



News Bytes

~ Click here ~

Mississippi governor requests federal assistance for tornado damage

~ Click here ~

Reloading Alabama welcomes doubts while chasing Tide's own goals

~ Click here ~

Military child beats huge odds to become the 2023 Gerber Baby

~ Click here ~

Phoenix has ended 31-day streak of highs at or above 110 degrees as rains ease a Southwest heat wave

What's Inside

~ page 2 ~

Two July winging ceremonies

~ page 3 ~

New Events in area happenings

~ page 4 ~

Executive order changes how military handles sexual assaults

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Davis takes helm of NAS Meridian



Left photo: CAPT Luke Davis, right, shakes hands with CAPT Brent Moore during a change of command ceremony in the hangar onboard NAS Meridian, July 27. CAPT Ian Johnson, center, Commander Navy Region Southeast was the presiding officer. Above: Davis' wife, Kristine, places his command pin on his uniform.

Photos by MC2 Molly Crawford

From Staff Reports

Naval Air Station Meridian welcomed its 27th commanding officer during a change of command ceremony in the hangar onboard the installation on Thursday, July 27.

CAPT Luke H. Davis assumed command from CAPT Timothy B. Moore; Moore has served as the installation's commanding officer since August 2020. Moore led 348 personnel providing superior facilities and services

through the annual execution of a \$30.2 million budget, enabling over 77,000 flight hours and 582,000 flight operations at two airfields and the winging of 360 Naval Aviators in support of strike fighter pilot production. His emphasis on professionalism and teamwork resulted in outstanding performance marks during numerous higher headquarters inspections, averaging 97% across the Air Operations, Fire/Emergency Services, Security, Galley, and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation

departments. His collaboration with local, state, and federal entities culminated in the on-going construction of a state-funded, 15.7-mile wildlife exclusion fence around McCain Field's three runways at NAS Meridian. As the 2022 chairman of Mississippi's Installation Commanders Council, he led coordination efforts among 13 Mississippi military bases furthering mission sustainment and military family initiatives.

● NAS, page 2

Montford Point Marine Association honors Meridian native Cpl Willie Love



Members of the staff at Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron ONE onboard NAS Meridian along with NAS Meridian's Color Guard were invited to participate in the ceremony which honored Meridian native Willie Love, who served as a corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. The Montford Point Marine Association presented Mr. Love's family with the Congressional Gold Medal for his service. Montford Point Marines are the first African-Americans to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps after President Franklin Roosevelt issued an Executive Order establishing the Fair Employment Practices Commission in June 1941. The recruits trained at Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, NC from August 26, 1942 until the camp was decommissioned on September 9, 1949.

Photo by MC2 Molly Crawford

Fisher House Foundation's awards 500 'Scholarships for Military Children'

By Mike Perron

DeCA public affairs specialist

For the 23rd straight year, Fisher House Foundation's Scholarships for Military Children program has awarded deserving children of U.S. service members scholarship grants, providing an early leg up in funding their higher education dreams.

This year 500 children were each awarded a \$2,000 scholarship by the nonprofit foundation for the upcoming 2023-2024 academic year.

Fisher House created the program in 2001 in partnership with the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) to recognize the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force and to celebrate the commissaries' role in enhancing the military's quality of life.

Fisher House has continually improved the application process to support the increasing number of students applying each year, according to Marshall Banks, Fisher House Foundation's director of

community relations.

"The application process for the 2023-2024 Scholarships for Military Children program went extremely well," he said. "We received 4,443 applications from 224 commissaries. That's a 21-percent increase in applicants from last year." He added that, in total, Fisher House has provided \$22,126,500 in scholarships over the last 23 years.

Scholarship applicants submit their official transcript indicating a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale for high school applicants, or indicating a cumulative minimum GPA of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale for students already enrolled in college; and an essay of 500 words or less, no longer than two pages.

Eligibility is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants must ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current military dependent ID card.

● Scholarship, page 4

Fifteen aviators earn 'Wings of Gold' in July pinning ceremonies

There were two naval aviator designation ceremonies -- July 21 and July 28 -- on-board Naval Air Station Meridian.

Fifteen aviators received their "Wings of Gold" during the ceremonies. 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."



