



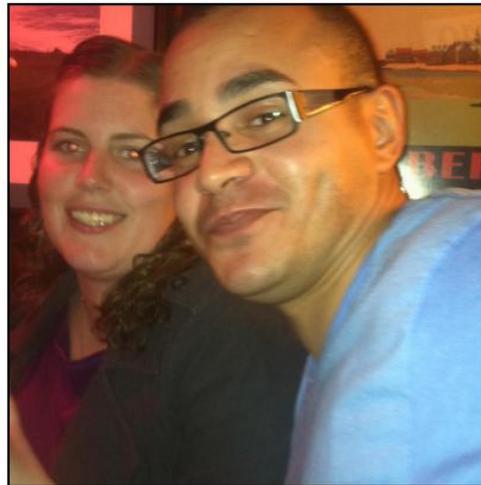
TEAM TRAINER

Pensacola



A group of ten air traffic controllers were selected to travel to Pensacola, FL for Team Trainer to get certified. The group spent numerous hours studying for the written test and countless hours of training on the simulators to prepare for the certification run and all the hard work paid off when they passed with flying colors and returned, certified. Evenings were spent going to dinner and building team camaraderie with one another as well as members from the USS Bataan. The group is scheduled to deploy with the USS Bataan in early Jan 2014 and leadership encourages bonding. The groups came together and built working relationships as well as friendships through beach volley ball games, pool and barbeques. It's sure to be a successful deployment.

By: AC2(AW/SW) Dennler



Chili COOK OFF



The third classes put together a chili cook-off to benefit MWR. The contest included 11 chefs and 4 judges. AC3 Pugh won "hottest" chili for the intense "heat" it put off. Mrs. Shipman brought home the blue ribbon, ACC Presnell came in second and there was a tie for third between CDR Bushman and YN3 Price. They offered samples for those that were in the market to try something new and a bowl for the ones that "know" what they like. It appeared that all the chili was enjoyed because most of the crock pots went home empty.

By: AC2(AW/SW) Dennler



The BEST Chili!
AC3 SHIPMAN



The HOTTEST Chili!
AC3 PUGH

March is... Women's Equality Month!

Below are interviews from two of our Sailors, AC1 Isom-Brown and AC3 McCloud. Telling us what it is like to be a woman and in the Navy.



Name/Rate: AC1 Chicquita Isom-Brown

Hometown: Winston-Salem, NC

What is your current job? Training Dept. LPO

What are your proudest Navy accomplishments?

Qualifying (AW), Advancing to First Class

What is your favorite thing about serving in the Navy?

Meeting people

How do you achieve a Navy life-work balance?

Taking/Spending quality time with family, self, and God.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

Retired from the Navy

What are your hobbies?

Reading, Decorating, Traveling.

Name/Rate: AC3 Sarah McCloud

Hometown: Baltimore, MD

What is your current job? Training Dept.

What are your proudest Navy accomplishments?

Qualifying (AW), Advancing to Third Class and, qualifying on TAD/TATC position.

What is your favorite thing about serving in the Navy?

Camaraderie

How do you achieve a Navy life-work balance?

Plenty of sleep and a understanding Family

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

Controlling in a Navy Tower

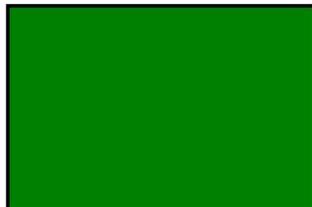
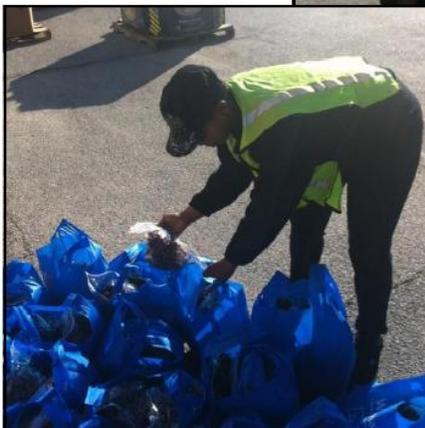
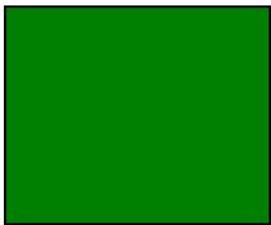
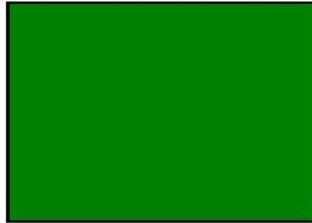
What are your hobbies?

Swimming, Painting, Music



Blackjacks Give Back

AC1 Isom-Brown, AC1 Morris and OS1 Kennedy traveled to Smithville, VA to the local food bank and helped serve 185 needy and elderly families on Thursday, March 14, 2013.



