



# Blackjack Banner



## From the Captain's Desk

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013

Greetings Blackjack family and friends! I hope the unusual weather we are having has not hampered any of your special plans.

With both DETs at home, there have been many activities to keep us busy as we prepare for spring. In February we celebrated Valentine's Day, assumed duties as part of the Ready Duty Amphibious Ready Group (Ready Duty ARG or RDA), documented the Command's history with the Naval History and Heritage Museum, commemorated African American/Black History Month and held a return home celebration for "Senior Chief Midnight". Senior Chief Midnight is the mascot from Point O' View Elementary, which is our partnership school. To see Senior Chief Midnight's exploits from the deployment with our Sailors, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZNOqjHMgVo>

March is Women's History and Nutrition Awareness Month. We will acknowledge these themes while we continue to focus our efforts on maintaining and increasing our operational proficiency, through participation in TEAM Trainers in Pensacola, FL; Joint Expeditionary Tactical Trainers (JETT) at Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Atlantic (EWTGLANT); and internally through our Integrated Precision Approach Radar Training System (IPARTS).

We currently have several Sailors temporarily assigned to Pensacola, FL where they are conducting a team trainer with Sailors from the USS BATAAN in order to earn their Tactical Air Control Center (TACC) certification in preparation for our 2014 deployment. Early reports indicate that our Sailors are doing well in this evolution and should have no problems obtaining the certification. Additionally we have Sailors TAD working towards Joint Tactical Air Controller and Weapons and Tactics Instructor qualifications; providing tax assistance to fellow service members; and participating in exercise EASTERN CROSS.

Locally, we continue our planning for participation in BOLD ALLIGATOR 13 which is set to kick off April 22. We are also conducting weapons training and Land Navigation courses

and have Sailors participating in Foreign Humanitarian Aid/Disaster Relief working groups.

This month also allowed some of our sailors the pleasure of attending the "Gator Ball" - an amphibious community gala that has not occurred since 2005; so as you can see, the Blackjacks have plenty to keep themselves busy.

We also have not forgotten two of our Sailors who are still forward deployed: AC1 V. Anderson, who is in Djibouti and AC2 Cunningham who is in Bahrain. We were able to send them both care packages and I ask that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

There are a couple of ways to get the newsletter, either by email or going to our web-site, <http://www.tacron21.navy.mil>, and selecting "newsletter." If you know of anyone that you would like to receive the newsletter, please send their email address to:

Deborah.Denler@navy.mil or

Victoria.Laginess@navy.mil

I continue to be proud of what we do and I look forward to many of our future accomplishments!

Sincerely,

CDR Lloyd B. "Chilly" Mack



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## Senior Enlisted Corner

Greetings Blackjacks, family and friends! We have Blackjack gear for sale; please see AC1 Fryar

robert.r.fryar@navy.mil to purchase a Blackjack Command Coin (\$6) and/or T-Shirt (\$12). Your support is greatly appreciated and proceeds go to support future command events such as an Easter Egg Hunt and summer family picnic. More information will be distributed at a later date.

Welcome goes out to AC2

Toro, AC2 Guilford and their families as the newest members of our TACRON 21 family.

**Congratulations!** OS1 Kennedy for receiving a 2013 Hampton Roads Volunteer Achievement Award. You make us all proud to be Blackjacks.



## Resource of the month

### Military Discounts

Some of the best military discounts are available on vacation packages. The website BeandBreakfast.com has compiled a list of more than 80 inns that offer 10 to 25 percent off for military families. Most on-base Leisure Travel and Information, Ticket and Tours offices offer discounted travel deals for members of the military and Department of Defense employees. Typical destinations include Atlanta, Branson, Gatlinburg, Myrtle Beach, New Orleans, New York City, Ocean City, Orlando and Washington DC. Some discounts are exclusive to the military, but most military discounts are extended to anyone with DOD identification.

### Other discounts

Both Lowes and Home Depot offer a 10 percent discount to active duty military families. Federal employees can get a discount on their cell phone service with most carriers. Apple has a special section of its website for government employees. Visit [apple.com/r/store/government](http://apple.com/r/store/government) to shop. Dell also has a section of its website for federal employees. Look under the "Public Sector" tab on [dell.com](http://dell.com) to find the link.

