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THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020

FIGHTER PILOTS FROM TWO STRIKE SQUADRONS ARE THE FIRST TOPGUN STUDENTS TO COMPLETE THE COURSE IN THE F-35C LIGHTNING II

by Lt. Cmdr. Lydia E. Bock,
CJSFW Public Affairs

LEMOORE, Calif. - Pilots from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 125 "Rough Raiders" and VFA-147 "Argonauts" were the first TOPGUN students to complete the course in the F-35C Lightning II.

Maj. Derek Heinz from the Rough Raiders and Lt. William Goodwin, III from the Argonauts successfully completed the 13-week Navy Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor (SFTI) course at the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center (NAWDC) at Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev. The SFTI course, otherwise known as TOPGUN, is an individual-level training course loaded with classroom lectures and labs, as well as simulated and live-fly events that are focused on the newest advanced tactical recommendations, and designed to create newly-minted tactics instructors who are ready to return and train the Fleet.

"Our focus on the students that go through TOPGUN is not limited to teaching them the tactics, techniques, and procedures that are required for them to successfully employ their aircraft, integrated into a larger force," said NAWDC TOPGUN Department Head, Cmdr. Timothy Myers. "We are also in the business



In this Dec. 8, 2018, photo, Sailors direct an F-35C Lightning II on the flight deck of carrier Carl Vinson. Navy photo by MC3 Ethan J. Soto

of teaching our graduates how to instruct other students so that when they go back to the Fleet, they are able to instruct at a very high level."

For the last few years, NAWDC and TOPGUN have been working to develop the skill-sets, curriculum, and experienced instructors required to execute a syllabus that fully integrates F-35C tactics, techniques, and procedures. While all F-35C tactics instructors have completed the TOPGUN course previously, this is the first time TOPGUN has graduated students who are currently flying the Lightning II, utilizing a syllabus that has been developed, from the ground up, specifically for F-35C integrated operations. This was accomplished by the

gradual introduction of F-35C tactics into the training curriculum for previous classes. The result is a cadre of highly-trained instructors executing a fully-integrated F-35C syllabus, providing well-rounded "graduate-level" training for the fifth-generation fighter to take back to the Fleet.

"Graduating Strike Fighter Tactics Instructors allows us to accelerate learning by feeding TOPGUN training back to the Fleet, elevating the lethality and survivability of both the individual aircraft as well as the Carrier Strike Group," said Myers. "The Lightning II proved its value to the Navy during every phase of the TOPGUN course, and its integration with the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, E/A-18G

Growler and E-2C/D Hawkeye demonstrated that the powerful combination of 4th and 5th generation fighters, with advanced electronic attack, and command and control, is a force-multiplier against advanced threats."

Since completing the TOPGUN course last month, Heinz and Goodwin have returned to instruct and train the Fleet in the latest TOPGUN tactics, techniques and procedures, with a particular emphasis on ensuring that pilots will have the requisite skillsets to effectively employ the Lightning II during its first operational deployment and beyond.

"Our focus is on assisting the SFTIs at the operational Fleet squadron pushing the big picture

tactics and ensuring that everything is ready to go for the first and subsequent F-35C carrier deployments," said Goodwin. "The idea is that VFA-147 SFTIs can use the standards of tactical execution we provide to train their own people and take that knowledge with them through deployment. We are here to ensure that they are set up for success."

"While my role as an F-35C instructor is still primarily focused on the students at the FRS, my perspective on what I teach and how I teach it most certainly has grown since completing TOPGUN" said Heinz. "I'm still training students to fly the aircraft, it's just now I have the additional responsibility as an SFTI to bring that advanced training to the Fleet, while helping maintain the TOPGUN training syllabus and ensuring standardization of training for all instructors. We are always

working to maintain the highest standards of training."

This milestone is the latest feather in the cap for the U.S. Navy's F-35C program. Since the stand-up of Commander, Joint Strike Fighter Wing in August 2018, the program has declared Safe-for-Flight Operations Certification (SFFOC) for both VFA-147 "Argonauts" and VMFA-314 "Black Knights." In February 2019, the Navy and Marine Corps both declared Initial Operational Capability (IOC) for the F-35C and VFA-125, the F-35C fleet replacement squadron (FRS), graduated its first newly-winged F-35C aviators. In May 2019, VFA-101 "Grim Reapers" was deactivated, consolidating most of its resources at NAS Lemoore. Additionally, both VFA-147 and VFA-125 continue to meet program requirements, pass inspections, and receive certifications

see TOP GUN, page 9

Theodore Roosevelt to change homeport in advance of planned maintenance

SAN DIEGO - The Navy announced June 17 that Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) will conduct a homeport shift in the summer of 2021 from its current homeport of San Diego to Bremerton, Wash.

Theodore Roosevelt will enter Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for a scheduled docking planned incremental availability (DPIA).

Theodore Roosevelt, commissioned in 1984, is currently deployed to the Western Pacific. from Commander, Naval Air Forces Public Affairs

Gabrielle Giffords drills with two Japanese ships in the South China Sea

by Caitlin Doornbos,
Stars and Stripes

San Diego-based littoral combat ship USS *Gabrielle Giffords* joined two Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ships for training in the contentious South China Sea June 24, a Navy statement said.

The Navy vessel sailed with the JMSDF's training ships JS *Kashima* and JS *Shimayuki* to "emphasize the importance of communications and coordination while operating together," according to the statement.

"The opportunity to operate with our friends and allies at sea is incredibly important for our combined readiness and partnership," Expeditionary Strike Group 7 commander Rear Adm. Fred Kacher said in the statement.

The South China Sea, which Beijing views as its own but the U.S. and other nations consider international waters, is wrought with tension as multiple countries - including Malaysia, the Philippines, China and Vietnam -



USS *Gabrielle Giffords* (left) in the South China Sea June 23. Photo by MC2 Brenton Poyser

dispute sovereignty over islands and reefs within it.

Since 2013, China has militarized 27 features in the region's Spratly and Paracel island chains in an effort to expand its presence and authority, according to the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative.

China asserts that foreign military vessels must ask for permission to sail within 12 nautical miles of the islands' shores. The U.S. regularly conducts patrols and freedom-of-navigation operations in the region to challenge those claims.

Japan has boosted its naval presence in the South China Sea in recent years. A Ministry of Defense white paper in September said Japan should "proactively and independently strengthen" its security by increasing its presence in the disputed waters this year.

Aboard the Japanese ships were newly commissioned JMSDF officers who are underway as part of the service's Training Cruise 2020 aimed at offering them "the opportunity to learn

basic knowledge and skills as professional mariners," according to the statement.

"They are the future maritime professionals that our [U.S.] sailors will eventually operate with for years to come," *Gabrielle Giffords* blue crew commander Cmdr. Dustin Lonero said in the statement.

While sailing close to one another, the U.S. and Japanese ships practiced communications and precision maneuvering and conducted a photo exercise.

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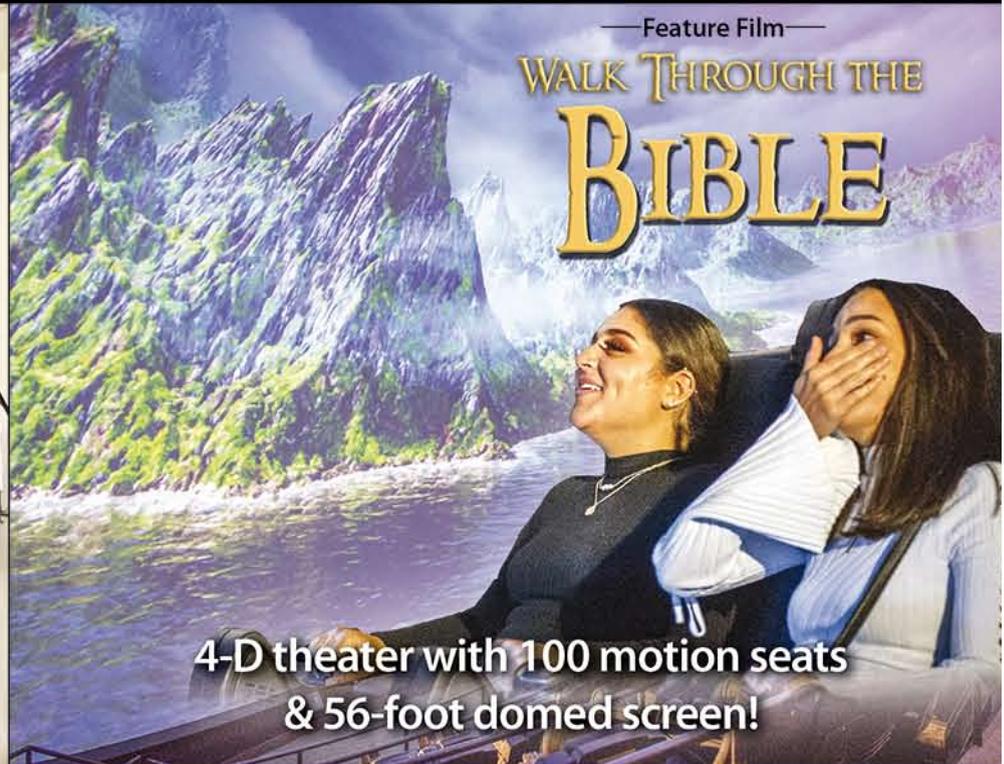
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National Military

