



SOUTH POTOMAC PILOT

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‘Realm of the Possible’ Revealed by Multi-Mission Unmanned Surface Vehicle

By **JOHN JOYCE**,
NSWC Dahlgren Division
Corporate Communications

An unmanned surface vehicle suddenly appeared on the Potomac River Test Range and, much like the ospreys that inhabit the area, it was on a mission to traverse the river – autonomously.

Nearby, an osprey watched the unusual sight from its nest as an array of autonomous guns and missile systems were lined up on a pier.

Distinguished visitors gathered on that pier to see the sight – a demonstration of Textron Systems’ Common Unmanned Surface Vehicle (CUSV). They listened intently as Navy and corporate leaders discussed their collaboration to weaponize a CUSV capable of multiple missions.

“The reason we collaborate is because we as a nation find ourselves in a situation where we can no longer take time to deliver capability to our warfighters,” John Fiore, Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division (NSWCDD) technical director, told government, defense contractors and



U.S. NAVY PHOTO/RELEASED

A developmental, early variant of the Common Unmanned Surface Vehicle (CUSV) autonomously conducts maneuvers on the Potomac River Test Range during its demonstration before government, defense contractors, military personnel – and an Osprey.

military personnel at the March 28 event. “We as a warfare center and you as industry are tasked to make sure

our Sailors and Marines can deploy, execute their mission, and come home safely to their families and loved ones.”

NSWCDD engineers explained how the weapon technologies they developed will be evaluated for integration with Textron Systems’ CUSV to create a new modular autonomous weapon system to impact the Fleet’s maritime operations. There is currently no program or acquisition in place to implement these efforts, as they are in the early development stages without funding or planning to implement into the Fleet.

“Our first project is what we are calling a Surface and Expeditionary Warfare Mission Module which will consist of our engagement technology paired with our Battle Management System (BMS) controlling a Longbow Hellfire Missile,” said Chris Nerney, NSWCDD technical program manager for Unmanned Systems. “The idea is a mission package that could slide into the CUSV modular mission bay and provide a direct and indirect fire capability.”

The Navy and Textron Systems plan to prove the developmental concept that combines direct and indirect fire

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Indian Head Environmental Department Brings Earth Day Education and Fun to CDC



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY TARA MEADOWS

Children from the NSF Indian Head CDC gather around for a close up session with a Spotted Salamander and its handler from the base Environmental Department during an Earth Day event aboard the facility on April 23.

By **BARBARA WAGNER**
South Potomac Pilot

German cosmonaut Sigmund Jähn once said, “Only when I saw the Earth from space, in all its ineffable beauty and fragility, did I realize that humankind’s most urgent task is to cherish and preserve it for future generations.” Sentiments like that are what drive the annual observance of Earth Day. On Naval Support Facility (NSF) Indian Head, the base Environmental Department took the mission of environmental protection and respect to the future generations of the community on April 23 with an ecological extravaganza at the Child Development Center (CDC).

Tara Meadows, natural resources specialist at NSF Indian Head, shared her thoughts on introducing environmental awareness to those little ones, stating that “It’s never too early to start reinforcing the idea of

being a good steward of our planet, its resources and the other creatures we share it with.”

The environmental team created activities to help young people understand recycling and how storm-water runoff impacts local waterways, along with introducing the youngsters to some of the local flora and fauna with taxidermy and live animal displays.

“With these young ages in mind, we tried to make recycling more of an interactive game for them so they have fun, while the goal is setting up what would become a daily life habit. Hopefully, this will make it second nature for them to consider whether something could be re-used instead of throwing it away in a landfill,” Meadows said.

The wildlife displays introduced the children to the nature that is around them, allowing them to get

See **Earth Day**, Page 3

Marines (and Civilians) Storm NSF Indian Head to Scour Shoreline for Trash

By **BARBARA WAGNER**
South Potomac Pilot

Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) Marines and Sailors stormed the beach at Naval Support Facility (NSF) Indian Head on April 12 and left no man — or litter — behind. The Marines were there to participate in their annual beach clean-up ahead of other Earth Day events planned for NSF Indian Head and NSF Dahlgren. April is recognized nationally as Earth Month with April 22 set aside as the official Earth Day. This year, a record number of CBIRF personnel turned out to do their part to ensure the beachfront and waterline at the base were free of litter.

In total, 86 Marines showed up for the event and swarmed the shoreline below the Mix House and made short work of the litter clean-up in the mile of shoreline that they lay claim to for the day.

Two days later, 11 civilians from several NSF Indian Head-based commands turned out at Dashiell Marina to continue the mission of beach beautification; Mother Nature ensured that the weather both days was spectacular, albeit a bit windy. The wind, however, did not deter either group for tackling the trash that littered the beach.

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Joe Post and



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY BARBARA WAGNER

Nearly 90 Marines from Chemical Biological Incidence Response Force took to the beach at Naval Support Facility Indian Head to scour the area for trash as part of April's Earth Month efforts.

Hospital Corpsman Julissa Langston were part of the contingent from the Naval Branch Health Clinic who turned out to assist in the clean-up. Both agreed the volunteer hours are wonderful and that the environment is a good cause for their Saturday morning.

"I hate litter, I can't stand it," Langston said. "The weather was nice, and if it's for the environ-

ment, I was definitely in to help."

Between the two groups, 97 large bags of litter and debris were removed from the shoreline along with six tires and William Fabey, the NSF Indian Head Stormwater Program Manager, estimated the effort removed roughly 560 pounds of trash.

Despite a large number of participants this



year, the total amount of trash collected from the shorelines was a bit lower than previous years, due in part to the massive Nor'easter that ripped through the Lower Potomac River region causing a tidal blowout in early March. Fabey reckons that a goodly amount of debris that would typically have been found along the shores of NSF Indian Head was swept out to the Chesapeake Bay and possibly further into the Atlantic Ocean helped along by the heavy winds.

NSASP Police Recognized for State of the Union Address Support



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NSASP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cpl. James Sullivan, MASN Savannah Perales, Cpl. Patrick Lundgren (pictured together), and Cpl. Ron Williams (picture by himself), police officers assigned to Naval Support Activity South Potomac (NSASP), were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation (COA) April 17 for service members and officers who supported State of the Union Address (SOU18) from Military District Washington.



Earth Day

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close to the animals to see them and hear the sounds of some of the local species.

