

NAS Meridian Celebrates Navy 250 Birthday

On Base

Tickets & Travel @ Community Rec

Offers a variety of tickets to popular vacation destinations, such as Walt Disney World, Universal Studios Orlando and more. Call 679-2526

Cosmic Bowling Nights

Every Saturday @ 1900
McCain Rec Center

Story Time

Every Wednesday @ 1000
Andrew Triplett Library

RUCK Workout

Wednesdays @ 0515
Fitness Center

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SCAN for the Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box



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Photos by MC2 Molly Tice
MERIDIAN, MS -- Naval Air Station Meridian hosted the Navy 250 Birthday Ball at Northwood Country Club, Oct. 11. Rear Admiral Endel Lee, retired Navy Chaplain, attended as a guest speaker at the event, and emphasized the importance of Naval history, heritage and tradition. For 250 years, America's Warfighting Navy has deterred aggression, defended our national security interests, and preserved our way of life.



NAVY 250th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 18TH 1600-1900

(FIELD ACROSS FROM BLDG 255)

Must be an authorized patron and have a government ID to access the installation.

No pets allowed

Live Bands • Carnival Rides • Beer Garden
Bounce Houses • Games • Inflatables and much more!

MWR

NAVY FEDERAL Credit Union

THREEFOOT BREWING

SOUTHERN PIPE & SUPPLY

FIRST COMMAND

NAVY 250

The Department of the Navy does not endorse any company, sponsor or their products or services

Six aviators earn Wings of Gold in October ceremony

From Staff Reports

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony October 3 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian. Three 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.”

LTJG Charles Crispi, USN, is a 2022 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in

Operations Research. While in Primary Flight Training, LTJG Crispi was named to the Commodore’s List with Distinction. During Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned two Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LTJG Crispi completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron NINE.

LT Alec Engl, USN, is a 2021 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering. LT Engl is also a 2023 graduate of Stanford University, where he received a Master of Science in Applied Physics. During Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned four Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LT Engl completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron SEVEN.

LTJG Seth Holloway, USN, is a 2022 graduate

of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Math with Economics. While in Primary Flight Training, LTJG Holloway was named to the Commodore’s List with Distinction. During Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned four Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LTJG Holloway completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron NINE.

LT Rachel Kortman, USN, is a 2019 graduate of Boston University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science. During Advanced Jet Flight Training, she earned three Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LT Kortman completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron SEVEN.

LTJG Caden Meilner, USN, is a 2022 graduate of the United

States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Robotics and Control Engineering. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned three Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LTJG Meilner completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron SEVEN.

LTJG Mahlon Sorensen, USN, is a 2012 graduate of Yale University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. While in Primary Flight Training, LTJG Sorensen was named to the Commodore’s List with Distinction. During Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned three Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LTJG Sorensen completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron NINE.

Golden Stick Award



Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

Mississippi Council of the Navy League President Joe Mercado has the honor of presenting the Golden Stick award to LTJG Seth Holloway, USN, during a winging ceremony in the chapel onboard NAS Meridian, October 3. 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.



Crispi



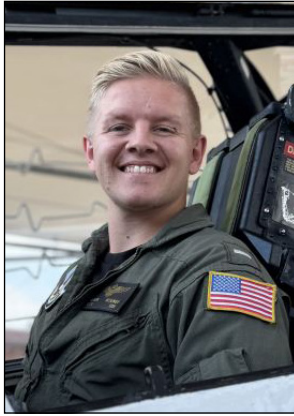
Engl



Holloway



Kortman



Meilner



Sorensen

BZ, TW-1 Awardees!



Courtesy Photo

Mrs. Regina D. Roberts, Training Air Wing ONE Financial/Supply Management Specialist, was selected as the Senior Civilian Employee of the Quarter for (4th Quarter) FY-2025.



Courtesy Photo

Mr. Joseph M. Jackson, Training Air Wing ONE NAPP Assistant, was selected as the Junior Civilian Employee of the Quarter (4th Quarter) for FY-2025.



Courtesy Photo

Mr. William D. Sealey, Training Air Wing ONE Support Services Supervisor, was awarded his five year Length of Service Recognition award.

