

# Great Lakes Bulletin

MAY 13, 2023

SERVING “THE QUARTERDECK OF THE NAVY” FOR 105 YEARS

## IN THIS ISSUE

*CNIC Introduces New  
Force Protection Billet*

*Brandon Act Aims to Improve  
Mental Health Support*

*NSGL's Sailors of the  
Quarter for Q3 FY23*

*Navy Housing Introduces  
UH “Bill of Rights &  
Responsibilities”*

*MWR & FFSC*

*GM “A” School*

*Spring Motorcycle Safety*



## NSGL Wins CNO Shore Safety Award for FY22

*Story by MC2 Brigitte Johnston, Naval Station Great Lakes Public Affairs*



Naval Station Great Lakes' Safety Department was awarded the FY 2022 CNO Shore Safety Awards For Significant Contributions To Navy Safety And Occupational Health for large, non-industrial activity.

“I am very honored for us to be selected,” said Ross Johnson, NSGL’s Safety and Occupational Health Manager. “I have been submitting our nomination package for over a decade. The winning of this award has left me deeply moved and so very proud. This award speaks to our strong safety team, but more importantly to all our personnel on the installation who know how to get the job done and done safely.”

Naval Safety Command states that the awards recognize commands with outstanding support and achievement in safety and occupational health. The winning commands excelled in their implementation of the safety management system, achievements in high velocity

learning and other initiatives to reduce mishap trends and costs, and in demonstrating strong safety leadership. Additionally, they were the most innovative and enthusiastic in marketing safety and promoting a superior level of safety culture within their commands.

“NSGL Safety team provided invaluable training guidance and insight to installation personnel and tenant commands,” said Johnson. “Our proactive approach directly contributed to an impressive statistic of zero class A, B, or C mishaps. NSGL, its tenant commands, and collateral duty safety officers throughout the installation continue to stress safety as a part of everyday life.”

Johnson states they implemented several new changes that he attributes their success to. The department instituted a safety email address that is sent to all department staff to ensure all messages are received. They also created a QR code to facilitate communication from smart



## **Command and Staff**

**Commanding Officer**  
*Capt. Jason Williamson*

**Public Affairs Officer**  
*John Sheppard*

**Editor**  
*MC2 Brigitte Johnston*

## **Contact us!**

**Phone**  
*847-688-2430 ext. 359*

**Email**  
*nsgl-pao@us.navy.mil*

**Website**

**Facebook**

**Twitter**

**Instagram**

## **DISCLAIMER:**

*The Department of the Navy does not endorse and is not associated with non-federal entities in this publication.*

**CNIC**

★ FLEET ★ FIGHTER ★ FAMILY



phones to report incidents and assigned mishap investigators at the tenant commands. Additionally, they implemented safety council meetings for training and better tenant command input, expanded their collateral duty safety officer program, and added motorcycle mentorship classes to the motorcycle safety program.

“Safety is a top priority in executing our mission,” said Command Master Chief Anthony Corey, NSGL’s command master chief. “Ensuring that our tenant commands are safe to train, safe to support new Sailors, and safe to support our community as a whole is crucial. We’re proud of our ability to make that possible and honored to have our safety team’s hard work recognized.”

## **Commander, Navy Installations Command Introduces New Force Protection Billet: 815A, Installation Security Specialist (Access)**

*Story by Story by Destiny Sibert, CNIC Public Affairs*

Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) has introduced a new primary duty billet, 815A or Installation Security Specialist for access, in order to increase base sentries and bolster force protection at Navy CONUS installations. The three-year shore duty billets are open to E1-E5 applicants and draw heavily from sea duty-intensive ratings.

“Sailors assigned to 815A duties will serve as sentries, protecting access to our installations, and supplementing base law enforcement, which will still be primarily comprised of masters-at-arms,” said Ron Herb, CNIC’s director of force protection. “This is a great opportunity for young Sailors who may be interested in exploring other career options in the Navy, such as force protection.”

