

Whiting Tower

Seventy-two Years of Aviation Training News

Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.
Special Edition

Forging Wings for the Fleet
April 21, 2016

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Commanding Officers Lead the Way During SAAPM

By: Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Training Air Wing FIVE started the Navy's Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) off in style with a "friendly" competition between the two commanding officers April 1 in the installation's Atrium Building.

Organized by the command Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, the "Leading the Charge Against Sexual Assault" Segway relay race was designed as a fun way to highlight the need for all levels of the chain of command to be involved in eliminating sexual assault.

"Eliminating sexual assaults in the Navy is an all-hands evolu-



Training Air Wing FIVE Commodore, Capt. Mark Murray, participates in the SAPR Segway Race between TW-5 and the base. U.S. Navy Photo by Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

tion," Command SARC Dora Ford stated. "It is everyone's job to step in and prevent assaults. This event was a fun way to show how we have to work together to be successful."

NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Bahlau and TRAWING-5 Commodore Capt. Mark Murray refused to be daunted by the heavy rainfall, and moved their race indoors. The two officers led their teams of officers, enlisted personnel and civilian employees through an obstacle course designed by the base's Morale Welfare and Recreation team. The course involved a series of challenges to the Segway drivers including a full stop and turn, a 180-degree turn in an

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The Whiting Tower

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Command Master Chief

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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.

Teal Fountain Showcases Support for SAAPM

By: Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Whiting Field joined forces with the City of Milton and several other organizations to help combat the lack of information available about sexual assault during Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) is a month set aside to promote the education about prevention and assistance programs that are available to help deter assaults and provide care and treatment for victims. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, Apr. 1, 2001 was the first Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), although awareness weeks had been held since the late 1980s. The goal is to emphasize unity in support of SAAM programs and event. (Although many agencies

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NDW SAPR Program Creates Conscience during Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By: Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Pedro A. Rodriguez, Naval District Washington Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Service members assigned to Naval District Washington gathered together to witness the signing of the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, at the Washington Navy Yard, April 1.

The Navy's effort to eradicate sexual assault within its ranks is a task that should be taken very seriously by the every service member or civilian and at NDW there is no exception.

Awareness of sexual assault prevention methods and SAPR programs continue to grow Navy wide, with both increased participation at annual events and creative new outreach ideas. Though sexual assault awareness and prevention is a year-round effort, SAAPM is a focused time when both military and civilian sexual assault organizations engage their respective communities in these efforts.

"Some of the things that the National Capital Region has planned for this year's SAAPM include proclamation ceremonies, 5ks, victim advocate meet and greets, clothesline projects, resource tabling, collaborative events with stake holders and educational forums," said NCR Sexual Assault Response Coordinator/NDW Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Coordinator Angela Lackey. "We will be hosting and collaborating on events from the Washington Navy Yard, the Pentagon, the White House Military Office and more."

This year's theme is "Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know Your Part. Do your part," focuses on the building blocks of prevention by communicating how individuals, communities, and the private sector can take action to promote safety, respect, and equality.

Personnel within NDW, who need resources for survivors of sexual violence, are always able to reach out to the NCR SARCs, Angela Lakey and Faye Julies for confidential referrals and information. Another avenue for individuals is the Civilian Victim Advocate, Sarah McCallister, or the Victim's Legal Counsel, Ann Lundwall. The civilian victim advocate can work with individuals to provide emotional support, referrals, or just to help them to understand the overall SAPR process.

If individuals would like confidential services outside of the military staff, a great resource is the DoD Safe Helpline, which provides confidential advocacy services to members of the DoD community through telephone, web based and phone applications. For more information on this resource, please visit www.safehelpline.org.

April 5th is the SAAM Day of Action; this day provides an opportunity for preventers and advocates to engage with their communities and to kick off SAAM events that are planned throughout April.

Lackey emphasized the importance of sexual assault prevention, not only during SAAPM but always and any time that personnel can create conscience about sexual assault.

"Although April is celebration of the importance of awareness and encouragement to support the sexual violence prevention movement, it should never stop there. Sexual violence prevention begins at the most basic levels of humanity and professionalism and challenges everyone to take the initiative to step into leadership positions when they confront challenging behaviors, said Lackey.

