

# Whiting Tower

Sixty-Six Years of Aviation Training News



Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, FL

Forging Wings for the Fleet

Vol. 67 No. 22

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

## Diversity committee celebrates Asian Pacific American Month

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

The Naval Air Station Whiting Field diversity committee hosted an engaging celebration of the history and culture of Western Pacific with its Asian Pacific American Heritage Month luncheon Thursday, May 26. The event not only provided a presentation of information about the achievements and accomplishments of Asian-Americans, but a heartfelt recollection from someone who remembered coming to the United States in the mid-1970s.

Dr. My-Huong T. Nguyen's extended family emigrated from Vietnam to America in 1975. They came over with little more than what they were wearing, a small handbag of items, and a tennis racket they knew they wouldn't be able to afford in the states for the eldest brother. They settled in the Northwest Florida area where Nguyen's mother worked two jobs, as a hotel clerk and convenience store cashier, to help get the family off of government assistance and take care of her four children.

"We came here with nothing but the clothes on our backs. It was a long journey, but in America, you can achieve any goal you want," she

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## UWF celebrates Memorial Day

By Josh Newby, University Communications

The University of West Florida celebrated Memorial Day on May 26 to honor the soldiers who gave their lives in service to their country.

"Eloquence of words cannot adequately honor the deeds of those who have fallen," Capt. Pete Hall, Naval Air Station Whiting Field commanding officer said during his keynote speech for the event. "Part of what makes this country great is our ability to honor those who have paid so dearly for our freedom."

The NAS Whiting Field Color Guard posted and retired the colors; Milton High School student Erica Rowe sang the National Anthem and Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Gregory McCrimmon of NAS Whiting Field conducted the invocation and benediction. A wreath was also laid at the flagpole in memory of fallen veterans.

"Gathering together is a good way to show our gratitude to fallen veterans, their family and friends," said Hall. "All of the good we enjoy today is because of the sacrifices they've made."

## Kids run for fun at CDC event

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Child Development Center (CDC) participated in the world's largest kid's run event, along with other military bases across the country May 21. About 20 kids registered for the morning run/walk, which was designed to let the children have fun and enjoy a day with their families.

America's Kids Run started in 1986 as the Junior Bloomsday Run, a popular event in the Northwest. After 16 years, it gained popularity with military bases, and its founder changed the name to America's Kids Run. This was the first time NAS Whiting Field participated in the annual event.

The CDC planned for about one month to host the event and coordinated with the Kids Run organizers to obtain the tee-shirts, pins and other free items for the children. They set up the courses for the youths using the event guidelines for distances of one-half mile for the five and six year olds, one mile for the seven and eight year olds, and two miles

- (Cont. on Page 5)

# ACCP changes announced in new NAVADMIN

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- In response to increased retention of pilots and naval flight officers (NFOs) at the department head and command levels, the Navy announced May 18 in NAVADMINs 168/11 and 169/11 that it has restructured the Aviation Career Continuation Pay (ACCP) program for fiscal year 2011.

Changes were announced in NAVADMIN 168/11 for active duty aviators and in NAVADMIN 169/11 for full-time support (FTS) aviators.

"Providing appropriate incentives to retain skilled personnel for critical naval aviation billets is essential to maintaining combat readiness," said Rear Adm. Tony Kurta, the director of military plans and policy for Chief of Naval Personnel. "Through a balanced bonus program, the Navy is able to retain a sufficient number of eligible pilots and naval flight officers through department head and command milestones."

To ensure an efficient use of funds, the fiscal year 2011 bonus program includes a general reduction in bonus amounts, as well as the alignment of available bonuses for department heads by aircraft type, model and series.

For fiscal year 2011, department head bonus amounts are as follows: all helicopter pilots, \$10,000 per year; EA-18G and EA-6B electronic air attack (VAQ) pilots, \$15,000 per year; VAQ NFOs, \$20,000 per year; E-2C carrier airborne early warning (VAW) and C-2 fleet logistics support (VRC) pilots, \$5,000 per year; VAW NFOs, \$5,000 per year; FA-18 strike fighter (VFA) pilots, \$25,000 per year; VFA NFOs, \$10,000 per year; P-3C patrol (VP) pilots, \$10,000 per year; VP NFOs, \$10,000 per year; EP-3 air reconnaissance (VQ) pilots, \$10,000 per year; VQ NFOs, \$10,000 per year; and E-6A airborne communications (VQ [T]) pilots,

\$5,000 per year; VQ (T) NFOs, \$5,000 per year.

Previous bonuses were \$25,000 per year for all pilots and \$15,000 per year for all NFOs, regardless of airframe.

