

NAS Jax nominated for top CNIC award



File photo by MC2 (SW/IW) Nick A. Grim

Sailors stationed aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville collect debris from the shoreline along the St. Johns River as part of the annual shoreline cleanup, Oct. 9, 2019. More than 240 volunteers collected 2.6 tons of debris during the event.

From Staff

Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) selected Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) as the 2021 Installation Excellence Award (IEA) nominee for the Commander, Naval Installation Command's (CNIC) Installation Excellence Award. The station was selected for this nomination out of 15 competing commands this year.

"I am very pleased to announce that NAS Jacksonville and NAS Whiting Field will receive CNRSE nominations to CNIC for the FY 21 CNIC Installation Excellence Award competition," said Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Gary Mayes. "NAS Jacksonville will represent NRSE in the large installation category and NAS Whiting Field will represent NRSE in the small installation category."

NAS Jax continually sustains excellence across a wide array of operations, warfighter readiness support functions, military missions, safety, community, and quality of life for servicemembers and their families. This is NAS Jax' third consecutive nomination in the large installation category.

"To earn this nomination three years in a row shows that our team consistently sets the highest standards in providing the best services to the Fleet, fighters and their families," said Capt. Brian Weiss, NAS Jax commanding officer. "The top-notch quality, and quantity, of programs you deliver is truly amazing. The team's can-do spirit, ingenuity and positive attitude are what set us apart from the rest of the installations."

During FY20, the NAS Jax team maintained continuous warfighter



File photo by Kaylee Larocque

From left, ATAN Ethan Straub, ATAN Alex Junes and AD3 Brandon Santos, all members of the Naval Air Station Jacksonville Honor Support Team, talk with World War II veteran Tony Shediak, 98, at HarborChase of Mandarin before a Memorial Day Ceremony, May 25. The Sailors presented the colors during the ceremony for residents of the retirement community.

support with no disruption of mission essential services while adhering to all CDC/DHA-mandated COVID mitigation guidelines, supported the USS Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group Carrier Composite Training Unit Exercise, swift evacuation of P-8A aircraft during Hurricane Isaias; and supported a vice presidential, two Secretary of the Navy, and a Norwegian Prime Minister visit.

Operationally, NAS Jax' 16 tenant commands log more than 44,000 incident-free flight operations, manifested more than 27,000 passengers and 1,090 tons of cargo. The boathouse supported 132 search-and-rescue training evolutions that saw 832 rescue swimmers qualified. The station reduced energy consumption by 8.66 percent from FY15 baseline, saving \$545,000.

For quality of life and morale, NAS Jax received its third consecutive CNIC Retention Excellence Award with 67 reenlistments, the Flight Line Cafe received its 10th consecutive 5-Star accreditation with more than 196,000 meals served, Unaccompanied Housing and Navy Gateway Inns and Suites housed more than 800 COVID restriction-of-movement Sailors from across CNRSE.

Additionally, First Coast Navy Fire and Emergency Services netted awards for CNIC Navy Large Fire Department of the Year, CNRSE Fire Prevention Program of the Year and Paramedic of the Year, while NAS Jax Aviation Support division received their ninth consecutive Blue "E" Award, among many other notable achievements throughout the installation.



NAS Jax commanding officer meritoriously advances four petty officers



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

Naval Air Station Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Weiss, left, congratulates LS2 Derrick Kahapea after meritoriously advancing him to second class petty officer at the Flight Line Cafe, Sept. 9. Kahapea earned the promotion for his dedication and hard work in the bakery at the galley.



Photo by Kaylee Larocque

NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Weiss, right, announces that he is meritoriously advancing MASN Anthony Johnson of the NAS Jax Security Department, to third class petty officer, Sept. 8. Johnson earned the promotion for his dedication to the station as a base patrolman responding to emergency calls and standing gate sentry watches. He was recently selected as the NAS Jax Blue Jacket of the Quarter (3rd Quarter).



Photo by Kaylee Larocque

NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Weiss, left, congratulates EN2 Jemima Amponsah of the Air Operations Boathouse Division after meritoriously advancing her to second class petty officer, Sept. 8. Amponsah earned the promotion for her outstanding performance and personal accomplishments, tireless dedication to the station's mission and the superb example she sets every day.



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

NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Weiss virtually informed MA2 Raymond Donch (pictured), that he was advancing him to master-at-arms first class. Donch recently returned from an individual augmentee assignment.

JAX AIR NEWS

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Second Lady Karen Pence visits NAS Jax



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

Naval Air Station Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Weiss discusses the new Transition Employment Assistance for Military Spouses program with Second Lady of the United States Karen Pence during an event to launch the program at Dewey's, Sept. 30.

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

Second Lady of the United States Karen Pence and Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia visited Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Sept. 30. The intention of the visit was to launch the Department of Labor's Transition Employment Assistance for Military Spouses (TEAMS) program.

"Unemployment is often three to four times higher for military spouses than the national average," said Scalia. "Finding a new job can be challenging for anyone but the military spouse knows that finding a new job in a new location, for a short stay, can be truly hard. So today, we're announcing the

and market skills more successfully."

Pence addressed military spouses at Dewey's to launch the new program and take photos with attendees.

"Thank you for all that you do to contribute to the strength and readiness of our Armed Forces. We know that you serve right alongside of your service member," said Pence. "The Department of Labor and NAS Jax have formed a strong partnership in launching this program and I'm so proud of their important work in creating valuable career resources for our military spouses."

"Through this exciting new program you'll be able to access services and courses that will assist you in



Second Lady of the United States Karen Pence addresses a group of military spouses at NAS Jacksonville, Sept. 30. Pence visited the station to launch the Department of Labor's new Transition Employment Assistance for Military Spouses program.

