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Defense spending bill passes, pay raise for military

By C. Todd Lopez

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

Both the House and Senate have passed the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, which is expected to be signed by the president. Among other things, the bill authorizes a pay raise for both service members and civilian defense employees.

"This important legislation not only authorizes a 5.2% pay increase for service members and civilian employees ... but directly invests in America's national security and military power projection to meet the challenges of the 21st century," said Pentagon Press Secretary Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder during a briefing today.

The most recent National Defense Authorization Act supports \$841.4 billion in funding for the Defense Department.

Included in the bill are provisions related to service members and their families. For instance, the bill increases family separation allowance to \$400 per month.

Also included is language that excludes basic allowance for housing from the calculation of gross household income used to determine eligibility for the Basic Needs Allowance. That allowance is provided to service members with dependents who have a gross household income less than or equal to 150% of the federal poverty guidelines.

The FY24 NDAA also authorizes the Navy to enter into multi-year procurement contracts for up to 13 Virginia class submarines and authorizes the department to enter into multiyear procurement contracts for rare earth elements. Rare earth elements are used to manufacture the permanent magnets used in major U.S. military weapons systems and in the manufacture of rechargeable batteries.

While Ryder said the department applauds passage of the FY24 NDAA, it also urges congress to pass its supplemental budget request as well, which funds continued support to American partner nations and funds needed investments in the U.S. defense industrial base.

Navy League Honors



Photo by Penny Randall

The Mississippi Council of the Navy League held its annual meeting Dec. 19 -- at which Congressman Michael Guest was the guest speaker. The annual event also honors the Sailors, Marines and Instructor Pilots of the Year from Naval Air Station Meridian. Those pictured are (from left) LT Jonathan Jackson, VT-7 Navy Instructor Pilot of the Year; MA1 Darius Cummings, NAS Meridian Senior Sailor of the Year; PS1 Karen Sylvester, Naval Technical Training Center Meridian Instructor of the Year; Laura Carmichael, incoming president of the Navy League; Roger Burke, outgoing president; Congressman Michael Guest; Staff Sgt. Jasmine Scott, Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron One Instructor of the Year; HM1 Frank Olivas, Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Unit Meridian Senior Sailor of the Year; Capt. Will Hinkamp, VT-9 Marine Instructor Pilot of the Year; and Maj Casey Kinders, VT-7 Marine Instructor Pilot of the Year. Not pictured are LCDR Keith Devine, VT-9 Navy Instructor Pilot of the Year, and HM1 Angela Navarro-Fuentes, Navy Reserve Center Meridian Senior Sailor of the Year. The Navy League is a nonprofit civilian, educational and advocacy organization that supports America's sea services. The Mississippi Council of the Navy League was chartered in March 1956. To find out more information and to join the local chapter go to: <https://www.navyleague.org/become-a-member/individual-membership/>

U.S. Navy shoots down more than a dozen drones, missiles in Red Sea

By Diana Stancy Correll

Military Times

The Navy destroyer Laboon and other U.S. assets shot down more than a dozen drones and missiles in the Red Sea on Tuesday — just days after the ship took down four unmanned aerial vehicles in the same waters.

The incident is the latest episode where U.S. warships in the Middle East have intercepted air drones and missiles that officials claim originated from Iran-allied Houthi rebels in Yemen, amid heightened tensions in the region stemming from the Israel-Hamas war.

According to U.S. Central Command, U.S. assets including the Laboon and F/A-18 Super Hornets from the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group "shot down twelve one-way attack drones, three anti-ship ballistic missiles, and two land attack cruise missiles in the Southern Red Sea that were fired by the Houthis over a 10 hour period" on Tuesday.

"There was no damage to ships in the area or reported injuries," CENTCOM said.

No other details were immediately available, and CENTCOM did not say whether the attack targeted the Laboon.

Navy destroyers Laboon, Carney and Mason, have all taken down drones and missiles in recent weeks, while also providing assistance to commercial vessels in the region.

For example, the Laboon shot down four drones, which "were inbound" to the destroyer, as it conducted a patrol in the Southern Red Sea on Saturday ...

[Read more, click here](#)

Many military families to get a break on child care fees in 2024

By Karen Jowers

Military Times

At a time when numerous costs are increasing, many military families will see decreases in their child care expenses in 2024.

The lower rates at military child development centers will especially benefit those in the lower income categories. As before, the fees are based on total family income, to include spouse income and other sources.