"These types of activities foster connectedness to the natural world that will help shape the children's opinions on environmental citizenship," Meadows explained.

The environmental team had a number of activities for the children including a tree planting, mock recycling bins for the chil-

dren to learn to sort, a stormwater board to demonstrate water runoff, different Earth Day-themed arts and crafts, as well as an opportunity to play in the dirt a bit and plant flowers.

"Small actions by many hands can have large results in terms of positive impacts on the environment," Meadows concluded.

It is through events like this, the annual beach clean-ups that occur on both sides of the Potomac River and other events made through the Naval Support Activity South Potomac environmental teams that — in cooperation with local efforts — continue to make an impact on the health of local rivers, creeks and lands.



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY RACHEL MISKELL

Children at the Naval Support Facility (NSF) Indian Head Child Development Center create hand-prints to decorate the edging around a newly planted tree for Earth Day.



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY RACHEL MISKELL

NSASP Executive Officer Cmdr. Robert Lusk and a helper plant a willow tree at the Naval Support Facility (NSF) Indian Head CDC during an Earth Day event on April 23.



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY RACHEL MISKELL

Students from the Naval Support Facility (NSF) Indian Head Child Development Center enjoyed Earth Day activities courtesy of the Indian Head Environmental Department on April 23.

Vehicle

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capability with a gunfire demonstration later this year, followed by a live missile shoot in 2019.

"We are creating a modular surface and expeditionary warfare payload with a gun and a missile weapon system to be evaluated for integration onto the common unmanned surface vehicle," said Kevin Green, NSWCDD technical lead for Ship-to-Shore Precision Engagement Integration and Prototype. "This payload could enable warfighters to counter fast attack craft and fast inshore attack craft and it could provide ship-to-shore fire support for expeditionary and special operations forces. It also gives us a baseline development effort to operate and perform further research and development."

Meanwhile, Nerney, Green and their Textron Systems collaborators are envisioning how new payloads in the CUSV mission bay could benefit warfighters in various missions from maritime interdiction and special operations to surface warfare encounters that include engaging fast attack craft and fast inshore attack craft as well as other threats.

"We're demonstrating the realm of the possible, proof of concept, and leveraging a Textron

developmental craft and proven weapon systems with the Hellfire, BMS, and other capabilities," said Wayne Prender, Textron Systems vice president of Control & Surface Systems. "Now, we're bringing those technologies together and implementing them in an autonomous way that's unique and new."

For surface and expeditionary warfare missions, warfighters could use a modular, plug and play unit designed to fit the CUSV mission bay. This mission module includes sensors for targeting, a weapon station with a gun, and a launcher system for missiles. It could provide capabilities to enable a myriad of missions outlined in the Unmanned Surface Vehicle Master Plan.

NSWCDD engineers are creating the payload in response to guidance outlined in the Navy's recent USV Strategic Roadmap and the Marine Corps Operating Concept. Moreover, they determined that weaponizing a USV with both direct and indirect fire capability could expand the USV mission portfolio to include surface warfare, maritime security, and maritime interdiction operations in addition to special operations forces and expeditionary forces support.

"We are developing automated weapon systems that provide tactically effective automation of the entire kill chain, and we're doing so

Change of Responsibility at Aegis BMD



U.S. NAVY PHOTO COURTESY AEGIS BMD

Missile Defense Agency, Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense held a change of responsibility ceremony on April 6 aboard Naval Support Facility (NSF) Dahlgren, Va. Rear Adm. Tom Druggan relieved Rear Adm. Johnny Wolfe as Program Executive, Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense. The Missile Defense Agency's (MDA) mission is to develop, test, and field an integrated, layered, ballistic missile defense system (BMDS) to defend the United States, its deployed forces, allies, and friends against all ranges of enemy ballistic missiles in all phases of flight. RDML Druggan's previous assignment was the Commander, Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), located at the Washington Navy Yard in Washington D.C. Rear Adm. Wolfe will assume command as Director, Strategic Systems Programs, Washington Navy Yard, Washington DC.

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NSASP Purpled Up For Month of the Military Child

By **BARBARA WAGNER**
South Potomac Pilot

Military children are being honored all month long during national Month of the Military Child, when participants “Purple Up” to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of these special members of our military families as they support their military parent or guardian. At Naval Support Activity South Potomac, these pint-sized members of our military family have been fêted on at both Naval Support Facility (NSF) Dahlgren and NSF Indian Head. At the latter, the children were enriched through a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM)-based carnival at NSF Indian Head and at the former, they were nourished with a special purple pancake supper.

The weather could not have been more beautiful with blue skies and warm temperatures April 14 as staff of the NSF Indian Head Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) joined forces with the Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) to show appreciation and entertain youngsters from the installation with a STEAM carnival featuring loads of events for the children to enjoy.

The CBIRF personnel demonstrated their skills with their robot called the Remote Ordnance Neutralization System, whose job it is to survey and identify unknown or suspicious devices; on this special day, however, the robots were a part of the entertainment for the children as the Marines demonstrated their remote driving skills and led the robotic members of their team through obstacles with stair-climbing, navigational finesse.

MWR Staff had displays for the artistically-minded with portable sand art creations, sensational slime-making, a mind-boggling computer-based banana bongo sound-system along with an athletically-challenging obstacle relay course, balloon sculptures and random silliness from the Cole Brothers Circus of the Stars clowning duo of Blondie and Bunky; a massive interactive Lego display and challenges from the Play Well organization rounded out the activities along with a scrumptious lunch of



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY BARBARA WAGNER

Naval Support Facility (NSF) Indian Head celebrated their military children on April 14 at the Mix House aboard the facility. The event featured clowns, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math activities, the Chemical Biological Incident Response Marines and their robotic team members along with lunch and NSF Indian Head 2018 Military Youth of the Year De'Tron Dancy.

DIY subs with all the fixings to tempt tiny appetites.

The events of the day kicked off with a welcome from Sarah Hagensick, the facilities Youth Activities Coordinator, and the reading of a proclamation by NSASP Commanding Officer Capt. Michael O'Leary dedicating the month to the military children.

Following the proclamation, O'Leary introduced NSF Indian Head Military Youth of the Year -Detron Dancy. Dancy is a longtime participant at the Youth Activity Center (YAC) aboard Indian Head and has also been a student counselor at the facility.