TEAMS program to help military spouses navigate the job market, get their credentials recognized across state lines, improve resumes,

your job search," she said. "The information offered in TEAMS will contribute directly to assisting you in find a job that brings you a sense of purpose."

TEAMS is a program that offers a curriculum to assist military spouses in their career endeavors with training tailored to the unique circumstances of being a military spouse.

Following the kick-off, Department of Labor members presented the first two modules and asked for feedback. The new course will be available through the Fleet and Family Support Center.

"I'm fortunate that I'm a civil service employee but I'm also an ombudsman for my command so I help military spouses. So it's important to know about this new program to take information to them," said Laura Donson, a military spouse who currently works for Fleet Logistics Center Jacksonville as a supervisory contract specialist. "I know many military spouses who are licensed for their careers and who move a lot. The more we can do to help with their transitions, the better."

Service members, civilians bound by DOD rules during election campaigns

By Terri Moon Cronk,
Department of Defense

It's election season again, when federal, state and local political campaigns kick into high gear. Defense Secretary Dr. Mark Esper's latest ethics video lays out the importance of political activity rules that DoD civilian employees and service members must follow.

In the 2020 DoD Public Affairs Guidance for Political Campaigns and Elections memorandum of Feb. 11, DoD spokesman Jonathan Rath Hoffman summarized the rules that apply to all DoD personnel regarding involvement in political events.

"The Department of Defense has a longstanding and well-defined policy regarding political campaigns and elections to avoid the perception of DoD sponsorship, approval or endorsement of any political candidate, campaign or cause," Hoffman wrote.

"The department encourages and actively supports its personnel in their civic obligation to vote, but makes clear members of the armed forces on active duty should not engage in partisan political activities," his memo read.

The DoD's Federal Voting Assistance Program was created to ensure that service members and their eligible family are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so — from anywhere in the world.

The Hatch Act is a federal law passed in 1939 that limits certain political activities of federal employees, according to the U.S. Office of Special Counsel. It applies to DoD civilian employees. The law's purposes are to ensure that federal programs are administered in a nonpartisan fashion, to protect federal employees from political coercion in the workplace, and to ensure that federal employees are advanced based on merit and not based on political affiliation, the OSC site added.

DoD policy for service members is contained in DoD Directive 1344.10, Political Activities for Members of the Armed Forces. It is DoD policy to encourage members of the armed forces to carry out the obligations of citizenship while keeping with the traditional concept that members on active duty should not engage in partisan political activity. All members of the armed forces, including active-duty members, members of the reserve components not on active duty, and retired members are prohibited from wearing military uniforms at political campaign or election events.

As the secretary said in his ethics video, both active duty service members and civilian employees must understand federal rules and DoD policies pertaining to political activities. Service members and employees should direct any questions to their supervisors or their supporting legal office..

Service members can register and request an absentee ballot at FVAP.gov.

Royal New Zealand Air Force celebrates graduation of inaugural P-8A crew

From VP-30 Public Affairs

Aircrew from the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) graduated from the Patrol Squadron (VP) 30 P-8A Category II Syllabus, Sept. 11.

Completion of this course makes this New Zealand's first aircrew to transition from the P-3K2 Orion to the P-8A Poseidon. The crew of the RNZAF's No. 5 Squadron began training at VP-30 in March of this year.

"Over the past six months, the crew has gone through significant training in transitioning from the P-3 to the P-8," said Lt. David Scott, a VP-30 pilot and VP-30's Foreign Military Sales Division head. "A huge congratulations to the crew for their dedication and professionalism throughout the course, especially with the challenges 2020 has brought,"

Capt. T.J. Grady, commanding officer of VP-30, said to the assembled guests, "The United States enjoys a long tradition of strategic partnership with New Zealand. Diplomatically, economically, and militarily, the close relationship we have between our countries is grounded in our similar values, ideals, and interests."

Throughout his speech, Grady emphasized the importance of the crew's presence at VP-30 in continuing to maintain the relationship and interoperability of the two countries, saying, "The personal relationships you've built here, and the relationships you'll build in the future, play a vital role in the security of our two nations."

Following Grady's words, RNZAF Squadron No. 5's Officer in Charge Brandon Smith received a ceremonial plaque from Grady commemorating New Zealand's inaugural crew.

Addressing the crowd in Māori, Smith stated, "Kia Ora tatou. Ko te moana nui a kiwa te moana. Ko Aotearoa te Whenua. Ko te taua a rangi Te Iwi. Ko Five Squadron Toku whanau. Ko Ben Smith Toku Ingoa. Naia nei ko te P-8 Poseidon te waka." which translates to "Good morning. The Pacific is my ocean. New Zealand is my land. The Royal New Zealand Air Force is my tribe.



Photos by MC2 (SW/AW) Yolonda Williams

Capt. Thomas Grady, Patrol Squadron (VP) 30 commanding officer, presents Benjamin Smith, Royal New Zealand Squadron leader, a ceremonial plaque during the inaugural P-8A Royal New Zealand Air Force graduation at VP-30, Sept. 11.

Squadron No. 5 is my family. I am Ben Smith. The P-8A Poseidon is now my aircraft." Continuing in English and citing the Fijian motto of No. 5 Squadron, "We are incredibly proud to be the first Royal New Zealand Air Force P-8 crew. We are Crew 1. We are No. 5 Squadron. Keitou kalawaca na wasaliwa: we span the oceans. Before we know it, we will be patrolling the Pacific in our P-8A Poseidon, our waka."

