Volume 62, Number 12

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June 13, 2024

On Base



Freedom Fest
June 28
5-9 p.m.
Family activities,
games, food trucks
and fireworks
extravaganza!!

Gutter Ball League at McCain Lanes! Sign up by calling 601-679-2651. League starts June 17



Sip and Spin June 18 at 5 p.m. at Pottery Studio behind the Library

Get Connected



SCAN for NAS Meridian App



SCAN for City of Meridian App



NTTC welcomes new commanding officer

From NAS Meridian Public Affairs

Naval Technical Training Center Meridian welcomed a new commanding officer during a change of command ceremony June 13. CDR Karen Teague was relieved by CDR Daniel Walker.

CDR Walker enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 2001 and served as a cryptologic maintenance technician. He received a nomination to the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in Information Technology. He graduated from Webster University in 2015 with a Master of Business Administration and the Naval War College in 2019 with a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies. As a surface warfare officer, he served aboard USS Bulkeley (DDG 84) and USS James E. Williams (DDG 95); and Naval Service Training Command's Innovation and Continuous Process Improvement Office (N57A) as the command Black Belt.

He was re-designated as a human resources officer in 2015. Adm. Jonathan Greenert selected him to be a member of the Chief of Naval Operation's Rapid Innovation Cell and the Human Resources Community selected him as the Navy's 2015 Human Resources Junior Officer of the Year.

● Change of Command, page 2



Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

CDR Karen Teague, left, looks on as CDR Daniel Walker salutes CAPT Jose Hernandez, commanding officer of Center for Service Support. CDR Walker relieves CDR Teague as the commanding officer of Naval Technical Training Center Meridian, June 13.

NAS, Lauderdale County sign frist IGSA

From NAS Meridian Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Meridian (NAS) and Lauderdale County partnered together to sign the first Inter-governmental Support Agreement, or IGSA, June 3 during the Board of Supervisors meeting

Through this 10-year agreement, Lauder-dale County will provide road and parking lot maintenance and repair through use of the County Road Department or through contract, and NAS Meridian will reimburse the county for the completed work.

"This IGSA is a first for NAS Meridian, and it's not likely to the last," said Captain Luke Davis, Commanding Officer of the NAS Meridian. "Besides being cost effective and allowing NAS Meridian to focus on our mission of training the best Sailors and Marines, it also builds the relationship between our installation and our community."

NAS Meridian estimates that the IGSA will save the installation about \$30,000 per year. IGSAs are agreements between the Navy and a state or local government that enhance operational effectiveness and create greater economies of scale that reduce costs and provide

• IGSA page 2



Photos by Penny Randal

Kyle Rutledge, left, president of the Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors, and CAPT Luke Davis, commanding officer of NAS Meridian, shake hands after the Inter-governmental Support Agreement signing June 3. They are joined by members of the Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors, LCDR Damain Allen, NAS Public Works Director, and Anna Turlik from Salas O'Brien consulting agency.



Auditorium Dedication

On June 7, Naval Technical Training Center Meridian dedicated their schoolhouse auditorium in honor of retired Master Chief Ellen Mustain, who served 33 years in the U.S. Navy including an assignment as the Command Master Chief of NAS Meridian in 1995. In 2006, she returned to NTTC Meridian to serve as a civilian contract instructor training Yeoman. In 2011 she accepted a civilian service position as the NTTC command secretary. Mrs. Mustain plans to retire on June 30.

Photos by MC2 Molly Tice

Change of Command

As a human resources officer, he served as the sexual assault, prevention and response officer and military manpower and personnel officer at Naval Supply Systems Command; commanding officer at the Oklahoma City Military Entrance Processing Station; Navy and Marine Corps Element Branch Chief (J1MN) for the United States Transportation Command Manpower and Personnel Directorate; commander, Navy Subordinate Element; and deputy division director for the Millington Shore Studies Division and the Shore Manpower Requirements Determination Validation and Field Support Division under the Shore Manpower Program.

His awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and



Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards) and various campaign, unit, and service medals and ribbons.

He is a certified Professional in Human Resources from the Human Resources Certification Institute and

Lean Six Sigma Black Belt from Villanova University. He is a joint qualified officer and completed the Joint Advanced Warfighting School.

NTTC Meridian is the Navy's primary training facility for enlisted Administrative and Supply Class "A" schools.



Left: CAPT Jose Hernandez presents CDR Karen Teague with her end of tour award. Teague served as the commanding officer of Naval Technical Training Center (NTTC) Meridian for the past two years. Above: NAS Meridian Color Guard present colors at the opening of the change of command ceremony for NTTC.

