New members join Council

With Marines, SECNAV retiree panel gains variety of experiences

Pete Osman, USMC

Pete Osman, lieutenant general, U.S. Marine Corps (retired), whose last assignment in a 37-year Marine Corps career was as deputy commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, has been confirmed to the Secretary of the Navy's Retiree Council (SECNAV RC).

He joins James Herdt, former Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, as Council co-chair.

Currently, Osman serves as president and chief executive officer for the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Since 1947, the program has distributed 566 million toys to 258 million less-fortunate children.

Osman was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1969. He commanded a rifle platoon during combat operations in Vietnam, served as a company officer at The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia, and has commanded companies in 3rd Battalion 1st Marine Regiment and at Marine Corps Base Quantico.

He also commanded the Marine detachment aboard the aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower (CVN 69), which included operations during the

B.J. Ganem, USMC

B.J. Ganem enlisted in the U.S. Marines Corps in 1996 after his freshman year in college. He served four years on active duty as an infantryman and received his honorable discharge in 2000.

Ganem enlisted into the Marine Corps Ready Reserves immediately after leaving active duty and began working for Kraft Foods as a sales associate. He ended his Kraft career as district sales manager before returning to college.

In May of 2004, Ganem and his infantry unit were called to deploy for combat operations in Iraq. After an intense work up in Camp Pendleton, California, the unit was deployed in September to the Al Anbar Province. On Thanksgiving night of 2004, his vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb. One Marine was killed while Ganem and three others were wounded.

As a result of the explosion, he sustain severe damage to his left foot, shrapnel wounds to his right leg, glass shards in his left eye, impaired hearing and a concussion. Acting quickly to defend against ambush, Ganem's unit stabilized him so

See GANEM Page 2

SECNAV Retiree Council email address available for issues, feedback

From Navy Retired Activities Office, Millington, TN

The Secretary of the Navy Retiree Council (SECNAV RC) is one of the four elements of the Department of the Navy Retired Activities Program. It was established to consider issues of significant importance to retired military personnel and their family members.

It also facilitates interaction between Department of Navy leadership and the Navy and Marine Corps retired community, and participation in other aspects of the Retired Activities Program.

The SECNAVRC has the authority to review the effectiveness of current programs and policies affecting retirees. The Council is also authorized to make recommendations concerning improvements to privileges, benefits, assistance to retirees, quality of life, and other matters relating to retired personnel to the deputy assistant secretary of the Navy (military personnel policy).

If you have any issues that you would like to submit to the council, please send them to the following address:

MILL_RetiredActivities@navy.mil

www.shiftcolors.navy.mil
Iran-Iraq War. Later in his career, he commanded 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment as well as the Marine Corps Officer Candidates School in Quantico, Virginia.

His staff assignments included duty as operations officer, 1st Marine Regiment; aide-de-camp to the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps; and chief of strategy, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

His general officer assignments include service at HQMC; commanding general Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Western Recruiting Region, San Diego, California; and commanding general Second Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was also the commander of a joint task force deployed to Northern Iraq during the Iraq War.

Continuing his service, Osman has served on the board of directors for the Navy Mutual Aid Association and the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society.

He is also a member of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, Virginia, where he serves as as an ordained elder and treasurer, and additionally serves on the National Security Advisory Council of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition.

"MCPON Herdt and I agree that we would like to ensure the chief of naval operations, the commandant of the Marine Corps, the master chief petty officer of the Navy and the sergeant major of the Marine Corps are briefed on the results of the Council's efforts," he said. "Additionally, we will seek closer collaboration with the other services' retiree councils as well as the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness."

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that he could be medically evacuated. He was treated in Iraq then flown to Germany for more treatment before being flown to the states, where he began the rehabilitation process at Walter Reed National Medical Center.

Ganem was medically retired from the Marine Corps and discharged from Walter Reed in October 2005. He was transferred to the Madison, Wisconsin Veterans Affairs Hospital to continue his rehab where he still receives care today.

Eventually, Ganem became the department head for the Veteran Service Office for Dane County, Wisconsin. Two years later he left to help develop the Semper Fi Fund’s Veteran 2 Veteran program.

He graduated from the University of Southern California with a Masters of Social Work in 2016. The following year, he founded Sierra Delta: Service Dogs for Heroes, a national charity working to pair veterans of all eras to training and support in the service dog industry.

“I am hoping to bring some new ideas and new ways of supporting our retirees,” he said. “The veteran population as a whole is facing a paradigm shift as our numbers continue to dwindle. This is something that we need to prepare for today as it will affect policy in the coming years.”
Retired Activities Offices seeking volunteers

The Navy Retired Activities Office (RAO) is currently looking for volunteer support to help fill shortfalls in several offices located across the U.S. Offices provide service to all military retirees, both regular and reserves, as well as their spouses, children, former spouses, significant others, or designated representatives or guardians. They also provide information and referrals on retired benefits and services to active and reserve members and their families as appropriate.

