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Wednesday, January 9, 2013

Whiting firefighter completes 38-year career

- Volturo worked in Pensacola/Milton area since he was 19

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Surrounded by firefighters old and new, Assistant Fire Chief Steve Volturo was recognized for a long and distinguished career protecting those who defend the nation.

For more than 35 years, Volturo worked with, sweated beside, and trained firefighters at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Including a short stint at NAS Pensacola, his career spanned 38 years – first as a military firefighter and later, upon his honorable discharge, as a civilian firefighter on the base.

It is a career that garnered a great deal of admiration from those within the brotherhood.

“Chief Volturo served with love and respect for his fellow firefighters and with love and respect for the department,” Deputy Chief Dan Chiappetta stated to the assembled guests during the official welcome. He did it to make a difference, and Chief, you made a difference.”

Following the welcome, Chiappetta invited the

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Assistant Fire Chief Steve Volturo holds on to his shadowbox as it is handed to him by Assistant Fire Chief Kristopher Keller. The box and several other mementoes were presented to Volturo during his retirement ceremony Dec. 28. Volturo retired from federal service with 38 years under his belt. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

NASWF Public Works concludes Evergreen upgrade



The above image shows NOLF Evergreen before the contract completion, with a graphic representation of runway 10/28 with the extension added (the black rectangle). The additional 1,000 feet enables T-6 Texan II operations at the facility. Photo courtesy of NAS Whiting Field Community Liaison.

By Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Whiting Field Public Works ended 2012 on a high note with the on-budget and ahead-of-schedule completion of a runway extension at Naval Outlying Landing Field Evergreen.

The project, which involved extending the runway and peripheral clear zone, will allow the air station and sister command Training Air Wing FIVE to expand their Naval aviation pilot training operations with the new T-6B Texan II primary trainer.

Navy pilot training operations at Evergreen, Ala. are facilitated by a lease agreement with the municipality. Student Naval aviators in primary-phase training use the airfield as a focal point for pattern practice, landing technique, and simulated emergency procedure practice. The elevated performance of the T-6 ushered changes to the facility in order to meet the wing’s target training tempo.

“We added a 1,000-foot extension to the east-west

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Plan ahead when seeking Perform to Serve

- "Sailors need to be engaged with their chain of command"

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- Perform to Serve (PTS) is a force-management tool and continuum of service initiative that helps 21st Century Sailors continue their Navy career, officials said Jan. 2.

"Sailors need to be engaged with their chain of command and the chain of command needs to be engaged with its Sailors," said Force Master Chief (AW/SW/NAC) Jon Port, Navy Personnel Command (NPC). "A career development board is essential when a Sailor checks on board and gives a snapshot of where a Sailor is and what they need to do to get ready for Perform to Serve."

When designated enlisted Sailors in pay grades E3-E6 with less than 14 years of service are within 12 months of their end of active obligated service as extended (SEAOS) date, they must compete for a PTS quota to continue their career. Sailors also require PTS approval prior to their projected rotation date (PRD) if they have less than 24 months of contract time remaining and need to obligate additional service for permanent change of station orders.

The average number of all PTS applications received each month is approximately 21,000 which include



applications for active-component Navy, Full-Time Support Reserve, and Selected Reserve opportunities.

Sailors' command career counselors use the Fleet Rating Identification Engine-PTS (FR-PTS) program to provide Sailors with quota availabilities in their current rating and other ratings they may qualify to convert to. Factors in the conversion application process include needs of the Navy within a Sailor's year group (YG), Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery score, and legal, medical or physical status.

The FR-PTS algorithm ranks Sailors using the following performance indicators:

1. Highest pay grade - Senior pay grades will rank highest in the system.
2. Selected-Not Yet Advanced - Frocked Sailors rank higher than those not yet selected for advancement.
3. Average of five most recent evaluations - Early Promote, Must Promote, and Promotable have numeric values of 5, 4, and 3, respectively (Not Observed Reports must be

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Usage Information

Total Used

1,733,421 kWh

	1 Year Ago	Last Month	This Month
Total kWh Used	1,848,398	2,017,082	1,733,421
Average Daily kWh	61,613	65,067	57,781
Days in Billing Period	30	31	30

Power Corner

Conserving energy continues to be one of the Navy's and Naval Air Station Whiting Field's prime objectives, so each month the Whiting Tower will display the energy usage comparisons for the base between comparable timeframes of 2011 and 2012. As you can see, for November, the base consumed 168,664 fewer kilowatt hours of power than in 2011.

