

# THE SKYLINE



Volume 62, Number 22

<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/meridian> ~ [www.facebook.com/NASMeridian](https://www.facebook.com/NASMeridian) ~ Twitter: @nasmeridianms

November 14, 2024

## On Base

### MWR Holiday Meal Giveaway

- Sign up ends Nov. 15!
- Pick up meal on Nov. 25 from 5 - 7 p.m. at Rudders!
- See Page 5 for more details!

### Wreath & Sip

Nov. 21 at 5:30 p.m.  
Com. Rec. Complex

Registration fee of \$25 includes wreath materials and two glasses of wine!

### Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run

Nov. 23 at 8 a.m.  
Fitness Center

## Get Connected



SCAN for NAS Meridian App



SCAN for the Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box



Follow us!

## NAS Meridian Supports Local Veteran's Day Events



Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

AC1 Ruby Wesby sings "America the Beautiful" at the Veteran's Day Ceremony held at the East Mississippi Veterans Park, Nov. 8. The guest speaker was Col. Robert R. Bartran, commandant of the Regional Counterdrug Training Center onboard NAS Meridian and operated by the Mississippi National Guard. The annual ceremony serves as a reminder to thank those who served in our military.



Photo courtesy of MCC

CAPT Luke Davis, commanding officer of NAS Meridian, was the keynote speaker at Meridian Community College's Veterans Day Celebration, Nov. 11. The annual event, held on the college's campus, recognizes college and community military personnel and showcases MCC's commitment to supporting military members. "It is a great day to acknowledge and show appreciation for the people who have had the courage to service our country," Davis said.

## Navy Aerospace Exhibit Opens to the Public



Photos of the new Navy Aerospace Medicine exhibit at the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida, opened to recognize all the contributions of Navy Medicine to the world of Naval aviation throughout its history, Oct. 29. All of Naval Aviation must pass through the doors of the Navy Medicine Operational Training Command (NMOTC). NMOTC is the Navy's leader in operational medicine and trains specialty providers for aviation, surface, submarine, expeditionary, and special operations communities. With five detachments, 12 training centers, and facilities in over 60 locations across the United States, NMOTC provides high impact individual medical training for the Navy, other U.S. armed forces, and allied nations around the globe. To read the full story, [click here](#).

Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Russell Lindsey

## Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box: Q & A

More Questions and Answers will return in the next edition of The Skyline on Nov. 27!



## Happy Birthday Marines!



Photo by Evelyn Adams

MAJ Marvin Diazescobar, MATTS-1 Commanding Officer, cuts the Marine Corps birthday cake during a ceremony in the Navy Reserve Center onboard NAS Meridian, Nov. 7.



# Aviators Earn 'Wings of Gold' in November Winging Ceremony

## From Staff Reports

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony November 1 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian.

Nine aviators received their "Wings of Gold" during the ceremony. The naval aviator designation ceremony is not prescribed specifically by U.S. Navy regulations, but has emerged as an honored product of the rich heritage of naval tradition. It marks the culmination of nearly two years of specialized training, which has prepared these officers for the rigorous demands of aerial combat and carrier operations -- earning each the title of "Naval Aviator" and the right to wear the coveted "Wings of Gold."

LTJG Marcus Alexander Figueiroa, USN, is a 2020 graduate of the University of Central Florida, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. During Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned one Navy "E" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Figueiroa completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG Matthew Thomas Gray, USN, is a 2019 graduate of The Ohio State University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in American History. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned one Navy "E" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Gray completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

1STLT Charles Cameron

Kent, USMC, is a 2020 graduate of the Citadel, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. During Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. 1stLt Kent completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG Charles Paul Market, USN, is a 2021 graduate of Yale University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. LTJG Market also received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. During Primary Flight Training, he was named to the Commodore's List. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Market completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

1STLT Dane Xavier Meier, USMC, is a 2019 graduate of the University of Illinois, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing Communications. During Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. 1stLt Meier completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

1STLT Avery Sellman Rodts Jr., USMC, is a 2021 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Economics. While he was in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy.