On the other side of the Potomac River at NSF Dahlgren, the youngest members of the military and their families were treated to breakfast for dinner April 18 courtesy of the Dahlgren YAC at

the Gray's Landing on the Potomac Restaurant. Staff at the facility went all out to show their “purple” support with a meal including lovely lavender pancakes – in honor of purpling up, naturally – fresh scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns and yummy fresh fruit.

Takeema Bowens, Dahlgren's youth activity director welcomed the gathering of families and Rachel Archulet, Dahlgren's two-time winner of Youth of the Year spoke about her life as a military child and her time at the YAC and the impact it has made on her life.

“Being a military child means many things including sacrifice and I thank our military children here, who understand that the month from frequent relocations to long months spent missing their deployed parent,” said Archulet. “We are here to celebrate them for everything

they've done to support their parents as they are protecting our country.”

Archulet introduced Ayla and Sarah Zook, daughters of Capt. David Zook, AEGIS Training and Readiness Center commanding officer, who took a few moments to express what being a military child has meant to them.

“My dad has been in the Navy for 22 years,” Ayla shared. “Ten years ago he was stationed in Canada where I was born. Many military kids are born overseas so we get to explore different cultures foods and experiences.”

Devin Wise, the Dahlgren Military Youth of the Year, was unable to attend the event due to a previously scheduled family commitment.

As O'Leary read the official proclamation – roughly a three foot tall document – he declared that it was necessary to have such a large decree because military children were such a big deal aboard NSASP.

O'Leary praised the strength of military children and noted that they too make sacrifices in service to the nation. “We recognize our military children for their continued sacrifice; of having to grow up with one or the other of their parents constantly being away normally performing high risk duties.

“The resilience and maturity demonstrated by the average military child far exceeds the same characteristics of their average peer group from the rest of the United States,” he continued. “They are also the reason for their service member parent to push through the hard times, to fight to ensure their continued freedom and to never give up in order to come home. There is nothing better for a service member than getting to hug your children upon returning home after many months away. For me, personally, they are why I fight and sacrifice. They make my service to the country worth the effort.”

Following the presentation, the children spent time playing board games and enjoying some much deserved family time while the parents enjoyed a dish-free dinner and fresh coffee.

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U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY PAMELA BERRY/RELEASED

The winners from the 2018 NSF Dahlgren Spring Marathon include 17 and under winners Jackson Lusk and Savannah Russet, 18-24 – Isaac Blundel, 25-39 winners were Kyle Brady and Sabrina Lau and the 40+ category winners were John Lysher and Kerry-Anne Dachos.

NSF Dahlgren Hosts Inaugural Sprint Marathon

By **BARBARA WAGNER**
South Potomac Pilot

Taking advantage of a rare gorgeous sunny backdrop this past Saturday, Naval Support Facility (NSF) Dahlgren held its inaugural Spring Sprint Triathlon. While NSF Indian Head has done a number of sprint triathlons before, Dahlgren MWR staff had never attempted to put one together prior to this year.

"We've always done one up at Indian Head," Naval Support Activity South Potomac Executive Officer Cmdr. Robert Lusk explained. "There's a real solid following of triathlons and triathletes here, so Jim Feldman, Marissa Fabey and I put our heads together to see what we could do. The MWR staff put a lot into this event."

A sprint triathlon requires more logistic support than a traditional 5k. Support from the Naval District Washington Fire and Emergency Services Dahlgren Company as well as the base police force along with the Aquatics Center was needed to ensure a safe and enjoyable event for all.

The event drew 28 participants of all ages and skill sets from around the region.

"We also had support from more than 45 volunteers," Rachel Katzman, NSF Dahlgren Fitness Center director said, "some of whom were friends or family of racers, as well as base police and fire/EMS staff present."

The volunteers assisted on the course with safety and directing runners as well as cheering them on as they pushed towards the finish line.

One of the aspects that made this a "sprint" triathlon was the shorter swim. A traditional triathlon features a little more than 750 meters in open water but the Dahlgren Sprint participants were only required to complete 300 yards at the pool.

"We had at least eight participants — including some bucket list folks — who said this is my



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY PAMELA BERRY

A participant in the NSF Dahlgren Sprint Triathlon takes the plunge for the 300 meter swim portion of the race.

chance to do this because of that controlled environment," Lusk said.

"I like to think the shorter swim was an attraction for people who are less experienced to try something new," Katzman said. "Fitness is so multi-dimensional, but people tend to get stuck doing what they know and nothing more — it's not just running or just lifting weights or just swimming — and I think that events like this are a great way to explore what your body is capable of and expand your range of activities."

The fastest racer completed the course in just over an hour with the last one coming in at just under two and a half hours.

"The important thing for this race was for participants to be able to compete at their level," Katzman said. "Some were competitive athletes who were using this event to kick off their triathlon season and some were doing a race like this for the first time. My goal for this event was to have a good mix of participation and not to scare anyone off with threats of pulling people off the course if they took too long."

"Overall it was an outstanding event and a great job by everyone from South Potomac," Lusk concluded.

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Indian Head Runners Race to Prevent Sexual Assault



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY RACHEL MISKELL

Naval Support Facility (NSF) Indian Head held its annual Sexual Assault Prevention Response (SAPR) 5K on April 18 and 200 Runners, including the Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) Marines, ran to show their support for the cause. Prior to the run, Naval Support Activity South Potomac (NSASP) Commanding Officer Capt. Michael O'Leary read and signed a proclamation recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month at NSF Indian Head. The Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator thanked the many victim advocates for their tireless efforts to the SAPR Program. All runners received teal headbands to raise awareness for prevention.

Dahlgren Runners Turn Out to Support Sexual Assault Prevention and Response



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY PAMELA BERRY AND STACEY SCARABELLO

Naval Support Facility (NSF) Dahlgren held its annual Sexual Assault Prevention Response (SAPR) 5K on April 18, sponsored by NSWC Federal Credit Union and King George Family Chiropractic. Runners of all ages came out in support. Before the run, Naval Support Activity South Potomac (NSASP) Commanding Officer Capt. Michael O'Leary read and signed the proclamation, recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month at NSF Dahlgren. The Installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator thanked the many victim advocates for their tireless efforts to the SAPR Program. All runners received teal headbands to raise awareness and some won special giveaways at the end. For a few participants, this was their first time taking on a 5K event. All monthly races have a mix of competitive runners and leisurely walkers. The more races one completes, the more incentives they are eligible to win. More information can be found online at www.navywmrdahlgren.com/fitness-sports/race-series.