This Week in Naval History

Jan. 8

1847 - The Battle of San Gabriel takes place in California. The Navy, Marines, and Army defeat the Mexicans in the battle.

1916 - A permanent Marine base (later named Camp Pendleton) is established in San Diego.

1945 - Task Group 77.2 delivers intensive shore bombardment of landing beaches on Lingayen Gulf. The destroyer/mine-sweeper, Palmer (DMS) is sunk by conventional Japanese air attack.

Jan. 9

1861 - Union steamer Star of the West is fired on by the Confederates in Charleston Harbor, S.C.

1918 - The Naval Overseas Transportation Service is established to carry cargo during World War I.

Jan. 10

1934 - Patrol Squadron 10F flies the first, non-stop, formation flight from San Francisco to Pearl Harbor arriving Jan. 11.

1946 - The first Navy nuclear power school is established at Submarine Base New London, Conn.

http://www.navy.mil/search/display_history.asp

News and Notes

ERAU Registration - Embry Riddle Aeronautical University is now registering through Jan. 14, 2013. Hours on board NAS Pensacola are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Fridays in Bldg. 634, Suite 033, 250 Chambers Avenue. Hours on board NAS Whiting Field are Wednesday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Bldg. 1417, Room 163. Late registration and add/drop a course for a full refund will be held Jan. 14 - 20. Everyone is encouraged to register early. Classes begin Jan. 14. Embry Riddle Aeronautical University's Pensacola campus offers certificate programs, associate and bachelors degree programs with various specializations in Professional Aeronautics and Technical Management and the Master of Aeronautical Science degree. Email pensacola@erau.edu, visit www.embryriddle.edu/pensacola or call 458-1098 for more information.

Business After Hours - Santa Rosa Medical Center will host Business After Hours on Thursday, Jan. 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the education building located directly behind the hospital. This event is being held in conjunction with the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce, and members of all chambers, including the Pace Area Chamber of Commerce and the Navarre Area Chamber of Commerce, are invited to attend. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks will be served, and entertainment will be provided. For more information about Business After Hours, please call 850.626.5113.

Budget for Babies - A Budget for Baby class will be held at Naval Air Station Whiting Field Saturday, Jan. 19. You'll discover local resource information, financial assistance, and volunteer opportunities and have fun while attending. All ranks and branches are welcome to attend the class. Eligible clients will also receive Baby's first sea bag (featuring a handmade blanket). Register before Thursday, December 6th to reserve your seat. Class will be in the Atrium Bldg., Suite 169, class room A & B (same building as ITT and NMCRS office - across from FFSC). Call 850-452-2300



Moving on Up

Aviation Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Evan Sthole receives his frocking letter from Naval Air Station Whiting Field Executive Officer Cmdr. Jonathan Lewis. He was frocked to his new rank Jan. 7. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.



Recognizing Top Sailors

Aviation Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Maurice Nix prepares to have his Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal pinned on during Naval Air Station Whiting Field's award ceremony, Jan. 7. The medal was one of a dozen awards presented prior to the base's "back in the saddle" safety training to kick off the new year. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

to get more information or reserve a seat for the class.

Bridge Closing - Wagner Bridge, located on Springhill Road over East Coldwater Creek, was closed beginning Monday, Jan. 7 for approximately six to eight weeks. The existing wood piling bridge will be demolished and a new steel piling bridge will be rebuilt in the same footprint. Construction is weather dependant and will be completed by Santa Rosa County Public Works staff. Wagner Bridge is located approximately one-half mile east of Lewis Road. The northern detour route is Munson Highway, to Hwy. 4, and Hwy. 87. The southern detour is Munson Highway, to Whiting Field Circle, to East Gate Road, and Hwy 87.

Senior Bowl - Beginning Jan. 23 and leading into the Jan. 26 game, Mobile will be hosting their annual Senior Bowl activities. This year's game will include a pre-game Memorial for CG 6535 that crashed into Mobile Bay last Feb. Tickets are \$10 or \$20 dollars through the Senior Bowl Ticket Office at 888-736-BOWL. See www.seniorbowl.com for additional information.

Corks and Canvases - New World Landing will serve as the venue for a "Midnight in Paris" themed event to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters Friday, Jan. 18. Call 850-433-5437 for details.

PREP Marriage Communication/Enrichment Workshop - PREP is a workshop for couples, married or engaged, that helps develop communication skills within a relationship and that provides valuable marriage enrichment information. The next workshop will be offered on Thursday, February 14, 2013 (registration ends COB Monday, February 11, 2013). For more information or to register, please contact the Chaplain's Office at 623-7211.