After his speech, the entire crew performed the haka (a ceremonial Māori dance) of the RNZAF, to display of the culture of their home country.

Prior to their transition, the RNZAF crew operated the P-3K. Their background in maritime operations enabled the crew's successful completion of the syllabus. Their experience will facilitate in the transition of future RNZAF crews P-8A Poseidon.

The graduating crew members will remain attached to VP-30 and complete the Instructor-Under-Training syllabus to qualify as P-8A instructors. These instructors will help train four additional RNZAF crews transition to the P-8A and also support the training of U.S. P-8A students, further bolstering the relationship between the New Zealand and U.S. forces.



Photos by Kaylee Larocque

NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Weiss, left, looks at some of the model aircraft on the deck of the USS Nimitz (CVN 68) aircraft model that was donated by Marine Corps Veteran James Tate. The model is now on display at Heritage Park in the glass enclosure with the Stearman biplane. "I'm so glad it ended up here because I wanted the Navy to have it," said Tate. "I know it's in the right hands and I'm happy about that."

Marine vet donates model of USS Nimitz to NAS Jacksonville



NAS Jacksonville Safety Manager and Base Historian Ron Williamson, left, and NAS Jax Deputy Safety Manager Brett Calkins carefully set up a model of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) at Heritage Park, Sept. 9. The model was donated by Marine Corps Veteran James Tate who wanted to see it displayed in a location where others could enjoy it.

NAS Jax Ombudsman team recognized during 50th anniversary of Navy Ombudsman Program



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

Naval Air Station Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Weiss, left, speaks to Rebecca Antweiller, ombudsman for Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 74, as HSM-74 Commanding Officer Capt. Daniel Murphy (right), looks on during an Ombudsman Appreciation Roadshow, Sept. 17.



Special Projects Patrol Squadron 2 Ombudsman Alexandra Hughes accepts some tokens of appreciation from Naval Air Station Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Weiss during an Ombudsman Appreciation Roadshow, Sept. 17.

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

Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville leadership visited 15 commands to recognize 19 Navy Ombudsmen during a roadshow event, Sept. 17.

The event allowed leaders to honor the work of the Navy Ombudsmen in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Navy Family Command Ombudsman Program.

NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Weiss, Executive Officer Capt. Jeffery Hill, Command Master Chief Dylan Inger, and Jodi Arden, ombudsmen coordinator for NAS Jacksonville Fleet and Family Support Center, drove around the station to speak with each ombudsman and thank them for the work they do for Navy families.

“I think going to commands to recognize their ombudsman with NAS Jax leadership as well as the individual command leadership shows how important the Ombudsman program is and how valued each ombudsman is at the command,” said Arden. The Ombudsman Program was introduced Sept. 14, 1970 by Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, Jr., as a means to address family issues and concerns that are unique to Navy families.

“Ombudsmen often sacrifice time with family and friends to support their command family in need,” said Arden. “They go above and beyond to ensure families have the information they may need to address challenges.”

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the annual Ombudsman Luncheon was not possible, however, the roadshow visiting individual commands

allowed leaders to recognize their respective ombudsman.

“I appreciate that leadership took the time to let us know that they appreciate us,” said Samantha Frehulfer, ombudsman for NAS Jacksonville, “Being the NAS Jacksonville ombudsman has been a great honor and privilege. It’s not something I ever thought I would do, but I’m so grateful for the opportunity to work with the families.”

In addition to being recognized by leadership, each ombudsman received a tote bag containing a coffee mug, planner, ombudsman 50th anniversary tin, a face mask embroidered with the ombudsman seal, and certificate of appreciation.

NAS Jacksonville Ombudsman Team members recognized

**Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area
Master Station Detachment Jacksonville**
Nicole Meier

Fleet Logistics Center Jacksonville
Laura Donson

Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 74
Rebecca Antweiller

Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 70
Emily Lapadat

**Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance
Weapons School**
Sarah Saverse

Naval Hospital Jacksonville
Stephanie Horton
Donna Rochino

**Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance
Wing 11**
Rachel Miller

Patrol Squadron 10
Rachel Penn

Patrol Squadron 8
Taylor Pramik

Patrol Squadron 5
Jami Manning
Jessica Radcliffe

Patrol Squadron 45
Jessica Hanson
Shannon Pillars

Special Projects Patrol Squadron 2
Alexandra Hughes

Tactical Operations Control Squadron 11
Stephanie Skinner
Danielle White

Patrol Squadron (VP) 30
Kristen Radloff

Naval Air Station Jacksonville
Samantha Frehulfer

NAS Jax leaders recognize Sailors of the Quarter via drive-thru roadshow



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

Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville Sailors of the Quarter are congratulated by NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Weiss during the Sailor of the Quarter Roadshow at Building 1, Sept. 10.

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

Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville leadership visited more than 15 tenant commands and locations on-base to recognize the most recent Sailors of the Quarter, Sept. 10.

NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Weiss, Executive Officer Capt. Jeffery Hill, and Command Master Chief Dylan Inger drove throughout the base to commend the Sailors on their stellar performance, despite the safety

restrictions imposed by COVID-19.

“The Sailor of the Quarter program is a way for leadership at the various commands to recognize these Sailors who have found a way to separate themselves from their peers who’ve taken the same oath to defend this nation,” said Hill. “The pandemic environment has put a damper on all things social, but leadership still feels it is vitally important to recognize these Sailors by taking it to the commands.”

With the health-conscious drive-thru, NAS Jacksonville leadership recognized 60 Sailors

from 17 commands while maintaining safety standards.

“The drive-thru was a great experience, especially during a pandemic,” said RS2 Verlinne Sylla, NAS Jacksonville Sailor of the Quarter. “I really appreciate the time and effort from the leadership to come out. We are all here together and to motivate each other.”

