

On Base

OKTOBER FEST
September 21 • 1600-1800
Community Rec Complex

Staff Nights
Every Thursday Night
Rudders • 1700-2100

Captain's Cup
Flag Football League

Registration:
Sept. 9 - Oct. 4

Team Meeting:
Oct. 3 at 1500

Games Begin:
Oct. 8 at 1730

Open Mic Night
Every Friday in August
Rudders • 1900-2100

MATTS-1 Trunk or Treat
Oct. 18 • 1700
Parking Lot across NEX
(205 Highley Road Meridian, MS)

For more info, contact 601-679-2698

Get Connected



SCAN for NAS Meridian App



SCAN for the Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box



Follow us!

South, Tai earn Top 20 Under 40

From Staff Reports

LT Ashlee South and HM3 Jung Tai were honored as part of the 2024 Top 20 Under 40 class during a reception at The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience, Sept. 17.

South is NAS Meridian's security officer and has served 16 years in the U.S. Navy. She is dedicated to improving NAS Meridian and the local community with organizing food and school supply drives as well as participating in Relay for Life

and Toys for Tots.

HM3 Tai is a dental assistant at our health clinic. Her community service includes the Mississippi Children's Museum-Meridian, Rose Hill Costumed Cemetery Tour, and the Meridian Rails Historical Society. Tai immigrated to the U.S. at age 31 and decided to join the Navy three years ago.

Individuals are nominated for the Top 20 Under 40 honors for their commitment to serving others and their professional achievements.

Photo by Penny Randall

LT Ashlee South and HM3 Jung Tai pose for a photo at the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience after receiving the nomination of 2024 Top 20 Under 40, Sept. 17. Nominees are honored for their commitment to the community and professionalism.



NAS Meridian Hosts Bells Across America

Photo by MC2 Molly Tice



ABE1 Joshua Warren rings the bell at the Bells Across America Ceremony held at the Navy Reserve Center on Sept. 19. Each September, Navy Installations around the world participate in a remembrance ceremony known as Bells Across America For Fallen Service Members. The ceremony honors those who died while on active duty. For centuries bells have been used by the Navy for timekeeping, safety and communication, to sound alarms, in ceremonies and events, and to signal the presence of important persons. During these memorial events, the bells rung will not signal anyone's presence, but instead will toll in their absence. These memorial events are a way for the military and local community to honor and remember the sacrifice of our Fallen and the loved ones they left behind.

Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box: Q & A

Due to the strong demand for additional food options across the base, leadership conducted a food survey and received valuable feedback and suggestions. We are now collaborating with NEXCOM, MWR, and other relevant entities to explore how and when we can expand our offerings. This process will take time and require close coordination with multiple parties. Please be assured that we are committed to enhancing both the quality of service and overall quality of life on base. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Expect to see food specials at Rudders' in the near future as well as possible specials on the mobile food truck. As a side note, Rudders Food Truck is now at the Flight Line four days a week from 0945-1230 (or until food runs out).

Q. The four way intersection at Fuller and Rosenbaum should be changed into a turn circle. This will keep the flow of traffic moving for every direction and increase safety.

A. Our Public Works Department is focused on improving safety at the two-way stop intersection. They are currently assessing hazards and exploring options to enhance traffic flow and reduce accidents. A roundabout is being considered as part of a long-term plan, but implementation may take some time. In the meantime, please drive safely and follow all traffic signs.

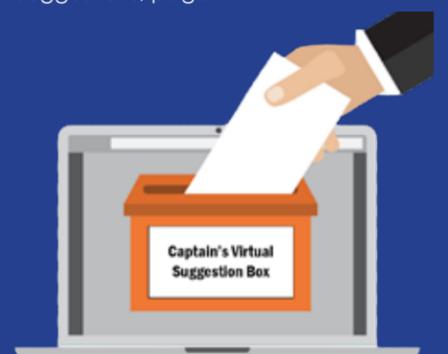
Q. We need a post office on base for personal mail needs.

A. We previously closed the base postal office due to low usage. We'll explore

the possibility of reopening it and assess demand to determine feasibility. Thank you for your feedback!