815A Sailors perform specialized duties as members of installation Navy Security Forces (NSF) through the prevention of unauthorized access to installations and restricted areas. They are responsible for controlling entry and exit of vehicles and equipment; patrolling property concentration areas; enforcing order and regulations in their area of operations; and perform inspections of vehicles and defense against intrusion by hostile individuals. “The 815A program replaces the previously very successful Navy law enforcement specialist billet, FP NEC 9545,” said Herb. “FP NEC 9545 was available to enlisted personnel prior to September 11, 2001 and then was sun-downed due to increase master-at-arms support to the global war on terrorism.”

Since 815A Sailors aren’t expected to have prior law enforcement experience, once attached to their new duty station, they receive thorough and comprehensive training for sentry duty, including law enforcement practices, self-defense and force protection in order to support their installation’s Naval Security Force. Should 815A Sailors become interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement, 815A can serve as a stepping stone to becoming a master-at-arms.

There are 120 815A billets available now for Navy CONUS installations, with an additional 130 billets slated for advertisement in June. CNIC will continue to monitor and evaluate the program’s mission support efficacy and overall performance throughout the coming months. If the program is successful, CNIC may look to release additional billets later this year.

If you’re interested in applying to one of the 815A billets, ask your detailer for more information.

# Brandon Act Aims to Improve Mental Health Support

*Story by David Vergun, DOD News*

Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr., undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, signed a policy today to initiate implementation of the Brandon Act and improve the process for service members seeking mental health support.

The Brandon Act aims at improving the referral process for service members seeking a mental health evaluation and allowing them to seek help confidentially, Cisneros said.

The Brandon Act is named after Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Caserta who died by suicide in 2018. The legislation was signed into law by President Joe Biden on Dec. 27, 2021, as part of the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act.

“Our greatest strength is our people, and we are committed to their well-being,” Cisneros said. “Therefore, I firmly believe that seeking mental health treatment is a sign of strength and resilience. This policy, spurred by the passage of the Brandon Act, is an important step in ensuring that our service members are able to seek mental health treatment when and how they need it. We honor Petty Officer Brandon Caserta’s memory by ensuring that our military services have procedures and processes in place that allow service members to seek help confidentially, for any reason, at any time and in any environment, and aim to reduce the stigma associated with seeking mental health care.”

The Defense Department policy directs the services to establish policy, assign responsibilities, and provide procedures for service members to request a referral for a mental health evaluation through a commanding officer or supervisor. The process allows service members to seek help confidentially for any reason, at any time, and in any environment, thereby reducing the stigma associated with seeking mental health care, Cisneros said.

Implementation of the policy will occur in two phases. In phase one, which should be implemented within 45 days, the services will establish procedures to implement the policy for service members on active duty. In phase two, the services will establish procedures to implement the policy for service members not serving on active duty, he said.

Lester Martinez-Lopez, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said the implementation of the Brandon Act is a welcome addition to the range of tools and resources available to support the mental health needs of the joint force. He also noted that the Defense Health Agency is developing annual training to educate service members and supervisors on the process to initiate a request for a mental health evaluation.

For the Brandon Act to have its intended impact, it’s important that commanding officers and supervisors are



trained on the process to expedite mental health referrals so that help is provided when it’s most needed, Martinez-Lopez said. Recognizing the signs of mental health issues and knowing the available resources to offer is also key, he said.

A range of mental health and wellness support is available to service members worldwide. In addition to requesting a referral for a mental health evaluation through their commanding officer or supervisor, service members will continue to have the option to contact their local health care provider directly, Military Health System officials said.

Additional mental health resources include the 988 Veterans Crisis Line, Military OneSource nonmedical counseling, and the 24/7 Psychological Health Resource Center. For more information, visit [health.mil/brandonact](https://health.mil/brandonact).

Brandon’s parents, Teri and Patrick Caserta, said their son endured persistent hazing and bullying from members of his squadron when he reached out for help.

“He was not taken seriously. Brandon felt the only solution to his problem was to end his own life,” Patrick said.

“Our son’s story is tragic and senseless, but we’re pleased that Congress passed the Brandon Act. It allows for confidential reporting of mental health concerns and ensures resources are available to help those who are struggling,” Teri Caserta said.

Support service members who ask for help by letting them know it’s okay. Refer them to a chaplain, counselor or medical professional, and give them the time they need, Patrick Caserta advised.