Golden Stick



Laura Carmichael, president of the Mississippi Council of the Navy League, left, presents LT Colton Schiefer with the Golden Stick award during a winging ceremony in the Chapel onboard NAS Meridian, May 31. The Golden Stick is awarded to the student with the highest composite score during training.

IGSA

economic benefits to the community and to the Navy. NAS Meridian provides an annual economic impact of more than \$371 million to Lauderdale County and is always looking for ways to be the best steward of tax dollars and ensuring a positive impact on the commu-

Over 120 IGSAs have been executed across the Department of Defense since 2015, saving over \$40 million dollars each year for services such as paving repair and maintenance, solid waste management and recycling, and grounds maintenance. NAS Meridian is also exploring additional IGSAs with the City of Meridian, Town of Marion, Kemper County, Lauderdale County School District and Meridian Community College. Partnership meetings have also created opportunities to work with 186th Air Refueling Wing at Key Field and Army National Guard in Jackson.

Frocking and Awards





Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

Left: Congratulations AC1 Ruby Wesby and AC1 Christian Hatcherjames who were frocked to their new ranks recently. Right: MA2 Natasha Williams, center, was recently frocked to her new rank, is joined by Master-at-Arms Chief Ralph Garcia and Master-at-Arms Chief Samuel Clark who were recognized for earning their NSFMS Pin.



Happy Birthday **Hospital Corps**

HA Michael Pioquinto and HM1 Paul Keenum, both stationed at Naval Branch Health Clinic Meridian, cut cake in celebration of the 126th Hospital Corpsman birthday during the clinic's annual command picnic on board NAS Meridian, June 14. Traditionally the eldest and youngest Sailors cut the cake together, followed by the eldest passing a slice to the youngest, signifying the passing of experience and knowledge from the old to the young.

Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

$The \ Skyline$ ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

Command Staff Commanding Officer ~ **CAPT Luke H. Davis** Executive Officer ~ Vacant Command Master Chief ~ Vacant

Editorial Staff Public Affairs Officer ~ **Penny Randall** Public Affairs Specialist~ **Vacant** 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

15-16: Juneteenth Festival - the heritage and freedom celebration centered around music with activities for children, a business expo, uplifting gospel celebration and more. 15th: noon-4 p.m., KidZone at the Children's Museum, and 6 p.m.-11 p.m., Juneteenth concert at City Hall Lawn; 16th: 6-8 p.m., Freedom Day Play.

20: Artinis at the Museum - 6-8 p.m. at Meridian Museum of Art. 21+ event. For tickets, visit: https://visitmeridian.com/event/ artinis-at-the-museum/

20: NightMarket at The MAX - 5-9 p.m. at Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience in downtown Meridian. The MAX and Earth's Bounty invite you to NightMarket. Stop by The MAX for great food and drink, artists, artisans, farm vendors, food trucks, children's activities, live music from Gabriel Bass, and more. NightMarket is free and open to the public.

22: State Games of Mississippi Trail Race - 7:30 a.m. at Bonita Lakes Park. To register visit: https://time2run.raceentry. com/state-games-of-mississippi-trail-race/race-information

27: Country Night at the Holbrook - 6 p.m.-10 p.m. at Holbrook lawn 2508 Fifth St. Age 21+ event. For more information visit: https://visitmeridian.com/event/country-nightat-the-holbrook/

29: Patriotic Day at Mississippi Children's Museum -Meridian, 403 22nd Avenue. Wear your red, white, and blue and join us at the museum for a patriotic celebration of Independence Day on Saturday, June 29! Event activities will take place from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. while the museum is open for

Area Happenings

JUNE

16: Spite & Bodysnatcher - 6 p.m. at House of Blues, New Orleans. 18+ event. For tickets visit: https://www.houseofblues. com/neworleans/EventDetail?tmeventid=G5viZbdzyhkJT&offer <u>id=0</u>

11: Chris Brown - 7:30 p.m. at BJCC, Birminham. For tickets visit: https://www.bjcc.org/upcoming-events/chris-brown/

Biden, Zelenskyy Sign 10-Year **Bilateral Security Agreement**

President Joe Biden and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy today signed a 10-year bilateral security pact aimed at strengthening Ukraine's ability to defend itself in the present while also deterring aggression in the

"Our goal is to strengthen Ukraine's credible defense and deterrence capabilities for the long term," Biden said during remarks shortly after the signing.

