



~ Reminder ~

Daylight Savings end
Nov. 6

News Bytes

~ Click here ~

Ash Carter, defense chief who opened combat to women, dies

~ Click here ~

Powerball jackpot rises to \$700M, 8th largest lottery prize

~ Click here ~

Nola to start World Series Game 1 for Phils, Wheeler Game 2

~ Click here ~

ESPN sells majority interest in iconic X Games brand

What's Inside



~ page 4 ~

From hobby to career

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Congrats newly pinned FY23 Chiefs!



Fiscal year 2023 Chief Petty Officers pose for a group picture after a pinning ceremony in the Chapel onboard NAS Meridian, Oct. 21. The FY23 Class includes (alphabetically): **MAC Samuel Clark, OSC Jonathan Dallas, OSC Gregory Ellzey, ACC Robert Gabrelcik, YNC Jeffrey Gross, AZC Kevin Hedgepeth, RSC Daphne Lindsay, MAC Craig Palmer, MAC Thomas Sills, ACC Chereigne Smith and ACC Andrew Wheeler.** The Chief's mess from NAS Meridian, NTTC Meridan, Navy Reserve Center, Meridian --a as well as retired chiefs -- participated in the ceremony

See page two for individual photos.

Photo by Penny Randall

More partners sign on to hire military spouses

By C. Todd Lopez

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

The Defense Department today signed up an additional 70 government organizations, nonprofits and private sector companies to participate in its Military Spouse Employment Partnership program. With the new additions, there are now more than 600 such organizations committed to recruiting, hiring, promoting and retaining military spouses.

Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr., the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, welcomed the new companies into the partnership during an induction ceremony at the three-day MSEP Engage 2022 event in Northern Virginia.

"I want to welcome and congratulate and thank the more than 70 new employer partners



Courtesy photo from Air Force

During an induction ceremony Oct. 25, 2022, the Defense Department added more than 70 new government organizations, nonprofits and private sector companies as partners within its Military Spouse Employment Partnership program. Those new organizations and companies have made a commitment to recruiting, hiring, promoting and retaining military spouses.

who have joined the Military Spouse Employment Partnership here today," Cisneros said.

"Today we're celebrating your commitment and induction, and this marks the culmination of

a robust vetting process, all of which clearly demonstrated that you, the class of 2023, are truly committed."

Since the MSEP program began in 2011, the program's partnering efforts have helped connect more than 250,000 military spouses to employment opportunities across all industry sectors, Cisneros said.

"You've joined an elite group that opens you to the military spouse community and the diverse skills and talents that they offer," he said. "With these latest inductions we're up to more than 600 total MSEP partners since we started this program back in 2011."

Additionally, more than 40,000 military spouses were reported as hired by MSEP partners since last October, Cisneros said.

[Read more, click here](#)

US economy returned to growth last quarter, expanding 2.6%

By Paul Wiseman

AP News

The U.S. economy grew at a better-than-expected 2.6% annual rate from July through September, snapping two straight quarters of economic contraction and overcoming punishingly high inflation and interest rates.

Thursday's estimate from the Commerce Department showed that the nation's gross domestic product — the broadest gauge of economic output — grew in the third quarter after having shrunk in the first half of 2022. Stronger exports and steady consumer spending, backed by a healthy job market, helped

restore growth to the world's biggest economy.

Consumer spending, which accounts for about 70% of U.S. economic activity, expanded at a 1.4% annual pace, down from a 2% rate from April through June. Last quarter's growth also got a boost from exports, which shot up at an annual pace of 14.4%.

Housing investment, though, plunged at a 26% annual pace, hammered by surging mortgage rates as the Federal Reserve raises borrowing costs to combat chronic inflation.

The outlook for the overall economy has darkened. The Fed has raised interest rates five times this year and is set to do so again next

week and in December. Chair Jerome Powell has warned that the Fed's hikes will bring "pain" in the form of higher unemployment and possibly a recession.

The government's latest GDP report comes as Americans, worried about inflation and the risk of recession, have begun to vote in mid-term elections that will determine whether President Joe Biden's Democratic Party retains control of Congress. Inflation has become a signature issue for Republican attacks on the Democrats' stewardship of the economy.