"These seemingly insignificant behaviors from individuals in the workplace or in our personal environments, that are so critical to the prevention movement, are root cause of the perpetuation of sexual violence in our ranks and must be addressed."

Lackey added that it is important to know our role preventing sexual assault.

"The foundation of the Secretary of Defense's initiatives of treating individuals with dignity and respect are the cornerstone for implementing a leadership framework which provides service members the opportunity to become a leader and intervene in problematic behaviors before they escalate, said Lackey.

"Everyone is responsible for the culture in which we are a part of and as leaders in our military, we all need to support, not only survivors of violence, but everyone who takes the courageous first step of intervening in everyday situations that help to eliminate violence in our ranks and in our society. In order to eliminate sexual violence, we must first know and understand our part in the solution and then we must act, even in the most basic violation of another's dignity."



Rear Adm. Yancy Lindsey, commandant of Naval District Washington, signs the proclamation officially starting Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAM) and the Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Pedro A. Rodriguez.

Bahlau Proclaims April SAAPM Across the Installation

By: Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs



Naval Air Station Whiting Field Commanding Officer, Capt. Todd Bahlau signs the Annual Proclamation to declare April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month across the base. U.S. Navy Photo by Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

Naval Air Station Whiting Field got a jump-start on Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month March 29 with the signing of the annual proclamation to declare April Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month across the installation.

With the senior officials from the base assembled in the command conference room and members of the Fleet and Family Support Team present, Capt. Todd Bahlau, NAS Whiting Field commanding officer, read the proclamation in its entirety before sitting to sign the enlarged document.

NAS Whiting Field Command Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) Dora Ford coordinated the signing ceremony and emphasized that prevention continues to be a vital portion of the awareness program.

“Last year we talked about bystander intervention, but we don’t want people to be bystanders,” she said, “so the Navy introduced a new slogan for this year – ‘Stepping In, Not Stepping Out.’ We want everyone to be a part of the solution. It is important to watch your friends’ backs and step in if you see the possibility of a sexual assault occurring. Whatever you do, don’t walk away thinking it isn’t your job. It is everyone’s job.”

Bahlau reinforced that thought in the proclamation.

“Whereas we must work together to educate our community about what can be done to prevent sexual assaults and support victims and survivors to ensure they are provided the help needed to survive sexual violence,”

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USS William P Lawrence Punches Out Sexual Assault

By: Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Emiline L. M. Senn, Navy Public Affairs Support Element

WESTERN PACIFIC (NNS) -- Sailors kicked off the campaign for Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month aboard guided-missile destroyer USS William P. Lawrence, April 3.

This year’s theme “Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know Your Part. Do Your Part,” promotes awareness and an effort end to sexual assault.

William P. Lawrence Sailors started the month-long campaign by wearing blue jeans in observance of Denim Day, typically recognized on April 29.

Started in Los Angeles in April 1999, Denim Day was a silent protest to the Italian Supreme Court’s overturning of a highly visible sexual assault case. Protesters wore blue jeans to defy the judges’ ruling that a young woman could not have been sexually assaulted and likely aided the accused in removing her tight jeans.

Seventeen years later, William P. Lawrence Sailors continue the blue jeans campaign to fight against common sexual assault misconceptions.

“We are sending a message to young adults that no one asks to be assaulted, despite how they dress,” said Gunner’s Mate 1st Class (SW) Cassandra Bowden,

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A Look at SAPR Events at NAS Whiting Field



NAS Whiting Field Executive Officer, Cmdr. Don Gaines and NAS Whiting Field Assistant Public Affairs Officer Jamie Link take a selfie at the SAPR Selfie Booth. U.S. Navy Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Officer.



Dora Ford, NAS Whiting Field's SAPR Coordinator and a few volunteers help decorate the willow tree behind the command building with teal ribbons, each ribbon representing ten assaults, making the tree the "SAPR Awareness Tree." U.S. Navy Photo by Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.



