

THE SKYLINE



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September 14, 2023

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Bells toll as U.S. marks 22 years since 9/11

By Jennifer Peltz and Karen Matthews
Associated Press News

Americans looked back Monday on 9/11 with moments of silence, tearful words and appeals to teach younger generations about the terror attacks 22 years ago.

"For those of us who lost people on that day, that day is still happening. Everybody else moves on. And you find a way to go forward, but that day is always happening for you," Edward Edelman said as he arrived at New York's World Trade Center to honor his slain brother-in-law, Daniel McGinley.

President Joe Biden, speaking at a military base in Anchorage, Alaska, urged Americans to rally around protecting democracy. His visit, en route to Washington from a trip to India and Vietnam, is a reminder that the impact of 9/11 was felt in every corner of the nation, however remote.

"We know that on this day, every American's heart was wounded," Biden said. "Yet every big city, small town, suburb, rural town, tribal community — American hands went up, ready to help where they could."

Nearly 3,000 people were killed when hijacked planes crashed into the trade center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field, in



Submitted photo

NAS Meridian Color Guard Team participated in the opening ceremony for the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at the Meridian Parking Guard in honor of September 11, 2001 terrorists attacks on our nation. Dozens of citizens and many firefighters and police officers took part in the event which raises money for the local First Responders Benevolence Fund.

an attack that reshaped American foreign policy and domestic fears.

On that day, "we were one country, one nation, one people, just like it should be," Eddie Ferguson, the fire-rescue chief in Virginia's Goochland County, said by phone before the anniversary.

The predominantly rural county of 25,000 people has a Sept. 11 memorial and holds two anniversary commemorations, one focused on first responders and another honoring all the victims.

At ground zero, Vice President Kamala Harris joined other dignitaries at the ceremony on the National Sept. 11 Memorial plaza. Instead of remarks from political figures, the event features victims reading the names of the dead and delivering brief personal messages.

Some included patriotic declarations about American values and thanked first responders and the military. One lauded the Navy SEALs who killed al-Qaida leader and 9/11 plotter Osama bin Laden in Pakistan in 2011. Another appealed for peace and justice. One acknowledged the many lives lost in the post-9/11 "War on Terror." And many shared reflections on missing loved ones.

[Read more, click here](#)

Commissary patrons can get special savings on hundreds of products in September

Kevin L. Robinson
DECA public affairs

Shopping at the commissary supports economic security because of the variety of affordable, high-quality products that promote

healthy eating. During September, Family Meals Month, join the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) as it emphasizes mealtime as a meaningful and satisfying experience for military families.

In this edition of the DeCA Savvy Shopper [Sales Flyer](#) for Sept. 11-24, commissary patrons can "Fall into Savings" with USDA Choice T-bone Steak, red grapes and hundreds of other opportunities to access lower prices. Customers can also further their commissary savings with the [Your Everyday Savings \(YES!\) Program](#). YES! offers extra savings and value on products customers buy most. Look for the orange YES! label on store shelves.

DeCA's "Thinking Outside the Box" (TOTB) recipe for the period is [Veggie Quinoa Soup](#). Thinking Outside the

Box recipes are dietitian-approved, offering quick and economical solutions for home-cooked meals.

Customers can save even more on the items listed in these recipes.

More opportunities to save are available through the

Pathway to Savings — "Instant Savings, Buy One, Get One (BOGO) Free" deals, and Commissary Rewards Card digital coupons. Customers can save over \$65 through these deals. Many more digital coupons are available at <https://shop.commissaries.com/digital-coupons>. Pathway to Savings "BOGO Free" is not available at overseas stores; however, overseas customers can still enjoy instant savings by visiting their stores for specific selection and pricing.

DeCA has also made shopping even easier with its Commissary CLICK2GO mobile app. Customers can access the online payment/curbside pickup service, digital coupons, the sales flyer, dietitian-approved recipes and much more. The mobile app is free for download through the Google Play and IOS app stores.

