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# Bird mitigation efforts working at NASWF

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Bird strikes are one of the foremost hazards to aviation and pose extreme risks to the aircraft and the pilots who fly them. Traveling at high speeds, when a bird hits a plane or helicopter, it can damage the vehicle severely, shatter windshields and can injure and perhaps even kill the pilot.

To help ensure the safety of the pilots, Commander Navy Region Southeast established a contract at its aviation bases, including Naval Air Station Whiting Field, for U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Service employees to review and help mitigate the dangers posed by animals near established flight lines or flight patterns.

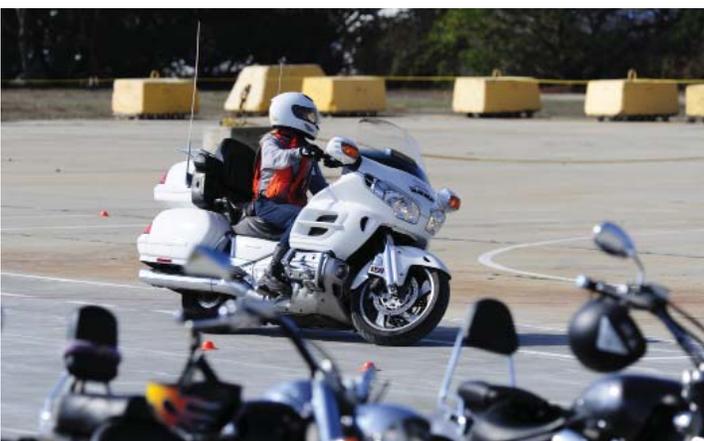
Marty Daniel and Joshua Kuechle have been working at NAS Whiting Field for more than a year to reduce the hazards around the base and the thirteen Navy Outlying Landing Fields (NOLFs). While much of their time is spent reviewing animal habitats and discovering areas of concern, the team recently scored an impressive success by encouraging several hundred vultures to change their roosting habi-

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Here is an example of the damage that is typical when a bird collides with the windshield for an aircraft in flight. The pilot, fortunately, is okay, but the bird strike resulted in several thousand dollars in damage to the aircraft, and could have caused a fatal accident. Photo courtesy of Marty Daniels.

# Motorcycle safety enters spring in the fast lane



Janet Buzan, traffic safety instructor from Cape Fox Professional Services, demonstrates the course during the first Motorcycle Safety Foundation Experienced Rider Course at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. The course is intended to reduce motorcycle fatalities. (U.S. Navy file photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Eli J. Medellin)

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

The arrival of spring is the ideal occasion for military motorcyclists to refresh their skills, review their training currencies, and take an inventory of the unique challenges that come with peak riding season.

The onset of fair weather rings like a clarion call to motorcyclists at Naval Air Station Whiting Field and its tenant commands. Savvy riders know that seasonal surges in vehicular traffic, holiday hazards, and motorcyclists returning from car-bound winters create a unique set of concerns for riders.

While many die-hards remain steadfastly committed to two wheels through four seasons, the arrival of warm weather generally coincides with increased motorcycle use among experienced riders and elevated interest levels from those new to the sport.

The Navy and Marine Corps consider the span be-

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# MCPON wishes Chiefs Happy Birthday

Special from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/SW) Rick D. West

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following Chief Petty Officer birthday message to the fleet March 28.

“My fellow Chief Petty Officers,

On April 1st, our entire mess will pause to celebrate 119 years of the United States Chief Petty Officer, our honored mess traditions and heritage, and look to our future.

But we’re not just celebrating another year of chiefs serving the Navy; we’re celebrating everything it means to be the chief.

Our anchors are the symbol of a culture and a way of life. Since 1893, Chiefs have been charged with the responsibility of ensuring our Sailors are the best in the world, ready to carry out our Navy’s mission when our nation calls.

We welcome that responsibility and lead by example with pride, character, and loyalty, a strong commitment to



MCPON Rick West

leadership, our core values, and the Navy ethos.