1stLt Rodts completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

Capt. John Gavin Roser, USMC, is a 2019 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering and Physics. Captain Roser is also a 2021 graduate of Cambridge University, where he received a Master of Philosophy degree in Industrial Photonics. During Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. Captain Roser completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG Andrew Charles Seepe, USN, is a 2017 graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems, and earned a minor in Applied Meteorology. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Seepe completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG John Paul Winkler, USN, is a 2021 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics, and earned a minor in Chinese. During Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Winkler completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.



LTJG Marcus Figueiroa



LTJG Matthew Gray



1STLT Charles Kent



LTJG Charles Market



1STLT Dane Meier



1STLT Avery Rodts Jr.



Capt. John Roser



LTJG Andrew Seepe



LTJG John Winkler

## Golden Stick Award



Photo by Evelyn Adams

Mississippi Council of the Navy League Representative Russ Knight has the honor of presenting the Golden Stick award to LTJG Charles Market during a winging ceremony in the chapel onboard NAS Meridian, Nov. 1. The Golden Stick is awarded to the student with the highest composite score during training and sponsored by the Mississippi Council of the Navy League.

### Roman Catholic Service at the NAS Meridian Chapel

**Nov. 23 & Dec. 14**  
**0930: Confession**  
**1000: Mass**

Roman Catholic Services are held the second and fourth Saturday of each month.

## The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

### Command Staff

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**CDR Mike Missler**  
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**CMDCM Randy Griffeth**

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 SAPR Civilian Victim Assistance: 601-486-3122  
 SARC: 601-481-4274  
 SAFE Helpline: 877-995-5247  
 Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255  
 Military OneSource: 800-342-9647  
 CEAP (DoN Civilian): 844-366-2327  
 EAP (NAF Civilian): 800-932-0034  
 FFSC Meridian: 601-679-2360  
 Chaplain: 601-604-2015  
 NMCRS Duty Cell: 601-604-2206  
 EEO (NAF): 866-295-0328  
 EEO (GS): 904-542-2802

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## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

### NOVEMBER:

**21: Merry NightMarket, 5-7 p.m.** - Discover a captivating fusion of culture and creativity at the NightMarket, as the sun sets, the market comes alive with local artistry, live music, and a tempting array of flavors from local food vendors. **Located at the MAX in Downtown Meridian.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**22: Pre-Thanksgiving Golf Tournament, 9 a.m.** - Join us for our exciting annual 2-man scramble! Registration opens at 8 a.m., with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. The entry fee is just \$35 per person, which includes green fees, cart rental, food, and beverages. Plus, we'll have some fantastic prizes to give away! Don't miss out on a day of fun and friendly competition! For questions, please call 601.693.3301. **Located at the Lakeview Golf Course.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**23 - Jan. 5: Winter Wonderland at the Children's Museum** - Families can delight in fun and festive activities with weekly visits by Santa, sock skating in the Snowflake Village, reindeer workshops, and other holiday merriment. **Located in Downtown Meridian.**

**24-Dec. 31: Trees of Christmas at Merrehope** - The 56th Annual Trees of Christmas at Merrehope will take on a stunning new look as talented designers decorate over 60 fabulous trees and festive exhibits. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

### DECEMBER:

**3: Christmas Tree Lighting, 6 p.m.** - Join the City of Meridian as we illuminate our stunning 34-foot Christmas tree, creating a magical atmosphere filled with festive cheer and community spirit! **Located in Downtown Meridian.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**7: Christmas Parade, 5 p.m.** - Get ready for a festive evening of family fun at the City's annual Christmas Parade! Grab your friends and family and head downtown to experience the magic of Whoville! The parade begins at 5 p.m., and lineup starts at 3 p.m. **Located in Downtown Meridian.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

## AREA HAPPENINGS

### NOVEMBER:

**25: Justin Timberlake, 7:30 p.m.** - Located in New Orleans, LA. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**29: Disney Jr. Live on Tour!** - Located in Birmingham, AL. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**29 - Jan. 5: 29th Annual Magic Christmas in Lights, 5 - 9 p.m.** - Explore the enchanting 29th Annual Magic Christmas in Lights at Bellingrath Gardens & Home—a festive paradise on the Gulf Coast. Wander through a dazzling 65-acre Garden estate adorned with thousands of lights. **Located in Theodore, AL.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