● [Economy, page 4](#)



MAC Samuel Clark

NAS Meridian



OSC Jonathan Dallas

Navy Reserve Center, Meridian



OSC Gregory Ellzey

Navy Reserve Center, Meridian



ACC Robert Gabrelcik

NAS Meridian



YNC Jeffery Gross

NTTC Meridian



AZC Kevin Hedgepeth

NTTC Meridian



RSC Daphne Lindsay

NTTC Meridian



MAC Craig Palmer

NAS Meridian



MAC Thomas Sills

NAS Meridian



ACC Chereigne Smith

NAS Meridian



ACC Andrew Wheeler

NAS Meridian

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Local Happenings

OCTOBER

29: Holiday Extravaganza Gift Show from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Lauderdale County Agri Center. Largest gift show in the area with over 100 vendors. Call 601-480-1776.

NOVEMBER

4-5: Soule' Live Steam Festival from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Soule Steam Feed Works. The 19th Annual Soule Live Steam Festival gives visitors the opportunity to see how things were made in the early 20th century. Admission adults \$10; child/student-free; call 601-693-9905.

5: Singing Brakeman Century Ride from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at City Hall. Join the Jimmie Rodgers Foundation for the 2nd annual "Singing Brakeman Century Ride" as we ride or race the beautiful countryside from Meridian to Philadelphia. Tickets are \$35 and up; call 601-938-7427.

11: Veterans Day Ceremony from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Doughboy Monument, downtown Meridian. Guest speaker for the ceremony will be Lt. Col. Kelly A. Miller, USAF, retired, former commander of the 186th Operations Group of the 186th Air Refueling Wing at Key Field. Event is free to the public; call 601-604-0097.

11: Veterans Day Parade at 3 p.m. in downtown Meridian. Bring the family downtown as the Veterans Day Planning Committee puts the wraps on Veterans Day with the annual parade.

19: Cool Night at Soule' Steam from 6-9 p.m. at the Soule Steam Feed Works. Join us for a night under the stars strolling along the hidden cobblestone alleyways of Meridian's historic Soule' Steam Works while enjoying exquisite cocktails and local small bites. Tickets will still be limited due to space restrictions. Reservations will be first come, first serve; and tickets will not be available at the door. Tickets are \$50 singles/\$90 couples; call 601-693-2224.

25: Full Moon on Fifth from 6-9 p.m. on 5th Street from 22nd to 23rd Avenue. Join the Arts and Community Events Society for a magical night in downtown Meridian. String lights and two giant illuminated moons set the mood for a unique block party that you don't want to miss. Alcoholic beverages are available, no outside beverages allowed.

27: Advent wreath making at Merrehope from 1-4 p.m. Make your own advent wreath. All ages are invited to participate. Tickets are \$10 (does not include tour.) Call 601-483-8439.

USS Daniel Inouye rescues fishing vessel in vicinity of Hawaii

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118), assisted the Commercial Fishing Vessel Sea Diamond in towing operation back to Honolulu following casualty to Sea Diamond's engine, in the vicinity of Hawaii Operating Area, (JBPHH), October 18.

In the early morning hours at approximately 12:30 a.m., USS Daniel Inouye received a call from the U.S. Coast Guard to assist the commercial fishing vessel Sea Diamond. Sea Diamond had lost all propulsion and reported a shafting propeller casualty.

Inouye was quick in her response and

contacted the vessel Sea Diamond at 2:00 a.m. During this time the engineering team deployed the ships rigid-hulled inflatable boat (RHIB) to assist. It was determined that the casualty to propulsion of Sea Diamond was external and the RHIB team would be unable to further support. Daniel Inouye then decided to take the Sea Diamond under tow back to Honolulu. The ship maintained a speed of 6 knots for approximately 12 hours before turning over custodianship to the Coast Guard five nautical miles outside of Honolulu Harbor.

-- From Lt.j.g. Victoria Estrada, Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

[Read more, click here](#)

USS Milwaukee deploys to support regional cooperation and security

The Freedom-variant littoral combat ship USS Milwaukee (LCS 5), along with the "Dragon Whales" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 28 Detachment 9 and embarked U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET), departed from Naval Station Mayport Oct. 18, starting its second deployment this year to support U.S. 4th Fleet area of operations.