"A lasting peace for Ukraine must be underwritten by Ukraine's own ability to defend itself now, and to deter future aggression anytime in the future," the president continued, adding that the

U.S. is going to help ensure Ukraine can do both.

Per the agreement, the U.S. and Ukraine will spend the next 10 years building and maintaining Ukraine's credible defense and deterrence capability; strengthening Ukraine's capacity to sustain its fight over the long term; accelerating Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration; and consulting in the event of a future Russian armed attack against Ukraine.

Biden said that the agreement also lays out the two countries' shared vision for achieving a "just peace."

-- From Matthew Olay, DOD News

Read more, click here

Following 2-Day pier closure, 1,000 tons of aid are delivered to Gaza's shore

The floating JLOTS pier, which reopened June 7 after repairs, temporarily shut down June 9-10, due to high seas. Aid delivery began again yesterday.

"For two days, the temporary pier was not operational due to high sea states," said Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh during a briefing today. "As of yesterday, June 11, U.S. Central Command resumed the delivery of humanitarian assistance into Gaza, with more than 500 metric

tons of aid delivered to the marshaling area, and today, [Centcom] delivered another over 500 metric tons in, as well, to the marshaling area."

Singh said that since May 17, Centcom has assisted in the delivery of more than 2,500 metric tons, or approximately 5.6 million pounds, of humanitarian aid to the Gaza shore for onward distribution.

-- From C. Todd Lopez, DOD News

Read more, click here

New dual-military monitor aims to smooth assignment process

QUANTICO, VA, US -- Deployments, permanent changes of station, and long work hours are just some facets of military service that put a strain on a marriage. The pressure increases when both parties in the marriage are service members. Manpower Management Division, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, is creating a dual-military monitor billet to alleviate stresses associated with dual-military couples' orders assignments process.

Statistics show that as of March 20, 2024, there are 8,695 Marines are married to another service member. Approximately 2,500 Marines in a dualmilitary marriage execute PCS orders

every year. Nearly 60 percent of married female Marines are married to another service member. Given these statistics, it's no surprise that the Marine Corps recognizes that co-locating dual-service couples is complicated. In the past, if complications arose, there wasn't a single dedicated effort to tackle the issue. Manpower Management recognized the issue and acted, creating a dual-military monitor to ensure that dual-military couples have a dedicated resource. The dual-military monitor ensures efficient coordination occurs between the couple's primary military occupational specialty monitors.

Read more, click here

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 gueen 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-

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

HOMES/APARTMENTS

For Rent: 4 BD/2.5 BA home 3632 sq ft, just over 6 acres with workshop attached to 2-car carport. Owners will consider a lease of 12-36 months, and rent is negotiable the longer the term. Call (601) 517-1707 or (601) 517-1707.

For Rent: 3BD /2BA home near North Hills. Spacious yard, concrete patio for gatherings, home gym and covered car garage. Rent \$1,100 per month. Call Jeremy at 601-410-8555

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.

For Rent: 3 BD/1.5 BA with another room used as a gym. All kitchen appliances included. Large Skyland Drive, Meridian. About 25 minutes to Navv 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 954-895-5485, month. 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 Rent: Fully nished home in Dalewood. \$1,500 a month; \$50 application fee; \$900 Dalewood membership fee. Trailer, washer and dryer included. Call Jim 601-480-4865

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 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.

NEW! 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. Emial information to molly.m.tice.mil@us.navy.mil

Naval History Matters: Battle of Saipan

From Brent A. Hunt, Naval History and **Heritage Command**

Following intensive naval gunfire and bombing by carrier based aircraft, Task Force 52 landed Marines of the 2nd and 4th Divisions on Saipan, June 15, 1944. The island was the first relatively large and heavily defended land mass in the Central Pacific to be assaulted by U.S. amphibious forces. Just before dawn on the opening day of operations, the Marines were served a hearty breakfast, and then it was time to board the amphibian tractors. Fifty-six of these vehicles proceeded in lines of four toward the eight designated landing beaches. Tens of thousands of Japanese personnel, with artillery rounds at the ready, held their fire as the amtracs traversed the reefs and arrived in the lagoon. Then, with a barrage of Japanese rounds, it became clear that the bombardment preparatory shoreline defenses had not done enough to weaken enemy defenses. In addition, the Japanese were hidden well in Saipan's topography, which featured high ground within range of the lagoon and reefs—a natural obstacle for U.S. forces and a focal point for Japanese fire. Deadly complications besieged American forces all at once. The intensity of the enemy's defense resulted in some chaos as Marines tried to get a footing on shore, and the sheer number of U.S. troops storming the beach was an easy target for Japanese mortars and other projectiles. Nevertheless, the Marines managed to get to dry ground before the projected timeline had passed. Then came another obstacle. The amphibian tractors were not functioning as planned. Their armor was not heavy enough to withstand the barrage of Japanese artillery, and their agility on the rough terrain proved less than optimal. Marines

scattered in several directions as hilltop snipers tried to pick them off one by one. Eventually, the Americans reestablished order and proceeded with the assault.

