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**Suggestion Box** 

# How the US Bombarded Iranian Nuclear

#### By Farnoush Amiri & Meg Kinnard The Associated Press

It was an unprecedented attack years in the making, with some last-minute misdirection meant to give the operation a powerful element of surprise.

U.S. pilots dropped 30,000-pound bombs early Sunday on two key underground uranium enrichment plants in Iran, delivering what American military leaders believe is a knockout blow to a nuclear program that Israel views as an existential threat and has been pummeling for more than a week. American sailors bolstered the surprise mission by firing dozens of cruise missiles from a submarine toward at least one other site.

Dubbed Operation Midnight Hammer, U.S. officials say the plan was characterized by "precision strike" а that "devastated the Iranian nuclear program," even as they acknowledged an assessment was ongoing. For its part, Iran de-

nied that any significant damage had been done. and the Islamic Republic pledged to retaliate.

Taking off from the U.S. heartland, B-2 stealth bombers delivered a total of 420,000 pounds of explosives, aided by an armada of refueling tankers and fighter jets - some of which launched their own weapons.

U.S. officials said Iran neither detected the inbound fusillade, nor mustered a shot at the stealthy American jets.



Photo by A1C Whitney Erhart A 509th Maintenance Group airman prepares a B-2 Spirit stealth bomber for takeoff from Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, in 2021.

The operation relied on a series of deceptive tactics and decoys to maintain secrecy, U.S. officials said hours after the attack, which was preceded by nine days of Israeli attacks that debilitated Iran's military leadership and air defenses. Even before the planes took off. elements of misdirection were already in play. After setting parts of the plan in motion, Trump publicly announced Thursday that he'd make a decision within two weeks

on whether to strike Iran — ostensibly to allow additional time for negotiations, but in actuality masking the impending attack. One group of B-2 stealth bombers traveled west from Missouri on Saturday as decoys, drawing the attention of amateur plane spotters, government officials and some media as they headed toward a U.S. air base in the Pacific.

At the same time, seven other B-2s carrying two "bunker buster" bombs apiece flew eastward, keeping communications to a minimum so as not to draw any attention.

Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at Sunday's briefing •Operation Midnight Hammer, page 2

### **Governor Signs Bill 2434 Authorizing IGSAs**



Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves ceremonially signs Senate Bill 2434 which authorizes counties and municipalities to enter into Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSAs) with military branches during a event at the 186th Air Refueling Wing of the Mississippi National Guard at Key Field in Meridian. Looking on are Major General Bobby Ginn Jr., adjutant general of the Mississippi National Guard; CAPT Luke Davis, commanding officer of Naval Air Station Meridian; Col. Cindy Smith, commander of the 186th ARW, and members of the Mississippi senate and House of Represenatives. IGSAs will help improve our military installations offering various support services, which could potentially include maintenance, infrastructure, logistics, or other administrative functions. "IGSAs strengthen the bonds between installations and communities," said Gov. Reeves. "For installations, they provide efficiency and operational effectiveness. For communities, they provide economic benefits."

Follow us!



**July 4th Holiday Facility Hours** MWR: **Commissary: 0900-1700** Bowling: 1000-1600 **FFSC:** Closed **CYP:** Closed **Galley:** Community Rec: 1000-1600 Brunch: 0900-1200 Fitness Center: 0900-1800 Dinner: 1630-1830 (24/7 registration access will still be available) Navy Federal: Closed Liberty: 0900-1600 NEX: 1000-1600 Library: Closed **NMRTU Meridian Clinic: Closed Rudders: Closed** 

For optimal digital viewing, open The Skyline with an internet browser or turn off protected view on your Abode reader.

### PizzaForno Grand Opening at NAS Meridian!



Photo by Evelyn Reese

Merrit McKenna, Navy Exchange General Manager, and CAPT Luke H. Davis, NAS Meridian Commanding Officer as well as NAS Meridian Team members, and PizzaForno representatives participate in the PizzaForno pizza vending machine ribbon cutting at the McCain Recreation Center, June 18. Patrons were invited to attend the ribbon cutting and taste free samples of pizza. The PizzaForno Artisan Pizza Vending Machine consists of handcrafted, oven-fired artisan pizza made fresh in 3 minutes - all from the new state-of-the-art vending unit.