Some families will see a cut of more than 40% in their fees, according to Military Times' calculations.

The bigger decreases are evident as families move into a lower fee category. Defense officials have collapsed the number of fee categories from 14 to 11, with higher income caps for each category. Officials are requiring the services to implement the new fees by January.

For those in the lowest income category outside high-cost areas,

the weekly child care fee has decreased from \$58 to \$54. The income cap in that category, however, has increased from \$30,810 to \$45,000. More people will be in that lowest category, therefore, and eligible for lower fees.

Thus, a service member with a total family income of \$45,000 will be paying \$54 each week, significantly less than the \$82 per week the family paid in 2023.

The changes impact the amount of money parents pay for full-time care in highly sought-after military child development centers, as well as other arrangements like fee-assistance child care programs in the civilian community.

Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth said in October the fee changes will mean military families with incomes of less than \$130,000 would see reductions in fees.

The highest income category is currently \$160,001 and above. Those in this category will pay \$215 per week, a 2% increase from the previous year.

[Read more, click here](#)

Three aviators earn ‘Wings of Gold’ in December pinning ceremony

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony Dec. 15 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian.

Three 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 Patrick Caraher



Capt. Steven Faulkner



LT Logan Hughes

Golden Stick



Photo by Adam Prince

Laura Carmichael, representing the Mississippi Council of the Navy League, left, presents the Golden Stick to Capt. Steven Faulkner during a winging ceremony in the Chapel onboard NAS Meridian, Dec. 15. The Golden Stick is awarded to the student with the highest composite score during training.

Bill Jones Retirement



Photo by Penny Randall

CAPT Luke Davis, left, NAS Meridian commanding officer, presents Bill Jones with a farewell photo from the command. Jones retires Dec. 30 from civilian service after 23 years including many years as the LCpl Roy M. Wheat Galley Food Service Officer.

Lisa Harris Retirement



LCDR Damian Allen, NAS Public Works Director, presents Lisa Harris, a FEAD contract specialist, with her 35-year civilian service certificate.

Submitted photo

Congress launches an investigation into the Osprey program

By Tara Copp
Associated Press

A congressional oversight committee has launched an investigation into the V-22 Osprey program following a deadly crash in Japan which killed eight Air Force special operations service members.

The entire Osprey fleet remains grounded following the Nov. 29 crash with the exception of limited Marine Corps flights in emergencies. More than 50 U.S. service members have died in Osprey crashes over the lifespan of the program, and 20 of those died in four crashes over the last 20 months.

The Osprey is a fast-moving airframe that can fly like both a helicopter and an airplane — but its many crashes have led critics to warn it has fatal design flaws.

The government of Japan, the only international partner flying the Osprey, has also grounded its aircraft after the Nov. 29 crash.

On Thursday the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Accountability sent a letter to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin requesting a massive amount of documentation on the Osprey’s safety record to be delivered to the committee by Jan. 4.

“Our servicemembers remain in harm’s way without resolution of known mechanical

issues,” wrote the committee chairman, Kentucky Republican James Comer. “While, statistically, the Osprey is not considered as dangerous as some other military aircraft, the Committee remains alarmed that most fatalities involving the aircraft have happened during training exercises, not combat operations.”

On Friday Senators Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren, and Rep. Richard Neal, all Massachusetts Democrats, also announced they were also pressing Austin for answers on the Osprey’s safety record. The three lawmakers represent the home state of Staff Sgt. Jacob Galliher, one of the eight Air Force special operations service members killed in the Japan crash.

“We urge the Defense Department, and the Departments of the Air Force and the Navy to ensure that the V-22 Osprey is safe to fly before allowing servicemembers from across the Commonwealth and the United States back on board,” the lawmakers wrote.

The Osprey only became operational in 2007 after decades of testing. Since then, it’s become a workhorse for the Marine Corps and Air Force Special Operations Command, and was in the process of being adopted by the Navy to replace its C-2 Greyhound propeller planes, which transport personnel on and off aircraft carriers at sea.

Shortly after the Nov. 29 crash, the Air Force said that a malfunction of the aircraft, not a mistake by the crew, was probably the cause. If it is the case, it will be the second known fatal crash caused by a mechanical problem with the aircraft in a year.

