MSRON 10, Page 9)



QMC Brian Scurr, right, checks GM2 Madison Otterson's protective gear before the Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 10 heads out on their patrol boats for training on the St. Johns River, Nov. 5.

MSRON 10 - From Page 8

crewmembers increases command readiness," said Scurr.

"I applied for a billet because I was looking for a change," said BMCS Hannah Gaither, a coxswain with the unit. "I was on ships when I was active duty, then when I came in the Reserves, I worked with a dive unit. Then I worked in a supply unit for a long time. When I found out about MSRON 10, I applied and got accepted."

Gaither says she really enjoys her job working on the patrol boats. "I get to be outside instead of in an office which I love. This will be my first and probably last time to deploy so I'm pretty excited."

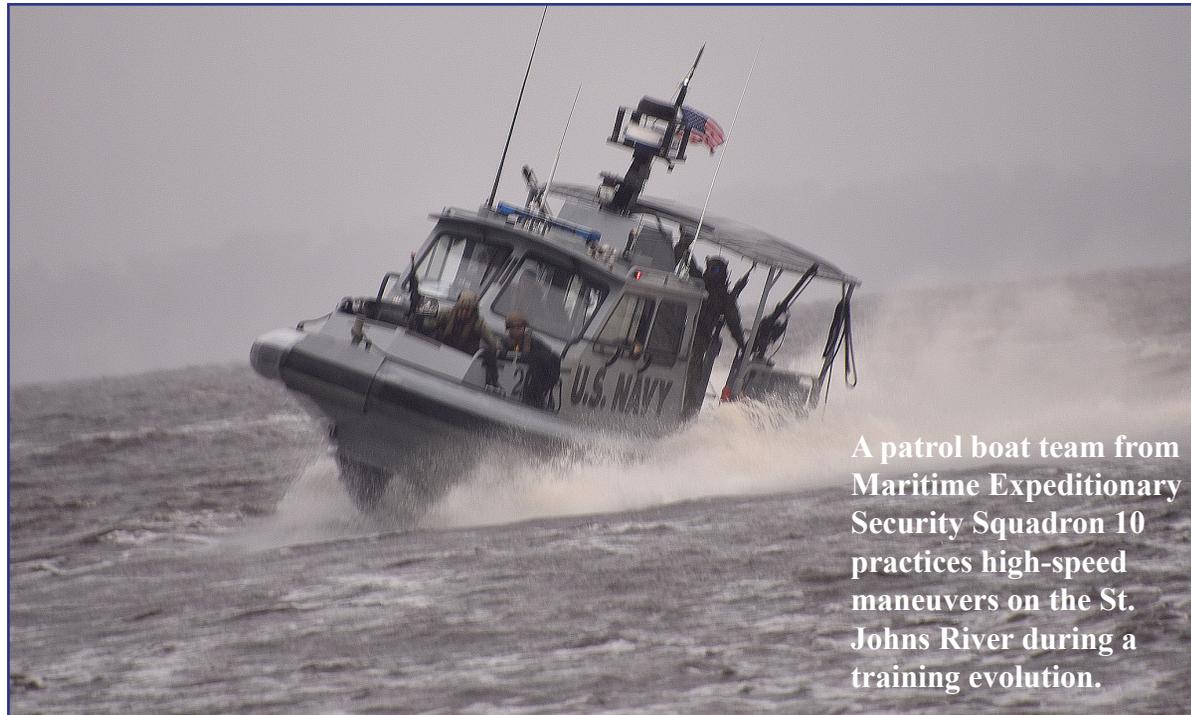
According to MSRON 10 Executive Officer Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Gullede, it was an extremely successful week despite the weather before the crew's FEP.

"I am proud of the hard work and dedication of our boat crews, as well as all of our Reserve members and the entire MSRON 10 team," he said. "Members of the Navy Reserve are volunteers in the truest sense, putting their civilian careers and ambitions on hold to answer the nation's call whenever they are needed.

The professionalism they display and the unique experiences they bring to the fight increase our readiness and lethality, and make them valued members of the Navy combat team."

