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NEW CONSTELLATION CLASS FRIGATES SCHEDULED FOR HOMEPORTING AT NAVAL STATION EVERETT

EVERETT, Wash. - Naval Station Everett was designated as the Navy's future homeport for the initial ships of the next generation of guided missile frigates, a new and improved class of small surface combatant ships.

As an important homeport for Navy ships, Naval Station Everett will continue to support the fleet, its service members, and their families.

Everett will serve as the homeport for 12 Constellation class frigates, with a future Navy homeport decision planned for the following ships.

The Navy's homeporting plan will ensure forces are optimally postured to support national security.

The new Constellation-class frigates will be built with improved capability to support the National Defense Strategy goal of achieving a resilient and agile force more quickly and affordably.

This new class of frigate are designed to be agile, multi-mission warships, capable of operations in both blue-water and littoral environments, within a



FFG(X) scale model at Surface Navy Association 2020. Navy photo

strike group or independently, to provide increased combat-credible forward presence.

Specifically, Constellation class frigates will include an Enterprise Air Surveillance Radar (EASR), Baseline Ten (BL10) AEGIS Combat System, Mk 41 Vertical Launch System (VLS),

enhanced C4ISR capabilities, MK 110 57mm Gun, countermeasures, and added design flexibility for future growth.

Last year the Navy awarded a contract to build the first new frigate, USS Constellation (FFG 62), scheduled to be delivered in 2026.

The previous Oliver Hazard Perry Class frigates entered service between 1977 and 1989. They were decommissioned between 1994 and 2015. The last Everett homeported frigate, USS Rodney M. Davis, was decommissioned in 2015.

The Navy's Surface Force

is the preeminent means available for our nation to protect its interests and sustain its prosperity around the globe. The Navy remains focused on building and deploying combat ready, battle-minded teams capable of carrying out their missions today and tomorrow, at home and abroad. Constellation-class frigates will help us do that and enable us to maintain our advantage at sea.

As a shore installation, Naval Station Everett supports the Fleet so that active and reserve military are ready to operate in the interest of national defense. The Navy plans to increase capabilities across the enterprise. For shore installations, that includes improvements that offer greater capacity for support to a growing number of Navy ships in the Fleet.

Defense Department extends ID card expiration policy guidance

In the Department of Defense's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on identification card operations, DoD extended temporary Uniformed Services ID card expiration policy guidance for all cards with expiration dates between Jan. 1, 2020 and July 31, 2021 as follows:



- Through Aug. 31, 2021, for all foreign affiliates and their dependents;
- Through Oct. 31, 2021, for the dependents of active duty uniformed service members, and Reserve and National Guard uniformed service members and their dependents; and
- Through Jan. 31, 2022, for retirees and their dependents, and all other USID card populations.

ID cards that expired prior to Jan. 1, 2020, haven't been extended and must be replaced. ID cards with expiration dates after July 31, 2021, must be replaced by their expiration date.

To learn more about the extension of policy guidance for expiring USID cards visit the DoD Response to COVID-19 - DoD ID Cards and Benefits website at <https://www.cac.mil/Coronavirus/> for a fact sheet and FAQs.

To schedule an appointment to have an ID card reissued, visit the ID Card Office Online website (<https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>), and select the ID Card Office locator & appointments option.

NAVY CHRISTENS LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP CANBERRA

MOBILE, Ala. - The Navy and Austal USA christened future USS Canberra (LCS 30) littoral combat ship June 5. Canberra is the second Navy ship to be named after the Australian capital.

"Today, just 16 years after Austal USA joined the defense industrial base, the company is hosting its 15th littoral combat ship christening, LCS 30, a ship proudly named after the capital of Australia and yet another symbol of the great ties between our two countries," said Austal USA Interim President Rusty Murdaugh

The ship's sponsor, Australian Sen. and Foreign Minister

Marise Payne, attended the ship's keel laying ceremony in Mobile early last year, but was unable to attend the christening ceremony.

Alison Petchell, the Australian Government's Minister Counselor Defense Materiel, christened future USS Canberra.

Todd Schafer, acting assistant secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations, and Environment) and Vice Adm. Ricky Williamson, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics (N4) provided remarks. The Australian ambassador's wife, Elizabeth Anne Sinodinos, broke a bottle of sparkling wine

across the bow.

"Today, we christened the second USS Canberra named for the great capital city of Australia, our stalwart ally and superb naval partner," said acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Harker. "In so doing we move one step closer to welcoming a new ship to Naval service and transitioning the platform from a mere hull number to a ship with a name and spirit. There's no doubt future Sailors aboard this ship will carry on the same values of honor, courage and commitment upheld by crews from an earlier vessel that bore this name."

LCS is a fast, agile, mission-focused platform designed to operate in near-shore environments, winning against 21st-century coastal threats. The platform is capable of supporting forward presence, maritime security, sea control, and deterrence.

The LCS class consists of two variants, the Freedom-variant and the Independence-variant, designed and built by two industry teams. The Freedom variant team is led by Lockheed Martin in Marinette, Wisc., (for the odd-numbered hulls). The Independence-variant team is led by Austal USA.



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Military leaders plan for post-withdrawal financial support for Afghans

by C. Todd Lopez,
DOD News

Following the withdrawal from Afghanistan, the U.S. plans to continue providing financial support to the Afghans and to build on existing "over-the-horizon" anti-terrorism capacity in the region.

"I want to stress ... that, right now, the focus of the post-withdrawal support to the Afghan ... National Defense and Security Forces is going to be largely through financial means, with some over-the-horizon logistical support," Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby said during a media briefing June 2. "For example, aircraft maintenance, that's really where the focus of the efforts are."

Marine Corps Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr., the commander of U.S. Central Command, and his staff are working now to develop that plan in Afghanistan before the U.S. leaves, Kirby said. The Defense Department is also working with the State Department regarding the diplomatic efforts required for over-the-horizon basing opportunities in the region.

Financial support for the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces - meant to provide resources for such things as salaries for soldiers and police - is expected to continue much as it has for most of the last 15 years, Kirby said.

Over-the-horizon capacity includes the ability to continue



Eastern Afghanistan is seen from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, Nov. 30, 2019. Photo by Army Spc. Jeffery Harris

to protect the United States from the terrorist threats that exist in any nation in the region, even if the U.S. is not specifi-

cally in that country. The U.S. already has such capabilities in the Middle East, and more will come.

