

On Base

Battle of Midway Memorial Event
June 8 at 5 p.m.
Aquatics Center/ Gym

Gutter Ball League at McCain Lanes!
Sign up by calling 601-679-2651.



Sip and Spin June 18 at 5 p.m.
at Pottery Studio behind the Library

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SCAN for NAS Meridian App



SCAN for City of Meridian App



Follow us!

Deputy Chief Graham named Mississippi Public Safety Firefighter of the Year

From NAS Meridian Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Meridian Deputy Fire Chief Twaskie Graham has honored as the state's Firefighter of the Year by the Mississippi Public Safety Commission during a ceremony in Jackson, May 22.

Graham has 34 years of public service, including 6 years in the U.S. Navy.

"Deputy Chief Graham has served his community well," said Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney. "Congratulations Deputy Chief Graham. This honor is well deserved."

This is the second year of the Mississippi Public Safety Summit, co-hosted by the Attorney General's Office and Department of Public Safety. This year's Summit was attended by nearly 500 individuals who work in law enforcement, criminal justice, and emergency response across the State.

Other honorees included First Responders of the Year Lt. Joe Kennedy, Hattiesburg Police Department and Officer Will Brantley, Flowood Police Department; Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Cpl. Garrett Comstock, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources; and Prosecutor of the Year ADA Scott Rogillio, 20th Circuit Court District.



Photo by Penny Randall

CAPT Luke Davis, left, NAS Meridian commanding officer, is joined by LT Ashlee South, NAS Meridian Security Officer; Lynn Finch, Mississippi Attorney General; Velma Young Graham, the wife of NAS Meridian Deputy Chief Twaskie Graham; Sean Tindell, Public Safety Commissioner; and LCDR Damian Allen, NAS Meridian Public Works Officer. Deputy Chief Graham was named the Firefighter of the Year by the Mississippi Public Safety Commission during a ceremony, May 22, in Jackson.



Photos by Evie Adams and MC2 Molly Tice

All-American Rejects and Lost Stars performed at a concert on NAS Meridian, May 18. The concert was one of over 65 free events during Operation MWR -- an MWR and GOVX effort to enhance the morale and resilience of service members and their families. These concert will be hosted at Navy installations worldwide between May and June 2024.

15 aviators earn 'Wings of Gold' in May pinning ceremony

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony May 31 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian.

Fifteen 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."

1STLT Benjamin John Capannari, USMC is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a bachelor's degree in Math with Economics. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. 1STLT Capannari completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron NINE.

LTJG Evan Jack Dixon, USN, is a graduate of Virginia Tech, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Physics. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, LTJG Dixon earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) on March 19, 2024. LTJG Dixon completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron NINE.

LTJG Hamilton Wilson Lewis Erwin, USN, is a graduate of Clemson University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Bioengineering. LTJG Erwin was named to the Commodore's List while in Primary Flight Training, and during Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) on March 19, 2024. LTJG Erwin completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron NINE.

LTJG Aaron Obrien Gerber, USN, enlisted in the United States Navy as a Fast Attack Submariner, serving five years at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and Norfolk. LTJG Gerber is a graduate of Academy College, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Commercial Aviation, receiving his commission as an officer through the OCS program in May 2021. During Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Gerber completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron NINE.

1STLT Bryce Trenton Henze, USMC is a graduate of the University of Illinois, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. 1STLT Henze completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training with Training Squadron SEVEN.

LTJG Reidar Williams Jacobson, USN, is a graduate of Washington State University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS George Washington (CVN 73) on January 23, 2024. LTJG Jacobson completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron SEVEN.

LTJG Jakob Joseph Klo, USN, is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University, where he received a



1STLT Benjamin Capannari



LTJG Evan Dixon



LTJG Hamilton Erwin



LTJG Aaron Gerber



1STLT Bryce Henze



LTJG Reidar Jacobson



LTJG Jakob Klo



1STLT Jacob Laing



LT Colton Schiefer



LTJG Nichols Sorrell



1STLT Kelvin Taylor



LTJG Nathan Titus



LTJG Nicholas Voss



LTJG Christopher Wikoff



1STLT Yuwi Yamashita

Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, LTJG Klo earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) on March 19, 2024. LTJG Klo completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron NINE.

1STLT Jacob Reiner Laing, USMC, is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in General Science. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. 1STLT Laing completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron NINE.