****Statements concerning individual employees will be directed to the appropriate Chain of Command.**

• Suggestions, page 4



NAS Meridian Sailors Remember 9/11

By Thomas Howard
The Meridian Star

Enlisted Navy sailors, officers and first responders gathered together Wednesday on board Naval Air Station Meridian to mark the 23rd anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

On Sept. 11, 2001, 19 terrorists belonging to the Islamist extremist group al-Qaida hijacked four commercial airplanes and used them in suicide attacks. The first plane hit the north tower at the World Trade Center at 8:46 a.m. and the second hit the south tower at 9:03 a.m.

At 9:37 a.m. a third hijacked plane hit the Pentagon, and the fourth plane crashed in rural Pennsylvania shortly after 10 a.m. after passengers on the flight revolted to keep the hijackers from reaching their target. Almost 3,000 people died in the attacks.

Chief Select Tinamarie Anthony said she was in her sixth grade math class at school in north New Jersey when the attacks took place. The school, she said, was not far from Manhattan, where the World Trade Center stood, and students could see the black smoke rising into the air.

“As soon as we heard that there was a crash, that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center, we all got up and we started looking out the windows of our classroom, which we did see the billowing smoke,” she said. “A couple moments later it turned into a lot of chaos, a lot of mayhem because parents were scared.”



Photo by Evelyn Adams

Firefighters from the NAS Meridian Fire & Emergency Services raise the American flag at the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Navy Reserve Center prior to the ceremony.

This was before cell phones were common, Anthony explained, but the classroom did have a phone on

the wall and soon it was ringing off the hook. Many students were sent to the office to await the arrival of their parents who wanted to take them home, she said.

“Luckily for me, my dad worked at that school. He was the gym teacher,” she said. “So I really felt really safe knowing I was with my dad.”

No school was held on Sept. 12, she said, but students did go back to class on Sept. 13 with a late schedule.

Master Chief Amy Madrigal said 9/11 is something she normally tries to avoid talking about as it is a difficult subject. She was at the Pentagon when that plane hit and very close to being in its path.

“I was in corridor four, which, if you know where the plane hit, it was between corridors four and five,” she said.

The experience, she said, really drove home the sobering reality of the oath Navy sailors take to put their lives on the line if needed. As a 19-to-20-year-old junior sailor, the full weight of that oath doesn’t really sink in, she said, but the events of 9/11 showed her just how serious it was.

“At that age, you kind of don’t think that’s for real, but it became very real to me very quickly,” she said.

The attack, however, also served as a catalyst, Madrigal said, giving her the motivation she needed to grow as a person and as a sailor.

“When I first started in the Navy, I was a little hard-headed. If you ever were to talk to my mentors, they’ll tell you I had a rough start,” she said. “But Sept. 11 was the day that changed my life because that was the day I knew I was meant for something bigger.”

Roman Catholic Service at the NAS Meridian Chapel

Sept. 28 & Oct. 12
0930: Confession
1000: Mass

Bravo Zulu to Our Promotees



Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

CWO4 Rishard Winters, right, recites the oath of enlistment with CAPT Luke H. Davis, left, during his reenlistment ceremony, Sept. 9. Winters is the Administrative Officer onboard NAS Meridian.



Photo by Evelyn Adams

FC2 Justice Walton, right, is congratulated by CAPT Luke H. Davis, left, on his promotion to First Class Petty Officer during a short ceremony on Sept. 11. Walton is a member of the Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems team onboard NAS Meridian.



Courtesy Photo

MA3 Dominick Caldwell, center, is congratulated by CAPT Luke Davis, commanding officer of NAS Meridian, and MA1 Calvin Green, NAS Meridian’s Kennel Master, after Caldwell was meritoriously promoted to Petty Officer Second Class on Sept. 19. Caldwell is a military working dog handler onboard NAS Meridian.

The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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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
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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

SEPTEMBER:

19: NightMarket, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Discover a captivating fusion of culture and creativity. Shop local art, baked goods, and produce as the sun sets. Enjoy food from Munchies and More and Robin's Kitchen, with beer and wine available for purchase. New vendor The Roadside Rescue Network will feature adorable dogs available for adoption. For your entertainment, the Deep Roots Music Project from Cleveland, MS is bringing Neshun Holmes, accompanied by her guitarist. Neshun is known for her neo-soul sound and is part of the Mississippi Delta group celebrating the region's musical heritage. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info](#)

27-28: Marion Fire & Rescue Fall Festival, Fri: 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. & Sat. 10 a.m.- 10 p.m. Join us for two days of fall festivities, great food, and more! Friday will be Adults Only Blues Night! Saturday will be All Day Family Fun Day! Located at 6021 Dale Dr. Marion, MS.