### DECEMBER:

**13-15: Ballet Memphis' The Nutcracker** - Experience the magic again! Ballet Memphis' stunning new production of this beloved American holiday favorite opened last season to joy and delight in both familiar and unexpected ways! **Located in Memphis, TN.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

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# 988

## SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

988 offers 24/7 judgment-free support for mental health, substance use, and more.  
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## COMMAND PATCH SALE

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Bldg 255 Ste 163

**\$10**



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## Sale... Or

### HOMES/APARTMENTS

**For Sale:** 3 BD/2 BA home. 1,496 square foot heated and cooled. 200 square foot utility room/pantry. Poplar Springs Elementary school district. Huge fenced back yard and storage building. New roof Dec 2012. New AC April 2017 and remains under warranty until 2027. Around the corner from Northcrest church (North Hills). Asking \$150,000 but there are a few little cosmetic things that could be done so will take \$125,000 as is. Contact Jared or Felicia Monsour at (601) 938-4810 or (601) 934-0931

**For Sale:** 3 BD/4 BA home with 2965 sq ft of lake view home in beautiful, gated Lake Eddins in Pachuta. Entertainer's kitchen with huge eat at bar. Brick floors in main living areas, all new floor covering in remaining areas, total remodel. Gorgeous brick w/natural cypress home, 2 car garage w/bonus room.

Asking \$299,900. Will include additional lot on water for fishing/boat storage w/asking price. Call 601-720-1420.

**For Rent:** 3BD/ 2BA house offers beautiful lake views, perfect for fishing and relaxing by the water. This house has recently been remodeled. Monthly Rent: \$1,500. Deposit: \$1,000. Additional Fees: Dalewood Renter Privileges Fees. Please contact Carlos at 601-604-9986.

**For Rent:** 1 BD/1 BA. Entire House in North Hills District. Listed on AIRBNB or can book direct. Daily or Weekly rates plus cleaning fees. Contact: 601-504-5415

**For Rent:** 3 BD/2 BA, only 5 mins from main gate of NAS Meridian. Nice size private yard / garbage and water provided. Pets permitted with deposit. \$1,150 a month. Contact 601-480-1324.

**For Rent:** 3 BD/1.5 BA home 15 minutes from NAS at 4814 36th Ave. New refrigerator and 2-year old AC &

furnace. Call Terrance at 469-318-9769.

### BOATS/CAMPERS/TRAILERS

**21 foot - 2021 Jayco Travel Camper.** Like new; beige & walnut interior. Selling to upgrade to larger size - Price is \$15,000 some accessories included. To view or request pics please contact: Gary 601-575-5062.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**For Sale:** Double wall Frigidaire oven \$500; Bosch dishwasher \$500. Both three years old. Call 601-616-4242.

**Nanny or caregiver services.** Call Alice at 601-934-1866 or 601-679-8112. Has installation access; can take children to school and pick up and available days, nights and weekends.

**Event Space for Rent:** Deer Creek Banquet Hall. 6000 sq. ft. indoor with 1600 sq. ft. outdoor spaces for rent for gatherings and events. Call Reginald at 251-455-1559.

**Listings in the "Sale...Or" column are free!**  
Submission deadline is the Wednesday prior to production.  
Email information to [nasmeridianpao@gmail.com](mailto:nasmeridianpao@gmail.com)



# Naval Chaplaincy School hosts Fleet Leadership Symposium

By William Dodge  
Center for Service Support

The Naval Chaplaincy School (NCS) hosted their Fleet Leadership Symposium (FLS) at Naval Station Newport, R.I., Nov. 5-6, 2024.

Senior leaders from the Navy Chaplain Corps, Religious Program Specialists (RP), and Surface Warfare Officers (SWO) joined together to foster a stronger partnership between chaplains and command triads.

“Having these experienced naval leaders together in one place to share insights and expertise is essential for both combat efficacy and the Spiritual Readiness of our warfighters and their families,” said Chaplain Capt. Charles Varsogea, commanding officer, NCS. “We especially want to focus our collaborative efforts on welcoming new chaplains to the fleet and guiding newly formed command teams on effectively integrating chaplains and RPs into their command structure.”

