

Whiting Tower

Seventy-one Years of Aviation Training News

Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.
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Forging Wings for the Fleet
Wednesday, January 28, 2015

2015 INSTALLATION EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER



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- Training Squadron SIX to Hold Change of Command
- NAS Whiting Field Announces Sailors of the Quarter

Pickard Relinquishes Command of HT-18 to Coleman

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN observed a change in leadership Friday, Jan. 16 when Lt. Col. Rafford Coleman, USMC, formally relieved Cmdr. Kevin Pickard Jr., USN, as the commanding officer of the unit.

Capt. Hugh Everly, Commander, Helicopter Sea Combat Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet served as the guest speaker for the event held at the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Auditorium. The squadron is one of three helicopter training commands assigned to Training Air Wing FIVE, which comprise 100 percent of all initial helicopter training for the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

Commanding one of the squadrons is a daunt-

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Cover: Cub Scout Pack 419 out of Pace, Fla gets to experience the response capabilities of the NAS Whiting Field Fire Department Crash Truck. The pack also received a tour of the flight simulators and South Field Hangar. Photo by Ensign Richard Krepps

The Whiting Tower

Commanding Officer

- Capt. Todd Bahlau

Executive Officer

- Cmdr. Gregory Gray

Command Master Chief

- Command Master Chief (AW/SW) Alton Smith

Public Affairs Officer

- Jay Cope

Public Affairs Staff

- Lt. j.g. Laurence Clemente

- Ensign Richard Krepps

- Ensign Jon Spoehr

The Whiting Tower is an authorized publication for members of the Naval Air Station Whiting Field team, tenant commands, their family members and retirees in the surrounding area. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Navy, and do not imply endorsement thereof. The editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

Training Squadron SIX to Hold Change of Command

By Ensign Richard Krepps, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

Cmdr. Wade A. Iverson will assume command of Training Squadron SIX from Lt. Col. Kevin L. Digman during a Change of Command ceremony Friday, January 30 at 1:00 p.m. in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Atrium building.



Commanding Officer VT-6
Lt. Col. Kevin L. Digman

Training Air Wing FIVE Commodore Col. Gary Kling will be the guest speaker for the time honored tradition that allows for the assembled crew, staff, friends and guests to welcome in the new commander while also recognizing the various achievements of the outgoing commander.

Under Digman's leadership, who has served with the "Shooters" since Aug. 2012 first as Executive Officer and then as Commanding Officer, VT-6 flew over 32,000 mishap free flight hours, 30,000 of which were instructional hours. During his command, VT-6 set a new standard for efficiency by reducing their average training time from 41 weeks to 32 weeks and completing 310 Joint and International Officers through primary training. This level of production contributed to Training Air Wing FIVE's highest production in the last 12 years and the squadron receiving a grade of "Outstanding" during the 2013 Chief of Naval Air Training Flight Instructor Standardization and Training inspection.

Iverson stands ready to take command of VT-6 and will draw upon his 20 years of naval service and experience to fill the shoes of his predecessor. His extensive career began as an enlisted Hospital Corpsman in 1994. He later graduated from the University of West Florida with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and was commissioned in Nov. 1997 through Officer Candidate School.

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NAS Whiting Field Announces Sailors of the Quarter

By Ensign Richard Krepps, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NASWF) recently announced its Sailors of the Quarter for the First Quarter Fiscal Year 2015. This awards program is designed to give recognition to the top performing Sailors at various levels of enlisted service. The Sailor of the Quarter is the top performing First Class Petty Officer. The Junior Sailor of the Quarter is the best performing Second Class Petty Officer. Lastly, the Blue Jacket of the Quarter is the most impressive Sailor in the junior ranks.

Aviation Boatswain's Mate First Class Gerry Elam, Aviation Boatswain's Mate Second Class Cory Montford, and Air Traffic Controller Third Class Thomas Taikina have been respectively recognized as the Sailor, Junior Sailor, and Blue Jacket of the Quarter.

Recognized for his "sustained superior performance", Elam is currently the Departmental Lead Petty Officer and Fire Captain for the Fire and Emergency Services Department. In addition to his primary duties, he is also the Assistant Safety Officer, Building Manager, Fire Warden, and Departmental HAZMAT PO. His exemplary performance in all assigned capacities has directly contributed to the safe completion of over 101,650 flight evolutions. Elam has also proven to be a community stalwart for both NASWF and the surrounding areas by serving as Assistant Command Volunteer Coordinator and having dedicated over 850 hours to 20 different organizations and raising over \$12,000 for the less fortunate.

Elam's Department Head Lt. Kenyatto Mayes said, "Petty Officer Elam is an excellent leader, manager, and organizer. He performs at the highest caliber in every endeavor."