Volunteer Opportunity

-The Arts Are Wild -Literally

Come out to support the Young Audiences of Virginia, Inc. <http://www.yav.org>
Volunteers will be assisting YAV staff in coordinating Artist events at the different stage locations, assisting with the arts exploration tables, and assisting with guiding guests to additional YAV attractions throughout the Zoo. In addition, volunteers will be assisting YAV Staff set up and break down event stages and pavilion area tables.

Event Description:

On Saturday, April 13, 2013, Young Audiences of Virginia and the Virginia Zoo will come together to present The Arts Are Wild - Literally!, an event, celebrating Literacy and Interactive Arts-in-Education. The Safari of Fun begins at 11:00am and will continue until 4:00pm.

The Arts Are Wild - Literally! event is both a Literacy and Arts-in-Education awareness opportunity, designed to call attention to the power of the Arts in teaching core curriculum concepts and to what parents can do to encourage and implement good reading habits at home. Parents and children in attendance will have the opportunity to:

Meet and interact with Anna Dewdney, the New York Times award winning Children's Book author/illustrator.

Enjoy performances by 20 YAV performing artists.

Use their imaginations at any of our 8 Interactive Arts Exploration tables.

Visit the many, fascinating animal exhibits the Virginia Zoo has to offer!

The Arts Are Wild - Literally! event is part of Young Audiences of Virginia's larger literacy initiative. We have partnered with our national YA organization and other chapters around the country to develop Arts for Learning Literacy Lessons. Arts for Learning Literacy Lessons have proven positive and effective within classrooms across the state since its inception two years ago. Leveraging proven arts integrating techniques in support of specific and measurable literacy goals has attracted the attention of education professionals from around Virginia.

Schools in Norfolk, Suffolk, Chesapeake and Roanoke will continue the implementation of this program this year.

Decades of research conclude that parents who spend time reading to and sharing books with their children are a critical factor in supporting children's success in school. Only 50% of parents read to their children every day.

Literacy is one of the benchmarks of success in life.

Virginia's prison planners will use 3rd and 5th grade reading scores to predict how many prison cells they will need in 10 to 15 years.

The lower a child's reading score is, the more likely he or she will drop out of school.

Dropping out means fewer options for making a living and surviving and the greater likelihood that a child/adolescent/adult will end up in the custody of the justice system.

Young Audiences of Virginia works daily to positively impact the education and literacy of our community's children through our interactive, Arts-in-Education programming.

-Habitat for Humanity is hosting their 25th annual Tool Box Bash. They are in need of volunteers to assist with set up of event. Event is on Saturday, April 27th. This event leads up to many home improvements for the year that we will assist during the year. Please sign up and see myself or OS1 Kennedy for sign up registration forms.

We invite you to support the Tool Box Bash 2013 Event Committee as a Volunteer. The time you donate will help off-set labor cost which will, help retain a larger portion of the revenues raised. This year the revenues raised will contribute directly to Kenley Commons, the signature build event. You may not be able to build a house or serve on a committee, but taking an active role as a volunteer will be a truly rewarding experience.

13 Deductions That Could Cut Your Tax Bill

For all the talk about tax changes at the end of 2012, many people are still left wondering what it means for them.

"Is it a big deal? Or is it business as usual?" are questions I'm hearing," says Scott Halliwell, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ practitioner with USAA.

"While many issues were resolved, a lot of taxpayers still aren't sure how their tax returns and deductions are affected," he says.

If you're one of those people, brush up on these 13 deductions before tackling your tax return. They are worth reviewing, as they could lower your tax bill.

1. Traditional IRA contributions. You have until April 15, 2013, to contribute up to \$5,000 to a traditional IRA for 2012 and, if you qualify, deduct it on your tax return. Here are some guidelines:

If you were 50 or older on the last day of 2012, you can contribute up to \$6,000.

If you (and your spouse if you're married) weren't covered by an employer's retirement plan in 2012, you can generally deduct your contribution in full.

If you were covered by an employer plan, you can only take a full deduction if your modified adjusted gross income was \$58,000 or less (\$92,000 or less for married couples filing jointly). Your deduction is reduced if your modified adjusted gross income was more than \$58,000 but less than \$68,000 (\$92,000 and \$112,000 for married couples filing jointly). Above those levels, you may still contribute, but you can't take a deduction.

If your spouse was covered by a retirement plan at work but you weren't, you're eligible to take a full or partial deduction if your combined adjusted gross income was below \$183,000. See IRS Publication 590 for more details.

2. Self-employed retirement plans. If you work for yourself, you can open a Simplified Employee Pension IRA by April 15, 2013, and deduct your contribution on your 2012 return. SEP IRAs may be an easy way to create your own retirement plan, and they can allow much higher contributions than traditional IRAs. Contributing to a SEP IRA does not exclude you from making an IRA contribution, but it may affect whether you can take a deduction for it. (A SEP IRA is considered an employer-sponsored plan).