U.S. may move thousands of U.S. troops from Germany to Pacific, senior White House official says

by **Seth Robson,**
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan - Thousands of troops may be redeployed to the Indo-Pacific under a plan to reduce U.S. forces in Germany, according to the White House's national security adviser.

President Donald Trump announced last week his intentions of cutting troop levels in Germany from 34,500 to 25,000. He said the country, where the U.S. has stationed troops since 1945, has shortchanged the United States on trade and defense, and that he will reduce troop numbers "until they pay" more.

The move has been criticized by lawmakers in Germany and in the U.S., including members of the Republican Party.

In a commentary published June 22 in the *Wall Street Journal*, national security adviser Robert O'Brien wrote that no official announcement has been made, details of any troop moves remain under development and that military leaders are working on options.

"The Cold War practice of gar-



In this file photo from Dec. 9, 2019, U.S. Soldiers stand in formation during a ceremony to kick off the Yama Sakura exercise at Camp Asaka, Tokyo. Photo by Seth Robson/Stars and Stripes

risoning large numbers of troops with their families on massive bases in places like Germany is now, in part, obsolete," he wrote. "While air bases and logistics hubs remain important, the Cold War-style garrisoning of troops

makes less military and fiscal sense than it did in the 1970s."

Several thousand troops in Germany may be reassigned to other countries in Europe and others may return to the United States. Thousands more may be sent to the Indo-Pacific region, where the U.S. maintains a military presence in Japan, South Korea and Singapore, as well as rotational deployments to spots like Australia, O'Brien wrote.

"In that theater, Americans and allies face the most significant geopolitical challenge since the end of the Cold War," he wrote.

Ross Babbage, a former Australian assistant defense secretary, said in a telephone interview June 23 that the proposal would be welcomed by Australians.

"It's putting meat on the bones of the [Pacific] pivot announced by [President Barack Obama] back in 2011," he said, referring to a policy of concentrating America's military and diplomatic efforts in the Far East.

"What's been happening is a

lot of acceleration to deal with the rise of China and the attendant risks there are of tension and conflict in this region," he said.

There's a need to reinforce the U.S. presence in the region to enhance confidence in the U.S. and western allies generally, Babbage said. "I don't think we are talking about big numbers in short time but it's reasonable to include Australia on a list of places where people might go," he said, adding that such a move would likely have bipartisan political and public support in Australia.

Moving more troops to Asia

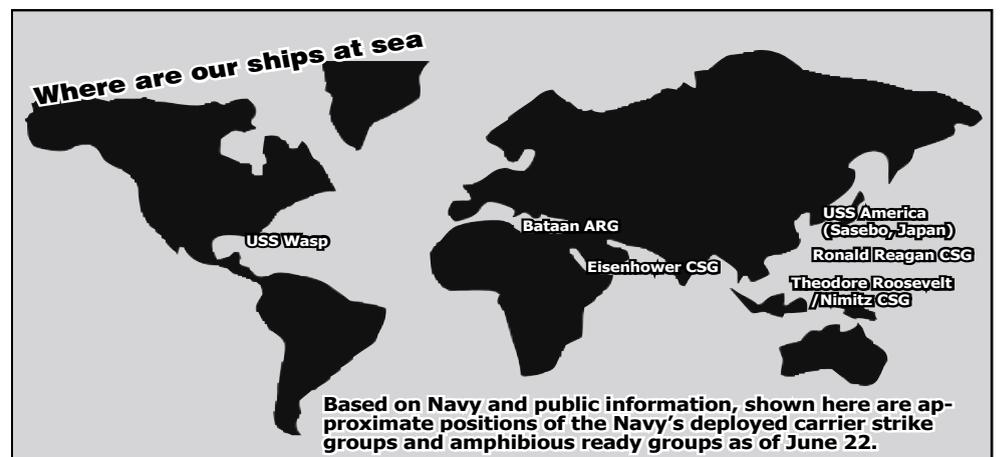
makes sense, said Cord Scott, a University of Maryland Global Campus Asia professor who teaches history, film and government on U.S. bases in South Korea.

"More of a direct threat would be toward players or actors here in Asia especially with what's happening, tensions now rising between India and China," he said by phone Tuesday.

A mobile force in the Far East can respond to crisis related to sea territory disputes or the Korean Peninsula, said Scott. "The economic and military threat is in Asia," he said.

**Total Navy Battle Force: 300
Ships Underway**
Deployed Ships Underway: 63
Non-deployed Ships Underway: 17
Total Ships Underway: 80
Ships Deployed by Fleet

Fleet Forces: 0	3rd Fleet: 1
4th Fleet: 6	5th Fleet: 20
6th Fleet: 16	7th Fleet: 63
Total: 106	



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Leadership profile: Knowing Soldiers, flexibility essential in murky waters

by Gary Sheftick,
Army News Service

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. - Leaders must know their Soldiers in order to motivate them. That was a consistent theme of advice provided by

many of this year's MacArthur Leadership Award recipients.

"Different people are motivated differently and you've got to be able to learn and figure out what motivates your individual

Soldier," said Capt. Samuel Kuenker with 6th Ranger Training Battalion.

Kuenker is one of the 28 company-grade officers and warrant officers from across the Army's three components selected for the award given to those who reflect the leadership ideals for which Gen. Douglas MacArthur stood.

Motivating Soldiers is one of the first two things Kuenker talks about to Ranger School students when he meets them at the bayou patrol base for the beginning of the swamp phase.

The other is flexibility with plans. Leaders must be in charge and have a plan, he said. "But just don't get stuck on that plan. You have to be able to react to whatever the changing environment and conditions are, and still be able to execute that plan."

As operations officer of the Ranger battalion here, he schedules and oversees the training, orders the ammunition and takes care of all other details to ensure the 17 days of training in the swamp go off without a hitch. It's the final phase of what he

He also still serves as an instructor, whenever he can spare a 30-hour stint.

says many consider the Army's "premiere leadership school."

"I've got to be able to de-con-

flict it with executing my duties as the S3, but I try to get out there at least once a class to maintain my proficiency.

"Also it's a little bit of a relieve and refreshing to be able to engage with Soldiers, to try to coach, teach and mentor -- and help set them up for success."

When not out in the Yellow River or bayou, Kuenker is often coordinating training essentials for the final phase of the Ranger School. To order the ammunition and other equipment needed for training, he must work within the confines of the Air Force system at Eglin, "which is much different" from what Soldiers are accustomed to, he said.

The 6th Ranger Training Battalion at Eglin has 182 Soldiers, including its 78 instructors. The first thing many staff officers do when they arrive is qualify as instructors, he said.

"I'm still a certified instructor ... so I still walk with Ranger students," Kuenker said.

The latest Ranger class arrived at Eglin June 6 and headed out to Camp James E. Rudder. There, they have been learning waterborne operations, movements using inflatable zodiac boats, stream crossings, reptile familiarity and how to recognize which snakes are poisonous. Another danger is poisonous spiders, including the brown recluse and black widow.



Capt. Samuel Kuenker and his wife Jessica at the 6th Ranger Training Battalion Ball at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., November 2019. Courtesy photo

"I was one of the fortunate ones who made it straight through" Ranger School, he said about when he was a student several years ago. Only an average of about 30 percent make it through without being recycled, he added.