Junior Sailor of the Quarter Montford is the ES-AMS Coordinator for the Fire and Emergency Services Department and has been responsible for the scheduling, reporting, and administering of training for 106 firefighters in all aspects of Aircraft Firefighting procedures. His technical expertise has resulted in him being the only service member in the command qualified to conduct respirator fit tests, and his dedication to excel-



Sailor of the Quarter
Aviation Boatswains Mate First Class
Gerry Elam



Junior Sailor of the Quarter
Aviation Boatswains Mate Second Class
Cory Montford

lence has led to the completion of over 50 firefighter physicals and 25 fit tests for the Fire Department. Montford is also a significant figure in the community, volunteering at organizations such as the Milton Library, Pensacola Fair, Veteran's Assistance, and Men in Action as mentor for local youth.

Mayes praised his Sailor, stating that, "His ability, attitude, and overall performance are of the highest caliber. He has consistently displayed unhesitating leadership, managerial, and administrative skills to obtain unparalleled results."

Air Traffic Controller 3rd Class Taikina is a very involved junior Sailor and assumes many roles in the Operations Department. He currently serves as the South Tower Supervisor, a position normally held by senior Petty Officers, as well as Radar Supervisor, Local Controller, Ground Controller, Radar Final Controller, Flight Data Operator/Clearance Delivery, and South Tower Fire Warden. Taikina has led 14 controllers in managing 20,000 mishap free flight operations and 1,800 ground control approaches. As Assistant Training Petty Officer, he has facilitated numerous hours of airfield vehicle operator instruction and contributed to the certification of 35 military and civilian personnel.

Much like his Sailors of the Year counterparts, Taikina also serves as a role model and mentor in both the command and community. He dedicated over 116 off-duty hours to organizing, planning, and promoting various events and programs in support of groups such as the Auxiliary Security Force, Diversity Committee, Color Guard, Christmas Party Committee, and Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions.

"Taikina exemplifies personal integrity, military bearing, and personal appearance," said Cmdr. Eric Seib. "He maintains high standards and is an outstanding Sailor."

These three Sailors have distinguished themselves by not only excelling in their primary duties, but by also going above and beyond their obligations to improve both the command and surrounding communities

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U.S. Naval Academy Summer 2015 Seminar Seeks Students

By Lieutenant Teng K. Ooi, PhD, USNA/NAVAIR Reserve Program

Applications for the Naval Academy Summer 2015 Seminar (NASS) opened Jan. 15, 2015 at www.usna.edu/admissions/NASS. Session dates include May 30-June 4, June 6-11 and June 13-18.

The United States Naval Academy Summer 2015 Seminar invites a select group of young men and women to attend this fast-paced, six-day experience designed to introduce the Naval Academy to rising high school seniors.

At the core of the seminar is the academic program involving 90-minute workshops designed to promote problem-solving skills using critical thinking, optimization, innovation, creativity, and team work.

Students choose eight workshops from a wide range of subjects to include: Information Technology, Topics in Math, Meteorology and Oceanography, Robotics, Computers and Naval Weapons Systems, Electrical and Biometrics Engineering, Ship Behavior in Waves, Ocean Engineering, Cyber Operations, Mechanical Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Astronautical Engineering, Chemistry of Photography, Chemistry, Foreign Languages, History, Political Science, Introduction to Literature, Economics, Physics, Character Development Seminars, Martial Arts, Seamanship and Navigation, Nuclear Engineering.

Students participate in project-based modules applying hands-on, real-world approaches to solving design and analysis problems utilizing the Naval Academy's world-class laboratory facilities. These facilities provide a unique learning environment outside the traditional classroom.

The NASS teaches prospective applicants about the life of midshipmen at the Naval Academy, where academics, athletics, and professional training are key elements in developing our nation's leaders. Students live in the dormitory, eat in the dining hall and participate in academic and leadership workshops.

They also participate in daily physical training including group runs and conditioning exercises. Seamanship and navigation classes culminate in a cruise aboard a Navy Yard Patrol Craft. The seminar helps

educate, motivate and prepare selected students who are considering application for appointment to the Naval Academy.

If you think that you may be interested in pursuing an appointment to the Naval Academy and serving your country as an officer, you should seriously consider attending the Naval Academy Summer 2015 Seminar. ✈



Summer Seminar students participate in piloting the Chinook Model Helicopter and have the opportunity to interact with Naval Academy faculty and midshipmen, who serve as role models and mentors. Photo by Lt. Teng Ooi.

This Day in Naval History

Feb. 2, 1848 - The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends the Mexican-American War and establishes the boundaries between the two republics.

Feb. 3, 1917 - US severs diplomatic relations with Germany.

Feb. 6, 1979 - Six U.S. vessels evacuate 200 American citizens and 240 other persons from the ports of Bandar Abbas and Char Bahar in revolution-wracked Iran.

Feb. 10, 1900 - The first naval governor of Guam is appointed, Commodore Seaton Schroder.

Feb. 12, 1947 - The first launch of a guided missile, the Loon, takes place on board USS Cusk (SS 348).

Feb. 13, 1943 - Women Marines are reestablished as Marine Corps Women's Reserve. Colonel Ruth Cheney Streeter, the first Director of United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve, serves until Dec. 7, 1945.