3. Mortgage interest. You're allowed to deduct interest paid on your primary mortgage, as well as home equity loans, home improvement loans and lines of credit. In general, you may deduct interest on up to \$1 million of primary mortgage debt and up to \$100,000 of home equity balances.

4. State and local taxes. The federal government generally allows taxpayers to deduct property and income taxes paid to state and local governments.

5. Sales tax. If you didn't pay much state income tax — or live in a state that doesn't tax income at all — you may be able to choose to deduct sales tax instead. And you typically don't need receipts — simply calculate an assumed amount using an IRS table or online calculator.

6. Charitable gifts. Donations to charity may ease your tax burden, but only if you have the right documentation. Cash contributions — regardless of the amount — require a canceled check or dated receipt. Any contribution of \$250 or more requires bank or payroll deduction records or a written acknowledgement from the charity. Noncash contributions valued at more than \$5,000 generally require an appraisal.

7. Education costs. Up to \$2,500 in interest on loans for qualified higher education expenses may be deductible if your adjusted gross income is less than \$75,000 (\$150,000 if you're married and filing a joint return). A portion of your tuition and fees may be deductible if your adjusted gross income is \$80,000 or less (\$160,000 on a joint return). There are also two tax credits for college costs: the American Opportunity Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit (See IRS Publication 970).

8. Medical and dental costs. The government sets a high hurdle for these expenses: You may be able to only deduct them if they exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income. Be aware that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act decreases this deduction for the 2013 tax year because those expenses generally will be deductible only if they exceed 10% of your adjusted gross income. The law does include a temporary waiver for seniors and their spouses if either has reached age 65 before the close of tax years 2013-2016.

9. Health insurance. Self-employed taxpayers get a break on one of their biggest financial headaches. In general, they may be able to deduct all of their health insurance premiums.

10. Health savings accounts. If your family was covered by a high-deductible health insurance plan in 2012, you may be able to contribute up to \$6,250 to a health savings account (\$3,100 if it only covered yourself). Contributions are deductible, and withdrawals for qualified medical expenses are tax-free. Similar to IRAs, you have until April 15, 2013, to contribute for the 2012 tax year.

11. Job-related moving expenses. If you moved to take a new job, you may be able to deduct your expenses if you pass these two IRS tests:

Your new job must be at least 50 miles farther from your old home than your old job. If you didn't have a previous job, your new one must be at least 50 miles from your old home. If you're in the military with permanent change of station orders, you do not have to meet these rules.

If you're an employee, you must work full time for at least 39 weeks during the 12 months after you arrive in the general area of your new job. If you're self-employed, you have to work full time for at least 39 weeks during the first 12 months and 78 weeks during the first 24 months.

12. Guard and Reserve travel expenses. If you traveled more than 100 miles to attend a drill and spent the night, you may be able to deduct lodging expenses, half the cost of your meals and 55.5 cents per mile for travel. You also can deduct tolls and parking fees.

13. Out-of-pocket teacher expenses. Teachers, aides, counselors and principals — kindergarten through 12th grade — should be able to deduct up to \$250 for classroom supplies purchased in 2012.

Bye Bye Blackjacks

By: OSSN Heuring

Saying goodbye is always the hardest thing to do when leaving a command. Just recently we've said goodbye to some fellow Blackjacks, and soon we are saying goodbye to even more. A few of them, including OSCS Sullivan and AC1 Morris, offered to share with us what they liked and dislike about TACRON 21.

“What I like about TACRON? Well I like that it's a small command which creates a family-like environment.” OSCS Sullivan comments. “I like that it offers a lot of diversity outside of your own rate,” AC1 Morris remarks, “it makes you work outside of your box.”

There are a lot of things Sailors like about our command, but there are also downsides. OSCS Sullivan and AC1 Morris agree that Sailors get little experience within their rate which presents a problem.

Both Blackjacks had a lot to say about TACRON, but it all led back to us being a family. “You can tell we stick together,” AC1 Morris notes. “We have a close knit relationship.” OSCS Sullivan agreed, “We're always taking care of each other.”



TACRON 21

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Welcome to the Blackjack Family:

GM1 Thierry - 14 MAR-13

Best Wishes to the following family members as they depart TACRON 21 and move one to future endeavors:

AC3 ROBBINS 1 MAR
AC1 MORRIS 20 MAR

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

LCDR BEAM - 31-MAR
ACAN BELTRAN- 25-MAR
AC2 FINKS - 13 MAR
AC3 GARDNER - 16 MAR
MAJ GORDAN - 30 MAR
IS2 SPROUL - 21 MAR
OSCS(SW/AW) SULLIVAN -1 MAR