OCTOBER:

3-6: Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street - Sweeney Todd has become a bloody, worldwide success since being awarded eight Tony's, (including Best Musical), for its Broadway premiere. Stephen Sondheim's and Hugh Wheeler's (A Little Night Music, Pacific Overtures) tasty, thrilling, theatrical treat has simultaneously shocked, awed and delighted audiences across the world. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

4: Full Moon on 5th, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. - Join us for Meridian's favorite block party. Free to attend, enjoy food vendors, pop up art galleries, live painting, children's activities and live entertainment. Lawn chairs are encouraged. Located in Downtown Meridian. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

5: Fam Jam, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Mark your calendars for a day full of music, food trucks, local artists, crafters, and fun for the whole family. Located in Downtown Meridian. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

15: Mixing Spirits for Merrehope, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. - All Aboard . . . at Union Station for an entertaining evening of tantalizing cocktails and savory food pairings inspired by the spirits of enchanting Merrehope. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

26: Mega Yard Sale, 6 a.m. - 11 p.m. - Mega yard sale at Agape Storehouse Church. If you would like to have a booth at the yard sale, contact Staci Harden at 601-527-6888. Booth spaces are \$25 and \$10 for an additional booth. Yard sale is rain or shine.

AREA HAPPENINGS

SEPTEMBER:

28-29: South Star Music Festival - See performances from Gwen Stefani, Blink- 182, Sublime, Goo Goo Dolls, Ludacris, and TLC. Located in Huntsville, AL. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

OCTOBER:

10: Red Clay Strays Concert, 6:30 p.m. - Concert features a performance by Black Pistol Fire. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

"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."

Chief Heritage Week Aboard USS Constitution



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Amber Speer

U.S. Navy petty officers first class, selected for promotion to chief petty officer, participate in a pike drill during Chief Petty Officer Heritage Week. During the week, Constitution Sailors teach the selectees a variety of time-honored maritime evolutions while living and working aboard the ship. USS Constitution, is the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat, and played a crucial role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, actively defending sea lanes from 1797 to 1855. During normal operations, the active-duty Sailors stationed aboard USS Constitution provide free tours and offer public visitation to more than 600,000 people a year as they support the ship's mission of promoting the Navy's history and maritime heritage and raising awareness of the importance of a sustained naval presence. USS Constitution was undefeated in battle and destroyed or captured 33 opponents. The ship earned the nickname of Old Ironsides during the War of 1812 when British cannonballs were seen bouncing off the ship's wooden hull.



Sale... Or

BOATS/CAMPERS/TRAILERS

21 foot - 2021 Jayco Travel Camper. Like new; beige & walnut interior. Selling to upgrade to larger size - Price is \$15,000 some accessories included. To view or request pics please contact: Gary 601-575-5062.

HOMES/APARTMENTS

NEW! For Rent: Studio Apartment located on North Hills Street. \$825 a month. Call 601-504-5415.

For Rent: 2 BD/1 BA home located in Dalewood community on the water. \$900 a month. Call 601-683-6038.

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.

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 \$1,800; please call 813-406-9687.

For Rent: Fully furnished home in Dalewood. \$1,500 a month; \$50 application fee; \$900 Dalewood membership fee. Trailer, washer and dryer included. Call Jim 601-480-4865.

For Rent: 4 BD/2.5 BA home 3632 sq ft, just over 6 acres with workshop attached to 2-car carport. Owners will consider a lease of 12-36 months, and rent is negotiable the longer the term. Call (601) 517-1707.

For Rent: 3 BD/1.5 BA

home 15 minutes from NAS at 4814 36th Ave. New refrigerator and 2-year old AC & furnace. Call Terrance at 469-318-9769.

MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: Double wall Frigidaire oven \$500; Bosch dishwasher \$500. Both three years old. Call 601-616-4242.

Nanny or caregiver services. Call Alice at 601-934-1866 or 601-679-8112. Has installation access; can take children to school and pick up and available days, nights and weekends.

