

# THE SKYLINE



Volume 62, Number 19

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

October 3, 2024

## On Base

**Navy Birthday & Give Breast Cancer The Boot 5K Run**  
**Oct. 10 @ 1700**  
**Free T-shirts!**  
**Medals to the top 3 runners!**



**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**

## Trick or Trunk

**Oct. 26 @ 1400-1600**  
 Field Across from  
 ADMIN Building 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!

# WELCOME TO THE CHIEF'S MESS



Photos by Penny Randall

Naval Air Station Meridian welcomed three new chiefs to the mess during a ceremony in the hangar, Sept. 27. They included from left, PSC Karen Sylvester, AZC Tinamarie Anthony and AZC Amanda Urrutiaesteve. Sylvester is a member of the staff at Naval Technical Training Center Meridian, while Anthony and Urrutiaesteve are both staff members of Naval Air Technical Training Center. The Chief Petty Officer (CPO) pinning ceremony is a Navy tradition that dates back to 1893, when President Benjamin Harris established the rank of CPO. The ceremony marks the transition of First Class Petty Officers to the rank of CPO, an E-7 enlisted rank. The ceremony signifies a new position of leadership and responsibility.

## Stick The Landing: Aviators Complete Carrier Qualifications Aboard IKE

By Seaman Evan Antonisse  
 USS Eisenhower

ATLANTIC OCEAN-- The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) (IKE) hosted student naval aviators from Training Air Wing (TW) 1 composed of Training Squadron (VT) 7 and VT-9 from Naval Air Station Meridian and TW-2 composed of VT-21 and VT-22 from Naval Air Station Kingsville, as a part of carrier qualification (CQ) training, Sep. 24, off the coast of Florida.

For the VT students, CQs represents an important milestone in their training as it is the first time the students will land on an operational aircraft carrier.

During the evolution, students completed 256 recoveries aboard IKE in T-45C Goshawk training aircraft. This evolution is the

culmination of the advanced phase of strike pilot training. The success of the students will earn them their wings of gold and designation as naval aviators, setting them up to fill operational commands across the fleet.

Throughout CQs, safety and emergency preparedness were paramount to both the student naval aviators and IKE personnel, especially those operating on the flight deck.

"In preparing for this CQ process, we have done numerous briefs and [simulations] of the T-45 models," said Lt. j.g. Terrance Wever, IKE's flight deck officer. "We planned for 20 aircraft but ended up with 14, so we knew how to manage the flight deck and the real estate available to us. Ultimately, it's on all of us to make sure we stop anything that is unsafe. We are

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Photo by MCSN Theodore Morrison

A T-45C Goshawk training aircraft assigned to Training Squadron (VT) 9 launches from the flight deck aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Dwight D. Eisenhower is underway in the Atlantic Ocean conducting training carrier qualifications for the Chief of Naval Air Training. This is the first opportunity for student naval aviators from Training Air Wings (TW) 1 and 2 to launch and recover on an underway aircraft carrier.

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

More Questions and Answers will return in the next edition of The Skyline on Oct. 17!



## Bells Across America



ABE2 Joshua Warren tolls the bell as names of Fallen Service Members are read aloud during NAS Meridian's Bells Across America ceremony in the Navy Reserve Center. These ceremonies help ensure that families of the fallen know that their loved ones are remembered and that those touched by their loss have a way to pay tribute.

Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

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

## From Staff Reports

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony September 27 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian.

Eight 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."

LT Carissa Kathleen Baldwin Meinster, USN, is a 2020 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences with a minor in Italian Studies. LT Baldwin Meinster is also a 2021 graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School, where she received a Master of Science degree in Operations Research. During Advanced Jet Flight Training she earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LT Baldwin Meinster completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

Capt. Hudson James Boyle, USMC, is a 2020 graduate of Texas A&M, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology. During Advanced Jet Flight Training Captain Boyle earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. Captain Boyle completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

1STLT Luke Emery Demers, USMC, is a 2020 graduate of the University of Delaware, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. During Advanced Jet Flight Training 1stLt Demers earned five Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. 1stLt Demers completed Advanced Jet Flight Training

with Training Squadron Nine.

Capt. Stephanie Lauren Harris, USMC, is a 2014 graduate of the University of Florida, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Physiology and Kinesiology. Captain Harris is currently enrolled in Embry-Riddle University pursuing her Masters Degree in Human Factors in Aviation. Before joining the Marines she held several positions, some of them being an Adjunct Professor at Hunter College, a Researcher at Columbia University, an Intern at the United Nations, a Small Business Manager in New York City and an Agricultural Consultant in Dehradun, India. Captain Harris completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG Andrew Thomas Jenkins, USN, is a 2017 graduate of Hillsdale College, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. LTJG Jenkins Anton completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG Henry James Kesting, USN, is a 2021 graduate of Virginia Tech, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nanotechnology. LTJG Kesting completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

1STLT Kyle Andrew McNitt, USMC, is a 2019 graduate of The Pennsylvania State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. During Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. 1stLt McNitt completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

1STLT Robert Jack Rasmussen, USMC, is a 2020 graduate of the University of Florida, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. During Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. 1stLt Rasmussen completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.