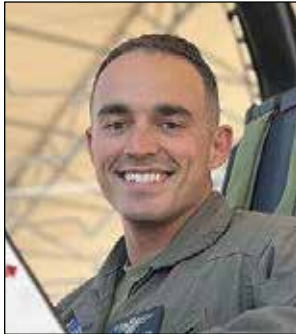
LTJG Anthony Alberico



LTJG Cage Campbell



LT Forrest Cullings



1STLT Stanley Fredette



1STLT Kenter Fry



1STLT Justus Grammer



LT Andrew Harding



LT Benjamin Hogin



1STLT Dan Jackson



1STLT Donald Letson



LTJG Gabrielle Rivera



LTJG Bret Silvestri



LTJG Hunter Smith



LTJG Temy Swinford



LT Austin Weinman

July 21 Golden Stick



Photo by MC2 Molly Crawford

Roger Burke, president of the Mississippi Council of the Navy League, presents the Golden Stick award to LTJG Gabrielle Rivera during a winging ceremony in the chapel onboard NAS Meridian, July 21.

July 28 Golden Stick



Photo by Adam Prince

Burke presents the Golden Stick award to 1STLT Dan Jackson during a winging ceremony in the chapel onboard NAS Meridian, July 28.

● NAS

"It has been an absolute honor to serve alongside the great men and women of NAS Meridian in support of our national security," Moore said. "The collective outstanding efforts of our team and the tremendous support from the community greatly exceeded my expectations over the last three years. The opportunity to be a part of this great team, as we've generated readiness for the Navy, Marine Corps, and our foreign partners has been the highlight of my 26-year naval career." Moore will continue his military career at U.S. Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia, as the head of Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Assessments for all US Navy bases in the continental United States.

CAPT Davis comes to Meridian from Patuxent River, Maryland, where he was assigned to Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), Program Management Activity 265 (PMA-265) as Assistant Program Manager for Systems Engineering supporting efforts in development, acquisition, and sustainment of all F/A-18E/F and EA-18G aircraft and subsystems.

"It's exciting to be back in Meridian," said Davis who earned his Wings of Gold in Meridian in October 2002. "I look forward to working with the dedicated NAS team, and our fantastic community supporters. Our mission remains crucial -- generating highly trained strike pilots and specialized enlisted personnel for the fleet."

Davis is a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida in 1999. He was commissioned through the Officer Candidate School in June 2000 at NAS Pensacola, Florida.

At sea, he served with the "Rooks" of VAQ-137 and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 1 aboard the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65), he deployed as part of the Multi-Carrier Surge, Rapid Fleet Response Plan, and again in 2006 supporting Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, which included forward operations from Al Asad Airbase, Iraq.

In 2016, he reported to the "Shadowhawks" of VAQ-141 in Atsugi, Japan for executive officer duties. As

executive officer, he oversaw the squadron and family home port change from NAF Atsugi to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan where he subsequently became the commanding officer.

During this tour, VAQ-141 was part of the Forward Deployed Naval Forces and (CVW) 5, and completed three Western Pacific deployments aboard the USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76).

His shore tours include instructor duty with VAQ-129 for EA-6B where he served as NATOPS Officer, Pilot Standardization Officer, and Carrier Qualification Phase Head. Davis reported to the "Flying Eagles" of VFA-122 at NAS Lemoore, California, to begin his transition to the EA-18G Growler.

After completing a CAT II syllabus in the F/A-18E/F, he returned to Whidbey Island for final Type Model Series (TMS) training in the EA-18G Growler. Following TMS training, Davis reported to the "Black Ravens" of VAQ-135 for his department head tour where he served as Tactics, and Operations Officer during the first EA-18G expeditionary deployment to Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

He served as Quality Assurance Officer during the squadron's "Safe for Flight" transition from the EA-6B to the EA-18G. Davis reported to the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center (NSAWC) at NAS Fallon, Nevada, and served as assistant department head of the United States Navy Airborne Electronic Attack Weapons School (HAVOC).

While at HAVOC, he oversaw the advancement of the Growler Tactics Instructor (GTI) course, created the Growler Intelligence Officer course, and developed EA-18G Tactics Techniques and Procedures.

Davis has accumulated 3,100 flight hours and over 300 carrier arrested landings. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Strike/Flight Air Medal (five awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various other unit and service awards.

The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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EAP (NAF Civilian): 800-932-0034
FFSC Meridian: 601-679-2360
Chaplain: 601-604-2015
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EEO (GS): 904-542-2802

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Local Happenings

AUGUST

10: Sister Hazel at 7:30 p.m. at the MSU Riley Center. The Gainesville, Florida, band burst onto the scene with the platinum 1997 album. Tickets range \$25-\$30; call 601-696-2200.