Vehicle

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with minimal dependence on what is usually an unreliable datalink," said Green. "Our experience integrating unmanned systems has taught us that the weapon systems must be just as automated as the platforms themselves in order to reduce the number of operators and operate reliably beyond line of sight."

Specifically, Sailors and Marines could be able to use the Battle Management System to fire missiles and precision-guided munitions from the CUSV. They would use the autonomous system for detection, tracking, and direct fire engagement.

"If the decision was made to outfit the CUSV with a variety of payloads, it could be deployed from nearly any large ship and could be deployed in significant numbers from a U.S. Navy ship or a Joint High-Speed Vessel type platform to perform a variety of roles," said Nerney. "We are focused on the Mine Countermeasures

Unmanned Surface Vehicle today because it's the Navy's only program of record unmanned surface vehicle platform. It's also our concept of modular plug and play weapon systems integrated onto a USV that can be scaled up or down as appropriate. If the Navy or Marine Corps decides to build big unmanned surface vehicles, we could scale the guns and missiles up. If the decision is to go with swarms of small USVs, then we could scale the system down accordingly."

Between now and the live fire test, NSWCDD and Textron Systems will work together to rapidly develop and integrate as proofs of concept a variety of surface and expeditionary warfare payloads for the CUSV to include operations with unmanned air and subsurface vehicles.

"Our partnerships with industry allow us to move fast," said Fiore. "If you're the one that's going to be giving this capability to warfighters, I want you to be effective in doing that. That's what motivates us and that's why we collaborate. That's why it's so important for us to have you here today with your equipment and have you partnering with us."

The Navy's collaboration with Textron Systems began in 2011 when the developmental Common Unmanned Surface Vehicle was developed and used in a variety of Navy demonstrations.

In December 2017, the company signed a cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) with NSWCDD. The agreement covers the integration of missile, designator, and remote weapon station payloads to Textron Systems' developmental CUSV with its 3,500-pound payload capacity on the deck and a payload bay measuring 20.5 x 6.5 feet.

The company previously contracted with the Navy to develop the new Unmanned Influence Sweep System (UISS) – minesweeping units towed by the CUSV – which will perform a mine countermeasure mission in support of a littoral combat ship.

"Building on the UISS program as the foundation, we signed the Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with Dahlgren," said Pender. "We began to prototype surface warfare packages and other payloads that will strengthen the flexibility and potential capability of our platform and continue to inform the Navy and Ma-

rine Corps and overall surface community what the realm of the possible can be as they begin to expand the use of unmanned systems – in this case, unmanned surface vehicles."

The CRADA points out that NSWCDD will develop a government-owned open architecture weapon control system to include both hardware and software. Implementations of this design will enable rapid development to support and control a variety of precision-guided weapons. This open architecture concept will allow vendors to provide munitions and subsystems for future capabilities as long as the munitions and subsystems support the government-owned interfaces.

"We are only limited by our imaginations," said Nerney. "Other ideas in the works for mission packages include intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. We can develop mission packages to support the carrying and launching of UAV's – armed and unarmed. This will give us a hunter-killer over-the-horizon capability by pairing the armed common unmanned surface vehicle with an armed Firescout, laser weapon, or vessel-stopping equipment."

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Child

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Devon Wise, Dahlgren 2018 Military Youth of the Year

By **BARBARA WAGNER**
South Potomac Pilot

King George High School Junior Devon Wise, son of Denise Wise, a Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division employee, is Naval Support Facility (NSF) Dahlgren Boys and Girls Club of America 2018-2019 Military Youth of the Year.

Wise is a member of the National Junior Honor Society at his high school and is also enrolled in the Governor's School. In addition to participating in the local Parks and Recreation's Basketball League program, Wise volunteers his time at the NSF Dahlgren Youth Activity Center (YAC).

"Devon gives back 1,000 percent to the program," Aylee Eller, child and youth program leader at the YAC said. "He is here whenever he can be and he loves helping. Overall, he an outstanding young man."

"I went to the youth center growing up and I enjoy spending time there," Wise said. "I enjoy spending time with the children."

Wise hopes to attend James Madison University and study engineering.



By **BARBARA WAGNER**
South Potomac Pilot

De'Tron Dancy is Naval Support Facility (NSF) Indian Head 2018 Military Youth of the Year and according to Sarah Hagensick, Child and Youth Programs (CYP) director, despite all of De'Tron's dynamic characteristics and exciting accomplishments, he is only just beginning his journey as a young leader.

At Henry E. Lackey High School, De'Tron plays on the lacrosse and soccer team and is also a member of the wrestling team. In addition to excelling in sports, De'Tron is also a corporal in the Henry E. Lackey High School Air Force Junior ROTC.

Outside of his scholastic and athletic accomplishments, De'Tron volunteers within his church community and aboard NSF Indian Head. It was while he was working with the Youth Activity Center (YAC) with Hagensick that she was able to see his outstanding leadership qualities that culminated in his nomination and selection as the NSF Indian Head Youth of the Year.

"He showed us his leadership abilities, but he didn't even realize he had them," Hagensick shared. "It wasn't until he started to work with us through the summer



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY BARBARA WAGNER
Naval Support Activity South Potomac Commanding Officer Capt. Michael O'Leary congratulates Naval Support Facility Indian Head 2018 Military Youth of the Year De'Tron Dancy.

program, that everyone saw that seed of leadership in him. By the end of the summer, I said, 'De'Tron, you doubt your ability; you are such a leader, you guide and lead on a regular basis because that's what you do and you don't even realize that you're even doing it.' He began to see that and began to step out and take risks, trying different sports, doing different activities and putting himself out there and all of the sudden this amazing person has just blossomed and it's been that progression in him that has just exploded."

The Youth of the Year application has been a defining process for Dancy. He credits his leadership at the Indian Head YAC with helping him.

"My parents, Ms. Sarah, the Youth Center," Dancy said. "They have helped me identify those skills. You have to dig deep. You have to find where your grind is at and you have to find who you are. You have to put the work in. After all of this, I see in myself as a confident leader who is willing to take risks to reach my full potential."

De'Tron Dancy is the oldest of five boys to Chief Intelligence Specialist Danny Dancy and his wife Shayla Dancy.

