

On Base

Spring Fling  
& Egg Hunt  
5 April at 1100-1300  
@ Community  
Rec Complex  
Family, Fun activities

Axe Throwing  
Competition  
March 22 at 1100  
Register:  
Feb. 17 -March 20  
Community Rec  
Pavilion

Cosmic Bowling  
Every Saturday  
at 1800  
McCain Rec Center

Get  
Connected



SCAN for NAS Meridian App



SCAN for the Captain's Virtual  
Suggestion Box



Follow us!

PWD holds aerial/scissor lift safety training

By Lauren Laboy  
Public Works Meridian

Recently, 39 employees from the Public Works Department (PWD) at Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian recently participated in a comprehensive safety training course focused on aerial and scissor lifts. The training was coordinated by PWD's Facilities and Sustainment Supervisor Brandon Maxwell and Safety Officer Thomas "Terrell" Flint. The session was hosted by Sunbelt Rental Company from Knoxville, Tennessee. The primary goal of the course was to provide participants with the essential skills and knowledge needed to operate aerial and scissor lifts safely and efficiently. Emphasizing safety protocols, the training covered various types of aerial lifts, including boom lifts, scissor lifts, aerial ladders, and vertical towers.

Attendees learned to follow relevant Naval policies and procedures, ensuring that safety standards were met while promoting best practices to prevent accidents. The course was divided into two parts: a classroom session followed by hands-on training. During the first portion, employees were taught about safety measures, equipment maintenance, and proper lift usage. In the second half, participants applied what they learned in a practical, real-world setting. This hands-on experience allowed them to practice safe operational techniques and familiarize themselves with the equipment, boosting their confidence and competence. By the end of the training, the employees were better equipped to operate the lifts safely, contributing to a safer working environment for all at NAS Meridian.



Submitted Photos  
Public Works  
Department employees  
receive aerial and  
scissor lift safety  
training including safety  
measures, equipment  
maintenance and  
proper lift usage on the  
equipment.

Chief of Naval Air  
Training awarded  
Meritorious Unit  
Commendation for  
Training Excellence

By CNATRA Public Affairs

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) has been awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) by the Chief of Naval Operations in recognition of its exceptional performance in training student naval aviators. This honor highlights CNATRA's commitment to excellence in naval aviation training from October 2022 to March 2024. During this period, CNATRA achieved unprecedented success in preparing the next generation of naval aviators. CNATRA stayed committed to providing top-notch aviation training, using the latest technology and embracing new, innovative methods, which resulted in two consecutive years of exceeding Naval Aviation production requirements. "The men and women of CNATRA have demonstrated an extraordinary level of commitment to the mission," said Rear Admiral Rich Brophy, Chief of Naval Air Training. "This commendation is a testament to their hard work meeting our North Star requirement of producing high quality Naval Aviators." CNATRA oversees all primary, intermediate, and advanced flight training for student naval aviators. This commendation is awarded to the five training air wings and 17 training squadrons under the CNATRA. The command plays a vital role in the Navy's operational readiness, producing highly capable pilots who will go on to serve in fleet squadrons around the globe. The MUC is awarded to units that distinguish themselves through outstanding meritorious achievement or service in combat or non-combat situations. CNATRA's recognition underscores its critical role in main-

All paws on deck! U.S. Naval Hospital  
Guantanamo Bay begins American Red  
Cross Animal Visitation Program

By Emily McCamy  
U.S. Navy Medicine Readiness  
and Training Command  
Guantanamo Bay

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba -- Tongues -- and tails -- were wagging at U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay as news traveled down the halls one paw at a time; it was official, the American Red Cross Animal Visitation Program kicked off, Jan. 22. The inaugural visit began in the command suite boardroom surprising staff members when Chief Nursing Officer, Cmdr. Rebecca Rodriguez, had one last piece of business to share with the commanding officer and executive staff. Rodriguez opened the door and announced the hospital's first certified canine visitors; Isabel, Knox and Apollo. "I was completely surprised," said Naval Hospital Director, Capt. Tammy Servies. "I vaguely remember someone said something about a surprise when I came back from leave, but I had no idea what it was. As a huge fan of dogs, I was very excited." A memorandum of agreement between Defense Health Agency and the American Red Cross allows certified animal



