

On Base

Drive-in Movie
Aug 29 @ Dusk
Field near NEX Gas Station

Cosmic Bowling
Nights
Every Saturday @ 1900
McCain Rec Center

Story Time
Every Wednesday @ 1000
Andrew Triplett Library

Homeschool
Registration
Aug 19 @
Andrew Triplett
Library

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

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New Chief Petty Officer Performance Evaluation Launches with Continued NAVFIT Modernization

By Lt. Jungmin Park
Navy Personnel Command

MILLINGTON, Tenn. — The Navy is set to launch a major update to its performance evaluation system, which includes a significant change for chief petty officers, with the release of NAVFIT98A version 33 (v33) on July 30. This marks a significant milestone in the ongoing modernization efforts for Navy personnel management tools. NAVFIT98A v33 replaces all previous versions and is compatible with Office 365 and all other workstations used by Sailors service wide. The new release is designed to better meet the needs of Sailors across the fleet, both at sea and ashore, and introduces a revised chief petty officer evaluation (CHIEFEVAL) form.



Key changes to the revised CHIEFEVAL form include aligning performance traits with the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy's CPO Guiding Principles, mandatory Navy Physical Fitness Assessment scores, screened subcategory option for Sailors advanced via the Senior Enlisted Marketplace to ensure they are grouped separately from those not screened for advancement, command and departmental inspection scores (unless classified), and a specific hard break-out ranking of the individual and summary group size. "This is the most honest, transparent evaluation the Navy's enlisted force has ever seen," said Navy Personnel Command Force Master Chief

Bill Houlihan. "Every member of our Mess will be fully aware of where they stand amongst their peers, and what they can do to improve as Chiefs. Most importantly, this evaluation truly quantifies the impact each Chief has on their command's mission and it underscores the fact that a command's culture falls squarely on the collective shoulders of the Mess." Anticipating concerns about timelines of CHIEFEVAL submissions with the revised form, the submission window for commanding officers is extended from 15 days to 45 days and the deadline for chief petty officer and senior chief petty officer periodic reports are moved from Sept. 15 to Nov. 15. The effective end date of those reporting periods remains Sept. 15.

●Chief, page 3

Who is the man behind the beautiful galley food sculptures

By Penny Randall
NAS Meridian
Public Affairs

Ever wonder who makes the beautiful fruit and vegetable arrangements that grace the food line at the LCpl Roy M. Wheat Galley? The answer is Romeo Cabalbag – a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Navy who has been working at NAS Meridian's Galley for 25 years. He currently works for E. Turner Services, the contractor who services the galley. Cabalbag, served as a culinary specialist and learned his craft from many of his fellow Sailors over the years in multiple shore galleys and ships he served on to include Joint Expeditionary Base - Little Creek, the USS Cape St. George, the USS Eisenhower and NAS Meridian from 1992-1996. "I think I have good immigration and a creative mind," he said. Cabalbag's creations are made from fruits and vegetables such as radishes, potatoes, apples, honeydew melon and cucumbers. He uses lemon juice and pineapple juice to help keep the color bright in addition to



Submitted Photo
Romeo Cabalbag holds one of his fruit and vegetable creations that are on display at the LCpl Roy M. Wheat Galley onboard NAS Meridian. Below: Another beautiful display using sweet potatoes and honeydew melons.



using Kool-Aid to color some vegetables. "Sweet potatoes are my favorite to work with," he said. "Making a rose is probably the hardest." Cabalbag considers his creations a form of art and so

does Galley Manager Bogan Burnett. "Anything he creates is always top notch," Burnett said. "It adds to the presentation of our food, and everyone always comments on how beautiful the arrangements are."



Submitted Photo
We proudly congratulate MA1 Stephen Todd who was named to the 2025 "Top 20 under Forty" class by The Meridian Star and Meridian Life magazine. Todd is a military working dog handler with NAS Meridian's Security Forces Team.