Ranger class sizes range from about 190 to 230 students, he said, and more than 2,500 go through the course each year. That includes about 50 women who have graduated from the school in the last three years.

"I try to take care of my subordinates as much as I can," Kuenker said. "Taking care of them sets me up for success. I determine my success from what they're able to do."

Before coming to the Ranger battalion, Kuenker served as a company commander with the 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment at Fort Campbell, Ky. Before that he was a platoon

leader with 1st Bn., 17th Inf. Rgt. at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

He went to Afghanistan as a platoon leader in 2012-2013 where his troops completed missions in the Panjwayi and Zharay districts.

Then as a company commander in 2016-2017, he deployed to Bagram Air Base where the company had training missions across Afghanistan.

During that deployment, he said one of the most difficult missions they had was to re-establish a coalition presence in the Tarin Khawt district of southern Afghanistan.

"We had to go in there with a limited force to a place that coalition forces hadn't been in five or six years and re-establish the security posture," Kuenker said. He said his troops were under constant threat of rocket attacks.

Army

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- Delayed by pandemic, Marines send smaller force to Darwin to test new Marine warfighting concepts with Aussies
- Ex-U.S. Marine, jailed in Russia, will not appeal 16-year sentence: Ifax cites lawyer

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Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty - When should we claim our benefits?

by Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty: We served overseas for several years, not earning many quarters for Social Security. However, we have made sure that we paid in over time so we can receive a benefit, but it will not amount to much. For the past several years now, we have been back in the US, earning some professional salaries. Now it looks like at full retirement age my husband will get \$1147/month, and I will get \$1026/month. I was born in 1957 and my husband in 1956. Question #1: For the most financial benefit, when should we each start collecting SS (either now or at full retirement age)? And question #2: Will our amounts change because we are married and both collecting? Signed: Overseas Worker



Dear Overseas Worker: To answer your second question first, no, your benefit amounts will not change because you are married and both collecting. Based upon the numbers you provided, neither of you will be eligible for a "spousal boost" from the other because your benefit amounts at your FRA are too similar, so maximizing your individual benefits should be your goal.

As for your other question, when you should start collecting depends upon a number of factors, including your financial needs and, importantly, your expected longevity. Both of you can get the maximum benefit available to you by waiting until you are 70 years old to claim, but that only makes sense if you are in good health and expect at least average longevity (about 84 for a man and 87 for a woman).

If you claim benefits before you reach your full retirement age (66 ½ for you and 66 plus 4 months for your husband), those benefits will be cut. If you collect now, your benefit would be cut by about 27 percent and your husband's by about 22 percent (based upon your respective years of birth). Further, if you claim before your full retirement ages and continue to work, you'll be subject to Social Security's earnings test, which limits the amount you can earn before they take back some of your benefits (the 2020 earnings limit is \$18,240; if you exceed that they'll take back half of anything you earn over the limit). The earnings limit changes annually but goes away at your FRA.

At your full retirement ages, you'll be entitled to 100 percent of the benefits you've earned from your lifetime of working (approximately the amounts estimated now). If you can and do wait beyond your full retirement age (FRA), for each month you delay you'll earn delayed retirement credits of 2/3 of 1 percent per month of delay (8 percent per year of delay), up to age 70 when your maximum benefit is reached. As a point of information, if you wait until your full retirement age to claim, you will have collected the same amount of money at age 78 as if you had claimed at age 62; and if you wait until age 70 to claim you'll have collected the same amount of money at age 82 as if you had collected at your full retirement age. If you live at least until "average" longevity, you'll collect more in cumulative Social Security benefits by waiting.

So, when should you claim? If you're still working and earning "professional salaries", then waiting at least until your full retirement age would be a wise choice. If you expect at least average longevity and don't need the money right away, waiting until age 70 would be a prudent strategy. But if you don't work and expect less than average longevity, then claiming at any time you need the money would be a reasonable decision. This is a choice only each of you can make.

Russell Gloor is a certified Social Security advisor with the Association of Mature American Citizens. This article is intended for information purposes only.

Remains of 147 South Korean soldiers from the Korean War will return home

by Terri Moon Cronk,
DOD News

In the largest repatriation of South Korean soldiers' remains from the Korean War, 147 such remains were returned to South Korea following an honor ceremony June 23 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii.

Defense Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency public affairs official Lee Tucker emphasized that South Korean soldiers fought alongside U.S. troops during that war against North Korea.

The war lasted from 1950 to 1953. The remains are returning

to South Korea after 67 years, he noted.

"This, like the past repatriation, is due to the strong and long standing partnership between the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and [South Korea's] Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification," Tucker said. "It is the incredible improvements in technology, advancements in forensic science and the strong partnership between DPAA and MAKRI which led to these identifications."

MAKRI and DPAA scientists have conducted joint forensic reviews and validated 147 remains

as being of South Korean origin. Gleaned from advanced DNA and other forensic analyses, 77 of them are from the remains North Korea turned over in 55 boxes in July 2018, and the others are from remains repatriated in the early 1990s, he said.

The Pearl Harbor-Hickam ceremony was followed by a June 25 repatriation ceremony in South Korea's capital of Seoul, hosted by President Moon Jae-in. June 25 coincides with the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, Tucker noted.

Seven South Korean family members have been identified

as having DNA matches to seven of the 147 remains, and they will be present at the ceremony in Seoul.

South Korea also will turn over to the United Nations Command six sets of U.S. remains that South Korean teams have recovered. The seven South Korean soldiers, who have been identified, and the six U.S. service members will be at the forefront of the ceremony in Seoul, Tucker said.

The U.N. Command will conduct a dignified transfer of remains aboard a U.S. aircraft at Osan Air Base on June 26 or 27 for transport to Hawaii, he said.

VA holds first virtual Women Veterans Forum

WASHINGTON - Acting Deputy Secretary Pamela Powers led VA's first virtual Women Veterans Forum June 23, which helped women veterans from across the country learn about the care and services they can receive at VA, and how VA is changing to better serve the growing population of women veterans.

"You have a voice in VA, and we've learned a lot over the last few years about how to better serve you," Powers told more than 1,500 women veterans who joined the event by phone or online.

Powers said that about 60 percent of VA's employees are women, and that these employees and the growing number of women leaders at VA are working to change the culture of the department to make sure women are comfortable at VA. "We have women across this department helping to shape this department every day," Powers said.

VA has made progress by increasing the range of services available to women, including mental health care that is tailored specifically to women veterans. These changes have resulted in an increase in the trust women Veterans have in VA - that trust has grown by 10 percent for women in the last six months,

compared to a 6 percent increase for men.

Despite that progress, Powers said VA is working hard to make sure women veterans are served well across the entire VA, and she encouraged all women to enroll for the benefits they've earned by serving their country. "We're here for all of our Veterans, and we hope that you choose VA," she said.

The Women Veterans Forum allowed several women leaders at VA to explain the work they're doing to ensure all VA facilities are inclusive.

Chief Veterans Experience Officer Dr. Lynda Davis explained how her office is set up to continuously poll women veterans to learn more about their experience at VA, which gives VA the information it needs to improve services for women.

Center for Women Veterans Executive Director Jacqueline Hayes-Byrd and Deputy Director Elizabeth Estabrooks explained how the Center coordinates the delivery of care, benefits, services and programs for women veterans, and advocates for culture change at VA to ensure it serves women.

For more information on resources for women veterans, visit <https://www.va.gov/womenvet/resources/index.asp>.