The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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Executive Officer ~
CAPT Mike Missler

Command Master Chief ~
CMDCM Randy Griffeth

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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

Oct. 16 at 6:00 p.m.: Everyone who has seen the 2025 hit film Sinners wants to discuss it. Here's your chance. Set in Mississippi, sharing Mississippi stories and showcasing Mississippi talent, Sinners follows twin brothers in Clarksdale who've returned home to open a juke joint. The movie intertwines historical drama, social commentary, and horror with a Mississippi soundtrack that can't be beat. Come to The MAX at 6:30 pm on Thursday for a robust panel conversation featuring a filmmaker, scholar, blues musician, and community leaders from the Delta. The discussion will open up for dialogue with the audience towards the end. Please RSVP and let us know you are coming to help us prepare. Sinners is rated R for strong bloody violence, sexual content, and language. Parental guidance is strongly suggested.

Oct. 16 at 5:30 p.m.: Third Thursday returns to Dumont Plaza on October 16th. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, Mariachi Moderno Internacional will be providing entertainment. Enjoy a fun-filled evening from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. in Downtown Meridian.

Oct. 18 at 10:00 a.m.: Superheroes, princesses, and silly monsters are all invited to the Mississippi Children's BOO!seum on October 18 from 10 AM to 3 PM. Dress up in your favorite costume and enjoy a day of spooky science, festive fall games, creepy-crawly crafts, and glow-in-the-dark dance parties for a not-too-spooky celebration the whole family will love.

Oct. 18 at 2:00 p.m.: Join us downtown for the 10th Annual Bud & Burgers. Burger cooking competition; Live entertainment; Otkoberfest beer garden; Football on the big screen; Cornhole tournament. Proceeds benefit LOVE's Kitchen of Meridian.

Oct. 24-25 at 5:30 p.m.: Boos & Brews on the Roof. Join us for a spooktacular night under the stars at Meridian's most iconic rooftop! The Threefoot Hotel invites you to sip, savor, and celebrate Halloween in style at our Boos & Brews event located at The Boxcar rooftop. Enjoy seasonal craft brews & spooky cocktails; Haunted rooftop décor with sweeping city views; Costume contest with prizes for the best dressed Grab your friends, put on your best costume, and get ready for a frightfully fun night filled with boos, brews, and rooftop views. Ticket includes choice of one drink & rooftop access. Ticket is for one night access only, and be sure to be here by 9:30 PM to keep your spot!!

Oct. 25 at 1:00 p.m.: Grab your kids & costumes and head downtown to the City of Meridian's annual Candy Crawl. Enjoy carnival rides, music, & food at City Hall Lawn and DuMont Plaza, as well as candy from participating businesses. This year's event also includes a special "Sensory Street" located behind City Hall. Whether you crawl, stroll, or roll, Sensory Street is here to provide a welcoming, calm, and inclusive environment for individuals of all abilities.

Oct. 30 at 5:30 p.m.: Breast Cancer Awareness Walk presented by Jamal Roberts. Join us for a walk to raise awareness and support for breast cancer research and survivors! Thursday, October 30 5-8 p.m. at Bonita Lakes Park.

The Department of the Navy does not approve, endorse, or authorize these entities or their products/services

Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box

Sailor of the Week/Month Proposal:

A suggestion was made to establish a "Sailor of the Week or Month" program that recognizes outstanding Sailors across the command with a lunch alongside the Triad and possibly a special liberty reward. Leadership agrees this is a great idea to highlight excellence, strengthen connection, and boost morale throughout the command. The Command Master Chief is currently developing a plan to implement this initiative — more details to follow soon.

Unaccompanied Housing Maintenance Update:

A concern was raised regarding ant infestations and slippery walkways caused by A/C condensation and moss buildup around Bldg. 208. In coordination with residents, the Base Beautification Team promptly cleaned the affected areas, and pest control was treated the same day. Public Works continues to monitor for any recurring issues, and residents are encouraged to report additional concerns by scanning the trouble ticket QR code located inside each UH room or by notifying the Building Manager directly. Teamwork between residents and the Base Beautification Team remains vital to keeping our living spaces safe, clean, and well-maintained.

Traffic Safety Near Schoolhouses:

A request was made to install a larger "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" sign at the two-way stop near the schoolhouses to improve driver awareness. This action has been completed — the new signage is now in place to help reduce confusion

and enhance safety at the intersection.

