



Captain Michael L. Witherspoon
Commander
Joint Expeditionary Base
Little Creek-Fort Story

CAPT Michael Witherspoon is a native of Tuscaloosa, AL. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a Machinist Mate Fireman Recruit in October 1986 and was commissioned in 1995 through Officer Candidate School, Pensacola FL as part of the first Seaman to Admiral Program. He earned his Bachelors of Science degree in Systems Engineering from Norfolk State University (NSU). He also holds a Master's Degree in National Security and Strategy from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, RI.

His enlisted assignments include the USS McKEE (AS 41) and Navy Recruiting District (NRD) St. Louis. His officer and at sea assignments include Electronic Warfare Officer aboard USS KIDD (DDG 993), Auxiliaries and Electrical Officer (A&E) in USS MERRIMACK (AOE 179), Main Propulsion Assistant (MPA) in USS VELLA GULF (CG 72), Chief Engineer in USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD 44), Commander, Amphibious Squadron TWO (CPR2) serving as Operations Officer (N3), Materials Officer (N4) and Chief Engineer in USS OAK HILL (LSD 51). He served as Executive Officer in Pre-commissioning Detachment and ultimately commissioned the USS GRAVELY (DDG 107). Executive Officer tours in and merger of Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron FOUR (MSRON 4), Coastal Riverine Squadron FOUR (CRS 4) Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron TWO (MSRON 2), Coastal Riverine Squadron TWO (CRS 2) and ultimately Commanding Officer of Coastal Riverine Squadron TWO (CRS 2). He deployed in support of numerous wartime and contingency operations to include; OPERATION DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM, OPERATION NOBIL ANVIL, OPERATION ENDURING and IRAQI FREEDOM,

Ashore assignments include Operational Test Director (OTD) at Commander, Operational Test and Evaluations Force, Officer-in-Charge (OIC) Coastal Riverine Group TWO Training and Evaluation Unit (CRG2 TEU), and Future Plans (N51) Future Plans in Military Sealift Command, Norfolk VA.

CAPT Witherspoon assumed duties in June 2020 as the Base Commander for Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story.

His personal awards include the Navy Meritorious Service Medal; Navy Commendation Medal; Army Commendation Medal; Navy Achievement Medal and various unit and service awards.



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EXPERIENCE

Virginia Beach

JUNE 1 – JUNE 4, 2023

Date	Activity	Location
<u>Thursday, June 1 – Sunday, June 4, 2023</u>		
8:00 am Thursday – 12:00 pm Sunday	USO Experience Scavenger Hunt (Goosechase)	Virtual
12:00 pm Friday – 3:00 pm Sunday	USO Military Village	22nd - 24th St./Beach
<u>Thursday, June 1, 2023</u>		
10:30 am – 1:30 pm	EQUI-VETS (Horsemanship Program)	Tidewater Trails Farm
9:00 am – 2:00 pm	SUP Sessions	First Landing (Narrows)
9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Geocaching	First Landing State Park
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Apex Kickoff Event	APEX Entertainment
<u>Friday, June 2, 2023</u>		
7:30 am – 12:00 pm	ASYMCA Hearts for Heroes Fishing (Session 1)	Rudee Inlet
8:00 am - 3:30 pm	ASYMCA Hearts for Heroes Fishing (Session 2)	Rudee Inlet
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Adaptive Functional Fitness Workout	Kaizen Athletics
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Disc Golf	Bayville Farms Park
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	USO Military Village	22 nd - 24 th St./Beach
12:40 pm - 4:45 pm	ASYMCA Hearts for Heroes (Session 3)	Rudee Inlet
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Song Writers Night	The Bunker
8:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Concert: Ballyhoo!	17 th Street Park
8:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Concert: The Ataris & Don't Panic	24 th Street Park
8:30 pm – 10:30 pm	Movie on the Beach: DC League of Super Pets	23 rd Street
<u>Saturday, June 3, 2023</u>		
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Adaptive Functional Fitness Workout	Kaizen Athletics
8:00 am – 2:00 pm	Heroes on the Water (Kayak Fishing)	Pretty Lake
8:30 am – 6:30 pm	Jumping for a Purpose (Skydiving)	24th – 27th Street
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	Wave Warriors (Surfing)	1 st Street/Jetty
10:00 am – 5:00 pm	USO Military Village	22 nd - 24 th St./Beach
12:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Cornhole Tournament <i>presented by Cornhole Coastal</i>	23 rd St Beach
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Cosmic Bowling	Gator Bowling Center
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Dinner <i>presented by Culinary Institute of VA</i>	Springhill Suites Ballroom
8:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Concert: Alient Ant Farm	17 th Street Park
8:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Concert: Molly Hatchet	24 th Street Park
8:30 pm – 10:30 pm	Movie on the Beach: The Bad Guys (animated)	23 rd Street
<u>Sunday, June 4, 2023</u>		
6:00 am – 7:00 am	Sunrise Beach Yoga	23 rd St Beach
8:30 am – 6:30 pm	Jumping for a Purpose (Skydiving alternate date)	24th – 27th Street
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	VB Adaptive Water Ski Lessons (1)	Witchduck Lake
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Paintball Experience (1)	Fox Bros Paintball Park
10:00 am – 3:00 pm	USO Military Village	22 nd - 24 th St./Beach
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	VB Adaptive Water Ski Lessons (2)	Witchduck Lake
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Paintball Experience (2)	Fox Bros Paintball Park
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Concert: Black Stone Cherry	17 th Street Park
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Concert: Matt Stell	24 th Street Park