Five Aviators Earn Wings of Gold in August Ceremony

From Staff Reports

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony July 18 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian.

Five 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 Frank Warren Bell, USN, is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Oceanography. During Primary Flight Training, LTJG Bell was named to the Commodore’s List. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned a Navy “E” for bombing accuracy. LTJG Bell completed Advanced Jet Flight Training Bell Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG Thomas Blake Cleland, USN, is a graduate of Drexel University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.



Bell



Cleland



Diaz



Haider



Iavicoli

neering. During Primary Flight Training, LTJG Cleland was named to the Commodore’s List. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned two Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LTJG Cleland completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG Silvanus Elias Diaz, USN is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering. While in Primary Flight Training, LTJG Diaz was named to the Commodore’s List with Distinction. During Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned three Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LTJG Diaz completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG Luke Patrick Haider, USN, is a graduate of the United States

Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering. During Primary Flight Training, LTJG Haider was named to the Commodore’s List. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned a Navy “E” for bombing accuracy. LTJG Haider completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG Nicholas James Iavicoli, is a graduate of Endicott College, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. LTJG Iavicoli is also a graduate of Van Loan School of Professional Studies, where he received a Master of Science degree in Homeland Security. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned two Navy “E’s” for bombing accuracy. LTJG Iavicoli completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

Golden Stick Award



Photo by Evelyn Reese

Mississippi Council of the Navy League President Joe Mercado has the honor of presenting the Golden Stick award to LTJG Silvanus Elias Diaz during a winging ceremony in the chapel onboard NAS Meridian, August 1. The Golden Stick is awarded to the student with the highest composite score during training and sponsored by the Mississippi Council of the Navy League.

Chief of Naval Air Training Holds Change of Command

By Morgan Galvin
Chief of Naval Air Training Public Affairs

Corpus Christi, Texas – Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) held a change of command ceremony aboard decommissioned aircraft carrier USS Lexington (CV 16) Museum on the Bay in Corpus Christi, Texas, August 1.

Rear Adm. Max G. McCoy Jr. relieved Rear Adm. Richard T. Brophy Jr. as commander, CNATRA. Brophy, who assumed command in July 2022, oversaw the winging of 3,339 naval aviators, 699 naval flight officers, 14 air vehicle pilots and 397 flight surgeons during his tenure.

“Serving at CNATRA has been one the greatest honors of my career,” said Brophy. “Our mission is to

forge the highest quality of naval aviators and leaders who will shape the future of our Navy. None of this would have been possible without the dedication and professionalism of the entire CNATRA team.”

Vice Adm. Daniel Cheever, commander, U.S. Naval Air Forces, served as the presiding officer and guest speaker.

“Rear Adm. Brophy, you have set the standard for excellence and have ensured that our trainers and our student aviators, naval flight officers, and air vehicle pilots are more than ready to enter the Fleet and meet the challenges of tomorrow,” said Cheever.

Under Brophy’s leadership, the Navy introduced the Contract Operated Pilot Training – Rotary (COPT-R) program, mark-

ing the first training pipeline in naval aviation history focused exclusively on rotary-wing aircraft. His team also developed the CNATRA’s Head and Back Injury Training (HABIT) app, that is easily accessible from personal devices. This innovative tool has transformed aviation training and health practices for Naval aviators, flight officers, and aircrewmen; helping them stay fit while significantly reducing the risk of long-term back and neck injuries associated with the physical demands of military flight.