Photo by Emily McCamy  
Apollo, an Australian Shepherd who is part of the American Red Cross Animal Visitation Program, gives a "high-five" to Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Lee Tranca during a visit to U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay, Jan. 22. Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Adrian Cabalit and Tranca, both members of U.S. Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command, Guantanamo Bay, took a moment to enjoy the interaction with Apollo.

visitation teams to provide visits to hospitalized patients, staff, and others in military medical treatment facilities. "Animals have proven to be very beneficial to mental health in many studies," said Servies. "I've been to several other facilities with [certified] ● Paws on Deck, page 4



# Nine aviators earn Wings of Gold in March ceremony

### From Staff Reports

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony March 7 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian. Nine 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 Theodore Charles Beagle, USN, received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering. While in advanced jet flight training, he earned four Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LTJG Beagle completed advanced jet flight training with Training Squadron Nine.

1STLT Brooke Alexis Bogdanovich, USMC, received a bachelor of science degree in oceanography. During primary flight training, 1STLT Bogdanovich was named to the Commodore’s List. While in advanced jet flight training, she earned one Navy “E” for bombing accuracy. 1STLT Bogdanovich completed advanced



Beagle



Bogdanovich



Hammer



Martin



Prowse

jet flight training with Training Squadron Nine. LTJG Joseph Curn Hammer, USN, received two bachelor of science degrees in finance and management consulting. While in advanced jet flight training, he earned four Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LTJG Hammer completed advanced jet flight training with Training Squadron Nine.

1STLT George Alan Martin, USMC, received a bachelor of science degree in political science. During advanced jet flight training, he earned two Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. 1STLT Martin completed advanced jet flight training with Training Squadron Nine.

1STLT William Robert Prowse, USMC, received a bachelor of science degree in business information technology and operations supply chain management. During advanced jet flight training, he earned three



Scholl



Sundermier



White



Zimmerman

Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. 1STLT Prowse completed advanced jet flight training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG Casey Joseph Scholl, USN, received a bachelor of arts degree in exercise sports science and a minor in history. During advanced jet flight training, he earned two Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LTJG Scholl completed advanced jet

flight training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG Jacob Paul Sundermier, USN, received a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering with a minor in Chinese. During advanced jet flight training, he earned three Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LTJG Sundermier completed advanced jet flight training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG Donald Justin White, USN, received a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. During primary flight training, LTJG White was named to the commodore’s list. While in advanced jet flight training, he earned two Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LTJG White completed advanced jet flight training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG Joseph James Zimmerman, USN, received a bachelor of science degree in aerospace. During primary flight training, LTJG Zimmerman was named to the Commodore’s List. While in advanced jet flight training, he earned two Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LTJG Zimmerman completed advanced jet flight training with Training Squadron Nine.

## TW-1 honors civilians for service



Submitted Photo

**CAPT Justin Kuch, Training Air Wing ONE** Commodore, recently awarded **Bonnie DuBose**, Training Operations Support Assistant for the (FITU) Department at TW-1, with her 15-year Civilian Service Award. Congratulates Bonnie on a “Job Well Done.”



Submitted Photo

**CAPT Justin Kuch, Training Air Wing ONE** Commodore, presents **Kelly Duque**, International Military Student Officer at TW-1, with her 15-year Civilian Service Award. Congratulates Kelly on a “Job Well Done.”



Submitted Photo

**CAPT Justin Kuch, Training Air Wing ONE** Commodore, presents **Jerry Boos**, NAPP Analyst at TW-1, with the distinguished Civilian Service Retirement Award. Boos retires with a combined 40 years of military and civilian service towards supporting the National Defense within the U.S. Government. Congratulates Jerry on a “Job Well Done.”

### The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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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

### MARCH:

**29: Good Citizen Clean-Up Day** from 9 a.m.-noon at various places around the city of Meridian. Groups can pick up supplies at Highland Park before you begin. For information, call 601-485-1998 or 917-664-7255.

