

Freedom Fest

June 27 ● 1700-2100

On Base

Spare Time Bowling League June 9 - August 18

Swim Lessons

June-July Group Lessons: \$75/8 lessons Private Lessons: \$25/per session

Contact 601-679-2379 for more info.

> Staff Nights Every Wednesday 1700-2000 Rudders

Open Mic Night Every Friday in August Rudders • 1900-2100





SCAN for the Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box

Redesigned 'Warfighter' Carousel Horse Unveiled at NAS Meridian

From Queen City Newsfeed

Naval Air Station Meridian unveiled its newly redesigned carousel horse, Warfighter, during a ceremony June 3 in front of the Pass & ID Welcome Center.

The event, organized by NAS Meridian's First Class Petty Officer's Association, marked the renewal of the base's long-standing participation in the "Around Town Carousel Abounds" project -- an initiative that raises awareness and support for Hope Village for Children. The original Warfighter horse was dedicated in 2008 and had stood at the entrance of the Navy base for 17 years before showing signs of deterioration. The updated design

was created by Mass

Communication Specialist 2nd Class Molly Tice and painted by Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Justin Gibson, the current president of the First Class Petty Officer's Association. The unveiling fea-

The unveiling featured remarks from CAPT Luke Davis, commanding officer of NAS Meridian, along with Casey Culpepper, Director of Development, and Kathy Parrish, Community Outreach Coordinator, both representing Hope Village for Children.

The Warfighter carousel horse continues to serve as a symbol of the base's connection to the Meridian community and its support of local children's services through Hope Village. The design is an ode to the colors of the T-45 Goshawk jets flown at NAS Meridian.



Photo by Evelyn Reese

Sailors from NAS Meridian's First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA) pose with the redesigned "Warfighter" carousel horse that was unveiled June 3. The FCPOA began the redesigning efforts last year and we are so grateful for their hard work.



AirPower Foundation Visits Library

AirPower Foundation's three Rodeo Royalty queens visited the Andrew Triplett Library today onboard NAS Meridian. They read books, sang songs, and barrel raced with stick horses! The Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting military families, they strive to provide comprehensive assistance and resources to those who have sacrificed for our country. Through various programs and initiatives, the Foundation offers emotional support, financial aid, educational opportunities, and community engagement to help alleviate the unique challenges faced by military families.

Photo by Evelyn Reese

Juneteenth Holiday Facility Hours



Scan to see FFSC's Facebook!

Commissary: 0900-1700 FFSC: Closed Galley: Brunch: 0900-1200 Dinner: 1630-1830 Navy Federal: Closed NEX: 1000-1600 NMRTU Meridian: Closed MWR: Bowling: 1000-1600 CYP: Closed Community Rec: 1000-1600 Fitness Center: 0900-1600 (24/7 registration access will still be available) Liberty: 0900-1600 Library: Closed Rudders: Closed

For optimal digital viewing, open The Skyline with an internet browser or turn off protected view on your Abode reader.

Fleet Readiness Center Southeast Establishes New T-45 Repair Capability

By Ashley Sherman FRCSE

In November 2024, Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) stood up repair capability for a T-45 Goshawk service life extension program (SLEP) production line supporting the Naval Undergraduate Flight Training Systems Program Office (PMA-273).

FRCSE expects the first SLEP wing swap and full aircraft SLEP in June 2025, only 13 months after the Navy identified the requirement in May 2024. Usually, this process takes upward of two years.

Currently, the command has one fuselage and three wings on deck, with each wing SLEP expected to take 4,000 working hours and each fuselage to take 24,000. The command expects to ramp up to work on 12 aircraft simultaneously by 2028 and the work to continue through the 2030s.

"The point of the service life extension program is to extend the flyable hours on the T-45 aircraft," said Jeff Cavanaugh, FRCSE's F-5 production line lead. "Right now, those hours are being reached at a faster rate than anticipated. The Goshawk is important because pilots receive their carrier qualification on this airframe, which must be completed before a pilot can fly any other carrier-capable fighter."

PMA-273 called on the command for this workload because of its proven track record establishing rapid repair capability to deliver warfighting readiness. Since the Goshawk is the primary Navy and Marine Corps tandem-seat jet trainer, the tasking came with urgency.