### Mississippi National Guard Deploys to Washington, D.C. for Army's 250th Birthday

By Cash Matlock Queen City Newsfeed

Approximately 280members of the Mississippi National Guard have deployed to Washington, D.C., to assist with security during the U.S. Army's 250th celebrabirthday tion on June 14, 2025. Soldiers and Airmen from the 112th Military Police Battalion, the 172nd Airlift Wing, and the 186th Air Refueling Wing departed Thompson Field Air National Guard Base in Flowood on Thursday morning. They will support the U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Park Police in maintaining



Photo by 1st Lt Jarvis Mace

Members of Task Force Liberty begin boarding their plane ahead of their mission in the National Capital Region, June 12, 2025, at Thompson Field Air National Guard Base. The task force, which includes Soldiers from the 112th MP Battalion and Airmen from the 172nd Airlift Wing and 186th Air Refueling Wing of the Mississippi Air National Guard, will support the U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Park Police during the Army's 250th birthday festivities.

#### Operation Midnight Hammer

that it was all "part of a plan to maintain tactical surprise" and that only "an extremely small number of planners and key leaders" knew about it in Washington and Florida, where U.S. Central Command is based.

After 18 hours of furtive flying that required aerial refueling, the armed B-2 Spirit bombers, each with two crew members, arrived on time and without detection in the Eastern Mediterranean from where they launched their attack runs. Before crossing into Iran, the B-2s were escorted by stealthy U.S. fighter jets and reconnaissance aircraft. A graphic released

A graphic released by the Pentagon showed the flight route as passing over Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. It was unclear whether those countries were notified of the U.S. overflight in advance.

Most U.S. lawmakers were also kept in the dark, with some Republicans saying they were provided a brief heads-up by the White House before the strike.

"Our B-2s went in and out and back without the world knowing at all," Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth told reporters Sunday. About an hour before the B-2s entered Iran, Caine said that a U.S. submarine in the region launched more than two dozen Tomahawk cruise missiles against key targets, including a site in Isfahan where uranium is prepared for enrichment.

As the U.S. bombers approached their targets, they watched out for Iranian fighter jets and surface-to-air missiles, but encountered none.

At 6:40 p.m. in Washington and 2:10 a.m. in Tehran, the first B-2 bomber dropped its pair of GBU-57 massive ordnance penetrators on the deeply buried Fordo uranium enrichment plant.

It was the first time these so-called "bunker busters" had ever been used in combat. Each 30,000-pound bomb is designed to burrow into the ground before detonating a massive warhead.

The Fordo site received the bulk of the bombardment, though a couple of the enormous bombs were also dropped on a uranium enrichment site at Natanz.

The U.S. bombs fell for about half an hour, with cruise missiles fired from submarines being the last American weapons to hit their targets, which included a third nuclear site at Isfahan, Caine said. Both Iran and the

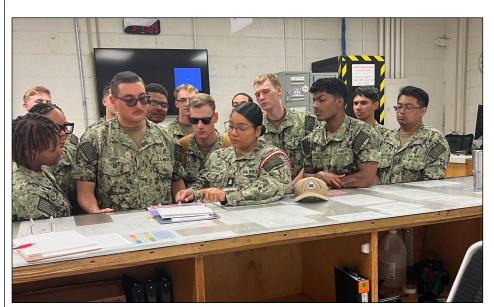
U.N. nuclear watchdog said there were no immediate signs of radioactive contamination around the sites.

The mission included: 75 precision-guided weapons: these included 14 GBU-57 "bunker buster" bombs deployed by the seven B-2 Spirit stealth bombers, and more than two-dozen Tomahawk cruise missiles launched from a U.S. submarine. 125 aircraft, including the B-2 bombers, fighter jets and refueling planes. Hegseth said Sunday that "our boys in those bombers are on their way home right now," but a U.S. official said one woman was among those piloting the B-2 bombers. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about the mission publicly.