"We already have at our disposal over-the-horizon counter-terrorism capabilities to support our desires that no additional threats to our homeland can emanate from Afghanistan," Kirby said. "That said ... we want to have additional capabilities, and we're working through that."

Kirby also explained why it's important, once the U.S. leaves Afghanistan, that the airport in

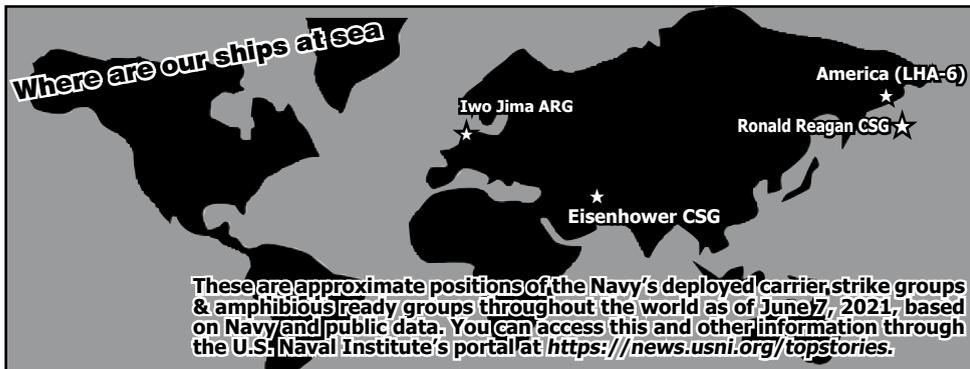
Kabul remains secure and open to operations.

"The airport would provide, obviously, aside from the transportation support for people and for equipment ... it would also provide a needed logistical hub, not just for our embassy, but for the embassies of other nations that want to maintain diplomatic presence there in Afghanistan," he said.

"Obviously, in a country like Afghanistan, security of that logistical hub is important, and you want to make sure that, that it can ... be properly ensured and protected."

Centcom is now working to get U.S. forces out of Afghanistan. On June 1, the command reported that nearly 13,000 pieces of gear have been turned into the Defense Logistics Agency there, and around 300 C-17 loads of materiel have been moved out of the country.

The command has also turned six facilities over to the Afghan Ministry of Defense. The command estimates that the retrograde from Afghanistan is between 30 percent and 44 percent complete.



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Brig. Gen. James Smith, the incoming leader of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, takes the unit colors from Army Europe and Africa commander Gen. Christopher Cavoli at the 21st TSCs change of command ceremony at Daenner Kaserne, Kaiserslautern, Germany, June 8. At right is the outgoing commander, Maj. Gen. Christopher Mohan. Photo by Michael Abrams/Stars and Stripes

Army's largest sustainment command in Europe welcomes new leader as service focuses on rapid movement

by Jennifer H. Svan,
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany - Brig. Gen. James M. Smith took command this week of the U.S. Army's largest logistics and sustainment command in Europe, which has expanded the service's reach across the Continent while navigating the restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic.

Smith replaces Maj. Gen. Christopher O. Mohan, who during his two years at the helm of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command helped orchestrate the movement of Army troops and equipment, gained additional access to ports and led some 11,000 soldiers and civilians.

"You've worked hand and glove with both NATO and the European Union to improve our ability to move equipment and vehicles across borders with increased speed," Gen. Christopher G. Cavoli, commander of Army Europe and Africa, said of Mohan.

The 21st TSC is the backbone in Europe of a Pentagon strategy to keep adversaries off balance by rapidly and unpredictably moving troops and equipment from the United States. The Con-

tinental has seen one of the largest influxes of forces and hardware since the end of the Cold War, a response to increased Russian military activity in the region.

This spring, the Army transported equipment through Dunkirk, France, "for the first time in decades," Cavoli said. Last month, the command for the first time in 60 years unloaded fuel and heavy vehicles from a ship moored off Durres, Albania, and brought it to shore, Cavoli said.

"The most amazing thing is about three quarters of this you got done during (a pandemic) that tested our ability to remain ready under adverse conditions," he said.

Mohan next week will take over the Army Sustainment

Command in Rock Island, Ill., an assignment that has typically been the next stop for outgoing 21st TSC commanders.

He thanked those assembled on the parade field at Daenner Kaserne for their leadership and service. There wasn't time to recount all the command has achieved, Mohan said.

"I will just say this: 'If it's happening in Europe, Team 21 either coordinated it, planned it, executed it or is executing right now. Simply put, you guys are the best.'"

Mohan advised Smith to enjoy every second of his tour, "because, trust me, it will be gone before you know it. You have the best mission, the best boss and the best teammates."

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Blended Retirement System CY 2022 continuation pay announced

by MCI Mark D. Faram

If you're enrolled in the Blended Retirement System, you qualify for incentive pay at the 12-year "mid-career" point.

The Navy released the calendar year 2022 BRS continuation pay rates for eligible Sailors June 3 in NAVADMIN 114/21.

Under BRS, Sailors participate in a modernized retirement program.

Throughout their career, Sailors who opt-in or were auto-enrolled in the Thrift Savings Plan receive a matching contribution of up to five percent of their base pay from the Navy. Those who stay until retirement after 20 years still get retired pay at a two percent multiplier for every year of service, vice the two and a half percent multiplier they would receive under the legacy retirement system.

One additional benefit of BRS is continuation pay. All Sailors enrolled in BRS qualify for the incentive, which currently comes at the 12-year "mid-career" point.

To collect the incentive, eligible Sailors must do two things. They must request the pay before they arrive at their 12th pay anniversary and they must agree to obligate for another four years of service via Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System before they can collect.

If you have a correct e-mail on file in NSIPS, notification that this milestone is approaching will come at the six, three and one-month dates prior to reaching their 12th YOS.

For Active Duty and Full-Time Support Sailors, the calendar year 2022 payout is two and a half times their monthly base pay. For drilling reservists, it is half of one month's salary. This is the same amount as the calendar year 2021 payout.