# NSGL Sailors of the Quarter Q3FY23

## Sailor of the Quarter: YN1 Clifford Nobles



Yeoman 1st Class Clifford Nobles, from Thomasville, Alabama, was named Sailor of the Quarter for Great Lakes. Nobles is Great Lakes' administration department leading petty officer. He has been in the Navy for 16 years and aboard Great Lakes for over a year.

"I feel like it's an honor," said Nobles. "I had one of the most challenging years of my life last year. I made it out with God's assistance and the support of my family and close friends. I appreciate my Sailors and their accomplishments. Thanks to my Department Head and Chief for nominating me."

Nobles is responsible for overseeing six Sailors and two civilians in daily administration duties. His collateral duties include professional development coordinator for the Great Lakes Petty Officers Association, Assistant Casualty Assistance Coordination Officer, Assistant VWAP, Command Tuition Assistance Coordinator, Government Travel Card Coordinator and Defense Travel System Administrative Officer.

"My favorite part is meeting people and learning from each one of my experiences with fellow service members and civilians," said Nobles. "Sailor of the Quarter today, tomorrow Sailor of the Year!"

## Junior Sailor of the Quarter: YN2 Jesus Tapia



Yeoman 2nd Class Jesus Tapia, from Cudahy, California, was named Junior Sailor of the Quarter for Great Lakes. Tapia is a part of Great Lakes' administration department as the command pay and personnel and administrative clerk. He has been in the Navy for six years and aboard Great Lakes for a year and a half.

"Being recognized as the JSOQ means a lot to me," said Tapia. "It has been accomplishment and a way to motivate me continue to work harder and continue to help our Sailors."

Tapia is responsible for the awards management, evaluation reports, correspondence, mail, personnel pay actions, gains, losses and retirements of all Navy sailors stationed at Naval Station Great Lakes. In addition to his regular duties, he also acts as the public affairs officer for the Navy Ball Committee and volunteers for flag officer dinners.

"My favorite part of being a Yeoman is getting to work with a great chain of command," said Tapia. "My favorite part of being in the Navy is the ship life. There is nothing like it and being on deployment and getting to see many places no one else can experience." Tapia thanks his wife for the motivation.

## Bluejacket of the Quarter: YN3 Chiyna Williams



Yeoman 3rd Class Chiyna Williams, from Stone Mountain, Georgia, was named Bluejacket of the Quarter for Great Lakes. Williams is a part of Great Lakes' administration department as an assistant command pay and personnel and administrative clerk. She has been in the Navy for two and a half years and aboard Great Lakes for two years.

"It is an honor," said Williams.

Williams is responsible for personnel muster and internal command-wide correspondence. Additionally, she drafts and routes legal correspondence as the legal yeoman and assists in the management of personnel pay actions, gains, losses and retirements.

"This command has proved to me when you continue to push forward your hard work pays off in the end," said Williams.

# Navy Housing Introduces Unaccompanied Housing 'Bill of Rights & Responsibilities'

Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) has implemented a 'Bill of Rights & Responsibilities' for Unaccompanied Housing (UH), which outlines resident rights that are guaranteed by Navy Housing as well as resident responsibilities for maintaining the space where they live.

"The Navy is committed to providing high quality accommodations to all Sailors, especially those residing in UH," said Steve Drumm, CNIC Director of Housing. "This Bill of Rights & Responsibilities makes it clear what guarantees we promise UH residents while establishing what their obligations are for maintaining their housing. These barracks are their homes and they are expected to maintain cleanliness and report maintenance issues in a timely manner, which can be done quickly and conveniently by utilizing our new QR Code maintenance reporting process."

The Resident Rights for government-controlled Unaccompanied Housing are as follows:

- The right to reside in a community that is safe, secure, and meets applicable health and environmental standards, with well-maintained common areas, and amenities.
- The right to reside in a housing unit that has working fixtures, appliances, and utilities.
- The right to verify the condition and cleanliness of the assigned room, shared space (if applicable), and the furnishings provided during check-in and check-out inspections.
- The right to clearly defined regulations regarding occupancy of UH and use of common areas and amenities.
- The right to report inadequate housing standards or deficits in habitability of the housing unit to the UH staff, housing management office, and the chain of command without fear of:
  - reprisal or retaliation;
  - decreased services, or increased obligations as a resident;
  - interference with right to privacy or harassment as a resident;
  - refusal to honor the terms of occupancy; or
  - interference with the career of a resident.