Our Navy is the best it has ever been and we must continue to build upon the strong legacy that our mess was founded on as we look toward our future.

2012 is a significant year for us all as the United States Navy Memorial hosts the ‘Year of the Chief.’

The ‘Year of the Chief’ is a worldwide spotlight on the history and contributions of the Navy CPO mess.

The ‘Year of the Chief’ will officially be launched on our birthday with a kick-off event held April 2 at the Navy Memorial. For more information on the

‘Year of the Chief’, visit Navy Memorial’s web page.

Happy birthday shipmates! I truly appreciate your leadership and the hard work you do every day.

Anchor up and HOOYAH Navy Chiefs!”

For more information, visit [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil), [www.facebook.com/usnavy](http://www.facebook.com/usnavy), or [www.twitter.com/usnavy](http://www.twitter.com/usnavy).

## This Week in Naval History

### March 27

1794 - Congress authorizes the construction of six frigates, including Constitution.

1799 - USS Constitution recaptures American sloop Neutrality from France.

1880 - USS Constellation departs New York with food for famine victims in Ireland.

### March 28

1800 - USS Essex becomes first U.S. Navy vessel to pass Cape of Good Hope.

1814 - HMS Phoebe and Cherub capture USS Essex off Valparaiso, Chile. Before capture, Essex had captured 24 British prizes during the War of 1812. Midshipman David Glasgow Farragut applied turnequets aboard the Essex during and after the engagement.

### March 29

1960 - Launch of first fully integrated Fleet Ballistic Missile from USS Observation Island.

1973 - Naval Advisory Group and Naval forces, Vietnam disestablished and last U.S. prisoners of war left Vietnam.

1975 - Evacuation of Danang by sea began.

### March 30

1944 - First use of torpedo squadrons from carriers to drop aerial mines (Palau Harbor).

1972 - Easter Offensive began in Vietnam.

Learn more at <http://www.history.navy.mil>

## FFSC Recognizes Sexual Assault Prevention Awareness Month

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month! FFSC and the installation SAPR team will be sponsoring a variety of activities to increase awareness.

On 4 Apr the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Team is proud to announce Catharsis Productions will be performing "Sex Signals" at NAS Whiting Field Base Auditorium 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. "Sex Signals" is a 90-minute improvisational show, which uses humor, education and audience participation to get a realistic view of dating and consent. This highly acclaimed show has been performed on military installations and college campuses around the world and consistently receives BZ's from servicemen and women. All NASWF personnel are encouraged to attend. Call FFSC at 623-7177 for more details.

The "Lights On" for Sexual Assault Awareness Month Campaign kicks off Apr. 6, 2012. Drive with your headlights on to show support for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Be sure to check out NAS Whiting Field's Facebook fan page for additional information, photos and more -- <https://www.facebook.com/#!/naswhitingfield>

# News and Notes

**From the CAC Card Office** - Effective immediately: Any military member who loses their CAC card MUST get a special request chit from their chain of command in order to receive a new CAC card. All others (contractors, civil service, etc.) will continue to need a police report in order to replace their lost CAC.

**ITT Ice Flyer Tickets - Disney on Ice** - The Pensacola Civic Center Saturday and Sunday May 13 and 14. The discounted ticket price is \$21.75. There are only a limited number of tickets available. Call Cyndi Myers at 850-665-6250 for details.

**Santa Rosa County Fair** - ITT also has discounted tickets for the annual Santa Rosa County Fair which will run April 6-14.

**Bonfire Jam** - Pensacola Beach will be rockin' Saturday, May 12 with the sounds of Ronnie Dunn, Craig Morgan Sunny Sweeney and Brett Eldredge during the 2012 Bonfire Jam. Tickets are on sale now at [www.bonfirejam.com](http://www.bonfirejam.com).

