



TECOM CONNECTION

A Newsletter for the TECOM Workforce



REFLECTIONS



Greetings,

Thank you for all your support for the newsletter! I'm overjoyed from your yearlong participation.

As 2019 ends, consider reflection as a great tool that allows you to take notice and become more mindful of what is happening in our lives and the lives of others.

Happy Holidays!

R/
Terra Eidinger
Editor



Amara Charles and husband, G5

The highlight of my holiday season is spending time with my family.

December 2019

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Holiday Message from the Executive Deputy



Season's Greetings,

On behalf of the TECOM Command Team, I would like to extend our thanks and sincere appreciation for your outstanding service to TECOM and the Marine Corps in 2019. We recognize your daily dedication to our mission and I am awed by what we've accomplished as a command this year. I encourage you to take the time over the holidays to enjoy the season with family and friends. 2020 promises to be dynamic and fast-paced year for TECOM, and I know you're all up to the challenge!

We wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

Anthony J. Greco, Jr.



MESSAGE FROM YOUR TECOM SAFETY DIVISION

Safety Thoughts *Winter Season*

The winter season is upon us, which may mean snow, ice, sleet, rain and freezing temperatures. The following "Safety Thoughts" are provided to aid you in preparation for the 2019 - 2020 Winter Season.

Personal Health

- ⇒ Reduce stress-levels by formulating realistic, action-oriented, and achievable goals.
- ⇒ Utilizing good time management enables you to work (or play) smarter not harder.
- ⇒ Set aside quality time for rest and relaxation, and be selective with your holiday commitments.
- ⇒ Maintain healthy eating habits, and a rewarding exercise routine.
- ⇒ If heading out in the cold isn't your idea of a good time, then try group fitness like spinning or yoga at your local [fitness center](#) or go [bowling](#) with friends.
- ⇒ If you feel overwhelmed or depressed, talk to someone; the Marine, Sailor or Civilian next to you wants to help, just ask. Remember, one team; one fight!!!

Home Safety

- ⇒ Unserviced home heating systems or mistakenly warming-up vehicles in garages can produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide (CO). Install a battery-operated or battery back-up CO detector and smoke alarm in your home; test devices monthly, and replace batteries as needed.
- ⇒ Never leave lit candles unattended or in immediate reach of children.
- ⇒ Ensure holiday decorations don't create a fire, overload electrical outlets or create trip and fall hazards, which can impede your family emergency evacuation plan.
- ⇒ Keep window blinds closed when away from home.

Motor Vehicle Safety

- ⇒ Make sure your vehicle is in peak winter-operating condition; have it inspected by an approved auto repair facility.
- ⇒ If traveling long distance by car, alert your chain of command of travel plans; use "TRiPS" online assessment tool to identify potential hazards in order to reduce off-duty mishaps.
- ⇒ Begin travel well-rested, drive during daylight, and take rest breaks often to deter fatigue.
- ⇒ Avoid driving in poor weather conditions whenever possible, and adjust your stopping distance, speed etc. according to road conditions.
- ⇒ Enforce seatbelt use by all of your occupants, and never drink and drive.

Risks are more easily controlled when hazards are clearly identified in the planning process. When you accept unnecessary risks, the outcome can have catastrophic results ending in serious injury or fatality! Whereas if you infuse risk management into the planning of your off-duty activities, you can reasonably predict the outcome of those activities. **Accept no unnecessary risks.**

Additional Safety information can be found at [Naval Safety Center](#), [National Safety Council](#), and [American Automotive Association Exchange](#).