The core elements for the RAO program are benefit, assistance, survivor assistance, transition goals, plans, success, and annual seminars. Many services are driven by the needs of the local retired community. RAOs is operated by retired volunteers/family members.

If you would like to volunteer please contact local RAO Director in:

- Lemoore, California
- San Diego, California
- Pensacola, Florida
- Annapolis, Maryland
- Saint Louis, Missouri
- Charleston, South Carolina
- Millington, Tennessee
- Naval Base Kitsap, Washington

To see contact information for these offices, see Page 16.

SECNAV Retiree Council page:  
http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/retiree_council/Pages/default.aspx

NPC Retired Activities Branch:  
http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/retired_activities/Pages/default.aspx

On the Web

www.shiftcolors.navy.mil
Retirees, you’ve spent your entire careers preparing for this time of your lives. But be advised, the unscrupulous phone pirates are out in force, and they want the hard-earned fruits of your labors.

Some schemers try to gain access to the personal information on your computer by claiming to be tech-support representatives from Apple or Microsoft, while others play on your generosity for a (seemingly) worthy, charitable cause.

However, one scam in particular is effective with retirees and the elderly.

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), reports concerning Social Security fraud are rising, replacing reports about IRS imitators on its complaint list. Last year, Social Security Administration (SSA) swindles cost consumers $19 million. The biggest year for the IRS scam was 2016, which cost consumers $17 million.

According to an SSA release, just 3.4 percent of people who report the scam say they lost money. Most people are worried because they believe a scammer has their SSN. But when people do lose money, they lose a lot; the average individual reported loss last year was $1,500.

In this scam, callers use robocalls to reach their intended victims, and by pretending to be from the Social Security Administration (SSA), attempt to trick them into giving them their money, their Social Security number (SSN), or both. The all-
WHEN SCAMMERS COME CALLIN’

► ALWAYS be cautious and avoid providing sensitive information such as your Social Security number or bank account information.
► Your Social Security number IS NOT about to be suspended. You DON’T HAVE TO verify your number to anyone --- and your bank accounts ARE NOT about to be seized.
► The SSA will NEVER threaten you or your benefits.
► The SSA WILL NOT tell you to wire money, send cash, or put money on gift cards. Anyone who tells you to do those things is a scammer -- EVERY TIME.
► DO NOT trust caller ID. Scammers can make it look like the call is originating from anywhere – even a real SSA phone number.
► NEVER give any part of your Social Security, bank account or credit card number to anyone who contacts you.
► Real SSA staff do call people who have ongoing business with the agency, but they’ll NEVER threaten you, or ask you to send money.
► Get the caller’s information, hang up, and contact the official phone number of the business or agency the caller claims to represent.

HELP ON THE WEB:

♦ If you believe a scammer has your Social Security number, visit www.identitytheft.gov/Assistant?ssa=true to learn what you can do.
♦ To report other government imposter scams, go www.FTC.gov/complaint.
♦ To make a report to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Fraud Hotline, call (800) 269-0271, or go online at www.oig.ssa.gov/report.

SCAM from Page 4

too-common tactic will have the caller tell you that your SSN is suspended and you need to give the caller the number to reactivate it.

Another method is to tell you that their SSN has been involved in suspicious activity or a crime, and your bank account is in trouble. However, you can protect yourself by withdrawing money from your bank, putting a specified amount on a gift card — or some other “storage” or “safekeeping” method — and giving the caller the code or PIN number on the back to access the funds. The caller will attempt to pressure you by saying that if you don’t act fast; your account will be seized or frozen.

Gift cards are the most common method of separating you from your money, but there are others. People have reported withdrawing money and fed cash into Bitcoin ATMs. No matter the method, the result is the same. The scammer gets fast cash and stays anonymous while the money you thought you were keeping safe has vanished.

It can get confusing. The scammers have developed methods such as “ID spoofing,” which bypasses caller ID protections, making it seem as if the call is actually originating from a government agency. Being on the no-call list is no safeguard either, as many people no longer trust that the caller is actually the name appearing on the ID. While SSA employees do occasionally contact people — generally those who have ongoing business with the agency — by telephone, they will never threaten a person or promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information. In those cases, the call is fraudulent and people should not engage with the caller.

If you receive such a call, remember — the real SSA will never randomly call or tell you to put money on a gift card, visit a Bitcoin ATM, or wire them money. If the caller ID shows a number that looks like it belongs to the SSA, don’t trust the number. If concerned, call the SSA at (800) 772-1213.

myPay users: TAKE NOTE!

From DFAS

Your user ID and password gives you access to your pay information and tax statements. Providing this information to others (i.e., third parties) opens the door for potential unauthorized and fraudulent misuse of your personal and financial data.

Think about what your myPay account contains: bank accounts, allotments, addresses, and other personal information. All of these things identity thieves need to deny you the security and pay you’ve earned.