In addition to being recognized, the Sailors received a certificate of appreciation, commanding officer’s coin, a discount at the Navy Exchange, and a \$25 gift card from VyStar Credit Union.



Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Weiss, right, congratulates AME3 Marcus McClinton, of Patrol Squadron (VP) 5, on being selected VP-5’s Junior Sailor of the Quarter during the Sailor of the Quarter Roadshow, Sept. 10.



NAS Jacksonville Command Master Chief Dylan Inger, right, reads a citation during the Sailor of the Quarter Roadshow at NAS Jacksonville, Sept. 10.



Four VPU-2 Sailors listen as NAS Jacksonville Command Master Chief Dylan Inger reads a citation during the Sailor of the Quarter Roadshow at NAS Jacksonville, Sept. 10.

NAS Jacksonville Sailors of the Quarter (3rd Quarter)

Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 60

PS1 (AW) Roberto Jusino
PS2 (AW) Joe Drab

Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 72

AD1 (AW/SW) Cesar Thompson
LS3 (AW) Kathryn Lumba
AWR2 (NAC/AW) Roberto Castanon (Deployed)

Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility

AC1 (AW/SW) Marshall Crawford
OS1 (SW) Bonnie Lucero
AC3 Emily Tucker

Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area

Master Station Detachment Jacksonville

IT1 (IW/SW/AW) Michael A. Isaac
CE2 Cameron R. Weiss

Naval Air Station Jacksonville

RP1 (SW/AW) Melinda Greene
RS2 (SW/AW) Verlinne Sylla
MA3 Karam Elzein
MASN Anthony Johnson

Reserve Component Command

YN1 (AW/EXW) Jamie Nicole Mizell
YN1 (AW) Lashanta Shanti Jackson

Navy Operational Support Center Jacksonville

IT1 (IW) Alyssa Holland
GM2 (SW) Montavis Adams
IT3 Neilreb Branie Amposta

Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance

Weapons School

AWO1 (NAC/AW) Eric P Poudrier
AWO2 (NAC/AW) Andrew B Bauknight

Naval Hospital Jacksonville

HM1 (FMF) Tristan J. Ricamona Sr.
HM2 Kurt R. Ehntholt
HM3 James E. Brewer

Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 10

YN1 (AW) Kaneisha Johnson
ET2 (EXW) Amber Smith
BM3 (SCW) Micah Abney
HM1 (SW) Jeffrey Ximenes (Deployed)
HM2 (EXW) Bailey Candanoza (Deployed)
ET3 Kenneth Lore (Deployed)

Patrol Squadron 30

AWO1 (NAC/AW) Pedro Gonzalez
AWO2 (NAC/AW) Cordell Castle
AE3 (AW) Holden Kingrey
LSSN (AW) Sophia Acedo

Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance

Wing 11

AWO1 (NAC/AW) Clark Urbin II
ET2 (IW) Linda Reed
ET3 Michael Chang
ITSN Sean Easton
AWO1 (NAC/AW) Christina Starling
AWO2 (NAC/AW) Tyler Willsey
LS3 Matthew Schott

LSSR Bryson L. Huffines

Patrol Squadron 10

3rd Quarter

AWO1 (NAC/AW) Christopher Scott
AD2 (AW) Cella Parmelee
AO3 (AW) Nicholas Hardman

2nd Quarter

AD1 (AW) William Owens
AM2 (AW) Tiana Huddleston
AWO3 (NAC) Shilyr French

Patrol Squadron 5

AE1 (AW) Evan McGee
AWO2 (NAC/AW) Margaret Bowden
AME3 (AW) Marcus McClinton
LSSN Manolfi Fernandez

Patrol Squadron 8

AWO1 (NAC/AW) Heather Black
AWO2 (NAC/AW) Aolani Etu
AE3 (AW) Tommy Paz
HNAN Katelyn Thomas

Special Projects Patrol 2

LS1 (SW) Brent Bishop
AT2 (AW) Alofa Lealiiie
AE2 Timmyra Morrow
LSSN Mary King

Transient Personnel Unit/Pre-Trial Confinement Facility

ABE2 Daniel Aliaku

NAS Jax deputy fire chief retires after 39 years of service



By Kaylee LaRocque

NAS Jax Public Affairs Officer

After 39 years of providing essential emergency services on military installations, Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) Deputy Fire Chief James Gray retired from civil service, Sept. 28.

Gray, a native of Wichita, Kansas, enlisted in the Air Force in July 1983. Twelve years later, he left military service and became a federal firefighter at Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Crete, Greece. He started working at NAS Jax in July 1998 shortly after “Florida Firestorm 98” when thousands of wildfires cause severe damage throughout the state.

According to Gray, island life is where he’s happiest. “Souda Bay and the Azores, Portugal, were awesome,” he said. “I worked in the Azores while in the military and Souda Bay as a civilian. It’s definitely island life for me. It’s a different world of living and a different mindset. No one is in a hurry there.”

One of the biggest things he will miss at work is listening to the stories the

firefighters tell. “You hear a lot of crazy stuff sitting around the dinner table at the fire station,” said Gray.

Gray says there are several people who have helped him throughout his career. “I definitely have to thank my wife of 32 years. She has sacrificed so much for my career,” he said. “When we were first married, she followed me around in the military. Then when I took the civil service job, she followed me around and we ended up in Jacksonville. She had to start over with her career every time we moved. I would not be where I am today without her.”

He also acknowledges his previous civilian fire chiefs Paul Stewart, Randy Hall, Don Martin and Mark Brusoe.