For example, an Active Duty or FTS E-5 or E-6 with 12 YOS is eligible for a one-time payout of roughly \$9,000 and \$10,000, respectively. In the Selected Reserve, those payouts would be approximately \$1,800 for the E-5 and close to \$2,000 for the E-6.

You can update their e-mail and elect CP through NSIPS at <https://my.navy.mil/quick-links.html>.

STEM students participate in Navy-sponsored 'Hackathon' event

by Sarah MacMillan

In partnership with the Ventura County Office of Education, Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC) hosted "Hackathon by the Sea," a virtual hacking event for high school students in Ventura County.

This year, the Hackathon by the Sea theme "Hack the Future," challenged students to build projects that address the future science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) needs of the world in either manufacturing and 3D printing, cybersecurity, environmental, artificial intelligence, machine learning or drones. Each category of "need" was further divided

into four "future" areas: build the future; defend the future; grow the future; know the future.

Fifty-eight students from Oxnard Union, Ventura Unified, Oak Park Unified, Conejo Valley Unified, Simi Valley Unified, Los Angeles Unified and Sierra Sands Unified school districts' and the VCOE schools used their hacking skills to produce a simple product that solved a problem within the four future areas. Potential products included creating an app, website or game that addressed their specific future problem. Nine volunteers served as speakers, mentors and judges for the event.

Spanning over two days for 15 hours, the hackathon event

also included a variety of workshops, including web building, blog building, internship opportunities, resume writing and interview tips workshops. Keynote speakers also spoke with students on the importance in STEM as it relates the Department of Defense. Notable speakers included Capt. Jeffrey Chism, commander Navy Installations Command and Kail Macias, NAVFAC EXWC technical director.

"Supporting Hackathon by the Sea is a deliberate investment in the current and future Department of the Navy workforce," said. "By creating excitement for STEM programs and activities, our hope is students will see

the value of STEM careers, and explore the option of the Navy serving as their future employer."

Macias added it takes critical investment by the Department of the Navy to develop the upcoming STEM workforce. The investment must start as early as Kindergarten and last through grade school as students continue to mature and refine their career field interests.

During the event, students spoke to former Navy interns specializing in STEM career fields, sharing their experiences pursuing internships with DoD, and their transition between internships to full-time employment.

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Permission to come aboard: The history of Navy ship design

The Bonita Museum & Cultural Center is excited to present the history and legacy of Navy ship design through a major exhibition opening July 1 through September 18, 2021. The exhibition curated by veteran Joe Frangiosa, Jr. explores the history of the Navy including the Marines and the start of naval aviation from the 1760's through the 1940's.

Through this exhibition, visitors will see a unique and intriguing collage of sailor-built models, advertising, toys and collectibles that bonded Americans to the Navy.

As a young nation, the Navy was responsible for planting a U.S. flag on the world stage. From the beginning of time, control of the seas dictated the success and survival of a country. The Navy legacy continues in San Diego to this day. Public support and awareness of the Navy and patriotism drive young people to serve and make our way of life possible.

The exhibition begins on a wooden hull warship surrounded by artifacts, memorabilia, toys, drawings, photographs, and uniform items associated with sailor-built models of that time. Visitors



Curator Joe at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan in 2014, working with British AH 64 Apache Attack Helicopter

will travel back in time to the Iron Clad 1860's period of ship building, and then experience the Great White Fleet (1890-1910) and see the scale replica of the USS Indiana during the Spanish American War.

The exhibition continues with the evolution of the Superdreadnaught Battleship of WWI, the early days of Naval Aviation, culminating into the Aircraft Car-

rier of WWII. Visitors will enjoy noting the evolution of ship design and artifacts from each period of history. Oral histories will recount Navy adventures and daily activities aboard ship.

Exhibition curator Joseph Frangiosa, Jr. served four years in the Navy and was a plank owner on USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71) serving as an aviation boatswain's mate. After receiving an

honorable discharge, he used the G.I. Bill to obtain a FAA Helicopter Pilots Certificate. Frangiosa then joined the Marine Corps and became a CH-46 Helicopter Crew Chief.

As a retired disabled veteran, he enjoys giving back after an exciting twenty year career in the military. He funds and operates the Nautical History Museum in La Jolla and builds handmade scratch-built models of ships. During his career in the military, Joe would return from deployments and relax and "brain dump" by building models. He also collected artifacts and memorabilia associated with the ships and their historical periods, eventually opening a museum to house his growing collection.

This went on for many years and, in his retirement, he is excited to share his knowledge of model making with fellow veterans and the public. Joe credits his model shipbuilding for helping him deal with PTSD on a daily basis. He will offer talks and workshops about his work to help fellow veterans and to illustrate his model building process.

The exhibition highlights the legacy and shared cultural heritage of the Navy through toys and collectibles. These historic objects tell the story of the United States



Exhibition curator Joe Frangiosa, Jr. constructs scratch-built models of ships.

and the military families who made toys and brought toys home, passing down this indelible history of specific Navy ships. Visitors to the exhibition can explore the cultural heritage of life on a ship through the uniforms, food, activities, as well as the specific sailor vernacular/language.

The opening for the exhibition "A Salute To the Military" features a golf tournament organized by veteran Alex Galicia and museum board of trustee Diana Chuh at the Chula Vista Municipal Golf course on Friday, June 25 with a 1pm tee time. An evening dinner at the museum features tours of the exhibition with the curator Joe Frangiosa,

Jr. Reservations are required for the golf tournament and evening dinner. Reservations can be made at the museum or online at www.bonitahistoricalsociety.org.

The Bonita Museum is a Blue Star Museum, always free for members and family of the military. Exhibitions showcase the art, history and culture of the South Bay San Diego region. Military families can find free art programs every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the museum. The museum is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., located at 4355 Bonita Road, in Bonita. www.bonitahistoricalsociety.org

Permission To Come Aboard
Exhibition: July 3 - September 18, 2021

The History of Navy Ship Design with veteran curator Joe Frangiosa, Jr.
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Hirsch has it.

\$25M grant program included for vets in governor's 'California Comeback Plan'

SACRAMENTO - Along with historic investments in small businesses, housing, education, infrastructure and climate change, Governor Newsom's California Comeback Plan includes the establishment of the Veterans Support for Self Reliance grant program. Administered by CalVet, this funding will support California's most vulnerable veteran population, including aging veterans and veterans with disabilities who have experienced chronic homelessness.