Resident Responsibilities for government-controlled unaccompanied housing are as follows:

- The responsibility to take pride and ownership of your assigned quarters, common areas, and amenities, and to comply with UH Rules and Regulations.
- The responsibility to maintain daily living standards in accordance with the Welcome Aboard Handbook.
- The responsibility to allow access to your room and shared space for inspections, necessary maintenance, and repairs.
- The responsibility to report any issues in the housing unit to the UH staff for corrective actions in a timely manner.
- The responsibility to provide a minimum of 30 days notification prior to move-out and correct any discrepancies identified during



Your recreational hub aboard  
Naval Station Great Lakes!

Check out the latest events and  
activities from our MWR at  
[www.facebook.com/NavyLifeGL/](http://www.facebook.com/NavyLifeGL/)  
and on their website at  
[www.navylifegl.com](http://www.navylifegl.com)

For tickets and travel,  
call 847-688-5417



Life changes?  
Family or financial planning?  
Reach out to your team at  
FFSC for classes, resources,  
counseling, and more!

**Fleet and Family Support  
Center Great Lakes**

525 Farragut Ave, Bldg. 26  
847-688-3603 ex. 100

[Click here for the FFSC website](#)



the pre-termination inspection prior to the final checkout inspection.

The creation of the UH Bill of Rights & Responsibilities came about after the Chief of Naval Operations and fleet commanders identified unaccompanied housing as an area of improvement that would positively impact Sailor morale. Navy Housing worked with fleet commanders to come up with rights that succinctly addressed their Sailors' needs and concerns in unaccompanied housing, while setting clear expectations that residents must also do their part in maintaining high quality housing.

"The Bill of Rights & Responsibilities is just the first in a series of efforts that Navy Housing plans to roll out in the coming months," said Drumm. "Our hope is that by setting a collaborative tone with residents, we will be able to maintain and improve the quality of unaccompanied housing long-term."

Installation commanding officers must post the UH Bill of Rights & Responsibilities throughout the UH facilities and incorporate its content into all UH Welcome Aboard/new resident orientation handbooks by May 26, 2023.



## GM "A" School incorporates Modernized Training

*Story by MC2 Cory Asato, Surface Combat Systems Training Command Great Lakes*

Surface Combat Systems Training Command Great Lakes (SCSTC GL) Gunner's Mate (GM) "A" School has been implementing modernized training through various phases of the curriculum.

The modernization of naval combat systems training is spearheaded by seasoned active duty and retired staff, who instruct the basics of electronic theory, munition components and how to perform corrective and preventative maintenance of naval weapons systems including small arms and crew-served weapons through curriculum delivery to junior Sailors.

The Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives (MILO) simulator is part of the Director, Surface Warfare's (OPNAV N96) program of record, Surface Training Advanced Virtual Environment-Combat Systems (STAVE-CS), which was introduced in 2015 as a means to invest in training technologies, devices, and facilities to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and availability of all surface training. A key tenet of our approach is to immerse trainees in realistic real world training environments by emulating, simulating, or providing the physical elements of the

equipment and operating conditions. MILO is a state-of-the-art complex video training simulator that allows us to generate variety scenarios, from an active shooter, boarding, room clearing situation. It uses computer technology to enhance the Sailors decision-making capabilities while training on the M18 pistol, M4 carbine rifle and M240 machine gun.

"Providing Sailors with the most modern and up to date trainer here at GM "A" School allows our instructors to more effectively deliver curriculum while enabling our students to absorb the information," said Capt. Roy L. Henkle, commanding officer, SCSTC GL. "We are able to virtually and realistically conduct hands-on training so our Sailors can familiarize themselves with the weapons prior to arriving to their first command."

The simulator allows for an added depth of realism and new capabilities of running scenarios where students need to accurately fire on active makers to advance the scenario enhancing the training experience. The system may be equipped to run hundreds of scenarios. Scenarios may be a mix of skill building and stress inducing to meet the

training objective.