During Brophy’s tenure, CNATRA was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for exceptional performance in training student naval aviators from October 2022 to March 2024,

● CNATRA, page 4

Congratulations



Supervisor of the Quarter
Tim Lockey
Morale, Welfare, & Recreation



Senior Civilian of the Quarter
Abby Rich Miller
Fleet and Family Support Center



Junior Civilian of the Quarter
Wesley Gipson
Fire and Emergency Services

Congratulations



Senior Sailor of the Quarter
AC1 Justin Gibson



Junior Sailor of the Quarter
MA2 Nicolas Ramirez



Blue Jacket of the Quarter
ACAN Anthony Carino

The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

AUGUST:

Aug. 9 from 8-10 a.m. – Mornin’ Cars Café at Soulé - This FREE event will allow you to show off your car or truck...restored, survivor, hot-rodde or a work in progress. Individuals and car clubs are welcome to participate. Come share a cup of coffee with us! This event is planned for the second Saturday of each month, March through October from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Plenty of parking is available on the 18th Avenue grassy lot and along 4th Street. Call the Museum at 601-693-9905 or email soulelivesteam@comcast.net for more information. Located at the Soule Steam Museum. <https://downtownmeridian.org/event/mornin-cars-cafe-soule-10/>

August 14 at 7:30 p.m. – Marshall Tucker Band - Over more than 50 years, The Marshall Tucker Band has created more than its share of songs that put a smile on your face and touch your soul from the first note. In 1972, the band came together in Spartanburg, South Carolina, blending country, blues, and jazz into its one-of-a-kind Southern rock sound. Such evocative tracks as “Can’t You See,” “Fire on the Mountain,” and “Heard It in a Love Song” have woven themselves into the soundtracks of multiple generations. Located at the MSU Riley Center in Downtown Meridian. <https://msurileycenter.com/events/the-marshall-tucker-band/>

August 21 from 6-8 p.m. - Masterpieces for Merrehope - This vibrant evening features a silent auction of original artwork by Meridian and Mississippi artists—many inspired by the stunning Merrehope mansion and its historic grounds. Enjoy live entertainment, delicious bites, adult beverages, and an atmosphere full of creativity and community spirit. Tickets are \$25 each. Located at the Merrehope house on 905 Martin Luther King Jr Dr, Meridian, MS 39301. <https://merrehope.com/special-events/#Masterpieces>

August 23 @ 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm Cecelia Moseley: Remnants of Language Artist-Guided Tour at The MAX. As part of opening day for Cecelia Moseley: Remnants of Language, come hear from the artist herself. Cecelia will offer a guided tour of the exhibition, discuss her inspirations and process—all in conversation with visitors. 3 p.m. – Guided artist tour
4-6 p.m. – Stay for the opening reception with bites and jazz by Roderick Fox & Friends. <https://downtownmeridian.org/events/cecelia-moseley-remnants-of-language-artist-guided-tour-at-the-max/>

August 23 @ 7:30-10 p.m. Leela James @ MSU Riley Center Acclaimed R&B and soul singer Leela James takes a fearless approach to music. “The best artists stay true to who they are,” she says. She has been an Adult R&B Airplay chart fixture with such deeply felt ballads as “Don’t Want You Back” and “Complicated,” which both hit number one, the certified-gold “Fall for You,” and her most recent hit, “Whatcha Done Now.” She has performed on the TV shows “Dancing with the Stars” and “R&B Divas: Los Angeles.” Her bluesy voice earned her the childhood nickname “Baby Etta,” after her idol, the legendary Etta James. Her music reminds us of what it is to be human – to love, to regret, and to dream. <https://msurileycenter.com/events/leela-james/>

August 30 from 6-10 p.m. 9th Annual SummerFest at Dumont Plaza in downtown Meridian. Food trucks, The Livestock Band provides entertainment, and craft vendors. The event is free and open to the public.

August 30 from 9-11:30 a.m. The Nuts and Bolts of Metal Sculpture with Kyle DeLong at The MAX. Mississippi Artist Kyle DeLong will teach the basics of welding metal forms. Using a MIG welder and everyday objects, participatns will complete a simple sculpture out of found objects. For Ages 16 and older; supplies provides. <https://downtownmeridian.org/events/the-nuts-and-bolts-of-metal-sculpture-with-kyle-delong-at-the-max/>