17: NightMarket from 5-8 p.m. at the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience. Join The MAX and Earth's Bounty for NightMarket at The MAX. Browse vendor booths with products from local artists, artisans, bakers, and more. Enjoy a drink, live music, and food trucks. Free and open to the public; call 601-581-1550, ext 35.

19: SummerFest from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Dumont Plaza, downtown Meridian. Outdoor community event for the entire family. Live music, livestock, food vendors as well as arts and craft vendors. Face painting for the kids and Cornhole toss for the big kids (Adults...lol). Email ustilllookn4me@gmail.com for details.

26: Sipp & Savor Preview Party from 5-9 p.m. at the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience. Join us for an exclusive preview party at Castle Grove Plantation featuring an unforgettable evening of food, craftsmanship, and artistry. The event will feature three talented individuals: Victoria Loomis, The Gatherin Girl Chef, Josh Raggio Custom Calls, and Mary Landrum of ML Provisions. Call 601-581-1550, ext 35.

Area Happenings

AUGUST

19: New Orleans Hip Hop Festival from 4-10 p.m. at Vybes Nation, 1681 Religious St, New Orleans, LA.

25: The Doobie Brothers - 50th Anniversary Tour at 8 p.m. at the Radians Amphitheater, 750 Cherry Rd, Memphis, TN. Call 901-636-4100.

26: Chris Stapleton's All-American Road Show from 7-11 p.m. at the Ameris Bank Amphitheatre, 2200 Encore Pkwy, Alpharetta, GA. Call 404-733-5010.

26-27: Taste of 4th Avenue Jazz Festival 2023 Historic 4th Avenue Business District, 4th Ave N, Birmingham, AL.

Marine infantry packs a logistics punch on Australian Beach

Several hundred U.S. Marine Corps infantrymen of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit landed yesterday on the beach at Midge Point in Queensland, Australia.

With them were trucks, spare parts, mechanics, fuel, communications gear and everything else needed to support the infantry in a fight as part of Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023 — the U.S.-Australia exercise that included a dozen other partner nations.

During the first decades of the 21st century, Marines and other forces in Iraq and Afghanistan relied on massive logistics sites, known as "iron mountains," for beans, bullets, bandages and everything else needed to conduct operations, said Marine Corps Lt. Col. Matt Verdin, com-

mander of Combat Logistics Battalion, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, based at Camp Pendleton, California. Not anymore, he said.

When Marines came ashore in Navy landing craft air cushions, or LCACs as they are better known, they took with them all the supplies and other materiel needed to push inland against entrenched enemy forces in the exercise scenario, he said.

It's getting back to the roots of what the Marine Corps does best, he said: sustaining themselves in austere, contested environments and moving quickly to secure objectives without waiting for the logistics tail to catch up to the fighters.

-- By David Vergun,
DOD News

[Read more, click here](#)

Multinational Task Force completes exercise in P-8 flight over Arabian Gulf

A multinational naval coalition that monitors and patrols key waterways in the Middle East completed a naval exercise over the Arabian Gulf, July 26, with representatives from Bahrain, the United Kingdom and the United States. The 11-nation coalition, International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC), conducted exercise Sentinel Shield aboard a U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon aircraft that patrolled waters near the Strait of Hormuz. The aircraft practiced airborne reconnaissance and surveillance while participants demonstrated interoperability.

Sentinel Shield is a recurring exercise series led by IMSC's operational arm, Coalition Task Force Sentinel, to enhance communication and coordination between partner naval forces.

"I am pleased by the outcome of this month's exercise," said United Kingdom Royal Navy Commodore Peter Laughton, commander for IMSC and the task force. "We are strongest when we leverage our regional partnerships. Operating as a coalition highlights our collective commitment to maintaining regional maritime security."

-- From U.S. Naval Forces

[Read more, click here](#)

Navy SEALs enhance maritime dominance with partner forces in Colombia

East-Coast-Based Naval Special Warfare Operators (SEAL) showcased their capabilities and strengthened international partnerships during their participation in the multinational exercise UNITAS 64. As part of the exercise, SEALs trained alongside partner nation special operations forces in submarine operations, visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS), and close quarters combat (CQC), reaffirming the importance of collaboration in maritime defense strategies.

UNITAS, an annual joint exercise, brought together naval forces from 20 nations in Colombia to enhance interoper-

ability and increase the collective capability to respond to evolving maritime security challenges. The event kicked off with an opening ceremony where Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Carlos Del Toro delivered remarks.

"When I assumed office as the 78th Secretary of the Navy in August of 2021, I made enhancing strategic partnerships one of our Department's top enduring priorities," said Del Toro. "Trust, proficiency, and interoperability are core tenets of our partnerships as we work together to advance our common interests in the Western Hemisphere."