● [Commissary, page 4](#)

FFSC welcomes new Personal Financial Manager

From Staff Reports

NAS Meridian's Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) recently welcomed its new Personal Financial Manager (PFM), Marie Brinston.

A native of New Orleans, Brinston holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resource Management with a minor in Business Administration from the University of Maryland University College, and an Associate of Arts degree from Southern New Hampshire University Manchester. She completed the Washington Award Staff Training and Recognition Program, Mortgage Counseling II and Loan Officer Approval I and II programs. She holds a Consumer Lending Certificate and a plethora of financial management and planning certificates.

"I'm excited to make a difference in the financial lives of service members and their families," said Brinston.

Brinston has first-hand experience and knowledge of how managing finances and creating financial wealth can be a challenge for many.

For the past 34 years, she has taught thousands how to avoid financial obstacles and build financial wealth. She has worked one-on-one with clients and in a group setting where she facilitates financial planning.

"A financial plan is a roadmap for pursuing your unique financial goals," said Brinston. "It includes strategies and specific recommendations for



Brinston

managing debt, saving, investing and reducing risks to your financial well-being. A well-constructed plan should be flexible enough that it can be modified and updated as your circumstances and goals change over time."

Brinston's goal is to be a subject matter expert supporting NAS Meridian's 17 tenant commands and their command financial specialists, and supporting leadership by providing resources and educating military members and their families.

She is excited about bridging the wealth gap with military members and families by teaching the foundation and fundamentals to becoming financially stable. The goal starts with having a budget and verifying ones' weekly/monthly debit and credit card expenses. Those basic fundamentals set the tone for a successful financial outcome.

● [PFM, page 2](#)

Cronin EOT



Photo by Adam Prince

Capt. Luke Davis, commanding officer of NAS Meridian, right, presents ET1 Madison Cronin with a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal during an awards ceremony at Air Operations onboard NAS Meridian, Sept. 11.

First Class Exam



Submitted photo

Sailors from NAS Meridian take the first class petty officer's exam at Lakeside onboard NAS Meridian, Sept. 7.

Wargaming towards victory in the Indo-Pacific

By Johannes Schmidt

MCSC Office of Public Affairs and Communication

Three years into Force Design 2030, the United States Marine Corps has evolved into a leaner, more agile force designed to fight and win against the nation's stated adversaries, with a strategic focus on the Indo-Pacific.

Aligning with the Department of Defense's strategic pivot away from the Global War on Terrorism, this transformation relies not just on technological advancements and a structural reorganization but also on the strategic use of wargames—analytical tools used to simulate aspects of warfare at the tactical, operational, and strategic level.

Although wargaming has been integral throughout the Corps' history, the initial call for wargaming modernization came from Gen. Robert Neller, the 37th commandant of the Marine Corps, who envisioned a wargaming capability akin to a 'holodeck'—an imaginative technology from Star Trek that enables individuals to engage in virtual reality scenarios.

"In a perfect world, it would be like Jean-Luc Picard in 'Star Trek,'" Neller told reporters in 2017. "I'd walk into the holodeck and I'd go, 'Computer, Battle of Waterloo, 1812, Prussian army, I am in command, simulation — go.' That'll be here one day."

Neller's vision is predicated on decades of Marine Corps' innovation by highlighting the need for exquisite technology and facilities to harness that innovation. Wargaming assists in transforming it into actionable data to inform requirements, provide analysis for live-force experimentation, and contribute to concept refinement.

Recognizing the importance of his predecessor's vision, Gen. David H. Berger, the Corps' visionary former commandant, called for the implementation of "an intensive program of iterative concept refinement, wargaming, analysis and simulation, and experimentation" in his first iteration of Force Design 2030.

Today, this vision of a data-driven future is coming to life aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico where Marine Corps Systems Command is currently constructing a state-of-the-art center for wargaming and analysis.