LT Carissa Meinster



Capt. Hudson Boyle



1STLT Luke Demers



Capt. Stephanie Harris



LTJG Andrew Jenkins



LTJG Henry Kesting



1STLT Kyle McNitt



1STLT Robert Rasmussen

## Golden Stick Award



Photo by Evelyn Adams

Mississippi Council of the Navy League President, Laura Carmichael, has the honor of presenting the Golden Stick award to Captain Stephanie Harris during a winging ceremony in the Chapel onboard NAS Meridian, Sept. 27. 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

**Oct. 12 & 26**  
**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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**CDR Mike Missler**  
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 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:

**10: Gladys Knight at the MSU Riley Center, 7:30 p.m.** - Among singers, Gladys Knight has long been one of the greatest. A multi-talented artist with an impressive seven Grammy Awards under her belt, Knight has captivated audiences with a diverse array of chart-topping hits spanning genres from pop and gospel to R&B and adult contemporary. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**12: Bud N' Burgers, 2 p.m. - 9 p.m.** - City Hall lawn is the setting for Meridian's Fall Festival and 9th Annual Bud + Burgers. There will be a Burger Cooking Competition, Live Entertainment from The Molly Ringwalds, Oktoberfest Beer Garden, Football on the Big Screen, & Cornhole Tournament. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**15: Mixing Spirits for Merrehope, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.** - All Aboard . . . at Union Station for an entertaining evening of tantalizing cocktails and savory food pairings inspired by the spirits of enchanting Merrehope. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**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.](#)

**26: Mega Yard Sale, 6 a.m. - 11 p.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.

## 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.](#)

**10: Red Clay Strays Concert, 6:30 p.m.** - Concert features a performance by Black Pistol Fire. **Located in New Orleans, LA.** [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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## Command Quarters



Photo by Evelyn Adams  
NAS Meridian personnel were recognized at Command Quarters, Sept. 24.

## Marine For A Day Make-A-Wish Birthday



Photo by Sgt. Menelik Collins  
U.S. Marines with Marine Aircraft Group 41 pose for a photo with Oscar Monge on Sept. 11, 2024 at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas. 8th Marine Corps District hosted Oscar Monge and his family for his "Marine for a day" Make-A-Wish event to celebrate his 14th birthday. Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 41, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 112, and 14th Marines also participated in a Marine Air Ground Task Force style walk through.

## 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](mailto:nasmeridianpao@gmail.com)

## ■ Training, page 4

preventative and not reactive.”

In the air, the students' safety is carefully managed. From the tower to the ground, a network of IKE personnel and VT instructors keep a close eye on the performance of the students.

Despite oversight at every level, the instructors have a high level of trust in their students and expect a high level of performance.

“If they're having difficulty, we'll talk to them in plain English,” said Lt. Cory “Venus” Morgan, a VT-7 landing signal officer. “Otherwise, it's usually pretty silent; there's not much noise. We're letting them cook, so-to-speak; letting them get reps and sets, because they don't know what to expect until after the first couple [of recoveries]. Then, they start to loosen up a bit and think ‘I can do this.’”

Although the students are nearing the end of their advanced training pipeline, nerves are inevitable ahead of their first CQ. This is something even the most experienced pilots in the fleet can attest to.

“The first few passes from behind the ship, I barely remember,” said Cmdr. Tyler “McGruber” McQuiggan, IKE's air department head, also known

as “Air Boss.” “My nerves were there and I realized after my first arrested landing, when my feet and hands were shaking from the gravity of what I had just accomplished. Your nerves start to cool over time but I don't think you ever really get comfortable as a student out there.”

In addition to technical support, instructors play a key role in helping the students manage their nerves during the evolution.

“I think everyone is nervous going to the boat, especially if they haven't done it in a while,” said Morgan. “It's a healthy nervousness but we meter their nerves by emphasizing their training will set them up properly for landing on the boat.”

While the students set their sights on earning their wings of gold, IKE's air department continues to practice their warrior tradecraft at a high level behind the scenes.

“Carrier aviation is always going to have risk and our job is to minimize the risk out here,” said McQuiggan. “We have to keep our head on a swivel, be safe and look out for one another.”

With CQs in the rearview mirror, IKE will return to Naval Station Norfolk and begin preparation for a scheduled maintenance period.

## PROCLAMATION



Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

Members of the Fleet and Family Support Center surround CAPT Luke Davis as he signs the 2024 Navy Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation.

## National Hispanic Heritage Month: Mass Communication Specialist Tells the Navy Story and Inspires Sailors



Photo by Kyler Hood

Chief Mass Communications Specialist Jose Jaen from Commander, Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) is featured in support of National Hispanic Heritage Month, which honors the achievements and contributions of Americans who trace their origin or descent to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central and South America, and other Spanish cultures.