News and Notes

Comedy Show -Don't forget to mark Feb. 19 on your calendar for the "Laugh Catchers" Comedy Show hosted by MWR. The show will run from 7 to 9 p.m. and will feature nationally known comic Alonzo Bodden who won season three of Last Comic Standing. Aces will be open before, during and after the show and there will be a meet and greet in the pub following the performances. The Child Development Center will also be open to provide child care services for \$4 per hour. The show will feature adult language and themes so it is not recommended for anyone under the age of 18.

Couple's Day Adventure - Join the chaplains office, Saturday Feb. 21 for a Couple's Day Adventure from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Adventures Unlimited! This event is a chance for couples to enrich their relationship skills while having fun completing a low and high ropes course. Childcare will be available for this event. Please contact the Chaplain's Office at (850) 623-7211 before the 6 FEB deadline!

Movie Night - The Liberty Center is offering a free showing of Guardians of the Galaxy Friday, Jan. 30 at 6 p.m. in the Whiting Pines Community Center. Call 623-7274 for details.

Chapel Time - The main entrance to the Chapel is open to all hands during our normal office hours (7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) as a place for prayer, study, and/or meditation.

Tis the Flu Season - Naval Branch Health clinic has both Flu vaccine and Flu mist in stock. Immunization hours are: Mon-Thurs. 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. and Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.. Flu vaccine is also avail-



Retaining the Navy's Best

The Operations Department celebrated the reenlistment of one of their own. Aviation Boatswains Mate First Class Kyle Krause renewed his commitment on Jan. 20 at the Mid-Field Hangar. Operations Department Head Lt. Kenyatto Mayes and Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Whiting Field Capt. Todd Bahlau were on hand to congratulate the Sailor and wish him the best of luck. Photo by Lt. j.g. Laurence Clemente.

able at CVS, Target and Kmart at no cost for TRICARE Prime family members, Medicare, and TRICARE for Life beneficiaries. However, Active Duty personnel will be billed if they receive this service outside their Military Medical Treatment Facility. If you have received a bill, or have any other TRICARE questions, please contact our Health Benefits Advisor, Mr. Don Nelson at 623-7399 or via email at don.nelson@med.navy.mil.

TRICARE Phone Phishing Scam - It's come to our attention that there's a telephone phishing scam that may affect TRICARE beneficiaries. We understand the callers are trying to sell medical supplies (durable medical equipment, pain cream, etc). Remind beneficiaries that they shouldn't give any personal identifiable information (i.e., birth date, social security number, or banking information) to unknown sources. TRICARE won't call beneficiaries to offer services or ask for PII. Beneficiaries who get one of these calls may contact the DHA Program Integrity office. Information on reporting fraud is available at www.tricare.mil/fraud.

Leave Donation Program - Brandon Weaver is a Security Assistant at NAS Kingsville, TX, Commander Navy Region Southeast who has been approved as a recipient of the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. He is in urgent need of annual leave donations. If anyone wishes to donate annual leave Please use the OPM 630-A or OPM 630-B forms. You can fax completed forms along with your most recent LES to CNIC SLDCADA at 1-855-615-2310. If anyone would like additional information concerning the Leave Transfer Program, they may contact Ms. McGuire at 305-293-2783 or by email at kathleen.mcguire1@navy.mil.

Usage Information

Total Used

1,734,324 kWh

	1 Year Ago	Last Month	This Month
Total kWh Used	1,770,166	1,684,931	1,734,324
Average Daily kWh	57,102	56,164	55,946
Days In Billing Period	31	30	31

Energy Conservation

Conserving energy remains an important goal in the operation of Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Steps taken during the past year by Public Works continue to pay dividends in our energy conservation programs. Thanks to your efforts Whiting Field saved 35,842 kWh from last year's bill. Please help decrease usage by remembering to turn off lights, shut down computers and printers, and limit usage of non-essential equipment.

We'd like to recognize the following buildings for last month's highest year-over-year energy reductions.

1454	Midfield Hangar	-33.7%
2941	North Field Maintenance	-32.7%
1423	VT-3	-29.2%

From TRAWING-5

Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Wingers



Top Row: CDR Robert G. Sinram, USN, CO HT-8; ENS Pablo A. Dejesus, USN; LTJG Andrew T. Denning, USCG; Capt Jacob H. Johnson, USMC; 1stLt. Tyler J. Schumaker, USMC; LtCol. John B. Barranco, USMC J-33 Security Branch Chief
Middle Row: LtCol. Rafford M. Coleman Jr, USMC, CO HT-18; Jonathan Ardan, USCG; LTJG Richard M. Florez Jr., USN; LTJG Mark A. Ammerman, USN; 1stLt. Matthew C. Cunningham, USMC; LTJG Allan L. Carroll, USCG; Col. Gary A Kling, USMC, CO CTW-5
Bottom Row: CDR Jeffrey D. Ketcham, USN, CO HT-28; LTJG Juan M. Fontan Sanchez, SPNAV; LTJG Robby L. Chavez, USCG; ENS Charles E. Carter, USN; 1stLt. Samuel A. Schultz, USMC

Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Scholars



Congratulations to the new Academic Achievers!