The Governor's plan, if approved, will provide a higher level of on-site supportive services, such as in-home support to help with habitability; peer specialists to encourage veterans to engage in mental health care;

and geriatric social workers to identify behavioral issues related to early onset dementia or similar cognitive issues.

"We're grateful for Governor Newsom's leadership regarding

support for our most vulnerable veterans," said CalVet Secretary Vito Imbasciani. "This program closes a crucial gap in care for veterans who are in need of supportive services for daily living, yet don't meet the level of skilled

CalVet Home Loan Program for vets turns 100

On May 30, the California Department of Veterans Affairs' Home Loan Program celebrated 100 years of helping the state's military veterans and their families realize the American dream of home ownership. "For the past century, it's been our honor and privilege to assist our California veterans who served this nation," said CalVet Secretary Vito Imbasciani. Following World War I, America looked for ways to assist and thank its vets for their service and sacrifices. On May 30, 1921, California Gov. William Stephens signed into law the Veterans Farm and Home Purchases Act, created by California State Legislature for the purpose of "furnish[ing] to veterans the opportunity to purchase farms, homes and home sites." California voters approved the sale of \$10 million in bonds to fund the loans, repaying the bonds through the interest paid on the mortgages; a system that remains in place today.

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Indo-Pacific naval forces continue challenges with new 3rd Fleet boss

Vice Adm. Steve Koehler relieved Vice Adm. Scott D. Conn as commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet, during a change of command ceremony at Naval Base Point Loma, June 3.

Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, presided over the ceremony, highlighting the critical strategic role U.S. 3rd Fleet plays in the Navy today. “As I utter these words, there are 30 ships, 12 submarines and hundreds of Navy aircraft ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific,” said Paparo. “The Sailors and the Marines here in ranks represent a fighting Fleet that makes ready the preponderance of naval forces of the United States of America, to be employed against those that would upend the international rules-based order.”

Conn, a native of Lancaster, Pa., served as the 30th commander of U.S. 3rd Fleet from September 2019 through June 2021, leading a combat-ready force comprised of over 68,000 people, 100 ships and 400

aircraft stationed throughout California, Washington and Hawaii.

During Conn’s tenure, U.S. 3rd Fleet operationally trained and certified three carrier strike

day, to wear the 3rd Fleet patch, and to lead 3rd Fleet.”

Also during Conn’s tenure, U.S. 3rd Fleet operationally paired manned and unmanned systems together in challeng-

It is an honor to return to San Diego and join this historic command. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together.

groups, two amphibious ready groups, 19 submarines, and 26 independently deployed ships, which deployed worldwide in U.S. 3rd, 5th, 6th, and 7th Fleets.

“Third Fleet warfighters are unparalleled,” said Conn. “Every mission they execute contributes to deterring our adversaries and assuring our allies and partners. They are poised to fight and win at a moment’s notice, even despite a global pandemic. They train, prepare, and deploy over-the-horizon with dedication, determination, and grit. I’m so proud to have been here - to have had the privilege to work with these Sailors every

ing maritime scenarios during the inaugural Unmanned Integrated Battle Problem. In August 2020, U.S. 3rd Fleet and nine other nations planned, coordinated, and executed the first at-sea-only Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise 2020 in a COVID-constrained environment.

Conn will report to his new assignment as deputy chief of naval operations for warfighting requirements and capabilities, N9, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

Koehler, a native of San Diego, previously served as

deputy commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

“I am excited to continue the fantastic work Vice Adm. Conn and all of the 3rd Fleet team members have done over the past two years to deter our adversaries, assure our allies and partners, and ensure our forces are, if necessary, poised to compete and win,” said Koehler. “It is an honor to return to San Diego and join this historic command. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together.”

An integral part of U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. 3rd Fleet leads naval forces in the Indo-Pacific and provides the realistic, relevant training necessary to flawlessly execute our Navy’s role across the full spectrum of military operations—from combat operations to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. U.S. 3rd Fleet works together with our allies and partners to advance freedom of navigation, the rule of law, and other principles that underpin security for the Indo-Pacific region.

Vice Adm. Stephen T. Koehler, right, commander, 3rd Fleet, and Vice Adm. Scott D. Conn cut a cake after their change of command ceremony on Naval Base Point Loma, June 3. Koehler relieved Conn as 3rd Fleet commander. Navy photo by MC2 Jessica Hale

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This week's snapshots



MCRD S.D.
June 2, 2021

Recruits with Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, strike mats during Combat Conditioning Course. The course trains recruits for real life situations they might face in combat. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Julian Elliott-Drouin



USS JOHN P. MURTHA, AT SEA
MAY 26, 2021
Religious Program's Specialist 1st Class Paul Smith, from Atlanta, demonstrates mechanical advantage control holds (MACH) for Sailors and Midshipmen from the Naval Academy, John P. Murtha is underway conducting routine operations in U.S. Third Fleet. Navy photo by MC2 Curtis D. Spencer



SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND
May 20, 2021

Cpl. Hudson Poole, an unmanned aerial systems operator with the 11th MEU, launches a Stalker XE UAS. The Marines use Stalker to fly in support of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions, and to relay targeting data for artillery assets ashore. Photo by Cpl. Seth Rosenberg



USS PORTLAND, AT SEA
MAY 18, 2021

Marines conduct a mission brief aboard USS Portland amphibious transport dock before departing for a helicopter raid. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Donald Holbert



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Pentagon experiments with self-driving shuttles at San Diego's MCAS Miramar

As reported in *Nextgov.com*, driverless technology provider Robotic Research and Verizon Public Sector recently confirmed their cooperative involvement in a pilot project to explore the use of autonomous shuttles at MCAS Miramar's 5G Living Lab.

NavalX SoCal Tech Bridge, US Ignite and local motors are also involved in this 90-day experiment with self-moving shuttles to transport people and packages around the base.

"This pilot is one example of how 5G-enabled applications carry the potential of enhancing operational effectiveness," Verizon's Senior Vice President of Public Sector Jennifer Chronis told *Nextgov* recently.