Recently named the "General Robert B. Neller Center for Wargaming and Analysis," this 100,446 square foot facility will allow Marines of all ranks and billets to wargame repeatedly in a secure, centralized location. Managed by the Marine Corps Warfighting

"In a perfect world, it would be like Jean-Luc Picard in 'Star Trek.' I'd walk into the holodeck and I'd go, 'Computer, Battle of Waterloo, 1812, Prussian army, I am in command, simulation — go.' That'll be here one day."

— Gen. Robert Neller, the 37th commandant of the Marine Corps

Laboratory, this revolutionary new capability is set to open its doors in 2025.

As noted in a previous article, this will provide a crucial asset to the joint force and senior leadership, filling a gap previously absent in the National Capital Region by facilitating wargame participation for joint, interagency, and multinational organizations.

The Marine Corps' relationship with wargaming began in the early 20th century and ramped up leading to the Second World War as the Corps rushed to build a force—and develop tactics—that would allow it to successfully storm enemy beaches in Europe and the Pacific.

For the purposes of this article, a wargame can be defined as the methodical re-creation of competitive or conflict scenario(s), excluding real military forces, where human decisions shape events.

Col. George Schreffler, director of the Wargaming Division at the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory, explained this in layman's terms on a recent episode of the Equipping the Corps podcast where he discussed wargaming using board games like Risk or Dungeons and Dragons.

"Although we don't use those exact games, the principle remains the same: utilizing probability tables and dice rolls to drive decision-making and interactions. It's not about the specific results but rather the process of forcing decisions that mirror real-world scenarios."

But wargaming isn't all fun and games; it is a whole of Combat Development and Integration effort.

[Read more, click here](#)

Ukraine could be flying F-16s early in 2024

By Tara Copp and Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press

The U.S. could have the first Ukrainian pilots trained on F-16 fighter jets before the end of the year, though it will be longer than that before they are flying combat missions, the director of the U.S. Air National Guard said Tuesday.

The Ukrainian pilots are expected to arrive at Morris Air National Guard Base in Tucson, Arizona, by October. Those aviators are being evaluated for English language skills right now, and depending on their proficiency and previous fighter jet experience, they could complete the U.S. training within three months, Lt. Gen. Michael Loh, director of the U.S. Air National Guard, said at the annual Air Force Association convention in National Harbor, Maryland.

"As soon as they're given a go-ahead, they'll be coming over and they'll start their training immediately," Loh said.

To meet the quick training timeframe, Tucson will likely shift some of its other international pilot training commitments to move Ukraine to the front of the line, he said.

"It's a national priority," Loh said.

However, after completing the U.S. training, the Ukrainians would need to return to Europe for additional NATO training. NATO allies are also training Ukrainians on how to maintain the aircraft, and that will also need to be completed before the jets would be flying combat missions. Loh did not have an estimate of how much time the additional training would take.

[Read more, click here](#)

• PFM

A road to financial readiness starts with:

- Creating and understand a spending plan
- Establish a budget through financial goals and an emergency fund
- Seek one-on-one PFM counseling
- Begin estate planning, basic money management, financial management planning
- Learn credit management such as car buying; home buying/renting; finances for teens and many more.

Service Member – NEW information open enrollment

- What is a DCFSA ~ Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account is a pre-tax account used to pay for eligible dependent care services, such as preschool, summer "day" camp, before- or after-school programs and child or adult day care.

For more information, contact Brinston at FFSC by calling 601-679-2360 or by email at shirley-marie.brinston.naf@us.navy.mil.

Are You Prepared?

NFAAS is used to muster and request assistance during a disaster.
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<https://navyfamily.navy.mil>
CNIC

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Local Happenings

SEPTEMBER

30: Rose Hill Cemetery Costumed Tour from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Rose Hill Cemetery in Meridian. As always the cemetery tour is geared toward telling and teaching local history. All storytellers are volunteers with great enthusiasm for the arts of storytelling and drama. The event is free but donations are always needed. Call 601-479-2483 / 601-681-8525.

OCTOBER

7: Meridian Railroad Pioneering Days from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Meridian Railroad Museum. Come hear documented stories as presented by storytellers in period costume about the beginnings of a City eventually known as Meridian. There was quite a dilemma selecting the name of the thriving settlement. Call 601-479-2483 / 601-681-8525.