From left to right: LTJG Piero Fanizza, ITNAVY; LTJG Alberto Mussida, ITNAVY; LTJG Tomasso Scolaro, ITNAVY

NOLF Choctaw Hosts Navy Special Forces Exercise

By Ensign Richard Krepps,
NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

Sailors attached to Navy Outlying Field Choctaw at Naval Air Station Whiting Field hosted a unique event last week. A short notice change to the training schedule of a Naval Special Warfare Group brought a Military Free Fall training exercise to a community that centers almost entirely on aviation training.

Weather and scheduling issues left the East Coast-based SEAL Team without a Drop Zone to conduct their training. After some quick coordination with the NAS Whiting Field Air Operations Department, the event was expertly executed.

NOLF Choctaw is generally used by Naval Aviators for training operations that consist largely of “touch-and-go” maneuvers by student pilots. However, on Friday normal operations at Choctaw were halted for a four hour window allowing for uninhibited operation of the C-130 used to drop the members. The Dobbins ARB based C-130 originally departed from Hurlburt Field and first circled NOLF Choctaw before landing to pick up the batch of jumpers who would eventually leave the aircraft at approximately 10,000 feet.

The crew made a total of four passes and ultimately dropped about three dozen different jumpers. The entire operation went off seamlessly and all participating members landed within the drop zone without injury.

“Our Sailors received some valuable training during the preparations for the ground support team and providing progressive ground taxi instructions to big wing aircraft”, stated CDR Eric Seib, NAS Whiting Field Air Operations Officer.

This isn't the first time Choctaw has



Above: One of the jumpers manages to land precisely on target with a fellow jumper not far behind.

Below: C-130 departs NOLF Choctaw with jumper aboard. Photos by Ensign Richard Krepps



Above: All participants in the Navy Special Forces Parachuting Exercise made it to the ground with out injury at NOLF Choctaw. Photo by Ensign Richard Krepps.

Family Assistance

NAS Whiting Field



FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Resume Writing 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Anger Management 1:00 - 2:00 pm	3 Managing Conflict 9:00 - 10:00 am Effective Communication 1:00 - 2:00 pm	4 Stress Management Multi-Session 10:00 am - 12:00 pm TW-5 Smooth Move 1:00 - 3:00 pm	5 Challenges of Flight School & Marriage 9:00 - 11:00 am Car Buying 1:00 - 3:00 pm	6	7
8	9 Resume Writing 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Stress Management 1:00 - 2:00 pm	10 Parenting 1:00 - 3:00 pm	11 Stress Management Multi-Session 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Smooth Move 1:00 - 3:00 pm	12 Challenges of Flight School & Marriage 9:00 - 11:00 am Money & The Move 1:00 - 3:00 pm	13 VA Representative 8:00 am - 12:00 pm	14
15	16 PRESIDENTS DAY	17 Effective Communication 9:00 - 10:00 am Managing Conflict 1:00 - 2:00 pm	18 Stress Management Multi-Session 10:00 am - 12:00 pm TW-5 Smooth Move 1:00 - 3:00 pm	19 Challenges of Flight School & Marriage 9:00 - 11:00 am Stress Management 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	20	21
22 MILITARY SAVES WEEK	23 THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN 1:00 - 3:00 pm	24 SAVING & INVESTING 1:00 - 3:00 pm	25 HOME BUYING 1:00 - 3:00 pm	26 CREDIT MANAGEMENT 1:00 - 3:00 pm	27 SPENDING PLAN 9:00 - 11:00 am	28
				Suicide Prevention ACT! Ask Care Treat		

7511 USS Enterprise St., Milton, FL 32570
 (850) 623-7177 (comm.) / 868-7177 (DSN) / (850) 623-7735 (fax)
<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/WhitingField/>

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Whiting Field Kicks off Military Saves Campaign

By Ensign Richard Krepps, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Fleet and Family Support Center is gearing up this week for the DOD wide Military Saves Campaign, an annual event that serves to encourage military families to save, reduce debt, and build wealth. While the campaign doesn't officially kick off until the week of Feb. 23 they are spear heading efforts to raise awareness.

Throughout the month of February NASWF members will find financial education booths and Fleet and Family personnel distributing literature, stressing the importance of financial responsibility, and promoting the courses that will be offered during Military Saves Week.

"Our goal in this campaign is to be pro-active," said Fleet and Family Financial Educator Eugene Jackson. "People come in all the time and ask us to help them after they are already in trouble. That's reactive. We want to help them make the right decisions and avoid ever getting to that point."

In attempt to achieve this goal, from Feb. 23 to

Feb. 28 Fleet and Family will be offering a Thrift Savings Plan course on Monday, Saving and Investing on Tuesday, Home Buying on Wednesday, Credit Management on Thursday, and Developing a Budget on Friday.

MWR, Fleet and Family Financial Education, Navy Exchange, Commissary, and Pen Air and will cap off Military Saves week with a poker run that will take place at the Whiting Field Atrium. There will be booths set up to educate participating members on various financial matters, after which the participant will draw a card from each table to result in a five card poker hand. As an incentive for service members to partake in the poker run, the highest hand will receive a \$100 dollar gift card.