Crossword Puzzle

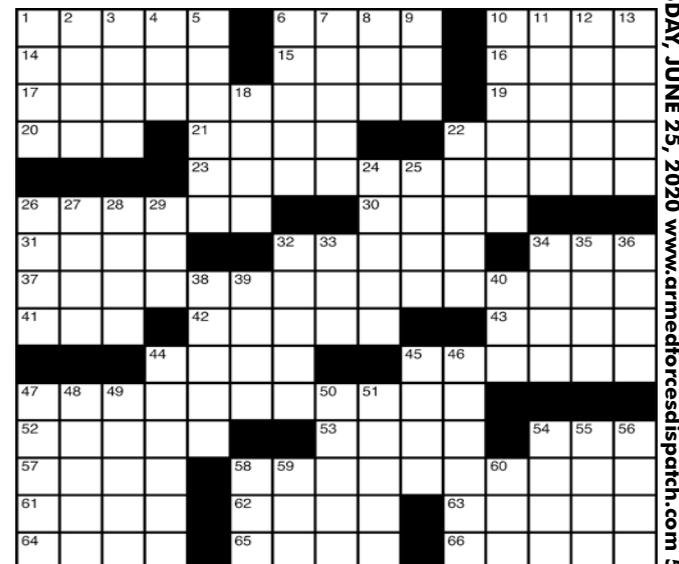
Across

- 1 Poets
- 6 Ocean breaker
- 10 Former Iranian ruler
- 14 From another planet
- 15 Golfer's club selection
- 16 Golfer's target
- 17 What the star gets on a marquee
- 19 Express checkout lane unit
- 20 "___ Haw"
- 21 Contemptuous manner, in slang
- 22 "Pet" annoyance
- 23 Dejected
- 26 Wrap tightly, as in bandages
- 30 Poker holding
- 31 Charged atoms
- 32 Madame of physics
- 34 Guy's partner
- 37 Level of optimal accomplishment
- 41 Bygone jet, briefly
- 42 Act with passion
- 43 Caution
- 44 Song at the Met
- 45 Like most peanuts
- 47 Meeting of world leaders
- 52 Name on rented trailers
- 53 Lane with a nose for news
- 54 Pasta suffix
- 57 Dirt road grooves
- 58 Honorable ... and like the starts of 17-, 23-, 37- and 47-Across
- 61 Emancipated
- 62 Pigmented eye layer
- 63 Watchdog warning
- 64 Part of NIMBY
- 65 Swiss capital
- 66 Foul, weather-wise

Down

- 1 It's drawn in a tub
- 2 Natural skin soother

- 3 Unlike green tomatoes
- 4 Star of the ball
- 5 Tattletale
- 6 Witty Oscar
- 7 Astrological Ram
- 8 Maria ___ Trapp
- 9 Subj. with grammar
- 10 Handheld riot gear
- 11 Marriott facility
- 12 Advil competitor
- 13 Macho guys
- 18 Tempt
- 22 "The Hunger Games" nation
- 24 Severe pang
- 25 Carnival
- 26 Drinks that make a drink last
- 27 Troubles
- 28 Vet sch. course
- 29 Disdainful clik
- 32 Zagreb native
- 33 N.Y.-based educators' union
- 34 Insect in a dusk swarm
- 35 Realtor's lot unit
- 36 Allow to borrow
- 38 Danger
- 39 Give out
- 40 Tapered tool
- 44 Ticked
- 45 Less than 1%?
- 46 Give, as homework
- 47 Like the beach during a storm
- 48 "Star Trek" lieutenant
- 49 Alma ___
- 50 Rags-to-riches author Horatio
- 51 Lindsay who played Liz in "Liz & Dick"
- 54 Wedding promises
- 55 Mature eft
- 56 Relaxed way to sit by
- 58 O'Hare, for United Airlines
- 59 "___ been thinking ..."
- 60 Org. promoting hunter safety



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Naval Air Forces makes changes to Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist program

CORONADO - Commander, Naval Air Forces (CNAF) announced changes to the Navy's Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist (EAWS) program June 19. The updated COMNAVAIRFORINST 1414.2A instruction requires Sailors to attain in-rating technical qualifications up to the work center supervisor level prior to enrolling in the EAWS program.

Combined with previous changes to the OPNAV instruction that eliminated the requirement for Sailors to earn a warfare qualification within 30 months of reporting to a command, the new EAWS program gives Sailors more time to focus on mastering their technical specialty, ultimately resulting in increased expertise across aviation ratings.

"Our readiness depends on having the best maintainers, the best aircrewmembers and the most technically proficient Sailors in our squadrons, aboard our aircraft carriers and in our maintenance facilities," said Vice Adm. DeWolfe H. Miller III, CNAF. The new EAWS requirements will give Naval Aviation forces a stronger technical foundation. After mastering the key fundamentals of their rating, Sailors can then branch out to gain other aviation warfare skillsets and

knowledge, becoming a true aviation specialist."

Active duty, SELRES and FTS Sailors permanently assigned to CVN, LHA and LHD class ships, aviation squadrons, maintenance facilities (Fleet Readiness Centers/Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Depots) and the Naval Air Warfare Development Center (NAWDC) are eligible to enroll in the program if they meet the following criteria: •E-5 or senior; •Complete in all in-rating qualifications; and •Qualified up to Journeyman/Workcenter Supervisor.

Sailors assigned temporarily (TAD) to an aviation command for more than 120 days are eligible if they are qualified as Journeyman/Workcenter Supervisor in their respective rating. Sailors assigned to select support type commands will still be able to qualify through

a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

A third-class petty officer (E-4) may enroll with command master chief (CMC) or command senior enlisted leader (CSEL) approval if they have an early promote (EP) on their most recent periodic evaluation and a score of 50 or better on their most recent advancement exam. Sailors in paygrades E-3 and below are not eligible to enroll.

"We want to allow our most junior Sailors the time and opportunity to become technical experts in their trade craft, and provide them the space to focus on their job," said Force Master Chief Huben Phillips, of Commander, Naval Air Forces Atlantic (CNAL). "The goal is to encourage Sailors to be masters of their craft, who show value by knowing and being an expert in their job; these are

the same Sailors we should be promoting and who we want to keep in our Navy."

One other notable change in the EAWS instruction governs re-qualification. Platform-specific qualifications do not expire. Once EAWS qualified on a specific aircraft type/model/series, a Sailor no longer must requalify upon reporting to that same type command (for example, VP to VP, CVN to CVN, etc.).

"Data analytics has proven to us that maintaining our technical experts in specific type model series (T/M/S) has a direct impact on increased combat readiness," said Force Master Chief James Tocorzic, of Commander, Naval Air Force, Pacific Fleet. "By removing the requirement for Sailors to



Senior Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate Francisco Morenogarcia, center, pins an Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist pin on the uniform of Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Christian Harris in front of Capt. Gregory Sleppy during Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 1 all-hands quarters. VX-1's mission is to test and evaluate airborne anti-submarine warfare and maritime anti-surface warfare weapon systems, airborne strategic weapons systems, as well as support systems, equipment and materials in operational environments. Navy photo by MC2 Victoria Kinney

requalify on the same T/M/S, we hope to encourage those experts to remain in their same platform for multiple tours.

"We have made great strides in aviation readiness over the past couple years, and this EAWS program refinement is another step in that direction," Tocorzic continued. "Our mes-

sage to Sailors is clear: become the very best in your particular rating, which directly impacts your command's readiness and warfighting effectiveness."

For more information on the new EAWS program requirements, contact your unit CMC/CSEL or EAWS program coordinator.

MilGears - Powered by COOL: Personalized credentialing for Sailors

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Based on the success of the Navy Credentialing Opportunities Online - Navy COOL - a new online tool is now available to personalize a Sailor's search for civilian credentials and certifications to enhance their career.

This new tool, called MilGears, does the heavy lifting of matching a Sailor's Navy career experience to potential credentials by synchronizing with the Navy COOL platform and drawing from other data already in the Sailor's record like off-duty education.

How MilGears works is similar to many popular tax self-preparation programs that guide you step-by-step through the process. In MilGears, a Sailor will provide information and answering questions through a series of pop-ups and help boxes - all to get a complete background and profile of the user.

In the end, MilGears provides information and options for you to consider as you ponder your career move. MilGears is so advanced that it gives recommendations for industry credentialing that can help their in-service advancement while ultimately assisting Sailors in finding post-service employment.

"Military services and industry demand for credentialing continues to be very high," said Jim Johnson, heads of the Education Strategy and Policy Branch for the chief of naval personnel. "The Navy and MyNavy HR are committed to providing service members with tools and resources to maximize the value of their training and experience, through credentialing." *Continue reading at* https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=113309.