**30: Newsboys Concert, 6 p.m.** – Newsboys live in concert featuring special performance by Amanda Nolan. **Located at the MSU Riley Center in Downtown Meridian.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

### APRIL:

**4: Ann Hampton Callaway: Sings the ‘70s** at 7:30 p.m. the MSU Riley Center in downtown Meridian. Don’t miss the Tony Award-nominated Broadway star and platinum-selling singer-songwriter in “Ann Hampton Callaway Sings the ‘70s” for a night of rousing and beautiful classics with her all-star trio. Callaway covers hits from the great songwriters of the time: Carole King, James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, Billy Joel, John Lennon, and more. She puts her own stamp on unforgettable songs from the Carpenters, Linda Ronstadt, Barbra Streisand, Roberta Flack, and other beloved singers of the decade.

**5: Earth’s Bounty** at The Mississippi Arts+ Entertainment Experience, 2155 Front Street, Meridian. Seasonal festival features the freshest farmer’s market produce, locally made products, plants, and more: kids’ activities, live music, and special demonstrations throughout the season. Earth’s Bounty is held the first Saturday of each month, April-November.

**11: Full Moon on 5th featuring 80’s Night with The Bouncing Betty Band** from 6-9 p.m. Bring lawn chairs and enjoy the block party along 5th Street in downtown Meridian. Free entry and free kid’s themed activities. Local eateries offering food.

**11: Purple Ups 5k and Fun Run at Lake Okatibbee,** 8604 Okatibbee Dam Road, Collinsville at 5 p.m. Deadline to register and guarantee a dryf0t performance race shirt is March 25. To register: <https://runsignup.com/purpleup5K>

**12: Sipp & Savor Food and Drink Expo** at the Mississippi Arts+ Entertainment Experience at 6 p.m., 2155 Front Street, Meridian features dozens of award-winning chefs, master brewers and craft distillers. Purchase tickets at <https://sippandsavor.com/tickets>

**12: Kids Fishing Rodeo at Q.V. Sykes Park.** Come and be part of the excitement at our annual Kids Fishing Rodeo, hosted at Q.V. Sykes Park from 9-11 a.m. This event is open to all children aged 5 to 17. Don’t forget to bring along your own bait and fishing poles. Exciting prizes await the participants! For more information, please call 601-485-1802.

**18 and 20: Annual Easter Egg Hunts** hosted by the City of Meridian Parks and Rec. For ages 3 to 10-year-olds only. Dates are April 18 at 10 a.m. at Velma Young Park and April 20 at 4 p.m. at Highland Park. Join Us for an Egg-citing Event! Over 4,000 eggs filled with golden egg prizes, candy, and surprises! Bring the kids and enjoy music, a bounce house, and plenty of fun.

# AREA HAPPENINGS

### MARCH:

**25-30: Les Misérables** - Set against the backdrop of 19th century France, Les Misérables tells an enthralling story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption – a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit. This epic and uplifting story has become one of the most celebrated musicals in theatrical history. **Located in Birmingham, AL.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

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MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL OF THE NAVY LEAGUE  
Presents

WINGS & TAILS2025



Tuesday, May 6th

Social Hour 5:30 pm • Dinner 6:30 pm

Featuring shrimp, potatoes, corn, catfish, & chicken wings

KEY BROTHERS HANGAR

MERIDIAN REGIONAL AIRPORT

Tickets: \$30.00

Tickets are available from any NAVY LEAGUE BOARD MEMBER or at the Gate

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Mississippi Council of the Navy League

P.O. Box 5513, Meridian, MS 39302-5513

601.917.2697 or 601.601.479.8013



Sale... Or

HOMES/APARTMENTS

For Rent: MOVE-IN READY!! This 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. Recently updated with all new floors and paint, several new appliances, ceiling fans and 2-inch blinds throughout. The open, split floor plan has large rooms and features a bright and airy sunroom for relaxing. 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 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: 2BD/1 BA home located in Poplar Springs. 1154 square footage heated and cooled with additional 800 sq ft of basement. Screened in porch, new dishwasher, and new flooring in the kitchen. Looking to get 90k and for someone to take over our VA loan (2.5% interest rate). Please contact Riley Pfeiffer at (919) 909-6651

For Rent: 1BD/1 BA furnished apartment. Has day room, kitchenette, washer and dryer, smart tv's, central heat and air conditioning. Very clean and private, good location. \$1200/month includes utilities and wifi. No Pets. Text or call 601-527-4098.