Milwaukee will support counter-illicit trafficking in the Caribbean and the Eastern Pacific. Milwaukee's operations will also involve exercises and exchanges with partner nations, supporting U.S. 4th Fleet efforts to enhance capability and improve interoperability while re-

inforcing the Fleet's position as the regional partner of choice.

"This crew is excited to take the ship on another deployment to 4th Fleet. We have some new Sailors that are looking forward to see new parts of the world, and the Sailors who deployed last time are ready to execute their mission once again," said Cmdr. Brian A. Forster, commanding officer of Milwaukee. "The interoperability and exercise with our partner nations were the highlight of last deployment and we look forward to doing the same. Building peace through partnership is a core aspect of any deployment"

-- From Lt. Anthony Junco, Commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron TWO

[Read more, click here](#)

George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group supports EURONAVAL 2022

U.S. military personnel, aircraft and equipment from USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7, flagship of George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group (GHWBCSG) represented the United States at this year's World Naval Defence Exhibition (EURONAVAL) trade show in Paris, France October 19-21, 2022.

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U.S. participation in EURONAVAL

highlights the strength of U.S. commitment to the security of Europe and demonstrates that U.S. industry is producing equipment that will be critical to the success current and future military operations.

"The U.S. is here to strengthen our partnership with our NATO allies and to showcase our capabilities in the maritime domain" said Lieutenant Commander Dean "Debbie" Downing, assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 103.

The EURONAVAL Trade Show in Paris is the world's largest and oldest Naval Exhibition. There are over 480 exhibitors at each EURONAVAL, which attracts up to 25,000 visitors.

-- From MC3 Mariano Lopez

[Read more, click here](#)

Sale... Or

BOATS/CAMPERS/TRAILERS

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 \$16,800 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: Lake Cabin near NAS Meridian. 1 BD/1 BA; \$700 month. Unfurnished. More info and photos can be viewed at: <https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/item/851262408853834/>

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

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.prince@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.prince@navy.mil



Photo by by Cpl. Careaf Henson

U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Michael D. Watts, mess chief, with 2nd Battalion 2nd Marine Division, and Kayla Shaffer, a student at Johnson and Wales University, compete in a cooking competition during Marine Week in Charlotte, N.C. Marines, local chefs and students from Johnson and Wales University participate in a culinary competition using items from meals ready to eat during Marine Week Charlotte.

Marines on the waterfront: From hobby to career

Lance Cpl. Angel Alvarado
2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are commonly considered an aspect of the American dream. However, according to Deloitte studies, only 13 percent of Americans are passionate about their career. Gunnery Sgt. Michael D. Watts, a food service specialist and acting enlisted aid for the commander of Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, Marine Forces Command, Marine Forces Northern Command, has found himself to be part of the few who turned a hobby into a profession he enjoys.

Watts grew up in the metropolitan suburb of Salt Lake City known as Sandy, Utah. He was the eldest of five boys, each born with a disability. Watts had to take on a parental role prematurely in order to take care of his siblings throughout his youth.

"I developed a lot of responsibility

and maturity at a young age," Watts continued. "I had to grow up faster, being the oldest and having a family with many disabilities, but that's life. It developed a lot of who I am."

At 14 years old, and an ever-growing sense of responsibility, Watts began to work in a Chinese restaurant called Hong Kong Cafe. He was quickly promoted to line cook and discovered a newfound passion. Due to caretaking having such an influence on his life, cooking felt like second nature.

"When I served food to people, I enjoyed the satisfaction of giving to others," Watts reflected. "I applied to put a little extra money in my pocket but it turned out I genuinely loved my job."

While working at Hong Kong Cafe and continuing to help his family, Watts played the drums in his free time. Music became an outlet for freedom and expression.

[Read more, click here](#)

ABE2 Amoateng Reenlistment



Photo by Adam Prince

ABE2 Abraham Amoateng recites the oath of enlistment during a ceremony in the Chapel onboard NAS Meridian, Oct. 26. Amoateng reenlisted for 4 years and will report to the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) in the coming months.

● Economy

With inflation still near a 40-year high, steady price spikes have been pressuring households across the country. At the same time, rising interest rates have derailed the housing market and are likely to inflict broader damage over time. The outlook for the world economy, too, grows bleaker the longer that Russia's war against Ukraine drags on.