The announcement comes almost a year after Verizon and MCAS Miramar unveiled their plans to deploy the former's 5G Ultra Wideband on a military base for the very first time. Working with a range of strategic partners, they've since started to demonstrate 5G-enabled innovations across artificial intelligence, self-driving vehicles and drones in real-world scenarios at the living lab.

Broadly, those involved are assessing the benefits such next-

generation wireless capabilities can bring to public safety, commerce and energy management.

"Working in conjunction with our partners in the Marine Corps at Miramar, we've created a true testbed for innovation - innovation that will have tremendous impact within the Department of Defense and across the public sector," said Chronis.

This endeavor is new, but Chronis said that Robotic Research's "commitment to MCAS Miramar began far before this pilot." The company has been providing the Pentagon with autonomous technology solutions for nearly 20 years. In particular, she said it specializes in "platform-agnostic autonomy," enabling the automation of "a wide variety of platforms for both government and commercial customers."

"This initial partnership led to additional collaboration focused on the use of autonomous technology on both the battlefield and installations," Chronis said. "Current efforts include the unmanned logistics systems prototype being developed as well as the trial of low-speed autonomous shuttles doing package delivery on base."

Through this fresh pilot, Robotic Research's AutoDrive autonomy kit provides the self-driving capabilities of Local Motors' autonomous shuttle, Olli, rolling through the military installation. Verizon's 5G will transmit the heaps of system and sensor data collected by the shuttle back to a storage service, which is also provided by Robotic Research.

"Understanding the operational needs of our partners in the Marine Corps is a top priority," said Chronis, "and learning how 5G UWB, in conjunction with autonomous vehicle technology and real-time sensor data, can be leveraged to make package delivery more efficient across multiple scenarios - from tools to the flight line, to mail delivery, to product for retail environments - is a step forward in addressing the digital transformation needs at Miramar, and beyond."

Nextgov's mission is to lead the national discussion about how technology and innovation are transforming the way government agencies serve citizens and perform vital functions. Central to this mission is the exploration of emerging technologies and their potential impact on government.

Marine logistics regiment welcomes new CO Scott

by Lance Cpl. Aldo Sessarego

Col. Ryan E. Scott assumed duties as the commanding officer of Combat Logistics Regiment 1 during a change of command ceremony at Camp Pendleton June 3. Scott received the Regiment's organizational colors from the outgoing commander, Col. Michael W. Stehle.

Scott, a native of Shasta, Calif., is a graduate of California State University, Sacramento, and received his commission in 1998. Scott comes to the unit after serving as Deputy Director, MAGTF Staff Training Program Division. Scott has also deployed to over 25 countries across multiple Combatant Commanders' Areas of Responsibility in support of combat operations, bi-lateral and multilateral exercises, theater security operations, and advising/supporting operations.

Scott kept his remarks short thanking his family and loved ones.

Stehle, a native of Denver, Colo., received his commission in 1996 after graduating from the University of San Diego. Stehle is departing the

Regiment to assume duties as the Chief of Staff for 1st Marine Logistics Group.

Stehle left the Marines, Sailors, and loved ones of the Regiment with these final messages.

"I'd just like to thank the battalions, the battalion command teams that are here," said Stehle. He also stated to the command team "You know you've done some extremely heavy lifting over these last couple years and you've never skipped a beat and never missed an opportunity to take advantage of training or deployment opportunities and it's been fantastic." To the incoming commanding officer, Col. Ryan E. Scott, Stehle added, "Ryan, the CLR team is ready for you and I have no doubt they're going to continue to exceed expectations and do extremely well."

CLR-1 provides logistics support to the 1st Marine Division beyond its organic capabilities in any environment and throughout the spectrum of conflict in order to allow the division to continue operations independent of any logistically driven operational pauses.

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NAVWAR announces Project Overmatch prize challenge

\$100,000 in total cash prizes

by Elisha Gamboa

NAVWAR kicked off the Networks Advanced Naval Technology Exercise (NetANTX) Challenge, a prize competition seeking operationally relevant innovations and emerging networking technologies, in support of Project Overmatch, a high priority Navy initiative aimed at delivering a more lethal, better-connected fleet of the future.

This challenge allows us to identify solutions at speed,” said NAVWAR Commander Rear Adm. Doug Small. “Prize challenges open the competitive landscape to the most innovative teams and fantastic ideas – I can’t wait to see what the come up with.”

Small refers to Overmatch as the “connective tissue,” connecting platforms, weapons, and sensors together in a robust Naval Operational Architecture (NOA) that integrates with Joint

All-Domain Command and Control for enhanced Distributed Maritime Operations.

“Project Overmatch is as much about delivering the NOA as it is about changing the way we deliver capability,” said Carly Jackson, NAVWAR Science and Technology Director.

Project Overmatch is the Department of the Navy effort

to modernize Naval warfighting networks, seamlessly connecting the future fleet of manned and unmanned platforms, leveraging the latest in digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and information and networking technologies for improved fleet readiness worldwide.

The NetANTX Challenge will focus on exploring new

networking technologies that will advance the reach, capacity and resiliency of the maritime tactical network of networks in support of Project Overmatch. Selected participants will be invited to demonstrate their solutions in a simulation-based environment that will employ tactically relevant scenarios in operationally relevant conditions. The first place entry will win \$75,000, while second place

will be awarded \$25,000.

“This event is designed to help the Department of the Navy stay abreast of the state of the technological art,” said Jackson. “By lowering the barrier of entry, we will be able to identify critical technologies at the speed of relevance.”

The challenge is open to all U.S. citizens and those with per-

manent residence status. Each individual participant, team of participants, commercial, government or academic entity may submit one entry. In order for an entry to be considered, a white paper and corresponding quad chart must be submitted no later than July 27, in accordance with the submission guidelines. Winners are expected to be announced in November 2021.

To learn more about the NetANTX, including rules, criteria and eligibility requirements, visit <https://www.challenge.gov/challenge/networks-advanced-naval-technology-exercise-netantx-challenge/>

All questions regarding the challenge should be directed to NetAntx@niwc.navy.mil.

NAVWAR identifies, develops, delivers and sustains information warfighting capabilities and services that enable naval, joint, coalition and other national missions operating in warfighting domains from seabed to space and through cyberspace. NAVWAR consists of more than 11,000 civilian, active duty and reserve professionals located around the world.