Traffic Safety Near Main Gate:

NAS Meridian personnel raised concerns about morning congestion and unsafe driving near the front gate, including speeding, illegal passing, U-turns, and vehicles cutting in line outside the blue line — some drivers have been observed turning right off John C. Stennis Drive onto Rabbit Road in front of the Visitor Control Center and immediately making U-turns to bypass traffic. This behavior poses a significant safety hazard.

In response, Security will increase patrols near the Visitor Control Center and coordinate with the Mississippi Highway Patrol to monitor John C. Stennis Drive and Rabbit Road during peak hours. Lauderdale county has also installed rumble strips and will be installing flashing "stop ahead" alert signs in the future. Drivers are reminded to follow posted speed limits, stay in their designated lanes, and report on-base traffic concerns to the Security Department.



You can share your feedback and suggestions by scanning the QR code above!

Sale... Or

HOMES/APARTMENTS

For Rent: 3 BD/2 BA. West Lauderdale School District. No HUD, Renter is responsible for all utilities, 1 year lease, \$1700 a month, \$1700 deposit. Contact 662-694-1696

For Rent: 2 BD/1 BA, 600 sq. ft. Rent is \$1275/Month with a \$1275 Security Deposit. Rent includes an 8x11 Storage Unit, In Unit Stackable Washer/Dryer, granite countertops and Stainless Steel appliances. Pets are negotiable. No Smoking. Contact Rhonda at 601-488-1963

For Rent: 3 BD/2 BA, 1100 Sq. Ft. Rent is \$1425/Month with a \$1425 Security Deposit. Rent includes an 8x11 Storage Unit, In Unit Stackable Washer/Dryer, granite countertops and Stainless Steel appliances. Pets are negotiable.

No Smoking. Contact Rhonda at 601-488-1963

For Rent: 3 BR/2 BA home in a quiet family neighborhood comes with all appliances (incl. W/D), and is convenient to NAS Meridian, schools, shopping, activities and major employers in the area. Outside, there's a large fenced yard with patio and an attached 2-car garage with keypad entry. All electric with central AC/heat. Contact Leslie Turner, 601-527-4670 to view. See Zillow listing for more information and to submit applications. Rent \$1,750 per month.

For Sale: 3 BD/4 BA home with 2965 sq ft of lake view home in beautiful, gated Lake Eddins in Pachuta. Entertainer's kitchen with huge eat at bar. Brick floors in main living areas, all new floor covering in remaining areas, total remodel. Gorgeous brick w/natural cypress home,

2 car garage w/bonus room. Asking \$299,900. Will include additional lot on water for fishing/boat storage w/asking price. Call 601-720-1420.

For Rent: 1 BD/1 BA. Entire House in North Hills District. Listed on AIRBNB or can book direct. Daily or weekly rates plus cleaning fees. Contact: 601-504-5415.

For Sale: 2275 sq ft 3BR / 2.5 BA with attached 2 car garage built in 1996 on appx 1.15 acres. New roof and fresh paint in August 25. Separate 25X30 detached garage. Covered front porch. Nice covered back patio with new ceiling fans. Conveniently located 5 miles to Clarkdale school, 5 miles from I-20 and a quick 20-25 minute drive to NAS. Contact: Marsha Boyken 601-917-3900

MISCELLANEOUS

Event Space for Rent: Deer Creek Banquet Hall. 6000 sq. ft. indoor with 1600 sq. ft. outdoor spaces for rent for gatherings and events. Call Reginald at 251-455-1559.

Listings in the "Sale...Or" column are free!

Submission deadline is the Wednesday prior to production.

Email information to nasmeridian-pao@gmail.com

Sailors Celebrate the Navy’s 250th Birthday Aboard the USS John L. Canley

Courtesy Story

Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific
WESTERN PACIFIC OCEAN – Multinational service members deployed in support of Pacific Partnership 2025 celebrated the Navy’s 250th Birthday embarked on the Lewis B. Puller-class expeditionary sea base USS John L. Canley (ESB-6) underway in the Western Pacific Ocean, Oct. 13, 2025. Pacific Partnership 2025 is a six-month operation focused on four lines of effort: engineering, disaster management, medical, and host nation outreach events. In 1972, then-Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt authorized official recognition of Oct. 13 as the Navy’s birthday “to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service.” In 2025, the Navy celebrates 250 years of building partnerships, strengthening