The SAPR Tug of War was held in the base fitness center Apr. 12 with the first competitors being Aviation Ordnance School versus Aviation Maintenance Officer School. Through competition the teams were able to show support and bring awareness for Sexual Assault and Prevention Month. U.S. Navy Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.



Participants for the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Obstacle Course 5K begin their run on the NAS Whiting Field Outdoor Track and Field. The event was held Apr. 19 with awards given to the top male and female finishers. U.S. Navy Photo by Ensign Benjamin Ziemski, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Staff.



Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Training Air Wing FIVE came together before the SAPR Segway Race to show their support for Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month in the base auditorium. U.S. Navy Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

CO's Lead

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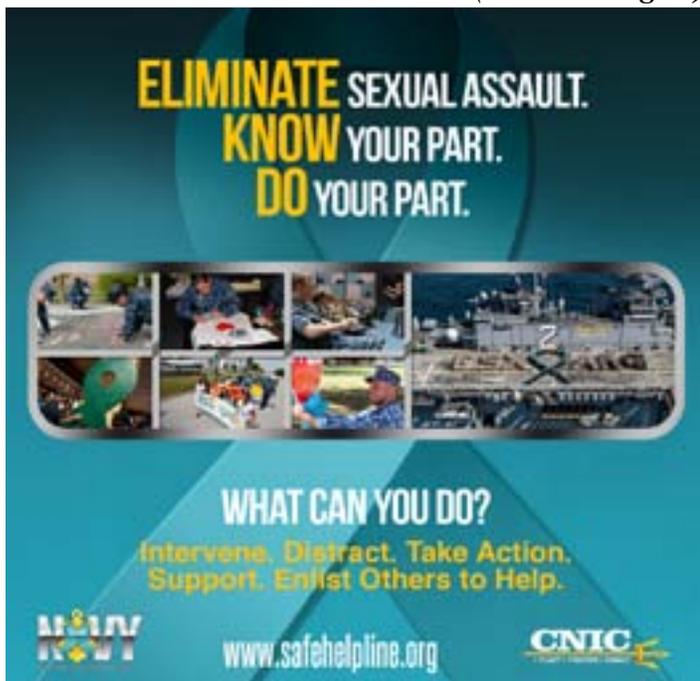
outlined square, weaving through cones and a U-turn to reverse the course.

Sporting teal-colored ribbons and streamers on their helmets and Segways, Bahlau and Murray zipped through the orange cones quickly and crossed the line to hand the teal baton to the next participant with less than Segway distance between them. The TRAWING-5 team extended their lead during the second leg, but NAS Whiting Field evened the race up during the third leg, and anchor driver Julie LaRow refused to be caught, tearing up the course in record time and bringing the victory to the Whiting Field team.

The participants for the two teams, Murray, 1st Lt. Michael Stahl, Chief Naval Air Crewman William Davis, Mike Giron on the TRAWING side and Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate Kerry Carter, Aviation Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Terrance Wever, and LaRow for the NAS Whiting Field team, were all smiles after the hard-fought contest. However, the underlying message was not lost on the racers.

We really need to promote a culture of equality and respect," LaRow said. "Sexual assaults undermine our core values and destroys the trust we have in each other. Events like these remind us of the importance to treat each other appropriately and end sexual violence."

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Bahlau

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Bahlau stated in the proclamation.

With signs and ribbons decorating the base, informational tables scattered in various locations during the month, and events to bring awareness, Ford is going all out to ensure that everyone is aware of the problem and knows where to find help.

Service members of civilians who need help due to a sexual assault can call the DoD Safe Helpline 877-995-5247, Uniformed Victims' Advocate 850-554-5383, or contact SAPR office 850-686-6298 at any time day or night. The numbers are manned by trained staff who can provide immediate victim assistance and advocacy.

"The SAPR team is striving to ensure this year's SAAPM is the most engaged and active that NAS Whiting Field has known," Ford stated. "While we work toward a day when sexual assaults in the Navy are eliminated, until that day comes, the more that people are aware of our programs, the more victims we will be able to empower."



Teal

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The City of Milton dyed the fountain teal to emphasize their support for Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month programs and events. U.S. Navy Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

still use SAAM, the White House recently added “Prevention” to their acronym for the month.)