“You learn a lot by working with that many different personalities and management styles,” said Gray.

In the future, Gray plans to relax for a couple months, then find something to do to keep busy including getting some work done around the house.

“And, there’s going to be a lot more grandkid time,” he said. “Along with more time for grilling and smoking because I really love to cook.”

HSM-70 works with USS Ford during ISE 12

By MCSN Riley McDowell
USS Gerald R. Ford Public Affairs

The “Spartans” of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 70, attached to Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 8, have been working hand-in-hand with the fleet’s newest aircraft carrier, USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) during the month of September, as a part of Independent Steaming Event 12 and the ship’s 18-month post-delivery test and trials phase of operations.

The Spartans have been helping to fulfill the logistic requirements of Ford, and have been the alert plane guard search-and-rescue asset during fixed wing operations. Ford serves as a platform for HSM-70’s pilots to receive training on all their mission requirements, but especially the more junior members of the squadron. Many of these junior pilots are working from a ship for the first time.

“It’s definitely intimidating at the beginning, showing up knowing you have this big syllabus to get through in order to reach our goals,” said Lt. j.g. P.J. Oristian, a junior pilot assigned to HSM-70, originally from Bethesda, Maryland. “When we show up, our first goal is to make helicopter aircraft commander or what we call HAC.”

HSM squadrons act as a jack-of-all-trades within the air wing, focusing primarily on anti-submarine warfare (ASW), surface warfare and electronic warfare. The MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter, flown by HSM-70 pilots, has command and control capabilities as well.

“HSM within the air wing is really growing,” said Lt. Cmdr. Joey “Queen” Kühn, from Los Angeles, the detachment’s officer in charge. “The world is really developing into this near-peer competition, where we are coming back to an open ocean fight, and HSM in general is starting to take a premiere role in that fight.”

HSM-70 has three core principles which they try to live out every



Photo by MCSN Riley McDowell

Pilots assigned to the “Spartans” of HSM-70, take direction from Sailors assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) on the fantail of the ship Sept. 5, during deck landing qualifications.

day: people, pride and professionalism.

“We are a very family centered squadron,” said Kühn. “We take great pride in what we do and we try to maintain a high professional standard.”

While HSM-70 is in a maintenance phase of operations with one detachment deployed with the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81), they have also pushed farther into the ASW mission set in order to protect aircraft carriers like Ford, serving as an organic ASW asset for the strike group.

“We can go out and be the eyes and ears of the strike group,” said Kühn. “To help with long range targeting or the basic task of identifying who is around us.”

While underway with Ford, HSM-70 had the opportunity to further integrate strike group operations with the guided-missile destroyer USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51), on Sept. 5. Ford and Arleigh Burke steamed within range for junior pilots assigned to HSM-70 to complete deck landing qualifications and conduct a vertical replenishment.

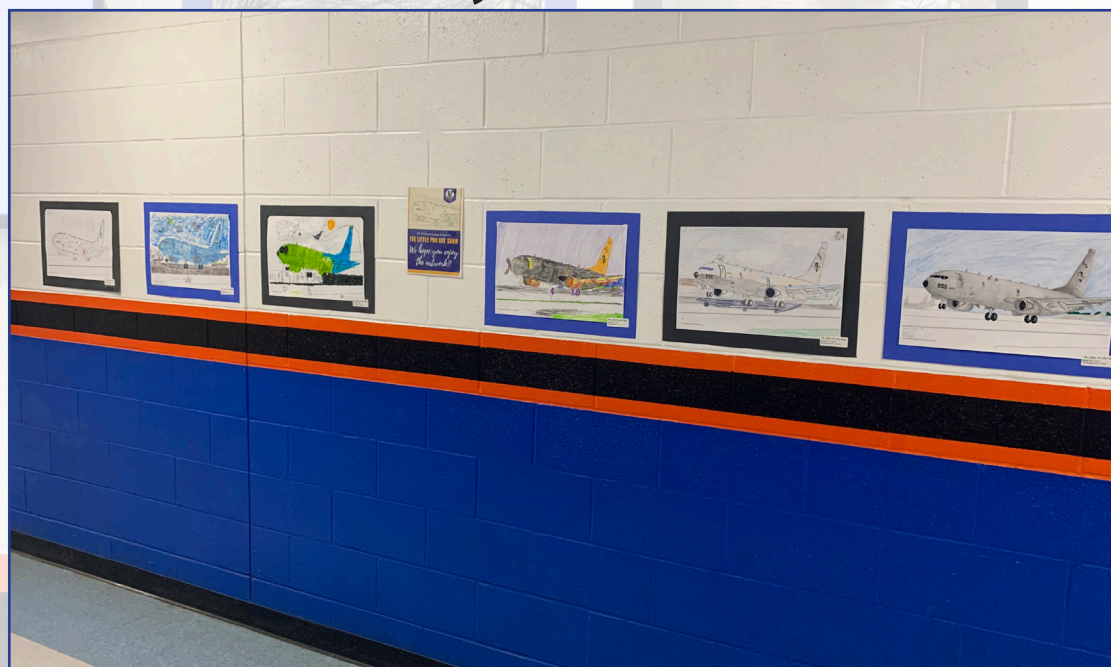
“Those are experiences that these pilots won’t get everywhere,” said Kühn. “They are valuable experiences as future helicopter aircraft commanders because at the end of the day those are the pilots that are going to replace us old guys.”

VP-30 holds art contest for military children



Courtesy photos

Artwork by children of Patrol Squadron (VP) 30 personnel is displayed in the main passageway of the VP-30 hangar bay, Sept. 24.