MSRON 10 operates as one

of four security squadrons under Maritime Expeditionary Security Group TWO, a component of Navy Expeditionary Combat Command. They deploy around the world providing force protection for high value assets, coastal surveillance and special missions.



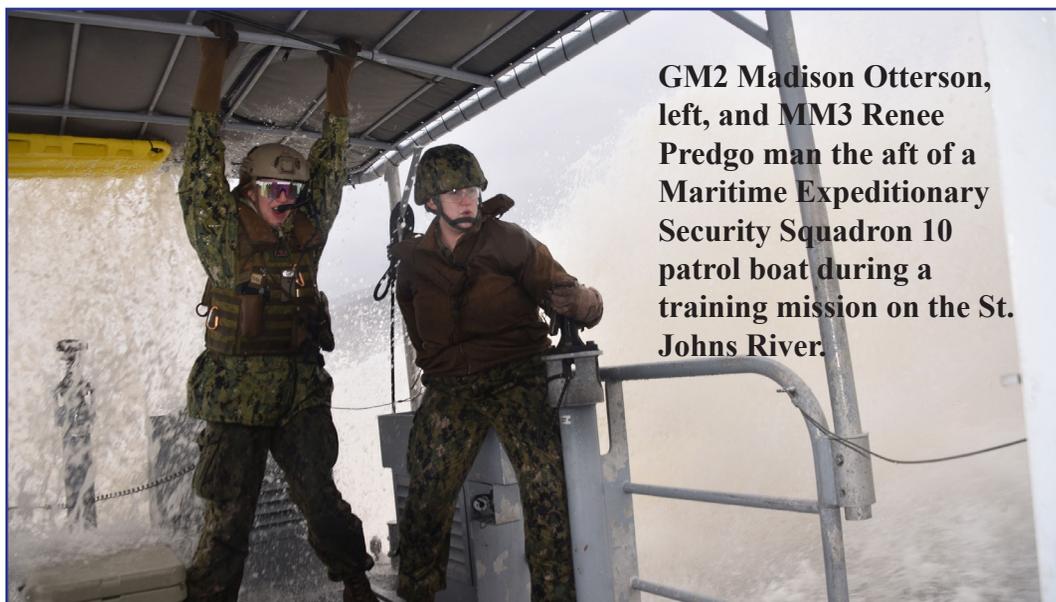
A patrol boat team from Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 10 practices high-speed maneuvers on the St. Johns River during a training evolution.



IT3 Carmen Cruzwoodley, a navigator with Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 10, mounts a lightning rod on a patrol boat prior to a training mission on the St. Johns River.



BMCS Hannah Gaither and EN1 Antonio Muller of Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 10, check one of their patrol boat's M2A1 50-caliber machine guns before participating in a training mission on the St. Johns River, Nov. 5.



GM2 Madison Otterson, left, and MM3 Renee Predgo man the aft of a Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 10 patrol boat during a training mission on the St. Johns River.



Photos by Julie M. Lucas

Members of the Naval Air Station Jacksonville Honor Support Team gather with some of veteran residents of Ortega Gardens Alzheimer's Special Care Center, Nov. 11.



ACAN Joseph Guzzo, left, and ATAN Johnathan Whitney of the Naval Air Station Jacksonville Honor Support Team, thank veterans for their service during a special program at Ortega Gardens Alzheimer's Special Care Center, Nov. 11.

Navy College Program Transitioning to Virtual Services

From the Navy College Office

The Navy College Program announced a complete transition to virtual education services for Sailors across the globe. The transition shifted Sailor education counseling from brick-and-mortar Navy College Offices (NCOs) to the Navy College Virtual Education Center (NCVEC) as the one-stop-shop for Sailors pursuing personal and professional development opportunities.

The NCVEC is comprised of professional Education Services Spe-

cialists who are uniquely equipped to provide counseling and advice to Navy members on all matters relating to academic programs, authorize Navy tuition assistance, and oversee all on-base education programs. The NCVEC can be reached 24/7 by calling toll free 833-330-MNCC (6622). During office hours, Sailors can speak directly to Education Services Specialists about their goals.