LT Colton Robert Schiefer, USN, is a graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Intermodal Transportation and Logistics. LT Schiefer earned his "Wings of Gold" when he completed Advanced Helicopter Flight Training. Prior to his Aviation Warfare Transition, he few two deployments in the MH-60S. LT Schiefer reported to Naval Air Station Meridian for Advanced Jet Flight Training where he earned five Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LT Schiefer completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron NINE.

LTJG Nicholas Ethan Sorrell, USN, is a graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems Sciences. LTJG Sorrell was named to the Commodore's List while in Primary Flight Training and during Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. He carrier qualified in the T-45C on board the Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) on March 19, 2024. LTJG Sorrell completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron NINE.

1STLT Kelvin Michael Taylor, USMC, is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. While in

Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. 1STLT Taylor completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron NINE.

LTJG Nathan George Titus, USN, is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree double majoring in Computer Science and Philosophy and with a minor in Mathematics. LTJG Titus was named to the Commodore's List while in Primary Flight Training and during Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Titus completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron NINE.

LTJG Nicholas Wayne Voss, USN, is a graduate of Rocky Mountain College, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Science. LTJG Voss was named to the Commodore's List while in Primary Flight Training, and during Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Voss completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron NINE.

LTJG Christopher James Wikoff, USN, is a graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Science. LTJG Wikoff was named to the Commodore's List while in Primary Flight Training, and during Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned one Navy "E" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Wikoff completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron NINE. LT Yuwi Yamashita, USMC, is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. 1STLT Yamashita was named to the Commodore's List while in Primary Flight Training, and during Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. 1STLT Yamashita completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron NINE.

<h2>The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.</h2>		<h3>Hotlines & Helpful Numbers</h3> <p>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</p>		<p>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: penny.l.randall2.civ@us.navy.mil or adam.w.prince.civ@us.navy.mil. For more information, call (601) 679-2318 or (601) 679-2809. 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.</p>	
<p>Command Staff Commanding Officer ~ CAPT Luke H. Davis Executive Officer ~ Vacant Command Master Chief ~ Vacant</p>	<p>Editorial Staff Public Affairs Officer ~ Penny Randall Public Affairs Specialist~ Adam Prince Photographer~ MC2 Molly Tice</p>				

Local Happenings

JUNE

1: Earth's Bounty from 8 a.m. - noon at Singing Brakeman Park on Front Street in downtown Meridian. Fresh farmer's market produce, locally made products, plants, and more: kids' activities, live music, and special demonstrations throughout the season. Earth's Bounty happens the first Saturday of each month, April-November.

1: First Saturday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience. Songwriter workshop, songwriter performances, and a songwriter jam session. Free admission to The MAX on this day.

1: Full Moon on 5th from 6-9 p.m. on 5th street between 23rd and 22nd avenue, downtown Meridian. Enjoy food vendors, pop up art galleries, live painting, children's activities and live entertainment. Lawn chairs are encouraged. Free to attend.

6: Mingle at the Museum from 6-9 p.m. at Mississippi Children's Museum-Meridian, 403 22nd Ave. Adults 21 and up are invited into My Fantastical Backyard for a casual, carnival night event featuring live music, festive fair food, carnival games, and plenty of opportunities to win prizes. Tickets can be found at: <https://mschildrensmuseum.org/event/mingle-at-the-museum-4/>

14-19: Juneteenth Festival - the heritage and freedom celebration centered around music with activities for children, a business expo, uplifting gospel celebration and more. 14th: Black Business Expo at The Max; 15th: 7 a.m.-11 a.m., Pickleball Tournament; 12 p.m.-4 p.m., KidZone at the Children's Museum; 6 p.m.-11 p.m., Juneteenth Concert at City Hall Lawn; 16th: 6 p.m.- 8 p.m., Freedom Day Play; and 19th: Gospel Celebration/Trail Blazer Honors.

Area Happenings

JUNE

11: Bittersweet North America Tour at 8 p.m. at StateFarm Arena, Atlanta. Gunna and Flo Milli. Visit <https://www.statefarmarena.com/events/detail/gunna-bittersweet-north-america-tour-2024-flo-milli>

13: Tim McGraw at 7 p.m. at Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, Biloxi. Visit: <https://www.mscoastcoliseum.com/events/2023/tim-mcgraw--standing-room-only>

U.S. Navy Identifies Lost Sailor Overboard in the Red Sea

RED SEA – The U.S. Navy on Saturday identified the Sailor lost overboard from USS Mason (DDG 87) while operating in the Red Sea, March 20.

Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Oriola Michael Aregbesola, assigned to the "Swamp Foxes" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 74, was deployed with a detachment aboard Mason, which has been operating in the U.S. 5th Fleet since November.

Aregbesola, of Florida, joined the Navy in July 2020. He reported to HSM-74 in December 2020.

"Petty Officer Aregbesola fully embodied the selfless character and

thoughtful warrior spirit of the United States Navy Sailor," said Cmdr. Eric Kohut, HSM-74 commanding officer. "His outstanding performance prior to and during deployment went well beyond aircraft maintenance; he truly saw and valued every member of the ship/air team. He will continue on in the heart of every Swamp Fox and our brothers and sisters in the IKE Carrier Strike Group. Our deepest thoughts and prayers are with his family."

Mason and HSM-74 are part of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group and currently deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

-- From Navy.mil

[Read more, click here](#)

Nation's Leaders Honor Fallen Heroes

To Gold Star family members and everyone mourning a fallen American hero today, please know that we bow our heads in sorrow along with you, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III said.

Austin, President Joe Biden and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. CQ Brown, Jr., provided remarks today at a Memorial Day observance at Arlington National Cemetery.

"We know that you live with loss every day and not just Memorial Day," Austin continued. Defending our

republic carries risk and that goes beyond the dangers of combat. By necessity, military training is hard and challenging. "Our operations worldwide can put our troops in harm's way," he said.

Also, we lose too many of our veterans to suicide, he added. Troops and their families don't just sacrifice during wartime. Troops often go on long deployments. "They know the pride that never fades and the worry that never leaves," Austin said.

-- From David Vergun, DOD News

[Read more, click here](#)

Department of the Navy Takes Aim at Online Abuse

The Department of the Navy (DON) recently released a new training module to educate Sailors and Marines on technology-facilitated harassment, accelerating implementation of a key recommendation from the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military.

Cyberharassment includes a broad range of behaviors that occur across digital platforms. Anonymity provided by the internet often emboldens individuals, making it easier for them to engage in abusive behavior without facing immediate consequences.

"In today's digitally connected world,

the rise of cyberharassment and online abuse has become a growing societal challenge to which the military is not immune," said Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (ASN M&RA) Franklin R. Parker. "As technology evolves, so do the methods and avenues through which individuals can be targeted."

The training course will equip Sailors and Marines with the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the online sphere safely.

-- From DON Office of Force Resiliency

[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 \$15,000 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 tow-

ing 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: 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 or (601) 517-1707.

For Rent: 3BD /2BA home near North Hills. Spacious yard, concrete patio for gatherings, home gym and covered car garage. Rent \$1,100 per month. Call Jeremy at 601-410-8555.

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.

For Rent: 3 BD/1.5 BA with another room used as a gym. All kitchen appliances included. Large backyard. Address 145 Skyland Drive, Meridian.

About 25 minutes to Navy Base. \$900 per month, with \$900 deposit. Available Aug. 1. No pets. Call 601-490-0849.

For Rent: 3BD/2BD home near Causeyville Road. Furnished in quiet neighborhood. \$900 per month. 954-895-5485, 601-692-4048 or 606-571-0820.

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 Sale: 3BD/2BA Home with 2,560 sq. ft.

Sits on 1 & 1/2 lots on dead end with privacy woods on 3 sides. Asking \$180,000. Contact: lucindawnichols@gmail.com, call 601-527-7829 or 601-917-6145.

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

NEW! 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.

To submit an item to the "Sale...Or" column, e-mail adam.w.prince.civ@us.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.w.prince.civ@us.navy.mil

Naval test pilot school students evaluate Orion handling qualities at NASA

By **Brittany Dickerson**
Naval Air Warfare Center

As part of a technical exchange with NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, 24 test pilots under instruction from the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division's (NAWCAD) U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) were invited to spend a week at NASA to evaluate the Orion spacecraft controls and displays during orbital maneuvering and re-entry procedures. The Johnson Space Center is where astronauts primarily train for their missions to space.

The technical exchange is a two-week segment of the intense, 11-month USNTPS curriculum that gives students exposure to other agencies, governments, and organizations that perform flight tests at different classifications and technology levels. This year, students spent one week of that exchange experience at NASA.