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SAVE THE DATE

Celebrating the 250th Navy Birthday
NAVY BALL HOSTED BY NAS MERIDIAN

Northwood Country Club
4300 Country Club Dr. Meridian, MS 39305
Saturday, October 11, 2025 ♦ 6 - 11:30 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:
6 P.M.: SOCIAL HOUR
7 P.M.: PROGRAM BEGINS
11:30 P.M.: EVENT CONCLUDES

**TICKET PRICES
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COMING SOON!**

● **Chief**
There will be multiple options for accessing NAVFIT98 v33. It will be available on Nautilus as part of the hosted software applications. Users will be able to search for the software and open as on any normal desktop. NMCI users who have not yet converted to Nautilus will only be able to access version 33 of NAVFIT via the virtual remote desktop (NVD). See NAVADMIN 159/25 at <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/references/messages/navadmin-2025/> for the full list of access options and specific instructions. Visit www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Performance-Evaluation for further guidance and updates.

Sale... Or

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. 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

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 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 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. Asking \$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

Future destroyer to be named after Marine Medal of Honor recipient

By Riley Ceder
Navy Times

The Navy contracted a new Arleigh Burke-class destroyer that is set to be named after a Marine who received the Medal of Honor for saving a fellow service member’s life, Navy Secretary John Phelan announced Aug 3. The destroyer Kyle Carpenter will be named after Cpl. Kyle Carpenter, who on Nov. 21, 2010, shielded another Marine from a grenade blast by throwing his body in front of the explosive. Carpenter was severely wounded as a result but managed to survive. “In 2010, Cpl. Carpenter went above and beyond the call of duty to shield a fellow Marine from a grenade blast

in Afghanistan,” Phelan wrote. “May this warship represent his valor, resilience and devotion to our Nation.” Former Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro announced the arrival of the destroyer Kyle Carpenter in January. Carpenter was serving with the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, at the time of the blast. Along with two reinforced Marine squads, and partnered with an Afghan National Army squad, Carpenter was in a small village in the Marjah District of Afghanistan. Coalition forces were shielding the local population from enemy activity, according to Carpenter’s Medal of Honor citation. Carpenter and another Marine were on a rooftop, just on the perimeter of Pa-

trol Base Dakota, when enemy forces attacked. Suddenly, a hand grenade landed near Carpenter and the other Marine. Carpenter immediately jumped in front of the explosive, absorbing the brunt of the detonation and saving the Marine’s life. “By his undaunted courage, bold fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of almost certain death, Lance Corporal Carpenter reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service,” the citation reads. On June 19, 2014, Former President Barack Obama awarded the Medal of Honor to Carpenter, who is the youngest living recipient of the military decoration.



Carpenter

Where does Hooah, Oorah and Hooyah come from and do they still echo with servicemembers

By Clay Beyersdorfer
Navy Times

You’ve heard them during morning formations, over the roar of C-17 engines, and in muddy chow halls at 0400. The battle cries “Hooah,” “Oorah,” and “Hooyah” aren’t just calls; they’re part of service life. Each is a signature of branch pride, and each carries a history steeped in grit, camaraderie and tradition. Hooah: the Army’s walkman of affirmation “Hooah” is the Army’s answer to everything from “loud, gym-ready affirmative” to “I acknowledge” and sometimes even “I disagree, but I’m not arguing.” It’s an emotional Swiss Army tool, and its origin is debated. One theory credits it to the acronym “H-U-A,” standing for “Heard, Understood, Acknowledged,” used to streamline radio communications, though that seems more folk etymology than etymology. Historical sources suggest an older origin: During the Second Seminole War in 1841, soldiers toasting Seminole chief Coacoochee spoke of “How d’ye do.” Reportedly, his reply, a guttural “Hough!” was phonetically absorbed by soldiers, morphing into the modern “hooah.” Fast forward to today, the word is embroidered on combat trainers, scrawled on chalkboards and even approved by Army doctrine. Former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon Sullivan once described “hooah” as shorthand for “battle focus,” adding that spelling didn’t matter so long as the intent was clear. Oorah: A Marine Corps call born underwater “Oorah” is second only to the Eagle, Globe and Anchor. Sharp, blunt, and unapologetic, it’s a challenge to strive for improvement. Its origin story is linked to the Perch, a submarine that operated in the early 1950s. Marine Reconnaissance units aboard re-