EDITOR EXCLUSIVE



Site Visit to MCAS New River, NC (Sep 2019)



SES Bryan G. Whitman (NCMAS Director of Government & Public Engagement), Terra Eiding (Editor, TECOM Connection), Mr. Michael Blaine (TECOM/NCMAS) and Denise Hlavarty (NCMAS, not shown) (Nov 2019)

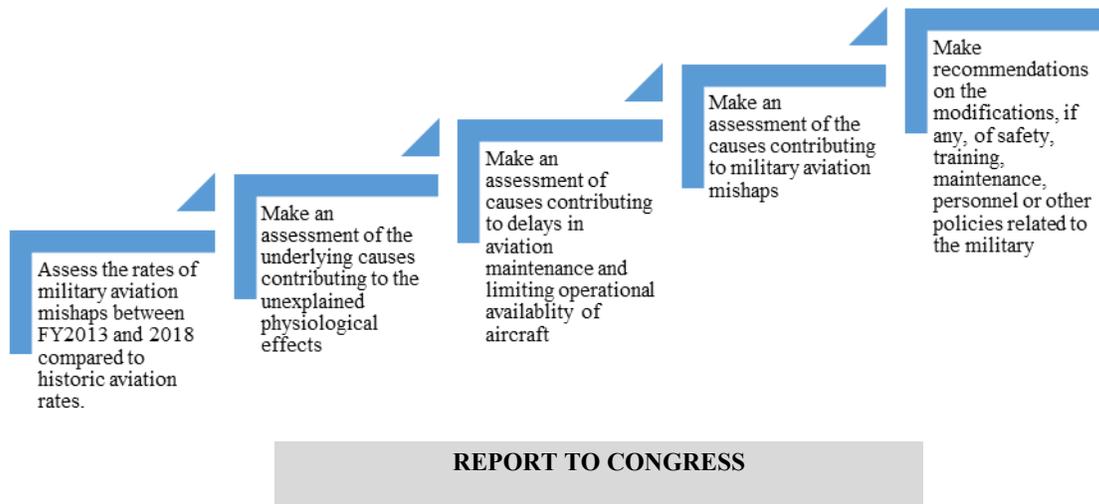
Where’s Mr. Michael Blaine?

By SES Bryan G. Whitman and Terra Eiding

Michael Blaine has served as the TECOM Mission Assurance program manager since 2013. Earlier this year, the Honorable Mr. Richard Healing, Vice Chair of the National Commission on Military Aviation Safety (NCMAS) requested Mr. Blaine’s participation in the Commission. Mr. Healing is a former National Transportation Safety Board Member. Both men worked together for five years when LtCol Blaine (Ret) served as the Military Operations & Training Branch Head, in the Safety Division HQMC. Mr. Healing was the Director of Safety and Survivability for the Department of the Navy from 1985 to 2002. Later, that position became the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Navy for Safety office. The NCMAS Chairman, General Richard Cody (USA Ret), contacted TECOM leaders and requested Mr. Blaine for detail to the commission for fifteen months. The request was granted and Mr. Blaine should report back to TECOM on or about 1 July 2020.

The FY19 NDAA directed the NCMAS to conduct a comprehensive review of military mishaps occurring between 2013 and 2018 to reveal trends, identify shortcomings, and highlight best practices. The Commission is examining the full range of man, train, and equip issues associated with aviation safety. The purpose and goal of the Commission is to examine past mishaps and make recommendations to the Congress and the Defense Department on ways to improve aviation safety and readiness in the military.

Consequently, the NCMAS must address five key issues when it reports to Congress in 2020:



EDITOR EXCLUSIVE (con't)**Where's Mr. Michael Blaine?**

Mr. Blaine is the NCMAS Executive Assistant despite his humorous response, "I do windows and I do floors". Mr. Blaine participates in all NCMAS Directors' meetings, travel planning and Commissioners' meetings. He coordinated the first NCMAS Commissioner's meeting in the Hampton Roads area. This trip included Air Combat Command aboard Langley Air Force Base (AFB) VA, Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Atlantic (HSCWL) aboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Norfolk VA, and Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic (SFWL) aboard NAS Oceana VA. Comparatively, he coordinated and participated in visits to the following commands/locations: US Army Combat Readiness Center, Fort Rucker AL, US Navy Physiological Events Action Team (PEAT), Arlington VA, Commander Naval Air Forces (CNAF), NAS North Island CA, Marine Aircraft Groups (MAG) 11 & 16, MCAS Miramar CA, MAG 13 & Marine Aviation Weapons & Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1), MCAS Yuma AZ, 56th Fighter Wing (FW), Luke AFB AZ, Strike Fighter Wing Pacific (SFWP), Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit (CNATTU), NAS Lemoore CA, 9th Reconnaissance Wing & 940th Aerial Refueling Wing (ARW), Beale AFB CA, 4th FW & 916th ARW, Seymour Johnson AFB NC, CG 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing; MAG-14 & MAG-31 (via VTC); Fleet Readiness Center East (FRC-E), MCAS Cherry Point NC, MAG-29 & CNATTU, MCAS New River NC, VR-1, VR-53 & VR-30, Washington Naval Air Facility, Andrews AFB MD, Naval Aviation (NavAir) Program Management Offices, NAS Patuxent River MD, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade & Hawaii Army National Guard, Wheeler Army Air Field HI, MAG-24, MCAS Hawaii HI and 19th FW, 15th Maintenance Group, Hawaii Air National Guard HI. Similarly, Mr. Blaine is currently coordinating visits to NAS Whidbey Island, Joint Base (JB) Lewis-McChord WA, JB Elmendorf-Richardson AK, NAS Pensacola, NAS Whiting Field FL & Ft Rucker AL.

During site visits Mr. Blaine asks senior commanders (Groups & Wings), Squadron Commanders, junior aviators, senior and junior maintainers and logisticians their views to improve aircraft readiness and aviation safety. According to SES Bryan G. Whitman (Director of Government & Public Engagement, NCMAS), some of the Commissioners have and will attend some of the site visits at operational units, civilian aviation industry, research, development and test centers and more. Collectively, all comments and findings are included in NCMAS Visit Reports. Commanders, operators, maintainer's inputs, plus analysis of the past 12 years of DoD aviation Class A, B & C mishaps, will be included in the Commission's report to Congress in the summer/fall of 2020.

According to Michael Blaine, "The NCMAS staff of 19 personnel, is a small group tasked with a big job! We are blessed with a group of experienced Directors & Commissioners who guide the NCMAS research and analysis process. The commissioners include: Gen Richard Cody (USA Ret), the former Vice Chief of Staff of the Army; the Honorable Pete Geren, a former Texas Congressman and Secretary of the Army; Gen Raymond Johns (USAF Ret), former Commander of the Air Mobility Command; Mr. Scott Donnelly, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Textron Inc., and Mr. Dab Kern, Senior Vice President for Corporate Homeland and National Defense at CACI International Inc. The NCMAS is a team effort. I am very blessed to have the opportunity to work w/ so many professionals with so much in depth & varied experience".

For more information:

View Bio for SES Bryan G. Whitman: <https://www.defense.gov/Our-Story/Biographies/Biography/Article/602780/bryan-g-whitman/>

NCMAS is located at Potomac Gateway South in Arlington, VA. For more information on the NCMAS and Commissioners: Source: <http://www.militaryaviationsafety.gov/index.html>

NCMAS In the News: <http://www.militaryaviationsafety.gov/newsroom/newsroom.html>

Thank you to SES Bryan G. Whitman – I appreciate the NCMAS visit. It was both exciting and humbling to have you take the extra time to assist in this collaborative narrative regarding Michael Blaine. Your thoughtfulness and generosity empower me and encourage me to do my best, always. - Terra Eidinger

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON?



Captain Lindsay Bartucco, G1
Reserve Program Manager and TECOM IMA OpGroup

Christmas is special, and its more than the beautiful twinkling lights, presents under the tree, Lifetime Christmas romance movies, and fantastic Christmas specials. It's celebrating the birth of our Christ with family, friends, and loved ones. Christmas morning is the best. It's starts slow, with a young child blinking awake, and slowing coming to the realization that the long-awaited day has arrived. From there, it turns to chaos and squeals of our anxious kids urging us to quickly get out of bed to open presents. As the good parents we are, we use this time to instill some discipline and patience into the tiny humans we're raising, and they're forced to wait. I'll prepare a nice breakfast, which they will inevitably scoff down as quickly as it's placed on the table, and we sip coffee. Then finally, after any remaining ounce of patience has worn off, the kids -breaking open at the seams - are more than ready to tear into the carefully-wrapped packages, practically foaming at the mouth like raging rabid wolves. Of course, every family has their own traditions. In this family, we start with stockings, and in every stocking each family member is gifted a single bottle of silly-string. This moment is my favorite holiday highlight. In an instant, their rabid wild animal instincts dissipate and they forget about the gifts awaiting them. We'll tear around the house in squeals of laughter and fun in an all-out hilarious Christmas morning silly-string fight. When it's over, we're a mess. The house is a mess. We have colored foam stuck in our hair and on our PJs. However, the anxious energy has been expelled and we're back into a state of calmness, ready to open gifts with thankfulness, grace, and the love of Christ in mind.