Some myPay users have given their login information during the tax season to others as a way to provide W-2s, 1099Rs or other information needed to prepare tax returns. Doing so allows these third parties to avoid the security that is a major part of myPay’s ability to protect them. You must take your responsibility to protect your myPay account seriously.

Financial or personal information losses are not reimbursed by the U.S. Government and unauthorized use can be punishable under federal law (18 U.S.C. § 1030).

Have you granted limited access to your account? Keep track of who you’ve allowed to review your information. Keep these permissions updated using your personal settings page and, if necessary, change passwords.

If you’ve received emails supposedly from DFAS that you think are attempts to defraud you, call our customer service number (800) 321-1080 to verify if we are attempting to contact you regarding some pay-related issue. Also, please read our policy regarding DFAS email contact with customers.

www.shiftcolors.navy.mil
Get Ready: ‘Tis the Open Season

Annual TRICARE, Federal enrollment, change period season Nov. 11 - Dec. 9

Provided by TRICARE

It’s almost open season, that annual period when you can enroll in or change health plans — time to go hunting.

It’s the time to think about whether you want to make changes to your current health, dental, and vision plan coverage.

Two open seasons run at the same time this fall: TRICARE Open Season and Federal Benefits Open Season.

TRICARE Open Season applies to anyone enrolled in or eligible for TRICARE Prime (including the US Family Health Plan) or TRICARE Select, while Federal Benefits Open Season is for enrollment in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP).

It’s best to do your research in advance, as both open seasons begin on Nov. 11 and end on Dec. 9. Enrollment choices made during this period will take effect on Jan. 1, 2020.

“Every year your health coverage needs may change,” said Mark Ellis, chief of the Policy and Programs Section of the TRICARE Health Plan at the Defense Health Agency. “Open season is your chance to think about the kind of coverage you’ll need for the upcoming year and make any changes.”

To get ready for open season, avail yourself of the tools on the TRICARE website, like the TRICARE Plan Finder and TRICARE Compare Cost Tool. These resources can help you see which plans you’re eligible for, and help you to compare plans and costs. On the FEDVIP enrollment website, you can enroll in or make changes to your FEDVIP plan. The website also has tools to help you find the best dental/vision plans.

TRICARE Open Season

If you’re eligible to participate in TRICARE Open Season, you have three choices for 2020:

• Do nothing. If you want to stay in your current TRICARE health care plan, you don’t have to take any action. You’ll continue in your current health plan through 2020 or as long as you’re eligible.

• Enroll in a plan. If you’re eligible for TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select but not enrolled, you can enroll in a plan now.

• Change plans. If you’re already enrolled in a TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select plan, you can switch plans and switch between individual and family enrollment.

TRICARE Open Season DOES NOT apply to TRICARE For Life (TFL). This coverage is automatic if you have Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B. Open season also doesn’t apply to premium-based plans, which can be purchased any time:

• TRICARE Retired Reserve
• TRICARE Reserve Select
• TRICARE Young Adult
• Continued Health Care Benefit Program

Outside of TRICARE Open Season, you can only enroll in or make changes to your TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select plan following a qualifying life event (QLE). A QLE is a certain change in your life, such as marriage, birth of a child, change of address, or retirement from active duty. Different TRICARE health plans may be available to you and your family members after a QLE.

Federal Benefits Open Season

Your chance to enroll in FEDVIP is during the federal benefits open season. FEDVIP, managed by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, offers eligible TRICARE beneficiaries a choice between multiple vision and dental plans and carriers. Some plans offer both high and standard options.

If you’re already enrolled in a FEDVIP dental and/or vision plan, your enrollment will automatically continue in 2020. If you wish to make changes to your existing plan, you must do so during open season.

Those eligible for FEDVIP dental coverage include:

• Retired service members and eligible family members
• Retired National Guard and Reserve members and their eligible family members
• Certain survivors
• Medal of Honor recipients and their immediate family members and survivors

Those who may qualify to purchase FEDVIP vision coverage:

• Active duty family members
• National Guard and Reserve members and their eligible family members
• Retired service members and their eligible family members
• TRICARE For Life beneficiaries

To enroll in a FEDVIP vision plan, you must be enrolled in a TRICARE health plan or have TFL coverage.

Learn about this year’s TRICARE Open Season and Federal Benefits Open Season. If you want to change your 2020 coverage, you must take action during open season. Sign up for email updates about open season on the TRICARE website: www.tricare.mil/openseason
From Defense Health Agency

FALLS CHURCH, Va. -- The Department of Defense is preparing for the next major step in consolidating military hospitals and clinics under a single agency; one of the largest organizational changes within the U.S. military in decades.

On Oct. 1, the Army, Navy and Air Force begin the final two years of a multi-year transition to shift administration and management of their medical facilities to the Defense Health Agency (DHA) by October 2021, changes that are “transformational and far-reaching,” said Vice Admiral Raquel Bono, outgoing DHA Director.