Caine said the use of the bunker-buster bombs made the mission historic, as did other elements.

"This was the largest B-2 operational strike in U.S. history, and the second longest B-2 mission ever flown, exceeded only by those in the days following 9/11," he told reporters Sunday.

### Getting War-Fighters Ready for the Fleet!



tional Capitol Region.

The Guard's mission is to enhance the capacity of federal and local agencies in ensuring the protection of life and property throughout the celebration.

public safety in the Na-

Events commemorating the Army's 250th anniversary include a Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, a Birthday Festival on the National Mall, an Army Band concert, and a parade, among other ceremonies. Founded on June 14, 1775, the U.S. Army is the oldest branch of the U.S. military. This milestone reflects its

continued legacy of service from the Revolutionary War through to modern-day operations at home and abroad. The Mississippi National Guard expressed appreciation for the continued support of its service members and their families. Courtesy Photo

1stLt Tyler Anderson of Training Squadron Seven and Chief Tinamarie Anthony, an NATTC A School Instructor, shared the responsibility of training America's finest future war fighters, that are now ready to support the Fleet! A T-45C Aircraft Display, Maintenance Control and Paraloft briefing were presented to 23 of America finest "Fighting Professionals." Under Chief Anthony leadership, she shared the internal workings of the AZ rating world! The AZ rating in the United States Navy is an Aviation Maintenance Administrationman. AZs perform a variety of administrative, clerical, and managerial duties to support aircraft maintenance activities. They work with data, maintain records, and manage systems to ensure aircraft maintenance is efficient and compliant.

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

<u>Command Staff</u> Commanding Officer ~ **CAPT Luke H. Davis** Executive Officer ~ **CDR Mike Missler** Command Master Chief ~ **CMDCM Randy Griffeth**  Editorial Staff Public Affairs Officer ~ Penny Randall Public Affairs Specialist~ Evelyn Reese Photographer~ MC2 Molly Tice 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): 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 (MAF): 866-295-0328 EEO (GS): 904-542-2802 This DoD newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The Skyline are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or NAS Meridian, Mississippi. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the NAS Meridian Public Affairs Office. The Skyline solicits news contributions from military and civilian sources. It reserves the right to edit material selected for dissemination. The deadline for material is 4:30 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Send submissions to: The Skyline, 255 Rosenbaum Ave., Suite 163, Public Affairs Office, Naval Air Station, Meridian, MS 39309-5003 or e-mail: pennyl.randall2.civ@ us.navy.mil or evelyn.m.rese3.civ@us.navy.mil. For more information, call (601) 679-2318 or (601) 679-2309. The appearance of any advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or NAS Meridian of products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

# LOCAL HAPPENINGS

#### JUNE:

28, 10 a.m - 4 p.m. - Horses 101 for Military Children is for military children ages 4-18. Kids will learn basic horse grooming, the language of the horse, and will be able to ride. Lunch is provided. Limited to 10 children. Please email photo ID and copy/photo of your DD214, if active duty please let us know – to info@soldiersfreedomoutdoors. org. Located at the Coyote Hills Equine Rescue and Therapeutic Riding on 542 Chunky Duffee Rd. Chunky, MS 39323. Click here for tickets, entries, & info.

**28 - 30 July, 10 a.m - Summer Vacation Movie Series -** Families can come to Golden Ticket Cinemas to enjoy movies such as Shrek 2, Trolls, and more for just \$1! A movie ticket, drink, & popcorn can be purchased for just \$5! Sensory Friendly Shows can be enjoyed every Monday & Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Located at the Uptown Mall in Meridian.

#### JULY:

**4, from 3:30 p.m. - 4th of July Celebration -** Join the city of Meridian for the annual 4th of July Celebration. Get ready for a great evening of live music, food trucks, and fireworks over beautiful Bonita Lakes. Gates open at 3:30 p.m. Food vendors open at 4 p.m. Music by: Scott McQuaig & The Tomcats, JC Experience, and

Grayson Culpepper. Located at Bonita Lakes in Meridian. <u>Click</u> here for tickets, entries, & info.