-- From Lt.j.g. Martin Carey

[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

New! For Rent: 3BD/2BD home near Causeyville 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: 2 BD/1 1/2 BA 1100 square foot home in

Dalewood with main lake access. Asking \$1300 a month. Email: rosscandeloproperties@gmail.com for information..

For Rent: Lake Cabin near NAS Meridian. 1 BD/1 BA; \$700 month. Unfurnished.

For Rent: 3BD, 2BA home with washer/dryer, wifi, lawn service and water included. \$1500/month. Call 601-917-8594.

For Rent: 3BD/2BA private gated home with 2-car garage in West Lauderdale; 15 minutes from the base. Call 601-737-4569 or 601-934-0739.

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

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, e-mail 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

Executive order changes how military handles sexual assaults

By C. Todd Lopez

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

The president recently signed an executive order that changes how some crimes — including sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and murder — are handled within the military justice system.

The executive order makes changes to the Manual for Courts-Martial. The changes, among other things, move responsibility for the handling of such crimes away from military commanders to independent military prosecutors, who are outside the military chain of command.

Many of the changes in the executive order are related to recommendations made by the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military, which was created in early 2021 at the direction of Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III. The commission submitted its final recommendations to the president in June 2021.

Following his personal review of the commission's recommendations, Austin said he had a "strong bias" toward accepting them and added that doing so was part of taking care of the military's most important asset: its people.

"Our most critical asset as a department is our people, and our people and readiness are inextricably linked,"

Austin wrote in a June 2021 memorandum. "We will remain the preeminent fighting force in the world because we strive to better take care of our people. Our values and expectation remain at the core of addressing this problem, and I have every confidence that our force will get this right."

According to a senior administration official, the executive order amends the Manual for Courts-Martial and its accompanying rules in several ways.

First, the order establishes rules to govern the new special trial counsels, who will serve as the independent military prosecutors. They will decide, in place of military commanders, whether to prosecute allegations of sexual assault, domestic violence, and certain other serious offenses.

The order also:

- ✓ Establishes that prosecutorial decisions made by the special trial counsel are binding and are fully independent from the military chain of command.
- ✓ Clearly delineates the relationship and authorized interactions between special trial counsel and commanders to protect the independence of the special trial counsel.
- ✓ Updates the procedures necessary to protect victims

and the accused before, during and after court-martial proceedings.

✓ The administration official also said the executive order reforms the sentencing system to promote uniformity and fairness, as recommended by the commission to reduce disparities in sentencing in cases of rape and sexual assault.

"Lastly, [it creates] a uniform, 'preponderance of the evidence' standard for the imposition of non-judicial punishment, which the IRC highlighted as critical to make consistent across the military services, given that most sexual misconduct cases are handled by non-judicial punishment, rather than courts-martial," the official said.

Under the new rules, the official said, the special trial counsel has the "right of first refusal" when it comes to deciding whether to be involved in prosecuting some crimes committed by military personnel.

"This is a shift in the way the military justice system does business fundamentally," the official said. "What was really important with the specific rules that are being changed through the order ... is effectively that the special trial counsel — these independent prosecutors — have the right of first refusal when cases come up that fall under any of the crimes or covered offenses."

[Read more, click here](#)

● Scholarship

The applicant must also be planning to attend or already be attending an accredited college or university, full time, in the fall of 2023 or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Applicants who are awarded a full scholarship to attend a college or university or receive an appointment to one of the military academies or affiliated preparatory schools are not eligible to receive funds from this program. A full scholarship is usually defined as one that provides for payment of tuition, books, lab fees and other expenses.

All rules and requirements for the program, as well as links to frequently asked questions are available at the Scholarships for Military Children website, as is the full list of this year's winners.

"The window to apply for the 2024-2025 Fisher House Scholarships should open in December and close sometime in February, but the exact dates have not been set yet," said Todd Heasley, DeCA's scholarships program liaison. "Be sure to

check the scholarship page in December for the date of the opening, as well as the new essay question for the year."

Fisher House Foundation also has a custom scholarship search engine on its scholarship website, tailored to military families, called "Scholarships for Service." It's free, easy to use, and available on mobile devices or computers at militaryscholar.org.

"Fisher House Foundation has a long history of direct, critical support to service members and their families," said Marine Sgt. Maj. Michael Saucedo, senior enlisted advisor to the DeCA director. "It's an honor for us at the Defense Commissary Agency to promote these scholarship grants again this year, offering the children of service members a timely head start to their journey in higher education."

