

THE SKYLINE



Volume 62, Number 20

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

October 17, 2024

On Base

MATTS-1 Trunk or Treat
Oct. 18 • 1700
Parking Lot across from NEX
(205 Highley Road Meridian, MS)
For more info, contact
601-679-2698

Open Bowling Tournament

-McCain Recreation Center
-1st Thursday of Every Month
at 1800
-\$10 sign up fee

Trick or Trunk

Oct. 26 • 1400-1600
Field Across from Bldg. 255

FOLLOWED BY:

Trick or Treating
in NAS Meridian
Homes (base housing)
from 1630-1900

Get Connected



SCAN for NAS Meridian App



SCAN for the Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box



Follow us!

Navy Birthday Celebrations



Photos by MC2 Molly Tice

Naval Air Station Meridian celebrated the Navy's 249th Birthday. Celebrations began at the Navy Ball held at the MSU Riley Center, Oct. 5. The Roy M. Wheat Galley hosted a special Navy Birthday Galley Meal and the Navy Exchange held a cake cutting inside the store, Oct. 9. In 1972, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt authorized official recognition of October 13 as the birthday of the U.S. Navy. Since then, each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide celebration of this occasion "to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service."

Command Financial Specialist Graduates Teach TSP Class at NTTC

From Staff Reports

Several staff members from various tenant commands recently taught a class on Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) to 67 "A" school enlisted students at Naval Technical Training Center (NTTC) Meridian. This class was part of a capstone event for the Command Financial Specialist (CFS) certification course which involves teaching several Touchpoint Curriculum topics, including TSP, in order to graduate. The recent class included Logistics Specialist 1st Class Darryl Walton, Air Traffic Controlman 1st Class Brett Godfrey, Sergeant Andrew Walling and Sergeant Hunter Hill.

The Personal Financial Manager and Financial Educator at Fleet and Family Support Center Meridian, Marie Brinston, began having her graduates teach at NTTC after the need for students to receive TSP information and



Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

Air Traffic Controlman 1st Class Brett Godfrey informs "A" school students about the Thrift Savings Plan onboard NAS Meridian at the Naval Technical Training Center, Sept. 19.

resources was brought to her attention.

"Recognizing this as a mutually beneficial opportunity, I presented the need to the CFS class. Given

their personal experience with TSP and the rigorous preparation for the CFS certification, the Navy and Marine members of the class were enthusiastic about providing

an informative presentation," Brinston said.

Both NTTC students and graduates of the CFS certification course benefit greatly from these classes; the students learn valuable financial management information that will enhance their careers and lives post-military and the graduates are able to gain valuable teaching experiences while also enhancing their teamwork skills.

After much success with the first class, Brinston has decided to continue the TSP classes at NTTC, stating, "This approach is creating more partnership opportunities to better leverage staff while educating many on financial management. The overall topic and discussions were well-received."

The next Command Financial Specialist training is scheduled for Dec. 2-6. To register for the class call 679-2360 or email: shirley-marie.brinston.naf@us.navy.mil.

Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box: Q & A

Thank you for your questions and feedback using the CO's suggestion box. We are working to respond to all issues. Any specific comments not addressed this week are still in works and we hope to provide feedback soon.

Q. The American flag flying on the flight line is tattered and torn. Recommend replacing it if possible.

A. Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The flag has been retired and replaced.

Q. The speed change from 45 to 30 mph on Fuller Road, down the hill from the clinic, needs to be moved up the hill before the clinic crosswalk. The current location

of the sign was based off of the crosswalk for the golf course, which is gone. Moving the speed change sign down at the airfield was helpful and appreciated.

A. The old golf cart trail is still an active walking / running trail. The cross-walk will remain and is slated to be re-painted.

Q. Good Afternoon, I am reaching out as a retired Navy Chief and wanted to know why the galley will not allow us to eat there. The galley's salad bar and vegetables that are available provide a much healthier alternative than Subway or Rudders. Thank you for your time

A. Thank you for your question. Currently Navy regulations prevent

the mass opening of the Galley except for approved special event day meals.

****Statements concerning individual employees will be directed to the appropriate Chain of Command.**

●Suggestions, page 4



Pilot Program to Cover Certain Child Care Costs After Permanent Change of Station Move

By C. Todd Lopez
DOD News

This week the Department of Defense kicks off a three-year pilot program meant to reimburse service members up to \$1,500 for travel-related expenses incurred for a temporary child care provider following a permanent change of station move.

When an active duty service member makes a permanent change of station move to a new duty location and finds that child care at the local child development center won't be available within 30 days of their report date, they can hire their own provider, typically a relative or family friend, and then later file for reimbursement of transportation-related expenses.