**5**, from 8 a.m - 5 p.m. - Earth's Bounty - Every first Saturday of the month enjoy Free admission, live music, local vendors, and a classroom activity. Schedule of events: 8 am-Noon: Earth's Bounty Farmers Market + Live Music, 9 am-5 pm: Free admission to The MAX, 11 am-1 pm: Art activities in upstairs classroom. Located at the MAX in Downtown Meridian. <u>Click here for tickets, entries, & info.</u>

**18, from 6 - 8 p.m. - Edgar Allan Poe Speakeasy -** The Edgar Allan Poe Speakeasy is a chilling cocktail experience in Meridian that brings four of his stories off the page and onto the stage as told through the Poe Historians while pairing them with four classic cocktails. Located at the Copeland Center in Downtown Meridian. <u>Click here for tickets, entries, & info.</u>

## **AREA HAPPENINGS**

#### JULY:

6, 8 p.m. - Star Wars Under the Stars with the Nashville Symphony - May the Fourth be with you! This must-experience outdoor concert features the Nashville Symphony conducted by Enrico Lopez-Yañez performing John Williams - and other composers - iconic scores. Located at the Ascend Amphitheater in Nashville, TN. Click here for tickets, entries, & info.

**14, 6:30 p.m. - WWE Monday Night RAW -** Experience the thrill of WWE Monday Night Raw live! Step into the electrifying atmosphere of the arena, surrounded by passionate fans as the biggest superstars clash in epic battles. Located at the Legacy Arena in Birmingham, AL. <u>Click here for tickets, entries, & info.</u>

### **Command Quarters**



Photo by Evelyn Reese Congratulation's to those who received awards at Command Quarters, June 23.

### Great job and keep up the good work! Hattiosburg WWII Votoran

## Hattiesburg WWII Veteran Celebrates 100th Birthday

Sgt Raymond Aldapa, left, is pictured with Glenn Aubrey Canfield, Sgt Thiany Alzime and Sgt Desiree Rodriguez during Mr. Canfield's 100th birthday celebration on June 7 in Hattiesburg. Mr. Canfield served in World War II and was honorably discharged at the rank of Corporal on July 10, 1946. The Marines who are staff stationed at Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron **One onboard Naval Air Station** Meridian presented Mr. Canfield with a flag flown in his honor. Courtesy Photo



# Sale..

#### HOMES/APARTMENTS

**For Sale:** 3 BD/3 BA, 2,804sqft home in Collinsville. Upstairs is a large bonus room that can be used as a 4th bedroom or recreational space. 1 acre of land. House is WL school District. Low interest rate assumable VA loan. Asking \$399,000. For additional info please txt or call 601-479-0888. 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: 2 BD/1

BA unfurnished home

#### 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. Ask-

15, 7 p.m. - Kesha Concert - Located at the Ascend Amphitheater in Nashville, TN. <u>Click here for tickets, entries, & info.</u>

**19 - UFC: Holloway vs Poirier -** UFC lightweight Dustin Poirier announced that he will make his final walk to the Octagon when UFC returns to New Orleans for UFC 318 on July 19. In the main event, BMF champion Max Holloway will defend his belt against the hometown favorite in a trilogy matchup built on over a decade of shared history. **Located at the Smoothie King Center in New Orleans, LA.** <u>Click here for tickets, entries, & info.</u>

This information is provided for informational purposes only. The Department of the Navy does not approve, endorse, or authorize these entities or their products/services. **NEW! 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

in North Hills. Available May/June. Call 601-504-5415.

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 ing \$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.

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

## 2024 Annual Consumer Confidence Report

2024 ANNUAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR) ANNUAL WATER QUALITY

NAVAL AIR STATION, MERIDIAN NAVFAC SE, DETACHMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Water Treatment Facility (MSDH PWSID # 0380026) 229 Allen Road Meridian, MS 39309 (Lauderdale County)

#### June 12, 2025

We are pleased to present our **2024 Annual Consumer Confidence Report for Water Quality** as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) for the consumers of **Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian**. We are proud to announce there are no violations to report and all reports and all sample test results are within required specifications. This report is a snapshot of our water quality and provides you with details about where it comes from and what it may contain. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water is within the safe drinking water limits, as set forth by the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We are continually striving to improve the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. The MSDH and the Certified Operators of NAS Meridian periodically monitor more than 90 different organic and inorganic contaminants routinely and periodically, according to Federal and State statutes, rules, and regulations.