After getting the initial call for the new work, the FRCSE team immediately began preparation, but the process presented challenges including aircraft movement,

tooling and equipment obstacles.

"Fortunately, we had access to a stricken aircraft that we were permitted to use as a mock for proposed engineering repairs," said James Bock, an FRCSE business development office structural and mechanical component lead. "However, we needed to make the aircraft mobile to transport it on public roads to our facility, which involved many logistical challenges. It was vital because having the fuselage onsite allowed us to create shoring that made concurrent work possible."

Further, FRCSE artisans use standard customary units for their tooling, but the T45 was built using metric measurements.

"Outside of moving the aircraft from Cecil Field, the first challenge was identifying the type of tooling we needed," said Cavanaugh. "We've created metric kits to use while we build up comprehensive toolboxes." our

Understanding the challenges, tight timeline and complexity of the SLEP tasking, the team realized it was necessary to divide the initial depot capability (IDC) into phases.

"To provide the most positive impact back to the fleet, we came up with an incremental approach," said Bock. "During phase one, or IDC, we trucked in three wings and performed SLEP on all three to get ahead of the process. With a backlog of wings, it's easier to transition to IDC phase two, which allows aircraft to fly into FRCSE and swap their wings with ones that have already undergone SLEP.

Finally, we have full depot capability, where we will see aircraft getting the full scope of SLEP work."

To perform the majority of the work on the T-45 wing, the command had to obtain a flip jig-a piece of equipment that allows the artisans to work on the wing's underside. The jig turns

over, or flips, the approximately 2,000-pound wing so that artisans can conduct the repairs safely and ergonomically. After the jig was acquired, personnel underwent training and certification to effectively and safely operate it.

"The majority of the work on the wing is done on the bottom, so being able to acquire the flip jig, or the device we use to flip the wing, was vital so that artisans don't have to conduct this work over their heads or upside-down," said Cavanaugh.

"Our T-45 team's ability to urgently answer the Navy's call without compromising quality is a testament to their commitment and expertise," said Capt. Mike Windom, FRCSE commanding officer. "This accomplishment highlights not only their resolve, but also FRCSE's commitment to getting capability into the hands of warfighters faster."

Promotions onboard NAS Meridian!



Supply Officer and has served 4 years in the U.S.

Photo by Penny Randall CAPT Luke Davis, left, administers the Officers Oath of Office to LT Melissa Palmacuapio, May 30, as her husband looks on. LT Palmacuapio is NAS Meridian's

Courtesy Photo

CAPT Juston Kuch, commodore of Training Air Wing One, administrated the Oath of Office to newly appointed Lieutenant Commander Benjamin H. Winters, USN, June 2. LCDR Winters' was accompanied by his wife and daughter during this meaningful and formal event.

Courtesy Photo

CAPT Juston Kuch, commodore of Training Air Wing One, administrated the Oath of Office to six newly appointed Lieutenant Junior Grade student aviator's, May 28. He also personally congratulated the newly appointed on their noteworthy promotion within the **United States Naval Service**

NAVFAC Southeast Awards \$227.6M Contract for New GITMO Medical Facility

By Jeffrey Hamlin NAVFAC Southeast

Navy.

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Southeast awarded a \$227.6 million fixed-price design-build contract June 3 to DPR-RQ Construction LLC of Carlsbad, California, for a new ambulacenter and dental care clinic at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (NSGB), Cuba. The project reflects the Navy's commitment to enhancing the health, readiness, and quality of life for service members and their families at this strategic overseas location. This project is more than just a new building; it's a strategic investment in the health and resilience of military person-



nel and their families stationed at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay," said Capt. Miguel Dieguez, commanding officer of NAV-FAC Southeast. "Reliable access to high-quality, comprehensive care is critical in a location as remote as Guantanamo Bay. This new facility will ensure our shipmates will continue to

services, pharmacy, radiology, administrative sterilization, support, and logistical services.

Support infrastructure includes utilities, communications upgrades, site improvements, parking, signage, antiterrorism and force protection measures, environmental protection features, an ambulance garage, medical waste incinerator, and a helipad with backup power. Demolition of the existing hospital is not included in the contract. The contract was competitively procured via SAM.gov, with one offer received. It is incrementally funded and includes eight unexercised options that could increase the total value to more than \$237 million. Work is expected to be com-

Photo by Jeffrey Hamlin

The current Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay, built in 1954 and dedicated in 1956, has served generations of service members and their families stationed at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. On June 3, NAVFAC Southeast awarded a \$227.6 million contract to construct a new state-of-the-art Ambulatory Care Center and Dental Clinic.

receive the care they deserve right where they live and serve."