The process begins with a service member visiting the military child care website to apply for child care at their new duty location, said Christopher Woods, chief of the policy branch within the Defense Travel Management Office.

"If the scheduling shows that care could not be provided within 30 days of the member's report date, then the member would become eligible to bring a child care provider to their permanent duty station to look after the child while the member reports to work and their spouse begins to do all those things like unpacking or finding their next job," Woods said.

The military child care website is the DOD's official tool to sign up for

child care. When the program begins in October, the website will provide instructions to affected service members and generate the necessary forms that allow service members to obtain the needed child care.

"What would happen at that point is the member takes that documentation that they have from MilitaryChildCare.com... and they begin to coordinate with their local travel office to treat that child care provider much like they would treat a dependent to begin to make the commercial travel reservations," he said.

Reimbursement is limited to commercial transportation expenses, including flights, rail tickets, transportation to or from an airport and an en route and departure rental car. Reimbursement for privately owned vehicle mileage is not authorized, while reimbursement for fuel used in a privately owned vehicle is.

For a permanent change of station move between locations within the continental United States, reimbursement is limited to \$500. For a move to or from a duty station outside the continental United States, the reimbursement is limited to \$1,500.

Typically, a child care provider in these situations would be a relative or family friend, Woods said. But it could also be an au pair, for instance. But Woods also said that reimbursement is for transportation only — both at the start of the period needed for



Photo by Space Force Airman 1st Class Justin Todd
Lenese Rogers reads a story to a group of children at a child development center on Peterson Space Force Base, Colo., Nov. 9, 2023.

child care and at the end, to send the child care provider home. There is no reimbursement to pay a child care provider a salary or to provide for room and board.

As part of the program, only one child care provider is authorized per military family, and only one service member in a military-to-military couple can request reimbursement.

The pilot program, which lasts three years and runs Oct. 1, 2024, through Sept. 30, 2027, comes after direction by Congress in the 2023 National Defense

Authorization Act, Woods said.

While the program is active, said Heidi E. Welch, the associate director for child and youth programs operations, it's expected to relieve a burden on military families.

"Coming from the child care perspective, this is going to help families, so they have less strain," Welch said. "PCSing is a challenge and it's very difficult. I think this is going to relieve some of the strain and burden that families have as they're making those PCS transitions."

Fire Prevention Week Onboard NAS Meridian



Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

Fire Chief Twaskie Graham reads a story to children during Story Time at the Andrew Triplett Library, Oct. 9.

From Staff Reports

NAS Meridian Fire and Emergency Services celebrates Fire Prevention Week by hosting events to explain how to prevent fires.

The week began with CAPT. Luke H. Davis signing the Fire Prevention Week Proclamation at Fire Station One, Oct. 7.

The Fire and Emergency Team celebrated the week at the School Age

Care Center by telling children how to prevent fires, meeting Sparky the Fire Dog and touring a fire truck, Oct. 8.

Children at the Coy Stennis Child Development Center got to meet Sparky the Fire Dog and see a fire truck as well, Oct. 9.

Fire Chief Twaskie Graham read a story to children at the Andrew Triplett Library. Those in attendance received booklets and got to interact with Sparky, Oct. 9.

Roman Catholic Service

at the NAS Meridian Chapel

Oct. 26 & Nov. 9
0930: Confession
1000: Mass

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

The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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Hotlines & Helpful Numbers

SAPR Victim Assistance: 601-604-3037
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

OCTOBER:

19: Fish Fry, 11 a.m. - Fish Fry at the Fleet Reserve Association on Hwy 39 North. Plates are \$15 and include baked beans, coleslaw, and hush puppies!

19: BOO!seum, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Join us at the Meridian Children's Museum in your costumes for spooky science, festive fall games, creepy-crawly crafts, and glow-in-the-dark dance parties! [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

19: Festival on Front Street, 4:30 p.m.-7 p.m. - Local restaurants showcase cultural dishes from around the World. Live music by Terry Cherry and the Bigger Band. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the gate. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

25: Ale Trail: Spooky Edition, 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. - For your Friday evening pleasure, Downtown Meridian eateries and drinkeries are taking you on a Spooky Ale Trail. Start your night by picking up Ale Trail cards at Harvest Grill between 5-7 p.m. Then visit participating trail locations for special food and beverage treats. Your final stop will be Spacey's Rock n' Roll Tattoo for live entertainment. Don't be scared! Grab a drink and hit the town with your good time posse. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

26: LFW Mega Sale, 6 a.m. - 11 a.m. - Mega yard sale at Agape Storehouse Church. If you would like to have a booth at the yard sale, contact Staci Harden at 601-527-6888. Booth spaces are \$25 and \$10 for an additional booth. Yard sale is rain or shine.

