**Navy receives first production unit of next-gen precision landing system**

An EA-18G lands aboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) during flight operations in the Pacific in 2018. CVN 70 received the first production unit of the Joint Precision Approach and Landing System (JPALS) in April, nearly a month ahead of schedule.

**NMCRS 2020 fund drive donations down significantly from 2019**

By Donna Cipolloni  
NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs

It’s not too late to make your donation to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) 2020 Active-Duty Fundraiser, which ends June 30 and the need has never been greater.

Many fundraising events had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in lower than normal donations this year, yet assistance to Sailors, Marines and their families has continued unabated.

"Without the ability for personal contact and fundraisers, the 2020 drive has only raised just over $32,000, or a little more than one-third of the 2019 total," said Maureen Farrell, director of the NMCRS office at NAS Patuxent River. "Meanwhile, our office has assisted 21 clients with more than $17,000 in assistance since the COVID-19 lockdown and $45,000 in assistance since the beginning of 2020. The annual drive is suffering locally and nationally."

**New type of loan**

In addition to the society’s Quick Assist Loans (QAL), which allow eligible service members to receive an interest-free loan for any amount up to $500, and their Traditional Financial Assistance, for clients with a need for more than $500, NMCRS has also introduced a new type of loan — the COVID-19 Rapid Response Loan.

"Many of our service families depend on two paychecks to help pay the bills and, for many, those additional sources of income have dried up due to closings and lay-offs as a result of the pandemic," Farrell explained. "All eligible clients may apply for this new interest-free COVID-19 loan even if they have an outstanding balance on another QAL or traditional loan."

NMCRS does not receive any funds from the Department of Defense or other government agencies, or from the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), so support from donations is critical.

In an emergency, NMCRS can provide assistance for:

- Basic living needs (food, rent, utilities)
- Essential vehicle repairs
- Emergency travel
- Registered nurses who make home visits
- Combat casualty visiting nurses
- Disaster relief
- Funerals

**Help our families thrive**

Donate to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

**How to donate online**

Anyone wishing to donate to the NMCRS fund drive can do so online by credit card at https://mylocalnmcrs.org/funddrive/ and selecting the credit card option. From there, click on Find My Region, click on Patuxent River, and follow the prompts. There is also a space to enter a command UIC to add to a specific command’s fund drive tally, and for donation tracking purposes.

"I’ve been working with the Society for almost 30 years," Farrell added. "I thought I’d seen just about everything until COVID-19. I’m concerned about the aftermath of the pandemic and what other disasters, such as hurricane season, may follow. With donations lacking from this year’s drive, how will we assist our clients in the near future?"

The NMCRS Pax River office has remained open on a limited basis for appointments and continues to provide financial assistance to service members and their families during the crisis. Contact them at 301-342-4739 or Maureen.Farrell@nmcrs.org if you have any questions about types of assistance available and to make an appointment.