allies, and deterring adversaries. This is especially true for the Sailors aboard the USS John L. Canley, who are embarked with personnel from five allied nations: Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. Their mission includes Papua New Guinea, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Samoa, and Vanuatu. Additional elements conducted fly-in stops in Fiji, the Philippines, and Tonga. Their efforts are building and strengthening multinational ties as partners and allies prepare in calm to respond in crisis. “As we celebrate the Navy’s 250th birthday, we reflect on two and a half centuries of defending freedom and protecting prosperity around the world,” said Capt. Mark Stefanik, mission commander for Pacific Partnership 2025, “I can’t think of a better place to celebrate this momentous milestone than at sea, doing what our Navy does best.”



Photo by MCSN Elijah Webb

Multinational service members assigned to Pacific Partnership 2025 and Sailors assigned to the Lewis B. Puller-class expeditionary sea base USS John L. Canley (ESB 6) pose in a 250-shaped formation in celebration of the Navy’s 250th birthday.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

Two Thousand Miles of Determination: A Marine’s Journey Through Water and Will

By LCpl Erica Padgett
Marine Corps Installation East

Retired Lt. Col. Chuck Collins, a former Marine Corps helicopter pilot, Naval aviator and executive officer of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) New River, forged a path of resilience at Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) Aquatics Program on Camp Lejeune. Through the Devil Fish Program, a long-distance swimming initiative that encourages participants to log cumulative swim mileage toward major milestones, he completed a 2,000-mile journey at the MCCS Wallace Creek Fitness Center, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Sept. 30, 2025. For him, the accomplishment is about more than numbers. It represents the values instilled by the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) and the strength of MCCS Aquatics in fostering fitness for Marines and retirees. “I was inspired to join the Devil Fish Program by a lifeguard at the MCAS New River indoor pool,” Collins said. “She encouraged me to join after I had been swimming for about a year to support the program. I agreed. Little did I know that the benefits to me far

outweighed my support of the program.” That encouragement sparked a journey that has spanned 20 years, with a steady rhythm of two miles a week, eight miles a month and 100 miles a year, completing a remarkable 2,000-mile journey, an achievement that rivals the length of the Rio Grande, which stretches approximately 1,900 miles. That encouragement sparked a journey that has spanned 20 years, with a steady rhythm of two miles a week, eight miles a month and 100 miles a year, completing a remarkable 2,000-mile journey, an achievement that rivals the length of the Rio Grande, which stretches approximately 1,900 miles. “I have stayed motivated due to the encouragement of the Devil Fish Program, by its recognition of my swim, posting miles on its board and giving me motivation to continue,” Collins said. His most memorable moment came at the halfway point. “My most memorable swim was my 1,000-mile swim, where my wife and MCAS staff greeted me with balloons, doughnuts and recognition for my accomplishment,” he said.



Photo by LCpl Erica Padgett

U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Chuck Collins (retired), poses for a photo after completing his 2,000th mile swim as part of the Marine Corps Community Services Devil Fish Program at the Wallace Creek pool on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Sept. 30, 2025.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

Captain’s Virtual Suggestion Box

Base Beautification and Grounds Maintenance:

Suggestions were made to improve the appearance of NAS Meridian by cutting overgrown right-of-ways and trimming trees around base buildings more frequently. Public Works shared that many of these areas are currently re-establishing soil stability after recent tree-clearing efforts. Once this process is complete (2 years), they will be added to the regular mowing and bush-hogging schedule. Personnel are encouraged to report specific concerns through their building

managers. Base pride and beautification remain top priorities for NAS Meridian. In addition, significant bush-hogging and clearing have already been completed across several areas of the installation as part of ongoing beautification efforts. These actions have improved visibility, reduced overgrowth, and enhanced the overall appearance of the base. Public Works and the Base Beautification Team will continue scheduled maintenance cycles to sustain these improvements and ensure a clean, professional environment for all who live and work aboard

NAS Meridian. Commissary Access and Product Quality:

A suggestion was made to allow civilian employees to shop at the Commissary to help increase inventory turnover and improve product freshness. DeCA must follow Department of Defense regulations (DoDI 1330.17) that limit shopping privileges to authorized patrons.