Numerous pieces of artwork were created by children of Patrol Squadron 30 during a squadron art contest. The art was showcased in the hangar spaces.

VP-10 hosts Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic for Exercise Black Widow

From Commander, 2nd Fleet

The “Red Lancers” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 10 had the distinct honor to fly a Black Widow Exercise flight with Rear Adm. John Meier, commander, Naval Air Forces Atlantic and Capt. Matt Pottenburgh, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing (CPRW) 11, Sept. 15.

Exercise Black Widow provided fleet warfighters the opportunity to employ, hone, and evaluate tactics, techniques, and procedures in efforts to enhance readiness for real-world operations.

During the mission flight, VP-10 demonstrated the P-8A’s anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capabilities and tactics with multiple units to include the USS McFaul (DDG 74), USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51), USS Wasp (LHD 1), four embarked Helicopter Sea Combat Squadrons, as well as Navy submarines. The exercise provided all units the unique opportunity to evaluate coordinated tactics, techniques, and procedures against advanced undersea threats.

“Extremely impressed by the men and women of the Patrol and Reconnaissance Force, specifically the VP-10 ‘Red Lancers’ as they participated in Exercise Black Widow,” said Meier, who emphasized the important take-aways gained from participating in these types of exercises during the era of Great Power Competition.

In this era of Great Power Competition, the Black Widow Exercise allowed VP-10 aircrew to enhance the Navy’s ability in maintaining its unmatched capability in the undersea domain. The Red Lancers effectively employed the P-8A in a dynamic environment working with dissimilar assets to prepare for the challenging operations against our competitors.

The Red Lancers were able to conduct all phases of ASW during the exercise as well as refine turnover and swap procedures with other airborne assets. Specifically, VP-10 was able to refine coordinated ASW tactics with dissimilar platforms to include the MH-60Rs embarked on supporting surface ships. The P-8A’s endurance on-station and ability to collect acoustic, electronic, and imagery intelligence proved critical in achieving exercise objectives.

Rear Adm. Lance Scott, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group emphasized the strategic benefits from contributing to the exercise for his forces.

“The P-8A’s endurance on-station and ability to collect acoustic, electronic, and imagery intelligence proved critical in achieving exercise



Photo by Lt.j.g Samantha Michel

Rear Adm. John Meier, commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic, Capt. Matt Pottenburgh, commodore, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11, and Cmdr. Russell White, VP-10 commanding officer, conduct a visual inspection of the P-8A weapons station as part of Exercise Black Widow held to advance theater undersea warfare in a multi-domain environment.

objectives. The men and women of CPRW-11 achieved a multitude of objectives during the exercise and I look forward to continuing the integrated theater ASW training in future iterations of Exercise Black Widow,” said Scott.

The agility of the P-8A Patrol and Reconnaissance Force, according to Pottenburgh, allows his forces to operate cohesively with surface and sub-surface counterparts.

“Black Widow provided an incredible opportunity for Patrol Wing Eleven to execute and refine anti-submarine warfare tactics in the North Atlantic alongside Destroyer Squadron Two and Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing Atlantic,” said Pottenburgh, who added the exercise provides an opportunity to apply the lessons learned from the exercise to benefit future operational deployments. “Our combat aircrews were able to enhance our lethality in an unforgiving environment – there is just no replacement for training like you fight.”



Photo by Julie M. Lucas

MU1 Winnie Dawkins picks up trash in front of Navy Band Southeast’s Building as a part of a base clean-up day, Sept. 17. Eleven commands participated in the clean up efforts.

NAS Jax Sailors keep station clean



Courtesy Photo

Sailors attached to Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville volunteer during a basewide clean-up, Sept. 17. NH Jacksonville had 48 Sailors volunteer during the event, which collected 600 pounds of debris.

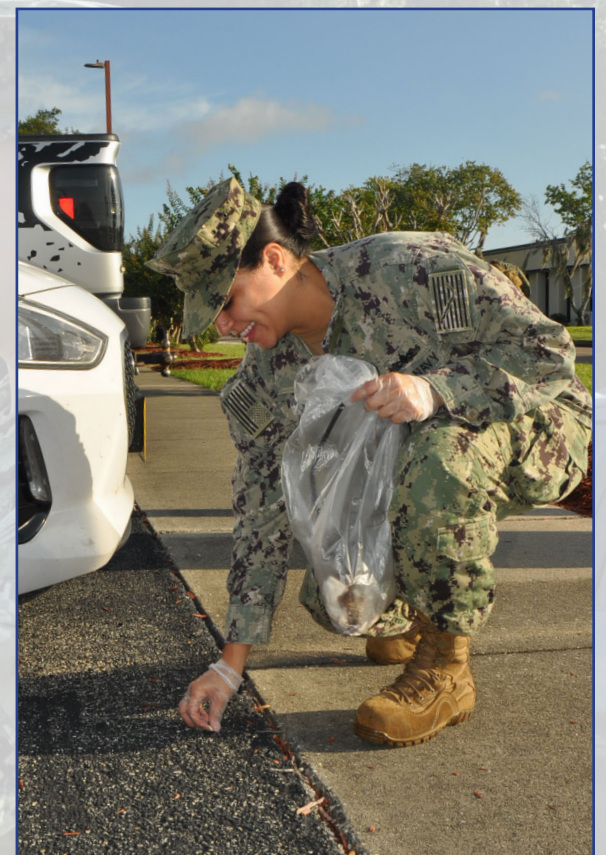


Photo by Julie M. Lucas

OS1 Cynthia Duarte of Navy Region Southeast, works to beautify the base during clean up efforts for International Coastal Clean Up Day, Sept. 17.