21: BOO!seum from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Mississippi Children's Museum - Meridian. Superheroes, princesses, and silly monsters alike are invited to the Mississippi Children's BOO!seum for spooky science, festive fall games, creepy-crawly crafts, and glowing dance parties. Call 601-512-0270.

28: Fall Pops! A Symphony of Illusion from 7-9 p.m. at the MSU Riley Center. Prepared to be amazed (and maybe a little bit spooked) as illusionist Michael Grandinetti, star of the hit TV series Masters of Illusions and World's Most Dangerous Magic, combines his astonishing magic with the powerful and mysterious music of the Meridian Symphony Orchestra. Call 601-696-2200.

Area Happenings

SEPTEMBER

23: Oktoberfest from 5-9 p.m. at the Birmingham Zoo. Guten Tag and Hallo! Join us for the Annual Birmingham Zoo Oktoberfest featuring seasonal autumn brews, live music, and German food favorites. Visit <https://www.birminghamzoo.com/event/oktoberfest-2023/>

23: Latinfest from 4-10 p.m. at Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum, 1150 Lakeland Dr. Jackson, MS. Visit <https://allevents.in/jackson/%C2%A1latinfest-2023/200025004278604>

27: Beyonce in Concert at 7 p.m. at the Caesars Superdome Sugar Bowl Dr. New Orleans, LA. Visit <https://neworleanslocal.com/venue/caesars-superdome/>

Electronic attack systems program using digital twins to impact naval aviation

Naval Air Systems Command's Airborne Electronic Attack Systems Program Office is turning to digital technology to improve readiness, explore new capabilities and expedite training.

The program office is in the early stages of using digital twins, which are virtual models designed to reflect a physical object accurately. It has developed digital twin technology with an industry partner for the past six months.

The program office selected the pod interface unit on the ALQ-99 Tactical Jamming System (TJS), first used in the 1970s, as the initial capability on which to test the new technology. The jamming system is unique as an older technology that converts analog signals to digital signals. By using an older

system, the team members can test the bounds of their creativity and exploration.

"We wanted to prove to ourselves we could take an existing piece of hardware and develop a digital twin that would be useful," said Capt. David Rueter, program manager. "We picked something fairly easy as a starting point."

Digital twin technology can enable the sustainment, upgrade and evolution of systems over time.

"From a capability perspective, if I have a digital model of a system that requires improved processing, I can now figure out what that upgrade is and test it out digitally before I even purchase new hardware," Rueter said.

-- From US Navy

[Read more, click here](#)

Navy accepts upgraded E-6B Mercury, delivering enhanced capabilities to the fleet

The U.S. Navy in June accepted the first E-6B Mercury upgraded by Northrop Grumman Corp. in Lake Charles, Louisiana, delivering enhanced airborne strategic communications capabilities to the warfighter.

The upgrade enhances strategic communications capabilities for the nation's senior leadership.

Northrop Grumman Corp. conducted the upgrades over the last year at its Aircraft Maintenance and Fabrication Center at Lake Charles. Under its Integrated Maintenance and Modification Contract (IMMC) with the Navy, it will overhaul multiple E-6B Mercury aircraft by 2027. The \$111 million contract provides six major modifica-

tions—called Block II—to improve the aircrafts' command, control and communications functions connecting the National Command Authority with U.S. strategic and non-strategic forces.

Block II will ensure the E-6B can successfully execute its mission for years to come. Upgrades to the second aircraft are already underway.

"The delivery of the first IMMC aircraft is a monumental achievement," said Bob Stailey, the E-6B deputy program manager for the Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office, which awarded and manages the maintenance contract.

-- From Kathy Hieatt, public affairs officer for Airborne Strategic Command

[Read more, click here](#)

USS Shiloh departs Yokosuka, Japan after 17 years of forward-deployed service

The Ticonderoga-class guided missile-cruiser USS Shiloh (CG 67) departed Yokosuka, Japan, on Sept. 5 to transit to its new homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, as part of a planned rotation of forces in the Pacific.