Milton dyed the downtown fountain teal, the color of SAAM/SAAPM, to showcase the city’s solidarity with the cause. NAS Whiting Field, along with the Santa Rosa Kid’s House, Lakeview Rape Crisis Center, the Santa Rosa County Sheriff’s Office and Milton Police Department, stepped in to throw their support for the gesture. The fountain will remain teal for the remainder of the month.

It’s a worthy cause,” Mayor Wesley Meiss stated. “We want to get the word out about the prevention of sexual assaults and educate people about the program.”

Every 107 seconds, another American is sexually assaulted. This is a startling statistic that Bahlau believes highlights the need for organizations to galvanize support for the programs.

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USS William

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diversity committee president.

William P. Lawrence Sailors continued another tradition the diversity committee chairman, Senior Chief Gunner’s Mate Jaye Bell, introduced on board during SAAPM 2015.

After hanging a SAAPM teal flag in the hangar, Bell invited Sailors to don boxing gloves, dip them in paint and “punch out sexual assault.”

He explained to the crew the inspiration behind this campaign. He told them the story of a boxer and his wife, a painter, who thought her husband’s fighting was too violent and told him that she would leave if he continued to box. The boxer dipped his boxing gloves in paint, punched a canvas and gave it to her - transforming his violent sport into beautiful, love-inspired art.

“I liked the idea of taking something founded on violence and turning it into something beautiful,” said Bell. “There are more than 300 people aboard, and statistically, there are some Sailors who have experienced some sort of sexual assault in their lives. I wanted to give the crew an opportunity and an outlet to create something beautiful from a violent act.”

The crew later raised the flag on the mast and gathered for a photo in their denim.

William P. Lawrence Sailors know their part and are doing their part to raise awareness and prevent sexual assault. Sailors will wrap up SAAPM observations with a cake-cutting ceremony at the end of the month.

“Freedom from sexual assault is a basic human

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Interior Communications Electrician 3rd Class Tiffany Wright punches a teal flag for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the hangar bay of the guided-missile destroyer USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110). U.S. Navy photo by Gas Turbine System Technician 3rd Class Kareemah Whimbush.

CO's Lead

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SAAPM tables were placed next to the race area and signs were posted at various areas along the course. A photo booth was situated where attendees could take selfies and post them to the NAS Whiting Field facebook page showing their support for SAAPM. According to Bahlau, it was an event that successfully blended entertainment with a serious meaning.

“Sexual assault is a difficult issue to address. Having a fun competition will help people be more open and accepting of the issue and understand the requirement to Know Your Part – Do Your Part,” he said.

USS William

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right, and I am honored to serve aboard this ship where respect for one another is priority number one,” said Command Master Chief Sergio H. Moreno. “Our Sailors are always looking out for one another. Sexual assault prevention is not just a one-month-per-year event at this command-it’s a daily commitment.”

Sexual assault awareness is an important element in the readiness of the 21st Century Sailor. As a consolidated set of objectives and policies, it aims to maximize personal readiness, build resiliency, and hone the most combat-effective force in the history of the Navy.

Providing a ready force supporting security and stability in the Indo-Asia Pacific, William P. Lawrence, commanded by Cmdr. Walter C. Mainor, is operating as part of the John C. Stennis Strike Group and Great Green Fleet on a regularly scheduled 7th Fleet deployment.



Teal

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NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer, Capt. Todd Bahlau, Milton Mayor Wesley Meiss, Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Bob Johnson, Milton Police Department's Interim Chief of Police Tony Tindell, and representatives from the Santa Rosa Kids House and Lakeview Rape Crisis Center joined together to bring awareness to the problems associated with sexual assault with the city dyeing the fountain's water teal to support the month-long information program. U.S. Navy Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

The military takes the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response programs on the installations very seriously,” he said. “I think it is incredibly important to know that we have partners in the community who are also willing to stand with us as we try to inform about and stop this terrible crime. I truly appreciate Mayor Weiss’ invitation to take part in this event and thank the [organizations] for all they do to help protect our military personnel, civilian staff, and their families in Milton and the greater Santa Rosa County Area.”