We want to keep you informed and updated about the water quality and services we provide. For your review, the 2024 Water Quality Data Table below contains the results of our sample testing for contaminants between January 1 to December 31, 2024, unless otherwise noted. The EPA and MSDH have set schedules for some test samples, others are routine daily or monthly testing. All results are reported using the most recent test samples taken in accordance with MSDH and EPA testing protocols and schedule requirements. For a brief explanation of acronyms and terms used throughout this report, see the Reference Tables on pages 7 and 8.

In order to ensure the tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations for allowable limits for contamination in water provided by public water systems, as all sources of drinking water, both tap water and bottled water, including all bodies of water and man-made wells contain traces of naturally occurring or man-made containments. As water travels, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and may pick up substances or containments such as microbes, inorganic and organic compounds, and very rarely, radioactive substances. Most contaminants are detected at extremely low levels and typically are not considered to be harmful, such as fluoride, sodium, and potassium, which add nutritional value and improves the taste.

Our water is sourced by the Lower Wilcox Aquifer and treated in a "treatment train" (a series of processes applied in a sequence) that includes coagulation, floculation., sedimentation, filtration and disinfection. Coagulation removes dirt and other particles suspended in the source water by adding chemicals coagulants to form tiny sticky particles called "floc," which attract the dirt particles. Flocculation of larger flocs from smaller flocs is achieved using gentle, constant mixing. The heavy particles settle naturally out of the water in a sedimentation basin. The clear water then moves to the filtration process where the water passes through sand, gravel, charcoal or other filtres that remove even smaller particles. Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water.

**READ MORE, CLICK HERE** 

### Bring your Daughter to Work Day – Aircraft Carrier Edition

#### By Senior Chief Petty Officer Andrew McCord USS Nimitz

In the Navy, many toss around the word "family" casually. Divisions become families. Departments become families. Berthmembers become ing Co-workers families. who spend 18 hours a day working together and another six sleeping near each other become family members. And just like blood

and legal family members, Sailors rarely get to choose who their Navy family members are, and often they mirror the same players in a regular family: the serious mother, the doting father, the goofy uncle and the devil-may-care cousin. Along the way, the Navy put various policies in place to ensure family members don't together, serve and the reasons are sound: avoidance of favoritism, unnecessary or unintentional perceptions, and of course the worstcase scenario: potential end of a bloodline. And as Sailors will do, they keep their heads down and simply accept these policies as law and move along with their lives.



Photo by MCSA Frankie Guage

From left, Aviation Machinist's Mate Senior Chief Dan Reyes and his daughter, U.S. Midshipmen 2nd Class Gabriella Reyes, from Miami, Florida, watch a vertical replenishment on the fantail aboard the aircraft carrier

### Retired Marine F-35 Pilot Finds New Way to Serve at FRCE

#### By Heather Wilburn Fleet Readiness Center East

After soaring through two decades as a Marine Corps fighter pilot, Ross Fearon wasn't quite ready to hang up his flight suit.

Instead, he embarked on a new mission after retiring from the Corps, trading combat maneuvers for flight testing on the cutting-edge F-35 Lightning II aircraft service at Fleet Readiness Center East (FRCE). In his new role as an F-35 maintenance test pilot, Fearon ensures the nation's warfighters receive flight-ready aircraft modification following or repair at the depot.

Now, as a civilian flying the nation's newest military fighter jet, Fearon is member of a group that includes just a handful of individuals. As a civilian F-35 test pilot at a military aircraft maintenance facility, he's the sole member of a very exclusive club of one.