Tuition Assistance (TA) and the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) are the Navy's primary financial assis-

tance programs for voluntary education. Both programs pay up to 100% for tuition costs (within fiscal year/career caps and limits) to eligible active-duty Sailors for courses taken in an off-duty status at a college, university, or vocational/technical institution, whose regional or national accreditation is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Navy tuition assistance pays for both classroom and independent study/distance learning courses.

While all eligible Sailors can participate in the TA program, the

objective of NCPACE is to provide personnel assigned to sea duty type 2 and 4 Unit Identification Codes (UICs) with educational opportunities comparable to those available to shore duty personnel.

For more information please visit the Navy College Program website at www.navycollege.navy.mil or call 833-330-MNCC (6622). The NCVEC office hours are Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. EST.

Denny's Serves 876 Meals During USO "No Dough" Lunch



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

Robin Keller of the Naval Air Station Jacksonville USO, hands out lunches to AWO2 Preston Pitts, right, and AWO2 Jefferson Correa, both of Patrol Squadron 30, during the monthly, "No Dough" Lunch, Nov. 17. The event was sponsored by Denny's who provided 876 lunches.



Lt. j.g. Chuck Rogerson of Patrol Squadron 8, is given a free lunch from Naval Air Station Jacksonville USO volunteer Samantha Jackson during the USO's "No Dough" Lunch, Nov. 17. The event was sponsored through the Denny's Mobile Relief Diner program. The Denny's team is currently giving out free lunches as part of their annual Veterans Heroes Tour.

The Making of a Chief Petty Officer -Boat Races-



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

Chief petty officer selects from the USS Connecticut Boat Team navigate their boat through the course during the Great White Fleet Boat Races, Nov. 8.

One of the knowledge stations during the race was to put all the Master Chief Petty Officers of the Navy in order of office. Boat Team Louisiana chief petty officer selects quickly completed the task.



AOC Select Erwin Autry asks King Neptune for a blessing as Davey Jones looks on, before the start of the Great White Fleet Boat Races, Nov. 8 at Naval Air Station Jacksonville.



Chief petty officer selects from the USS Connecticut Boat Team push their vessel through the mud pit to come in second place overall during the event.

-ECO Challenge-



Courtesy photos

Naval Air Station Jacksonville and tenant command chief petty officer selects work together to complete obstacles during the Eco Challenge, Nov. 5 at Camp Blanding.



Naval Air Station Jacksonville and tenant command chief petty officer selects climb through one of the many obstacles during the Eco Challenge, Nov. 5 at Camp Blanding.

Jags Alumni Visit NAS Jax



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

Former Jacksonville Jaguars Receiver Ernest Wilford offers some words of encouragement to a group of Sailors in the Surface Rescue Swimmer School at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. Wilford, who is now a police officer with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, visited the station as part of the Jaguars' Salute to Service initiative, Nov. 23.

Jaxson de Ville, mascot for the Jacksonville Jaguars, holds the door for former player Kevin Hardy as he tries out the pilot seat in a MH-60R helicopter during their visit to HSM-60.



HSM-60 Rescue Swimmer AWR1 John Arbuckle explains some of the search and rescue operations the squadron conducts in their MH-60R helicopters with former Jacksonville Jaguars players Ernest Wilford, right, Kevin Hardy, center, and mascot Jaxson de Ville during a visit to NAS Jax.



Former Jacksonville Jaguars players Kevin Hardy and Ernest Wilford autograph a hat for Lt. Cmdr. Ryan McDonough of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 60 at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Nov. 23.



Photos by Julie M. Lucas

Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) community members were dazzled by an electrifying fireworks show, ending the Blues and BBQ event sponsored by NAS Jax MWR, Nov. 11. The event had numerous free activities as well as live music from Band in a Box.



Lily Harkins makes giant bubbles during the Blues, Brews and BBQ event, Nov. 11. The event featured many free family activities.