Rep. Levin makes site tour at MCAS Miramar



Photos by Lance Cpl. Jose GuerreroDeleon

(top, left) Congressman Mike Levin, representative for California’s 49th Congressional District, and Maj. Robert Ahern, assistant aviation maintenance officer at Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, tour the flight line on MCAS Miramar June 4. (top, right) Levin and Col. Charles B. Dockery, the commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, listen to the description of the station’s microgrid.

The Meat & Potatoes of Life



by Lisa Smith Molinari

It’s no surprise that the highest rate of unemployment in U.S. history was during the Great Depression, when rates jumped to 24.9 percent in 1933, four years after the infamous Black Thursday stock market crash caused total economic collapse and widespread poverty. But what would surprise most Americans is that military spouses have faced Depression-era levels of unemployment for decades.

Prior to COVID-19, when U.S. unemployment rates dropped to modern lows of 3.5 percent, military wives’ unemployment rate was stuck at 25 percent due to frequent moves, deployments, career interruptions, childcare issues, and occupational licensing requirements.

Federal and state governments made good faith efforts to help, with programs for re-licensure reimbursement, DoD scholarships, and business owner residency rules through legislation and programs. But military spouse unemployment rates didn’t budge despite these comprehensive programs aimed to help.

“Congress has authorized several initiatives to support military spouse education, employment and career development . . . , though relatively little is known about their effectiveness. Considering that the unemployment rate among military spouses has remained persistently high for the last two decades, the National Military Spouse Network suspects these initiatives are not having the impact they were designed to have,” stated a 2021 White Paper addressing the seemingly unyielding military spouse unemployment issue.

Will new remote work opportunities bridge the stubborn milspouse income gap?

Generally, education and qualifications are not an issue for military spouses, 45 percent of whom have bachelor’s or advanced academic degrees, compared to 33 percent of civilian counterparts. However, about 35 percent of military spouses have careers that require professional licensing specific to each state. In a 2012 survey of spouses who had PCSed, only 11 percent got a new occupational license after the move. (As a licensed attorney, I know this all too well. While stationed in Virginia, I jumped through time-consuming and expensive hoops to get an additional license to practice law in the District of Columbia, but ironically, the license was not issued until months after we were already on to the next duty station in California, and we were never stationed near D.C. again.)

An even bigger problem is military spouse underemployment which mostly affects the 93% of military spouses who are female. Two-third of working military wives report that their employment does meet their qualifications, education or occupational goals. Active duty military spouses generally earn 38 percent less than their equally-qualified civilian counterparts.

To make matters worse, during the pandemic, when America’s unemployment rates peaked at 14.8 percent in April 2020, data suggested that military spouse unemployment hovered a staggering 20 percentage points higher than the general population, putting rates somewhere between 30 to 35 percent for milspouses. During the pandemic, employed military spouses were either losing their jobs or were leaving their jobs to care for children during shut downs.

“All of these factors impact military financial readiness by decreasing fam-

ily earnings over time, diminishing opportunities for career advancement, decreasing their ability to save for emergencies, retirement, and their ability to amass long-term wealth,” concluded one study.

With more than a third of military spouses now unemployed and two-thirds of working military spouses underemployed, is there a solution that might bridge this massive income gap for military families?

Maybe.

The number of people teleworking from home skyrocketed from only seven percent before the pandemic to over 60 percent today, with many companies planning to continue remote work programs. Also, the Army has begun providing coworking spaces for military spouses on some bases.

Some postulate that these trend will finally nudge military spouse unemployment numbers off of their high perch by offering portable work opportunities that lessen child care issues and reduce career interruptions.

While remote work does not solve the occupational licensure problem, there is also a recent push for states to enter compact agreements to recognize other state occupational licenses. The Department of Labor has a website where military spouses can see which states are in licensure compacts.

A bridge spanning the decades-long pay gap for military spouses is purely hypothetical, yet, there is finally hope. Will military spouses, who prioritize service before self, one day be able to find meaningful career opportunities that meet their education and qualifications?

Only time will tell.

AutoMatters™ & More



by Jan Wagner

A beautiful day in the countryside setting of Rancho Santa Fe was the site for last Sunday’s San Diego Ferrari Owners Club’s “Ferraris at Cielo” car show.

While this was the club’s third annual show at this venue, it was by no means one of their first car shows. Way back in 2005, I covered their event when we were honored with the presence of automobile racing legend Phil Hill (see “A Day & Drive with Phil Hill,” in “AutoMatters & More” #147).

I interviewed the organizer of Sunday’s event, who lives in Cielo. The turnout - both in terms of participants and visitors - far exceeded expectations, with roughly 45 cars on display, mostly from the immediate area.

Several dealers were represented, including Ferrari of San Diego who was the event’s primary sponsor. They brought three cars: A Ferrari F8 Tributo Spider, a Ferrari Roma and a Maserati. They also offered test drives to people who signed up in advance, for which they were quickly booked solid.

The non-profit San Diego Ferrari Owners Club runs about 12 events per year. After expenses, funds collected at their various events go to charities that include Ronald McDonald House, Wounded Warriors and the Make A Wish Foundation.

The purpose of their club is to bring people together who have a commonality of interests, centered

Passion on display at the annual ‘Ferraris at Cielo’ car show



Enzo Ferrari, recipient of the People’s Choice Award.

around the automobile, and to have fun, but it is more than an interest, it is a passion. Car people are very passionate about what they drive, no matter what it is or what its price tag may be. Driving their special cars puts smiles on their faces. You also get to meet a lot of great people. They talk about cars, shows, and auctions all over the country and all over the world.

Owning a Ferrari is not a requirement to be a member, or to participate in events. The club has three or four driving events over the course of each year. In February, which is Enzo Ferrari’s birthday, they usually gather together maybe 20 to 30 Ferraris and drive up around Julian and Temecula, with a stop for a fabulous lunch at a winery. They just had a driving event that ended up at the San Diego Automotive Museum in Balboa Park. Another driving event is still in the early planning stages. They will be going to go to the Bugatti Museum in Oxnard.

The winner of the People’s Choice award was a beautiful, 2003 Enzo Ferrari. My vote went to a fantastic replica of a 1967 Ferrari 330 P4, street-driven race car — the originals of which were most recently made famous in the hit movie “Ford v Ferrari.” In addition to being raced at Le Mans, it “won numerous races and

earned its place in the history books after a memorable 1-2-3 at Daytona,” as stated on Ferrari.com.