26: Candy Crawl, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. - Bring your little ones for a spooktacular good time. Children dress up in their finest costumes, go trick-or-treating at local businesses, and enjoy delicious treats from food trucks. **Located in Downtown Meridian.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

AREA HAPPENINGS

OCTOBER:

4-31: The Great Bellingrath Harvest, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Get ready for a season brimming with fun, festivities, and family-friendly events. Our gardens will transform into a vibrant autumn wonderland, featuring delightful activities that celebrate the beauty and bounty of the harvest season. Over 5,000 pumpkins will arrive and be displayed starting the second week of October! **Located in Theodore, AL.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

19: Dwight Yoakam, 7:30 p.m. - Concert features performances by The Mavericks & Drayton Farley. **Located in Brandon, MS.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

24-27: Disney on Ice presents Into the Magic - No dream is too big at Disney On Ice presents Into the Magic! Seek adventure in the great wide somewhere with Belle, experience Moana's journey to save her island, and sing-along with Miguel from Coco. Be inspired by Anna's devotion to her sister Elsa and watch Rapunzel and Flynn go to great lengths to fulfill her dream. Celebrate the magic of courage, love and adventure at Disney On Ice this October! **Located in Birmingham, AL.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

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Fair Winds & Following Seas Chief Samuel Clark



Photo by Evelyn Adams

Fair winds and following seas to MAC Samuel Clark. Chief Clark and his family are piped ashore for the last time at his retirement ceremony at the Navy Reserve Center onboard NAS Meridian, Oct. 11. Chief Clark assumed his duties at NAS Meridian's Security Department in January 2021.

Navy Exchange Hosts AED Training



Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

David Waldman, NAS Meridian Fire Station Captain, conducted AED training at the Navy Exchange on board NAS Meridian, Oct. 11. NAS Meridian Fire and Emergency Services have made it their mission to ensure base employees are capable and confident in emergency situations.

Sale... Or

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.

HOMES/APARTMENTS

NEW For Rent: 1 bedroom / 1 bathroom. 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: 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 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.

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

Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box: Questions & Answers



● Suggestions

Q. Is it possible to repave the sidewalk around the lake near the old officers club? It's very torn up and bumpy - almost a hazard for running and difficult for strollers.

A. Thank you for the feedback. This renovation project will begin once our Inter Governmental pavement projects begin in FY26. We are entering a partnership with local and state government over a 10-year period to replace our roads and sidewalks.

Q. The base police are overly aggressive with enforcing rules which are seemingly meaningless. For example ticketing cars for parking in an instructor parking area where a space should exist but doesn't. Now these officers need to go to Jackson to deal with a court hearing greatly

reducing availability to be on the flight schedule that day. Another instance is pulling over cars as they exit the base for speed slightly over the speed limit. A highly adversarial relationship is forming between them and "us," everyone knows they have nothing better to do than harass students and instructors which is why the base exists in the first place.

A. The speed limits on base exist for the safety of all personnel. Multiple recent near-misses with pedestrians and gross violations, including a ticket issued to someone driving 70 mph on base, highlight the need for continued enforcement. Armed Forces Traffic Tickets (AFTT) for minor offenses (like parking) are adjudicated at traffic court on board NAS Meridian. Requirements to attend court in Jackson are generally reserved for more egregious circumstances to include reckless driving or excessive speed violations. For awareness, NAS Meridian and CNATRA continue to pursue funds for expanding the parking lot at Hangar 2. Until we secure these funds, parking will continue to be at a premium.

Q. What's up with the diner down by the flight line and the club. Are these buildings not usable anymore?

A. Thank you for your interest. Unfortunately, Mom's Diner is no longer usable due to asbestos, mold and safety concerns. It is slated to be demolished later this year. Projects and considerations for expanding food options on base are still ongoing including a modular food trailer at Mom's current location.



Heroes on the Frontlines: Florida National Guard Races to the Rescue After Tornadoes Devastate During Hurricane Milton



Photo by Maj. Cammy Alberts

U.S. Army soldiers from the Florida and South Carolina National Guard search for residents in need of assistance near Stuart, Florida, Oct. 10. Areas of the city were decimated by tornadoes spawned by Hurricane Milton as the storm progressed across the state.

The Florida National Guard's 1st Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment quickly mobilized to respond to a series of tornadoes that touched down near Fort Pierce on Oct. 10, 2024, as Hurricane Milton swept across the region. Within hours, the battalion's soldiers were actively conducting search and rescue (SAR) operations, clearing roads, and ensuring residents' safety in some of the hardest-hit areas.