VP-26 Thanksgiving Feast



Photos Courtesy of VP-26

Team Trident of Patrol Squadron 26 celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday with a huge feast while deployed to Kadena Air Base, Japan. VP-26, based out of Naval Air Station Jacksonville, is currently operating from Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. The squadron conducts maritime patrol and reconnaissance as well as theater outreach operations as part of a rotational deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.



Sailors from Patrol Squadron 26, currently deployed to Kadena Air Base, Japan enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving feast in their hangar.

NEX Holiday Return Policy extended for early gift buying

From NEXCOM

This holiday season, to ensure the perfect gift is found, Navy Exchange (NEX) customers are encouraged to begin shopping earlier than usual. To accommodate those earlier purchases, any items purchased through Dec. 11, at a NEX or online at myNavyExchange.com may be returned through Jan. 24, 2022.

Purchases made after Dec. 11, 2021, may be returned or exchanged within the NEX's standard 45-day return policy. Customers are asked to include any packaging material along with the receipt when making a return. Any returns without a receipt will be placed on a NEX Gift Card.

AppleCare/AppleCare+ Protection Plans are returnable within 60 days of purchase. Requests for returns of these protection plans after 60 days will be referred to Apple for a pro-rated refund for the days remaining on the plan.

A great gift idea this holiday season is a NEX Gift Card. These cards can be purchased in store or at commissary locations around the world or online at myNavyExchange.com. NEX Gift Cards can be purchased in varying dollar amounts and they have no fees or expiration date. It can be used just like cash for most merchandise and service purchases at any NEX or at myNavyExchange.com.

2021 Federal Impact Aid Survey is Here!

Help your schools get reimbursed by the federal government for textbooks, school supplies and personnel.

Survey runs through Dec. 17, 2021



Federal Impact Survey Due Dec. 17

Attention parents of Duval County Schools! Log in now to FOCUS and fill out the 2021 Federal Impact Aid Survey which is due Dec. 17. It provides funding for the schools. Only one survey per household is required.

By completing this annual survey, the school district is able to count how many "federally-connected" students we have and potentially receive grant funding to provide additional learning materials, technology, and personnel in your child's school.

Visit <http://ow.ly/kXeC50GYqyY> to complete the survey.

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

DEC. 3 | PATRIOTS GROVE

5 - 7 PM • TREE LIGHTING • MUSIC • CRAFTS • SANTA • HOT COCOA • PHOTOS

Coronavirus Disease 2019

COVID-19 TEST SITE

- Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m. - noon.*
- Saturday: 9 a.m. - noon*

*weather permitting

Our test site is located in the parking lot across Enterprise Ave. from Branch Health Clinic Jacksonville's main parking lot. Testing is available for TRICARE beneficiaries age 6 years

Nease NJROTC Sweeps Georgia Drill Championships

From NEASE High School NJROTC

In the world of NJROTC drill competitions, most schools compete in two-to-four per season typically spaced a month or two apart in order to fully prepare. However, with COVID impacts affecting drill meet schedules across both Georgia and Florida, 2021 is proving an atypical year. As a result, Nease Navy JROTC's varsity drill team competed in three sanctioned drill meets in 22 days, bringing home top honors each time.



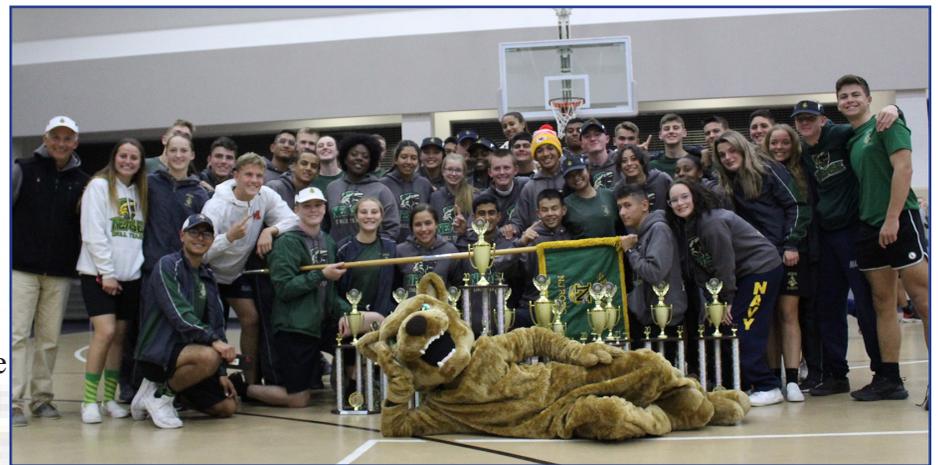
Nease High School NJROTC celebrates winning the Lee County Drill Meet, Oct. 30 in Leesburg, Georgia.