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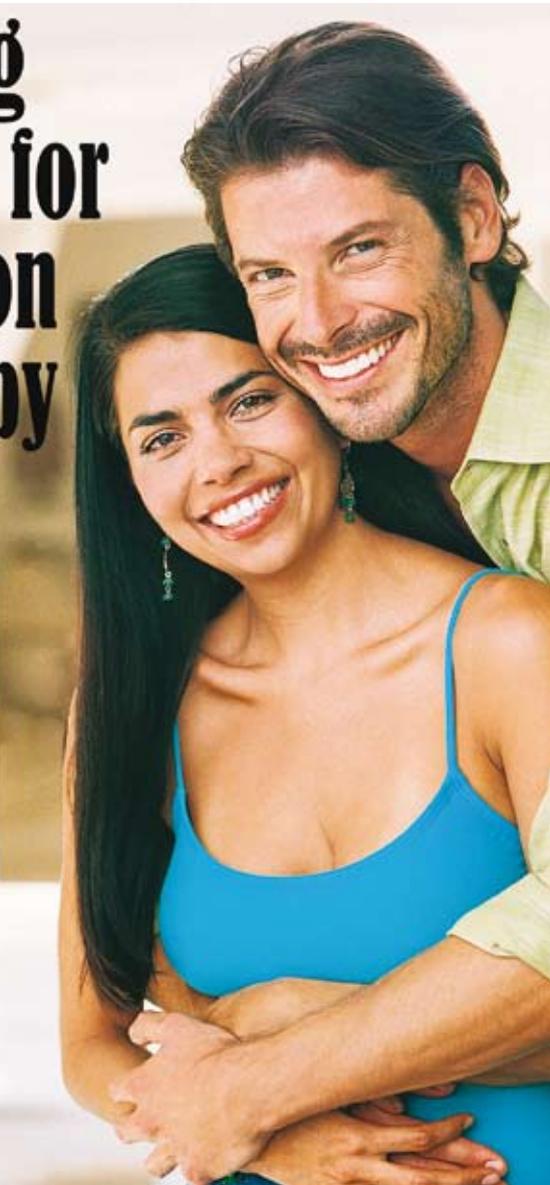
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Local Military

Littoral Combat Ship USS *Kansas City* joins Fleet



Cmdr. William Dvorak, executive officer of the Navy's newest littoral combat ship USS *Kansas City* (LCS 22) salutes Cmdr. R.J. Zamberlan, the ship's commanding officer, during a reading of his orders during the ship's commissioning ceremony June 20. Navy photo by MC2 Alex Corona

SAN DIEGO - The Navy commissioned Independence-variant littoral combat ship *USS Kansas City* (LCS 22) June 20.

The Navy commissioned *Kansas City* administratively via naval message, due to public health safety and restrictions of large public gatherings related to the coronavirus pandemic and transitioned the ship to normal operations. The Navy is looking at a future opportunity to commemorate the special event with the ship's sponsor, crew, and commissioning committee.

"This Independence-variant littoral combat ship will continue our proud naval legacy and embody the spirit of the people of *Kansas City*," said Secretary of the Navy Kenneth J. Braithwaite. "I am confident the crew of *USS Kansas City* will extend the reach and capability of our force and confront the challenges of today's complex world with our core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment."

Vice Adm. Richard A. Brown, Commander, Naval Surface Force, Pacific Fleet, welcomed the ship that brings capabilities to counter diesel submarine, mines, and fast surface craft threats to the premier Surface Force in the world.

"Like other littoral combat ships, *Kansas City* brings speed and agility to the fleet," said Brown via naval message. "Congratulations to *Kansas City*'s Captain and crew for all of your hard work to reach this milestone. You join a proud Surface Force that controls the seas and provides the Nation with combat naval power when and where needed."

Tracy Davidson, the ship's sponsor, offered congratulations to everyone who played a role in delivering *USS Kansas City* to service.

"I'm so proud of *USS Kansas City* and her crew, and everyone involved, for all the tremendous work they've done to bring this ship to life. Their dedication to our nation and the Navy is very much appreciated," Davidson said.

"I am privileged to be a part of this ship honoring *Kansas City* and look forward to remaining con-

nected to *USS Kansas City* as her legacy grows, wherever she may sail."

Kansas City's commanding officer, Cmdr. R.J. Zamberlan, reported the ship ready.

"The caliber of crew required to prepare a warship entering the fleet is second to none," Zamberlan said. "This is even more impressive aboard an LCS, where every member of the minimally manned team is required to fulfill multiple roles and excel at all of them to get the job done."

"This crew has exceeded expectations in unprecedented times and I could not be prouder to be their captain."

Kansas City is the 11th of the Independence-variant to join the fleet and second ship to be named for *Kansas City*. The name *Kansas City* was assigned to a heavy cruiser during World War II. However, construction was canceled after one month due to the end of the war.

The name *Kansas City* was also assigned to the Wichita-class replenishment oiler AOR-3 in 1967. This ship saw service in the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm and was decommissioned in 1994.

The littoral combat ship is a fast, agile and networked surface combatant, and the primary mission for the LCS includes countering diesel submarine threats, littoral mine threats and surface threats to assure maritime access for joint forces. The underlying strength of the LCS lies in its innovative design approach, applying modularity for operational flexibility.

Fundamental to this approach is the capability to rapidly install interchangeable mission packages (MPs) onto the seaframe to fulfill a specific mission and then be uninstalled, maintained and upgraded at the Mission Package Support Facility (MPSF) for future use aboard any LCS seaframe.

Theodore Roosevelt, Nimitz CSGs operate together in 7th Fleet

PHILIPPINE SEA - *USS Theodore Roosevelt* and *USS Nimitz* strike groups commenced dual carrier flight operations in the Philippine Sea, June 21.

The ships and aircraft assigned to both strike groups began coordinated operations in international waters demonstrating the U.S.' unique capability to operate multiple carrier strike groups in close proximity.

While at sea, the strike groups will support air defense drills, sea surveillance, replenishments at sea, defensive air combat training, long range strikes, coordinated maneuvers and other exercises.

"This is a great opportunity for us to train together in a complex scenario," said Rear Adm. Doug Verissimo, commander of Carrier Strike Group 9. "By working

together in this environment, we're improving our tactical skills and readiness in the face of an increasingly pressurized region and COVID-19."

"The United States Navy has long history of operating multiple carrier strike groups as a combined force in the Pacific," said Rear Adm. James Kirk, commander of Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 11.

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Former USS *Theodore Roosevelt* skipper will not be reinstated

by C. Todd Lopez,
DOD News

Following the release of a report into the events surrounding an outbreak of COVID-19 on aircraft carrier USS *Theodore Roosevelt*, Navy Capt. Brett E. Crozier, the ship's former commander, will not be reinstated, Adm. Michael M. Gilday, chief of naval operations said at a Pentagon news conference.

Based on facts found in the report, which Gilday and Navy Secretary Kenneth J. Braithwaite characterized as both thorough and fair, Gilday said his initial recommendation that Crozier reinstated was proven wrong.

In addition, Rear Adm. Stuart Baker's pending promotion to two-star rank has been put on hold, pending further review, Gilday said. Baker, the commander of Strike Group 9, was Crozier's immediate superior.

"I previously believed that Capt. Crozier should be reinstated following his relief in April, after conducting an initial investigation," Gilday said at June 19's news conference. "The much broader, deeper investigation that we conducted in the weeks following that had a much deeper scope. It's my



belief that both Adm. Baker and Capt. Crozier fell well short of what we expect of those in command. Had I known then what I know today, I would have not made that recommendation to reinstate Capt. Crozier. Moreover, if Capt. Crozier were still in command today, I would be relieving him."

Crozier will not be reassigned as the commanding officer of *Theodore Roosevelt*, nor will he be eligible for future command opportunities. Instead, he'll be reassigned to other work.

"Capt. Crozier's primary re-

sponsibility was the safety and the well-being of the crew, so that the ship could remain as operationally ready as possible," he said. "In reviewing both Adm. Baker and Capt. Crozier's actions, they didn't do enough, soon enough, to fulfill their primary obligation."

Both Crozier and Baker failed to move Sailors off the aircraft carrier as quickly as they could have, and failed to move them to a safer environment more quickly, Gilday said. Additionally, he said, Crozier "exercised questionable judgment when he released Sailors from quarantine on the ship, which put his crew at higher risk and may have increased the spread of the virus

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday answers questions during press conference on the results of USS *Theodore Roosevelt* command investigation. DoD photo by Marvin Lynchard

aboard *Theodore Roosevelt*."