Fisher House Foundation is ranked a four-star charity by Charity Navigator. No government funds are used to support the Scholarships for Military Children Program. Commissary vendors, manufacturers, brokers, suppliers and the general public donate money to fund the program.

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Milspouse social life: When three's a crowd

"She's been acting weird lately," my 22-year-old daughter, Lilly, said to her friend, Shannon, while they lounged lazily around our kitchen banquette.

"I don't get it... I thought the three of us were good friends." They went on chatting while I buzzed around the kitchen, wiping fingerprints off of the appliances.

As a mom, one of my favorite things has been hanging out with my kids and their friends after sleepovers, listening to their stories and helping to analyze their social dilemmas.

When I was an adolescent, I didn't talk to my mother about my social life. Not only was Mom busy with her career, kids were taught to respect that parents worked hard and shouldn't be bothered with trivial things. In the eighties, children were to be "seen and not heard" while parents enjoyed their cocktails, cigarettes and "Columbo"

reruns.

Conversely, today's parents are more involved in their children's lives. Naturally, my kids fought my interference when they were teens. But as young adults, they seem to enjoy including me in their conversations.

"Maybe she's jealous that you two have been getting closer," I suggested to Lilly and Shannon.

"Yeah, all of a sudden she's bad-mouthing you. It's like she wants to turn me against you," Lilly said to Shannon.

The story sounded all too familiar. I'd experienced problems with friend trios, which often work initially, but often deconstruct, forming new bonds and spitting out a "third wheel." One friend always loses out.

As a young military spouse and mom, I frequently found myself on the fringe of social groups. But when the kids were small and I was working hard to manage our family chaos during deployments and TDY, I thought I'd finally made a true friend.

We differed in that she was a runner, fashionable, and socially in demand. But we had other things in common — both Navy wives and stay at home moms with kids the same age. We met at Bunco, then set up playdates. Her

second and my third pregnancies overlapped. They asked us to be Godparents to their baby girl, and we accepted. Our husbands enjoyed each other's humor. We had deep conversations on weekends in the driveway, while the kids rode scooters and chased lightning bugs in the cul-de-sac. To me, it felt right.

However, a few years in, a distancing began that slowly unraveled the friendship. More importantly, the distancing unraveled me, exposing surprising character traits in me that I didn't like.

Although there were many small clues along the way, I recall two specific "hard slaps in the face" — clear indications that my friend was moving on. One Saturday, when our families had plans to meet up, she called and told me her "son was sick." The next day, her six-year-old daughter came over to play with Lilly, and I asked, "How's your brother? Poor guy. Did he throw up last night?"

"No?" she replied, seemingly confused. "The Rogersons came over and we had so much fun!" she smiled. The Rogersons were new friends that I knew, too. "Why did she lie to me? Why couldn't we all get together?" I thought, my ego bruised.

Another Saturday, four families, in-

cluding my friend's family and the Rogersons, were playing cards and drinking beer. A bit tipsy, my friend and the Rogerson wife were calling each other "bestie," hugging, and proclaiming, "I love you!" I felt hurt and confused. Once alone, I cried. "What the hell is wrong with me?!" I thought, "I'm almost 40 for crimony's sake!"

Our family received orders to Germany, and we eventually lost touch. Through it all, I learned that feeling cast aside by someone I perceived to be "popular" brought out the worst in me. All of my deepest insecurities surfaced. She didn't mean to hurt me, she simply wanted to make new friends. I needed to find inner strength and confidence to avoid crashing when relationships transitioned, as they often do for military spouses.

"Girls," I advised Lilly and Shannon, "don't hide that you two are becoming closer, but be compassionate. The truth may hurt, and she may act weird. But it's natural for friendships to change. She'll eventually understand and appreciate your honesty."

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.

COLUMN



Molinari



COED KICKBALL TOURNAMENT

Registration:
July 31st - September 3rd

Team Meeting:
September 7th at 1500

Games begin:
September 12th at 1730

Scan the QR Code or
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to sign up







DRIVING RANGE
CALL (601) 679-2526




SAC Open House & Back to School Giveaway

August 10 • 1700-1900 • School Aged Care Center

Bring your kids to the School Aged Care Center to take a tour of the facility! The School Liaison, Larry Mullins, will be present to give away school supplies while materials last.



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DEADLIFT COMPETITION

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August 19 • 1200 • Liberty Center



COME TO LIBERTY TO TRY ALL THINGS SPICY! AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

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