

Commanders Corner, November 2020

There were no November 2020 Executive Board and Post meetings due to restrictions on social gatherings related to the COVID-19 outbreak; Post and Executive Committee meetings are suspended until further notice. The South Montgomery County Community Center has advised that they will remain closed through December 31, 2020. We will advise if there are any updates.

The COVID-19 pandemic has curtailed our activities. I encourage you to continue to use good judgment in your upcoming activities. Please follow the guidelines for mask use and social distancing

I don't have much to report as Post activity has been severely curtailed due to COVID-19 constraints. Although I have been careful to wear a mask and practice safe distancing, I became concerned since I did have a brief exposure to someone who later advised that he had received a POSITIVE confirmation to a test. I took the test on November 23 and received a POSITIVE confirmation a few days later. I then self quarantined. I had no symptoms or otherwise ill effects and took another test on December 7 with a NEGATIVE result advised a few days later. I've purposely delayed this month's Commander's message in order to be able to obtain the result of the December 3 test and advise the result.

One of the topics I am interested in is news about our MIAs. Below is a link to a website (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) that documents recovery of MIAs:

<https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/>

This is an impressive website that showcases the diligence this agency pursues in accounting for our MIAs.

Some interesting military news from: <https://www.military.com/daily-news>

## Space Force Is Getting Its First 2 Bases



The United Launch Alliance prepares the Delta IV rocket Wideband Global SATCOM WGS-10 satellite at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. Complex 37 on March 15, 2019. (U.S. Air Force/Airman 1st Class Dalton Williams)

9 Dec 2020

Military.com | By Oriana Pawlyk

Two key Air Force bases in Florida with space missions have been officially redesignated as U.S. Space Force bases.

During the eighth meeting of the National Space Council at Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Wednesday, Vice President Mike Pence said that Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and nearby Patrick Air Force Base will now be known as "Cape Canaveral Space Force Station and Patrick Space Force Base."

"Today is a Great day for our Military, Florida & America!" the vice president tweeted following his announcement.

Gen. John "Jay" Raymond, the head of the Space Force, added via Twitter that the bases' redesignations begin a "new era," "aligning them with their critical missions."

The renaming, however, has not been sanctioned by lawmakers.

In the final version of the House and Senate Armed Services committees fiscal 2021 National Defense Authorization Act released last week, lawmakers included a provision to require that a military base -- belonging to the Air Force or any other service -- "may not be transferred to the jurisdiction or command of the Space Force until the Secretary of the Air Force briefs the congressional defense committees on the results of a business case analysis, conducted by the secretary in connection with the transfer." A similar separate provision was introduced in June.

However, only the House has approved the compromise defense bill, which President Donald Trump has threatened to veto over Section 230, which shields tech and communication communication companies from some liability over user activity.

Despite pending legislation, officials planned to press ahead with the redesignation announcement to coincide with the Space Force's first birthday, DefenseOne first reported earlier this week, citing unnamed U.S. officials familiar with the discussion.

While the move would "violate a gentleman's agreement with congressional staffers who asked the military not to rename any bases" until the latest NDAA became law, the renaming of Cape Canaveral and Patrick was imminent, the publication reported.

Earlier this year, the Space Force began redesignating Air Force units with a space-only mission; it said it would realign and rename Air Force bases to Space Force bases accordingly.

For example, ahead of the fiscal 2020 NDAA's signing last December -- which established the sixth military branch under the Department of the Air Force -- Raymond told reporters that plans were in motion to redesignate appropriate Air Force units and locations.

"Patrick Air Force Base may be renamed Patrick Space Base, or something to that effect," Raymond said during a briefing at the Pentagon at the time.

Those plans were progressing -- until the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

Later in the spring, the general said ceremonies to rename bases were put on hold in order to observe proper social distancing and comply with Center for Disease and Prevention Control guidelines.

While the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral has a robust space mission that includes human space flight, service members at Patrick support those launches as well as submarine-launched ballistic missile test launches on the East Coast.

Patrick is being considered as headquarters for U.S. Space Command, the military's 11th unified combatant command that reactivated in August 2019 ahead of the Space Force.

SPACECOM, which is temporarily housed at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, is responsible for military operations related to space, while the Space Force organizes and trains space personnel. Like the other military branches, the Space Force has its headquarters at the Pentagon.

Ahead of Space Command's reactivation, nearly a dozen elected officials tried to petition the DoD and Trump to locate it in Florida

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## For the First Time, a Woman Will Take Command of an Aircraft Carrier



Capt. Amy N. Bauernschmidt, then the commanding officer of USS San Diego (LPD 22)

9 Dec 2020

Military.com | By Gina Harkins

In a historic first, the Navy has recommended a female officer to command an aircraft carrier.

Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt is one of six officers recommended to command a nuclear-powered carrier in fiscal 2022. Also selected for the job were Capt. Colin Day, David Duff, Brent Gaut, David-Tavis Pollard and Craig Sicola.

Naval Air Forces did not respond to requests for comment from Bauernschmidt, or questions about when the captains will be assigned to carriers and what having a woman serving in this role will bring to the force.

Bauernschmidt has already broken barriers in her Navy career since leaving the Naval Academy in 1994. She became the first woman to serve as executive officer on a nuclear warship, the carrier Abraham Lincoln, in 2016.

A career aviator who has served with several helicopter squadrons, Bauernschmidt recently commanded the amphibious transport dock San Diego, according to her Navy bio. She has for years had her sights set on commanding a carrier. Showing a strong performance while

commanding an amphibious ship was just one of the steps needed to meet that goal, she told Milwaukee's NBC15 in 2018.

"It's by no means easy," Bauernschmidt said of the naval aviation command selection pipeline. "... You're competing with people who are just as smart as you, just as accomplished as you, doing the same things you're doing -- it's hard."

Bauernschmidt's 1994 Naval Academy class was the first to graduate after Congress repealed the law barring female service members from serving on combat ships and aircraft -- a move she told CBS News changed her life.

She said in an interview with the network during her time as the Lincoln's XO that she doesn't fear failure and tries to serve as a mentor to both men and women in the Navy.

"Service ... is about these young men and women I lead every day," she told CBS. "They're pretty awesome."

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