“For the first time in our modern military’s history, a single agency, the DHA, will be responsible for all the health care the Department of Defense delivers to our 9.5 million beneficiaries,” Bono said. “Whether you receive your care at an on-base facility or through our TRICARE civilian networks, DHA will oversee your care. This consolidation will drive higher levels of readiness for operational and medical forces and integrate health care services to standardize practices across the entire Department, which means patients will have a consistent, high-quality health care experience, no matter where they receive their care.”

The primary driver for this change is the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017. Congress mandated that a single agency will be responsible for the administration and management of all military hospitals and clinics to:

* Sustain and improve operational medical force readiness and the medical readiness of military members;
* Improve beneficiaries’ access to care and experience of care;
* Improve health outcomes; and
* Eliminate redundancies in medical costs and overhead across three separate service-run systems.

DHA will be responsible for health care delivery and business operations across the military health system including budgets, information technology, health care administration and management, administrative policies and procedures, and military medical construction.

During this transition, the quality of care won’t change for beneficiaries of the system. More important, Bono said, is that over time, it will improve that care by enabling changes to improve access, patient experience, and outcomes.

From Oct. 1 of this year through October 2021, the transition will focus on four primary objectives:

- **Centralized administration and management:** On Oct. 1, all hospitals and clinics in the continental United States transition to the DHA, with the Army, Navy and Air Force medical departments keeping a direct support role.
- **Establish Health Care Markets:** The DHA will stand up 21 large markets — groups of geographic military treatment facilities (MTFs) typically anchored by a large hospital or medical center — that operate as a system sharing patients, providers, functions, and budgets across facilities to improve health-care services.
- **Establishment of a Small Market and Stand-Alone MTF Organization (SSO):** For stateside hospitals and clinics not aligned to a large market, this office, will provide managerial and clinical oversight. As with the large markets, the Military Departments will continue managing the MTFs until they are realigned under the SSO. There are 16 small market MTFs and 66 stand-alone MTFs assigned to the SSO.
- **Establish Defense Health Regions overseas:** The transition period for standing up Defense Health Regions in Europe and Indo-Pacific begins in 2020. All MTFs overseas would then report to their respective DHA regional offices. The Indo-Pacific region has 43 MTFs, while the European region has 31.

For a complete list of markets and their assigned MTFs, go to: www.health.mil/mhsttransformation
New video tablet program helps overcome social, clinical barriers

VA-distributed video devices deliver telehealth

Department of Veterans Affairs

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was recently recognized in studies by two independent peer-review journals — Journal of American Medical Informatics Association (JAMIA) Open and Psychiatric Services — for efforts to deliver trusted, easy access and high-quality online health care services to veterans with complex health care needs or residing in remote areas.

The department's tablet program is one part of the VA's extensive telehealth program. The VA's use of technology to enhance care options for Veterans is supported by the VA MISSION Act.

"Telehealth technology remains a vital platform to provide high-quality health care to all Veterans, regardless of challenges they may face in accessing care," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

"VA's tablet program is a model that other networked health care systems across the country can mirror, and demonstrates the potential of telehealth capabilities in the years to come."

According to the JAMIA Open study, VA's initiative to distribute video telehealth tablets to high-need patients appears to have successfully reached veterans with social and clinical access barriers, including those in rural areas and those with mental health conditions.

Furthermore, researchers discovered that VA's efforts are improving clinical efficiency by decreasing missed opportunities for care.

VA training program leverages electronic health records fix

Department of Veterans Affairs

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently launched an innovative new training program to support its electronic health record modernization (EHRM) effort.

As of Sept. 12, EHRM had selected 76 trainees with projects that address real-world VA health care challenges.

Leveraging the experiences of the Department of Defense's (DOD) current electronic health record (EHR) rollout, VA developed the VA Innovative Technology Advancement Lab (VITAL) training program, recognizing the importance of providing advanced training to selected end users who will support continuous performance improvement.

"VA established VITAL to specially train staff who can identify possible challenges and work across the entire VA organization to make improvements," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "VITAL is an important component in our larger training strategy, which will help ensure efficient and timely user adoption of the modernized EHR system."

The new EHR solution will be the single source of Veteran health information. Its advancements will allow users who solve a problem at one facility to share the solution with other facilities in near real-time. The VITAL program, a 12-18-month training series, develops both the technical and supporting change management skills necessary to drive greater efficiency and effectiveness in all aspects of Veteran health care.

VA identified key clinical and frontline staff who require advanced training to ensure smooth EHR modernization implementation, enhance functionality and support continuous performance improvement.

In May 2018, VA awarded Cerner Corp. a contract to replace the department's legacy patient record systems with the commercial-off-the-shelf solution currently being deployed by DOD. A single interoperable solution across VA and DOD will facilitate the secure transfer of active-duty service members' health data as they transition to Veteran status. This modernization effort will create a lifetime of seamless care for service members and veterans.