Key goals of the

symposium were to identify challenges and share best practices, develop actionable strategies, and strengthen communication channels with key leaders from Surface Warfare Schools Command (SWSC) joining in on roundtable discussions with the religious ministry team.

“In today’s complex dynamic security environment, our chaplains are integral to the well-being of our crews as the resiliency of our Sailors is tested daily,” said Capt. Andrew Klug, executive officer, SWSC. “As SWOs and commanders it is critical to have this continuum of dialogue and understanding with the chaplain corps so that we can effectively integrate religious teams on board our vessels to ensure our Sailors are ready to take the fight to our adversaries whenever called and wherever needed.”

Throughout the symposium, perspectives were shared from commands around the fleet including U.S. Fleet Forces, U.S. Pacific Forces, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic, II Marine



Photo by William Dodge

The Naval Chaplaincy School (NCS) hosts their Fleet Leadership Symposium at Naval Station Newport, R.I., Nov. 6.

Expeditionary Forces, and U.S. Pacific Fleet. Key to the successful integration of chaplains throughout the Navy are RPs, who play a vital role in establishing clear lines of communication, support, and understanding between Sailors, chaplains, and command triads.

“Our RPs play a crucial role helping our chaplains meet the spiritual and religious needs whether

afloat, across the deckplate, or in the field,” said Master Chief Religious Program Specialist (RPCM) Jennifer Kitson, who serves as Fleet RP for U.S. Pacific Fleet. “They are in place to provide that extra extension of the chaplain as a trusted listener, quality improver, and administrator ensuring our warfighters have the ears and avenues needed to follow their faith.”

As part of Naval Education and Training Command’s (NETC) Center for Service Support (CSS), NCS trains Navy chaplains and RPs to fulfill a critical role in helping Navy achieve and maintain a ready force. Their enduring mission is to train, develop, and inspire RMTs to pursue excellence as they strengthen the soul of the warfighter, the family, and the fleet.

CSS provides Sailors in the Naval Administration, Chaplaincy, Command Support, Program Management, Human Resources, Logistics, Maintenance Coordination, Media, and Security Management communities the necessary professional skills, knowledge, and education to support the fleet’s warfighting mission.

Learn more about NCS here: <https://www.netc.navy.mil/NCS/>.

To learn more about CSS follow here: <https://www.netc.navy.mil/CSS/>.

## NAS Meridian Sailors Help Clean up Merrehope



Photo courtesy of Merrehope

NAS Meridian Sailors volunteer to clean up the grounds at the historic Merrehope home. The clean-up was in preparation for Merrehope’s Trees of Christmas, which showcases over 60 beautifully decorated trees and enchanting exhibits will fill the air with festive cheer.

## Hero Marine Saves Fellow Marine and Tourist from Drowning in Hawaii

By Lance Cpl. Matthew Benfield  
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

On June 16, 2023, U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Sean Olson, administrative clerk, Headquarters and Service Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, went to China Walls, a favorite cliff-jumping spot on Oahu’s coast. The cliffs, known for their stunning ocean views and crystal-clear waters, regularly draws crowds seeking both thrills and relaxation. The sea was restless that day, its waves beginning to stir and crashing against the rocks. Olson, a former lifeguard from San Diego, had seen rough waters before, but nothing could have prepared him for what came next.

The casual events of the day quickly shifted when Olson spotted a young woman struggling to stay afloat in the rough surf below the cliffs. Olson’s instincts kicked in as he began to monitor the situation. He knew all too well how quickly the ocean’s mood can change. As the waves rose, the young woman fought to keep her head above water. Without hesitation, he leapt into the sea.

As the situation intensified, Olson’s training and experience took over. “As soon as I saw her plunge into the water, that’s when I knew it was time to jump in,” said Olson.

He reached the panicked woman, who was thrashing in the water and remained calm as he steadied her, allowing them to navigate through the hazardous surf.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Chloe Zimmerer

U.S. Marine Corps Col. Mark Schaefer, left, commanding officer, congratulates Cpl. Sean Olson, administrative specialist, both with Headquarters and Service Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, after his meritorious promotion and award ceremony on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Sept. 13.