U.S. Navy Sailors and members of Ship Repair Facility (SRF) Yokosuka wave to the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Shiloh (CG 67) in Yokosuka, Japan, Sept. 5, 2023. Shiloh departed Yokosuka on Sept. 5 to transit to its new homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, as part of a planned rotation of forces in the Pacific.

Shiloh arrived on station at Yokosuka Naval Base in August 2006 to fulfill the obligations of the U.S.-Japanese ballistic missile defense program and to support operations within the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations (AOO).

"For nearly two decades, USS Shiloh provided our Forward-Deployed Naval Forces the agility and firepower to support our carrier operations, protect sea lanes, deter aggression, and reassure allies and partners across the Indo-Pacific," said Capt. Adam Cheatham, commanding officer of Shiloh.

-- From MC2 Askia Collins

[Read more, click here](#)

Sale... Or

BOATS/CAMPERS/TRAILERS

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

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

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

AUTOMOBILES, ETC.

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

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

HOMES/APARTMENTS

For Rent: 3 BD/1.5 BA with another room used as a gym. All kitchen appliances included. Large

backyard. Address 145 Skyland Drive, Meridian. About 25 minutes to Navy Base. \$900 per month, with \$900 deposit. Available Aug. 1. No pets. Call 601-490-0849

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

For Rent: Water front home in Dalewood. Spacious two-story home facing the Lake; great for fishing and relaxing. Remodeled kitchen and new appliances. Rent is \$2,000; please call 813-

406-9687.

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

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

For Rent: 2BD/1.5BA single family home in Dalewood - fully renovated. Fenced in back yard with boat slip & pier. Pets

allowed. Pet deposit \$300. \$1,300 rent per month. Call 973-876-5006.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

New! 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.

Service for hire: Dixie Lawn LLC, lawn care in Meridian. Call 850-376-4499. Military owned company.

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

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

Guantanamo Bay commissions new energy efficient power plant

By Daniel Kozin
Associated Press

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay commissioned a new \$368.8 million Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) energy efficient power plant during a ribbon cutting ceremony held September 7 onboard the installation.

Those in attendance included the Honorable Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment Meredith Berger, representatives from Siemens Government Technologies, Inc., Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) leadership and staff from the base.

The \$368.8 million project, initially awarded by NAVFAC Southeast in July 2019, represents an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) that is strategically aligned with the Navy's Energy Security pillars: resiliency, reliability, and efficiency.

"Today we cut the ribbon on something that will make sure that when someone calls, we answer, a 20 Megawatt (MW) Liquefied Natural Gas Power Plant," said Berger in her keynote speech. "This infrastructure inaugurates a first-of-its-kind agreement using significant savings of liquefied natural gas (LNG) over diesel. This cost-efficiency and energy efficiency will create about \$10 million in annual fuel cost



Photo by MC2 Kyle Fiori

Capt. Samuel White, left, Rear Adm. Maria "Lore" Aguayo, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Meredith A. Berger and John Ustica cut a ribbon opening the new power plant at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

savings."

To meet the facility's requirements, an extensive research and analysis was conducted to find an effective solution that was both economical and secure. The decision, natural gas — which marked the first ever LNG procurement; and to date, the largest ESPC in Navy history.

Capt. Miguel Dieguez, commanding officer of NAVFAC Southeast, emphasized,

"The design of this specific power plant is tailored to provide an efficient and reliable power supply with a reduced carbon footprint to support both mission-critical operations and everyday activities. Given its remote and isolated location at NS Guantanamo Bay, it was imperative that we select the right plan of action with the right industry partner in Siemens Government Technologies the first time around for this

historic project."

The completed LNG power generation facility utilizes liquefied natural gas to operate a new dual-fuel combined cycle power plant serving the entire installation. The facility is projected to achieve annual energy savings of \$24.6 million over a 22-year performance period, reduce annual fuel consumption by approximately 27.4 percent, and curtail CO2 emissions by more than 20,000 tons annually.