**Test Preparation Programs for Military** - Military personnel can obtain SAT and ACT PowerPrep programs at cost (\$13.84 to \$72.00). The retail value of these programs is \$199.99 to \$599.00. The SAT and ACT PowerPrep programs are available as a DVD-ROM set and/or books. This program is available to all service members, including members of the Reserves, Active Duty, and their families this offer is made possible because of donations from NFL/MLB players. This program has been extended to military families and veterans for a sixth consecutive year through the eKnowledge Sponsorship Alliance, NFL and MLB players, and over fifty other organizations. Please contact the provider directly at [support@eknowledge.com](mailto:support@eknowledge.com) or call 1-951-256-4076 for questions or assistance.

**Experienced Riders Course** - Naval Air Station Whiting Field Safety Officer Rick Ballanger announced that there are additional seats available for the March 29 Experienced Riders Course. The class was extended to 12 participants so anyone wishing to register for one of the extra seats should call Ballanger at 850-623-7180 or go to [navymotorcyclerider.com](http://navymotorcyclerider.com) and register online.

**Cherry Blossoms Festival** - The University of West Florida will host a Cherry Blossoms Festival March 30 to celebrate the centennial of the first cherry trees from Japan planted in Washington D.C. The event will be held in the UWF Center for Fine and Performing Arts from 1:30 to 3 p.m., and will feature a Noh performance by Fusataka Homma, a Koto and Violin Ensemble, Japanese dance, and a Chorus by 20 Gero Junior High School students. Call the UWF Japan Center at 850-474-3363 or email [japan@uwf.edu](mailto:japan@uwf.edu) for additional information.

**Run for Their Lives** - Lakeview Center is sponsoring their 5th annual 5K Run/Walk to raise awareness of issues pertaining to sexual



## Emphasis on Excellence

Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Leach presents the Navy Good Conduct Award to Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Christa J. Liammayty during the change of charge ceremony at the NAS Whiting Field Branch Medical Clinic on March 7. It was Leach's last act as Officer in Charge of the detachment. U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso

assault. The 5K is scheduled for Saturday, April 21 beginning at 8 a.m. on Pensacola Beach. Pre-registration is \$18 for all ages with a \$3 discount for active duty military. The cost to participate is \$23 on the day of the race. For more information view the race website at [www.runfortheirives.kintera.org](http://www.runfortheirives.kintera.org).

**FFSC Job Club** - In the current labor market networking is a critical step in finding and increasing employment possibilities. Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Fleet and Family Support Center will be hosting a weekly job club. The job club will be a group of peers that will explore job search strategies. They will discuss: resume writing, interview skills, self-employment, federal employment, local labor market trends, and resource tools. Job club members may select to exchange information such as their employers contact list and they may conduct mock interviews with peers. Job clubs will differ from career employment class in that job clubs are: open-ended, members of the club select the topic for each meeting, members select date and time of meetings. Job clubs tend to offer more support and career direction than career employment classes. Whiting Field's job club is scheduled to meet at 10:00 a.m. Tuesdays at the Fleet and Family support Center. There are no fees to attend.

## SECURITY CHECKPOINT



**Question: I have the Motorcycle endorsement on my driver license. Do I have to carry my Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider Course (MSF\_BRC) card?**

**Answer: Yes you do. NASWFINST 5560.5 page 18 (3) All military personnel who own or operate a motorcycle, and all personnel who desire to register and operate a motorcycle, motor scooter, or moped onboard must complete the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider Course (MSF\_BRC), which is scheduled and coordinated through the NAS Whiting Field Safety Office. Upon presentation of an MRC-RSS completion certificate, a decal will be issued. This certificate must be in possession of the operator at all times when operating subject vehicles.**

## Upcoming Events

March 30 - CPO Golf Tournament- NASWF Golf Course  
April 2 - RDML Scorby Visit to NASWF  
April 8 - Easter

April 13, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium  
April 27 - VADM William D. French Visit to NASWF  
May 11, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

# Fleet and Family Support Classes

### **Challenges of Flight School and Marriage - Thursday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to noon**

Being in Flight School is hard! Being married in Flight School is even harder! This class will help you and your spouse avoid the common pitfalls of the unique challenges Flight School has to offer. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a work and family life specialist at 850-623-7177.