"It definitely still surprises me sometimes when I think, 'Wow, I'm going to jump into a \$100 million airplane today and make sure everything works properly," Fearon said. "And, if all goes well, I'll jump in it again tomorrow and take it across the country to deliver it to its home station. It's a little wild that I'm still able to do this as a civilian, and I'm fortunate to RECUE BLARE DIMINIS

Photo by Samantha Morse

FRCE F-35 maintenance test pilot Ross Fearon taxis during a functional check flight on an F-35B Lightning II to ensure the aircraft's airframe, engines, accessories, and equipment are functioning according to standard following service at the depot. Fearon took on the role to test pilot at FRCE following 20 years of service as a fighter pilot in the Marine Corps in order to continue serving the nation by helping deliver flight-ready aircraft to the warfighter.

have this opportunity." According to FRCE F-35 Branch Head Ike Rettenmair, employing a full-time civilian pilot was an innovative concept that has resulted in reduced modification turnaround times by removing the potential for pilot scheduling conflicts. Fearon is readily available to conduct aircraft pickups and deliveries (also known as ferries) and functional check flights, which determine whether an aircraft's airframe, engines, accessories, and equipment are functioning according to standard.

"Having Ross in the

office right next door to me has been a huge benefit to us from a planning perspective," Rettenmair said "Knowing that we can, without question, put a pilot in the seat when an aircraft is ready for a functional check flight - that's a huge gain for us. Prior to having him on board, we'd have to go out to the units and ask them to provide a pilot whenever we'd have a functional check flight or a ferry and, of course, the units have their own priorities. With Ross here, we don't have any delays." Fearon's ability to

pilot all three variants

#### - READ MORE, CLICK HERE

## T-45 Goshawk Honors Naval Aviation Legend



USS Nimitz (CVN 68) in the South China Sea, June 10.

Thus, when familv members do - somehow - manage to find their way to serving at the same command, it's cause for people to take note, tilt their heads in curiosity and simply try to understand the how and the why. Enter Senior Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate Dan Reyes, the power plants and airframes work center leading chief petty officer for Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 6, currently deployed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68). By sheer coincidence, Reyes found himself serving for eight days alongside his daughter, Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Midshipman 2nd Class Gabriella Reyes, a junior majoring in statistics at Florida State University.

Despite 20 years of active duty service, Senior Chief Reyes found himself surprised and definitely pleased when he learned his daughter would be embarking Nimitz for her summer training cruise.

"It's been a dream come true," he said. "In my years of service, I would never have imagined I would be deMAS PENSALDIA BER O

Photo by Jonathan Tweedy

The newly painted T-45 Goshawk "show bird" from Training Squadron (VT) 86 and Training Air Wing (TW) 6 based at NAS Pensacola! The homage honors Naval Aviation legend William "Willy" Driscoll, the only Naval Flight Officer Ace, who scored 5 air-to-air victories as a LTJG in the skies over North Vietnam in 1972. The new scheme pays tribute to VF-96's iconic F-4 Phantom paint, with a special nod to Driscoll's aircraft, Showtime 112, now displayed in the San Diego Air & Space Museum. Willy's name is proudly displayed on the rear cockpit alongside five kill marks, at his own request, reminding today's student Naval Flight Officers that history is made by those wearing the same wings and rank they do now. Recently, the commemorative T-45 traveled to NAS Meridian, where Driscoll saw it in person for the first time.

**READ MORE, CLICK HERE** 

### FFSC Hourse

Mon.-Thurs:: 0800-1630

Fris: 0700-1530 Check here to see the latest news with Fleet & Family, Child and Youth Programs, & MWR!



# Financial Literacy Takes Root at NAS Meridian's SAC Program



NAS Meridian's School-Age Care (SAC) Program recently hosted a session on financial literacy, led by Personal Financial Manager Marie Brinston and Work and Family Life Lead Brittney Butchee. The summer program -- geared toward military and civilian dependent youth -- offered a handson introduction to money management. Students began by identifying different U.S. currency bills, then participated in a powerful visual exercise comparing what happens to \$100 kept in a piggy bank, tucked into a wallet, or deposited into a bank account earning 4.92% APR. For more financial information, contact Marie Brinston at (601) 679-2360.

Courtesy Photo



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₽.

FFSC events!

In person, at the Child Development Center

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