[Read more, click here](#)

The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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Local Happenings

JANUARY

27: Meridian Symphony Orchestra at 8 p.m. at the MSU Riley Center. Join the Meridian Symphony Orchestra and opera's preeminent voices as they transport you through history stepping into Mozart's Figaro, Puccini's La Bohème, Bernstein's Garden, and so much more! Call 601-696-2200.

Area Happenings

JANUARY

6: Great American Memphis Gun Show from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Memphis Music Room., 5770 Shelby Oaks Dr, Memphis, TN. Visit <https://midwestoutdoors.com/event/great-american-memphis-gun-show-4/2024-01-06/>

28: Disney's Aladdin (Touring) from 1-5 p.m. at the BJCC East Exhibition Hall, 2100 Richard Arrington Boulevard North, Birmingham, AL. Discover a whole new world at Disney's ALADDIN, the hit Broadway musical. Visit https://www.cbs42.com/community-calendar/?_escaped_fragment_=/show/?start=2023-11-13#!/details/Disney-s-Aladdin/12364841/2024-01-28T13



**See, Something,
Say Something...**
Onboard NAS Meridian contact
MA1 Joshua Johnson
Command Investigator
601-679-2502

Commander, Navy Installations Command holds change of command

Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) held a change of command ceremony at CNIC headquarters onboard Washington D.C.'s historic Navy Yard, Dec. 18.

Vice Admiral Scott Gray relieved Rear Admiral John V. Menoni, who had served as acting commander of Navy Installations Command since July 2023. Menoni will take over leadership of OPNAV N80 Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution.

Chief of Naval Operations Lisa Franchetti served as the guest speaker for the ceremony. During her remarks,

Franchetti commended Menoni for his accomplishments in his short time as acting commander of Navy Installations Command and lauded CNIC's importance to the Navy.

"CNIC is the critical link to everything we do, both at home and overseas," said Franchetti. "Every ship you reload and every aircraft you refuel is another payload delivered on behalf of the Navy. And at the same time, when our deployed forces head over the horizon, CNIC provides the support needed to take care of our Sailors and their families."

-- From Destiny Sibert

[Read more, click here](#)

Navy recovers downed Blackhawk in the Mediterranean Sea

A team of deep ocean salvage experts located and recovered the downed MH-60 Blackhawk that crashed into the Mediterranean Sea on Nov. 10. The aircraft was conducting routine training when it experienced an in-flight emergency resulting in the crash.

Under the direction of Commander, Task Force (CTF) 68, the Navy embarked experts from Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV), Phoenix International, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 8 (EODMU 8), and U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command (USASOAC) aboard the contracted multipurpose vessel, NG Worker, and proceeded to the crash site on Dec. 8. Once on station, highly skilled operators located and recovered the aircraft using state-of-the-art underwater

survey and recovery equipment mounted on the Deep Drone remote operated vehicle (ROV). The Deep Drone is a 4,100 pound ROV designed to meet the Navy's mid-water salvage requirements to a maximum depth of 8,000 feet.

"The success of this mission can be attributed to highly trained Sailors, Soldiers, and civilians from the combined Army-Navy team who came together and displayed extreme skill to safely recover the helicopter," said Cdr. John Kennedy, Commanding Officer of EODMU 8 and Commander, Task Group (CTG) 68.1. "Everyone onboard was humbled by the opportunity to play a small role in helping to bring closure to grieving families."

-- From Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet Public Affairs

[Read more, click here](#)

Commander, Naval Surface Forces, holds change of command

Vice Adm. Brendan McLane relieved Rear Adm. Yvette Davids as commander of Naval Surface Forces and Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, during a change of command ceremony at Naval Base San Diego with USS Jack H. Lucas (DDG 125) in the background, Dec. 21, 2023.

McLane assumes his new position following his tour as Commander, Naval Surface Force, Atlantic.

"We are a privileged few who get to serve in our nation's Surface Force, and it is our calling to ensure we remain the most ready and lethal force ever to sail

the seven seas," said McLane. "It does seem like just yesterday I was the chief of staff here under Admiral Rowden's inspiring leadership and after my service in SURFLANT, I can say that I live and breathe man, train, and equip. I relish, and am grateful, for the opportunity to lead the Surface Force. I look forward to serving alongside all of you."

A 1990 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, McLane's career spans more than three decades with distinguished service in a variety of roles both ashore and afloat.