The Japanese resistance was far greater than anticipated because intelligence reports had underestimated Japanese troop levels. U.S. forces expected there to be about 31,000 enemy troops, but in reality there were about twice that many. For at least a month, the Japanese had been fortifying the island and bolstering its forces as well. During the first day of the assault, American casualties were high, with as many as 3,500 in the first 24 hours, despite having 20,000 troops on shore by sunset with more on the way. Reinforcements could not come quickly enough as the Japanese defense doubled down and changed tactics by deploying tanks and infantry in the darkness of night. Conditions improved the following day when a new group of battleships arrived to bombard the coast. In response to difficulties on the ground, U.S. forces postponed the invasion of Guam and the operation's reserve, the Army's 27th Infantry Division, was called in to assist the Marines.

The unexpected difficulties on the beaches prompted the Fifth Fleet commander, Adm. Raymond Spruance, to commit more ships to the operation. Spruance had good reason to worry about the beachheads, although they appeared to be secured by the second day of the battle. "The [Japanese] are coming after us," Spruance said, and they were bringing with them 28 destroyers, 5 battleships, 11 heavy cruisers, 2 light cruisers, and 9 carriers with somewhere near 500 aircraft. The resulting engagement, Battle of the Philippine Sea (June 19–20), was a decisive victory for the Allies that nearly eliminated the Japanese ability to wage war by air. Notably, during the operation During the Battle of Saipan, tens known as "The Great Marianas Turkey Shoot," the U.S. destroyed nearly 600 enemy aircraft, sank two enemy fleet carriers, a light carrier, and two oilers, killing nearly 3,000 of the Imperial Japanese Navy's pilots and sailors.

After the Battle of the Philippine Sea was over, U.S. forces turned the main effort back to Saipan, where reinforcements and materiel were still needed as the battle raged on. USS Sheridan (APA-51) was among the first of the ships to return to Saipan from the Philippine Sea. For days, Sailors witnessed the action on shore from the attack transport's decks. The fighting was easier to decipher at dusk when the tracers came out, according to Lt. (j.g.) Harris Martin. "We could see some of our landing craft being hit by Japanese artillery, and we watched Japanese tanks as they counterattacked from the low hills." When the island was finally declared secure on July 9, the work of processing prisoners of war, both civilian and military, began. In addition, Navy civil engineers (Seabees) began to plan for an internment camp and ordered the construction of shelters and other facilities.

of thousands of Japanese troops were killed, and more than 1,700 captured. were Particularly shocking were the extensive civilian casualties, estimated to be as high as 22,000. Civilians, as well as Japanese military personnel, reportedly opted to commit suicide by jumping off cliffs rather than be captured. The Americans suffered greatly as well, with 26,000 casualties, of which 5,000 were killed in action. However, the American victory on Saipan was decisive. Japan's National Defense Zone, demarcated by a line that the Japanese had deemed essential to hold in the effort to stave off a U.S. invasion, had been blown open. Japan's access to scarce resources in Southeast Asia was now compromised, and the Caroline and Palau islands now appeared to be ready for the taking. With Saipan's airfields soon to be operational (as well as those of Tinian and Guam, which the Americans would capture a short time later) and with Japanese airpower having been all but eliminated in the Battle of the Philippine Sea, there was little protection for the home islands from Allied aerial bombardment.



U.S. Navy Courtesy photo from Fleet Admiral Nimitz

A U.S. sailor pays his respects to American servicemen who gave their lives in the battle for Saipan Island, Marianas 1944. This is the military cemetery at Saipan.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jacob D. Bergh

SAN DIEGO (June 11, 2024) A dolphin with the U.S. Marine Mammal Program performs a demonstration as part of Navy Employer Recognition Event (NERE). NERE is a professional recognition event for outstanding civilian employers of Navy Reserve Sailors that have demonstrated exceptional support for their citizen-Sailor employees above and beyond the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. NERE also provides selected civilian employers of Navy Reserve Sailors with a first-hand look at the capabilities, roles, and missions of the U.S. Navy Reserve.









Navy MWR Meridian