Ice Flyers - NAS Whiting Field ITT carries discounted tickets for all Ice Flyers home games. There are a limited number of discount tickets available for each game - Center Ice \$14.50 and Corner \$11.50 - no taxes added.

Friday Jan. 18, 2013 Pensacola Columbus 7:05 p.m.
Saturday Jan. 19, 2013 Pensacola Ms Surge 7:05 p.m.
Thursday Jan. 24, 2013 Pensacola Columbus 6:05 p.m.
Saturday Jan. 26, 2013 Pensacola Louisiana 7:05 p.m.
For more information call 850-665-6250 or 850-623-7032.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 11, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
 Jan. 18, 1000 - Northwest Florida Blood Drive - NEX
 Jan. 21 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observed

Jan. 25, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
 Feb. 8, 1830 - Navy League SOY and IOY Banquet - Sikes Hall
 Feb. 18-22 - 2013 Solid Curtain Exercise

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

VA Representative - Friday, Jan. 11 & 25 from 8 a.m. to noon. (Call 850-623-7177 for appointment)

Car Buying - Thursday, Jan 10 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Many people begin the car buying process by visiting a dealership, which should be one of the last things you do. Come find out how to research and compare for the best prices, when and how to negotiate your trade-in, how insurance fits in, and your best option for financing. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 850-623-7177.

BAE Systems Hiring Event - Monday, Jan. 14 to Wednesday Jan. 16 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. - Sikes Hall

E-Books - Tuesday, Jan 15 from 9 to 10 a.m.

Do you love to read but think the price of the e-books can get expensive? Then you need to join our class on how to download your favorite authors onto your e-reader, tablet or PC. Thousands of up-to-date books are at your finger tips, just by knowing how to download them to your device. Jan. 15, 9-10, at the FFSC. Call 623-7177 to reserve your seat today!

Time Management - Wednesday, Jan. 23 from 1 to 2 p.m.

At the end of the day, do you ask yourself, "Where did the day go?" and feel like you have accomplished very little on your "to do" list? If you answered, "yes" to these questions, this class is for you. The information provided in this class will equip you with tools that will help you make the most of your busy and demanding days. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 850-623-7177.

Home Buying - Thursday, Jan. 24 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Are you in the market for a new home? We can help! From finding the best agent, to negotiating price, types of mortgage loans, and how to get the best interest rates, we can help! Find out how to buy a home and maintain your lifestyle! For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 850-623-7177.



2013 Gulf Coast Military Mardi Gras Ball

When:	Friday, 01 February 2013 6:30 P.M. – Happy Hour 7:30 P.M. – Dinner Begins	Price per person...
Where:	Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel 64 South Water Street Downtown Mobile	E1 thru E4 \$25
Dress:	Military Personnel: Dinner Dress Blue* *O-3 & Below may wear: Service Dress Blue (SDB Coat, No Cover) Civilian Guests: Men: Tuxedo Women: Evening Gown or Tea-Length Cocktail Dress (Mid-Calf)	E5 and E6 \$35
Buffet:	Chicken Marsala, Broiled Flounder with Lemon Caper Sauce, Kobe Beef Meatloaf, 3 Cold Salads, Steamed Vegetables, Yukon Garlic Whipped Potatoes, Rolls, Desserts	E-7 thru E-9; GS-10 and below \$50
		CWO2 thru O-3 \$55
		O-4; GS-11 and higher \$60
		O-5 and higher \$65
		Civilian guests, CG Auxiliary and Contract Employees \$50
		CGES & NAF Employees \$50
		<small>* Retirees pay at grade of retirement * Spouse of member is same price as military member</small>
Questions:		
AMTCS Kit Harris (251) 441-6175 LCDR Mick Scott (251) 441-6189		
militarymardigras.com		

Evergreen

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runway and expanded the clear zone around the extension. Training in the T-6 requires 4,000 feet of runway for tandem [student and instructor] operation and 5,000 feet for student solos,” Public Works Department Head Lt. Cmdr. Jason Kranz explained.

“The expanded runway also required us to expand the clear zones around the extension... this area covers approximately 23 acres,” he added.

Through its contractor, Eagle Environmental Services, Inc., Public Works enhanced runway 10/28 to meet the contract requirement almost a month ahead of the delivery deadline.

Public Works Facilities Engineering and Acquisitions Director Lt. j.g. Cory McLaughlin described the execution of the project as a model of teamwork between the Navy, the town, and the contractor.