Nease's drill team captured three Georgia sanctioned drill meet championships in Marietta, Leesburg and Lithonia Oct. 23, 30, and Nov. 13 topping 37 schools along the way.

Of the 39 first place trophies at the combined three competitions, Nease took home top honors in 31 categories.

"Three major drill meets in four weeks was an incredible challenge for the team," said Unarmed Basic Drill Commander Kaitlyn Boggs. "These championships reflect a total team effort."

In addition to the team event trophies, 24 cadets took home individual medals for exceptional performance in academics or athletics including noteworthy standouts Emmelie Neff – first place Situps (three peat); Ben Prohofsky first place Academics (repeat); Caden Byas and Brodie Mongon –



Nease NJROTC celebrates after winning the Martin Luther King Drill Meet, Nov. 13 in Lithonia, Georgia.

four medals; Kaitlyn Boggs, Danielle Camacho, Nicholas Gallego, Isabella Rivera, Neff and Prohofsky – three medals.

"We've got several areas where we need to focus and improve if we hope to win the state championship again this year," said Cadet Daniel Mahoney, commander of the Armed Exhibition team. "But our team chemistry is better right now than it's ever been."

Nease next competes at the Mandarin Drill Meet Jan. 8.

Nease's drill team finished third at the Navy National Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships in 2021.

Courtesy photos

WE ARE MOVING! Beginning Monday, Nov. 1 NEW LOCATION

With an appointment

COVID-19 vaccines will be given at NH Jacksonville's Immunizations Clinic

Appointment times

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday:

8 - 10:45 a.m. & 12:45 - 3:15 p.m.

Thursday: 9 - 10:45 a.m. & 12:45 - 3:15 p.m.

Scan the QR code or schedule your COVID-19 vaccine at:
<https://informatics-stage.health.mil/COVAX>

Flu vaccine may be given at same time as COVID-19 vaccine.

Immunizations: (904) 542-7810

Scan me



Tickets Available at Tickets and Travel Office

Community Recreation Tickets & Travel Office
Call 542-3318 or email nasjxtickets@navy.mil

Gabriel Iglesias a.k.a. Fluffy—Vystar Veteran's Memorial Arena, Dec. 3, 2021: \$85.

Jimmy Buffett—VyStar Veteran's Memorial Arena, Dec. 7, 2021: \$100.

Justin Bieber—VyStar Veteran's Memorial Arena, Apr. 7, 2022: \$177 & \$233.

Motley Crue, Def Leppard, and Poison w/Joan Jett & the Blackhearts—TIAA Bank Field, July 2, 2022: \$121.25.

Jacksonville Sharks Arena Football—Vystar Veteran's Memorial Arena, July 17 & 27.

Current Ticket Promotions Include the Following:

Atlanta City Pass: \$76.75 adult, \$63 child (3-12); admission to Georgia Aquarium, World of Coca Cola, Inside CNN Studio Tour, High Museum of Art OR Fern Bank Museum of Natural History, and Zoo Atlanta or Atlanta History Center.

Autobahn Indoor Speedway: \$25 Gift Card - \$20. \$50 Gift Card - \$40.

Catty Shack Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary: \$10.50-Day Pass Only.

Crayola Experience, Orlando, ages 3 and older: \$20.

Disney World Orlando Armed Forces 2021 Salute 4-Day ticket with hopper option - \$290; 4-Day ticket with hopper and PLUS option - \$319.25;

5-Day ticket with hopper option - \$308.50; 5-Day ticket with hopper and PLUS option - \$337.50.