The facility will replace outdated infrastructure with a modern complex designed to deliver a broad range of medical services. Once operational, it will offer primary care, emergency and trauma care, behavioral health, general surgery, women's health, orthopedics, optometry, physical therapy, dental care, laboratory and morgue

pleted by September 2029.

The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

Command Staff Commanding Officer ~ **CAPT Luke H. Davis** Executive Officer ~ **CDR Mike Missler** Command Master Chief ~ **CMDCM Randy Griffeth**

Editorial Staff Public Affairs Officer ~ Penny Randall Public Affairs Specialist~ **Evelyn Reese** Photographer~ **MC2 Molly Tice**

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

JUNE:

12, 5-7 p.m. - Michael Farris Smith at the MAX - Meet acclaimed author Michael Farris Smith at The MAX to celebrate the release of his latest book, Lay Your Armor Down-along with a screening of his latest short film, Chasing Rabbits, followed by a Q&A with the author and filmmakers and book signing. Located at The MAX in Downtown Meridian. <u>Click here for tickets, entries, & info.</u>

13, 5-10 p.m. - Never Ending Summer Ale Trail - Pick up ale cards (5PM-7PM) at Fare on Eighth and we're ending at Brickhaus (10PM). Expect Brews, Cocktails, Mocktails, and delicious Small Bites to keep your spirits high. Live music included. **Located in Downtown Meridian.** <u>Click here for tickets, entries, & info.</u>

14, 7:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. - Elite Physical Therapy Car Wash -Fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association. **Located at 4908 Great River Drive Meridian, MS 39305.**

14, 8 - 10 a.m. - Mornin' Cars Cafe at Soule - This event was created to bring automobile and truck enthusiasts together at the Soule' Steam Museum. This FREE event will allow you to show off your car or truck...restored, survivor, hot-rodded or a work in progress. Individuals and car clubs are welcome to participate. Come share a cup of coffee with us! Located at 1808 4th Street Meridian, MS 39301. Click here for tickets, entries, & info.

19-22 - Juneteenth Heritage Festival - This vibrant heritage and freedom celebration is centered around music with activities for children, a business expo, uplifting gospel celebration and more. **Located in Downtown Meridian.** <u>Click here for tickets, entries, & info.</u>

AREA HAPPENINGS

JUNE:

15, 6:30 p.m. - Chicago the Musical - The musical is set in the
1920s and tells the story of Roxie Hart, a housewife and nightclub
dancer, who murders her lover when he threatens to leave her.
Located at the Saenger Theatre in New Orleans, LA. <u>Click here for</u>
tickets, entries, & info.

20, 7:30 p.m. - An Evening with Heart - Heart will be performing their catalog of global chart-topping classic hits including "Magic Man," "Barracuda," "Crazy on You" and "These Dreams." Located at the Legacy Arena in Birmingham, AL. <u>Click here for tickets, entries, &</u> info.

22, 7:30 p.m. - Matt Rife: Stay Golden Tour - Located at the Coca-Cola Amphitheater in Birmingham, AL. <u>Click here for tickets</u>, <u>entries</u>, <u>& info</u>.

25, 7:30 p.m. - Dave Matthews Band - Located at the Ameris Bank Amphitheater in Alpharetta, GA. <u>Click here for tickets, entries, &</u> <u>info.</u>

Introduction to Naval Aviation: We Train Even in the Rain



Courtesy Photo

Marine Capt. Wyatt McCranie of VT-7 and AZ1 Juliann Catignas, an instructor with Naval Air Technical Training Command, introduced 25 "A" School Sailors to the T-45C "Goshawk" Aircraft. The T-45C Goshawk is a tandem-seat, carrier capable, jet trainer whose mission is to train Navy and Marine Corps pilots.