Crozier was relieved of duty April 2 following the leak of a letter he wrote to those higher up in his chain of command. In the letter, he asked for more assistance in dealing with the outbreak of COVID-19 on the ship. Gilday said it's the findings of the more detailed investigation, rather than the existence of the leaked letter, that have prevented Crozier from being reinstated as commander of TR.

"As Capt. Crozier stated in his e-mail, he should have been more decisive when the ship pulled into Guam," Gilday said. "He also said that he was ultimately responsible for his ship and his crew. And I agree. In the end, the e-mail and the letters sent by Capt. Crozier were unnecessary. Actions were already underway to acquire [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention]-compliant off-base hotel rooms for the crew before he sent that e-mail."

Gilday said it's rare for ship commanders to directly communicate as high up in their chain of command as Crozier did.

Refer to
• DoD News: <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2226839/navy-former-uss-theodore-roosevelt-commander-will-not-be-reinstated/>.

Local military news briefs

USS *Jackson* change of command ... SAN DIEGO - Independence-variant littoral combat ship USS *Jackson* (LCS 6) Blue Crew held a change of command ceremony at Naval Base San Diego, June 19. Cmdr. **Stacy M. Wuthier**, a native of Denver, Colo., assumed command of the ship from Cmdr. **John P. Barrientos**, a native of Brentwood, N.Y. Barrientos command tour aboard *Jackson* included ship-wide certification events, Ready For Sea Assessments, sea trials and the installation and testing of a surface to surface missile module. Wuthier, who recently served as XO of *Jackson*, said, "I'm honored and excited to take command of this great crew. Cmdr. Barrientos was an outstanding captain who set a precedent of excellence for the crew moving forward. I'm humbled to be allowed to serve with the *Jackson* Blue Sailors to face the challenges and seize the opportunities ahead of us."

Fort Worth Sailor named leadership winner ... NAVADMIN 171/20 announced the selection of five outstanding Sailors and Officers as the Captain Joy Bright Hancock and Master Chief Anna Der-Vartanian Leadership Award winners from more than 100 nominees. Among the winners was Sonar Technician Surface 1st Class **Nicole A. Guerrero** in the junior enlisted category. She is the leading petty officer, Littoral Combat Ship Anti-Submarine Warfare GOLD, on board USS *Fort Worth*. Established in 1987, the leadership awards are presented annually to honor the visionary leadership of Navy service members whose ideals and dedication foster an inclusive culture while furthering the integration of women into the Navy.

SWRMC completes early repairs on *Princeton* ... SAN DIEGO - Southwest Regional Maintenance Center (SWRMC) maintenance team recently completed early repairs for USS *Princeton*, supporting the U.S. Navy's operational readiness goals. "Your superb coordination, synchronization, and communication in a restricted COVID-19 maintenance environment enabled the repair to be completed days ahead of schedule and supported *Princeton's* sail away," said Vice Adm. Richard Brown, Naval Surface Force boss, to SWRMC repair team in a Bravo Zulu message. SWRMC employees worked with *Princeton's* crew to complete the repairs six days ahead of schedule in support of *Princeton's* operational commitments. Undersea

Warfare center detachment conducts magnetic treatment on CG cutter ... Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport's Detachment San Diego recently conducted a magnetic treatment of the Coast Guard cutter *Kimball* at the Magnetic Silencing Facility at Naval Base Point Loma in May. Magnetic treatments, commonly called "deperms," reduce a warship's vulnerability to magnetic and electromagnetic mines. The team worked with *Kimball's* crew to implement measures that would allow the work to be done while protecting the health and safety of everyone involved. "*Kimball's* crew took protective measures by self-quarantining for two weeks on their transit over from Pearl Harbor," said Victor Valerio, Det San Diego's lead engineer at the MSF.

Arrival of first CMV-22B Osprey at Naval Air Station North Island

The first CMV-22B Osprey for fleet operations arrived at Naval Air Station North Island June 22. The aircraft will be delivered to the Titans of Fleet Logistics Multi-Mission Squadron 30.

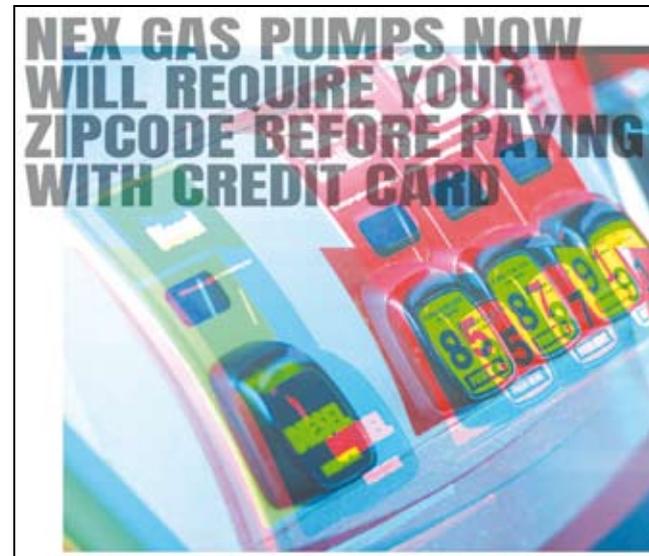
VRM-30 was established on Oct. 1, 2018 as the Navy's first operational CMV-22B squadron, and will take over the Carrier Onboard Delivery, or COD, mission from the C-2A Greyhound, which has been serving in the fleet for over 50 years.

Capt. Dewon Chaney, commodore, Fleet Logistics Multi-Mission Wing, Cmdr. Trevor Hermann, commanding officer, Fleet Logistics Multi-Mission Squadron 30, and CMV-22B aircrew were available Monday answer questions about the aircraft and its mission.

The CMV-22B Osprey is a variant of the MV-22B, a tiltro-

tor aircraft that can takeoff and land as a helicopter but transit as a turboprop aircraft. Compared to the Greyhound, the CMV-22B brings increased operational range, greater cargo capacity,

faster cargo loading/unloading and increased survivability. The CMV-22B is the future of the COD mission and a critical component of the Carrier Air Wing of the future.



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PHILIPPINE SEA (June 18, 2020) - Capt. Pete Riebe, executive officer of aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt, speaks to Sailors on the ship's mess deck during a ceremony observing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month. Navy photo by MC3 Dartan D. De La Garza

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PHILIPPINE SEA (June 15, 2020) - Navy Seaman Rose Ramirez, from San Diego, ties a bowline knot aboard destroyer Russell. Russell is deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet in support of security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Navy photo by MC3 Sean Lynch



TOP GUN

continued from page 1

while continuously participating in numerous detachments both ashore and at sea.

“This tremendous accomplishment is yet another step for the F-35C community as we continue to focus on delivering this game-changing aircraft to the Fleet. The graduates of the first F-35C TOPGUN class are back in Lemoore instructing VFA-147 in the latest tactics that will, in turn, be brought to the fight during Carrier Air Wing Two’s first deployment with the Navy’s Joint Strike Fighter,” said Capt. Adan Covarrubias, Commander, Joint Strike Fighter Wing.

“Additionally, the tactics that were developed during this first F-35C class are currently being integrated into the carrier air wing’s work-up cycle, truly making them a more lethal, Carrier and Air Wing of the future.”

Commander, Joint Strike Fighter Wing (CJSFW), based at Naval Air Station Lemoore, is home to the Navy’s F-35C fleet squadrons and the sole location for the Fleet Replace-



Pilots from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 125 and VFA-147 are the first TOPGUN students to complete the course in the F-35C Lightning II. This is the first time TOPGUN has graduated students who are currently flying the Lightning II, utilizing a new syllabus specifically for F-35C integrated operations. Official Navy photo

ment Squadron, VFA-125 that trains both Navy and Marine Corps carrier-based JSF pilots. The mission-ready F-35C is the latest addition to Navy’s Carrier Air Wing. With its stealth technology, state-of-the-art avionics, advanced sensors, weapons capacity and range, the F-35C provides unprecedented air supe-

riority, interdiction, suppression of enemy air defenses and close-air-support as well as advanced command and control functions through fused sensors.

The state-of-the-art capabilities give pilots and combatant commanders unrivaled battlespace awareness and lethality.