Addressing Personnel Concerns:

We’ve received feedback regarding individual personnel or specific situations. Please note that while we don’t publicize or identify individuals

in these matters, all concerns are taken seriously and addressed promptly through the proper leadership channels. Your input helps us maintain a professional and respectful community—thank you for continuing to bring issues forward responsibly.

Paintball Event Suggestion:

A suggestion was made to host a paintball or capture-the-flag event between E7 and above versus E6 and below in the old barracks before demolition. While MWR is open to hosting a paintball event elsewhere on base, the old barracks

are not suitable due to safety concerns — including broken glass from windows, unstable railings, and fall hazards in ladder wells and upper decks. MWR will explore safer locations on base for a similar morale-building event and is currently seeking volunteers to help plan and coordinate. Those interested in assisting with event setup, logistics, or game coordination are encouraged to contact the MWR Office. Your input and support will help make this an exciting and safe competition for everyone.

FFSC Hours:
Mon.-Thurs.:
0800-1630

Fri.:
0700-1530

N9 Nook

Check here to see the latest news with
Fleet & Family, Child and Youth Programs, & MWR!



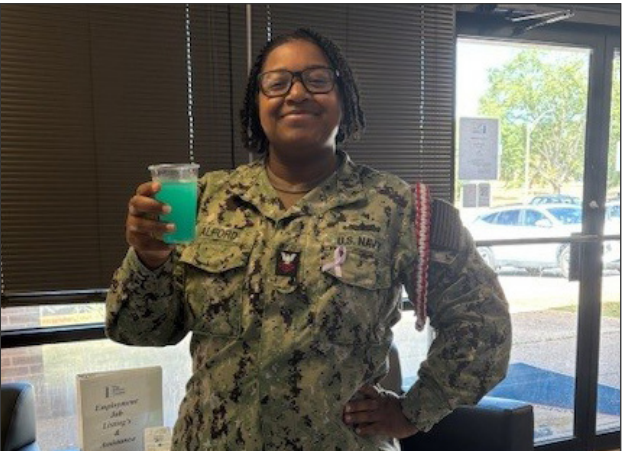
2025 OCTOBER


- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Exceptional Family Member Program Month
- National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Pick Up a Purple Ribbon @ FFSC! 10am Story Time @ Library	2 Purple Thursdays!	3 Blue Lemonade Drive Thru @ 11am!	4
5	6 	7	8 DV Info Table @ Galley	9 Purple Thursdays!	10	11 
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK						
12	13 U.S. Navy 250th Birthday! 	14	15	16 Purple Thursdays! NavyFed @ Library - Retirement Planning	17	18 250th Navy Celebration & Purple Pumpkin Project! 
19  Follow FFSC on Facebook!	20	21  Spooky Cookie Class @ Liberty	22  National Smart is Cool Day!	23 Purple Thursdays!	24	25 Make a Difference Day!
26  Follow FFSC on Instagram!	27	28 Breast Cancer Pillows	29	30 Purple Thursdays!	31  Happy Halloween!	

FFSC Events


Throughout October Fleet and Family will host educational workshops, information tables, and outreach events to promote healthy relationships, empower survivors, and ensure all service members and families know where to turn to for help. Be on the look out for Purple Thursdays - wear purple to show your support for survivors and your commitment to ending domestic violence. In honor of Exceptional Family Member Month, Brittney Butchee hosted a Blue Lemonade Drive Through!





GROUP EXERCISE SCHEDULE

All classes are FREE to authorized patrons. For more information call 801.679.2379.



Navy Operational Fitness and Pooling System

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		5:05 Ruck Jenni		
9:15 HITT Jenni	9:15 Lower Body Strength Jenni	9:05 HITT Jenni	9:05 Upper Body Strength Jenni	9:05 FIT Friday (NOFFS Entrance Only) Jenni
1:00 Circuit Training Jenni			11:00 Total Body Jenni	
	12:00 YOGA Jenni			

NOFFS & COMMAND PT SESSIONS AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

HITT is a workout that consist of short energy burst followed by quick recovery
Total Body Strength: a workout that works lower and upper body and core
Lower/Upper Body Strength: workouts that are done using machines and free weights to increase muscle strength
Circuit Training: a workout that consist of multiple workout stations that are rotated through during the workout

Follow these programs to see updates!

FFSC:

MWR:



Facebook

Instagram

Facebook

Instagram