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

Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box: Questions & Answers



● Suggestions

Q. Good Evening Sir, I was wondering if we had the funding or could get the funding to expand the parking lots out here at both the wing and Air Operations? Or at least have some gravel to park on. We've been having issues with the amount of space for people to park. And also, can we get the lines repainted on the back side of the parking lot?

A. A site survey has been completed, and we have developed a plan for an expanded gravel parking lot with 315 additional spaces. We are currently awaiting funding and hope

to secure it in FY-25 to move forward with this project.

Q. Staff night is great how about if Rudders did a special for Monday night football. Like .25 cent wings and happy hour drink prices.

A. MWR is considering more evening events. This will be a phased approach as hiring allows, in the meantime Thursday is now Staff Night (1700-2100). Rudders is now open Monday-Wednesday from 0700-1600, Thursday from 0700-1220, Friday 0700-2200, Saturday 1400-2200 and Sunday 1400-2100.

Q. I have been to the ID lab 3 times with a locked CAC and all 3 times- no one is present. The workers show up late to work- never opens on time and we end up sitting waiting on them. If the hours on the door are standard- someone should always be present.

A. The DEERS office opens daily between 7:15 and 7:20 AM. There are two doors: one leads to the locked

customer service area (Room 128), and the other leads to the office (Room 125), which is open from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM, even if a "closed" sign is posted. You can reach the DEERS office during business hours at (601) 679-2302. We highly recommend making an appointment by visiting: <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>.

Q. Most of the arcade games at the bowling alley don't work. Is it possible to get them fixed and replenished with prizes?

A. Arcade games were removed from the Bowling Center 5 months ago. MWR is still searching for a contractor to provide alternate entertainment options.

Q. When the track is resurfaced, request to make it regulation size. The curves are too tight for proper running.

A. Thank you for your suggestion. Converting the current track to regulation size isn't feasible; instead, we're planning a new track, which will

take about three years. Meanwhile, we're getting estimates to resurface the existing track. We appreciate your patience.

Q. Run a marathon on base, open to the public, with a course around/through the airfield.

A. Thank you for your suggestion. We'll work on coordinating with all necessary parties to explore the feasibility of implementing this idea.

Q. Please extend the hours for omelets and please offer Caesar dressing. Thank you, sir or ma'am.

A. The omelet grill operates from 0530 to 0700, closing at 0700 for cleaning and prep. We discontinued Caesar dressing due to spoilage and low demand but will offer a small quantity to assess interest before deciding on its future. We encourage you to attend the monthly menu review boards to provide feedback to the Galley Leadership.

Hispanic, Navy Medicine Flag Officer Shares His Story During Hispanic Heritage Observance

Military and civilian personnel gathered at the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD), with many more joining via live stream, to celebrate the 2024 Hispanic Heritage Observance, Sep. 10.

The event, themed "Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together," highlighted the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the Navy and the Nation, and featured keynote speaker Rear Adm. Guido Valdes, commander of Naval Medical Forces Pacific and director of Defense Health Network Pacific Rim, who shared how his heritage shaped his Naval career and leadership in Navy Medicine.

Valdes, a Puerto Rico and Miami native of Cuban descent, began by reflecting on the diversity of Hispanic experiences in the United States, which now accounts for 20 percent of the population.

"Hispanicity in our country is represented by a diverse human tapestry resulting from a variety of historical events, migrations, and individual choices," Valdes said.

Despite this diversity, Valdes emphasized three core values that bind Hispanic culture—family, faith, and language—values that deeply influenced his life and leadership.

Born to Cuban immigrants who fled the Castro regime, Valdes shared the story of his family's migration to the U.S. His parents left Cuba in 1965 with nothing but what they could carry in a suitcase. They rebuilt their lives in Puerto Rico, aided by the generosity of fellow Cuban exiles and the welcoming Puerto Rican people. Valdes explained how his parents' resilience and success as small business owners instilled in him a sense of humility and gratitude for the opportunities the American society has provided.

Reflecting on this experience, Valdes noted how it shaped his attitude toward opportunity and risk.

"When offered an opportunity, take it; put in the effort, make it; when you reap the rewards, share it," he said.

Valdes emphasized that this lesson has guided him throughout his military career and leadership roles. He also noted that as a leader, it is critical to "take risks on those willing to do those three things," reinforcing the importance of investing in people who demonstrate hard work, perseverance, and a willingness to seize opportunities.