For Sale: 3 BD/2 BA home. 1,496 square foot heated and cooled. 200 square foot utility room/pantry. Poplar Springs Elementary school district. Huge fenced back yard and storage building. New roof Dec 2012. New AC April 2017 and remains under warranty until 2027. Around the corner from Northcrest church (North Hills). Asking \$150,000 but there are a few little cosmetic things that could be done so will take \$125,000 as is. Contact Jared or Felicia Monsour at (601) 938-4810 or (601) 934-0931

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: 3BD/ 2BA house offers beautiful lake views, perfect for fishing and relaxing by the water. This house has recently been remodeled. Monthly Rent: \$1,500. Deposit: \$1,000. Additional Fees: Dalewood Renter Privileges Fees. Please contact Carlos at 601-604-9986.

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 Rent: 3 BD/2 BA, only 5 mins from main gate of NAS Meridian. Nice size private yard / garbage and water provided. Pets permitted with deposit. \$1,150 a month. Contact 601-480-1324.

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 [nasmeridianpao@gmail.com](mailto:nasmeridianpao@gmail.com)



# Gulfport Mayor recognizes NMCB 11 Seabees for Heroism

By MC1 James Hong  
Naval Mobile Construction  
Battalion 11

GULFPORT, Miss. -- Gulfport Mayor Billy Hewes recognized a team of Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 for heroism at Gulfport City Hall, March 4.

Starting off a city council meeting, Hewes issued a Mayoral Proclamation commending the Seabees for their actions on Feb. 6, when they came to the aid of two elderly motorists who were trapped in a partially submerged vehicle east of New Orleans.

"The residents of our great city do hereby commend and pay tribute to these true American heroes for their act of bravery," said Hewes.

Following the proclamation, Gulfport Fire Chief Billy Kelley issued each Seabee a Life Saving Award on behalf of the Gulfport Fire Department.

"I've been down that stretch of highway... it looks like alligator town," said Kelley. "You all braved some water and saved those folks, and that's humongous." The following NMCB-11 personnel were recognized: Equipment Operator 1st Class Andrew Warren, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Marcos Ramirez, Electronics Technician 2nd Class Tiara Mickalowski, Builder 2nd Class Thomas McLaughlin, Construction Electrician 2nd Class Ethan Edwards, Steelworker 2nd Class Zachary Jones, Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Aidan Dudley, Steelworker 3rd

Class Chase Iorio, Steelworker 3rd Class John Durfee, Construction Electrician 3rd Class Jarrett Tipton, and Builder Constructionman Xavier Lucio. NMCB-11, assigned to Naval Construction Group (NCG) 2, is homeported in Gulfport, Ms. as part of the Naval Construction Force. The mission of NCG 2 is to organize, man, train, maintain, and equip Naval Construction Regiments (NCRs), NMCBs, the Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU), and the Underwater Construction Team (UCT) to provide supported commanders with expeditionary engineering forces capable of general engineering and construction, and limited combat engineering across the full range of military operations.



Photo MC1 James Hong

**Gulfport Mayor Billy Hewes shakes hands with U.S. Navy Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 after recognizing them for their heroism in Gulfport, Miss., March 4.**

## 3rd MLG Conducts Instream Offload with USN, ROKMC During Freedom Banner 25

By Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan Wright  
3rd Marine Logistics Group

POHANG, SOUTH KOREA -- U.S. Marines with 3rd Marine Logistics Group, U.S. Navy Sailors with Naval Beach Group 1, and Republic of Korea Marines with the ROK Marine Corps' MLG conducted an instream offload at the beach outside of ROKMC Base Pohang during exercise Freedom Banner 25 in Pohang, South Korea, from Feb. 28 to March 1.