VP-45 Sailor recognized for leadership traits

From VP-45 Public Affairs

VP-45 recently awarded the Sidney Smith Award to AME1 Jamichael Semien for his outstanding embodiment of leadership and mentorship to those within the squadron.

Semien, a native of Beaumont, Texas, joined VP-45 in February 2018 as the leading petty officer (LPO) for the Aviation Structural Mechanics Equipment Division. Semien transitioned to maintenance control, where he earned his Safe-for Flight qualification. In late 2019, he checked into the line division where he currently works daily to help service, launch, and recover aircraft.

“AME1 Semien’s leadership is very constructive,” said AM2 Martin. “He is a hard charger who leads from the front. Every day he is out on the line supporting his junior Sailors leading by example. I have learned a lot from him and appreciate everything he has done as my LPO.”

Prior to transferring to VP-45, Semien was stationed at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida and worked with the Navy Flight Demonstration Team, The Blue Angels.

In the future, Semien plans to become a chief petty officer, and become P-8A engine turn qualified, and become a full systems quality assurance representative. He also plans to continue mentoring Sailors.

The award is in honor of AWCS Sidney L. Smith Jr., a former senior chief at VP-45. Smith was born March 10, 1972 in Lafayette, Louisiana. His naval career started at NTC Orlando Recruit Training September 1990. From there, he became an aviation warfare systems operator and joined the VP community.



Photo by MCSN Thomas A. Higgins

Cmdr. Charles Larwood, commanding officer of Patrol Squadron (VP) 45, presents AME1 Jamichael Semien of VP-45, with the Sidney Smith Jr. Excellence award, Aug. 21.

His 18 years of faithful service ended in August 2008. Smith was a talented leader, trainer, and mentor to all Sailors. His impact will be felt throughout the VP community for many years to come. The VP-45 Chief Petty Officer’s Mess wanted to create a lasting memorial to his leadership and established the award. It is presented annually to an E-6 or below Sailor who exhibits the leadership and mentoring traits exhibited by Smith during his naval career.

HSM-60 returns from drug interdiction deployment



Photo by MM2 Symonne D. Patrick

Lt. Cmdr. David Nostro is reunited with his daughter Libby, 2, upon his return to Naval Air Station Jacksonville following a four-month counter-narcotics deployment with HSM-60, Sept. 9.



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

Kate Pietrzak and son William, 3, are reunited with Lt. Cmdr. Nick Pietrzak, HSM-60 safety officer, after his squadron returned to Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Sept. 9, following a four-month deployment. During the deployment HSM-60, USS Nitze, and the U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment helped stop the trafficking of more than 8,500 kilograms of suspected cocaine and marijuana worth an estimated \$102 million.



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

An MH-60R Seahawk helicopter attached to HSM-60, goes through freshwater wash-down upon returning to Naval Air Station Jacksonville following completion of a four-month deployment, Sept. 9.

Chaplain's Corner

GO JUICE: The fuel that keeps us going

By Lt. Zachary C. Parker, Base Chaplain
NAS Jax Chapel

It is 1330. Lunch has settled and most of us head to the nearest vending machine to fill up on something to get us through the rest of the day.

The choice might be an iced tea, a double shot espresso, a BANG energy drink, or a diet soda. Whatever it is, we all need fuel to keep us going. Obviously, we think of fuel as gas to fill up our cars, planes, or jets (that is until Elon Musk conquers the industry).

Of course, the term fuel is interchangeable. We have our guilty pleasure of soft drinks, caramel macchiatos, or pre workouts that we devour and make our hearts jump out of our chests, subsequently fueling us up and keeping us going.

Enter: GO JUICE – an aviation term for fuel.

We are in a time for the ages. Stress, uncertainty, isolation, hopelessness, and fear are beginning to cripple our optimism and our faith.

So, what about our emotional and spiritual fuel?

Are we seeking out different options of fuel to keep us going in these areas?

Let us not forget that we can find opportunities to fuel us as we persevere through these difficult times.

It is not a time to quit, it is a time to fuel up!

A father was trying to get his son not to quit so easily. He said, “Son, you have got to hang in there and not quit. Look at Abraham Lincoln. He did not quit. Look at Thomas Edison. He did not quit. Look at Douglas MacArthur. He did not quit.”

Then he said, “Look at Elmo McCringle.”

The son said, “Wait a minute, Dad, who is Elmo McCringle?”

The father said, “Exactly! See, he quit!”

Don’t throw in the towel when the going gets tough find the fuel to persevere and keep going.

GO JUICE can be something as simple as reading a book by the water, completing the project you have been putting off, taking 20 to 30 minutes a day to learn the instrument you have always wanted to play, or finding the courage to forgive yourself or someone else for something that happened recently or long ago.

I am all for a venti vanilla latte with an extra shot of espresso at 1330 to keep me going for the rest of the day, but that will not keep me fueled up emotionally and spiritually.

It is in our best interest to determine healthy sources of fuel to keep us going.

Determining our fuel is the first step to finding our passion.

GO JUICE: The Fuel That Keeps us Going

Email me at zachary.c.parker@navy.mil and let me know your favorite GO JUICE!

New commissary agency director aims to increase patronage

By Kevin Robinson
DeCA public affairs specialist

Growing the commissary’s customer base, especially among a younger generation of eligible service members and their families, is a top priority for the Defense Commissary Agency’s new director and CEO.

That’s the message William F. Moore passed on to DeCA’s senior staff Aug. 31 at agency headquarters.

This was Moore’s first DeCA event since taking the reins from Rear Adm. (retired) Robert J. Bianchi, who led DeCA from October 2017 to August 2020, first as interim director, and later as DOD special assistant for commissary operations.