De'Tron hopes to attend the University of Maryland, majoring in Engineering after he graduates from High School.

The Youth of the Year program, sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club of America, is in its 71st year. The program honors the nation's most awe-inspiring young people on their path to successful futures and encourages all kids to lead, succeed and inspire.

Congratulations to De'Tron and the very best of luck at the National Military Youth of the Year competition in Washington, D.C. where he will vie for a \$5,000 college scholarship sponsored by Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Mother's Day is Remembrance Day

Remember your Mother, Grandmother, or the special woman in your life with an in-memoriam ad that will publish on Friday, May 11, 2018.

Style 1 - \$45

In Loving Memory Of
June Smith



In our hearts your memory lingers, Sweetly tender, Fond and true, there is not a day, Dear Mother, that we do not think of you.
We will always remember.
Sandy, Dave and Children

Style 2-\$25

In Loving Memory Of
June Smith



In our hearts your memory lingers, Sweetly tender, Fond and true, there is not a day, Dear Mother, that we do not think of you.
We will always remember.
Sandy, Dave and Children

Deadline is May 3, 2018

SOUTH POTOMAC PILOT

Email us at
themepages@chespub.com
or call 410-770-4000

You may include a Full Color Photo of your loved one, a special poem or a heartfelt message of your choice.

Motorcycle Awareness Event Drives Home Safety Issues

By **BARBARA WAGNER**
South Potomac Pilot

Motorcycle enthusiasts from Naval Support Facility (NSF) Dahlgren gathered April 19 at the base theater for an annual training event that featured a discussion on Virginia law, training from Virginia State Trooper Officer Joel Cleary, a refresher on Naval Support Activity South Potomac guidance for riders who wish to ride their bikes on base and a question and answer period. While training is held annually, this year seemed particularly vital for the team of dedicated riders who coordinate the event each year.

“In the month of February, we lost six riders Navy and Marine Corps wide,” Chief Gunners Mate Adam Gleason shared. “These riders weren’t just [junior] enlisted, inexperienced riders — when you’re riding, it doesn’t discriminate and that’s one of things we want to bring home. When we’re out there having fun because we all like riding, we also need to be safe, so we can come back and do the mission.”

Gleason also thanked the other members of the team who coordinated the event including retired Navy and current Dahlgren civilian employee James Antone, Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Joshua Messier and Chief Culinary Specialist Jermaine Strand and Fire Controlman 1st Class Alden Gamat.

Following the training, a group of riders headed out for an 81-mile afternoon ride that culminated in delicious barbecue and comradery. If you are interested in learning more about base guidance for motorcycles, local riding clubs or anything else related to motorcycles, contact Gleason at adam.gleason1@navy.mil, James.antone@navy.mil or if you are an AEGIS Training and Readiness Center (ATRC) contact alden.gamat@navy.mil



GMC Adam Gleason reviews the T-CLOCK pre-ride inspection for attendees during the Motorcycle Safety Awareness course at Naval Support Facility (NSF) Dahlgren.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY BARBARA WAGNER

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540-653-4900
Auto Skills features four bays and three lifts with tools and equipment for do-it-yourself automotive repair, engine diagnostics, suspensions components replacement, tire mounting and balancing and general maintenance. Cost: Active duty, dependents, retirees \$6.00 per hour. All others, \$7.00 per hour, includes one bay, tools, equipment and fluid disposal.

CANNONBALL LANES BOWLING CENTER

540-653-7327
Games: Military \$3.00, Civilian \$4.00. Hourly Bowling: Military \$20.00, Civilian \$25.00
Shoe Rental: Military \$1.50, Civilian \$2.50. Ask about our birthday party packages!
Mother's Day Bowl
May 13, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Bowl with mom for Mother's Day! Cost: \$15.00 per hour per lane

DAILY BOWLING SPECIALS- Sunday Special

Sundays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Join us every Sunday for \$2.00 games and \$1.00 shoe rentals!

Ten Dollar Tuesdays
Tuesdays, 2 – 9 p.m.
Every Tuesday, get a lane for one hour of bowling for only TEN dollars!

Buy a Game, Get a Game Wednesdays

Wednesdays, 2 – 9 p.m.
Every Wednesday, buy one game; get the second game for FREE!

All-U-Can Bowl Fridays
Fridays, 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Join us every Friday for a two hour, all you can bowl special! Cost: Military \$6.95/person; Civilian \$7.95/person. Both rates include shoe rental.

Cosmic Bowling
Saturdays, 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Enjoy music and lights while bowling!

Youth Learn to Bowl
Saturdays, 2–4 p.m.
Children between the ages of 5-12 with base access will receive individual sessions on basic bowling. Cost: \$7.50 per child, includes shoes

CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAMS
CDC I 540-653-4994 /
CDC II 540-653-4342
YAC 540-653-8009
www.navymwrdahlgren.com/child-youth
Military Child Care Open Enrollment

Request School Age Care (SAC) and Summer Camp all year long through Military-ChildCare.com. The online system allows you to search for and submit unlimited SAC and Summer Camp requests at any time of the year without waiting for registration to begin! To register and learn more about MCC, visit MilitaryChildCare.com

COMMUNITY RECREATION
540-653-8785
www.navymwrdahlgren.com/recreation

-TICKETS-
Kings Dominion Tickets
One Day Pass(ages 3+) \$39.25, valid any one day through Oct. 28, . Parking not included.
Gold Season Pass \$85.00, valid for unlimited admission to Kings Dominion, Soak City, Dinosaurs Live, Halloween

Dahlgren Movie Theater

540-653-7336

Price of Shows — Civilian: \$5.00. Active Duty, Retired & Reserve Mil E7 & above & their family members with ID: \$4.00. E1-E6 & below & their family members with ID: \$3.00. Children (6-11): \$2.00 Children (5 and under): FREE.
*Movies shown in 3D will cost an additional \$1 to the ticket price.

Friday, April 27 7 p.m.	Ready Player One PG-13
Saturday, April 28 4 p.m.	Gringo R
Saturday, April 28 7 p.m.	Tyler Perry's Acrimony R
Sunday, April 29 1 p.m.	Sherlock Gnomes PG
Sunday, April 29 4 p.m.	Tomb Raider PG-13
Friday, May 4 7 p.m.	Star Wars: The Last Jedi (FREE ADMISSION) PG-13
Saturday, May 5 4 p.m.	Ready Player One PG-13
Saturday, May 5 7 p.m.	Blockers R
Sunday, May 6 1 p.m.	Sherlock Gnomes PG
Sunday, May 6 4 p.m.	Rampage PG-13

For movie listings online, visit www.NavyMWRDahlgren.com/recreation and select the Dahlgren Theater.

