

AutoMatters & More



Electronic driver aids - Bird's eye or panoramic view camera. **See page 9**

Health & Fitness

This week ... Relationship difficulties are at the heart of many problems. **See page 11**

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SIXTIETH YEAR NO. 27
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

COVID-19 SPECIAL LEAVE ACCRUAL

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MORE LEAVE BALANCE & HOSTILE PAY EXCEPTIONS

by MC1 Mark D. Faram

Each year, all active-duty service members earn 30 days of leave. Normally at the end of each fiscal year, any unused leave exceeding 60 days is lost. This year is different.

In April, the Secretary of Defense authorized special leave accrual, or SLA, for all military members because of restrictions on travel during the COVID-19 pandemic prevented many members from taking leave.

The accrual authorization was effective March 11 through Sept. 30, 2020. As a result, Sailors with accumulated leave in excess of 60 days can now retain up to 120 days on the books until Sept. 30, 2023.

Each year, all active-duty service members earn 30 days of leave. Normally at the end of each fiscal year, any unused leave exceeding 60 days is lost. This year is different.

With the leniency granted due to the pandemic travel restrictions, affected service members can now carry leave balances of up to 120 days with a "use or lose" date of Sept. 30, 2023. That means, beyond that date, any days exceeding 60 will be lost.

No action is required by

THE ACCRUAL AUTHORIZATION WAS EFFECTIVE MARCH 11 THROUGH SEPT. 30. AS A RESULT, SAILORS WITH ACCUMULATED LEAVE IN EXCESS OF 60 DAYS CAN NOW RETAIN UP TO 120 DAYS ON THE BOOKS UNTIL SEPT. 30, 2023.



either the Sailor or their command to retain this leave as it is automatically tracked by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

This means, anyone with less than 60 days of leave on the books as of Sept. 30, 2020 is not affected by this policy.

Sailors with more than 60 days of earned leave -- but less than 120 days of accrued leave as of Sept. 30 will see that entire balance carried over.

Those with more than 120

days of accrued leave as of Sept. 30, 2020 will lose those days as their leave balance will be reduced to 120 days.

This extra allowed leave balance will be noted in the Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) starting Oct. 31, 2020. Sailors will find their balance in the LES remarks section as "CZ leave carry over bal" along with the expiration date. This remark will no longer appear on an LES once an accrued leave balance is reduced to 60 days or less, or when the expiration date is passed.

Any days earned after Sept. 30 are not protected by this authority and will not be exempt are subject to expire under the normal 60-day rules.

However, this accrual's effective dates and expiration do not affect leave accrued and protected under separate authorizations. This includes leave earned by Sailors during eligible deployments to hostile fire pay (HFP) or imminent danger pay (IDP) zones.

For more information on military pay entitlements, and

instructions on how to read an LES go to <https://www.dfas.mil/MilitaryMembers/payentitlements/aboutpay/>.

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, follow us on Facebook and at <https://www.navy.mil>.



A pilot taxis in a T-6B Texan II aircraft at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. Navy photo by Anne Owens

Non-deployed Navy aviation units hold safety stand down

SAN DIEGO -Vice Adm. Kenneth Whitesell, Commander, Naval Air Forces, directed all non-deployed Navy aviation units to conduct a safety stand down Oct. 26.

This stand down provides an opportunity for Navy aviation commands to focus on how to further improve operational risk management and risk mitigation across the Naval Aviation enterprise.

This safety stand down follows an F/A-18E Super Hornet crash near Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake on Oct. 20, in which the pilot ejected safely, and a T-6B Texan II crash in Foley, Ala., on Oct. 23, in which the two-person aircrew didn't survive (see page 3 for the story). No civilians were injured as a result of either incident.

"The safety of our personnel and our local communities is a top priority we take all aviation incidents extremely seriously," said CNAF Whitesell. "We remain the greatest aviation force in the world and are committed to learning from these incidents in order to avoid these tragedies in the future."

NOVEMBER HOLIDAY, OBSERVANCES AND LESSER-KNOWN THEMES

Adopt A Senior Pet Month
Adopt A Turkey Month
American Diabetes Month
American Indian Heritage
Aviation History Month
Banana Pudding Lovers
Children's Grief Awareness
Diabetic Eye Disease Month
Epilepsy Awareness Month
Eye Donation Month
Family Stories Month
Gluten-Free Diet Awareness
Historic Bridge Awareness

Lung Cancer Awareness
Manatee Awareness Month
MADD's Tie One On For
Safety Holiday Campaign
Military Family Appreciation
Nat'l Adoption Month
Nat'l PPSI AIDS Awareness
Nat'l Alzheimer's Disease
Nat'l COPD Month
Nat'l Diabetes Month
Nat'l Entrepreneurship
Nat'l Family Caregivers
Nat'l Georgia Pecan Month

Nat'l Gratitude Month
Nat'l Healthy Skin Month
Nat'l Home Care & Hospice
Nat'l Impotency Month
Nat'l Inspirational Role Models
Nat'l Memoir Writing Month
Nat'l Long-term Care Awareness
Nat'l Marrow Awareness
Nat'l Medical Science Liaison (MSL) Awareness & Appreciation Month
Nat'l Native American Heritage
Nat'l Family Literacy Month

Nat'l Novel Writing Month
Nat'l Peanut Butter Lovers
Nat'l Pet Cancer Awareness
Nat'l Pomegranate Month
Nat'l PPSI Aids Awareness
Nat'l Runaway Prevention
Nat'l Scholarship Month
NET Cancer Awareness
NoSHAVEember
Pancreatic Cancer Awareness
Pet Diabetes Month
Picture Book Month
PPSI Aids Awareness Month

