

THE SANDPAPER



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Communication is the key – Doing it right in 2015

By Kristopher Haugh, Public Affairs Officer

We have just started the New Year and things are moving at a hectic pace. The moment we opened the airfield, detachments from all over the world arrived to train. That took communication. And in order for us to effectively do our jobs we need to communicate effectively.

With the recent completion of the Command Climate Survey, one item stood out. People do not feel well informed about the events on base. I'd like to take a moment as the PAO and let you know what resources are out there to help you receive that information.

Email. All active duty members and GS civilians are part of the ELCN ALL distribution group. The only exception is Branch Medical Clinic El Centro. They maintain a separate list. The Chain of Command, MWR and I use this mass distribution list to spread the word about upcoming events, news and critical information. We know, not all of you have constant contact with a computer, but each of you should be able to log on for a few minutes a day.

Sandpaper. The base newspaper comes out once a month and we are in the process of refining the paper so it has information you need. Please send us your feedback. This was once a 30 page document and we are trying to find the right balance.

Posters/Flyers. MWR has posters up in all of its facilities to advertise events that will be happening within the next few weeks. MWR also has a large collection of flyers at popular meeting points such as the Take 5 and their HQ over at building 401.

The Navigator. MWR produces a quarterly publication that is emailed to all hands. Extra copies are available too at building 401 and the Take 5. The Navigator lists all MWR events, trips, specials and upcoming news. You will find the hours of exercise classes and the list of trips among other interesting news.

The Snapshot. This is a new tri-fold publication that started in February and is designed to highlight base events and also includes some off base events. This handy little resource is designed to take a 'snapshot' of the things on base and to provide you a sample of everything happening.

Social Media. The base's Facebook site is regularly updated with information about events on base, as well as highlights from award ceremonies and other items of interest. The URL for that is www.facebook.com/nafec/ The base also has a Facebook page for the upcoming air show and you can access that at www.facebook.com/NAFECAirShow/

Websites: Both MWR and the base have a web site that has a lot of information. The MWR website allows you to look up movie times, what fitness classes are going on, what jobs are available and what is for lunch around the base. Just visit www.navylifefsw.com/elcentro. The base's web page is located at http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrsw/installations/naf_el_centro.html Here you will find a ton of resource materials including a phone book!

All Hands Calls: Monthly, the CO, XO and CMC hold an All Hands Call to put out information and to recognize our people for the fine work they do. Be sure you attend.

Quality of Life Meeting: Each month the CMC holds a meeting with all of the MWR department staff and has invited each department and tenant command to send a representative. Find out who your rep is!

Listen: There are a number of quarters, meetings, musters, and gathering where information is put out. Part of the communication process is effective listening. Make sure you take notes or ask questions.

Ask: You can always start a conversation with your friends, family, shipmates and co-workers. Ask them what they are doing, or ask them if they will join you in an event. Talk about what is going on and that might lead you to discover something new. If nothing else, ask the PAO, ask MWR or ask your supervisor. We are all here to help you be more effective and successful. But you need to take the first step and start researching. There is a lot to do at the Pearl of the Desert!

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WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NAFEC



2012-2015

"Our Flag Was Still There"

TAX SCAMS

Compiled By YN1 Robert Rogers, NAFEC VITA Coordinator



Tax season has begun and with it unscrupulous people will be looking to take advantage of tax payers. Below is some great information on the three most common Tax scams each year. If you feel you have been a victim of a scam you should report it to your local police and your credit bureau. If you have further questions on these items or any other Financial issue please contact one of your outstanding Command Financial Specialists: ACC(AW/SW) Williams or YN1(AW/SW) Rogers.

Tax Identity Theft

Scammers have bilked the IRS out of billions by stealing Social Security numbers and using them to obtain fraudulent tax refunds. Most victims don't find out until after they've filed their real tax return.

You can prevent yourself from becoming a victim of tax ID theft by protecting your Social Security number - don't carry around your Social Security card, for example, and be careful when giving out the number. Also, check your credit report annually to make sure your Social Security number isn't attached to unfamiliar credit accounts.

If you've already become the victim of an ID theft scam, you should file a police report and a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. You should also contact one of the three major credit bureaus to place a fraud alert on your credit record.

IRS Imposters

Someone from the IRS calls you and tells you that you owe Uncle Sam money and need to pay immediately through a wire transfer or a prepaid debit card. They may ask for your credit card information. Only they're not with the IRS.

Some con artists may also call you and say you're owed a refund to try to trick you into sharing private information. If you refuse to share information, they may threaten to report you to the police or to revoke your driver's license.

"They might know all or part of your Social Security number, and can fake caller ID information to make it look like it really is the IRS calling," the FTC warned in a release last week.

Email Phishing Scams

Every year con artists come up with new email phishing scams during tax season. Often, the bogus emails appear to be coming from the IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service and to include a fake case number. Recipients are typically asked to click on a link to resolve some kind of mistake, such as a document processing error.