"Test Pilot School teaches students not only how to test aircraft, but any system, software, or vehicle for any potential missions," said Cmdr. Jeffrey Webb, fixed-wing flight instructor at USNTPS. "The evaluation of the Orion spacecraft gave them opportunity to broaden their experience and think about flight testing in an unfamiliar system, performing unfamiliar tasks, to accomplish an unfamiliar mission."

Capt. Adam Klein is Chief Test Pilot for NAWCAD's Atlantic Test Ranges (ATR) at Patuxent River, Maryland. He is also a fixed wing flight instructor at USNTPS and is employed by NASA as a research

pilot. He temporarily stepped away from his NASA duties when he was recalled to active duty at ATR and USNTPS supporting his Navy Reserve status.

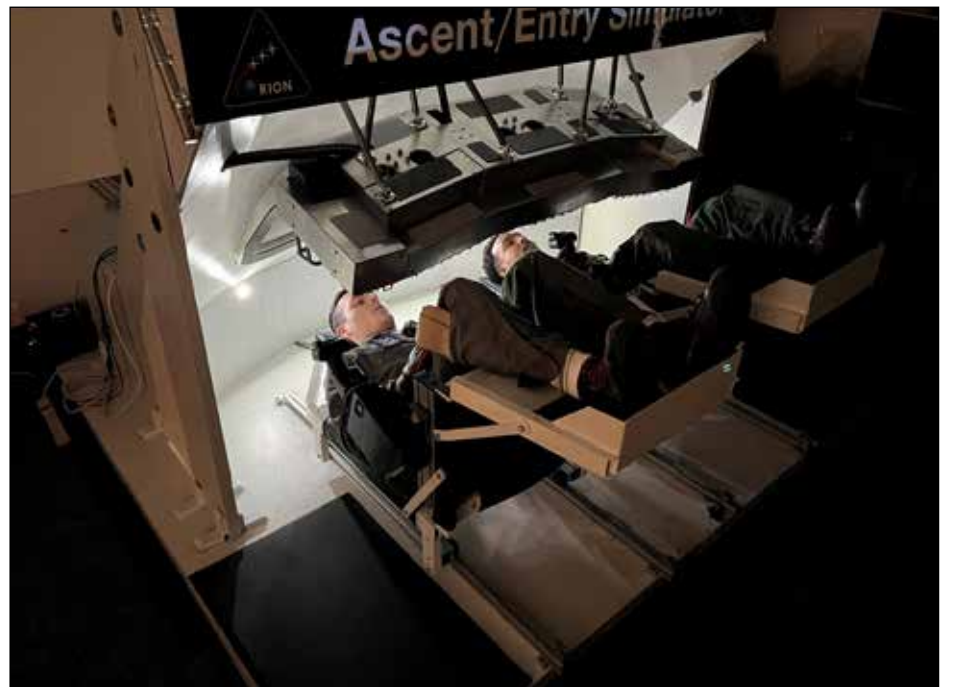
"Our students performed a simulated hand-flown, manual re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere after a return trajectory from the moon," said Klein, who explained this was the first time USNTPS students were given such a dynamic Orion test by NASA.

"The students were asked to evaluate the human-machine interface of Orion while attempting to capture and maintain very specific flight parameters such as vehicle pitch, roll, and yaw, all while preserving maneuvering fuel in an attempt to successfully splashdown in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California."

According to Klein, NASA uses an in-house team of engineers in a Rapid Prototyping Laboratory (RPL) to develop the interface for their spacecraft. The engineers at the RPL get a set of high-level requirements for a control or a display of a spacecraft, then conduct rapid prototyping either through 3D printing of hardware or the generation of software, followed by evaluation of their design by astronauts.

According to Webb, the students provided feedback to the RPL relating to the accuracy and precision with which they were able to capture re-entry orientation, refine their landing zone, and complete terminal maneuvers prior to splashdown.

"This gives the RPL immediate feedback to make necessary changes before moving on to the next design task," said Klein. Only when the design is



U.S. Navy photo

U.S. Naval Test Pilot School students Michael James and Lt. Cole VonDerOhe perform a simulated hand-flown, manual re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere after a return trajectory from the moon during a recent technical exchange with NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

finalized is it then sent to the vendor to make flight-ready hardware and software for the aircraft.