According to the replica Ferrari 330 P4’s owner, it was built in the late 1990s by a company in Detroit. These are very difficult to find. Ferrari has taken legal action against their manufacturers, so no companies build them anymore. After years of searching, the owner found this car four or five years ago on the Internet.

This replica is much like the original, but with one significant difference. Like the original, it has a monocoque chassis, and other comparable details abound, but in place of the original’s V12 engine, this one is powered by a Chevy. The owner considered replacing this engine with one that is more authentic — perhaps a V12 Ferrari Testarossa engine — but this car drives extremely well as is, and has plenty of power. It also makes glorious sounds!

He told me that he bought it because: “I like the shape of it. It’s pretty much a race car underneath, so it does what it was built for. . . . I love it. I love it for the fact that it’s a cool car.”

There is that passion. It is the essence of what makes a car person tick, and why car clubs like this one exist.

To learn more about the San Diego Ferrari Owners Club, including events, photos and membership, visit: <https://www.focsandiego.com>.

To see additional photos, visit www.drivetribe.com, click on the magnifying glass, select “POSTS” and enter “AutoMatters & More #695” in their search bar. Please send your comments to AutoMatters@gmail.com.

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--Princess Diana

SD NAVY COMMUNITY REC

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Fri, June 18. Doors open 6:30. Take {5ive} On The Greens Grille & Bar, Bldg. 800, Sea N' Air Golf Course, NAB Coronado. Laugh the night away with top local talent from the SD/LA comedy circuit. Special pre-order menu available. Register at navylifesw.com/sdr

Jet Boat Ride July 11

Who's ready for screams, speed and splashes on the Jet Boat ride?? Join us on Sunday, July 11, 2:15pm, \$19. (*must be 40in tall). Register: <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/SanDiego/JetBoatRide71121>

Coronado Camp Out on Breakers Beach Aug. 6-7

Naval Base Coronado is happy to host our annual Campout on Breaker's Beach Friday, Aug. 6-7! All registered patrons will enjoy camping under the stars to the soothing sound of waves, and outdoor movie, a live hula class instruction and a morning boot camp type workout, sponsored by NBC Fitness! This event is free, with the option to add the Comfort Package of dinner & breakfast items to your experience for additional costs! All campers must supply their own camping gear and food is NOT included for free. Register now! <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Coronado/beachcampout>

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Are you excited to plan a road trip in the future or travel in general? Check out the Travel Office on base. You can reach them at (858) 307-6162 or [mirarmtravel@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:miramarmtravel@usmc-mccs.org).

Pounds and Crush Fitness Challenge

From Tuesday, June 1 to Wednesday, June 30, participate in Semper Fit's Pounds & Crush Fitness Challenge. Attend 30 or more Zumba, Yoga, or Core classes in the month of June and record them to be entered to win a prize! Sign up now by contacting williamsep@usmc-mccs.org

Love your dog? Make it official with a pet license from SD Humane Society

During San Diego Humane Society's 'A License to Love' campaign, all licensing will be waived - including first-time licenses, renewals and late fees - throughout the month of June. Dog owners who live within San Diego Humane Society's jurisdictions can receive a free one-year license with the code FREE LICENSE, as long as they complete the process before July 1.

The Paw-sitives of Licensing Your Pet:

- It provides proof that your pet belongs to you! Dog licenses are required by law in San Diego County.
- A current license increases the likelihood that you'll be reunited with your pet if they become lost.
- It shows that your pup is vaccinated against rabies.
- Licensed dogs receive a teal PetHub tag, which comes with a QR code that can store phone numbers, medical information and a secondary emergency contact (like your preferred veterinarian). That way, anyone who finds your pup can quickly scan the code and get them on their way back home.
- Dogs with a valid license receive a free ride home from San Diego Humane Society's Humane Officers if found stray - skipping a trip to the shelter and reducing your reclaim fees.

Enter to Win!

You love sharing photos of your pets - and we love seeing them! Enter your best photo of your dog wearing their teal PetHub license tag for a chance to win a \$50 Petco gift card! Enter Now! Visit sd-humane.org for more information. Entries close at 11:59 p.m. PDT on Sunday, June 13, 2021.

8	9	5	7	6	8	2	1	4
4	1	6	9	2	8	7	8	5
7	2	8	1	5	4	6	9	3
8	7	2	1	4	5	8	6	9
5	6	4	8	9	1	7	2	3
9	8	1	6	7	2	4	5	8
1	4	9	8	8	6	5	7	2
6	8	8	2	5	7	9	4	1
7	5	2	4	9	1	8	8	6

USO Four on the 4th virtual race, July 1-5

Put your fitness efforts toward a good cause and be a Force Behind the Forces® by registering to run, jog, walk, or bike with us. In addition to receiving a USO t-shirt, race medal, and race bib, your registration and support will directly impact the service men, women and families. Be sure to register early to ensure you receive registration materials in time for the race! Visit <https://sandiego.uso.org/> To learn more about the event, or if you have any questions, please contact Kyle Aube at kaube@uso.org

Social Security Matters

Should my wife wait until age 70 to claim?

Dear Rusty: I'm 74 and receiving my Social Security benefits. My wife is 68 and we are delaying her benefits until she's 70. But I read an article about a wife receiving half of her husband's benefit, which makes me wonder if my wife waiting is smart. Please let me know your thoughts.

Signed: Wondering

Dear Wondering: Your wife waiting until she is 70 to claim her own SS retirement benefit may be a smart move, but only if her age 70 benefit will be more than the benefit she is already entitled to as your spouse. Her benefit as your spouse is 50% of the benefit you were entitled to at your full retirement age (66). She would get that 50% because she has already reached her own full retirement age (FRA), but your wife's spousal benefit doesn't grow beyond what she's entitled to at her FRA. Her own SS retirement benefit, however, grows by .667% per month until she is 70, at which point it reaches maximum (32% more than her FRA benefit amount). So, the question is, which will be higher - her spouse benefit, or her age 70 benefit? If the answer is her spousal benefit, then she should claim that now. But if the answer is her age 70 benefit, waiting until she is 70 makes more sense.