AutoMatters™ & More



by Jan Wagner

Since there are so many NASCAR Cup Series races in a season, individual races rarely generate lasting memories. Nevertheless, the rain-delayed NASCAR Cup Series Geico 500, on Monday, June 22 at the historic Talladega Superspeedway in Alabama (a racetrack even longer than the famous Daytona International Speedway), may well be remembered forever.

It was shaping up to be just another exciting race but, with the threat of imminent rain looming, it became essential for the drivers to claw their way to the front of the pack and stay there, in case the race was ended early due to inclement weather.

Lap after lap we watched as the racers circulated two-, three- and sometimes even four-wide around the Talladega Superspeedway trioval, bumper-to-bumper, at speeds approaching 200mph (and sometimes beyond). I was glued to my seat throughout the race, unable to look away as disaster – the almost inevitable multi-car pileup known as “The Big One” – seemed imminent.

The finish of the race was sheer mayhem, with not just one but two big, last lap wrecks as multiple drivers jockeyed back and forth for position. It all ended in a photo finish as Eric Jones (#20 Toyota) got turned towards the outside wall just before the Start/Finish line, Aric Almirola (#10 Ford) sped past the Start/Finish line going backwards, and Ryan Blaney (#12 Ford) emerged from

Before an epic race, NASCAR family stands united in response to a fateful misunderstanding

the pack to claim victory over Ricky Stenhouse Jr. (#47 Chevrolet) by a mere 0.007 seconds! Racing action rarely gets any more exciting than this. Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/geEjTlnGdHs>.

However, what made this particular NASCAR race likely to be remembered for years to come are events that occurred before this race even began. At a NASCAR race earlier in the month at Martinsville Speedway, Bubba Wallace’s Richard Petty Motorsports race car was wrapped in distinctive “Black Lives Matter” graphics. As the NASCAR Cup Series’ only black driver, Darrell “Bubba” Wallace felt compelled to speak up in solidarity with protestors worldwide standing for racial equality. In that spirit, he asked NASCAR to ban at its racetracks the display of the Confederate flag – which is associated by many with slavery and atrocities. NASCAR agreed and did that.

Fast forward to Sunday, June 21 at Talladega Superspeedway. The NASCAR Cup Series Geico 500 had been postponed to Monday, due to rain. Inside Bubba Wallace’s garage area, a rope tied like a noose was discovered by members of Bubba’s race team. Per established protocols, they reported this to NASCAR, who in turn opened an investigation and also asked the FBI to investigate.

On Monday, right before the race, all of the drivers, race team crew members and NASCAR officials – in a spontaneous and emotional display of solidarity with, and support for, Bubba Wallace – symbolically pushed his car to the head of the field. Bubba then climbed out of it, at which point he was overcome with emotion. 82-year-old stock car racing legend Richard Petty – “The King”, Bubba’s car owner – con-

soled him, as did many of the drivers. Everyone stood united, as one family, for the national anthem.

Later, after the race and to the profound relief of the NASCAR community, NASCAR reported that the FBI had concluded their investigation and determined that “this was not an intentional, racist act against Bubba.” Instead, the piece of rope that had been fashioned into a noose had actually been in that garage stall since at least October of 2019. It was an unfortunate coincidence that it happened to be in the garage stall assigned for this race to Bubba Wallace.

In its statement, NASCAR also said “We remain steadfast in our commitment to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all who love racing.”

No doubt this outcome will generate further controversy in the struggle against racism. However, the overwhelming demonstration of solidarity and sincere compassion by the NASCAR family for Bubba Wallace reflects a groundswell of support for racial equality. For this reason, the Geico 500 will never be forgotten. Furthermore, we were treated to a great race. Bubba was often in the top ten and even led at one point, before running low on gas and needing to pit to refuel.

For a Fox video report about the NASCAR community’s show of support for Bubba, visit: <https://youtu.be/ISxZ8qBJGHU>.

To see photos, visit www.drive-tribe.com, click on the magnifying glass, select “POSTS” and enter “AutoMatters & More #648” in their search bar. Please send your comments to AutoMatters@gmail.com.

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The Meat & Potatoes of Life



by Lisa Smith Molinari

Living overseas during two military tours of duty in Europe provided our family with unique opportunities to learn about various cultures first hand. We didn’t have to imagine what it would be like to be European, we simply lived it. Although some Americans shy away from sampling local foods, regional cuisine was a necessary part of my family’s overseas adventure.

Some will only leave their flavor comfort zone for safe regional dishes such as Italian pizza margherita, French crepes filled with Nutella, chocolate-drizzled Belgian waffles, Spanish churros, and German deep-fried schnitzel. Also, the pervasiveness of McDonald’s provides a safe-haven for those whose taste buds are even less daring.

Our family certainly ducked into many McDonald’s bathrooms during our time overseas, but my husband and I always encouraged (forced) our kids to taste the foods of the Old World. This philosophy was not without its drawbacks; however, and we now have a host of interesting (nauseating) tales to tell from our experiences.

While living in the base hotel awaiting housing in Stuttgart back in 2008, my meat-loving husband ordered the “wurst salat” for dinner at a nearby restaurant. Envisioning a chef salad with tasty

Living overseas: The pitfalls of sampling regional cuisine

sausage pieces over fresh mixed greens, what he got was devoid of vegetables, unless you count the copious sliced raw onions, which were tossed with cold julienned mystery meat that looked similar to baloney.

The following spring off the coast of Spain’s Costa Brava, I ordered fresh fish at a restaurant overlooking the azure blue Mediterranean Sea. As the waiter set the dish before me, I could almost hear Billy the Big Mouth Bass singing “Take Me to the River” as the vertebrate stared at me from the plate – eyeballs, teeth, slippery skin and all.

On fall trip to Berchtesgaden, one of our guests ordered the “Leberknodelsuppe” because it was so fun to say. We all giggled and repeated the tongue-twisting word until a bowl of the stuff was presented to the table. A grayish-brown dumpling sat in a hot broth bath, and although the color looked a bit off, we kept an open mind. Cutting into the doughy ball, its uniquely pungent aroma clued us in on what should have been obvious from the start – “leber” is liver, and this little dumpling was full of that particularly bloody organ meat.

No matter how touristy, one cannot escape getting caught up in the festive atmosphere at the Hofbrauhaus in Munich, and part of the experience is ordering a hefty liter of beer and a heaping helping of hearty Bavarian food. Swinging my stein to and fro, I thought nothing of ordering “Schweinshaxe,” a local specialty. Not realizing I had selected a roasted pig’s knuckle, I

had to put forth significant effort to extract the tiny, albeit delicious, morsels of pork that were tangled among cartilage, skin and bone.

On a day trip to Strasbourg, France, our family stopped at an outdoor restaurant on a lovely cobblestone square. Interested in the mix of German and French cultures, I ordered “Sûrkrût Royale,” an Alsatian sauerkraut dish. Twenty minutes later, I was presented with a steaming heap of sauerkraut, with at least seven different varieties of pork, potatoes, onions and dumplings nested among its pickled strands. Wursts and slices of pork loin were among the few meats I could recognize, but the rest were unidentifiable slabs intertwined with fat and sinew. Despite my initial squeamishness over the gelatinous hunks of greasy flesh, the scent of bacon and white wine gave me the courage to give it a try, and as long as my eyes were closed, I found it to be quite a delectable treat.

The list goes on, and despite the queasiness that sprang forth when we recalled these culinary tales to our friends, we kept trying. Whether it was Belgian-style mussels in creamy beer broth, spicy Croatian cevapi, Roman-Jewish carciofi alla giudia, or hearty Portuguese sopas, every delicious regional dish we stumbled upon made it worth every fish head, hunk of fat and organ meat that made its way to our table.

So, Buen Provecho, Smacz-nego, and Bon Appetit! But don’t forget to pack the Alka Seltzer, just in case.

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9	7	2	3	1	6	4	5	8
5	8	6	4	9	7	3	1	2
4	3	1	2	8	5	7	6	9

Navy Lodge New London, Conn. begins guest room remodel project

Navy Lodge New London, Conn., will undergo a \$500,000 remodeling project of its guest rooms beginning June 22, 2020. When complete, all guest rooms will feature new furniture, dining tables and chairs, nightstands, dressers and remodeled closet areas. The remodel is scheduled to be completed in July 2020. The Navy Exchange Service Command is comprised of 14,000 personnel worldwide facilitating six business lines, NEX retail stores, the Navy Lodge Program, Telecommunications Program, Navy Clothing and Textile Research Facility, Ships Store Program and the Uniform Program Management Office.