“For instance, [Eagle Environmental’s] contract completion date was the 20th of December, and we took beneficial occupancy of the extension on November 26th,” he noted

“They have been a great partner through several projects. Previously, they had a service contract to inspect and clean our water towers, and they did a great job while up against a hard deadline,” McLaughlin added.

Eagle’s prior success in completing Public Works projects under time constraints was an important consideration in the case of the Evergreen expansion.

Department personnel and their contract counterparts worked against a looming deadline to complete the project. While Evergreen’s second runway, 01/19, was extended in 2008 under an initial appropriation, adjoining private lands required Navy purchase before work could commence. Protracted negotiations led to a sense of urgency among the base’s engineering personnel.

“It was the second portion of a MILCON project

from fiscal year 2008, and MILCON funds must be expended within five years of the initial appropriation. We had to award the contract and obligate funds by fiscal year 2013,” Kranz related.

Once arrangements were made, Public Works and Eagle proceeded at a brisk pace. The contract was awarded in May of 2012, and the work was completed in time to permit TRAWING-5 to benefit from expanded training opportunities in advance of the holiday slow-down.

As a result of the Navy’s land purchase, the service and the town of Evergreen will take their collaborative stewardship of the airfield to greater lengths than ever. In addition to the expanded student presence at the field, the Navy will retain ownership of the runway extension, the adjacent clear zones, and associated property purchased to facilitate the expansion. The town will retain ownership of its portions of the plant, and the Navy will continue to renew its lease thereto on a periodic basis.

Public Works anticipates that the air station’s stewardship of Evergreen will encompass additional upgrades in the new year.

“We’re probably going to do an overlay of the runways and replace existing asphalt to improve the surface quality,” Kranz said.

While major modification work has concluded at Evergreen, the air station’s professional engineers are turning their attention to new challenges for 2013. The base’s training mission requires continuous modification of the physical plant, and expanded T-6 operations will remain a primary motivating factor. Kranz noted that his department already is pursuing upgrade projects at several of the base’s outlying fields.

“We recently awarded a contract to do clear-zone acquisition and clearing at NOLF Barin and NOLF Summerdale... all of this is T-6 driven.”

SECURITY CHECKPOINT



I have a concealed carry permit, can I bring my weapon onboard NASWF?

The answer is NO; as per COMMANDER, NAVY REGION SOUTHEAST INSTRUCTION 3593.1A – subj: Control and accounting of personal weapons: paragraph 6.f

f. Concealed or loaded handguns:

State licenses or permits that authorize individuals to carry concealed handguns are not recognized or valid on Navy installations. Under no circumstances will the transportation of loaded or concealed handguns, shotguns, or rifles be permitted on

Navy installations except by duly authorized law enforcement personnel or by military personnel in the performance of their official duties.

PTS

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included but do not count against the average). If five evaluations have not been received, list all a Sailor has. If missing evaluations are discovered, the application will be invalidated.

4. Critical Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) - Critical NECs rank higher than non-critical NECs.

5. Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) results - PFAs are calculated based on the number of failures within the past four-year period.

6. Proximity to SEAOS - Sailors closer to their SEAOS rank higher in PTS because they have fewer looks remaining.

Sailors who apply for a PTS quota monthly, starting 12 months from their SEAOS, will receive one review per month and at least six reviews total. Quota approvals will be granted monthly after a final review of all PTS applications.

If additional obligated service is incurred for an approved PTS application, or a period of 13 months passes since the quota was issued, it is no longer valid. Without PTS quotas, Sailors will be required to separate at their end of active obligated service. Sailors should speak with their command career counselors for more information about quota extensions and expiration dates.

NAVADMIN 352/10 explains the FR-PTS policies and procedures and includes specific timelines Sailors have to meet to stay in the Navy.

A PTS application must be submitted even if a Sailor intends to separate from the Navy or is not recommended for reenlistment. This allows leadership to forecast the need for replacements through the selection process and to determine additional conversion opportunity that may be available in other ratings and YGs.

Currently, about eight percent of Sailors fail to submit

PTS applications, which makes forecasting difficult. Placing PTS applications 12 months prior to their SEAOS or PRD is key to receiving timely PTS quotas and being able to search for jobs in CMS/ID.

According to Port, Sailors who require PTS approval must receive a quota before they apply for orders, reenlist or extend, but a quota is not needed for a Sailor to speak with their detailer about future assignments.