For more information about VA's Electronic Health Record Modernization program, go to:

www.ehrm.va.gov
The following are a few pieces of legislation affecting veterans/retirees under discussion before the House or Senate.

H.R. 2884: Veteran’s Choice Accountability Act
Sponsor: Robert Wittman (R-Virginia)
Purpose: To improve the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.
This bill was introduced on May 21.
Read the full text at:
www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr2884/text

H.R. 2972
Sponsor: Anthony Brindisi (D-New York)
Purpose: To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the communications of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to services available for women veterans, and for other purposes.
This bill is in the second stage of the legislative process. It was introduced into Congress on Jan. 29, and was sent to the Health Subcommittee of the House Veterans Affairs Committee on Sept. 11.
Read the full text at:
www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr2972/text

H.R. 697
Sponsor: Jim Banks (R-Indiana)
Purpose: To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay costs relating to the transportation of certain deceased veterans to veterans’ cemeteries owned by a State or tribal organization.
This bill was introduced into Congress on Jan. 22. It will typically be considered by committee next before it is possibly sent on to the House or Senate as a whole. It must be passed by both the House and Senate in identical form and then be signed by the President to become law.
Read the full text at:
www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr697/text

H.R. 2359: Whole Veteran Act
Sponsor: Conor Lamb (D-Pennsylvania)
Purpose: To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the Department of Veterans Affairs advancing of whole health transformation.
This bill was introduced into Congress on April 25 and reported out of committee on May 8. The House Veterans’ Affairs Committee issued a report to the House on May 17, which passed the bill by voice vote on May 21. The bill has been sent to the Senate for consideration.
Read the full text at:
www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr2359/text

H.R. 333: Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act
Sponsor: Sanford Bishop Jr. (D-Georgia)
Purpose: To amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans’ disability compensation, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes.
This bill was introduced into Congress on Jan. 8.
Read the full text at:
www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr333/text

H.R. 463: Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act
Sponsor: Walter Jones Jr. (R-North Carolina)
Purpose: To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for forgiveness of certain overpayments of retired pay paid to deceased retired members of the Armed Forces.
This bill was introduced into Congress on Jan. 10. Seven earlier versions of this bill have been previously introduced, dating back to 2002.
Read the full text at:
www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr463/text

S. 2450: Protecting Immigrant Gold Star and Military Families Act
Sponsor: Cory Booker (D-New Jersey)
Purpose: To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to limit the grounds of deportability for certain relatives of members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and for other purposes.
This bill was introduced into Congress on Sept. 10.
Read the full text at:
www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/s2450/text

STATUS UPDATE:

H.R. 303: Retired Pay Restoration Act (Introduced Jan. 8)
S. 208: Retired Pay Restoration Act (Introduced Jan. 24)
Since their introduction, there has been no further action.
BOSTON (Aug. 29, 2019) Chief petty officer selects, Sailors who have been selected for the paygrade of E-7, come together for Chief Heritage Week aboard the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the world, USS Constitution. During the selects’ week spent aboard Constitution, Sailors teach them a variety of time-honored maritime evolutions while living and working aboard the ship.

Above: ARABIAN SEA (Aug. 27, 2019) Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Equipment) Airman Francisco Romero operates a catapult as an EA-18G Growler attached to the “Patriots” of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 140 is launched off the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Michael Singley

Left: NEWPORT, R.I. (Sept. 4, 2019) Officer Candidate School (OCS) class 17-19 at Officer Training Command, Newport, Rhode Island, (OTCN) conduct battle station drills. After completing battle stations, students enter the final phase of OCS and earn the title of candidate officers where they begin mentoring the new class cycles.

Photo by Darwin Lam
Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Gilday recently made his first visit to Naval Station Norfolk as CNO following the change of office ceremony Aug. 22 at the Washington Navy Yard. Above, Gilday talks to chiefs in the chiefs mess aboard the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3). Below, the new CNO visits with Sailors aboard USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78).

GREAT LAKES, Ill. (Sept. 6, 2019) Chief Fire Controlman (AEGIS) Daniel Rainmaker, a recruit division commander, holds the American flag during a pass in review graduation ceremony at Recruit Training Command (RTC). RTC presented the flag to Kenneth Corrigan, a Navy veteran and first responder to the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

MEDITERRANEAN SEA (Aug. 27, 2019) The Ohio-class fleet guided-missile submarine USS Florida (SSGN 728) transits the Mediterranean Sea, Aug. 27, 2019. Florida, the third of four SSGN platforms, is capable of conducting clandestine strike operations, joint special operation forces operations, battle space preparation and information operations, SSGN/SSN consort operations, carrier and expeditionary strike group operations, battle management and experimentation of future submarine payloads.
WASHINGTON (Sept. 10, 2019) Retired Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Bernard B. Bartusiak, 95, listens to his family members speak after being awarded with two Distinguished Flying Cross medals and the Air Medal (Strike/Flight), 2nd-8th awards, by SECNAV Richard V. Spencer for meritorious service during World War II involving aerial flight from April 1943 to August 1944.