Nobody did it, Anybody could have

Once upon a time there were four people. Their names were Everybody, Somebody, Nobody and Anybody. Whenever there was an important job to be done, Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. When Nobody did it, Everbody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized that Nobody would do it. Consequently, Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done in the first place.

This kills a minute or two but it's kind of interesting..

- Take the number of the month you were born
 - Multiply it by 4
 - Now add 13
 - Multiply that number by 25
 - Now subtract 200
 - Add the day of the month on which you were born
 - Multiply that number by 2
 - Subtract 40
 - Multiply that number by 50
 - Add the last two digits of your birth year
 - Subtract 10,500 from the total
- Notice anything interesting about your answer?
You should!

Roy's Sudoku

			9	2	4			
	1				8	6		
2				3				7
							7	5
	4	5	8		1	2	9	
1	2							
9			3					8
		6	4				1	
			2	8	5			

NAVFAC Southwest hosts Virtual Hiring Fair for civilian positions

Direct hiring authority cuts months off federal hiring process

SAN DIEGO - Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southwest will host a Digital Hiring Fair June 26 through June 27 online, to seek out positions to be filled at Naval Base Ventura County.

"It's our hope that candidates will feel one step closer on their path to a Federal career," said Elise Magsarili, Human Resources director. "This is the first time the command will hold a virtual hiring event using a streamlined direct hiring authority designed to cut months off the normal federal hiring process."

NAVFAC Southwest has more than 600 openings region-wide in 100 career fields. The virtual hiring event will focus on filling NAVFAC Southwest positions at Naval Base Ventura County. NAVFAC Southwest will be seeking experienced professionals along with electricians, high voltage electricians, painters, fire protection systems mechanics, HVAC mechanics, maintenance workers, construction mechanics, engineering technicians, architects, and community planners during the event.

Advanced registration is required for the virtual hiring event. Tailored resumes must be submitted. Job seekers will have their resumes reviewed and critiqued beforehand, and if qualified will receive a video or phone interview the day of the event. Qualified candidates are not guaranteed a virtual interview.

For more information, candidates can visit the registration website at www.navfac.navy.mil/swcareers

MWR/FFSC events

Sign up now to play Call of Duty: Warzone with Navy MWR ESPORTS

Sign up now to compete in upcoming Navy MWR ESPORTS Tournaments. Be part of the action! Join one of our upcoming Navy MWR ESPORTS Tournaments powered by USAA.

Call of Duty: Warzone multiplayer tournaments on PlayStation, Xbox, or PC:

June 25 at 5pm
July 2 at 3pm
July 10 at 3pm
July 11 at 9am
July 17 at 5pm

Enter your team or as an individual. The competition is open to authorized MWR patrons ages 18+. Sign up online at <https://www.navy.mwr.org/esports> and participate! Prizes provided by Navy Exchange.

FFSC Virtual Learning: Financial Readiness-Investing for Your Future

Learn about investing with FFSC's Virtual Learning Webinar Series. This class is Financial Readiness: Investing for Your Future.

Wednesday, July 1 • 11am-1pm
TO PARTICIPATE: Go to: mynavyfamily.com to create a LMS account. Once logged in, access LIVE webinars to register for a session. For NMCI use <https://learning.zeiders.refineddata.com>

Pre-Separation Transition Counseling

Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) is now offering virtual sessions of Pre-Separation/Transition Counseling. Training is provided by Command Career Counselors and Fleet and Family Support Center transition staff.

This two hour training is mandatory for transitioning Service Members who are voluntarily or involuntarily separated. Topics include:

- Special entitlements and benefits associated by Federal or DoD programs
- Information on Service Member's Individual Transition Plan (ITP) during and after separation, retirement, or release from active duty.

DATES:
Tuesdays in July: 7, 14, 21, 28 : 8-10am
Wednesday, July 1: Noon-2pm
Monday, July 27: Noon-2pm

To receive a Certificate of Completion, members must be logged into the session under their own LMS account and attend for the full length of the training.

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FFSC Virtual Learning: Adjusting To The 'New Normal'

Gain insight through FFSC's Virtual Learning Webinar Series. This Life Skills offering is Adjusting to the "New Normal."

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Read the Dispatch on line at afdispatch.com

Ready when you are!

Feco, a Hungarian Vizsla single purpose bomb dog, U.S. Coast Guard District 11 Maritime Safety and Security Team, is outfitted in his vertical delivery gear consisting of a hoisting vest, eye protection and hearing protection during hoist operation training at the 129th Rescue Wing, Moffett Air National Guard Base, California, June 15, 2020. U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ray Aquino.



A real good boy

Help equip children for loss: Respected grief therapist publishes book to help

Can you equip children for loss?

"Hurt" is a children's book that introduces grief and loss with colorful illustrations aimed at a four to nine year-old audience. The book uses a superhero to make children "all better" by putting bandages on their boo-boos. After a few scenarios

where bandages do not help, the superhero realizes that matters of the heart need more than a bandage. "It is not "if" children will encounter loss in their lifetime, it's when. We must equip today's children with the tools necessary to navigate tomorrow's grief" says author Thera Storm, LCSW.

Life is filled with many transitions, disappointments, and grief. Loss for children includes misplacing a favorite toy, moving, divorce, death, and everything in between. As much as it hurts us to see children grieving, preparing them to deal with loss means that we must lovingly embrace the pain WITH them. These "small" experiences are where children learn how to

deal with other degrees of loss. If they are taught to avoid the pain, hide the tears, hide from the hurt, and mask the sadness, that is how they will deal with grief in their adult life.

The top priority of the country right now is to stay healthy, and emotional health is just as important as physical health. This book is a tool for parents and caregivers to start the conversation and prepare children for loss. *Hurt* is available on Amazon.

For more details and to purchase the book: Hurt by Thera Storm, LCSW visit <https://www.amazon.com/dp/109831364X/ref=cm_sw_r_sms_c_api_dx-u5EbNJVJYHX>

Gaslamp offers curbside dining

The City of San Diego created "Curbside," an emergency ordinance expanding the public right of way on certain streets throughout the city. The Gaslamp Quarter Association is excited to announce they are participating in the patio expansion. "Curbside Gaslamp" will close Fifth Avenue from G to L Street (starting in July "Curbside Gaslamp" will expand from Broadway to L Street).

This patio expansion will allow for greater capacity to abide by the rules of social distancing, while also supporting the efforts to welcome back guests to Gaslamp Quarter restaurants and retailers.

For a full list of participating restaurants, please visit www.gaslamp.org.

Curbside Schedule

Thursdays and Fridays: 3pm to Midnight
Saturdays: Noon to Midnight

Thane Douglass from Naval Base Coronado Silver Strand Youth Center named California Military Youth of the Year

Local youth moves on to regional level representing Naval Base Coronado and the Navy Child and Youth Programs

Since 1947, Youth of the Year has been Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier recognition program, celebrating the extraordinary achievements of Club members. The program demonstrates the critical impact that Boys & Girls Clubs have on the lives of young people.

Each year, one exceptional Club youth is selected as the National Youth of the Year. Over the ensuing one-year term, he or she serves as both an exemplary ambassador for Boys & Girls Club youth and as a strong voice for all of our nation's young people.

The journey to being named National Youth of the Year begins locally and progresses to state, regional and national levels. To achieve the title of Youth of the Year on any level, Club members must embody the values of leadership and service; academic excellence; and healthy lifestyles.

Naval Base Coronado Child and Youth Programs partners with the Boys and Girls Club of America to support our military children. There are 458,000 military-connected youth through 484 BGCA-affiliated youth centers on U.S.



Thane Douglass has been selected as the California Military Youth of the Year.

military installations worldwide.

Becoming National Youth of the Year is an exciting and inspiring journey. Each year, thousands of Club teens participate in local, state and regional Youth of the Year events. Six teens, including five regional winners and a national military youth winner, advance to Washington, D.C.

We would like to recognize Thane Douglass, from Naval Base Coronado - Silver Strand Youth Center, has been selected as the California military youth of the year and will now move onto the regional level to compete and represent Naval Base Coronado and the Navy Child and Youth Programs!

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