“Our patron base, those who are utilizing the commissaries, has slowly been getting smaller over time,” Moore said. “We have got to find a way to reverse that trend.” “We have actually grown the

number of eligible customers and now we have to figure out what gets them into the commissary and then retain them as loyal customers,” he added. “It’s kind of surprising that so many [young eligible patrons don’t shop the commissary,] and they don’t, I think, because they perceive it as inconvenient. So we have to think through what this generation deems important in terms of convenience and get them back into the commissary.”

As Moore settles in as DeCA’s new director, he said the agency will build on past successes such as its ongoing partnership with the military exchanges; the computer-ordering, curbside pickup program known as CLICK2GO; the Your Everyday Savings! program, which lowers commissary pricing on trending products; and Commissary Store Brands that offer quality private label products at significant savings. Commissaries will also identify initiatives that improve the overall benefit.

“We have a lot of customer-focused initiatives,

and we want to continue getting those out to every commissary we can,” Moore said. “We always have to keep our eyes open on how we can deliver the benefit and do it in a more efficient way through better supply chain management – there are all kinds of innovative ways we can do that.

“We’ve come a long way in just the past two or three years in terms of partnership with the exchanges and we should probably leverage that,” he added. If there’s something we can deliver more efficiently through a partnership we certainly should.”

Of course, for Moore, delivering the commissary benefit these days presents challenges that go beyond providing annual savings of more than 23 percent to military members, their families, retirees and now the disabled vets. “Obviously we want to maintain safety first, especially in a COVID environment,” he said. “The most important thing we do – really our purpose – is delivering the benefit as efficiently as we can.”

NAS Jax hosts blood and plasma drive

HM2 Jonathan Ulloa of Naval Hospital Jacksonville donates plasma on an apheresis machine with the assistance of Army Staff Sgt. Britny Brass of the Armed Services Blood Program Sept. 17. The program received 89 pints of blood that goes to service members and also collected 49 COVID survivor plasma donations.



Photo by Julie M. Lucas

CBD product ban expanded to include lotions, topical applications

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

In a move to ensure the integrity of the Navy's drug policy, the Navy has upped the ante on its ban on hemp and cannabidiol (CBD) products to include topical products like lotions and shampoos.

Announced in ALNAV 074/20 on July 24, 2020, the message supersedes previous guidance. The new ALNAV bans use of any hemp product or product derived from hemp and violations can occur without regard to intended physical or mental consequences of the use.

The move was done to protect Sailors from potential tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) exposure that could negatively impact mission readiness and disqualify a Sailor from continued service. It is impossible for consumers to determine how much THC a product actually contains in the current environment where label claims are not trustworthy. Department of Defense (DoD) officials determined that it is not reasonable nor practical for the DoD to test every hemp product, which may or may not cause a positive urinalysis result.

While federal law continues to allow American consumers to use

products that contain less than 0.3 percent THC, the Navy policy is meant to ensure there is no unknowing consumption of any THC amount.

"This really is about the health of the force and ensuring the Navy remains a drug-free workplace," said LA Parker, Drug Detection & Deterrence branch head, for the 21st Century Sailor office. "We have to be fit to fight and can't take a risk in allowing our Sailors to consume or use these types of products."

The Navy policy continues to allow for use of cannabinoid formulations approved by the Food and Drug Administration when a service member has a valid prescription. A Sailor should consult with his or her primary care physician in these circumstances and ensure it is documented in his or her medical record. The ALNAV does not prohibit the use of durable hemp goods, such as rope or clothing.

Sailors who test positive for THC or other substances, for which they have no valid prescription, will be processed for administrative separation and could receive a discharge characterized as "Other Than Honorable."

Every Sailor has a personal responsibility to diligently avoid intentional or accidental exposure to THC and other prohibited substances.

Navy removes officer photo requirement

From MC1 Mark D. Faram,

Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

The Navy will no longer show officer service record photos during promotion, selection and assignment boards.

Announced in NAVADMIN 247/20, the change took effect Sept. 1, as a way to eliminate the possibility of bias in the service's board process.

"We are working through Task Force One Navy to eliminate systemic prejudice and bias in the Navy," said Vice Adm. John B. Nowell, Jr., the Navy's chief of personnel.

"This immediate action will ensure no intentional or unconscious bias, based on race, ethnicity, gender or national origin, is any part the career decisions we make about our people."

The Navy's policy change is based on direction from Secretary of Defense Mark Esper in his July 14 Memorandum titled "Immediate Actions to Address Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity in the Military Services."

These changes, including removing photographs from selection processes in all services, are intended to address existing issues "within policies, programs, and processes to improve diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity for our Service members," Esper wrote.

The message also states that the change in board policy does not eliminate the ongoing requirement for officers to maintain a current photograph in their official service record.

All officers, regardless of status, in both the Regular Navy and the Navy Reserve, are required to update their official photo within three months of accepting a new promotion. Points of contact for any questions are in NAVADMIN 247/20.

More information on how officer photographs are to be taken and submitted to Navy Personnel Command is available in MILPERSMAN Article 1070-180.



Dine on the Go

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Stay active. Stay informed. Stay connected. Navy MWR compiled a list of resources to help

keep you busy & entertained while you are home. Explore fitness activities & resources, daily surprise videos from musicians, comedians, magicians & other entertainers, recipes in the cooking section, or travel the world virtually through online content from museums, theme parks, & historic sites. Visit <https://www.navymwr.org/navy-mwr-at-home/> to discover more.

Check the NAS Jax MWR Facebook page for more resources, events, and newly-reopened facilities on base.