-- From Lt. Zachary Anderson

[Read more, click here](#)

Sale... Or

BOATS/CAMPERS/TRAILERS

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

2018 Mallard M185 Travel Trailer. Sleeps 4 with 1 queen bed/2 bunks. Easy to tow at 3,575 lbs; only selling because military member is moving overseas. Great living

quarters with lake view. Hooked up and ready to live in, including cables, hoses, plus the \$500 towing kit. Asking \$17,000. Call 360-434-3035.

AUTOMOBILES, ETC.

2018 Subaru Outback 2.5 limited, 12k miles; Subaru safety features and warranties included. Asking \$29k. Call 601-480-5100.

2017 Dodge Challenger, grey with racing stripe. \$24k. Call 601-880-3237.

HOMES/APARTMENTS

For Rent: 3 BD/1.5 BA with another room used

as a gym. All kitchen appliances included. Large backyard. Address 145 Skyland Drive, Meridian. About 25 minutes to Navy Base. \$900 per month, with \$900 deposit. Available Aug. 1. No pets. Call 601-490-0849

For Rent: 3BD/2BD home near Causeyville Road. Furnished in quiet neighborhood. \$900 per month. 954-895-5485, 601-692-4048 or 606-571-0820.

For Rent: Water front home in Dalewood. Spacious two-story home facing the Lake; great for fishing and relaxing.

Remodeled kitchen and new appliances. Rent is \$1,800; please call 813-406-9687.

For Sale: 3BD/2BA Home with 2,560 sq. ft. Sits on 1 & 1/2 lots on dead end with privacy woods on 3 sides. Asking \$180,000. Contact: lucindawnichols@gmail.com, call 601-527-7829 or 601-917-6145.

For Rent: 2BD/1.5BA Home at 3702 Rollins Dr, Lauderdale in Dalewood. 2136 sq ft on a .29 acres lot. Beautiful newly renovated single family home. Call 973-876-5006.

For Rent: 2BD/1.5BA

single family home in Dalewood - fully renovated. Fenced in back yard with boat slip & pier. Pets allowed. Pet deposit \$300. \$1,300 rent per month. Call 973-876-5006.

For Sale By Owner: 3BD/3BA brick home with sunroom, large fenced in yard. Convenient to shopping and base. \$139K. Call 601-513-3395 or 601-227-1870.

MISCELLANEOUS

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.

To submit an item to the "Sale...Or" column, email adam.w.prince.civ@us.navy.mil. Deadline is the Wednesday prior to publication.

Listings in the "Sale...Or" column are free for anyone who works at NAS Meridian. To include your announcement, email adam.w.prince.civ@us.navy.mil

Sexual assault now tried outside military chain of command

From Department of Defense
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

Beginning Dec. 28, the decision to prosecute sexual assault and several other serious crimes has moved from an accused service member's chain of command to new Offices of Special Trial Counsel, which have general or flag officer leaders who report directly to the secretaries of the military departments.

This military justice reform is an important step in restoring faith that the system is fair, just and equitable, said senior Defense Department and military officials, who emphasized that the offices will be staffed by specially trained, independent military attorneys uniquely qualified to address complex cases. The OSTCs will handle cases professionally, applying the best practices and procedures of civilian prosecution offices, a senior DOD official said.

The covered offenses that fall under the authority of the new OSTCs include: murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, domestic violence, stalking, child pornography and most sexual assault and

sexual misconduct.

Sexual harassment will become a covered offense on Jan. 1, 2025, for crimes committed after that date where a formal complaint is made and substantiated.

In the case of sexual assault, the reform applies to unrestricted reports. A service member making an unrestricted report has decided to participate in a criminal investigation and support actions taken to hold the alleged offender appropriately accountable. Individualized, confidential help is available to understand these changes from special victims' counsel in the Army; victims' counsel in the Department of the Air Force; and victims' legal counsel in the Navy and Marine Corps. Sexual assault response coordinators can assist in contacting the attorneys and other assistance services.