called mimicking the crew’s dive-alarm klaxon, an “Aarugha” echoing through hatchways, eventually shortened to “oorah.” A few years later, career Marine Sgt. Maj. John R. Massaro introduced the chant to recruit training in San Diego. By the late 1950s, “oorah” had become entrenched in Corps training culture. For Marines, “oorah” signifies more than recognition. It’s a form of respect, a marker of identity and a way to honor shared hardship. In official manuals, it’s even considered an acceptable affirmative response. That weight of purpose sets it apart. Hooyah: the Navy’s gruff whisper “Hooyah” belongs primarily to sailors, particularly those in special warfare. It was born in the crucible of Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training. Instructors used it as an expression of defiance during grueling evolutions, such as Hell Week swim drills, rope climbs and sinking boats. When trainees answered with their own “hooyah,” it became a moment of unity. By the mid-2000s, the word had spread to Navy EOD teams and diving communities, solidified through endorsements from senior enlisted leadership. Unlike its loud cousins, “hooyah” is used not just to signal commitment, but as a warrior whisper among the Navy’s elite. Shared meaning, distinct identity At first listen, the three calls may sound interchangeable. Each is a sharp exhalation, a way to release energy and express belonging. But each also carries its branch’s culture: Army grit offers “hooah,” Marine grit gives “oorah,” and Navy, especially undersea grit, produces “hooyah.” Misusing one in another branch’s space can provoke eye rolls or even an abrupt correction. But it also sparks friendly rivalry.

In recent years, the calls have spread beyond barracks. Civilians wear emblems with these words. Tattoo parlors near post gates offer “hooah” sleeves and “oorah” forearms. Navy boot camps incorporate “hooyah” from Day One. Recruiters show it on screens to exemplify discipline and brotherhood. These three words also serve as linguistic links across generations, connecting soldiers in the 19th century with today’s digital force. They endure because they convey more than affirmation; they contain a shared ethos. Echoes that bind Army doctrine emphasizes unity, leadership and esprit de corps, also known as morale. Marine training builds warriors who never step back. Navy programs emphasize family more than formation. When a Soldier grunts “Hooah!” as he hits the deck, a Marine spits “Oorah!” at a recruit standing tall or a SEAL utters “Hooyah!” at the surf’s edge, they are saying, all at once, words that mean far more than mathematics. They mean “I’m here with you. I understand the mission. I’m not going anywhere.” These calls resonate because they cut through fatigue, hunger and arduous training. They turn strangers into squads, rookies into warfighters and individuals into institutions. They endure because they are anchored in hardship and community. In an age of changing tactics, shifting global threats and advancing technology, the simplest things often matter most. A cry, a grunt, a word that says, “I’m part of it.” Those one-syllable punches echo across generations, a spiritual ruck march that carries the weight of those who’ve come before and sets the cadence for those who follow.

George Washington Carrier Strike Group Identifies Missing Sailor

By Ben Higgins
ABC 10News San Diego

BANDA SEA (NNS) - The USS George Washington (CVN 73) missing Sailor who was assumed overboard July 28 has been identified as Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Launch/Recovery Equipment) Airman Jose Antonio Rivera Lynch IV. After more than 45 hours of continuous search and rescue efforts covering roughly 2,200 square miles, the U.S. Navy and Australian Defence and Australian Border Forces suspended search efforts in the Timor Sea on July 30. “Our deepest sympathies go out to the family and friends of our shipmate, Airman Rivera Lynch,” said Capt. Tim Waits, commanding officer, USS George Washington. “I am sincerely grateful for the support and coordination from all units who assisted in the search effort, including our partners from the Australian Defence Force and Border Force.” Rivera Lynch enlisted in the Navy in June of 2024 and reported to USS George Washington in January. “Our thoughts and prayers remain with Airman Rivera Lynch’s family, friends, and shipmates during this incredibly difficult time,” said Rear Adm. Eric Anduze, commander, Carrier Strike Group 5. “The courage and dedication shown by all personnel involved in this operation exemplifies the professionalism and commitment that defines our Navy.”