In addition to providing playing cards and educational literature, the booths will also give participants the opportunity to take the "Saver Pledge." Taking the pledge enables the individual to receive further information and assistance regarding the financial topic(s) of their choice via email. Taking the pledge will also enter the individual into a drawing for another gift card

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Whiting Field MWR Puts on Comedy Show

By Ensign Jon Spoehr, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Whiting Field MWR will be opening up its own House of Comedy to host a free comedy show at Sikes Hall from 7p.m.-9p.m. Tuesday, Feb 19.

The event will feature comedians Derek Richards, Larry Reeb, Mitch Burrow and headliner Alonzo Bodden. The four comedians are starting off their tour that is travelling to Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulf Port, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, Naval Air Station Meridian and Naval Support Activity Panama City. While on NAS Whiting Field, they will be receiving tours of both the towers and the simulators. Headliner Alonzo Bodden was the winner of the third season of the reality television series Last Comic Standing and has performed on numerous television shows including "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and "Late Night with Conan O'Brien". Mr. Bodden was born and raised in Queens, New York. He has ties to the aviation community through his previous job working for Lockheed Martin. He is currently a panelist the Game Show Networks show "Mind of a Man".

Featured comic Dereck Richards' act is fast and fresh, bringing up topics such as his tales about his blue-collar upbringing and his time dating an exotic dancer. Other featured comic Larry Reeb, also known as Uncle Lar' is known for his politically incorrect comments. He has been compared to that wise-cracking black sheep relative that everyone knows. The emcee of the evening is Rich Burrow who has lived a very diverse life which has given him many stories to share with the audience.

For more information on the comics and their tour, go to their website at www.laughcatchers.com. From there you can view videos of their sketches and also look at information on their tour schedule. The show was coordinated by Lenny Nordmann, a member of NAS Whiting Field MWR, with help from staff within MWR. A similar comedy show had been done at NAW Whiting Field back in March of 2009 and

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Reserve Unit earns Small Unit of the Year award for Whiting Field

The Whiting Field Security Forces were recently recognized as the "Best Small Unit of the Year" from Oct 1 2013 to Sep 30 2014. This award was presented by Lt. Robert Tighe to the youngest and oldest sailors in the unit, Master-at-Arms Third Class Brett Balcerak and Master-at-Arms First Class Thomas Fisher respectively. This award recognizes the amount of hard work that the unit demonstrated over the year. This award was presented for Outstanding Achievement in Mobilization Readiness, Operational Readiness, and Administrative Performance. Other awards presented included: NR NSF Whiting Field Unit Sailor of the Year to Master-at-Arms First class Alvin Bicasan, NOSC Pensacola Junior Sailor of the Quarter and Junior Sailor of the Year to Master-at-Arms Second Class Joseph Emanuelson, NOSC Pensacola Sailor of the Quarter to MA1 Thomas Fisher, and NSC Pensacola Blue Jacket of the Year to Master-at-Arms Third Class Eric Alexander. U.S. Navy Photo by Ensign Jon Spoehr.

NAS Whiting Field Golf Course

GOLF SPECIALS

Information 623-7348

July & August

MWR
NAS WHITING FIELD

Twilight Hours
Begin at 2pm - everyday!

Military Mondays (18 holes with cart)
Active Duty only \$14 - All Others only \$18

Wednesday (18 holes with cart + a meal for \$21)
2 hot dogs, a bag of chips & a soft drink

Thursday (BOGO Range Balls \$3)
Purchase 1 bucket of range balls & get another bucket of balls free (for use on our driving range - until 2pm)

Whiting Field Retention Pond Stocked with Bass

By Lt. j.g. Laurence Clemente, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Things in the retention ponds along USS Intrepid Street are set to get a lot fishier over the next few months. Fish and Wildlife released 75 Large Mouth Bass in the retention pond on Tuesday Jan 20. This is in an effort to recover that ecosystem and ensure it thrives for years to come.

The ponds were surveyed last year and there was found to be an overwhelming presence of Bream, which range from one to six inches in length. "The presence of so many bream as opposed to other species was indicative of an ecosystem out of balance" said Ron Cherry, Natural Resources Manager at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Large Mouth Bass are a natural predator of the Bream, and will bring their presence in the retention ponds back to a reasonable level.

The 75 Large Mouth Bass were added based on the size of the ponds, which can support 50 Bass per acre according to Fish and Wildlife Biologists Matt Wegner. "The Bass that were added are currently eight to twelve inches long and may grow as big as sixteen inches in the months to come" says Cherry. The increased predation by the Bass on the BLUE FINN populations will also cause the Bream average sizes to increase as well, pleasing local anglers.

The ponds remain catch-and-release only, but this may change in the coming months. "As the bass populations in the ponds thrive, they may reach levels that will allow fisherman to keep some of the fish that they catch" says Wegner. As to whether the fish will be suitable for human consumption is still open to conjecture. The retention ponds accrue runoff from the runways, however water first percolates through the wetland that is closer than the ponds. This percolation promotes a healthy ecosystem for the ponds, which appear healthy by accounts of the vegetation present.