Delta Company led the initial response, despite worsening conditions, clearing approximately 30 miles of road that had been blocked by fallen trees and debris. Their swift action allowed emergency vehicles and first responders

to access the devastated communities more efficiently. The company reached 18 communities in the first few hours, making contact with more than 100 residents to ensure their safety, distribute supplies, and offer assistance.

"We train for disaster response all year, but when the moment comes, it's about putting that training into action. Our soldiers reacted quickly, clearing roadways and making sure families were safe. We knew lives were on the line, and that's what drives us to be the first ones there," said Lt. Col. Kevin Shuler, 1st battalion commander.

The battalion's SAR mission

was critical in rescuing 15 adults, four children, and five dogs trapped in homes and vehicles by floodwaters and debris. Soldiers used high-wheeled vehicles and specialized equipment to navigate difficult terrain and ensure swift rescues. Delta Company, led by First Sgt. Pedro Montero, who is a firefighter with the City of Miami Fire Department and a member of the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue South Florida Task Force 2, played a key role in these rescues, working tirelessly to reach those in danger.

-- Maj. Cammy Alberts
125th Fighter Wing

[Read more, click here](#)

More than just an Airshow: Thousands Experience Marine Corps Firsthand

"The Marines you see here today are not performers—they're here between demanding training evolutions and real-world deployments. These are the same Marines who will be called upon to execute missions across the globe... They're here for you today, but their duty calls them to be ready for any challenge at any time."

These words rang out from "show center," heard by hundreds of thousands of spectators at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar on the final weekend of September, as the sound of freedom rang from the skies.

America's Airshow 2024 was a three-day showcase of military aviation prowess and cutting-edge technology. As the largest Department of Defense air show event in the country,



Photo by Sgt. Ezekieljay Correa

A U.S. Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 362, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, flies above the flight line during the Marine Air-Ground Task Force demonstration of the 2024 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Airshow in San Diego, Sept. 27.

this air show not only captivated audiences with breathtaking aerial displays, but also provid-

ed an inside look to the capabilities, ethos, and trajectory of the United States Marine Corps.

What sets America's Airshow apart from the typical airshow circuit is the Marine Air-Ground Task Force demonstration, which showcased the integrated capabilities from across I Marine Expeditionary Force in modern, multifaceted warfare scenarios.

"The Marine Air Ground Task Force is our answer to the changing face of war. It is a complete combat force—integrating air, ground, and logistics elements under a single command," said Maj. Clarke "Smokey" Saylor, CH-53E Super Stallion pilot and the demonstration's narrator.

During the demonstration, F-35C Lightning IIs and F/A-18C Hornets sensed the battlefield and conducted initial strikes, with special effects

and pyrotechnics simulating the engagement. Then AH-1Z Vipers flew in with more simulated suppressive fire, while force reconnaissance Marines from 1st Marine Division fastroped from UH-1Y Venoms.

In the distance, two CH-53E Super Stallions demonstrated their dynamic heavy-lift capability as a 1st Marine Logistics Group Helicopter Support Team sling-loaded a Joint Light Tactical Vehicle and an M777 Howitzer artillery cannon.

Shortly thereafter, a KC-130J Super Hercules showcased a short, expeditionary airfield landing, when infantry Marines and Ultra Light Tactical Vehicles pour out, joining the recon Marines in security positions.

-- Maj. Natalie Batcheler
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

[Read more, click here](#)

N9 Nook

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

TRICK OR TRUNK AND COSTUME CONTEST

STARTS AT 3 PM

CANDY GAMES LIVE DJ PRIZES

Saturday, Oct. 26
2 pm - 4 pm

In the field across from Bldg 255

Wear your best Halloween costume and join the fun! No registration needed. Prizes to the top 3 costumes and overall winner for trunk or treat.

FFSC SCHEDULE OCT-DEC 2024

- OCT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**
Support awareness by stopping at FFSC to get a purple ribbon and write an encouraging word on our banner!
- MWR TRICK OR TRUNK OCT 26TH**
Stop by the Fleet and Family booth and get information on DV and Fleet and Family programs!
- NOV 12TH WELCOME ABOARD**
Located at The Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405. Spouses welcome to join!
- NOV 19TH 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!
- DEC 2-6 COMMAND FINANCIAL SPECIALIST TRAINING**
Located at The Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405
- DEC COOKIES FOR SAILORS**
Do you love to bake? Great! Sign up to bake cookies for our sailors for Christmas!

MORE INFO: CALL: 601-679-2360

Cosmic Bowling

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.

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

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****