The instream offload is part of the overarching Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) strategy, which sees these supplies transported by ship and offloaded and distributed to III Marine Expeditionary Forces in-country prior to the Korean Marine Exchange Program. The instream variation of an MPF offload is designed to be conducted without routine logistical support systems.

"This operation simulates an offload of equipment from a United States Naval Ship vessel directly to the shore and providing that equipment quickly to the (Marine Air-Ground Task Force) commander on the ground in locations where docking pierside for offload is untenable," said 1st Lt. Rafael Almodovar Sanabria, assistant current operations officer with 3rd MLG. "This sealift capability allows equipment to flow in a non-permissive environment, where the ship anchors in a safe haven to provide that gear to shore in a rapid manner without use of a pier to dock at."

Off the coast of Dogu Beach outside ROKMC Base Pohang sat the USNS Dahl (TAKR 312), one of four MPF ships as part of the USN's Military Sealift Command, designed to sustain a MAGTF for up to 30 days. The USNS Dahl transferred the vehicles and equipment by crane onto an Improved Navy Lighterage System (INLS), a mobile platform used as the transportation asset between ship and shore. The INLS sails as close to the beach as possible before the equipment is taken off and staged for follow-on actions.

However, the beach must be prepared beforehand,



Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan G. Wright

**A High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle with 3rd Marine Logistics Group departs an Improved Navy Lighterage System during a 3rd MLG instream offload operation as part of Freedom Banner 25 at Republic of Korea Marine Corps Base Pohang, South Korea, Feb. 28, 2025. The instream offload, a training evolution alongside Beachmaster Unit 1, Naval Beach Group 1, and the ROKMC Marine Logistics Group, refines and validates 3rd MLG's ability to transport, offload and distribute vehicles and equipment from ship to shore without the use of a pier. This type of sealift capability allows the unit to maneuver equipment in austere environments without using established infrastructure, such as in locations following a natural disaster.**

or as much as the conditions of operations can allow. ROK Marines with the ROKMC MLG laid expeditious roadway mats from the nearest road down to the edge of the surf, providing a cleared path for the equipment to exfiltrate the beach as quickly as possible.

● **Paws on Deck**

dogs and they really help out with stress. I was excited that the Red Cross was offering this same benefit for our facility and jumped on the chance."

Rodriguez, oversaw the details of bringing the program to the hospital.

"One of the duties I am entrusted with is the advocacy of not just patients, but everyone under the hospital umbrella," said Rodriguez. "Therapy animals have been proven to assist with PTSD, high blood pressure, and increase morale and genuine levity during and after visits. I advocated for this program as one of the small things that can have a huge impact during someone's day. Plus, it absolutely helps that our CO is an avid supporter of animals and loves dogs!"

Rodriguez described her own experience when she was visited by one of the dogs at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. "Seeing the faces of patients and staff light up when Sully walked into a room was one of the best things. I witnessed sheer joy and could see and feel the tensions of the day melt away."

Isabel, a 10-year-old Labrador retriever mix, is a certified therapy animal who frequently works with the Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team (JSMART) at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. She has several handlers, but her owner and primary handler, Lt. Jyl Bean – a hospital employee assigned to U.S. Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Guantanamo Bay – accompanies her during hospital visits.

"Isabel and I went through her therapy training together. She was born for this work with her calm, sooth-

ing temperament," said Bean. "She knows exactly how to bring comfort and connection to those who need it most and having her visit the hospital is just one more way she helps improve the well-being of our sailors."

The handlers and their dogs toured through the hospital visiting with service members as Rodriguez discussed the areas where the dogs are welcome.

"The dogs are allowed to go into all areas that do not deal with food or sterility," said Rodriguez. "If there is a request from staff or patients to avoid an area, we honor that request. The hope though is that they will spread their 'pawsitive' vibes throughout all areas of the hospital, including our outlying buildings."