Navy’s digital library offers wide range of resources

WASHINGTON (Sept. 10, 2019) Retired Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Bernard B. Bartusiak, 95, listens to his family members speak after being awarded with two Distinguished Flying Cross medals and the Air Medal (Strike/Flight), 2nd-8th awards, by SECNAV Richard V. Spencer for meritorious service during World War II involving aerial flight from April 1943 to August 1944.

From the Office of the Navy Chief of Information

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer awarded a WWII Sailor two high-level combat decorations in recognition of his meritorious service as an aircrewman in the European theater, in a Sept. 10 Pentagon ceremony.

Bernard Bartusiak of Chicago, now 95, joined the Navy in May of 1941, at age 17. He eventually served as an aviation machinist’s mate 1st class on the aircrew of a PB4Y Liberator in the European theater.

After the war, Bartusiak became a corporate accountant and married Dolores, his wife of 65 years.

Spencer presented Bartusiak the Distinguished Flying Cross with gold star (in lieu of second award) and the Air Medal, second through eighth strike flight awards, in recognition of the 20 combat missions Bartusiak completed from April 20, 1943 to August 26, 1944.

The Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded for Bartusiak’s “extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight.” The Air Medal recognizes “single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement” in flight.

“This honor may be overdue, but I am humbled by the opportunity to present it,” Spencer said to the audience, which included Bartusiak’s two daughters, as well as U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski, who represents Bartusiak’s district in Illinois.

Reflecting on the contributions of Navy aviators to the Allied victory, Spencer quoted late Prime Minister Winston Churchill: “Never was so much owed by so many, to so few.”

FORT MEADE, MARYLAND (NNS) — For Sailors, families, retirees, dependents and civilians wanting 24/7 access to electronic books, audio books, reference materials, and newspapers, all free of charge, the Navy has a solution.

“Over the past 13 years, the Navy General Public Library has been providing digital content online,” said Nellie Moffitt, Navy General Public Library (NGPL) manager. “The digital library offers 50 different products and services, offering e-books, audio books, car repair, home repair, and children’s tumble books which are read to them through the computer.”

The NGPL is offered to Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, military dependents, retired and reserve military personnel, Navy Academy midshipmen, Department of the Navy Delayed Entry Program personnel, as well as DoN and Navy Appropriated Fund civilian employees. Navy contractors are also eligible.

“You can use our services anywhere, on any device, including your laptop, and log in anywhere that has internet connectivity,” said Moffitt. “This program can be accessed 24/7, 365 days a year, worldwide on any device, and can save you thousands by not purchasing books online.”

To gain access, authorized users can visit www.navymwrdigitallibrary.org, and click “login” in the upper right hand corner. Those who do not have a Common Access Card can register for a Defense Self-Service (DS) login, available on the same web page.