"The fish in the retention ponds have never been directly tested for toxicity levels" says Cherry, "But next year when the Fish and Wildlife return they will test the fish". This could mean a lot of good eating for anglers at Naval Air Station Whiting Field in the coming years. 

Ec-nomics

Run Fans in Reverse

Most people think of fans only when they want to be cool, but many ceiling units come with a handy switch that reverses the direction of the blades. Counterclockwise rotation produces cooling breezes while switching to clockwise makes it warmer: air pooled near the ceiling is circulated back into the living space - cutting your heating costs as much as 10%!

Winterize Your A/C and Water Lines

This one's really easy, and it will even save you a few pennies next summer, too: Simply drain any hoses and air conditioner pipes, and make sure you don't have excess water pooled in equipment. If your a/c has a water shutoff valve, go ahead and turn that off.

Similarly, make sure any hoses are drained and stowed away neatly. Turn off exterior water spigots. It's also a good idea to seal any water leaks around the place -- and don't forget to remove any window A/C units and store them so you don't invite cold drafts all winter. If you're in the market for a new air conditioner, the federal government will reimburse 30% of the cost for an efficient central air system, up to \$1,500.

Mind That Thermostat

It's easy to forget to turn down the heat when you leave the building, but doing so is one of the surest ways to save money. Most households shell out 50 to 70% of their energy budgets on heating and cooling, so why pay for what no one uses? For every degree you lower the thermostat during heating season, you'll save between 1 and 3% of your heating bill. Make it easier with a programmable thermostat; they are widely available for as little as \$50, and the average family will save \$180 a year with one.

Take Advantage of Tax Credits

A host of lucrative tax credits can help homeowners install renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Various local, state and federal incentives exist to encourage the use of efficient windows and doors, insulation, roofing, HVAC (including geothermal ground source heat pumps) water heaters (including solar water heaters) and alternative energy technologies, like solar power, geothermal heating and cooling, biomass stoves, small wind turbines and even fuel cells.

HT-18 COC

- (Cont. from Page 2)

ing task which Pickard with a level of excellence that will be difficult to match, according to Everly.

“The squadron has flourished under your command, the numbers are staggering,” he stated. “Well done Skipper, and congratulations on a fantastic tour.”

Pickard served as the squadron’s commanding officer for approximately 15 months and an additional 15 months as executive officer, during which time HT-18 set the standard for rotary wing production in every major metric including lowest time-to-train, total hours flown, and advancing sortie completion rate. He led the “Vigilant Eagles” in completing more than 55,000 mishap-free flight hours and executing in excess of 25,000 syllabus events. Furthermore, he directed a review and facilitated an upgrade to the formation and tactics training curriculum for the student aviators. Safety in flight has been a consistent theme during his tenure, and HT-18 has continued a streak of more than 42 years without a Class ‘A’ Mishap and successfully completed two Command Safety Assessments as well as a positive Safety Culture Workshop under his command.

Of course, as Everly noted in his speech, the accolades a squadron and commanding officer earn are due to the hard work and dedication of the people under his charge. Pickard acknowledged his gratitude during his opportunity to speak.

“To the officers, Sailors, and civilians of HT-18, I have been both humbled and honored to have served as your commanding officer. I can truly say that it has been the singular honor of my career.”

Coleman’s support as executive officer has certainly played an important role in HT-18’s successes, and he will strive to continue the unit’s tradition of excellence as commanding officer. Pickard harbored no doubts that Coleman was ready.

“Thank you for your support and friendship over the past 15 months. I have had a blast...I hope you have too,” he stated. “I am very confident that you will take an already exceptional squadron to new heights.”

Following Pickard’s speech, the two officers stepped to the front of the stage to observe the



Training Air Wing FIVE Commodore Col. Gary Kling presents the Meritorious Service Medal to Cmdr. Kevin Pickard in recognition of his performance during his 15 months as Commanding Officer of HT-18. Photo by Ensign Jon Spoehr.

ceremonial exchanging of the command pennant. Brought forward by the command’s senior enlisted member, Chief Aviation Crewman Steve Bean, Pickard accepted the squadron colors and passed them to Coleman, symbolically passing command of the unit as well.

The two officers then returned to the stage to exchange salutes with Training Air Wing FIVE Commodore Col. Gary Kling, who granted permission for the two officers to exchange duties. Then, the new commanding officer for HT-18 addressed his team for the first time.

“I’m absolutely thrilled for the opportunity to lead such a talented family and organization as HT-18. Make no mistake, the Vigilant Eagles are a family,” he stated. “Our pasts, present and futures are intertwined, and like any great team, we work together to navigate life and meet our personal and organizational goals. I thank God for his many blessings, and being here today is certainly one of them...I am fully aware of the exceptional dedication, character, and skill found in the finest training squadron at [Naval Air Station] Whiting Field.”