Prematurity Awareness Month
PTA Healthy Lifestyles
Stomach Cancer Awareness
Sweet Potato Awareness
Teff and Millet Month
Triple Crown of Surfing
World Vegan Month
Worldwide Bereaved Siblings
(Some November weekly observances)
Drowsy Driving Prevention
Week: 1-8
Give Wildlife A Brake! Week: 1-7

Nat'l Animal Shelter
Appreciation Week: 1-7
Nat'l Fig Week: 1-7
Polar Bear Week: 1-7
World Communication
Week: 1-7
Nat'l Patient
Accessibility Week: 2-6
World Karaoke
Championships: 2-7
Nat'l Farm Toy Show Days: 6-8
Sherlock Holmes Weekend:
6-8

ACTIVE DUTY AWARENESS TRAINING STUDY

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An Institutional Review Board responsible for human subjects research at The University of Arizona reviewed this research project and found it to be acceptable, according to applicable state and federal regulations and University policies designed to protect the rights and welfare of participants in research.



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2 www.armedforcesdispatch.com THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

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DOD posts webpage to aid in reporting civilian casualties

by Jim Garamone,
DOD News

The U.S. military goes to extraordinary lengths to protect civilians on the battlefield, but sometimes casualties occur.

The department has now created a website so people can report information on civilian casualties.

“CIVILIANS OFTEN ENDURE INTENSE SUFFERING IN WAR. IT'S A TRAGIC AND SOBERING FACT THAT WE TAKE VERY SERIOUSLY. THAT IS WHY THE U.S. HAS CONTINUED TO DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP IN EMPLOYING THE LATEST TECHNOLOGIES TO MITIGATE CIVILIAN HARM, AND CONTINUES TO ADVANCE OUR ABILITY TO PREVENT CIVILIAN HARM WHEN POSSIBLE,” SAID STEPHANIE HAMMOND, ASSISTANT SECDEF.

The webpage lists the e-mail and postal mailing addresses of the combatant commands so those with information on civilian casualties can contact the commands. Currently, the website language is only English, but officials are looking at ways to and broaden the reach of the effort.

Killing or wounding civilians is never the intended outcome of war, defense officials have repeatedly stressed. It goes against the ethos of the military as well as the laws of war. It's not at all consistent with U.S. tactical, operational or strategic objectives. The U.S. military is always looking to mitigate the potential for civilian harm of any kind, when conducting military operations.

“I know firsthand from my own experience that - beyond losing one of our own in battle - a commander feels nothing more painfully than the accidental loss of civilian life,” said Anthony Tata, who is performing the duties of the deputy undersecretary of defense for policy. “We are therefore actively working to advance our ability to mitigate civilian harm, and to respond when it occurs. As part of these efforts, it is critical that we ensure that members of the public are able to provide the Defense Department with information

regarding incidents in which U.S. military operations may have [resulted in the injury or death of] civilians.”

“Civilians often endure intense suffering in war,” said Stephanie Hammond, the acting deputy assistant secretary of defense for stability and humanitarian affairs. “It is a tragic and sobering fact that we take very seriously. That is why the U.S. has continued to demonstrate leadership in employing the latest technologies to mitigate civilian harm, and continues to advance our ability to prevent civilian harm when possible and to respond when it occurs.”

But civilian casualties are a part of conflict. In the past, weapons were crude and not that accurate. During World War II, if bombers got their weapons within the same grid square as the target, it was considered extremely successful.

Today, the United States has

Navy identifies aircrew in Southern Alabama crash

The Navy has identified the two-person aircrew killed in a crash Oct. 23 in Foley, Ala., as Navy Lt. Rhiannon Ross, 30-years-old from Wixom, Mich., and Coast Guard Ensign Morgan Garrett, 24-years-old from Weddington, N. C. A Navy T-6B Texan II trainer aircraft crashed in a residential area of Foley at approximately last Friday. No civilians were injured as a result of the crash. Local and Navy emergency personnel responded to the scene to secure the area and ensure the safety of the local community. The Navy is working with local authorities to investigate the incident.

the guided munitions and the intelligence apparatus to hit targets precisely. This lessens the risk of civilian casualties. It does not, however, eliminate them.

Killing or injuring civilians today is usually the result of incomplete or faulty intelligence. It could also be because of a vague or wrong description of a target.

“It is important that we assess the outcomes of U.S. military operations, including inadvertent effects on civilians,” Tata said. “This helps us to understand the outcomes of our operations, acknowledge when our operations result in civilian casualties and learn from our experiences to reduce the likelihood of future civilian harm from our operations.”

No other country goes to these lengths to prevent civilian casualties, said defense officials. Close allies operating with the United States in Afghanistan,

Iraq and Syria are taking note of U.S. efforts in this realm.

The webpage is just a start. The Defense Department is

developing a comprehensive department-wide policy on civilian harm mitigation and response. It will be the first of its kind, Hammond said.