With more than 40,000 civilian and military employees operating 70 installations under 11 regions, the Navy’s shore enterprise supports Navy families through family and community services programs.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patrol Squadron Six (VP-6)</td>
<td>Oct. 2-5</td>
<td>(703) 727-7944</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jimlvp6@comcast.net">jimlvp6@comcast.net</a> <a href="http://www.Vp-6.org">www.Vp-6.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine Division 113 Vietnam</td>
<td>Oct. 3-6</td>
<td>(501) 620-0593</td>
<td><a href="mailto:don9329@hotmail.com">don9329@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy-Marine Corps</td>
<td>Oct. 4-6</td>
<td>(925) 256-4095</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bill2va.info/index.html">www.bill2va.info/index.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired Judge Advocates Association</td>
<td>Oct. 7-11</td>
<td>(509) 366-0214</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mncm@aol.com">mncm@aol.com</a> <a href="http://www.minemen.org">www.minemen.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Minemen</td>
<td>Oct. 10-13</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:dalebaumann@sbcglobal.net">dalebaumann@sbcglobal.net</a> <a href="mailto:marvin.bowling@att.net">marvin.bowling@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All VR, NAS Memphis</td>
<td>Oct. 10-14</td>
<td>(423) 313-3775</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kali8824z@aol.com">kali8824z@aol.com</a> <a href="http://www.USNTCB.org">www.USNTCB.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Training Center Bainbridge, MD</td>
<td>Oct. 10-13</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrol Squadron One (VP-1)</td>
<td>Oct. 10-13</td>
<td>(360) 692-2967</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gary2967@msn.com">gary2967@msn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational dates 1969-1974</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS SALISBURY SOUND (AV-13)</td>
<td>Oct. 14-18</td>
<td>(505) 293-3841</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brubru@comcast.net">brubru@comcast.net</a> <a href="http://www.salisburysound.org">www.salisburysound.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS WALLER (DD/DDE-466)</td>
<td>Oct. 16-20</td>
<td>(215) 280-5111 (215) 637-8452</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johnmccabe@hotmail.com">johnmccabe@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS BELKNAP (DLG/CG 26)</td>
<td>Oct. 16-20</td>
<td>(336) 202-1160</td>
<td><a href="mailto:goodstuff003@triad.rr.com">goodstuff003@triad.rr.com</a> <a href="http://www.ussbelknap.org">www.ussbelknap.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy Lithographers Association</td>
<td>Oct. 16-20</td>
<td>(540) 295-7631</td>
<td><a href="mailto:navylithographers@gmail.com">navylithographers@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/navylithographers">www.facebook.com/navylithographers</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS NICHOLAS (DD-449/DDE-449)</td>
<td>Oct. 23-26</td>
<td>(928) 246-7927 (928) 446-1580</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bill.margie@yahoo.com">bill.margie@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS NICHOLAS (FFG-47)</td>
<td>Oct. 23-26</td>
<td>(928) 246-7927 (928) 446-1580</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bill.margie@yahoo.com">bill.margie@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAP-61/VAP-62/VJ-61/VJ-62</td>
<td>Oct. 23-27</td>
<td>None given</td>
<td><a href="mailto:templej2@cox.net">templej2@cox.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN-658)</td>
<td>Oct. 24-26</td>
<td>None given</td>
<td><a href="mailto:blinne@pacbell.net">blinne@pacbell.net</a> <a href="http://www.ssbn658.org">www.ssbn658.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS COOK (DE/FF 1083)</td>
<td>Oct. 25-27</td>
<td>(619) 222-6440</td>
<td><a href="mailto:baraniecki@verizon.net">baraniecki@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIP/STATION</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Phone</td>
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<tr>
<td>USS STICKELL (DD/DDR-888)</td>
<td>Oct. 28-30</td>
<td>(401) 847-1706</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rancisdonalobrien@gmail.com">rancisdonalobrien@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrol Squadron Ninety-Three (VP-93)</td>
<td>Nov. 1-3</td>
<td>(734) 658-7701</td>
<td><a href="mailto:g5av8or@aol.com">g5av8or@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS JULIUS A. FURER (DEG/FFG-6)</td>
<td>Nov. 7-9</td>
<td>(603) 352-1789</td>
<td><a href="mailto:predators.fan@gmail.com">predators.fan@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS PERRY (DD-844)</td>
<td>Nov. 7-11</td>
<td>(636) 284-7599</td>
<td><a href="mailto:egetzk@sbcglobal.net">egetzk@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REUNIONS 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SHIP/STATION</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email/Web</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USS CONSERVER (ARS 39)</td>
<td>April 23-26</td>
<td>(619) 449-4499</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dcwoodworking1@yahoo.com">dcwoodworking1@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.ussconserver.org">www.ussconserver.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy Postal Clerks Association</td>
<td>April 26-30</td>
<td>(717) 226-1595</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hassommn01@aol.com">hassommn01@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.navypostalclerkassoc.org">www.navypostalclerkassoc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS WALLACE L. LIND (DD-703)</td>
<td>May 3-6</td>
<td>(513) 896-5851</td>
<td><a href="mailto:linkenestep@aol.com">linkenestep@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PUTTING A REUNION TOGETHER?**

Submit your reunion to *Shift Colors* by sending an email to:

**MILL_ShiftColors@navy.mil**

Include the following information: Ship name (hull number), squadron name and number, facility or group name; reunion dates; point of contact phone number and email address; and if available, an associated website address. Please send as soon as details are finalized.

**Exchanges, commissaries open doors to new veteran shoppers in January 2020**

Effective Jan. 1, 2020, the fiscal 2019 National Defense Authorization Act expands the pool of eligible exchange, commissary shoppers to include all service-connected disabled veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and primary veteran caregivers.

Thanks to the legislation, these newly eligible shoppers — estimated at approximately 3 million in a recent Military Times article — will also qualify for certain Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities.

Currently, active-duty, retired personnel, National Guard members, Medal of Honor recipients, honorably discharged veterans, authorized family members and any military member of foreign nations are allowed to use the Exchange. The Exchange is available on most bases and online.

For more than six months, the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have been preparing for the expansion. As the new increase also includes the U.S. Coast Guard and its facilities, the Department of Homeland Security has also been involved in the expansion.

One concern with the new increase is that many of the new consumers do not have access to military facilities. To facilitate new shoppers, officials have decided upon the following forms of identification:

For disabled and other eligible veterans, use the veterans’ health ID card. Base security forces, exchanges and commissaries are currently working to enable scanners at entry points to read these cards.

For caregivers, since they’re not affiliated with the DOD or Veterans Affairs except through their annual certification. The VA will post a notice to VA.gov which can be used for access, along with a valid driver’s license. The VA will eventually issue a caregiver ID card, which will be scan/swipe capable.