Photo by Arsenio R. Cortez Jr.
Rear Adm. Guido Valdes, commander of Naval Medical Forces Pacific and director of Defense Health Network Pacific Rim, speaks during the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division's 2024 Hispanic Heritage Observance at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Calif., Sep. 10.

Valdes credited his family for instilling a strong sense of responsibility, both to oneself and to the broader community.

"It was within this familial nucleus where my sisters and I learned an essential value: your life is not just about you. This is a very counter-cultural aspect of the Hispanic experience relative to the individualist ethos of American society," he said.

Valdes explained that, in Hispanic culture, individual success is deeply connected to the well-being of family, community, and society.

Valdes explained that, in Hispanic culture, individual success is deeply connected to the well-being of family, community, and society. This value system laid the foundation for his leadership in Navy Medicine, where he always prioritized the health and welfare of those under his command.

—Arsenio R. Cortez Jr.,
Naval Medical Forces Pacific

[Read more, click here](#)

Revolutionizing Marine Corps Maintenance with AR/VR Technology



Photo by Lance Cpl. Orlanys Diaz

U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Tyler Havard, left, from Arizona, a ground electronics transmissions systems maintainer with 2nd Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, and Cpl. Vradley Cerna, from Texas, a digital wideband systems maintainer with Marine Wing Communications Squadron (MWCS) 28, test tele-maintenance capabilities at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina, Aug. 21

MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE ALBANY, GA --Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) are set to play pivotal roles in transforming tele-maintenance operations, ensuring that maintainers are always available to support the Marine on any front at any time.

Bridging the Gap. Tele-maintenance, the remote diagnosis and repair of equipment, has traditionally relied on phone calls and manual instructions. However, the arrival of AR and VR technologies promises to take maintenance capabilities to an entirely new level. By overlaying digital information onto the real world (AR) or creating fully immersive virtual environments (VR), these technologies provide a more intuitive and effective way for technicians to perform maintenance tasks remotely.

AR can significantly enhance the diagnostic process by allowing remote experts to visualize the exact conditions that field technicians are encountering. For instance, a technician wearing AR glasses can receive step-by-step guidance directly in their line of sight,

with holographic overlays highlighting parts and tools needed for a specific task. This real-time, hands-free assistance minimizes errors and speeds up the repair process.

The Pursuit. Marine Depot Maintenance Command has been experimenting with AR technologies as part of its effort to modernize its maintenance capabilities from industrial-era practices to technologies suitable and capable of meeting the demands of the Information Age. The implementation of the "Industry 5.0 Framework" includes increasing production planning, control, and execution of capabilities by optimizing and automating business processes and optimization of facilities, business processes, and technology. As part of the effort, the command has actively engaged in experimentation and testing of AR capabilities since September 2022 and is gaining a better understanding of how it can be integrated into the command's current and future capabilities.

—Jennifer Napier
Marine Corps Logistics Command

[Read more, click here](#)

N9 Nook

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

Pottery Classes

Every 3rd Tuesday starting at 1700

\$20 per person

Register at the Community Recreation Complex. Payment and registration due the day before the class.

Limited space!




LIBERTY BOWLING NIGHT

Come bowl with us!
Bowl for just a \$1.50 per game & get a free shoe rental!

SEPTEMBER 29 • 1700
MCCAIN RECREATION CENTER




EVENTS SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 2024

- SEPT 3RD WELCOME ABOARD**
Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405
- SEPT 16-20 COMMAND FINANCIAL SPECIALIST TRAINING**
Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405
- SEPT 12TH CAPSTONE**
Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405
- SEPT 30 - OCT 4 TAP CLASS**
Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405

MORE INFO: CALL: 601-679-2360

Are you interested in hosting a service member for a holiday dinner?

IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT THE FLEET AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER AT 601-679-2360 OR EMAIL KASIE MCINNIS AT KASIE.D.MCINNIS.NAF@US.NAVY.MIL



NAVY CYP

A SERVICE PROVIDED BY CYP:

HOURLY CARE

3 WAYS TO MAKE OR CANCEL RESERVATIONS:

- Scan the QR Code
- Call 601-679-2652
- In person, at the Child Development Center