Army

- XVIII Airborne crowdsources innovation in new competition
- Former Reserve MP gets 40 years in prison for running 'sex trafficking enterprise'
- Mother of missing Fort Bliss Soldier says Army needs to do more to find him
- Fort Bragg officials: No health issues reported after mold found in barracks
- DARPA's hypersonic OpFires aims for Army 1,000-mile missile

Navy

- How prostitutes cost a Naval flight officer \$10,000
- The 'Iron 9': Ford's all-female bridge watch team is impressing fellow Sailors

Air Force

- Sexual harassment complaint gets senior Air Force leader's attention
- Tyndall poised to become 'base of the future' 2 years after Hurricane Michael
- Chief of staff sees Agility Prime aircraft fulfilling logistics missions
- A-10 Warthog is preparing for its biggest upgrade in over a decade

Marine Corps

- A Nat'l Day of Remembrance for the 1983 Beirut bombing victims? A Marine veteran congressman wants it official
- 97-year-old Silver Star Iwo Jima veteran to be oldest Marine participant in Marine Corps Marathon
- Retired Marine's nonprofit offers adapted wheelchairs for disabled marathoners
- Commandant to leaders: Quit the 'soft relief' of fired officers
- 'Red Patch' is back as reactivated landing support battalions rejoin Fleet Marine Forces
- Marine Corps stands up a second F-35B squadron at MCAS Iwakuni in Japan



Armed Forces Dispatch
(619) 280-2985

Published by Western States Weeklies, Inc.
2604 B-280 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, CA 92008
E-mail: editor@navydispatch.com

Publisher.....Sarah Hagerty

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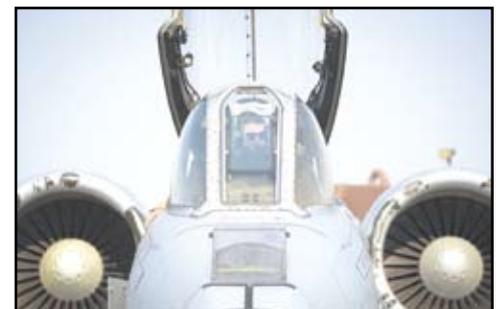
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A-10 pilot accidentally drops projectile while training in South Korea

by Matthew Keeler, Stars and Stripes

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea - An A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot inadvertently dropped a projectile outside a designated training area on Oct. 13, according to the 51st Fighter Wing at Osan.



A Thunderbolt II pilot performs pre-flight check prior to takeoff at Osan Air Base. Air Force photo by Darien Perez

The pilot from the 25th Fighter Squadron was on a routine training flight when he released the non-explosive projectile over rough, remote terrain just south of Pilsung Ragne in Gangwan Province, according to an emailed statement from wing spokesman 1st Lt. Daniel de La Fe.

The South Korean Ministry of Defense was immediately notified and a combined search and recovery team from the wing and South Korea swept the area from the air and ground, according to the statement.

"During the sweep, leadership from both the U.S. and [South Korean] sides determined that based on the terrain at the projected location of impact, there was not a significant threat to anyone and called the search off on Oct. 16," de La Fe wrote.

De La Fe didn't describe what type of projectile the Thunderbolt was carrying.

A safety investigation is underway, and the wing imposed "additional mitigation mea-

sures to reduce the likelihood of future incidents," according to the statement.

The squadron at Osan operates nearly two dozen upgraded A-10 Thunderbolt IIs. In Janu-

ary, the wing completed installation of new aircraft wings that will extend the service life of the 45-year-old close-air-support aircraft for another 8,000 flight hours.

Top officers receive MacArthur leadership award

The Army's chief of staff presented 28 junior officers with the Gen. Douglas MacArthur leadership award during a ceremony Oct. 21 at the Pentagon. Gen. James McConville said the officers went through a rigorous process to earn the award, adding that the percentage rate to be chosen for it is even stricter than the competition to be a general officer. Currently, there are over 120,000 company-grade officers and warrant officers in the Army. "Think about that: that's less than two hundredths of a percent to get selected for this very award," he said. "So you represent an elite group of Soldiers who have been identified as the top leaders in the Army today. But your career is a marathon, it's not a sprint," he told the awardees. "It takes years of great leadership that you've demonstrated today. I know that you're living up to the legacy of those who have gone before you."

Total Navy Battle Force: 296 Ships Underway

Deployed Ships Underway: 55
 Non-deployed Ships Underway: 27

Total Ships Underway: 82

Ships Deployed by Fleet

Fleet Forces: 0 3rd Fleet: 2
 4th Fleet: 5 5th Fleet: 21
 6th Fleet: 14 7th Fleet: 54

Total: 96



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VA completes nearly half of Blue Water Navy disability claims received since beginning of year

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently announced it has decided more than 34,000 Blue Water Navy disability claims, under the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, effective Jan. 1, which extends the presumption of exposure to herbicides such as Agent Orange to veterans who served in the

offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

As of Sept. 30, VA has processed 34,415 (48 percent) of 69,570 claims received, of which 24,328 (71 percent) have been granted - awarding more than \$664 million in retroactive benefits to eligible vets and families.

"It's important we ensure Blue Water Navy Veterans and their families receive the benefits they've earned," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "As a result, VA will continue to get the word out via our social media channels, public service announcements and Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) - to ensure every veteran who

is eligible applies as soon as possible."

VA also collaborated with the National Archives and Records Administration to digitize all Navy and Coast Guard deck logs for ships with known Vietnam service. Digitization of the Navy deck logs was completed in December 2019 and Coast Guard

deck logs were completed in September. As part of the agreement, VA provided digital images of the deck logs to NARA to make digitally available in the National Archives Catalog. Veterans may contact inquire@nara.gov if the deck log they're seeking is not available in the

National Archives Catalog.