Service members filing a restricted report of sexual assault may continue to report allegations confidentially without triggering an investigation, while still connecting with medical, legal and advocacy services and submitting information to the CATCH a

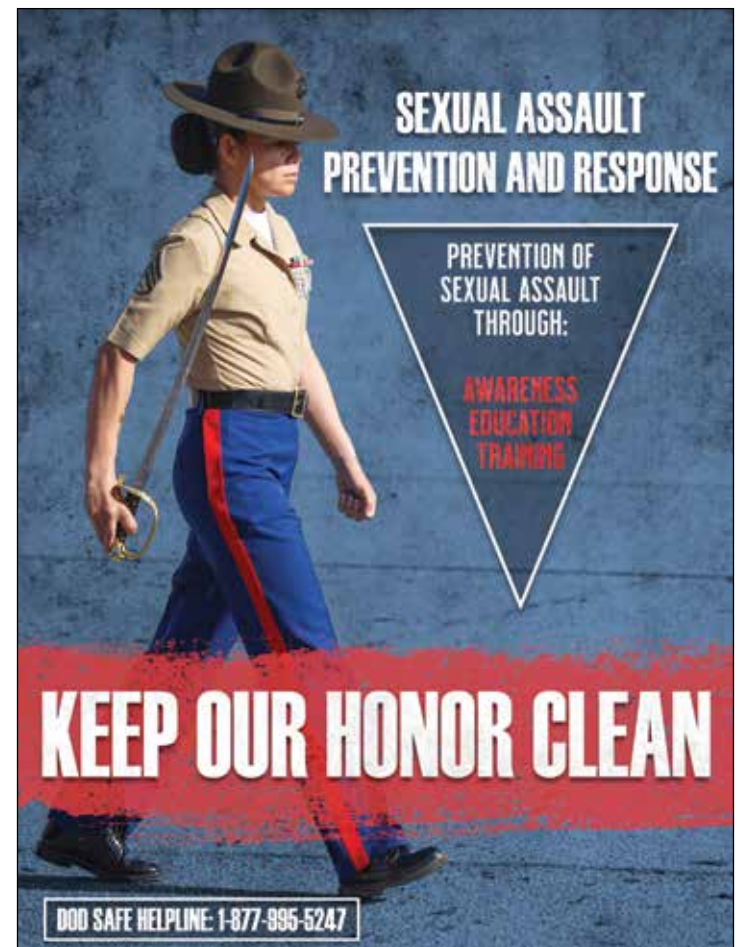
Serial Offender Program, if they choose.

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III has placed an unprecedented priority on countering the scourge of sexual assault in the military. This led him to stand up the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military early in his tenure. The reforms grew out of the commission's recommendations. After considering the commission's recommendations, DOD proposed historic military justice reforms, leading to congressional passage and presidential approval of the new system that takes effect today.

Improving accountability through military justice reform is just one of several, crucial lines of effort that DOD is undertaking.

"We are also taking major steps in the areas of prevention, climate, culture and victim care," a senior DOD official said.

"It is only with this comprehensive approach that we can prevent these crimes and work to restore the trust and confidence of our service members," said the DOD official.



Marine 1st lieutenants will have smoother path to captain promotions

By Irene Loewenson
Military Times

The Marine Corps is making it easier for first lieutenants to snag a promotion to captain, as part of the service's efforts to keep Marines from leaving.

Since 2016, first lieutenants have made the jump to captain only after selection boards review their files and select them for the promotion, Capt. Sarah Eason, a Marine Corps manpower spokesperson, said in an email to Marine Corps Times.

But in the coming year, the process is going to get simpler and easier, with all "fully qualified" first lieutenants securing the promotion, according to Eason.

The change, which comes as the Marine Corps is trying to boost retention, is also in part an attempt to trim the administrative and financial costs associated with convening the in-person promotion boards, according to Eason.

"This change will be assessed and refined to ensure it is

the best promotion process for Marines and aligns with the needs of the Marine Corps," Eason said.

Marines who have been first lieutenants for at least two years, and aren't pending separation within 90 days of the panel making decisions about the list of promotions, are considered fully qualified. Officers can be determined to be not fully qualified if they have "documented adverse material or substandard performance," Eason said.

The Marine Corps needs more captains than it can get through the promotion selection boards process, Eason said.

By law, the military can't promote more than 95% of eligible active duty officers if it's using the board process. But under the all fully qualified officer list method, the Marine Corps could select up to 100% of eligible first lieutenants for promotion to captain, Eason said.

That could be good news for first lieutenants who will be eligible for a promotion in the coming years. A promotion to captain comes with a pay increase: Captains with

four years' service currently make \$6,469.80 a month, to first lieutenants' \$5,682.60.

And then there's the added prestige and responsibility that comes with pinning on the captains' bars.

The Marine Corps unveiled the policy change in Marine administrative messages about the fiscal years 2025 and 2026 promotion processes.

First lieutenants who aren't on the fully qualified list will receive a "failure of selection," according to the messages. Across the military, lower-ranking officers who get two failures of selection must leave service.