There is, however, another option which would work even better if your wife's own benefit at age 70 will be her highest. Since you are already collecting, and because your wife was born in 1953, she is eligible to file a "restricted application for spousal benefits only." Doing so would allow her to collect her 50% spouse benefit from you now, while still allowing her own SS retirement benefit to grow to maximum at age 70. That would give your wife half of your FRA benefit amount each month, while she simultaneously maximizes her own SS retirement benefit. Then at age 70 when her personal benefit reaches maximum, she can switch to her own higher benefit. I suggest that your wife get a Statement of Estimated Benefits from Social Security to determine if her age 70 benefit will be higher than her spouse benefit. If so, she can file the "restricted application for spouse benefits only" and then simply wait until she is 70 to switch from her spouse benefit to her own higher benefit (32% more than her FRA amount).

Note that this "restricted application for spouse benefits only" option is no longer available to anyone born after January 1, 1954 but is still available to your wife because she was born before that. Unless her spousal benefit will be her highest, I suggest that your wife file the "restricted application for spouse benefits only" which will give her 50% of your FRA benefit amount (including COLA awarded since then). She should also ask for 6 months retroactive spouse benefits since she was eligible to do this at her FRA.

The easiest way for your wife to get her Statement of Estimated Benefits is by using her personal "My Social Security" online account. If she doesn't yet have an online account with Social Security, it is easy to create one at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. She will need that account anyway to apply for her benefits online, which is by far the most efficient way to apply.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org

Roy's sudoku

			1	6	4			
1								8 9
	2			3				4
	5	4					1	6
6		3			3			
							2	7
				1				2
5	8							4
			8	9	7			

Taking a nap has health benefits for seniors

“Getting a good night’s sleep comes highly recommended for the 50-plus population, particularly for the fastest growing segment of senior citizens, those over 65. In fact, it turns out that peaceful dozing overnight may not be enough for some seniors and that taking an afternoon nap may not only be good for toddlers, but can also be beneficial for seniors,” according to Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. But, keep it short, says Weber. The longer you lie down to catch some midday Z’s, the fewer the benefits.



Dr. Charlene Gamaldo, recommends seniors take their naps between the hours of one in the afternoon and 4pm.

The experts at the Johns Hopkins Sleep Disorders Center report that too long of a catnap can interfere with your ability to think straight. The medical director at the Center, Dr. Charlene Gamaldo, recommends seniors take their naps between the hours of one in the afternoon and 4pm.

“Napping this time of day will provide you with the most bang for your buck.” But, she says, don’t doze for too long; 20 to 40 minutes will do the trick. Any longer than 30 to 90 minutes and you risk cognitive problems and insomnia at bedtime. Dr. Gamaldo cites a study reported in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society

that concluded “moderate nappers had better overall cognition than nonnappers or extended nappers. Nonnappers also had significantly poorer cognition than short-term nappers. In multiple regression analysis, moderate napping was significantly associated with better cognition than non-, short and extended napping.”

The Sleep Foundation concurs and points out that there are different types of naps: **Recovery Nap:** Sleep deprivation can leave you feeling tired the following day. If you are up late or have interrupted sleep one night, you might take a recovery nap the

next day to compensate for sleep loss. **Prophylactic Nap:** This type of nap is taken in preparation for sleep loss. For example, night shift workers may schedule naps before and during their shifts in order to prevent sleepiness and to stay alert while working. **Appetitive Nap:** Appetitive naps are taken for the enjoyment of napping. Napping can be relaxing and can improve your mood and energy level upon waking. **Essential Nap:** When you are sick, you have a greater need for sleep. This is because your immune system mounts a response to fight infection or promote healing, and that requires extra energy. Naps taken during

illness are considered essential. However, AMAC’s Weber says you don’t want to overdo it. Nor do you want to skimp.

According to Dr. Gamaldo studies have shown that those who take a nap too long or too short may have poor health and even a shorter life span. On the other hand, well-timed afternoon

naps for seniors can have positive impacts on memory and mood and can ease stress and make you more alert.

Interestingly, despite the fact that the caffeine in coffee can hinder sleep, Dr. Michael Breus at the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, who is known as “The Sleep Doctor,” suggests that you

might want to take a cup of coffee before taking a nap. He says it will help wake you in 25 minutes or so to make sure you don’t nap for too long a time. He calls it a “Nap a Latte,” explaining that you should “Get a cup of black drip coffee, throw three [ice] cubes in it merely to cool it down, slug it as fast as you can, and take a nap immediately.”

Call for applications for San Diego Young Women’s Retreat in August 2021

Angel Faces is now offering an in-person retreat Aug. 19-22, 2021 in San Diego.

This retreat is for young women who have endured traumatic injuries, ages 19 – 29 (flexible). Our online application is now available on our website under the Programs page. www.angelfaces.com

Participants & volunteers must be vaccinated for COVID-19 by 8/1/21.

Participants are responsible to get themselves to the retreat site. Angel Faces will not be sponsoring transportation at this time, however, limited sponsorships may be available.

Applications and application fee are due by June 15, 2021. For more info or questions? contact

Ashley Sammons, Program Manager, at ashley@angelfaces.com.

VVSD slates vaccine pop-up event on June 18

Been too busy to get COVID protected? Been waiting to see how vaccine distribution progresses? An easy path to join the vaccinated and protected from COVID population is coming soon, this is a free vaccine pop-up event, OPEN TO EVERYONE! You can walk in or make an appointment for your vaccination, Friday, June 18th from 9:30am - 3:30pm. The one dose J&J COVID vaccine will be available at Veterans Village San Diego for those aged 16 and up.

There will also be limited Pfizer vaccine doses available for those under the age of 16 and the County will schedule a second dose with those individuals on-site for a different location. Check out the details in the flyer, and we will see you on June 18th! Interested in learning more about VVSD and our mission to leave no one behind? Check us out at www.vvsd.net

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2021 GMC ACADIA SLE Elevation Package

\$285 PER MO. + TAX
LEASE



\$1995 Drive off. 36 months @ \$285 mo. + tax. 10,000 miles per year. Rebate of \$3000. Plus this includes \$1000 Conquest Rebate (Must have a non GM Lease). Stk #3210128, Vin #MZ147605.

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