Horace Vinson, Task Management Section, Staff Secretary
Task Manager

My favorite highlight of the Holidays is Christmas Eve and Christmas morning with my family. It takes me back to my childhood while also giving me new joy in the family and gifts God has given me.



The chance to spend time with family in a more festive and relaxed atmosphere than a normal weekend. The opportunity for family to congregate whom we might not see often enough. The joy of giving gifts, especially to our children.

- Maj Patrick Hecox, G3



Ed Sobieranski, Ranges and Training Programs
Deputy Director

Relaxing doing what you enjoy and spending quality time with family and friends to allow your batteries to recharge for the challenges of the New Year.

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON?



2019 G8 Budget door decorating contest



G8 Holiday Potluck



Lori M. McCuin, G8

Financial Management Analyst

The highlight of my holiday season was helping create and decorate our door for Christmas for my new work family.



WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON?



Curtis E. Class, Safety Division

Senior Safety Specialist

Spending time with some of the purest love on earth.



G3 Holiday Party



Mr. Matthew Wagner, Policy & Standards Division

MAGTF Branch Deputy & Amphibious Section Head

“Christmas at Home”

After more than 37 years on the morning report, which includes 20+ years in a Marine Corps uniform and the balance in service with the Marines, I have always cherished the times when I can enjoy a quiet Christmas at home with my wife of 35 years, Cindy. We are grateful for the life our Marine Corps has provided us and we wish you all a Merry Christmas.

CONNECTIONS & ENGAGEMENTS

CONGRATS 4 MORE YEARS!...SSgt Evan R. Grober Reenlistment



SSgt Grober (G1) has served seven and half years in the Marine Corps. Previously, stationed in Camp Pendleton, CA, Houston, TX, and Quantico, VA. SSgt Grober has been with TECOM for one and half years. (Dec 2019)

Reenlisted TECOM HQ Marines

July – Dec 2019

Rank	Name
SGT	Domonique D. Solomon
CPL	Scott W. Grimm Jr.
MSGT	Dax D. Ridgeway
MSGT	William B. Ellington
GYSGT	Isaac T. Duderstadt
GYSGT	David T. Law
GYSGT	Justin R. Gates
SSGT	Evan R. Grober
SSGT	Charles L. Flanagan

CONGRATS MARINES!



Sergeant Damar R. Walker, G1 was awarded a CG MCCDC Certificate of Commendation for his augmentation to MCCDC G-1.

CONNECTIONS & ENGAGEMENTS



NCO OF THE QUARTER (4th Quarter FY19) - Cpl Manly A. Arvizo

CONGRATS also to NCO of the QUARTER (1st Quarter FY19) - Sergeant Dominique D. Solomon, Staff Secretary



Mid-Career Retirement Planning Course FERS (Dec 2019)



Mark Cramutolo received an award for outstanding performance while serving as Operations Branch Head, G-8.

CONGRATS!



Mr. Thomas Boyle was recognized for his role as Acting Deputy G8, from Jul to Nov 2019.

CONGRATS!

CONNECTIONS & ENGAGEMENTS



Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) Town Hall in July 2019



General Mullen and former TECOM SgtMaj Grigsby ponder the possibility of training in Fairbanks, Alaska. (March 2019)



**Basic Skills Test (BST)
Horace Vinson, Civilian Marine participating (Oct 2019)**



DALY CAFÉ BREAKROOM

Opened to all employees (military, civilians, and contractors) in Daly Hall. Located on the first floor of Daly Hall. (March 2019)