• *If you your claim was denied, enter <https://www.va.gov/decision-reviews/legacy-appeals/> to see how to appeal a VA claim decision.*

• *For assistance in filling a claim, veterans may contact approved Veterans Service Organizations. See a directory VSOs at <https://www.va.gov/vso/>.*

• *Learn more about Agent Orange exposure and VA disability compensation (<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/>) or call (800) 827-1000 for more information*

Social Security Matters: Ask Rusty - I need guidance on Social Security & Medicare

by Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty: I'm turning 67 in October and as of today am still employed full time. I really don't plan on retiring unless I'm forced to. But how do I arrange my Social Security and Medical care stuff. It seems this subject is like a color, and everyone has a different color they like. Is there any way for me to figure this out with help or on my own? I could really use some guidance. Signed: Perplexed

Dear Perplexed: Okay, let's look at your Social Security and your Medicare separately, because they're two totally independent programs.

You don't need to do anything about Social Security until you are ready to start collecting your benefits. Since you have already reached your full retirement age (FRA) of 66, you're now earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the

rate of .667 percent per month. That means that your benefit in October, if you were to claim it then, would be 8 percent more than it would have been at age 66. If you continue to delay applying for SS benefits, you will continue to earn those DRCs up to age 70, when your benefit amount would be 32 percent more than it would have been at your FRA. The choice of when to claim your Social Security is yours to make, considering your need for the money, your health, and your expected longevity. The longer you wait (up to 70) the more your benefit will be, and if you expect at least average longevity (about 84 for a man your current age) then you'll get both a higher benefit amount and more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting to claim your Social Security.

As for Medicare, if you're now

covered by your employer's "creditable" healthcare plan, you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your current employer coverage ends (when you stop working). "Creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants. If you now have "creditable" employer healthcare coverage (including drug coverage) you won't be liable for a Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling in Medicare (or a drug plan) later. If you're still working and know your creditable employer coverage will end soon, you can enroll for Medicare benefits to start coincident with the end of your employer coverage. Or, after you stop working, you can enroll in Medicare during a "Special Enrollment Period" (or "SEP" for those transitioning from employer coverage to Medicare coverage). Your SEP for Medicare will last for eight months after you stop working, but

you only have 63 days after the end of your employer drug coverage to enroll in a Part D prescription drug plan.

The bottom line is this - you don't need to enroll in Medicare until your creditable employer healthcare coverage ends. And you don't need to apply for Social Security until you wish to start receiving benefits (just don't wait beyond 70).

One final point because you were born in 1953: if you are now married and your wife is already collecting her SS, you can file a "restricted application for spouse benefits only" and collect only a spouse benefit from your wife, while still allowing your own benefit to continue to grow until you are 70. But this option is only available to you because you were born before January 2, 1954.



Veterans

- VA failing to track health issues for LGBT vets: report
- New law extends VA mental health counseling to more Guard and Reserve members
- New therapy bikes available at Oklahoma City VA



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Coast Guard homeporting cutters in Western Pacific to counter China's illegal fishing



Coast Guard's first Legend-class national security cutter, *Bertholf*, transits in the Pacific. Coast Guard photo

by Caitlin Doornbos,
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan - The Coast Guard is "strategically homeporting" its newest fast-response cutters in

the Western Pacific to police illegal fishing in the region by China, National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien announced Oct. 23.

The cutters "will conduct maritime security missions, such as fisheries patrols, enhance maritime domain awareness and enforcement efforts" with U.S. partners in the Western Pacific "who have limited offshore surveillance and enforcement capacity," he said in a statement.

"China's illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and harassment of vessels operating

in the exclusive economic zones of other countries in the Indo-Pacific threatens our sovereignty, as well as the sovereignty of our Pacific neighbors and endangers regional stability," he said.

O'Brien did not specify where the vessels would be based or when they are expected to arrive, but Guam is awaiting two additional cutters after last month receiving the first of three to be stationed there.

They replace the U.S. territory's 110-foot Island-class patrol boats used by the Coast Guard for about three decades.

Fast-response cutters are designed for missions beyond traditional search-and-rescue work, such as homeland security and defense. New Sentinel-class cutters are 154 feet long, with a top speed of more than 28 knots, or about 32 mph, and carry a 24-person crew. They have a range of 2,500 miles and are armed with four .50-caliber machine guns and a remote-controlled 25 mm cannon.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing "takes advantage of corrupt administrations and exploits weak management regimes, in particular those of

developing countries lacking the capacity and resources for effective monitoring, control, and surveillance," according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' website. "Products derived from IUU fishing can find their way into overseas trade markets thus throttling local food supply," the website said. "IUU fishing therefore threatens livelihoods, exacerbates poverty and augments food insecurity."

Approximately 12 percent of the global fish market comes from the South China Sea, but illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is depleting supplies at an "unsustainable rate," according to a June 2017 report by Marina Tsribas of Australian National University's National Security College.

legal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Index developed by Poseidon Aquatic Resource Management Ltd., a U.K.-based consulting firm, and the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime.

The index scores countries on the degree to which they combat such fishing, with the least effective ranked highest.

Beijing uses illegal fishing to reinforce its claims to islands in the South and East China Seas, a contested area rich in natural resources and fishing grounds, according to the Defense Department's 2020 report to Congress on Chinese military and security developments. China views most of the South China Sea as its territorial waters, a claim unrecognized by international law.

China is the worst offender among 152 nations on the Il-

The DOD report said the Chi-see **Coast Guard, page 7**

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Stu Hedley. Photo by Zack Coco/Pictures for Heroes

Community to celebrate 99-year-old WWII vet's birthday

SAN DIEGO - One of the last remaining World War II veterans will celebrate his 99th birthday in style - a drive by birthday party.