Patients are the focus and priority for the visits, but the healthcare providers benefit as well.

"The animal visitation program supports warfighter readiness by promoting mental health, reducing stress, and enhancing overall well-being," said Cmdr. Derek Miletich, psychiatrist and behavioral health provider at the hospital.

"Interactions with certified therapy animals have been shown to lower blood pressure, improve mood, and alleviate anxiety—critical factors in maintaining focus and resilience," Miletich added. "By providing emotional comfort and a sense of normalcy, the program helps service members and their families more optimally manage the challenges of military life, enabling them to remain mission-ready and perform at their best."

The program can contribute to patient safety by promoting a calmer, more positive healing environment.

"Interacting with therapy animals has been shown to

reduce anxiety and stress in patients, which can lower heart rates and blood pressure, supporting better recovery outcomes," said Miletich. "A more relaxed state can also improve communication between patients and caregivers, creating a clearer understanding of medical instructions and treatment plans. Additionally, therapy animals can help improve emotional well-being, which is closely linked to adherence to treatment and overall patient cooperation, ultimately reducing the risk of complications."

The animal visitation program has proven successful across several military treatment facilities.

"Walter Reed, Twenty-nine Palms, Camp Lejeune, San Diego, and Portsmouth have all seen success with having dogs aboard the campuses," said Rodriguez. "Most recently the Navy has had dogs aboard deployed vessels to help combat emotional stressors while underway. 2023 saw the successful implementation of the Navy's Expanded Operational Stress Control Canine pilot program with dogs aboard the USS Ford and USS Wasp."

Hospital Corpsman Jacob Rivera Calvo, a recent accession to U.S. Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command, beamed with a smile when he saw the dogs enter the facility. "It has been at least two months since I've seen a dog," said Rivera Calvo, who spent the last several months at Hospital Corps "A" School after graduating "Boot Camp" at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes.

"Watching those dogs walk into Patient Centered Medical Home made my entire day," Rivera Calvo said. "I really enjoyed spending some time petting Apollo and having a few minutes to relax and just smile."



# N9 Nook

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



## SPRING FLING EGG HUNT

FUN GAMES • LIVE DJ • FOOD  
APRIL 5TH 1100-1300  
Community Recreation Area  
BOUNCE HOUSES FACE PAINTING

601-679-2526

No pets permitted at this event



### Open Bowling Tournament


McCain Recreation Center  
1st Thursday of each month  
Starting at 6 pm  
\$10 fee sign up at the front desk





### JOIN US FOR SOAR:

Survivors  
Overcoming  
Assault with  
Resiliency



SOAR offers a judgement free, safe space for survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault to heal, connect and grow. This group offers the opportunity for survivors to share experiences, find strength in community, and reclaim their power.

Every Thursday from 4:00pm-5:30pm  
Held at the Fleet and Family Center

LET'S SOAR TOGETHER!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP, CONTACT ANNE NYTES, FFSC COUNSELOR

PHONE: 601-679-2360  
EMAIL: ANNE.A.NYTES.NAF@US.NAVY.MIL

\*Judgement Free Environment

\*Compassionate Support

\*Tools/Strategies for Healing

\*Empowering Workshops and Activities

### American Red Cross Lifeguard Class

April 28 - May 1  
Must be 15+ to enroll in the course and 16+ to work for MWR Aquatics



\$50 Active Duty and Dependents  
\$100 Civilians

• SWIM TESTS: April 21-25 by appointment only

• IN PERSON SESSIONS: April 28 - May 1 3:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

DETAILS:

- Register March 31-April 11
- Blended learning class
- Online requirements must be completed before April 28
- All in person sessions must be attended
- Temporary base access card must be obtained
- Bring swimsuits and food and drinks

Contact Kristen Tibbetts to register, reserve swim time, & obtain base access.  
Kristen.p.tibbetts.naf@us.navy.mil



## YOGA CLASS

WEDNESDAYS AT 1200 & 1630



Sonny Montgomery Fitness Center



REGISTER FOR 24/7 ACCESS TO FITNESS CENTER