By Lt. Cmdr. Mark Langford

● **CNATRA** reinforcing the command’s enduring commitment to excellence in naval aviation training. “To the CNATRA team: today is a reflection of your hard work, sacrifices, and unwavering dedication to the mission,” Cheever added. “You have my personal thanks and admiration and commitment.” Brophy, a native of Carmel, California, is a seasoned F/A-18 pilot with more than 4,300 flight hours, over 100 combat missions, and more than 1,000 carrier-arrested landings across multiple aircraft carriers. In recognition of his exceptional performance and contributions to naval aviation, he was named the 2017 “Tailhooker of the Year” by the Tailhook Association. Prior to assuming command of CNATRA, his previous command tours included leadership roles with Carrier Strike Group FOUR, the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center, Carrier Air Wing 9, and Strike Fighter Squadron 115 (VFA-115); demonstrating his extensive experience and deep familiarity with naval aviation operations. Brophy will be assigned as Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia. McCoy, a native of Winter Springs,

Florida, takes over as CNATRA after serving as the commanding officer of Carrier Strike Group (CSG) Four. McCoy’s operational assignments include tours with Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 151 and VFA 136. He has completed deployments on USS Constellation (CV 64), USS George Washington (CVN 73), and USS Nimitz (CVN 68). He commanded VFA 86 and Carrier Air Wing TWO (CVW-2). McCoy is reporting from his previous flag assignment as commander of Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 4. “I am honored to join this incredible team,” said McCoy. “The work CNATRA does every day builds the foundation of our Navy’s future warfighting strength and I look forward to building on Rear Adm. Brophy’s legacy, ensuring our aviators are ready to win in any environment.” Headquartered at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas, CNATRA oversees five training air wings and 17 training squadrons located across Naval Air Stations in Florida, Mississippi, and Texas. These squadrons conduct primary, intermediate, and advanced flight training for student naval aviators, naval flight officers, and air vehicle pilots. CNATRA remains steadfast



Photo by Morgan Galvin

Vice Adm. Daniel Cheever, commander, Naval Air Forces, left, Rear Adm. Richard Brophy, Chief of Naval Air Training (outgoing), center, and Rear Adm. Max McCoy, Chief of Naval Air Training (incoming), salute during the presentation of colors during a change of command ceremony on August 1, 2025. Rear Adm. Max McCoy assumed command as CNATRA which oversees the training of the world’s finest

in its mission to train, mentor, and deliver the highest quality naval aviators

who are prepared to win in competition, crisis, and conflict.

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N9 Nook

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6V6 VOLLEYBALL
LEAGUE

Registration July 7th - August 8th



Games start
Tuesday,
August 12th



MWR
FITNESS

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DRIVE IN MOVIE SCHEDULE
showtime at dusk

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AUGUST 29	TEEN TITANS GO TO THE MOVIES
SEPTEMBER 26	SMALL FOOT
OCTOBER 17	HELTHER SKELETOR

THE DRIVE IN MOVIE THEATRE IS LOCATED IN THE FIELD BEHIND THE NEX GAS STATION ON HIGLEY ROAD

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MWR
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Sonny Montgomery Aquatic Center

POOL
HOURS

(Recreational and Lap Swim)

Sunday
1300-1800

Monday-Saturday
1100-1800

MWR
AQUATICS

Andrew Triplett Library



Home school
Registration

August 19th
10:30-12:00

The NAS Meridian School Liason invites parents to a homeschool registration event for the 2025-2026 school year. The Lauderdale County Truancy Officer will be in attendance to register students.

NAVY CYP

Follow these programs to see updates!

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