Last quarter's U.S. economic growth reversed annual declines of 1.6% from January through March and 0.6% from April through June. Consecutive quarters of declining economic output are one informal definition of a recession. But most economists have said they believe the economy skirted a recession, noting the still-resilient job market and steady spending by consumers. Most of them have expressed concern, though, that a recession is likely next year as the Fed steadily tightens credit.

Preston Caldwell, head of U.S. economics for the financial services firm Morningstar, noted that the economy's contraction in the first half of the year was caused

largely by factors that don't reflect its underlying health and so "very likely did not constitute a genuine economic slowdown." He pointed, for example, to a drop in business inventories, a cyclical event that tends to reverse itself over time.

Higher borrowing costs have weakened the home market, in particular. The average rate on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage, just 3.09% a year ago, is approaching 7%. Sales of existing homes have fallen for eight straight months. Construction of new homes is down nearly 8% from a year ago.

Still, the economy retains pockets of strength. One is the vitally important job market. Employers have added an average of 420,000 jobs a month this year, putting 2022 on track to be the second-best year for job creation (behind 2021) in Labor Department records going back to 1940. The unemployment rate was 3.5% last month, matching a half-century low.

Hiring has been decelerating, though. In September, the economy added 263,000 jobs — solid but the lowest total since April 2021.

Sample milspouse letter: 'To the friend I ignore'

Dear [insert friend's name here],

I can see it in your eyes. You're not happy. You think I've been ignoring you. You think I'm an awful friend.

Not long ago, we were close. We talked on the phone. We had lunch. We met at the gym. We exchanged texts. I showed interest in your life.

But recently, I've been aloof.

I haven't called. I stopped meeting you for coffee. I didn't "Like" that photo of your kids on Instagram.

To be quite honest, I haven't given you a second thought.

But before you jump to conclusions, let me assure you: I'm not tired of you. I'm not hanging out with other friends. And I most certainly haven't forgotten about you. The fact is, I haven't been thinking much about you, or anyone else for that matter, because our family is moving again.

COLUMN



Molinari

Including [insert transitional housing, e.g.: those months we lived in that creepy, shag carpeted townhouse before we closed on our first house, and the half year we rented that funky beach shack in Florida while waiting for base housing], our military family has moved [insert number, e.g., eleven] times since my spouse and I married [insert number e.g., 29] years ago.

I'm not bellyaching. Many military families have moved a lot more than we have, others less. Besides, I've enjoyed every place we've lived. Well, except for [insert worst housing, e.g., that townhouse. We had to clap twice before entering the kitchen to scare off roaches, and it smelled like pickled moth balls].

Frankly, it doesn't really matter how many times a military family moves. What matters is that every move — whether it's overseas or across town — is a big ordeal. The kind of thing that destroys daily routines, challenges the strongest coping skills, and turns grown adults into moody little brats.

It happens every time my [husband/wife] receives orders. My behavior doesn't change at first, but as our move dates get closer and closer, I slowly withdraw into my own chaotic, stressed, little world. My normal everyday

thoughts about [insert thoughts, e.g., dog hair, power walks, coffee, defrosting chicken, Friday night fire pits] — are slowly replaced, one by one, with frantic ramblings and strange inner voices, until I become a military spouse precariously perched on the threshold of moving insanity.

"How did we accumulate all this crap? We need more plastic storage bins! What if I forget to call about turning off the cable? We have to spackle that hole in the wall before the housing inspection! What if we go over the weight limit again? Why haven't I taken the stickers off the furniture from our last move?!"

Be forewarned. In the days before the packers arrive, I'll become so self-absorbed, I'll be incapable of normal social interaction. In a subconscious attempt to repel other humans and thereby minimize distractions, I'll stop showering, brushing my hair, and applying deodorant. I'll become so hell-bent on using up our food, I'll concoct strange casseroles with things like pork chops, oyster crackers, canned green beans, raisins and tater tots. I'll walk around the house armed with Sharpie markers and a clipboard, muttering something about zip lock baggies and duct tape,

my left eye twitching from a stress-induce tick.

It's not a pretty sight. But at this point, I really don't care about my rat's nest hairdo, the drool on my chin, the neighborhood pot luck, the next episode of Survivor, or you. Because all I can think about it one thing: Our Next Move.