Coleman’s career spans duty as an enlisted Marine during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm before graduating from Rutgers University in 1993 and gaining his commission. He completed helicopter flight training with HT-8 at NAS Whiting

- (Cont. on Page 15)

VT-6 COC

- (Cont. from Page 2)

After being designated a Naval Aviator in Jun. 1999, Iverson completed his training on the SH-60B and was assigned to the “Scorpions” of HSL-49. His post training service includes two deployments to the Arabian Gulf with HSL-49 in support of Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom; one with the Carrier Strike Group SIX staff to Djibouti, Africa as Assistant Officer in Charge of the Maritime Coordination Element; and once more with HSL-49 aboard the USS Pinckney as Detachment TWO Officer in Charge and later as the squadrons Maintenance Officer. Iverson also attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and received his Master’s Degree in Emergency and Disaster Management from the American Military University before being assigned to the Staff of U.S. Africa Command from Jun. 2011 to Jul. 2013. He was then ordered to Training Squadron SIX in Oct. 2013 as Executive Officer.



VT-6 Prospective Commanding Officer
Cmdr. Wade A. Iverson

Lt. Col. Richard C. Roberts will replace Iverson as Executive Officer for the squadron.



TRICARE Notes

TRICARE COVERAGE FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) program is a premium-based health care plan available for purchase by qualified dependents. TYA offers TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Standard coverage to eligible beneficiaries. TYA includes medical and pharmacy benefits, but excludes dental coverage.

Young adults considering TYA must verify eligibility before completing and sending in an application. In order to qualify for TYA, dependents must be:

- A dependent of a TRICARE-eligible uniformed service sponsor
- Unmarried
- At least 21 (or age 23 if previously enrolled in a full-time course of study at an approved institution of higher learning and if the sponsor provided at least 50 percent of the financial support), but have not yet reached age 26.

You may NOT purchase TYA coverage if you are:

- Eligible for an employer-sponsored health plan under your own employment
- Otherwise eligible for TRICARE program coverage
- Married

NAS WHITING FIELD BOWLING CENTER

FRIDAY LUNCH BOWLING

11AM – 2PM

IF YOU EAT, YOU GET TO BOWL FOR FREE!

HERE'S THE DETAILS ...
PURCHASE OUR FRIDAY LUNCH SPECIAL AND HAVE A FREE GAME ON US ...

MWR
Military & Reserve Welfare Recreation

MWR
NAS WHITING FIELD

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE BOWLING CENTER 623-7930

Around the Base

Comedy Show

- (Cont. from Page 9)

Nordmann is looking forward to having a comedy show back at Whiting Field.

“MWR hopes to have NASWF join us and catch some laughs with a free funfilled night of comedy” said Nordmann.

There is limited seating available with 350 people being the maximum amount. The event is free for all members but is intended for audiences 18 and over due to the mature subject matter. For those with children under the age of 18, child care services has made available through the CDC that they will take care of the children for \$4 per hour per child. Call 623-7472 to make arrangements for your children. ✈️

SOQ

- (Cont. from Page 3)

Command Master Chief Alton Smith offered his praises the Sailors, “We are proud to recognize these Sailors for both their accomplishments as well as their contributions to NAS Whiting Field. They serve as role models for their peers and subordinates and are, without a doubt, vital members of this community. 🇺🇸



Blue Jacket of the Quarter
Air Traffic Controller Third Class
Thomas Taikina

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015

NAS WHITING FIELD **SIKES HALL**
SHOW STARTS AT 7PM

DEREK RICHARDS

DEREK RICHARDS' ACT IS FAST, FRESH, AND AT TIMES FANATICAL. HE BRINGS THE FUNNY WITH TALES ABOUT HIS BLUE-COLLAR UPBRINGING, HIS MOM'S DOG, AND DATING AN EXOTIC DANCER.

ALONZO BODDEN

ALONZO BODDEN IS A COMEDIAN AND ACTOR WHO WON SEASON 3 OF LAST COMIC STANDING. HE HAS PERFORMED ON NUMEROUS TV SHOWS INCLUDING ... "THE TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO" AND "LATE NIGHT WITH CONAN O'BRIAN"

LARRY REEB

LARRY REEB KNOWN AS UNCLE LAR', IS THE WISE-CRACKING BLACK SHEEP, POLITICALLY INCORRECT RELATIVE EVERYONE KNOWS.

MITCH BURROW

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

JOIN US FOR A **FREE** FUN FILLED EVENING OF COMEDY ... WITH HOST MITCH BURROW AND THE LAUGH CATCHERS COMEDY TOUR.



MWR Accredited Program
NAVY MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

18+ EVENT | LIMITED TO 350 SEATING | NO COVER

Around the Base

Military Saves

- (Cont. from Page 7)

at the end of the Poker Run.

The weeklong push also aims to shed light on the other issues that can arise from being financially irresponsible. While no one enjoys stressing over money, the broader impacts are not often considered.

“The aviation community puts a lot of emphasis on the mental state of pilots. Money problems can cause a lot of stress, especially when you consider that the majority of marital issues we see have some roots in finances. Furthermore, an even more direct impact is the fact that financial trouble is one of the top causes for loss of security clearance,” Jackson elaborated.