Berger stated, "The additional 12MW of new photovoltaic electricity to the existing renewable power, photovoltaic and wind, is enough to cover approximately 75% of summer peak demand, enabling periods where all consumption can be satisfied by renewable sources."

In addition to the power generation facility, five additional projects encompassed by this ESPC have already been finalized. These projects include a 1.73-megawatt photovoltaic system facility, a 12-megawatt grid-connected photovoltaic system with energy storage, enhancements to interior and exterior lighting in 118 buildings, upgrades to water fixtures in 64 buildings, and improvements to water and wastewater systems in three different locations.

"This plant is a great achievement for the naval station and the Navy," said NS Guantanamo Bay Commanding Officer Capt. Samuel White.

[Read more, click here](#)

● Commissary

Other savings opportunities include:

- "Free Grocery Game Day Giveaway." Sept. 11 through Oct. 8, Kellogg's provides commissary shoppers multiple reasons to stock up for game day. Promotional pricing will be available on Cheez-Its, Club Crackers, Pringles and Town House Crackers. Patrons will be given the chance to win one of 25 \$50 Commissary Gift Cards. To learn more, go to <https://gamedayfreegrocerygiveaway.com/>.
- "Back-to-School Sidewalk Sales." Commissary patrons stateside can stock up on their favorite items at significant savings during the Defense Commissary Agency's Sidewalk Sales event throughout September. Sidewalk sales offer extra savings on a variety of everyday products. Most stateside commissaries will hold these sales for three or four days, weather permitting. Find your location and dates here.
- "Soda Sale." Six-pack bottles of Coke products are on sale, three for \$9.99, from Sept. 16 to 19 at CONUS, Alaska and Hawaii commissaries. While supplies last.
- "Box Tops for Education." General Mills is offering cus-

tomers an opportunity to save money while supporting their local schools through the "Box Tops for Education" promotion. See store displays and high-value coupons for participating General Mills brands. This campaign is ongoing throughout the year.

- Del Monte supports "Leashes for Valor." Every Del Monte purchase at the commissary helps support wounded and disabled veterans to receive a service dog. Leashes of Valor provides highly trained service dogs at no cost to wounded and disabled post-9/11 veterans. To learn more about Leashes of Valor, please visit <https://leashesofvalor.org/>.
- Monster Energy. Commissary customers at participating stores can enter for a chance to win a Kawasaki motorcycle by scanning a QR code on in-store posters and displays. Contest ends Nov. 30.
- "Purina 1,000 Sweepstakes." During September, Purina Pro Plan is giving away \$5,000 in Commissary Gift Cards. There will be five winners chosen (\$1,000 each). To enter go to www.MMSsweepstakes.com.
- "Purina Military Cat Club." The club offers high-value

coupons (only valid at the commissary), welcome gifts, sweepstakes opportunities, pet tips and articles. Enter online at <https://www.militarycatclub.com/contests> and complete the designated entry form to enter the sweepstakes. During September, there will be two winners who can each win a robot vacuum and mop combo.

- "Purina Pro Plan Military Pet Club." Military Pet Club members receive high-value coupons (only valid at the commissary), sweepstake opportunities, pet tips and articles. Throughout September, two Military Pet Club members can enter to win a \$250 Commissary Gift Card. To participate go to <https://www.militarypetclub.com/contests>.
- Commissary Store Brands. DeCA's private label inventory of Commissary Store Brands include an assortment of items spanning the entire store to include Freedom's Choice food, HomeBase non-food, TopCare health and beauty, Full Circle Market natural and organic food, Wide Awake ready-to-drink coffee products, Crav'n Flavor frozen appetizers and snacks, Tippy Toes baby products, Flock's Finest wild bird food and Pure Harmony pet food.

Modern slang parents should know but never use

Read any parenting book today, and it will likely recommend that, "communication is key" in building a relationship with one's teenagers. It's great advice, but what if you and your teens don't speak the same language?