Haunt, new WinterFest, free parking and more.
Free Pre-K Season Pass (ages 3-5), redeem at the park or online.
All New Busch Gardens Williamsburg Military Annual Pass
All military and family members and DoDcivilians

are eligible to purchase. Valid for unlimited admission to Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Water Country USA and Busch Gardens Williamsburg's Christmas Town on regularly scheduled operating days through December 31. Pass includes general parking. Cost: \$98.50

Washington Nationals Tickets
Order your tickets no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesdays for your order to be placed that week. All orders are special ordered. Food and beverage vouchers are included with most tickets.
Left/Right Baseline: \$56.25

Left/Right Field Corner: \$39.00
Left/Right Mezzanine: \$32.50
Upper Infield Gallery: \$16.25
Six Flags America & Hurricane Harbor

See MWR, Page 10

HELP GIVE OUR MILITARY FAMILIES A HELPING HAND.

Wounded Warriors Family Support (WWFS) is an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for our combat wounded.

Earning Charity Navigator's highest four-star rating and listed among Consumer Reports "Top Rated Veteran Charities," WWFS serves veterans and their families across the country in a variety of ways: Respite, Family Retreats, Mobility-equipped Vehicles and Veterans Welding Training.

CFC# 81534
wwfs.org

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Any One Day: \$40.00, valid one day includes admission to Hurricane Harbor Water Park.

Season Pass: \$73.75, valid for unlimited admission during the season.

Gold Season Pass: \$82.00, valid for unlimited admission to all Six Flags theme parks and free parking.

Value Days: \$31.50, valid for one-day admission for Month of the Military Child, Armed Forces Day, Red/White/Blue Days.

Parking: \$16.25, one-day parking.

Visit <https://www.sixflags.com/america/plan-your-visit/park-policies> for more information.

-TRIPS-

Orioles vs. Nationals Battle of the Beltways

May 28, Game starts at 1:05 p.m.

Join us for a trip to the Orioles vs. Nationals baseball game for a battle of the beltways. Price includes transportation, tickets to the game in the left field lower box, a free t-shirt from the Baltimore Ori-

oles and a special pre-game picnic lunch. Purchase tickets from Tickets & Travel by May 21. Open to all with base access. Cost: \$70 per person

-CRAFTS & CLASSES- Sunflower Sip & Paint

May 16, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Gray's Landing

Bring your friends and co-workers out for a Sip & Paint event featuring a sunflower. Register by May 9 at Crafterch. Cost: \$25

Flip Flop Wreath

May 31, 4 p.m.

Location: Crafterch

Brighten your home for the summer months with your very own flip-flop wreath. Register at Crafterch by May 24. Cost: \$25

-PROGRAMS-

Public Service Recognition Week

Break for lunch with these specials honoring the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees.

May 8 – Group Ex Class – 11:30 a.m. Enjoy a FREE group exercise class during your lunch hour.

May 9 – Mongolian BBQ – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mongolian

BBQ is back at Gray's Landing for a Mongolian lunch cooked to order. Cost: \$9

May 10 – Bowling Special at Cannonball Lanes – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Bowl two games for only \$5, includes shoe rental.

Donate. Swap. Save

May 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Parade Field

How it works: Exchange your gently used items for an equal number of items. What to bring: Kitchen appliances, home goods, accessories, bags, toys, clothing (newborn to adult, no undergarments). Drop off: May 7-11 at the MWR Admin Bldg 205 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. All unclaimed items will be donated to the base Thrift Store or Goodwill. Please inspect your items diligently, no rips or stains. For more information, call the Community Rec Specialist at 540-653-3715. Cost: Free

CRAFTECH

540-653-1730

Crafterch offers a variety of services including framing and matting, engraving on plaques, metals, glassware, leather, stone and more, embroidery, flag and shadow boxes, Tiffany style stained

glass, fusing, bottle slumping and firing.

For more details, visit www.NavyMWRDahlgren.com/rec-creation and select Crafterch.

Dahlgren Centennial Collector Items

Order your exclusive Centennial collector items from Crafterch all year long. Items include insulated travel and coffee mugs, playing cards, challenge coins, t-shirts, clocks, pens and holders, lanyards and much more!

FITNESS CENTER

540-653-8580

www.navymwrdahlgren.com/fitness-sports

-RACE SERIES-

Unstoppable Obstacle Race Course

May 19, 10 a.m.

Run over, under and through this 2.15-mile obstacle course challenge including inflatables. Register at the Fitness Center by May 16. Cost: Ages 10 and under, Free. Active duty, \$15. All others, \$25

-SPORTS-

Wallyball Tournament

May 17, 4:30 p.m.

Play like a champion! Register by May 3 for a double elimination, 4-on-4 wallyball

tournament. Minimum of six teams must be registered. Prizes will be awarded to first- and second-place teams. Cost: Active duty, Free. All others, \$5

Family Sports Night

May 24, 6 – 8 p.m.

Location: Basketball Court

In observance of National Physical Fitness & Sports Month, come have a fun evening of physical activities for children and parents using sports equipment to stress the importance of staying healthy and giving parents an opportunity to have fun with their children! Register at the Fitness Center by Monday, May 21. Cost: Free

-INCENTIVE-

Powerhouse Competition

May and June

Accumulate points in May and June. Awards for top male and female competitors for max weight, max reps and overall champions. May: Lift as much as you can in bench, squat and dead lift. June: Do as many push-ups, pull-ups and sit-ups. Cost: FREE

-AQUATICS-

Memorial Day Celebration

May 28, noon – 6 p.m.

Celebrate the first day of the summer season at the pool.

Cost: Regular admission

Lap Swim Mile Club

May 28 – Sept. 30

Swimmers that track their laps Memorial Day through the end of September will receive prizes at miles 25, 50, 75 and 100.

GENERAL LIBRARY

540-653-7474

May the 4th Be With You

May 4

Join us for a party in a galaxy not so far away with trivia, those famous "green ears" and more! After the party, head to the Theater for a free showing of Star Wars: The Last Jedi at 7 p.m. Library patrons will receive a reserved seat. Cost: Free, concessions available for purchase at Theater.