The will be a fee for using a non-Star Card credit card at commissaries, but the amount has not yet been determined.
MyNavy Career Center (MNCC), which recently celebrated its one-year anniversary, is the Navy's 24/7 customer service organization providing personnel, pay and career management support to Sailors, families, veterans and retirees.

Since opening Sept. 24, 2018 in Millington, Tennessee, the MNCC Contact Center has resolved more than 375,000 service requests (SRs), handling approximately 1,350 SRs every weekday.

The MNCC delivers accurate, timely and exceptional customer service so Sailors can better use their precious time to focus on maximizing Navy mission readiness and achieving a better life/work balance.

Sailors, families, veterans and retirees can contact MNCC to support their HR needs 24/7 by phone, email, chat, or through online self-service options.

MNCC Contact Centers, which now includes an extension in Little Creek, Virginia, address general inquiries and transaction service requests for pay, personnel, career management and education services.

The Millington MNCC reports a same-day SR resolution rate of 83 percent, and a 92-percent resolution rate of transaction requests within three days, and also an 81-percent customer satisfaction rate.

Contact MNCC:
Phone (833) 330-MNCC/6622
Email at AskMNCC@navy.mil
Online via MyNavy Portal (my.navy.mil)

First-Time Meeting For Father and Son

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM (Sept. 8, 2019) Electrician’s Mate 2nd Class (Nuclear) Henry Wagner, from Baltimore, Maryland, assigned to the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Olympia (SSN 717), holds his newborn son for the first time during Olympia’s homecoming. Olympia returned from a seven-month, around-the-world deployment in support of maritime security operations with allies and partners to ensure high-end war fighting capabilities in this era of great power competition.

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael B. Zingaro
Ready Reference Contact Information

Air Force Retiree Services: (800) 531-7502; www.retirees.af.mil
Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000; www.arlingtoncemetery.org

Armed Forces Retirement Home: (800) 422-9988; www.afrh.gov
Army & Air Force Exchange Service: (214) 312-2011; www.aafes.com

Army Retired Services: (703) 571-7232; https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement

Burial at Sea Information: (866) 787-0081; www.npc.navy.mil

DEERS: (800)-538-9552, Fax: (831) 655-8317; www.tricare.osd.mil/deers
Defense Commissary Agency: www.commissaries.com

DFAS Casualty Assistance Branch: (800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955; (For Reporting a Retiree’s death, option #1)

Fleet Reserve Association: (703) 683-1400; www.fra.org

Gulf War homepage: www.gulflink.osd.mil

I.D. Cards Benefits and Eligibility: (866) 827-5672; www.npc.navy.mil/support/paypers/ID_Cards/Pages/default2.aspx

Internal Revenue Service: (800) 829-1040; www.irs.gov

Marine Corps Retired Affairs: (800) 336-4649; www.usmc.mil

Medicare: (888) 628-3202

Military Officers Assoc. of America: (800) 234-6622; www.moaa.org

National Burial Services: (800) 697-6940

NPC Navy Reserve Personnel Management (PERS 9): (866) 827-5672; www.npc.navy.mil/career/reservepersonnelmgmt/Pages/default.aspx

Navy Casualty Assistance: (800) 368-3202

Navy Retired Activities Office: MNCC (833) 330-6622

MILL, RetiredActivities@navy.mil; www.npc.navy.mil/support/retired_activities/Pages/default.aspx

Navy Uniform Shop: (800) 368-4088; www.navy-nex.com/uniform


Pay/SBP Questions: www.dfas.mil

TRICARE: www.tricare.mil
TRICARE East: (804) 444-5445 www.humanamilitary.com

VA: www.va.gov
Regional offices: (800) 827-1000 (overseas retirees should contact the American Embassy/consulate), TDD (800) 829-4833

Records:
For replacement DD 214s, service records, medical records, award information:
Retired prior to 1995: www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records
Retired after 1995:
Navy Personnel Command
PERS-312E
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-3120
Fax requests to: (901) 874-2664

Gray-area reservists: (866) 827-5672

Navy recreation: www.mwr.navy.mil
Navy Gateway Inns & Suites: http://dodlodging.net
ITT: http://navymwr.org/mwrprgms/itt.html

Sister service retiree publications:
Air Force Afterburner: www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner
Army Echoes: https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes
Coast Guard Evening Colors: http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/psc/ras
Marine Corps Semper Fidelis: www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME/MM/SR/RET_ACT/Semper_Fidelis
MARSEILLE, France (Sept. 4, 2019) Boatswain’s Mate 3rd Class Alyssa Mullinax, assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Porter (DDG 78), throws heaving line to the pier in Marseille, France, Sept. 4, 2019. Porter, forward-deployed to Rota, Spain, is on its seventh patrol in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe and Africa.

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class T. Logan Keown