"NASA routinely invites USNTPS to return," said Klein. "They get valuable feedback from a unique perspective since not all astronauts have a test pilot background."

Some of the feedback from USNTPS

students over the years has actually been integrated into design changes for the Orion spacecraft that will be bringing humans back to the moon as part of the Artemis campaign.

USNTPS is a component of Naval Test Wing Atlantic, test wing under the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, located at NAS Patuxent River, Maryland.

Decisive American Victory in the Pacific - Battle of Midway

From the **Naval History and Heritage Command**

On June 4, 1942, the pivotal Battle of Midway was underway. That morning—after launching aircraft to attack the U.S. base at Midway—Japanese carriers Akagi, Kaga, and Soryu were mortally damaged by dive bombers from USS Enterprise (CV-6) and USS Yorktown (CV-5). However, later in the day, Yorktown was lost after taking multiple bomb and torpedo strikes by aircraft from Japanese carrier Hiryu. In turn, Hiryu was subsequently knocked out of the fight by U.S. carrier planes. Devastated by their losses, the Japanese retired westward. The battle, which lasted from June 4 to 6, 1942, was a decisive victory for the U.S. Navy, bringing an end to Japanese naval superiority in the Pacific and turning the tide of the war in this theater.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor and the United States' subsequent entry into World War II, the Japanese mounted attacks on U.S., British, and Dutch territories in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. The first phase of the Japanese offensive was the seizure of Malaysia, Singapore, the Dutch East Indies, the Philippines, and various island groups in the central and western Pacific. The second phase was to isolate and neutralize Australia and India. In the Pacific, the Japanese planned to seize bases in New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, which would then be used to support future operations against New Caledonia, Fiji, and Samoa. By March 1942, with the seizure of Lae and Salamaua, the entire north coast of New Guinea had fallen into Japanese hands. At the time, U.S. radio-intercept units were in operation, with one in Australia and the other at Pearl Harbor. These facilities intercepted Japanese radio communications and, through cryptanalysis and codebreaking, uncovered the location of major Japanese

fleet units and shore-based air forces. More importantly, by translating messages and studying operational patterns, the radio-intercept units were able to predict future Japanese operations with some degree of certainty. The units provided their analysis, through daily briefings and warning reports, to senior commanders. On March 13, American cryptanalysts were able to identify the Japanese code designation "AF" as Midway.

In the meantime, after several months of debate, Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto had convinced Japanese leadership to agree to his Midway and Aleutians plan. The centerpiece was a diversionary operation toward the Aleutians followed by the invasion of Midway. The U.S. Pacific Fleet was expected to respond to the landings on Midway; however, Japanese carrier and battleship task forces were to be waiting undetected to the west of the island. They would fall upon and destroy the unsuspecting Americans. If successful, the U.S. Pacific Fleet would be effectively eliminated for at least a year. On May 5, Japan issued "Navy Order No. 18," which directed Yamamoto, in cooperation with the Japanese army, to occupy Midway and key points in the western Aleutians.

On May 26, the Japanese Northern Force headed toward the Aleutians, and the next day, a Japanese force consisting of the four large carriers Akagi, Kaga, Soryu, and Hiryu, with a total of 229 embarked aircraft, steamed for Midway. Two days later, elements of the Japanese First Fleet departed home waters while elements of Second Fleet, including 15 transports, steamed from Saipan. Meanwhile, Rear Adm. Raymond Spruance's Task Force Sixteen (TF-16)—formed around Enterprise and USS Hornet (CV-8)—departed Pearl Harbor on May 28 to take up a position northeast of Midway. Two days later, Task Force Seventeen (TF-17), under the command of Rear Adm. Frank Fletcher, formed around Yorktown

and steamed from Pearl Harbor to join TF-16 northeast of Midway. When TF-17 and TF-16 converged about 350 miles northeast of Midway on June 2, Fletcher was in command of the combined force. The three U.S. carriers, augmented by cruiser-launched floatplanes, provided 234 aircraft afloat. These were supported by 110 fighters, bombers, and patrol planes at Midway. As part of the pre-battle disposition, 25 U.S. fleet submarines were also deployed around Midway.