Muffins with Mom

May 12, 10:30 a.m.

Make a craft and have muffins with Mom! Enjoy a sample chair massage by King George Family Chiropractic. Cost: Free

- LIBRARY SPECIALS-

Learn Japanese

Active duty only – Mondays at 2:30 p.m. All others Monday

See MWR, Page 11

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The free app is updated from our full website, sombdnews.com, in real time, delivering you the latest headlines. Download the app at sombdnews.com/newsapp or Scan the QRC code.



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at 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 5:15 p.m.

Learning a new language boosts brain power, improves memory, and expands career potential. Join us at the Library as we learn Japanese! Cost: FREE

Paws for Reading

Second Tuesday at 3:45- 5 p.m.

Curl up with a furry friend and read them a story! The General Library will hold Paws for Reading the second Tuesday of every month and give young readers the opportunity to read to their four-legged companion. Reading to a pet can help build confidence in young readers. Register online at <http://engagedpatrons.org/Events.cfm?SiteID=6188> and click on a selected time or call the General Library. Cost: FREE

S.T.E.A.M. Pre-School Literacy Classes

Wednesdays, 5 p.m.
Our S.T.E.A.M. classes are geared toward pre-school and kindergarten-aged children. They will develop their literacy

skills as well as engage in the arts and learning experiments. Siblings are always welcome! Cost: FREE

One-on-One Computer Help

First Tuesday by appointment
Need help and don't know where to start? Sign up for a one on one session to work on whatever you'd like! Cost: FREE

Early Literacy at your Library

Fridays, 10 a.m.
The Dahlgren General Library offers early literacy sessions for your baby and child, with songs, books, and activities that encourage early literacy development. Storytime and crafts will be geared toward babies and children under age 5. Siblings are always welcome to attend. Our Friday storytimes are a great way to meet other caregivers in the area. Cost: FREE

Sensory Sensitive Saturdays

Saturdays, 1-3 p.m.
Be sure to join our caring staff for Sensory Sensitive Saturdays! Cost: FREE

LIBERTY CENTER

540-653-7277

The Liberty Center and all

activities are for Liberty Center Patrons Only: E1-E6 single/unaccompanied active duty military.

NASCAR Sundays

Racers, start your engines! Join us to watch the NASCAR races.

Domino's Pizza & Movie Night

Every last Tuesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. enjoy pizza and a movie.

Wing Wednesday & Trivia

Every third Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. enjoy wings and a game or two of trivia.

Board Game Night

Play one of our many board games or featured game every Thursday!

Free Movie Friday

Every second Friday of the month at 10 p.m. watch a movie on us at the Theater.

Midnight Bowling

Every fourth Friday of the month at midnight enjoy a game of bowling!

MIR Xtreme Drag Bike Racing

April 28
We're heading to Maryland International Raceway to watch drag bike racing.

Corn Hole Tournament

April 30, 6 p.m.

It's getting warmer! Try your hand at a friendly game or two of corn hole at the Liberty Center.

May the 4th Be With You

May 4
All-day Star Wars movie marathon.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration

May 5
Join us at the Liberty fire pit on Cinco de Mayo!

Ladies' Night: Make-Up Tutorial

May 8
Learn something new or swap ideas and tip with a make-up tutorial.



Indian Head Child & Youth

CDC 301-744-4458

CYP 301-743-5456

Youth Open Recreation

Every 2nd and 4th Friday 7 - 10:30 p.m.
Open to all children ages 5-12 and who are enrolled at the Youth Center. For more in-

formation, contact the YAC at 301-743-5456.

Teen Open Recreation

Every 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday 7-10:30 p.m.
Open to all teens ages 13-18 and still in high school. Teens must be enrolled at the Youth Center. For more information, contact the YAC at 301-743-5456.

Indian Head Community Recreation

301-744-4850

Gifts for Mom: DIY Vintage Vase

May 11, 2018
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Make your mom feel special this Mother's Day by giving her a DIY gift! We will be making vintage flower vases and Mother's Day cards. Flowers will also be available on a first come, first served basis. This event is free and open to everyone with base access.

National Aquarium Trip

May 19, 2018
Depart at 9 a.m.
Join us for an aquatic adventure to the National Aquarium in Baltimore, MD. Register at the Community Recreation

Center by May 12. For more information, please call 301-744-4850.

Ticket Prices:

Military-\$28.25
Civilian- \$34.75
Senior Citizen-\$30.25
Children (ages 3-11) -\$21.75

DIY Hand Painted Bike Helmet

May 21, 2018
4:30 - 6 p.m.
It's Bike Safety Month. Come hand paint and personalize your own bike helmet. The cost is \$5 and that includes the helmet and supplies. Register by May 16 at the Community Recreation Center by calling 301-744-4850.

Washington Nationals Tickets

All tickets must be ordered 5 business days in advance.
Left/Right Baseline- \$56.25
Left/Right Corner- \$39.00
Left/Right Mezzanine- \$32.50
Upper Infield- \$16.25
Kings Dominion Tickets
One day (ages 3+) Valid any one day through Oct. 28, 2018. Parking not included. \$39.25

See MWR, Page 12

Classifieds

Call 301-645-0900

Lots/Acreage for Sale

10 ACRES - \$59,900

Dahlgren/ Colonial Beach, VA
Nicely wooded, gently rolling, pond view. Call: 540-847-7733.

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or visit us online at classads@chespub.com

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CALL 301-645-0900

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Gold Season Pass (Valid for unlimited admission to KD, Soak City, Dinosaurs Alive, Halloween Haunt, Free parking and more) \$85.00
Pre-K Season Pass (ages 3-5) must redeem by May 28, 2018- — FREE

Indian Head Library
301-744-4850
DC Comics & Marvel Movies on the Lawn

Thursdays in May
6:30 p.m.
Community Recreation Annex
Bring your lawn chairs and some popcorn as we bring DC Comics and Marvel movies to you! In the case of inclement weather, the movie will be shown inside.
Movie Schedule:
May 3- Thor: Ragnarok
May 10- Guardians of the Galaxy 2
May 17- Justice League
May 24- Black Panther (or Spiderman Homecoming)
May 31- Wonder Woman
May The Fourth Be With You
May 4, 5 p.m.
Build small-scale Lego mod-

els and sport your favorite Star Wars t-shirt. This is free and open to everyone with base access.
Asian-Pacific Experience
May 23, 5 p.m.
May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month! Join us for crafts, food and live entertainment. This is free and open to everyone with base access.