The captain selection process for fiscal year 2025 begins Feb. 6, according to one of the messages.

Before fiscal year 2016, the Corps used the all fully qualified officer list method for captain promotions, according to Eason.

The Marine Corps' retention efforts, part of the Talent Management 2030 plan, have included offering bonuses to Marines with tough jobs or in-demand skills ...

[Read more, click here](#)

Under pressure at the command holiday party

Four steps into the entrance of the downtown Hyatt, I noticed a small run in my pantyhose. I took a deep breath, which was difficult considering I'd bound my midsection with no less than four layers of figure-enhancing spandex, and tried to channel a festive attitude toward my husband's command holiday party.

Holding onto Francis' arm like an invalid, I limped to the elevators with great difficulty, as the "Comfort Series" pumps I'd bought for the occasion pinched with every step. In the mirrored elevator, I noticed that the concealer I'd applied under my eyes in the minivan was two shades too light, giving me the look of a startled barn owl.

The dress I'd purchased in haste on a T.J. Maxx clearance rack did not look as flattering as it had in the store's dressing room. Furthermore, the uncomfortable

layers of underwear, control top pantyhose, Spanx, back-fat-reducing camisole, and underwire bra was only making me feel like an overstuffed bratwurst ready to burst from its gut casing.

As I hobbled out of the elevator toward the ballroom, Francis' demeanor suddenly changed. Like Clark Kent, he transformed from a man who wears black socks in his recliner while scratching himself and watching "King of Queens" reruns, into "Captain Molinari," ready to leap tall buildings with a single bound. As much as I wished I could turn into Cat Woman and leap out the window, I staggered along as Captain Molinari's pudgy sidekick with bad feet and a cheap dress.

I made a beeline to the bar for a little liquid courage, but Francis delayed my mission to introduce me to various coworkers. "Great to meet you," I'd say, while my mind raced to think of something interesting to say.

In the buffet line, I fought the urge to elbow colleagues out of the way to get my share of the Mediterranean Chicken, only to find that it was rubbery and bland. Of course, I ate it anyway, along with a heaping plate of tiramisu, cream puffs, cheesecake, and marshmal-

lows dipped in chocolate fondue. I could almost hear the creak of my undergarments, stressed to their maximum capacity.

After the plates were cleared, I thought I was holding my own among the mucky-mucks at our table. But then, the Admiral's wife signaled to me to wipe my face. Apparently, there was a large splotch of fondue chocolate dripping down my double chin.

I excused myself to the ladies room, not only to relieve bladder pressure, but to take a breather from social pressure, too. The young female sailor who'd just won the best-dressed competition, entered the stall right next to me.

There's nothing more equalizing than succumbing to one's bodily functions mere inches away from another human being. We flushed in tandem and met at the sinks to wash our hands. I broke the awkward silence by complimenting her lovely violet gown. She returned the compliment, an obvious obligatory gesture. I let her off the hook by joking, "I'm so packed into this dress, I almost knocked on your stall to ask if you'd help me get my Spanx back up."

By the time I returned to our table, the dance floor was dotted with a few

brave souls, gyrating to modern beats. Suddenly, the DJ called "Captain Molinari and his wife" to the dance floor to compete in the Salsa Competition. Francis and I had never learned how to do the Electric Slide, much less Latin Salsa dancing, and I'd felt the pain of my husband's size 11 quadruple E foot during our feeble attempts over the years. But Francis couldn't refuse the DJ's request, so we salsa-ed with about as much Latin authenticity as the fried ice cream at Chi Chi's. Mercifully, we were eliminated before the song was half-over.

Later at home, while undressing in our bedroom, I joked, "Beware of flying hardware!" just before releasing the hooks and latches on my figure-enhancing undergarments. Finally, in my flannel PJs and under the sheets, I was relieved that I'd not only survived the pressure those torturous trusses had put on my internal organs, I'd also made it through another Command Holiday Party and lived to tell the tale.

Lisa Smith Molinari's self syndicated columns appear on her blog, www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com and she recently co-authored *Stories Around the Table: Laughter, Wisdom, and Strength in Military Life* Follow [Lisa@MolinariWrites](https://www.instagram.com/LisaMolinariWrites).

COLUMN



Molinari



CAPTAIN'S CUP SOFTBALL

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DECEMBER 20-JANUARY 25**

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JANUARY 25TH AT 1500**

**GAMES BEGIN:
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