### **Job Club - Monday, April 2, from 8 to 10 a.m.**

In the current labor market networking is a critical step in finding and increasing employment possibilities. To assist job seekers increase their employment possibilities Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Fleet and Family Support Center is hosting a weekly job club. The formation of a job club will allow several job seekers to pool resources and develop a network for finding employment. The job club is scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. Tuesdays at the Fleet and Family Support Center.

### **Dating Series #1 - Monday, April 2, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

This class will help you engage in a more secure and enjoyable dating process. Topics include: warning signs of a difficult partner, skills essential for a healthy relationship, five key areas you need to explore during the dating process, and how to "follow your heart without losing your mind." Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 850-623-7177.

### **VA Representative - Friday, April 6, 20, and 27, from 8 to 12 p.m.**

Call (850) 623-7177 for appointment and details of required documentation.

# NAS Whiting Field's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

**Sunday April 1st 12 -2**

**Pavillion on Golf Course Road**

**Join the fun with an Easter Egg Hunt, Most Unique Easter Hat,  
Best Easter Outfit and Best Basket contests.**

**Refreshments will be provided for both children and adults.**

**For more information please contact**

**ABH1 Bradley Anthony at**

**352-216-9982 or via email**

**bradley.p.anthony@navy.mil**



# Motorcycle Safety

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tween Memorial Day and Labor Day to be a critical risk period for outdoor activities in general and motorcycle use in particular. In 2011, the Navy Safety Center recorded 14 deaths of Sailors and Marines due to motorcycle accidents.

Three-quarters of Navy and thirty-one percent of Marine Corps sport bike rider fatalities for 2011 were found to involve operators who had not completed the full suite of mandatory motorcyclist certification courses for these machines.

Although certain rider and bike profiles are associated with higher risks, all riders, regardless of experience, age, or category of bike, must meet specific Navy requirements in order to maintain compliance with Navy regulations. OPNAVINST 5100.12H CH-1 defines the Navy-wide safety mandates for riders of standard, cruiser, and sport bikes.

All military motorcyclists are required to complete a basic rider's course. Additionally, this certification requirement applies to all Department of Defense employees who operate motorcycles on military installations.

Air Station Safety Officer and Motorcycle Point of Contact Richard Ballinger stresses that mandatory rider courses are essential keys to rider proficiency and professional discipline.

"The consequences of non-compliance are two-fold. First, there is NJP [Non-Judicial Punishment]. Second, it could result in a traffic death. Both can be career-enders; it's pretty hard to serve when you're dead," he warned.

Most of the introductory courses combine classroom instruction with on-the-bike skills training, require a valid motorcycle learner's permit, and allow the member to obtain a full motorcycle license upon completion.

The certificate of completion is valid for three years and is required in order to receive a base entry decal for

the rider's motorcycle. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation offers the Basic Rider Course, a three-day indoctrination program, at Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station and NAS Whiting Field.

Riders of high-performance sport bikes are required to complete an additional MSF Military Sport Bike Rider Course within 60 days of completing the basic training. If a rider who has completed the basic course on a bike other than a sport bike subsequently purchases a sport bike, that rider must complete the MSRC within 60 days of acquiring the new bike.

The Navy considers proper preparation essential to mission readiness and stresses that sport bike riders represent a high-risk group; the average profile of a Navy motorcycle fatality includes sport bike ownership, inexperience, incomplete training, and incomplete understanding of the machine. Ballinger stresses the importance of respecting modern race-bred sport bikes.

"The highest risk scenario involves sport bikes, high speed, and people not riding within their abilities," he emphasized.

Riders of cruiser-style motorcycles must complete the Experienced Rider Course within 60 days of completing the BRC or, if already certified in the basic course, within 60 days of purchasing the cruiser.