Sale... Or

HOMES/APARTMENTS

For Sale: 3 BD/3 BA, 2,804sqft home in Collinsville. Upstairs is a large bonus room that can be used as a 4th bedroom or recreational space. 1 acre of land. House is WL school District. Low interest rate assumable VA loan. Asking \$399,000. For additional info please txt or call 601-479-0888. For Rent: 2 BD/1 BA, 600 sq. ft. Rent is \$1275/ Month with a \$1275 Security Deposit. Rent includes an 8x11 Storage Unit, In Unit Stackable granite Washer/Dryer, countertops and Stainless Steel appliances.Pets are negotiable. No Smoking. Contact Rhonda at 601-488-1963 For Rent: 3 BD/2 BA, 1100 Sq. Ft. Rent is \$1425/Month with a \$1425 Security Deposit. Rent includes an 8x11 Storage Unit, In Unit

Stackable Washer/Dryer, granite countertops and Stainless Steel appliances.Pets are negotiable. No Smoking. Contact Rhonda at 601-488-1963 For Rent: 2 BD/1

For Rent: 2 BD/1 BA unfurnished home in North Hills. Available May/June. Call 601-504-5415.

For Rent: 3 BR/2 BA

tiful, 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: 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.

JULY:

14, 6:30 p.m. - WWE Monday Night RAW - Experience the thrill of WWE Monday Night Raw live! Step into the electrifying atmosphere of the arena, surrounded by passionate fans as the biggest superstars clash in epic battles. **Located at the Legacy Arena in Birmingham, AL.** <u>Click here for tickets, entries, & info.</u>

19 - UFC: Holloway vs Poirier - UFC lightweight Dustin Poirier announced that he will make his final walk to the Octagon when UFC returns to New Orleans for UFC 318 on July 19. In the main event, BMF champion Max Holloway will defend his belt against the hometown favorite in a trilogy matchup built on over a decade of shared history. **Located at the Smoothie King Center in New Orleans, LA.** <u>Click here for tickets, entries, & info.</u>

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home in a quiet family neighborhood comes with all appliances (incl. W/D), and is convenient to NAS Meridian, schools, shopping, activities and major employers in the area. Outside, there's a large fenced yard with patio and an attached 2-car garage with keypad entry. All electric with central AC/ heat. Contact Leslie Turner, 601-527-4670 to view. See Zillow listing for more information and to submit applications. Rent \$1,750 per month.

For Sale: 3 BD/4 BA home with 2965 sq ft of lake view home in beau-

MISCELLANEOUS

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

ASF Graduation



Photo by Evelyn Reese

Two Sailors and one Marine graduated from the Auxiliary Security Force Academy (ASF) onboard NAS Meridian, June 9. The academy is a 3-week course that provides certifications for military members to conduct security force operations as watch standers. ASF members are valuable to NAS Meridian's Naval Security

Cryoacoustics Researchers Give Critical Edge to Icy Arctic Naval Operations

By Daniel Linehan Naval Postgraduate School

U.S. Navy Lt. Caroline Kelly, an officer-scholar studying meteorology and oceanography (ME-TOC) at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), returned from the Arctic this past February where she conducted cryoacoustics research supporting her NPS thesis. With the U.S. Navy facing immediate challenges due to increasing adversary activities in the harsh, inaccessible Arctic, Kelly's research aims to help improve naval operations in this critical environment.

Research and curriculum at NPS, such as hers, has always focused on the study of the sea to gain understanding and accurately predict the operational environments critical to effective force readiness, planning. and naval resilience. This commitment to sea power ensures that naval operations maintain the combat advantage. even out to the coldest and farthest reaches of the Arctic region. On the expedition, Kelly joined former submariner and NPS alumnus William Jenkins of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, along with NPS Department of Oceanography faculty and retired naval officers Benjamin Reeder, research professor, and John Joseph, faculty associate for research, to work with the Navy's Arctic Submarine Laboratory (ASL). 'Since 2018, the collaboration between ASL and NPS has led to a deeper understanding



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Janiel Adames In February 2025, Arctic researchers William Jenkins, U.S. Navy Lt. Caroline Kelly, and Benjamin Reeder (left to right) conducted cryoacoustics experiments on sea ice floating in the Arctic Ocean to improve current and future U.S. naval operations in this growingly contested environment.

of the physical properties of the Arctic Ocean," said ASL Arctic scientist Ann Hill. "By ASL hosting NPS at the biennial Operation Ice Camp, students are afforded the opportunity to conduct independent research that reach the ideal experiprovides further insight into the Arctic's physical oceanographic environment, ultimately increasing our submarine warfighting abilities." During the in-between years, ASL continues to venture onto the sea ice to improve logistics, test new equipment, and prepare for the next upcoming Operation Ice Camp. Field experiments like Kelly's align with ASL's Arctic Exercise 2025 (ARCEX25) to support and advance Arctic operations as this maritime domain becomes more and more contested. So, ASL provided an opportunity for the NPS researchers to get onto the

sea ice during the preparation period this year.