Consider this: Your daughter walks into the kitchen, looks at your outfit and says, "Yo Mamma, you bussin', no cap. Slay Queen!" Should you feel insulted? You overhear your son say into his phone, "Dawg, shahti been livin' rent-free in my head. Perioduh." Should you be concerned?

I would've loved to have had an interpreter on retainer when my kids were teenagers, but instead, I bumbled through parenting by the seat of my double-digit-sized pants, being ridiculed by my offspring when I used old-timey phrases such as "For Criminy's sake!" and "What in the H-E-double hockey sticks?" Now that my three children are

in their 20s, they still make fun of me, but I've managed to learn a thing or two despite today's parenting challenges.

Comparatively, child-rearing was a cake-walk for my parents, who gave my brother and I free-reign to run the neighborhood in cut off jean shorts and tube socks while they smoked Pall Mall cigarettes and drank vodka gimlets in their gabardine slacks. Other than awkward talks about the "birds and the bees" while referencing the Life Cycle Series for Young Adults, our parents lived on easy street, laughing with mouths packed with fillings at reruns of "All In The Family" from the comfort of their barcaloungers.

With the only means of distance communication anchored to the wall-papered kitchen wall by a tangled spiral cord, and the nearest source of information located in the Encyclopedia Britannicas in the neighbor's rumpus room, slang terms took much longer to stick than today. The slower pace of change gave our parents plenty of time to master the meaning of colloquialisms such as "Gag me with a spoon," "Like, totally," and "No big whoop."

Like my parents, I didn't grow up with the Internet, but unlike my parents, I've been forced to raise children during the Internet era, when social

media and 24/7 online communication have fostered the rapid development of slang terminology.

Prior to the Internet, words such as "cloud," "tablet," "scroll," "footprint," "follow," and "fire" were used to tell the story of Moses' trek to the burning bush. "Swipe," "tag," "pin," "poke," and "troll" might have been used to report a street fight with a man living under a bridge. And "spam" was (and still is) a brand of strangely delicious yet visually revolting canned pork product.

However, in today's technological world, a viral tweet could change our vocabulary in an instant. It's almost impossible to keep up, but by learning a few Millennial and Gen Z terms, you'll avoid becoming as obsolete as the phrase, "Zounds! Thine wench quoth pure tommyrot and 'tis but a blather-skite!"

As counter-intuitive as it seems, words that mean "good" to today's youth include "sick," "dank," "bad," "hella cool," "lit," "dope," "bussin'," "trill," "savage," and "fire." Likewise, "phat," "thick," "ride or die," "fam," "on fleek," "snatched," "represent," and the ultimate compliment, "G.O.A.T." (Greatest of All Time), are terms with positive sentiments.

On the other hand, descriptors that

imply bad character include "shady," "poser," "salty," "bougie," "thirsty," "ghosting," "diss," "suss," "extra," "random," "ratchet," and "out of pocket." Proceed with caution when overhearing confrontational expressions such as "don't @ me," "wig snatch," "spill the tea," "put on blast," "talk to the hand," "bruh, seriously," "throwing shade," and "bye, Felicia!"

Parents should "chill" when their children utter harmless words of positive affirmation such as "yaaaaas," "bet," "I'm down," "no cap," "slay, queen," and "hundo p." However, Mom and Dad may suspect "sussery" if their teens speak of "getting turnt" after the football game or "kickin' it with bae" on Saturday night.

No matter what terms your children use — take it from me — it's never a good idea for Mom to adopt her kids' slang in an attempt to bond with them. Unless she wants her children to post an embarrassing recording of her on TikTok with the caption, "I'm dead!" which, I've learned the hard way, means, "My mom is hilarious!"

Lisa Smith Molinari's self syndicated columns appear on her blog, www.themeatandpotatoesofflife.com and she recently co-authored *Stories Around the Table: Laughter, Wisdom, and Strength in Military Life Follow Lisa@MolinariWrites*.

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