On Saturday, Oct. 31, Honor Flight San Diego will host the birthday party for WWII veteran and retired Navy chief Stu Hedley. The community is invited to attend and the drive by parade will be from 11 a.m. to noon at 3665 Conrad Ave, San Diego. The community is encouraged to send birthday cards to the same address.

Hedley served over 20 years and was stationed on USS. West Virginia when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. He was in the #3 gun turret and could hear machine gun fire raining on the ship and could feel the torpedoes striking the hull. When it was time to evacuate the ship, he survived the attacks by swimming underwater through flames to shore. He then went on to serve in the Battle of Guadalcanal where his ship lost over 200 men.

"Hedley is a pillar of the San Diego veteran's community," said Holly Shaffner, public relations director for Honor Flight San Diego. "He stood up the San Diego Chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association which recently disbanded due to the members passing away. He spends his time talking to schools about Pearl Harbor and estimates he has spoken to over 200,000 people about the Dec. 7 attacks.

Hedley was the 2012 San Diego County Veteran of the Year and was one of the first WWII veterans to go on the Honor Flight when the San Diego hub was started in 2010.



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Oceanside native Information Systems Technician (Submarines) 1st Class Mathew Starlin, Submarine Group 7's Sailor of the Quarter for this year's 3rd Quarter, receives the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal during an award ceremony. Navy photo by Electronics Technician 1st Class Robert Lau



**YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
OCT. 24, 2020**



**PACIFIC OCEAN
OCT. 24, 2020**

Capt. Thomas Ulmer, commanding officer of **Makin Island** amphibious assault ship, cuts the ribbon to the ship's **Ocho Cafe**. The **Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group** and the **15th Marine Expeditionary Unit** are conducting at-sea training events in the 3rd Fleet area of operations. Navy photo by MCSN Nadia Lund

Electrician's Mate 2nd Class **Jasmine Harris** of Chula Vista, assigned to Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) San Antonio, works on a project at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Photo by Burrell Parmer



**SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
OCT. 24, 2020**

Coast Guard
continued from page 6

nese maritime militia often uses fishing boats in the contested waters and provides Chinese fishermen "extensive subsidies to encourage frequent operations in the Spratly Islands," an island chain over which it disputes sovereignty with Taiwan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Brunei.

O'Brien said the Coast Guard plays "a prominent role in pro-

tecting our vital national interests, and where appropriate, those of our partners in the region" as China grows its military and presence in the South China Sea.

"Enhancing the presence of the [Coast Guard] in the Indo-Pacific ensures the United States will remain the maritime partner of choice in the region," he said in the statement.

Still, Asyura Salleh, Vasey Research Fellow at the Hono-

lulu-based foreign policy think tank Pacific Forum, said that while the move should reassure regional partners, "the narrative needs to depart from the realpolitik idea of challenging another regional power.

"The focus should rather be on identifying resource and capability gaps in regional partners when crafting solutions that encourage more cooperation, and not competition, in tackling maritime crime," she said.

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Navy EOD releases strategic guidance for next 10 years, developing Force to compete and win in GPC environment

CORONADO - Navy EOD released its force-shaping blueprint for the next 10 years, Oct. 19, as its leadership looks to mold the military's maritime EOD force into one that best supports the U.S., its allies and partner nations to compete and win in an era of Great Power Competition (GPC).

The force's first major strategic mission update since 1997, the plan was developed to meet the challenges of a changing national security environment and position Navy EOD to best serve its clear, secure, build and protect role within the Navy Expeditionary Combat Force (NECF), said Rear Adm. Joseph DiGuardo, commander of Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC).

"The NECF clears the explosive, security, and physical hazards employed by our adversaries; secures battlespace for the naval force; builds the critical infrastructure, domain awareness, and

logistic capacity to rearm, resupply, and refuel the fleet; protects the critical assets the Navy and the nation need to achieve victory and reinforce blue-water lethality," said DiGuardo, who oversees the NECF, which is comprised of Navy EOD, the Maritime Expeditionary Security Force, the Naval Construction Force, and diving and salvage units.

"As part of the NECF, our EOD forces play a pivotal role clearing the explosive hazards in any environment to protect the fleet and Joint Force - from the simplest impediment to the most complex weapon of mass destruction - and build an understanding of our adversary capabilities by exploiting those hazards. Navy EOD is the key to our nation being undeterred by explosive threats," said DiGuardo.

"The strategic plan ensures Navy EOD supports the NECF by eliminating explosive threats so the fleet, Navy and nation can fight

and win whenever, wherever and however it chooses," said Capt. Oscar Rojas, commodore of Coronadobased EOD Group 1.

Rojas said this will be accomplished through the strategic plans' five core objectives: develop the Navy EOD force to win against near-peer competitors and empowered non-state actors; expand Navy EOD's advantage against competitors' undersea threats; capitalize on Navy EOD's ability to counter WMDs; grow Navy EOD's expertise in its ability to counter, neutralize and understand next-generation weapons systems; and enhance the EOD capabilities of allies and partner nations.

"Our strategic plan was designed to guide us in creating a force that can deter adversaries and win in a complex security environment," said Capt. Rick Hayes, commodore of EODGRU-2, which operates out of Virginia Beach, Va. "That is why we dedicated an objective to specifically focus on developing and caring for our Sailors. Our people are our most important asset—they are our weapons system."

The plan lays out how Navy EOD will grow its ability to recruit and retain the best talent, develop strong leaders of character, and use its force resiliency program, STRIKE, to improve the physical and mental care Navy EOD personnel receive throughout their careers.

"Navy EOD's unique mission requires us to be fit in mind, body and spirit. We want our current and future operators to have access to the best facilities with the most qualified staff, so they are ready to deploy when called upon," said Hayes, adding STRIKE's holistic approach includes giving EOD operators access to athletic trainers, physical therapists and mental health professionals.

The force's 1,800 operators can also expect an increased emphasis on building their knowledge and capabilities in areas critical to succeeding in a GPC environment, according to the plan, including Navy EOD enhancing its expeditionary undersea capabilities by working in cyberspace. The force will pursue using unmanned systems (UMS) to access adversary communication networks to disrupt, delay or destroy weapons systems.

••• Refer to <https://seapowermagazine.org/navy-eod-releases-strategic-guidance-for-next-10-years/>.

Official Navy photo

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Electronic driver aids - bird's eye or panoramic view camera

There was a time when the only devices on your vehicle to assist you when backing up were your rear-view mirrors. I can still remember backing my car carefully into a parking space only to come to a sudden stop, having backed up right into a concrete flower planter. To add insult to injury, I was parking to attend an event for automotive journalists!

As a result of my wish to be able to back up more safely, I was acutely aware of the advent of electronic driver aids. You've probably seen those round button-like things embedded into bumpers. They are sensors which trigger an audible alert, to warn you that your path is obstructed by something.

Some other vehicles were beginning to be available with the first backup cameras, enabling you to actually see what was behind you. The best of those new backup cameras added an overlay of lines, to show you where your vehicle's sides would be on your rearward path, and where the back of your car was.

Until about two months ago, my most recent daily driver was a 2012 Toyota Plug-in Prius hybrid. It did not have those sensors but it did have a backup camera, with a wide-angle lens. Unfortunately, though, it lacked the graphic lines overlay that would have showed me where the sides of my car would be if I backed up, and a line showing me where my rear bumper was. As a result of not having those lines, it was not possible to see where my car was well enough to avoid hitting something. It helped a little but not much.

As the years progressed, I was determined to make sure that my

next daily driver not only had a backup camera with those lines, but that it also had a full suite of electronic driver aids. Now I have one. It is a fully loaded 2021 Toyota RAV4 Prime XSE Premium.

That tech includes what Toyota used to refer to as a "Bird's Eye View Camera," and I love it. It is indeed a feature that provides a partially simulated bird's eye view — since there is nothing

AutoMatters™ & More



by Jan Wagner

flying over my RAV4 to take stills and videos, but it is also so much more. I know that other auto manufacturers have similar tech, but since mine is a Toyota and that is what I am somewhat familiar with, let's use that as our example of the tech.

Before I go on, I'd like to share with you some important advice. There was a time, long ago, when we could buy a new vehicle, get in and just drive it. It was quite possible to be able to intuitively figure it out how it worked mostly by driving it. The manual was helpful as a supplement for the fine points. That is no longer true.

Today's vehicles and their optimal operation are extremely technical and complicated. I knew my new RAV4 had this so-called Bird's Eye View Camera feature, and I thought I could just get in

and figure it out for myself. Not so much. It turned on automatically when I was driving really, really slowly, but there were several on-screen buttons and I really couldn't figure out when I needed them and what they would do. All of that is covered in pages 197-231 of the "RAV4 PRIME 2021 Navigation and Multimedia System Owner's Manual." Toyota now calls it their "Panoramic View Monitor."

I also found this very helpful, and easy-to-digest, approximately three-minute instructional video that was produced by Toyota USA in 2016: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2PTEVgdYB0>

After heading out to my RAV4 and trying out some of the button presses while parked in my garage, it looks to me like not much has changed with this option since the appearance of that 2016 video. The option was great then, and it still is. I highly recommend getting it.

This feature operates while stopped up to six miles per hour. Depending upon switch positions and how you choose to set it to display, you can get all views - bird's, side, front, rear, and corner (individual or all) - audible warnings and the aforementioned overlay of lines — all which will be of great assistance to you when parking or driving slowly. It sure beats relying solely on those rear view mirrors:

To see photos, visit www.drive-tribe.com, click on the magnifying glass, select "POSTS" and enter "AutoMatters & More #665" in their search bar. Please send your comments to AutoMatters@gmail.com.

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

Annual snow guessing contest underway

While it may still feel like summer, the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway's Snow Guessing Contest is underway. This annual event runs until the first measurable inch of snow falls at the Tram's Mountain Station, elevation 8,516 feet. According to Tramway General Manager Nancy Nichols, "Traditionally, our Snow Guessing Contest begins October 1, but—this year—we wanted to wait until the Tram reopened before starting it. Not only are we anxious for the first snow, we are anxious for folks to come up and experience it in person!"

The first ten entries received with the correct date of snowfall will win four Tram admissions plus a special Tram gift memento. In the event there are more than ten correct entries, the earliest postmarks will prevail. To submit an entry, simply write down your best-guess date on a postcard and mail it to: Snow Guessing Contest, 1 Tram Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262. Participants may enter as many times as they would like, but only one date per postcard. For more information and contest rules, please visit www.pstramway.com/special-events.

43rd Annual Holiday Bowl and Bowl Week activities cancelled for 2020

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Holiday Bowl officials announced that the 43rd annual game will not be played this December. "This has been the most difficult decision our Board has ever had to make since our bowl game started in 1978," said Holiday Bowl CEO Mark Neville. The bowl's traditional Bowl Week events have also been cancelled for 2020, including the nationally televised Port of San Diego Holiday Bowl Parade.

Roy's Sudoku

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Across

- Govt.-backed investment
- Travelocity recommendations
- Small takeover order
- Tiger mascot with a red scarf
- Clear data from
- Provoke
- Dealer's foil, briefly
- Southern neighbor of Sask.
- Reasonable
- Enters
- "To say they ___ I dare not be so bold": Shakespeare
- North Carolina ___ Heels
- Cunning
- Slow-cooked, as short ribs
- Young chap
- Bilko's rank: Abbr.
- Grazing area
- Joule fraction
- [not my error]
- Family name in Mideast politics
- Homer's "I'm an idiot!"
- Feel remorse over
- Provided food for
- Tone-__: "Wild Thing" rapper
- NYC airport near Citi Field
- ___ the season ... "
- Scout leader?
- Monkey relative
- Sought a political seat
- Move like a mamba
- Carlsbad ___ National Park
- Do to death
- Revolutionary territory
- Wear away, as a coin surface
- Nervous twitch
- Noble gas
- Dancer Astaire
- Spanish appetizer
- Leave out
- Verne captain
- Work on a lawn
- "Training Day" actress Mendes
- "Superman" villain Luthor

Down

- "My Best Friend's Girl" rock band



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| Montenegro, Samantha | C9-T3 |
| McCann-Smith, Greg | B6-T3 |
| Ecklund, Jerry | C11-T2 |

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| Tim Smith | 23-A5/6 |
| | 50-B1 |
| | 43-B1/5 |
| | 1-C5 |

Health & Fitness

Dealing with stressors in relationships

by Jim Garamone

Research has shown that relationship difficulties are at the heart of many problems in the military, and officials within the Defense Department's military community and family policy are putting in place programs for service members and their families to get help in their relationships.

Lee Kelley, the director of the military community support programs, discussed the need for such programs during a recent interview.

Kelley is intimately familiar with the problem having been detailed to serve as the deputy director for the Defense Suicide Prevention Office. In studying the complex nature of suicide, the Defense Department has found that relationships are a top contributing factor.

Beyond that, "relationships are the top reason that service members and families seek non-medical counseling through some of the programs that I work with," she said.

Kelley went back to her regular job and gathered a group of experts to examine the type of relationship support being provided to the community across the DOD around the world. "Through the course of this deep dive group, research was brought up about different relationship interventions that have shown promising results in the military community," she said.

The relationship campaign for service members and military families has been launched.

In the civilian world, most couples have families nearby or a network of friends they can confide in, Kelley said. There are churches or medical personnel they can turn to. Many times in the military situation, service members may feel there is no support group.

But there is, Kelley says, and she wants service members to know they are not alone, and there

are ways to get that support.

"First of all, we want them to know that they should be comfortable seeking support through our counselors," she said. "What we're doing as a first part of the campaign is pulling back the curtain on what relationship support looks like. What is it? What does it even look like to sit down with a counselor? What kinds of questions are they going to ask me? Does it mean my relationships [are] over if I sit down with a counselor or ask for help?"

Service providers, like the military and family life counselors, will post on social media to talk about what relationship support looks like, what it sounds like, what it feels like, with the end goal being to normalize the experience of seeking help for a relationship, she said.

The second phase of the program is to define what skills an individual can build on to find success in relationships or recover when a relationship doesn't work out, she said.

We don't want that service member to feel alone. We don't want that service member to feel like there's no tomorrow. There are alternatives."

Kelley is clear-eyed about what can be accomplished. She knows that break-ups happen. "The worst thing that we can hear is that we

may have a junior enlisted service member on the East Coast, and their significant other breaks up with them via text message from the other side of the country," she said. "We don't want that service member to feel alone. We don't want that service member to feel like there's no tomorrow. There are alternatives."

And service members and their families are responding. In fiscal 2019, counselors conducted more than 260,000 relationship sessions through the military and family life counseling program. The program is accessible "to all of our active duty, National Guard and Reserve service members and families, regardless of activation

status from anywhere around the world," Kelley said.

COVID-19 has forced some changes, and telehealth counseling is part of the process. Kelley said there has been an uptick in couples seeking counseling since the start of the pandemic, but it is continuing the rise the office saw in previous years. COVID-19 is also forcing couples to confront their problems in ways they might not have done in the past, she said.

Information is at Military One-Source at 1-800-342-9647. There is also an opportunity for a live chat on the website, militaryone-source.mil.



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VA HOME LOAN PROGRAM BENEFITS

-  CAN HAVE MULTIPLE VA HOME LOANS AT ONE TIME—0% DOWN
-  SELLER PAID CLOSING COSTS & DEBT PAYOFF OPTIONS
-  NO MINIMUM CREDIT SCORE REQUIREMENT FOR VA LOANS
-  FOUND A HOME THAT NEEDS A LITTLE WORK? USE OUR VA RENOVATION LOAN
-  BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME WITH OUR VA CUSTOM CONSTRUCTION LOAN
-  LOWER YOUR INTEREST RATE WITH OUR VA INTEREST RATE REDUCTION REFINANCE LOAN

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WWW.VETERANSLENDINGGROUP.COM

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FRANK TOYOTA

2400 NATIONAL CITY BLVD.
866.217.1866
www.franktoyota.com

2021 Toyota Corolla Hybrid LE

4 Cyl. Auto.



Lease for **\$233** PER MONTH PLUS TAX 36 MONTHS

Lease for \$233 mo. plus tax. 1 this payment. Stk#: 60122, VIN#: MJ012910, Model#: 1882 Net capitalized cost \$22,628.88. \$233 plus tax monthly for 36 months with \$3,399 due at lease signing. Security deposit not required. On approved above average credit through Toyota Financial Services. \$0.15 per mile over 12K miles annually and \$85 dealer document preparation charges. Any electronic filing fee. Includes license fee. College Grad and Military Rebates are not included on price/payment offers unless otherwise specified. Offer expires 10/31/2020

2021 Toyota C-HR LE

4 Cyl. Auto.



Lease for **\$248** PER MONTH PLUS TAX 36 MONTHS

Lease for \$248 plus tax, per month, 36 months 1 at this payment. Stk#: 60148, VIN#: M1096179, Model#: 2402 Net capitalized cost \$21,389.01. \$248 plus tax monthly for 36 months with \$4,299 due at lease signing. Security deposit not required. On approved above average credit through Toyota Financial Services. \$0.15 per mile over 12K miles annually and \$85 dealer document preparation charges. Any electronic filing fee. Includes license fee. College Grad and Military Rebates are not included on price/payment offers unless otherwise specified. Offer expires 10/31/2020.

FRANK HYUNDAI

3150 NATIONAL CITY BLVD.
866.542.8238
www.frankhyundai.com

2020 HYUNDAI ACCENT SE

\$14,527 FRANK'S PRICE
-\$1250 RETAIL BONUS CASH
-\$500 MILITARY

NET PRICE
\$12,777



All advertised prices exclude government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document processing charge, any electronic filing charge, and any emission testing charge. \$500 Military Incentive, must be active duty or veteran to qualify. Offer expires 11/2/20. 1 at this price: #123019.

2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE

\$17,777 FRANK'S PRICE
-\$2500 RETAIL BONUS CASH
-\$1000 HMF FINANCE
-\$500 MILITARY

NET PRICE
\$13,777



All advertised prices exclude government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document processing charge, any electronic filing charge, and any emission testing charge. \$500 Military Incentive, must be active duty or veteran to qualify. Offer expires 11/2/20. 2 at this price #605495 & #605266.

2020 HYUNDAI VENUE SE

\$17,277 FRANK'S PRICE
-\$2000 RETAIL BONUS CASH
-\$500 MILITARY

NET PRICE
\$14,777



All advertised prices exclude government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document processing charge, any electronic filing charge, and any emission testing charge. \$500 Military Incentive, must be active duty or veteran to qualify. Offer expires 11/2/20. 1 at this price #027349

FRANK SUBARU

2829 NATIONAL CITY BLVD.
888.207.1891
www.franksubaru.com

2020 SUBARU FORESTER TOURING

LEASE FOR **\$335** PER MONTH PLUS TAX 36 MONTHS



*1 at this payment, STK# 23906, VIN# LH596319, Model # LFF 41. \$335 plus tax monthly for 36 months with \$1,099 Due at Signing. \$0.15 per mile over 10,000 miles per year. \$85 Dealer Document Preparation Charges, any Electronic Filing Fee. Security Deposit Not Required. On Approved Above Average Credit through JP Morgan Chase. Offer Expires 10/31/20.

2020 SUBARU OUTBACK LIMITED

LEASE FOR **\$355** PER MONTH PLUS TAX 36 MONTHS



*1 at this payment, STK# 23246, VIN# L3213925, Model # LDF 34. \$355 plus tax monthly for 36 months with \$1,099 Due at Signing. \$0.15 per mile over 10,000 miles per year. \$85 Dealer Document Preparation Charges, any Electronic Filing Fee. Security Deposit Not Required. On Approved Above Average Credit through JP Morgan Chase. Offer Expires 10/31/20.

4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT

\$89⁹⁵ + tax

~~WAS \$119⁸⁵~~



- Precision computerized wheel alignment
 - Adjust caster, camber & toe
 - Inspect suspension for wear
- Center steering wheel • Inspect tires

Toyotas, Hyundais, or Subarus only. Most models. Must present coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount and cannot be applied toward previous purchases. Offer expires 11/30/20.

ATTENTION: ACTIVE DUTY, RETIRED & DEPENDENTS

Frank Motors is now hiring part-time & full time employees. Apply on-line www.FrankToyota.com

Military Special Only

OIL & FILTER CHANGE

\$39⁹⁵ + tax

~~WAS \$49⁹⁵~~

- Install Genuine Toyota, Hyundai or Subaru oil filter
- Replace engine oil (up to 5 qts conventional oil)
- Top off under the hood fluids
- FREE Check & set tire pressure to vehicle specifications
- FREE Multipoint inspection
- FREE Car Wash
- FREE Battery Test

Synthetic, V6 & V8 additional. Toyotas, Hyundais, or Subarus only. Please present coupon at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount and cannot be applied toward previous purchases. Please present coupon at time of write up. Offer expires 11/30/20.

FRONT BRAKE SPECIAL

FRONT BRAKE SPECIAL
\$50 OFF

- Inspect and Resurface Rotors
- Inspect Brake Hardware
- Replace Front Brake Pads

Toyotas, Hyundais, or Subarus only. Most models. Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offer or discount. Valid only at Frank Auto Motors locations. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount and cannot be applied toward previous purchases. Offer expires 11/30/20.

plus **10% OFF**

Any recommended Services or Repairs. May not be combined with any other special.

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