### Coupon offers

Military families who shop at the Commissary can sign up for a free P&G coupon booklet at [thefamilyunitpg.com](http://thefamilyunitpg.com). And shoppers who "Like" the Navy Exchange on Face-

book can print off extra coupons for money off tennis shoes, beach bags and luggage. And no bargain-focused article would be complete without mention of a daily deal website. The site [troopswap.com](http://troopswap.com) focuses specifically on military families.

Until next month, thanks for all that you do in support of TACRON 21 and our great Navy. Be safe and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

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

## Ombudsman

Hello Blackjacks and Blackjack Families!

My name is Angela Monti and I have recently been appointed as your Ombudsman. I hope this article provides you with information on what I am here for, what my responsibilities and duties are and how to reach me if needed.

First off, a little basic information about the Ombudsman program in general.

### **What is the Ombudsman Program?**

The Navy Family Ombudsman Program promotes healthy, self-reliant families. Why the word Ombudsman? The word Ombudsman originated in Scandinavian countries and referred to safeguarding the rights of citizens. On September 14, 1970, Admiral E.R. Zumwalt, Jr. then Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), created the Navy Family Ombudsman Program to improve communication between Commands and the families of Sailors who served in them.

### **What is the Role of the Ombudsman?**

The Ombudsman is a volunteer, appointed by the Commanding Officer, to serve as an information link between Command leadership and Navy Families. Ombudsmen are trained to disseminate information both up and down the Chain of Command, including official Department of the Navy and Command information, Command climate issues, local quality of life improvement opportunities, and community events and information. They also provide resource referrals when needed. They are instrumental in resolving family issues before the issues require extensive Command attention. FAMILY READINESS = MISSION READINESS

### **What can an Ombudsman do for ME?**

An Ombudsman communicates regularly with Command Families, provides information and outreach to Command Families. The Ombudsman Code of Ethics guarantees Professionalism and Confidentiality within program guidelines under OPNAVINST 1750.1G.

The following items I am required to report to the Command per the above listed instruction: all suspected or known child abuse/neglect, alleged or known domestic abuse, suspected or potential homicides, violence or life-endangering situations, and all suspected or potential suicide risks.

Bottom-line: You can trust me with your confidential information. I will not share it unless I am obligated to, and in those cases I will only share it with those individuals specifically identified by the Commanding Officer.

### **Who can utilize the Ombudsman's Services?**

The Ombudsman is a vital link between the Command and Navy Families. The Navy Family is not limited to Active Duty Members, their spouses and dependents. It also includes Reservists and their families, single Sailors, all parents and all siblings, as well as others at the discretion of the Commanding Officer.

Those are the basics. I will continue to disseminate information through this Newsletter and through the Ombudsman e-mail distribution list. Below is my contact information. I look forward to working with all of you!

**Angela Monti**

**(757) 287-7324**

**tacron21ombudsman@gmail.com**

# MWR Sports Day



As a morale booster, TACRON 21 gathered at Rockwell Gym to have some friendly competitions. The day began with sit-ups and push-ups. We had Subway for lunch at the gym and ended the day with everyone's favorite, dodge ball. The teams didn't seem to work out how they signed up because of the lengthy volley ball games occurring at the same time. But everyone enjoyed getting some "fun" time out of the office.

By: AC2(AW/SW) Demmler



February is...  
**Black  
History  
Month**



From left: AC2 Winters, AC2 Finks, OSSN Heuring, YN3 Abreu, OSSA Martinez, OSSN Myers, OS1 Kennedy, YN3 Price and YNI Falls.

TACRON 21's Heritage Culture Committee gave an enlightening presentation celebrating Black History Month. The presentation included monologues from Sailors giving "hints" depicting milestones in the lives of prominent African Americans throughout history. In order to include the audience in the presentation, the performers ended each skit with, "who am I?" Some were more widely known and were easy to answer; others were brought to light with the answer given. The presentation was enjoyed by all and everyone walked away with a little more knowledge on Black History month.