The links may take taxpayers to a web page asking for personal information. If you receive such an email, it's best to refrain from replying to it and from clicking on any link in the email. Taxpayers can forward the email to phishing@irs.gov.

Even if you aren't the victim of a tax scam, you may still be impacted. Some states including Ohio and Illinois have already warned taxpayers that their tax refunds may be delayed due to their revenue department implementing new security measures to catch fraudulent returns.

The Good News

It's actually not that difficult to spot a tax scam, as long as you keep in mind that:

- . The IRS never calls taxpayers about money owed without first mailing a bill.
- . The IRS always gives taxpayers the opportunity to question or appeal the amount supposedly owed.
- . The IRS never requires that taxpayers use a specific payment method for taxes.
- . The IRS never asks for credit or debt card numbers over the phone.
- . The IRS never threatens to bring in local police or other law enforcement group for not paying.

As part of Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week, the FTC, along with the AARP and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration are also hosting a webinar on Jan. 27 at 2 p.m. EST to explain common tax scams and teach taxpayers how to protect themselves.

- See more at: <http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2015/01/20/3-Costly-and-Common-Tax-Scams-Avoid>



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to the following Sailors and Civilians for their accomplishments!



MA2 Vassell - JSOY



MA3 Smith - BJOY



MA2 Sweeney - JSOQ



YN1 Rogers - SSOQ



MACS Brooks - GC



MA1 Mercer - GC



AO1 Crawford - LOC



AO1 Lomeli - LOC



MA2 Wright - GC



AO1 Ward - LOC



AT3 Mulcahy - LOA



AT2 Stone - LOA



AZ1 Baltazar - LOA



AM1 Adrine - LOA



Mr. Oropeza - COQ



Mr. Caldwell - Service Award

MONTHLY DET LOADING



MONTH	TOTAL DETS	FOREIGN DETS	PERSONNEL	AIRCRAFT
DEC	5	2	398	26
JAN	8	2	1206	70



**Numbers subject to change based on availability of hangar space and time of squadron det request.

Deadline for 2015 scholarship applications Feb. 13

By Tammy Reed, DeCA Corporate Communications



FORT LEE, Va. – College student Jordan Cherry said winning a scholarship from the Scholarships for Military Children program was a great opportunity for her. “It definitely decreases the financial burden of school, which we all know is a big benefit with college costing so much.”

The Defense Commissary Agency wants to remind you that the opportunity to apply for your own scholarship ends Feb. 13. All students interested and eligible to apply are encouraged to gather their materials and submit their applications as soon as possible.

One item that can take some time is an essay on the following topic: “Choose a woman who during WWII significantly influenced military decisions for either the Allied or Axis forces. Discuss what she did and why, how her actions impacted the war effort, and any unique challenges she may have faced.”

Scholarship awards will be based on funds available, but the scholarship program awards at least \$2,000 at each commissary. If there are no eligible applicants from a particular commissary, the funds designated for that commissary will be awarded as an additional scholarship at another store.

The Scholarships for Military Children Program was created in 2001 to recognize the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force and to celebrate the role of the commissary in the military family community. Since its inception, the program has awarded more than \$12.5 million in scholarships to 8,012 children of service members.

Applications are available in commissaries worldwide and online at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 13. Commissaries can be found at www.commissaries.com, then click the link “Locations” at the top of the page. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

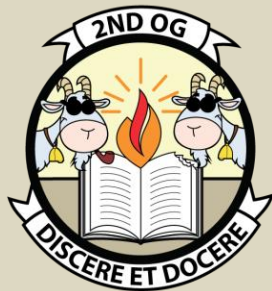
To apply for a scholarship, the student must be a dependent, unmarried child, younger than 21 — or 23, if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university — of a service member on active duty, reservist, guardsman, retiree or survivor of a military member who died while on active duty or survivor of a retiree.

Eligibility is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current military ID card. The applicant must also be planning to attend or already attending an accredited college or university, full time, in the fall of 2015 or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Applicants who are awarded a full scholarship or receive an appointment to one of the military academies or affiliated preparatory schools are not eligible to receive funds from this program. A full scholarship is usually defined as one that provides for payment of tuition, books, lab fees and other expenses.

The scholarship program is administered by Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides assistance to service members and their families. Scholarship Managers, a national, nonprofit, scholarship-management services organization, manages and awards these military scholarships. If students have questions about the scholarship program application, call Scholarship Managers at 856-616-9311 or email them at militaryscholar@scholarshipmanagers.com.

No government funds are used to support the Scholarships for Military Children Program. Commissary vendors, manufacturers, brokers, suppliers and the general public donate money to fund the program. Every dollar donated goes directly to funding the scholarships.



Local History by Two Old Goats

February is known for Valentine's Day and "Love." Readers of the Sandpaper know that the 2OG love History. February is also African-American Heritage Month and month two of the Blue Angels Winter practice session. Imagine the joy when the 2OG discovered one cool fact that combines base history with heritage and the Blues.

Meet former El Centro Mayor Dubois McGee, El Centro's first African-American Mayor and the man responsible for bringing the Blue Angels to the Imperial Valley for their Winter training.