NON-PROFIT INFORMATION:

[EQUI-VETS Horsemanship Program](#): EQUI-VETS will host the Horsemanship Program for 8 wounded warrior participants in conjunction with Tidewater Trails Farm. Participants will learn and work with horses in a hands-on 2-hour session that will share information about horses and therapeutic riding. Participants will focus on working with the horses on the ground to gain confidence in working with horses and ponies, learn about equine therapy, and enjoy a trail ride.

[Heroes on the Water](#): Heroes on the Water serves our Nation's wounded veterans by providing healing and rehabilitating kayak fishing outings that are physically and mentally therapeutic through our nationwide community of volunteers and donors. Heroes on the Water will conduct full day kayak fishing tours in the back waters of Owl's Creek for up to 20 wounded, ill, and injured participants.

[Kaizen Adaptive Training](#): Kaizen Athletics provides an all-inclusive facility to individuals with physical or traumatic impairments (visible/invisible) through movement and community. Fitness for EVERYBODY!

[Virginia Beach Adaptive Watersports](#): BAW's mission is to serve individuals with disabilities in our community, and their families, by offering events such as clinics, workshops and training sessions to instruct and develop our disabled athletes. VBAW will offer water ski lessons at Witchduck Lake.

[Wave Warriors Surf Camp](#): Wave Warriors Surf Camp Salt Water Treatment is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a fun and therapeutic family weekend getaway in Virginia Beach, VA for injured service members and their families. The surf camp will offer a full day of fun in the sun for up to 60 wounded, ill, and injured participants while their families are welcome to watch on the beach!



EXPERIENCE

Virginia Beach

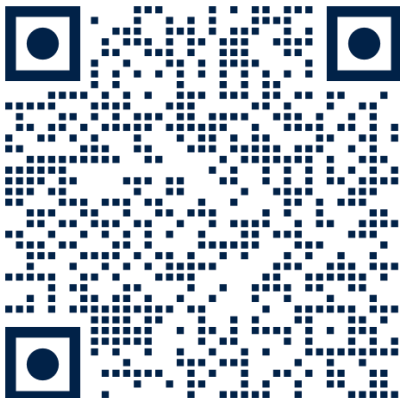
– About USO Experience VB. –

USO Experience Virginia Beach (VB) 2023 is a weeklong summer event taking place June 1 – 4, 2023 in the Virginia Beach area, and consists of a series of athletic, recreational, and social activities for service members and their families, combined with educational and entertaining public elements.

USO Experience VB 2023 social and educational events facilitate interactions between military and civilians and provide an opportunity for the civilian community to see that our service members are more than brave people keeping them safe. These common unifying experiences between the military service members and civilians let the military know they are supported, valued, and respected by their country.

Activities for service members include Skydiving, Paddleboarding, Horseback Riding, Surfing, Kayaking and more.

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