Military motorcyclists are required to maintain proficient skills and current certifications. In addition to initial certification, experienced riders are required to complete an MSF Experienced Rider Course every three years in order to remain in compliance with currency requirements.

Experienced riders seeking additional qualifications or greater mastery of safety techniques can qualify as MSF instructors through the RiderCoach program, which entails a ten-day course and yearly recertification.

All military members and DoD civilian personnel can receive MSF training free of charge upon approval of their parent commands. Interested individuals should contact their command traffic safety officers for additional information.

Training Squadron TWO Safety Officer Lt. Thomas Moore believes that all riders should take the requisite courses, but common sense, situational sense, and practice are indispensable.

"Ride defensively, because we have a lot of bad drivers out there. The courses help a lot, but talk to experienced riders, ride with them, and ride the bike; ride it a lot," he advised.



**Fort Pickens  
Kayaking Day Trip  
April 14, 2012  
\$15.00**

**Spend the day enjoying the best of Northwest Florida from the water. Grab your water bottle, lunch, your sunscreen and come out with us for a day of kayaking along the Florida National Seashore. We will be leaving from the base and heading out to Pensacola Beach with the kayaks. Depending on the water conditions we will either kayak on the Gulf side or in the sound. Then once we have had our fill of paddling we will load up the trailer and head back to the base.**

**For more information or to sign up please contact the Outdoor Adventure Program on board NAS Whiting Field at 850-623-7670 or email us at [Outdooradventure.wf@gmail.com](mailto:Outdooradventure.wf@gmail.com)**

# Bird strikes

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it away from a cell phone tower that was near Training Air Wing FIVE's flight patterns.

Using an effigy of a vulture created by a taxidermist, Daniel and Kuechle had the device hung over the primary roosting areas. Within a few days the birds were gone. For a base operating in excess of 250 aircraft with about 1.5 million flight operations per year, losing that hazard elicits a big sigh of relief, and should for a good while since the effigy can last several years.

"The vultures were a very real concern to the safety of the training wing pilots," Leann Bair, NAS Whiting Field airfield manager said. "We are glad they have been moved out of the area in a humane way, and no longer are as big a threat to our flight patterns."

Daniel echoed that sentiment, reinforcing, that using non harmful methods to remove animals from areas where they are a hazard is the norm. Daniel echoed that sentiment, reinforcing, that using non harmful methods to remove animals from areas where they are a hazard is the norm.

"It is part of our Integrated Management Plan to use non-lethal methods whenever possible," he stated. "When you can accomplish the same effect without harming the animals, you have done a good thing."

Pilots for the training wing have experienced four vulture strikes over the past year, all at other locations, totaling \$16,000 of damage to the aircraft involved. Considering that the effigies only cost a few hundred dollars, the effort



Here is what the cell phone tower looked like before the effigy was placed on the structure. The vultures have since moved. Photo courtesy of Marty Daniel.

is a significant cost avoidance practice in addition to safeguarding pilot and student aviator health. Furthermore, this particular roost area posed a health concern to local residents, and several have expressed relief at the departure of the birds.

"The telecommunications company, people who work at the site, local residents, and the pilots, they all benefit from the removal of the birds," Daniel said. "It was a win-win scenario for all involved."

## Weekly Spotlight - Kevin Jackson

**Branch of service:** CTI Resource Mgmt Services

**Hometown:** Jay, Fla.

**Job titles:** ELMR/EOC Technical Analyst

**Command:** NAS Whiting Field

**Years employed with the Federal Government:**

8 years with Army & National Guard plus 3 years with CTI

**What is the best part of working with the Navy?**

You get to meet a lot of interesting people.

**What do you like best about your job?**

Lots of stuff! Get to move around to the OLF's and meet so many of the people on the base and their positive attitudes. Plus I enjoy the challenges of troubleshooting the equipment and problem solving.

**What do you see yourself doing in five years?**

Hopefully the same thing.