"You don't need a PTS quota to talk with your detailer, but you're going to need one to stay in the Navy," Port said. "What we often find is that Sailors are waiting for a PTS quota and they're waiting cycle after cycle, but in the meantime, they haven't worked through CMS/ID for a set of orders and they paint themselves into a corner."

Some factors a detailer must weigh when matching Sailors to jobs include a Sailor's desires, qualifications, career progression, and cost to the Navy.

"I think the most important thing for Sailors to remember with PTS today is to be flexible," Port said. "If there are only so many available billets in your rating and you're not quite making the cut based on seniority, evaluations, sea-shore flow, or something else and you don't have the flexibility to convert, then you run the risk of being told to go home. So if your mindset is, 'I want to be career Navy,' you need to be flexible."

For more information, visit the Fleet RIDE-PTS Web Page on the NPC website, www.npc.navy.mil/CareerInfo/PerformtoServe/ or e-mail PTS_Help_Desk@navy.mil.

For more news from Navy Personnel Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/npc/.



A Step in the Right Direction

Naval Air Station Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Matthew Coughlin frocks Air Traffic Control Airman Naysha Sotogonzales to her new rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class. She was one of twelve Sailors recognized during a frocking ceremony Friday, Nov. 30.

The frocking ceremony is a Navy tradition that provides the selected Sailors an opportunity to wear the uniform and take on the responsibilities of their new ranks before they are formally advanced. Each Sailor received a frocking letter from Coughlin, which reads in part, "Your appointment carries with it the obligation that you exercise increased authority and willingly accept greater responsibility. Occupying now a position of greater authority, you must strive with a renewed dedication toward the valued ideal of service with honor."

Sailors from NAS Whiting Field selected for advancement with their new ranks were: ABH1 Clinton Badger, ABH1 Julie Maness, ABH1 Kendrick Phoenix, MA1 Colt Ward, AC2 Darrah Crow, AC2 Daniel Flores, AC2 Mario Santis, ABE2 Evan Sthole, AC3 Jesus Vivanco, AC3 Ian Weingartz, AC3 Naysha Sotogonzales, and AC3 Jake Black.

Firefighter

- (Cont. from Page 1)

guests to enjoy some firehouse cooking of fried mullet, hushpuppies, coleslaw, and iced tea. During the luncheon, traditional gifts such as a firefighter's bible, a shadow box, a framed photograph, and several plaques were presented to Volturo to thank him for his years of service.

Volturo's career at Whiting Field started shortly after he finished Navy boot camp and received orders to Crash Division. He was assigned to Navy Outlying Landing Fields Holley, Brewton, and Choctaw and worked with T-28, T-34, H-1 and TH-57 aircraft. Two weeks after his tour of duty ended, he became a federal firefighter, using many of the same skills he learned in the Navy. He progressed up the chain until he accepted a billet as the Assistant Chief of Operations at NAS Pensacola where he served for two years until transferred back to NAS Whiting Field to finish out his career.

As he took his turn with the microphone, Volturo thanked the retired firefighters who had trained him, and praised the guys still serving today.

"You all are a great bunch of guys," he said. "Professional guys. The diligence and work ethic it takes to be a professional firefighter is phenomenal. As other people run away from danger, these guys rush in, and I couldn't be prouder of them."

Serving in one area for 38 years is highly unusual, especially in a Navy base where most people only get to experience short tours before having to move on. For Volturo, however, this was an area he never wanted to leave.

"I love Whiting Field. [Capt. Matthew Coughlin] is the 19th commanding officer I've worked for here," he said. "This is a great place to work. This is my home, and it is all the people that make it so special."

TRICARE Notes

PHOTOCOPYING BENEFICIARIES' ID CARDS IS LEGAL

In order to give you the care you need, your doctor, pharmacist or other medical provider must verify your TRICARE eligibility. He or she will ask you to present a valid uniformed services identification (ID) card or Common Access Card (CAC) and may ask for your sponsor's Social Security number. To expedite your care, make sure your card has not expired. You may also want to keep a copy of your ID card or CAC in a safe place for your records.

Although it may concern you that your provider has requested to photocopy your ID or CAC, please keep in mind that photocopying a beneficiary's ID card or CAC for authorized purposes is legal. Authorized purposes include medical care eligibility determination and documentation. Unauthorized use occurs when someone uses an ID card or CAC to obtain benefits, privileges, or access to which he or she is not entitled.

An ID card or CAC alone does not verify eligibility. You must ensure your eligibility with DEERS and keep your information up to date.

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