Previously, students were trained using a tethered firearms training simulator, but now have the ability to train with weapons using compressed gas cartridges. The new weapons communicate with the MILO system, giving the same control as tethered weapons, but with a full range of motion, mimic recoil, and speakers from the software emit noises so the trainee can get similar sensations to what they would experience at a live-fire range.

“Our training weapons simulate the weight and feel of a loaded weapon and simulate live recoil for when the gun goes off, which is a little closer to what a real-live fire round would feel like,” said Gunner’s Mate 1st Class Nathan A. Fontaine, GM “A” School leading petty officer. “This current trainer uses compressed air cylinders in each firearm, which eliminates the use of hoses in previous iterations of our trainer. The hoses used to cause distracting obstructions. Now our students can focus on the scenario while benefiting from free movement, which simulates how the weapon would really feel during operation.”

GM instructors stress safety as a top priority. They instruct students to perform jobs which work with high-voltage electronics and deadly firearms.

“Being able to train these Sailors now at the start of their career and teach them the safe way to handle the weapons puts them on the right path,” said Fontaine. “We deal with weapons and ammunition which are designed to kill. For 10 weeks, we teach them that safety is paramount at all times in our profession. We finally get to show why we have stressed how important safety is when instructing students using the simulator through hands-on scenarios and firing weapons.”

Fontaine also incorporates confidence and warrior toughness into the curriculum. The instructors prepare the class to re-center their focus using warrior toughness techniques, as a group, before entering a training scenario or a line coach may have one-on-one interjection, both to help students re-center their focus and confidence before and when shooting, practicing real-world calming techniques that minimize stressors and distractions to meet the training objective.

“We have always conducted dry fire prior to conducting our live fire qualifications, but with this system it takes our weapons familiarization from just squeezing a trigger and visualizing the results to have direct weapon feedback and target analysis capabilities to hone their accuracy as well as getting them comfortable handling the weapons in the time requirements,” said Fontaine. “Our job is to not only use these weapons but teach the rest of the fleet how to use them so we need to be experts in that field. Being able to train and manipulate the weapons in this controlled environment where any concerns we have can be addressed and corrected with zero potential for loss of life, is an invaluable asset and opportunity.”

SCSTC GL instructors aim to deliver the right training at the right time, in the right way, preparing Sailors to operate their equipment and fulfill their rating requirements, forged into highly skilled, operational and combat-ready warfighters.

“The course will have our GM accession level Sailors showing up to the fleet with a better understanding of firearms fundamentals as well as marksmanship fundamentals to help them execute the mission in a safe and effective manner,” said Fontaine.

# March Madness is just not about basketball

*Story by Juan Aguilar, Naval Safety Command*

March has come and gone, the weather is getting nicer, and flowers are in full bloom. Don’t let the pollen in the air or how you fared in the March Madness brackets last month distract you from keeping an eye on the road and on distracted motor vehicle drivers. For some riders, it has been months since their last ride and maybe 10-15 months for deployed personnel returning to home port. March is also a time of the year when an increase in motorcycle riders on the road is evident. With the added boost in riders also comes the possibility of accidents. There have been nine fatalities so far this fiscal year. Figure 1 shows the upward trend in fatalities for the Navy and a downward trend for Marines in the same period. Ensure you obey all road rules, remain visible to other drivers, and avoid blind spots. Just as riders have not been on the road during winter, drivers have also not had to deal with motorcycle riders veering in and out of traffic. Last month, there was a rise in motorcycle riders being struck by private motor vehicles

(PMV-4). Over half of the accidents in March occurred from PMV-4 drivers lacking situational awareness. Other factors included weather and road conditions that riders had to cope with. Sadly, speed, distractions from motorcycle riders, and loss of control were also factors. Maintenance and upkeep of your motorcycle may have contributed to these mishaps. Last but most importantly, using proper personnel protection equipment will help you remain visible and minimize any severe injury should you be involved in an accident. For personal protective equipment information to share with your riders, please visit the Motorcycle Safety Foundation website at [https://msf-usa.org/downloads/Protective\\_gear\\_REV.pdf](https://msf-usa.org/downloads/Protective_gear_REV.pdf). Motorcycle Safety Representatives should conduct a pre-season safety briefing for their riders, review monthly rider down reports, and ensure all riders’ information is current in Enterprise Safety Application Management System.