By: AC2(AW/SW) Dennler



# MCS CHERRY POINT



The TACRON TWO ONE MAT (Marine Auxillary Team) participated in a four day field exercise on February 11th, 2013 at MCS Cherry Point. The participants started the field exercise in the classroom with an overview of what the Marine Mobile Team (MMT) is and what they do. The MAT were also taught how to survey an ALZ area, set up a Forward Arming and Refueling Point Ops and functions and uses of vital equipment such as radios. The Team was able to get some hands on experience with the equipment which will prove to be worthy with the next deployment.

Early Wednesday morning the MAT headed to Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field Bogue where they were introduced to Solar Portable Alternative Communication Energy, (SPACES). SPACES, cutting edge technology being introduced to the military, is portable rechargeable equipment that powers items such as radios, GPS equipment, cell phones or computers by using solar panels with a rechargeable module. From the module, you can attach backup battery that allows you to have power after dark or in less than sunny skies.

Thursday morning the MAT put to use all the skills learned and practiced setting up LZ's (Landing Zone) with a live operation that included an inbound C-130. It was a great experience to see all knowledge and hard work tie together for the mission. Although the live operation was short lived due to aircraft maintenance; the MAT team gained valuable experience and built a working relationship with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).

The MAT team would like to thank the 26th MEU for allowing us to participate in this valuable experience. We would also like to thank CDR Mack for authorizing us to take part in the training exercise at MCS Cherry Point.

**By: AC3(AW) Shipman**

# TCCC

## TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE



ACAN Beltran, AC3 Vicioso and AC2 Cespedesurena

Recently several members of Tacron 21 attended a Tactical Combat Casualty Care provider course (TCCC) at Portsmouth Naval Medical Center under the instruction of HM2(FMF) Harris.

In this class our sailors learned to identify the cause of preventable deaths on the battlefield. Never again will they doubt the importance of a tourniquet. On several occasions HM2 would describe a wound and they would have to apply a tourniquet appropriately.

During practice they learned how to drag a wounded individual behind cover, quickly access the injury and address them aggressively. Combining good medicine with good tactics was the approach to TCCC.

For their final day of the class they had a field exercise. They patrolled a small city with some of their fellow marines. As they had paintballs flying from several directions, they were tasked with applying all what they have learned while under fire. We are glad to say not one Tacron member was hit by a stray shot during this exercise.

By: AC3 Vicioso



# Virginia is for Lovers *Volunteer*



On February 9, 2013, a group of Blackjacks volunteered at the Virginia is for Lovers 14k. They worked together with other volunteers to pass out tomato and cheese soup in bread bowls to all runners that participated in the events. At the end of the event they cleaned up and enjoyed their own delicious bowl of tomato and cheese soup.

By: OSSN Heuring

## *Valentines Day: Did you Know?*

1. More than 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate are sold each year.
2. Worldwide, over 50 million roses are given each year.
3. About 8 billion candy hearts will be produced. That's enough candy to stretch from Rome, Italy to Valentine, Arizona 20 times and back again!
4. On average men shell out \$130 each on candy, cards, jewelry, flowers and dates.
5. In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.

# MIDNIGHT'S HOMECOMING

The morning of Friday, February 22 was a joyous time for Senior Chief Midnight as he was reunited with family and friends at Point O'View Elementary. TACRON 21, DET 2 and friends came together with the students to celebrate the long journey Senior Chief Midnight had endured aboard the USS Iwo Jima. The morning began with TACRON 21 introducing themselves and saying their favorite football team. Cheers and boos echoed throughout the gym depending on the team that was mentioned. Then students and staff watched a slide show put together by AC2 Bacus and AC2 Dennler and enjoyed every moment as they sang along to the music selection and cheered at the events Senior Chief partook in, from frolicking in the grass to being attacked by monkeys at the Rock of Gibraltar to transiting through the Suez Canal. CDR Mack wrapped up the assembly with questions and answers, one being, what happens if the world stops spinning? No science teacher wanted to step up for that one but another student had the answer, it would stay day light on one side and dark on the other, all the time. The teachers must be doing something right at Point O' View Elementary.

By: AC2(AW/SW) Dennler