Battling strong currents and waves that seemed to crash harder with every second, Olson skillfully brought the woman through the waves and to safety at the base of the cliffs.

Just as the adrenaline of the rescue subsided, another figure caught Olson’s attention—a second woman who was further out, intoxicated, and struggling to stay afloat. Despite the exhaustion setting in, Olson jumped back into the water. He reached the woman and began guiding her when a wave crashed over him, slamming him into the cliffs. Protecting his head with his arms, he felt a sharp sting as his back scraped the surface, leaving a deep gash.

Olson’s former lifeguard skills were sharpened by his time in the Marine Corps, where water survival training is a continuous effort. “I want to be a MCIWS, a Marine Corps

Water Instructor, it’s pretty much what got me into the Marine Corps,” Olson said afterward. His swift and decisive actions that day reflected not only his physical abilities but also his mental resilience, a combination of both his civilian and military experiences.

For his bravery and quick-thinking actions, Cpl. Olson was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal. His selfless act at China Walls, putting his own safety at risk to save others, is a testament to his dedication both as a Marine and as a person. In addition to the commendation, Cpl. Olson was also meritoriously promoted during the ceremony for his continuous hard work and dedication to his unit. His colleagues and superiors celebrated both achievements, highlighting the positive impact he continues to have within the community.

When the sun goes down...

don't let your eyelids do the same.

Drive alert. Plan your trip.



www.safetycenter.navy.mil



# N9 Nook

Check here to see the latest news with Fleet & Family, Child and Youth Programs, & MWR!

## FFSC OCT-DEC 2024

# SCHEDULE

### RECIPE SWAP

Get your oven mitts ready! Thanksgiving is right around the corner! Share your favorite recipe with someone else, and maybe find a new one for yourself!

NOV 19TH

DEC 2-6

### COMMAND FINANCIAL SPECIALIST TRAINING

Located at The Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405

### COOKIES FOR SAILORS

Do you love to bake? Great! Sign up to bake cookies for our sailors for Christmas!

DEC

▾

MORE INFO:

CALL: 601-679-2360

## FREE HOLIDAY MEAL FOR FAMILIES

- FREE HOLIDAY MEALS WILL BE GIVEN OUT ON **NOVEMBER 25TH** FROM 1700-1900  
AVAILABILITY FOR FIRST 20 FAMILIES (6 AND UNDER WILL HAVE PRIORITY)
- REGISTRATION WILL BE FROM **NOVEMBER 1-15** ONLINE  
SPECIFY NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS WHEN SIGNING UP IN THE COMMENTS SECTION
- 📍 LOCATION FOR PICK-UP IS **RUDDERS PUB AND GRILL**

SIGN-UP LINK FOR  
6 AND UNDER

SIGN-UP LINK FOR  
7 AND UP

EVERY SAT 7 PM

Get a strike with a colored headpin and receive 1 FREE game of bowling. Staff must be present when making the strike.

## Cosmic Bowling

McCain Recreation Center

## Join Fleet and Family for our RECIPE SWAP

Do you have a favorite recipe you love to cook? Great!

Join us to meet new friends and snag a new recipe to share with your family! Bring a copy of your recipe and submit it to Kasie at FFSC.

**Where: Fleet and Family Center, Bldg 405**  
**Day: Tuesday, Nov 19, 2024**  
**Time: 1pm-2pm**  
**Contact: 601-679-2360**  
**[kasie.d.mcinnis.naf@us.navy.mil](mailto:kasie.d.mcinnis.naf@us.navy.mil)**

Recipe tips:  
Be sure to add measurements and instructions on your recipe!  
Include to a photo of your finished dish to show off how good it is!

\*\*multiple submissions welcome\*\*

## Are you interested in hosting a service member for a holiday dinner?

IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT THE FLEET AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER AT 601-679-2360 OR EMAIL [KASIE MCINNIS AT KASIE.D.MCINNIS.NAF@US.NAVY.MIL](mailto:kasie.d.mcinnis.naf@us.navy.mil)