Tickets must be purchased by 12/11/21 and are valid for use now through 12/17/21. Only active and retired U.S. military personnel (including active or retired members of the National Guard, Reservists, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service, and the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration "or" their spouses are authorized to purchase Military Promotional tickets. - (6) Promotional Maximum purchase per service member, including member- If service member has an annual pass or multi-day ticket they can purchase (5) Promotional Maximum and must enter with party.

IFLY Jacksonville: \$60.50 for two flights.

Jacksonville Icemen: \$12 - \$33.

Jacksonville Symphony: \$31.

Jacksonville Zoo, Total Experience: \$13 - \$17.50.

Kennedy Space Center Annual Pass: \$64.50 - \$79.25.

Legoland FL: \$67.25 one day w/2nd day free; Legoland \$84.25 one day plus waterpark w/2nd day free; active duty free at the gate with ID.

Orlando Magic Basketball: \$29.75-\$249; prices vary depending on date and seating. Call or visit the ticket office for more details.

Spanish Military Hospital Museum: \$5 - \$8.75.

St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zipline: \$37, Park admission \$10.50 - \$16.

St. Augustine Aquarium: \$5 - \$8. Snorkel

Adventure (Includes Admission) \$32.

St. Augustine Old Town Trolley: \$12.25 - \$23

BOGO.

St. Augustine Oldest Store Museum: \$5.75 - \$9.50.

St. Augustine Pirates Museum: \$4.50 - \$8.25.

St. Augustine Potters Wax Museum: \$5.75 - \$9.50.

Universal Military Freedom Pass (Not available at the gate! Maximum of 6 tickets per valid military ID): 2-Park, Park to Park unlimited usage (valid for unlimited admission to Universal Studios Florida and Universal's Islands of Adventure from now until Dec. 31, 2021), Adult \$200, Child (age 3-9) \$195;

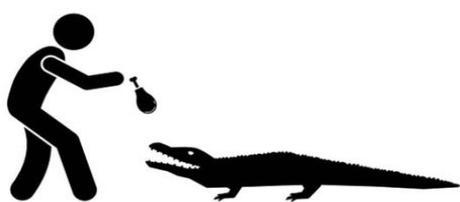
3-Park, Park to Park unlimited usage (valid for unlimited admission to Universal Studios Florida, Universal's Islands of Adventure, and Volcano Bay Waterpark until Dec. 31, 2021, Adult \$235,

Child (age 3-9) \$230; Eligible service members - active or retired U.S. military, National Guard or Reservists and U.S. Coast Guard. Spouses of eligible service members also qualify with valid and active U.S. military ID. Department of Defense (DoD) employees with valid U.S. DoD IDs also qualify. Visit the Ticket Office for further details.

Whitewater Express (Columbus, Ga.): Rafting \$30 - \$40; Zip-line \$35 - \$50. Reservation required at the time of purchase.

Wild Adventures (Valdosta, Ga.): 1-day \$35.75; 2-day \$42.25; Gold Pass - \$86.50

ALLIGATOR SAFETY



- American Alligators are a native protected species of Florida.
- It is **ILLEGAL** to feed or harass an alligator. Subject to 6 days in jail and \$500 fine if you feed an alligator. (*Fla. Admin. Code R. 68A-25.001.*)
- Once an alligator is fed it associates food with humans and become too friendly. Then, it begins to approach people and must be removed. When removed, it will be killed by trappers.
- While on the Installation be alert and aware of your surroundings especially near any body of water. If you are walking a dog, be sure to keep it on a leash and away from the water.
- DO NOT** throw food scraps, trash, fish scraps, etc. in or near any body of water.
- If you encounter an alligator it is best to leave it alone and give it space. Alligators are shy and tend to avoid human contact.

YOU CAN BE THE

FACE OF CHANGE

2021 CHARITY LISTING

DONATE TODAY AT [GIVECFC.ORG](https://www.givecfc.org)

HOSTED BY THE U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT