



BLACKJACK BANNER

APRIL 2012



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From the Captain's Desk...

Dear BLACKJACK families and friends,

This winter has been a busy and successful one for the squadron. Detachment TWO completed their pre-deployment workups while both Detachments ONE and TWO participated in Exercise BOLD ALLIGATOR. BOLD ALLIGATOR was the largest East Coast amphibious exercise in the last ten years. You can read more on the exercise further in the Newsletter. As I said in our previous newsletter, 2011 was a great year for the squadron. Another product of our efforts was the naming of AC1 Holander Morris as Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet's Air Traffic Controller of the Year. AC1 Morris is now competing for Air Traffic Controller of the Year for the entire US Navy. The selectee will be

announced this June in San Diego. Best of luck, AC1!

Detachment TWO is now underway on what is planned to be an eight month deployment. They should be very proud of their accomplishments during their preparations! They are very much set for an outstanding deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Middle East.

Along with Detachment TWO, AC2 Nichols and IS2 Sproul remain on Individual Augmentee (IA) orders in Africa and the Middle East. Please keep them in your thoughts as they remain halfway around the world serving their country. ACAN Cooley just returned from a very successful IA tour in Bahrain. We were very happy to welcome him back.

For any of our Sailor's friends or family, Mrs. Kathleen Fryar is ready to point you in the right direction if any assistance is needed or desired. Mrs. Fryar has graciously volunteered to act as our command Ombudsman and is the direct line of communication between you and the Command. She welcomes any questions you may have and can be contacted by phone at 757-287-7324 or by email at tacron21ombudsman@hotmail.com.



I hope to see many of you at our Family Readiness Group POT LUCK and Egg Hunt on April 4th. The activities will start at 4:30pm. Thank you to Angela Smith and everyone in the FRG for setting up this event.

Keep your eyes open for our newsletter becoming a monthly product as we now have a detachment underway. AC3 Eyes continues to put together a great product. There are a couple of ways to get the newsletter either by email or by going to our website, <http://www.tacron21.navy.mil>, and selecting "Newsletter." If you know of anyone that you'd like to receive the newsletter, please send their email address or mailing address to andrea.eyges@navy.mil.

CDR Jon Laubach

FROM THE SEA -

On March 27, TACRON 21 Detachment TWO set sail aboard USS IWO JIMA, for their 2012 deployment. The men and women of the Detachment would like to thank family, friends and shipmates for the love and assistance provided during work ups through the day of departure. It truly means a lot to have such outstanding support during such a challenging and dynamic period.

Members of Detachment TWO include:

CDR Lloyd Mack	LCDR Tim Gantz
LCDR Collen Langford	LCDR Daniel Meneses
LCDR Elizabeth Pimper	LCDR Johnathan Vandervelde
LT Stephen Bravo	Capt Edward Lee
ACC Michael Presnell	OSC David McElroy
OSC Michele Sullivan	AC1 Adrian Adkins
AC1 Peter Shaw	IT1 Kyleen Calkins
OS2 Matthew Winchell	IS2 Alan Camp
AC2 Darcelle Anderson	AC2 Bonnie Hunter
AC2 Charles Taliaferro	AC2 Bruce Brady
IS3 Michael Lohkamp	AC3 Aaron Bacus
AC3 Jonathan Norris	AC3 Moises Cespedesurena
AC3 Alex Martin	AC3 Joel Ortiz
AC3 Matthew Peder	AC3 Ty Robbins
ACAN Kamanalaniohao Kauahi	ACAN Jonathan Phelps
ACAN Zachary Pugh	ACAN Matthew Rogers
ACAN Gregory Simpson	OSSN Tara Bustamante
OSSN Gianpaolo Grippi	OSSN Derek Rosenbaum

* Senior Chief Midnight Panther (Point O View Elementary School Mascot)

The Detachment looks forward to this opportunity to serve the nation and their families, and to make you all proud! See you on the return to home port!

Sincerely,

DET TWO



Senior Enlisted Corner

Greetings Blackjacks, family and friends! CONGRATS goes out to TACRON 21 Detachments 1 and 2 for jobs well done during Jan/Feb underway periods. Exercises Bold Alligator and CERTX were major events in the Amphibious Navy and we should all be very proud of our accomplishments. You guys rock, and families/friends too.

Welcome! Newest members of our TACRON 21 family:

ACAA Sean Adams
OSSA Victoria Laginess
LT Christopher Carey

AC2 Vanessa Anderson
YNSN Johnathon Price
LT Jeremiah Holland

Resource of the month: The official Navy iPhone/iPod Touch/iPad free application provides information about important quality of life resources for Navy personnel, retirees and their families. The "Navy Life" Mobile Application was created by Commander, Navy Installations Command's Fleet and Family Readiness (FFR) professionals and endorsed by the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.

To download this application to your iPhone, iPod, or iPad go to the Apple Store, iTunes and search for "Navy Life."

Advancement Exams were held 1 Mar - E6; 8 Mar - E5; 15 Mar - E4; We look forward to the upcoming results and promoting future petty officers! Until next time, thanks for all that you do in support of TACRON 21 and our great Navy. Be safe!

Sincerely,
ACCM(AW/SW) Kelly E. Smith



POTLUCK DINNER

FAMILY READINESS GROUP

On April 4th, our Family Readiness Group is sponsoring a Pot Luck Dinner followed by an Egg Hunt. All BLACKJACK friends and families are invited to attend and participate.

Please RSVP by April 2nd to the FRG President, Angela Smith, at tacron21@yahoo.com to let her know both what you plan to bring for the POT LUCK and if anyone will be participating in the Egg Hunt.



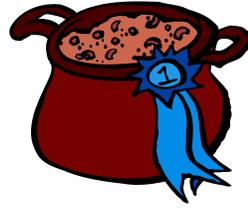


Bold Alligator 2012 (BA12) was the largest east coast amphibious exercise that the Navy and Marine Corps has conducted in over 10 years. Twenty-five ships, and 20,000 Sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen participated in the two-week exercise, which ran through Feb. 13. Commands that were involved were the Enterprise Carrier Strike Group (CSG), Expeditionary Strike Group 2 (ESG-2), 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB), Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), 24 Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), Naval Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) as well as coalition ships, units, and observers from 12 other countries.

From sea, Navy and Marines were able to work scenarios involving mine warfare, countering small boat attacks and other irregular threats, and fighting in shallow coastal waters. Training scenarios were based on a continuum of situations that the Navy/Marine Corps team is likely to face in today's environment and are built in order to develop varied capabilities that allow amphibious forces to operate against an opposing military force including crisis response and humanitarian assistance.

The primary goal of BA12 was an Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) and Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB)-sized amphibious assault from a sea base in a hostile environment. The assault had Sailors and Marines land simultaneously with Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAVs), Landing Crafts Air Cushion (LCACs), Landing Crafts Utility (LCUs) and Landing Crafts Mechanized (LCMs) to capture and control a beach. Other operations included long-range insertions, non-combatant evacuation operations (NEO), tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel (TRAP), visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS), and amphibious raids. BA12 was an experience many Sailors and Marines should be proud of. Participating in this exercise gave each branch a chance to work on partnerships and ensure the amphibious force is ready when called.





CHILI COOK OFF

Once again, fellow Blackjacks battled it out to see who owned the best chili recipe. AC2 Cooper, who won last year's contest, was pretty confident he would remain champion. However, he didn't have just two competitors, he had 7 others. The judges table resembled an "American Idol" panel with CDR Laubach, AC1 Isom-Brown and OSSN Grippi as the ones chosen to sample every chili made, compare it to the others and select a winner. They were handed a piece of paper with categories and were to follow the guidelines off of that; how spicy, how the flavor was etc. The chili handed to them was anonymous so they weren't able to be biased. As the judges conducted the tasting, the rest of the command helped support MWR by purchasing bowls of chili and soda. The proceeds will go towards the 2012 command holiday party. After the judges tasted every chili entry, they came to a decision on this year's winner: ACC Presnell. ACC Presnell participated in last year's event as well and fought back this year to seize the title from AC2 Cooper. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Navy Facts of the Month



Loretta Perfectus Walsh became the first American woman to serve in the United States armed forces. She enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve on March 17, 1917. Walsh subsequently became the first woman Navy petty officer when she was sworn in as Chief Yeoman on March 21, 1917.

April 1 1917 - Boatswain's Mate 1/c John I. Eopolucci, a Naval armed guard on board the steamship *Aztec*, died when the vessel was sunk by a German U-boat. He was the first U.S. Navy sailor killed in action in World War I.

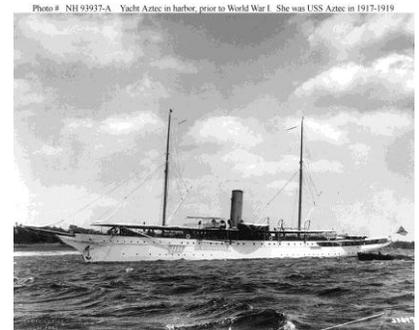


Photo # NH 93937-A. Yacht Aztec in harbor, prior to World War I. She was USS Aztec in 1917-1919

Midnight Prepares for Deployment

OS2 Macias and AC3 Atkisson

Tactical Air Control Squadron Two One sailor's were invited to Point O' View Elementary school to meet Senior Chief Midnight on March 15th, 2012. Traditionally before every deployment Senior Chief Midnight is ceremoniously received by the Detachment and says farewell to the children at his adopted school. During the assembly the crowd of 3rd, 4th & 5th Graders were excited to see the

Tacronite's, but sad to see Midnight leave. Many of the children at Point O' View have military family members on deployment and relate closely to Senior Chief Midnight and his family of panthers. Point O' View will be inviting the Two One sailors back for another assembly at the end of the deployment for Midnights return.



Blackjacks on Deployment

TACRON 21 set sail with the USS Iwo Jima on March 27 for an eight month deployment. There was an FRG meeting held on March 7th that included a lot of good financial advice and basic deployment survival advice presented by Fleet and Family Services. In case anyone would like further information, the phone number to Fleet and Family Services is 757-462-7563.

Also, if anyone would like to send out a card, letter or care package to our sailors, their mailing addresses are:

TACRON 21 DET TWO

TACRON 21 DET TWO
Onboard USS IWO JIMA
FPO AE 09501-6545

IS2 SPROUL

Adam Sproul
737 FOB SHARANA
APO, AE 09311

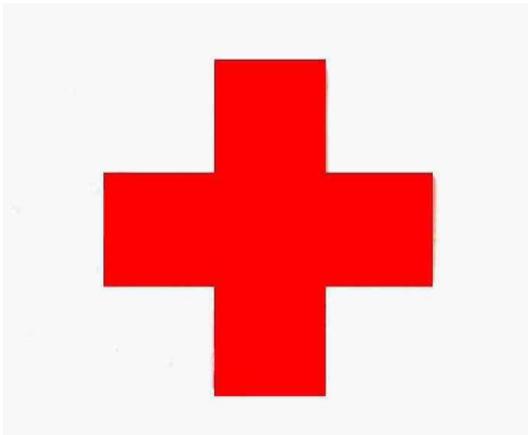
AC2 NICHOLS

Patrick W. Nichols
PSC 831 BOX 0042
FPO AE 09363-0042

Our Sailors at home are more than happy to provide support to friends and families. Please don't hesitate to call. Some very good ways to contact us are:

OMBUDSMAN, 757-287-7324, tacron21ombudsman@hotmail.com and Family Readiness Group, tacron21@yahoo.com

Also, don't hesitate to contact **Fleet and Family Support Center** onboard JEB Little Creek at 757-462-7563. The link to their website is [here](#). You can also click [here](#) for their quarterly circular "Signal" or click [here](#) for their monthly command newsletter, "Currents". Both items describe, in detail, the programs that FFSC offers.



The American Red Cross - Keeping Pace with the Changing Military

As part of an ongoing effort to better serve the military community, the American Red Cross announced that it will move to a single telephone number for its emergency communication services.

Beginning 13 June 2011, at 8:00 a.m. EDT, all

military members and their families can use one number- **877-272-7337 (U.S. Toll Free)** to send an urgent message to a service member. The change means that all military members and their families can use this single number to initiate an emergency communication, regardless of where they live.

A call to **877-272-7337** allows Red Cross emergency communications services to put military personnel in touch with their families following the death or serious illness of an immediate family member, the birth of a service member's child or grandchild or when a family faces other emergencies.

Additional Red Cross services such as case management and emergency financial assistance also are available. For those stationed overseas, the three options for calling will remain the same: calling **877-272-7337** direct, accessing the number through a military operator, or calling the local Red Cross station.

NAVY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES

Visit your local Navy College office! Navy College professionals provide educational services world-wide, anytime, anyplace to Sailors and their families, supporting their life-long learning goals and the Navy's mission. Follow this [link](#) for information regarding the SOCNAV program and other benefits available to military families. Take full advantage of all of the awesome resources Navy College has to offer and go back to school!

Website: http://www.soc.aascu.org/socnav/Spouses_AidResources





Integritas (Integrity)

Major Travis Gordon, USMC

The word integrity comes from an ancient Roman army tradition. The best military in the world, the Romans prided themselves in their discipline. Every morning the legions were formed for inspection. As the inspecting centurion halted in front of each legionnaire, the soldier would strike his breastplate with his right fist. There, covering the heart, armor had to be strongest to provide protection from swords, spears, and arrows. As the soldier struck his armor, he would shout

"integritas" (in-teg-ri-tas), which in Latin means wholeness, completeness. The inspecting centurion listened closely for the ring that well-kept armor would give off, showing it was whole and strong. Once satisfied the breastplate was sound and the soldier beneath it was protected, he would move on to the next man.

At this time, the Praetorian Guard (Imperial bodyguards – the special forces of the Roman army) was ascending in power and influence. Members were drawn from the strongest political allies in the Roman nobility. These “politically correct” soldiers of the Legions received the finest equipment and armor. To signify their hearts belonged to Caesar—not to their unit, not to an institution, and not to a code of ideals—they did not shout “integritas” during inspections, but rather “Hail Caesar.” They armored themselves to serve the cause of a single man. Rather than holding themselves to high levels of discipline and rigorous training, the Praetorians partied at court and dabbled in intrigue while slaves took responsibility for their armor and weapons. As the rift between the Legion and the imperial bodyguard grew larger, so the meaning of the word “integritas” changed. It became a rallying call and battle cry to the legionnaires, demonstrating these men were not associated with the immoral conduct of the Praetorian Guard. It signified that not only was their armor sound, their training complete, and their discipline undiminished, but their character was sound, their standards were high, and morals were beyond reproof. They were complete in their integrity.

Unfortunately, by 383 AD the decline of honor that defined the Praetorian Guard had infected the Legions. As a 4th century Roman general wrote, "When, because of negligence and laziness, parade ground drills were abandoned, the customary armor began to feel heavy since the soldiers rarely, if ever, wore it. Therefore, they first asked the emperor to set aside the breastplates and mail and then the helmets. So our soldiers fought the Goths without any protection for the heart and head and were often beaten by archers. Although there were many disasters, which lead to the loss of great cities, no one tried to restore the armor to the infantry. They took their armor off, and when the armor came off, so too came their integrity."

After reading about the origins of integrity, ask yourself am I “complete”? Is TACRON 21 “whole”? and does this “wholeness” extend to the families of members of the Blackjacks?

While our sailors and Marines are required to continue high standards of discipline and personal conduct, the squadron’s ultimate purpose is to unite our sailors to achieve greater effects than would be possible if we were collection of independent individuals. To this end, our personal and unit’s *integritas* must be closely guarded, lest we forget the purpose of our “armor”; drop our breastplates and fall to the same fate as the 4th century Romans.

Portions shamelessly reproduced from, **Remarks at Joint Services Conference on Professional Ethics** (JSCOPE 2000) January 27, 2000 by General Charles C. Krulak, USMC (RET.)



May 11-May 12th Relay for Life- Need volunteers as early as 10 am on Friday May 11, to assist in putting up tents, the stages, and many other jobs. There is a survivors reception which begins at 5 pm so help will be needed setting up for the dinner inside the school also. There will have bands and other entertainment throughout the night that may need help setting up. Help needed on Saturday morning breaking everything down as well.

If you have completed volunteer work or are interested in doing so, please contact OS2 Macias at anthony.macias1@navy.mil or AC3 Eyles at andrea.eyles@navy.mil or stop by the Admin Office.



UPCOMING RUNS

Red, White & Blue 5K

APRIL 4TH

Norfolk Naval Shipyard

Spring Fever 5K

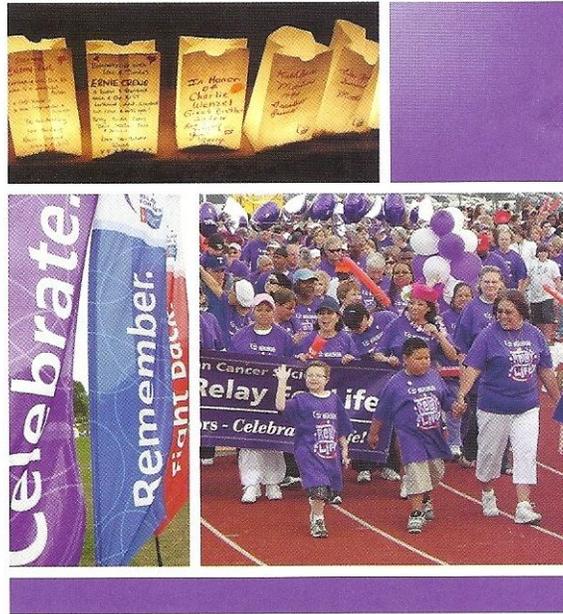
APRIL 18TH

NAS Oceana

Armed Forces Day 5K

MAY 17TH

NSAHR Norfolk



AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY
RELAY FOR LIFE

**Relay For Life of
Portsmouth**

May 11 - May 12, 2012

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Tidewater Community College



Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.®

To form or join a team go to the following website:

www.relayforlife.org/portsmouthva.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1st OSC Sullivan
21st IS2 Sproul
23rd OSSN Laginess
27th AC1 Isom-Brown
27th ACCM Smith
30th Maj Gordon

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4th AC2 Hunter
12th AC2 Anderson V.
14th ACAN Cooley

MAY BIRTHDAYS

3rd AC1 Morris
3rd AC3 Norris
8th AC3 Cespedesurena
14th ITSA Pera
15th OS2 Vanlandingham
16th OS2 Macias
18th AC3 Eyles
19th ITSA Doerfler
20th CS2 Sampson
21st YN3 Dagle
28th ACC Trammell
29th OS2 Jacob
31st AC2 Anderson D.

Hails and Farewells

We would like to wish the following Blackjacks the best of luck as they depart TACRON 21: LCDR Basford, LCDR Sears, AC2 Ravellette, AC3 Atkisson, AC3 Webster, YN3 Belin and YN3 Dagle.

Welcome to the Blackjack family,

ACAA Sean Adams	AC2 Vanessa Anderson
OSSA Victoria Laginess	YNSN Johnathon Price
LT Christopher Carey	LT Jeremiah Holland
LCDR Ivan Torres	LT Gibson
AC3 Hutcherson	ACAN Gardner
AC3 Dennler	



H&R BLOCK®

H&R Block at Home® Free Tax Filing Service

Military OneSource is once again offering a free, electronic tax filing service. If you are eligible under the Military OneSource program, you can complete, save, and file your 2011 federal and up to three state returns online free with the H&R Block At Home® tool.

To access this free version of H&R Block At Home®, you must start your return from the [Military OneSource H&R Block At Home® link](#). Once you click the link you will be required to log in to Military OneSource. From the login page you will be directed to a site containing additional information on tax preparation, including the link to the Military OneSource free H&R Block At Home® service.

If you have questions about this tax service or about preparing your own tax returns, please call 1-800-342-9647 and ask to speak with a Military OneSource tax consultant. Trained tax consultants are available 7 days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., EST. For information about deductions, exemptions, and filing deadlines visit the [Military OneSource Tax Program page](#).

Special alert: H&R Block does not send urgent or time sensitive text messages or emails asking clients to provide, update or confirm sensitive data. These text messages are scams and are not information requests from H&R Block. More information is available on the [Military OneSource Tax Program page](#)



COOL for You

Use Credentiaing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) to:

- Find civilian credentials related to your enlisted rating, collateral duty/out of rate assignment, or officer designator or collateral duty/assignment
- Understand what it takes to obtain the credentials
- See if there are available programs that will help pay credentialing fees



NKO's Practice Tests Help Sailors Improve Scores Online

Sailors can improve their Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) and College Level Examination Program (CLEP) test scores by accessing free practice tests now available through Navy Knowledge Online (NKO).

"The practice tests are a part of the e-content services that have been purchased by the Navy General Library Program and are available at no cost to Sailors and other authorized NKO users," said Nellie Moffitt, Navy General Library Program (NGLP) director.

"The online practice tests for ASVAB and CLEP will help Sailors identify their strengths and weaknesses, and focus their study time where they need it," said Moffitt.

According to Moffitt, unlimited ASVAB practice tests from Peterson's education products may be taken online at <https://wwwa.nko.navy.mil/>, along with CLEP tests in algebra, American government, English composition, humanities; information systems and computers, mathematics, natural history, social sciences and history.

In addition, a limited number of CLEP practice tests are available through NKO for biology, chemistry; freshman composition, principles of management, psychology and U.S. History I and II.

"I have taken two practice tests and they have given me the extra confidence boost to take the CLEP test," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (FMF) David Vass, Navy Personnel Command, here.

"Passing the CLEP tests saved me from having to take three classes. I now have 15 credits from CLEP and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) and recommend that everyone seeking a degree take as many tests as possible to save time and money."

NKO can also be used to search for information on distance learning programs, schools that offer traditional undergraduate and graduate degrees, and educational scholarships that are available.

"Money to attend college is always an issue and the scholarship search is one way to identify potential sources of grants and other financial assistance," added Moffitt.

Peterson's offers printable study guides for eight tests, including ASVAB, officer candidate tests and Civil Service tests through NKO.

Car dealerships placed off-limits to all personnel

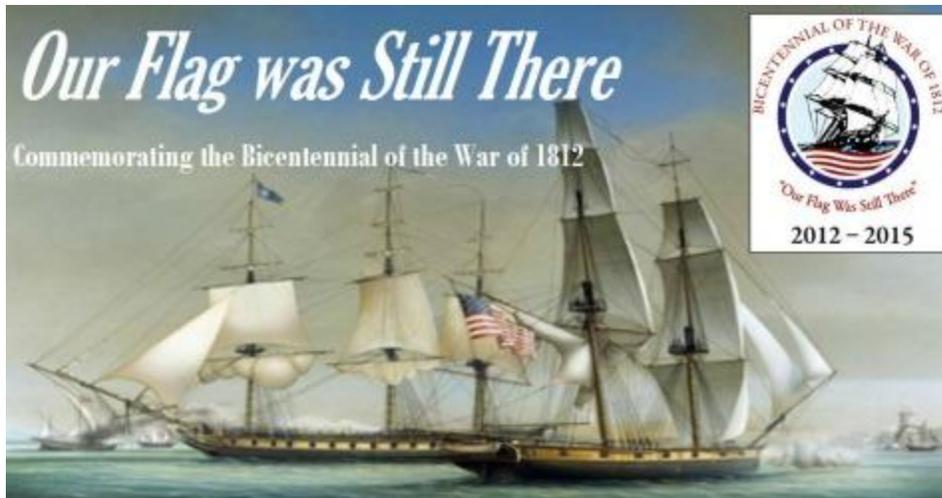
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 12-04 March 12, 2012

Norfolk – Two auto dealerships, Planet Auto (formerly known as The Car Store), 5564 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, Virginia and Variety Motors, 3530 N. Military Highway, Norfolk, Virginia, have formally been placed off-limits to all military personnel in the Hampton Roads area by the Joint Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board (JAFDCB) for Southeastern Virginia and Northeastern North Carolina. These businesses were placed off-limits because they engage in unfair business practices that targeted service members. Activities concerning the two dealerships were forwarded to the JAFDCB, which at the board's March meeting voted to place the establishments off-limits to all military personnel. In the March meeting, the board also voted to remove Club Minx (formerly known as Club Atlantis) from the off-limits list. The business was placed on the list in July 2011. The business was removed from the off-limits list after they demonstrated to the JAFDCB that they have made significant improvements in the management and security at the establishment.

Currently, nine area businesses are on the military board's "Off Limits" list to all members of the Armed Forces:

- Hampton Pipe and Tobacco, 86 W. Mercury Blvd, Hampton, Virginia 23669
- Hampton Pipe and Tobacco, 15435-B Warwick Blvd, Newport News, Virginia 23608
- Lazy Days, 731 J Clyde Morris Boulevard, Ste B, Newport News, Virginia 23601
- Mellow Smoke Tobacco Shop, 1948 Diamond Springs Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455
- Outer Edge Gifts, 760-B J. Clyde Morris Blvd, Newport News, Virginia 23601
- Somewhere in Time, 92 W. Mercury Blvd, Hampton, Virginia 23669
- Blazin Herbs, 85 W Mercury Blvd., Hampton, Virginia 23669
- Planet Auto, 5564 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462
- Variety Motors, 3530 N. Military Highway, Norfolk, Virginia 23518

The safety and security of all service members is a priority with the Department of Defense. The JAFDCB is an investigative committee composed of members from each military service and civilian advisers, who work with local law enforcement agencies and local businesses to prevent unfair, dangerous, or criminal practices against military members. The off-limits order applies to all military personnel – active duty and reserves.



War of 1812 Commemoration / OpSAIL Virginia

Commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812

From 2012 to 2015, the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard will commemorate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and The Star-Spangled Banner. To facilitate this effort, the Navy has partnered with the International Council of Air Shows, the Navy League, the Naval Historical Foundation, and Operation Sail (OpSail) to create world-class events. There will be celebrations around the country with Signature Events in New York, Baltimore, Norfolk, New Orleans, Boston, Chicago, and Cleveland, and smaller events in other cities.

From June 6 -12, 2012, the Port of Virginia will once again host an impressive fleet of tall ships, navy and military war ships representing the world. OpSail 2012 Virginia® is planned to illuminate the community with spectacle and festivity, and will place our Commonwealth front and center on the world stage.

The goals of OpSail and the 1812 commemoration events are planned to promote goodwill among nations, inspire patriotism and foster interest in American maritime history and heritage, while creating unique educational opportunities for young and old alike and bringing economic and social benefit to our communities

- [Event Schedule](#)
- [Tall Ships](#)
- [Tall Ships by Port Visit](#)
- [Speakers Series](#)
- [News and Media](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Adopt-A-Ship](#)
- [OpSail Essay and Art Contest](#)
- [American Bus Association Names OpSail 2012 VirginiaT One of North America's 100 Best Events for 2012](#)
- [Our Flag Was Still There](#)
- [Keeping the Sea Free for 200 Years](#)
- [America's Navy - A Global Force for Good](#)
- [OPSAIL names first 7 tall ships for 2012 sailing](#)
- [OpSail 2012 Virginia™ - Call for Volunteers](#)
- [War of 1812: British Impressments, Attacks Push US into First Declared War](#)
- [War of 1812 - America's Second War of Independence](#)