McGee was an influential member of the community employed as a credit union manager. In 1966 he ran for and was elected to the Mayor's office.

That same year he participated in a Civilian Orientation Tour at the Naval Air Training Command in Pensacola, Fl. McGee went to lobby, competing against Phoenix and Tucson, Az among other cities, to provide the Blue Angels with a winter training home.

The base the Blue Angels were currently using was slated to close and the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron needed a new home.

McGee was very persuasive and upon his return back to El Centro informed the City Council of his actions, much to their consternation. It seems the Mayor had not consulted them beforehand. However, he was forgiven once he described the need for expediency in the decision. And the rest they say is history!



Dubois McGee, El Centro's first African-American Mayor and the driving force behind the Blue Angels coming to NAF El Centro for their Winter Training detachment

This year marks the Blue Angels 48th year in the Imperial Valley. They will once again be the headliner act at the annual NAF El Centro Ai Show scheduled for March 14, 2015.

Thanks to the strong character of Dubois McGee and his foresight, the base and the community can share the Blue Angels as they thrill us with their aerobatic excellence. This just proves once again that the base and the local community have a rich deep history and special partnership unmatched anywhere else in America.

Keep a weather eye out for the events happening around you. One never knows when they are witnessing history in the making! And the next time you see the Blue Angels take to the sky, thank Mayor McGee!

**NAFEC
THRIFT
STORE**

Open Monday and Wednesday from 0900-1200.

We have tons of clothes, toys, books,
housewares, and a little bit of random stuff to
make you go "HMMMMMM."
Come check us out!

CO Suggestion Box Locations

**Jet Mart
AOC Bldg
NGIS Bldg 401
Weapons
Oasis**

JOB Links for Employment

Federal Jobs: <http://www.usajobs.gov>
DoD Jobs: <http://www.militaryconnection.com/dod.asp>
Employment Development Department's California Jobs:
<http://www.caljobs.ca.gov/>
Imperial County Jobs: <http://imperialcountyjobs.org/>
Energy Conservation: <http://www.tetrattech.com>
HOUSING/ Contract ALUTIIQ: <http://www.alutiq.com>
AOC: <http://aocwins.com/>
HAZMAT/ SERCO: <http://www.serco-na.com/Default.aspx?Page=HomePage>
JET MART/NEX: <https://www.nexnet.nexweb.org/pls/nexjobs/work4us>
MWR: <http://navylifesw.com/sandiego/about/jobs/>
NMCI: <http://h10134.www1.hp.com/services/>
SECURITY/CONTRACT/LOCKHEED MARTIN : <http://www.lockheedmartinjobs.com>

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Chaplain's Office--760-339-2290
Chaplain (after hours)--847-714-3743
Drug and Alcohol Advisor--760-339-2603
Medical Emergency Room--911
Duty Corpsman--619-804-1037 / 619-804-1520
FFSC--1-800-273-8255
Suicide/Crisis Center Hotline--1-800-342-9647
SAPR--760-540-1053
Victim Advocate Duty Phone--760-644-2913

HAPPENING AT THE CYP

“DirectSTEP eCourses” Provided Free to EFMP/SPECED Families

Taken from the “CYP Blast” dated Jan. 22, 2015

K-12 SPECIAL EDUCATION SYSTEM NAVIGATION

Navy CYP is providing a new resource in support of the School Liaison requirement to provide K-12 Special Education System Navigation to Navy parents! The new partnership with LRP Publications brings “DirectSTEP” eCourses FREE.

WHAT: DirectSTEP eCourses are self-paced and explain legal requirements and best practices for behavior management, autism, IDEA eligibility, IEP’s and more. They also teach parents and educators how to handle critical education issues to obtain positive outcomes applying education laws to the day-to-day world of teaching and learning.

WHO: eCourses are available to Sailors, parents, Military/DoD personnel assigned to Navy installations and K-12 educators serving military children.

HOW To get started go to <http://navycyp.ds.lrp.com/login/index.php> and self-register for your eCourse. Please contact LRP training staff toll-free at 1-800-5-5-4577, ext 6515 or via email at: directstep@lrp.com.



Free Tax Preparation for Military

Compiled by YNI Robert Rogers, NAFEC VITA Coordinator



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA):

NAF El Centro will be offering VITA program on-base to assist military personnel and their families with the preparation and filing of individual tax returns in the coming weeks. VITA can give tax advice and assist with specific military tax issues such as combat zone pay and Earned Income Credit (EIC). More information will be available on the POW once the schedules have been finalized.

Military One Source:

Military One Source provides H&R Block Online Software for free. Active-Duty Service Members can file one federal and up to three state returns. You must have a Military One Source account to use software. Go to www.militaryonesources.com and click on the H&R Block link to get started.

IRS Free File:

If you made \$60,000 or less in 2014 you can file your return for free using the software available at www.irs.gov. Click on "Free File" to get started.

If any of these options don't work for you, there other tax preparation and filing options available at no cost or discounted to military personnel. Come by building 214 to set up an appointment.