Just after midnight on June 4, U.S. Pacific Fleet task forces were on the course and speed of the Japanese main body. Shortly after dawn, a patrol plane spotted two Japanese carriers and their escorts, reporting, "Many planes heading to Midway from 320 degrees, distance 150 miles!" Later that morning, at roughly 6:30 a.m., Japanese carrier aircraft bombed Midway installations. Although U.S. Marine Corps fighters defending the island suffered heavy losses, the Japanese inflicted little damage to the island's facilities. Between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m., torpedo bombers from the three American aircraft carriers attacked Japanese carriers. Although the aircraft were nearly wiped out by the defending Japanese fighters and antiaircraft fire, U.S. fighters drew off enemy aircraft, leaving the skies wide open for dive bombers from Enterprise and Yorktown. Aircraft from Enterprise bombed and fatally damaged carriers Kaga and Akagi, while aircraft from Yorktown bombed and wrecked carrier Soryu. At approximately 11 a.m., Hiryu, the one Japanese carrier that escaped destruction that morning, launched dive bombers that temporarily disabled Yorktown. Three and a half hours later, Hiryu's torpedo planes struck a second blow, forcing Yorktown personnel to abandon ship. That afternoon, aircraft from Enterprise mortally damaged Hiryu. The destruction of the Japanese force compelled Yamamoto to abandon his

Midway invasion plans, and the Japanese fleet began to retreat westward.

The following day, Spruance's TF-16 chased the Japanese fleet westward, while attempts to salvage Yorktown continued. Japanese carriers Akagi and Hiryu were scuttled earlier that day. The last attacks of the Battle of Midway took place on June 6 when dive bombers from Enterprise and Hornet bombed and sank heavy cruiser Mikuma, and damaged destroyers Asashio and Arashio, as well as cruiser Mogami. After recovering its aircraft, TF-16 steamed eastward and broke off contact with the enemy. Intelligence, over the following two days, reported the withdrawal of Japanese forces toward Saipan and the Japanese home islands. Also on that day, Japanese submarine I-168 interrupted the U.S. salvage operations on Yorktown, torpedoing the carrier and sinking destroyer USS Hammann (DD-412). Screening destroyers depth-charged I-168, but the Japanese submarine escaped. Yorktown finally rolled over and sank at dawn on June 7.

Thanks to American intelligence capabilities, analysis, aircraft carrier tactics, and a healthy dose of luck, the U.S. Navy inflicted a devastating blow to the Imperial Japanese Navy. Although the performance of the three American carrier air groups would later be considered uneven, their pilots and crews had won the day through courage, determination, and heroic sacrifice. The U.S. Navy lost a carrier, but the Japanese had lost four—all of which had participated in the Pearl Harbor attack. More importantly, the Japanese had lost more than 100 trained pilots, who could not be replaced. In a larger strategic sense, the Japanese offensive in the Pacific was derailed, and their plans to advance on New Caledonia, Fiji, and Samoa postponed. The balance of sea power in the Pacific had begun to shift in favor of the Allies.



CAPTAIN'S CUP SOFTBALL LEAGUE

**REGISTRATION:
JUNE 3-JULY 5**

**TEAM MEETING:
JULY 1 AT 1500**

**GAMES BEGIN:
JULY 9 AT 1730**

**SCAN THE QR CODE
OR CALL
(601) 679-2367
FOR MORE INFO.**





**DRIVING RANGE
CALL (601) 679-2526**




BATTLE OF MIDWAY COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

June 8th @ 1700 @ Aquatics Center

**COME OUT TO ENJOY THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY
COMMEMORATIVE EVENT AT THE POOL!**

- TETHERED HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES FROM 1700-1900!
(WEATHER MAY PREVENT HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES).**
- A SPECIAL SHOWING OF THE MOVIE, MIDWAY, AT DUSK!**
- FREE HAMBURGERS, HOTDOGS, AND WATER
WILL BE AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.**

***PLEASE DO NOT BRING PETS OR
COOLERS TO THE EVENT***




**TICKETS & TRAVEL
CALL (601) 679-2526**




READ, RENEW, REPEAT

Join us for the Navy MWR Libraries' Summer Reading Program!

June-July
andrewtriplettlibrary.beanstack.com
601-679-2326 • Andrew Triplett Library




**Father's Day
Cards**

June 2-12 @ Liberty Center

**Come to Liberty to
pick up free
Father's Day cards
to send to your dad!**



**Wreaths &
Wine**

June 6 @ 1730
Community Recreation Complex

Learn how to make
a summer wreath
with your family
and friends!




Sip & Spin

June 18 at 5 p.m.

Scan for details