Market Fresh Bistro
Hours: Monday-Friday: 6:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Soup is served daily from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
The soup for the week of May 7 is Ham and Bean for \$3.75
The soup for the week of May 14 is Garden Vegetable for \$3.50
The soup for the week of May 21 is Chili with Beans for \$3.75

Tiki Bar Grand Opening
May 4, 4:30 p.m.

Indian Head Weight House Fitness Center
301-744-4661
Mother's Day Stroll
May 11, 4 p.m.
Mom, take a break from the day for a nice afternoon

stroll. Bring your strollers, wagons, babies and pets for a stroll around the base starting and ending at the Community Recreation Center. Hang around afterward for a DIY craft, cards and flowers to celebrate the moms in our lives. This is free and open to everyone with base access.

Memorial Day 10K
May 24, 11 a.m.
Celebrate Memorial Day and honor our past and present military heroes by taking part in the Weight House Fitness Center Memorial Day 10K! Prizes will be awarded to the first and second place male/female. Rain date: May 25, 2018. Free for active-duty; \$5 for all others. Register by 10:30 a.m. on race day.
Pool Grand Opening
May 26 – 28, 11:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Celebrate Memorial Day Weekend at the pool!
Cost: Active-duty/ Reserves/ Retired Military/ Dependents- FREE
Civilians/ Contractors and their families- \$4 per person daily
Guest fee- \$5 per person daily *2 guests allowed per eligible patron.

Indian Head Stars & Strikes Bowling Center
301-744-4761
Lunchtime Bowling
Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cosmic Bowling
Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.
5-10 p.m.
Party Rentals
Available Saturdays and Sundays.
Rent the lanes for birthday parties, field trips and even team building exercises.
Active-duty \$60
Civilian \$70
Price includes Four lanes for two hours plus shoe rentals for your entire party.
Open Bowling Rates:
All shoe rentals \$1
Military \$2/game
Civilian \$3/game

Indian Head Liberty Center
301-744-4524
The Liberty Center and all activities are for Liberty Center Patrons Only: E1-E6 single/unaccompanied active duty military.
Hot dog eating contest
May 3, 6 p.m.
Whoever can eat the most

hot dogs in five minutes will win a prize! FREE
National Zoo & Smithsonian Museum Trip
May 5, Depart at 10 a.m.
Join Liberty for a free trip to the Zoo and Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C! The trip is free; all you need is money for food.
You Pick Tournament
May 7, 6 p.m.
You pick the game and create the tournament; we pick the prize! FREE

DIY: Tie Dye Socks
May 9, 6 p.m.
Come by the Liberty Center to create your own pair of tie dye socks. *While supplies last. FREE

Star Wars Movie Marathon
May 12 & 13, 1 p.m.
Catch up on all of the Star Wars movies before the new "Solo: A Star Wars Story" is released at the end of May.

Poker Tournament
May 15, 6 p.m.
Compete in the Liberty Poker Tournament for a chance to win a prize! FREE

Pizza & Movie Night
May 17, 6 p.m.
Free pizza and a newly released movie!

Washington Nationals vs. LA Dodgers
May 18, Depart at 5 p.m.
Let's go to a ball game! Price includes ticket and transportation. Cost \$25.00. Sign up by May 15, 2018.
Southern Maryland Paintball
May 19, Depart at 9:30 a.m.
Price includes ticket and transportation. Cost \$20.00. Sign up by May 15, 2018.

DIY: Ice Cream
May 22, 6 p.m.
Come over to the Liberty Center and learn how to make ice cream! FREE
Cookout & Cornhole Tournament
May 24, 6 p.m.
Compete in the Liberty Cornhole tournament for a chance to win a prize and enjoy free cookout food. *While supplies last

Escape Velocity Trip
May 26, Depart at 8:30 a.m.
Join Liberty for a trip to the Museum of Science Fiction and discover the futuristic world fair. Cost \$25 and that includes transportation.

3-on-3 Basketball
May 30, 6 p.m.
Bring your team of 3 and compete in the Liberty 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. FREE

Three Steps to Assess Your Savings this April During Financial Literacy Month

By **DARLENE ADEROJU/MILITARYSAVES.ORG**
Department of Defense's Financial Readiness Campaign

Financial Literacy Month is the perfect time to assess your finances and evaluate your level of savings preparedness. If you have an exceptional ability to manage debt, maintain an emergency savings fund and plan your finances, you're already a great saver. If you want to improve your savings habits, start by asking yourself these questions.
Do you have a financial plan that includes savings and debt management goals?
Savers with a plan are twice as likely to save successfully. You'll feel more motivated to save money if you have a plan in place. You can start your financial plan by creating a budget based on your monthly and expenses. It'll get much easier to save if you have a goal in mind to keep yourself motivated.
Reducing debt is just as important as saving, so you should include debt management in your financial plan. You can begin by paying off your high-interest rate debt first. The longer



you wait to pay it down, the more money you'll end up spending. You can also focus on paying off smaller debts first. Sometimes, getting rid of smaller debts will give you the extra push to tackle your larger outstanding balances.
Do you have an emergency fund to cover at least \$500 of unexpected expenses?
If you make saving for a rainy day one of your

top priorities, you'll thank yourself later. When unexpected expenses occur, you'll be financially prepared to deal with them. One thing you can work toward with your emergency fund is saving enough money to last for three to six months if you were to lose your job. When you have that much cushion, you'll feel much more confident about your finances.

Do you save money automatically?
The easiest, most effective way to save is automatically. Set up direct deposit into your savings account, so a portion of your paycheck can go into savings each time to you get paid. You'll be surprised at how much money you can save when your contributions are consistent. This also helps to ensure that you don't give up. Putting money in your savings account might be easy now while you're excited to get started, but it might get a little hard later on. When your savings are automatic, you don't have to worry about losing your momentum.
You should also make your retirement savings automatic. If you've opted into the Blended Retirement System, don't forget this important step! Set up automatic contributions of at least 5 percent into your Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) to get the full match owed to you.

For more information about financial literacy as well as Military Saves Week visit www.militarysaves.org. Military Saves encourages all servicemembers, their families, and civilian employees to take the Military Saves pledge and for organizations to promote savings year-round and during Military Saves Week.

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