Navy Region Hawaii joins the nation in celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month to honor the achievements and contributions of Americans who trace their origin or descent to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central and South America, and other Spanish cultures.

For generations, Hispanic Americans have served on the front lines and supported critical operations at home and abroad, exemplifying their commitment to our Nation's safety and progress. Currently, more than 14% of the Department of the Navy's total force shares Hispanic descent.

At Navy Region Hawaii, Chief Mass Communications Specialist (MCC) Jose Jaen, 35, uses multiple mediums – print, broadcast, graphic design and photography – to tell story about the Navy in Hawaii. He

also coordinates event coverage with other departments and mentors younger Sailors, shares his knowledge of the craft.

Growing up, Jaen lived in Bronx, New York and spent his summers in Puerto Rico, where his family is from. When he turned 12, Jaen moved to a small town in Puerto Rico where he lived for four years before returning to New York and joining the military at 19.

Jaen talked with Navy Region Hawaii about his Puerto Rican heritage, Hispanic figures who inspire him, and what National Hispanic Heritage Month means to him.

When it comes to Puerto Rican culture, what are you most proud of?

What I'm proud of the most about our culture and being Puerto Rican is if you look it up on a map, Puerto Rico is

such a small island yet so much success has come from there – from military, athletes, actors, actresses, to world renowned artists. I take great pride in that. You look at it on a map, like a little ant compared to this huge world and so much success has come from there. I couldn't be prouder.

Is there a Hispanic person who inspires you?

The Hispanic that I look up to is Miguel Angel Cotto Vasquez. He is a Puerto Rican boxer from Puerto Rico. He is someone who I looked up to. He retired in 2017, but that guy was the definition of a true fighter. He gave it his all every single fight. In and out of the ring, he was known for being a gentleman, but a warrior inside the ring.

-- Kyler Hood

Commander Navy Region Hawaii

[Read more, click here](#)

## Marine Corps Drone Technology Proves Vital in Search for Missing Child

On July 9, 2024, the Camp Lejeune Fire and Emergency Services Division (FESD) successfully used their newly acquired small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) in a critical search operation for a missing child on Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The operation demonstrated the effectiveness of drone imagery capabilities, which made the operation a success.

In a strategic shift to enhance operational capabilities, the U.S. Marine Corps is transitioning its sUAS from fleet operations to installation commands. This initiative, spearheaded by Lt. Col. Frank M. Colpo, director of Aviation at Marine Corps Installation Command, aims to repurpose these assets to support and improve the effectiveness of various installation missions.

FESD was given the opportunity to be an early adopter



Photo by Cpl. Loriann Dauscher

FF Jabbok Ackley, a firefighter with Fire Station 6, Fire and Emergency Services Division (FESD), Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune, poses for a photo at Camp Geiger on MCB Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Sept. 17, 2024.

of the sUAS program. On Feb. 5, 2024, three FESD personnel participated in a sUAS training course, conducted by

Training and Logistics Support Activity-East. The training equipped them with the skills necessary to incorporate the

use of sUAS into a wide range of operational scenarios, including wildfire management, accident scene assessments, natural disaster responses, fire investigations, search and rescue operations, hazardous material management, and unexploded ordnance incidents.

A notable example of the practical benefits of the sUAS program was seen in early July when FESD put their new capabilities to the test during a critical search operation for a missing child.

“Upon arrival, the [sUAS] was in the air within eight minutes... It took around 45 minutes [to locate the child],” said Jabbok Ackley, a firefighter with Fire Station 6, FESD, MCB Camp Lejeune.

The drone provided continuous, real-time data, enabling search teams to quickly locate the missing child. It allowed the search team to cover

more ground and quickly gain valuable aerial perspectives.

Lt. Attwood Mobley III, a firefighter with Fire Station 3, MCB Camp Lejeune, emphasized how the successful use of the sUAS highlights its potential for improving response times and operational effectiveness.

“With this [sUAS], we do have a flare capability,” said Mobley. “What that means is that we can pick up heat signatures.” Mobley added, “I can see us using it even in open water type of areas... We can use it to see how the wind has driven a fire or in the direction it could be going.”

Following this successful deployment, FESD plans to further integrate sUAS into their training exercises to enhance their preparedness for various emergency scenarios.

-- Cpl. Leo Amaro and Lance Cpl. Alyssa DeCrane

Marine Corps Installations East

[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**

**🕒 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.

CANDY GAMES LIVE DJ PRIZES

## Pottery Classes

Every 3rd Tuesday starting at 1700

\$20 per person

Register at the Community Recreation Complex. Payment and registration due the day before the class.

Limited space!

## 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

NAVY CYP

A SERVICE PROVIDED BY CYP:

## HOURLY CARE

3 WAYS TO MAKE OR CANCEL RESERVATIONS:

- Scan the QR Code
- Call 601-679-2652
- In person, at the Child Development Center

## Kids Movie Marathon

McCain Recreation Center  
Every 1st Sunday at 1000

October 6: Star Wars 1-3  
November 3: Toy Story 1-3  
December 1: Transformers 1-4