As I write this, I have exactly [insert number] days until the moving company arrives to pack up every coffee cup, photo album, extension cord, lounge chair, lampshade, screw driver, text book, holiday ornament, bicycle, pencil and picture frame we own.

The reason I like you is because you understand. Until our household goods arrive at their new destination, until we find the towels and sheets and dishes and TV remote and coffee maker, and until I flop down on the couch in our new home and take a deep breath — I won't realize how much I really miss you.

Thanks, my friend, for always forgiving me.

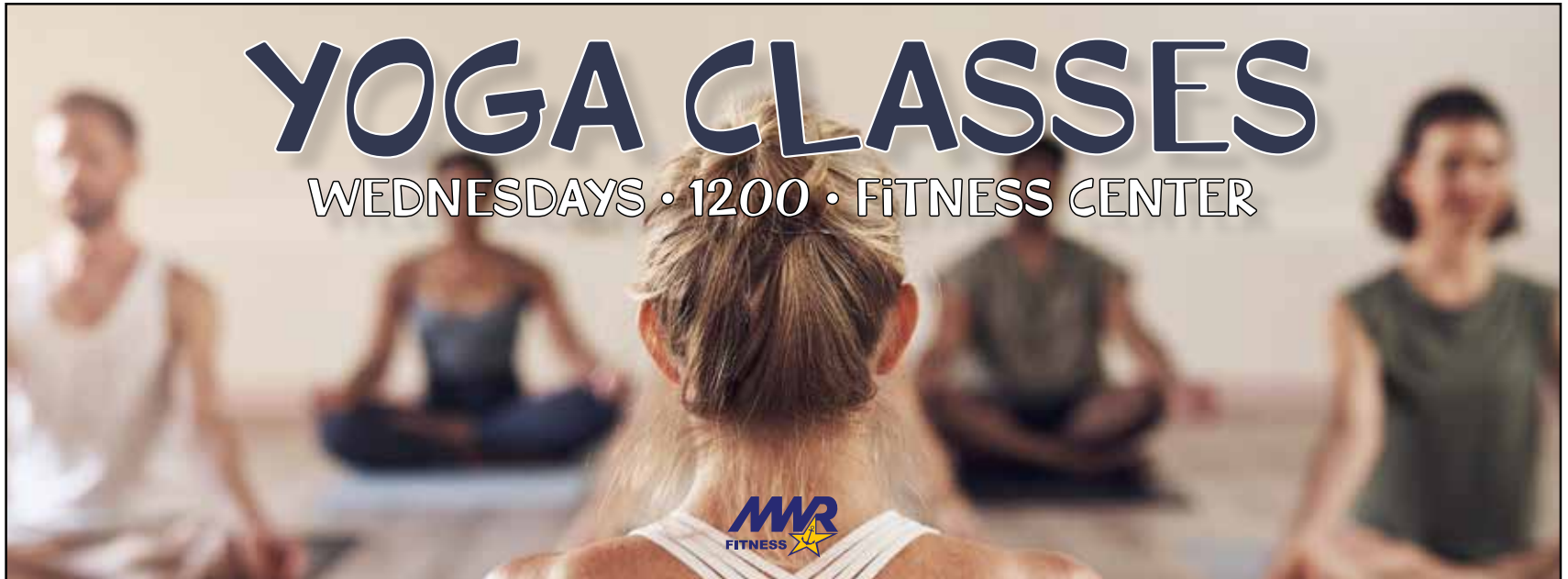
Lisa Smith Molinari's self syndicated columns appear on her blog, www.themeatandpotatoesoffife.com and she recently co-authored *Stories Around the Table: Laughter, Wisdom, and Strength in Military Life* Follow Lisa@MolinariWrites.



NAS Meridian, MS • Morale, Welfare and Recreation

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Fitness Center	679-2379	Library	679-2326	MWR Admin.	679-2551
Liberty Center	679-3760	Rudders Pub & Grill	679-2780	MWR Jobs Line	679-2467
Tickets	679-3773	CDC/CDH	679-2652		
McCain Rec Center	679-2651	SAC	679-5252		
Equipment Rental	679-2609	School Liaison	679-2473		



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