Lack financial responsibility is not just a personal issue. It can also impact command wellness. That’s why the event coordinators are urging all personnel to participate.

“We are really relying on department heads to make this campaign a success. If they pass the word down and stress the importance to their Sailors, I know we can knock this campaign out of the park,” Jackson said. ✈️

U. S. Naval Academy Alumni Association, Pensacola Chapter proudly presents

USNA / NROTC Information Symposium

Pensacola's 9th Annual
Saturday, 31 January 2015
12:30 – 4:00 pm
National Naval Aviation Museum
aboard NAS Pensacola (FLORIDA)

Students (Middle & High School) , Parents,
Teachers, Guidance Counselors, Friends – all invited!
**Seats are limited! You must sign-up in advance - via email
for a ticket usnasymposiuminpensacola@gmail.com**



12:30 – 1:45 Registration /Info. Tables
Gather information about these college scholarships
..... Meet Admissions Representatives
..... Ask the experts your questions.
- US Naval Academy
- Naval ROTC
Also invited to have information tables: the other 4
Service Academies (USMA, USAFA, USCGA & USMMA), other
ROTC Programs, USMC Officer Programs and Congressional
Staff Representatives (Nomination POCs).

2:00 – 3:00 Information Presentations
Representatives from United States Naval Academy
Admissions and Naval ROTC Scholarship Programs
will present program overviews.

3:00 – 4:00 Information Tables

For all the details/updates: <http://pensacola.usnachapters.com/admissions2.htm>
RSVP required via email: usnasymposiuminpensacola@gmail.com

US Naval Academy: www.usna.edu/admissions
NROTC/Marine Corps ROTC: <https://www.nrotc.navy.mil>



START SMALL. THINK BIG.



Set a Goal. Make a Plan. Save Automatically.

KEY SAVING STRATEGIES

- 1 Pay off high-interest debt
- 2 Save for emergencies
- 3 Save monthly through direct deposit or an automatic transfer from checking to savings

SCAN THE QR CODE INTO YOUR SMARTPHONE OR MOBILE DEVICE TO JOIN TODAY!



Join MilitarySaves.org for tips, news, and advice to help you save more successfully.

\$SAVINGS\$ TIPS

- MAKE SURE YOU KNOW ABOUT ALL THE TAX DEDUCTIONS THAT YOU CAN TAKE.

- LEARN HOW THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC) CAN INCREASE YOUR REFUND THIS TAX SEASON.

- USE 30% OF YOUR TAX REFUND TO PAY DOWN DEBT.

- LEARN HOW THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC) CAN INCREASE YOUR REFUND THIS TAX SEASON.

Around the Base

HT-18 COC

- (Cont. from Page 11)

Field, becoming a Naval aviator, in 1996. Following assignments included service with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263 (HMM-263); duty as a flight instructor with HT-8; deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; assignment to 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division and subsequent support of Operation Secure Tomorrow in Haiti; service with HMM-261; and transfer to MAG-26 at New River, N.C. More recently, Coleman participated in Flood Relief efforts in Thailand as the Expeditionary Operations officer for the III Marine Expeditionary Force from 2011 to 2013. He assumed duties as the executive officer of HT-18 in October 2013.

With his new responsibilities granted, Coleman reminded the squadron team that the mission stays the same.

“Our mission continues to be the molding of leaders. We and Training Air Wing FIVE will provide the safest and best training we possibly can every day – all day – in our pursuit of creating the world’s greatest vertical lift aviators.”

Pickard leaves the “Vigilant Eagles” to accept orders as the Navigator for the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69).

Cmdr. Brian Sanderson will replace Coleman as the executive officer for the squadron. 🇺🇸



Cmdr. Kevin Pickard passes the command pennant to the new HT-18 Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Rafford Coleman. The tradition is meant to symbolize the passing of Command from the former CO to the incumbent. Photo by Ensign Jon Spoehr.

SECURITY CORNER

Ways of avoiding getting a ticket on Naval Base part II.

1) Watch your speed while driving on base. All roads on Naval Base’s have the speed limit posted along the side of the road. Be aware of the slow speed limit when you are entering and exiting



the gates. Driving too slowly; impeding the flow of traffic will get you a ticket too.

2) No California rolls at stop signs. A California roll is where you slowly come to a stop sign and keep going without stopping. You should come to a complete stop at stop signs.

3) Yield for vehicles when you come to a yield sign.

4) Don’t drink and drive or drive under the influence of drugs, enough on this.

5) Not wearing protective equipment on motorcycles, scooters and mopeds.

6) Don’t follow too close to the vehicle in front of you.

7) Leaving your vehicle running unattended will get you that little pink ticket.

8) Parking in non-parking areas or reserved parking spots.

9) Accidents are sometimes avoidable, but if you’re at fault be prepared to receive a ticket.

10) Being uncooperative and belligerence or use of profanity toward a Police Officer (civilian or military) will get you one. Now there are other things that would get you ticket aboard a Naval Base, from loud music to failure to stop for a school bus. If you follow the rules of the road on base as out in town, you should be ok.