Two small airplanes chartered by ASL launched from Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, and flew across 155 miles of the Western Arctic Ocean to mental conditions identified by the U.S. National Ice Center. They landed on an ice floe where the first-year sea ice measured 5.6 feet thick. "Due to weather delavs on land, we only did one day worth of experiments on the ice, but it turned out to be excellent conditions-beautiful skies, barely any wind," said Kelly, despite the -20 degrees Fahrenheit temperature that frosted her eyelashes with every breath. "We got everything on our checklist, collecting so much data that we'll be able to use it for at least the next five years!"

FOLLOW THESE FRAUD PREVENTION TIPS FROM McGRUFF: Beware of credit card schemes, bogus investment opportunities, and free vacation offers. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Review carefully the written information about any offer before making any financial commitments. Never give anyone your social security, credit card, or bank account number or any other personal information unless you initiated the conversation. To learn about current scams, contact your local Better Business Bureau. Sign up for the Do Not Call Registry, 888-382-1222, to deter telemarketers If you've been the victim of a scam or suspect fraud, report it to local law enforcement immediately. scams, visit BA tatt Mississippi's 1-204th Air Defense **Artillery Regiment Holds Change**

of Command Ceremony

AVOID CONS AND SCAMS

By Cash Matlock Queen City Newsfeed

The 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment of the Mississippi Army National Guard held a Change of Command and Farewell Ceremony on June 2 at Huff Auditorium, marking a momentous transition of leadership and preparing for critical deployment.

Lt. Col Marilyn M. Upton relinquished command of the 1-204th to Lt. Col. James W. White during a formal ceremony attended by Soldiers, family members, and distinguished guests, including Assistant Adjutant General Maj. Gen. John M. Rhodes and the commander of 66th Troop Command Brig. Gen. Andrew Rendon. Lt. Col. Upton, who led the unit through key readiness milestones, reflected on her time in command with pride. "It has been an honor to command the Soldiers of the 1-204th... to lead, train, and prepare them for their NCR-IADS mission," said Upton. "I leave them with these words: Lead from the front, take pride in your work, be confident and be a positive influence on others. First to Fire, Last to Leave!" Lt. Col. White, a seasoned Air Defense Officer and veteran of multiple deployments, now assumes command at a



Photo by 1st Lt. Jarvis Mace

Lt. Col. James White, incoming commander for the 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, passes the unit colors to Command Sgt. Maj. of the 1-204th Jon Mason, during a change of command ceremony, June 2, 2025, at the East Central Community College Huff Auditorium in Decatur, Miss. During the ceremony, Lt. Col Marilyn M. Upton relinquished command of the 1-204th to Lt. Col.

James W. White.

pivotal time. The unit is preparing to mobilize in support of Operation Noble Eagle in the National Capital Region (NCR) — a mission designated by the Secretary of Defense as a "no-fail, zero-defect" operation. "My main prior-ity is two-fold," said White. "First, we must ensure our Soldiers are fully trained and prepared for the NCR mission. Second, we must support our rear detachment in planning for a potential CENT-COM rotation following the deployment. We also recognize the importance of growing our formationby recruiting and retaining Soldiers to ensure the long-term strength of $_{\mathrm{the}}$ battalion."

The ceremony also served as a farewell for Soldiers deploying to Washington, D.C., reinforcing the battalion's enduring motto: "First to Fire, Last to Leave."

The 1-204th ADA has a proud lineage dating back to 1942 and has played critical roles in both homeland defense and overseas operations, including support to Operation Noble Eagle, Operation New Dawn, and recent domestic crisis response missions in Mississippi.

READ MORE, CLICK HERE

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