The department head bonus will no longer be offered with a lump-sum option. Additionally, the payment schedule has been adjusted and these officers will receive a reduced amount until they are department head screened.

The fiscal year 2011 ACCP program also makes bonuses available for lieutenant commanders and commanders who are serving at sea, but not on a long-term contract.

Two-year contracts for non-command tours at sea have been reduced to \$5,000 per year in fiscal year 2011 from \$10,000 in fiscal year 2010.

At-sea command bonus levels remain unchanged for fiscal year 2011. Three-year contracts for at-sea operational or operational training command tours will pay \$12,000 per year.

As in fiscal year 2010, O-6 aviators will not be eligible for ACCP bonuses.

FTS aviators will be eligible for bonuses of \$10,000 per year in department head and officer-in-charge categories, with contracts for command tours offered only for operational or operational training squadrons at \$12,000 per year.

An aviation officer has two opportunities to sign an ACCP contract – the first in the year prior to expiration of his or her minimum service requirement and the second in the year the MSR will expire.

Fiscal year 2011 ACCP applications must be received by Sept. 23 for active duty aviators and Sept. 24 for FTS aviators.

## Ec-nomics

### *Conserve/Recycle for You and the Environment*

If you must dry clean, try to go less frequently. You will not only save on drive time and fuel, you'll save plastic. Dry cleaners bunch items together into plastic garment bags, so the more you bring once, the better. If one in ten households took one less trip to the dry cleaners per year and saved two plastic garment bags, the plastic saved could be stitched together to make more than nine thousand hot air balloons.

Try recycling your phone books. Better yet: Call to stop the phone book delivery and then use an online telephone directory instead. Telephone books make up almost 10 percent of waste at dump sites.

Set warm wash and cold rinse cycles, and save 90 percent over the energy used when machine washing in hot water only. Together, all U.S. households could save the energy equivalent of one hundred thousand barrels of oil a day by switching from hot-hot to warm-cold cycles.

*See [www.thedailygreen.com](http://www.thedailygreen.com) for more tips.*

## This Week in Naval History

### May 31

1900 - Sailors and Marines from USS Newark and USS Oregon arrive at Peking, China, with other Sailors and Marines from Britain, France, Russia, Italy and Japan to protect U.S. and foreign diplomatic legations from the Boxers.

1919 - NC-4's transatlantic flight ends at Plymouth, England.

1944 - USS England (DE 635) sank a record sixth Japanese submarine in 13 days.

### June 1

1813 - HMS Shannon captures USS Chesapeake, Capt. James Lawrence. As the mortally wounded Lawrence was carried below, he ordered, "Tell the men to fire faster! Don't give up the ship!" These words would live on in naval history. Oliver Hazard Perry honored his dead friend Lawrence when he had the motto sewn onto the private battle flag flown during the Battle of Lake Erie, Sept. 10, 1813.

1871 - Rear Adm. Rodgers lands in Korea with a party of Sailors and Marines and captures five forts to secure protection for U.S. citizens after Americans were fired upon and murdered.

1914 - General Order 99 prohibits alcohol aboard naval vessels, or at navy yards or stations.

1915 - First contract for lighter-than-air craft for Navy.

1939 - Director of the Naval Research Laboratory, Capt. Hollis M. Cooley, proposes research in atomic energy for future use in nuclear powered submarine.

1944 - ZP-14 Airships complete first crossing of Atlantic by non-rigid lighter-than-air aircraft.

# News and Notes

**June Lifeguard Class** - MWR Aquatics Program is offering American Red Cross Lifeguard Classes this summer. The next classes will be held June 4,5 and 11,12. If you're 15 or older and looking for a great summer job or challenging career that's in demand, the Red Cross Lifeguarding program is the place to start. Through videos, group discussion and hands-on practice, participants will learn patron rescue and surveillance skills, first aid and CPR/AED. Upon completion of the course, participants will receive ARC Lifeguarding certification, ARC First Aid Certification, and ARC CPR for the Professional Rescuer. The cost for the class is \$150.00. For more information please call the Aquatics Coordinator at 850-623-7670.

**Blueberry Bash** - The ARC Santa Rosa, Inc., 2nd Annual "Blueberry Bash" will be held on Sat, Jun 25, 2011, 0800-1400. They are located at 6225 Dixie Road, Milton. To kick-off the event, a 5K Fun-Run will begin at 7 a.m., with check-in at 6 a.m. To register on-line, visit [www.imathlet.com](http://www.imathlet.com). You can also download the registration form at [www.thearcsantarosa.org/documents](http://www.thearcsantarosa.org/documents). Registration is \$25.00 and includes a "Blueberry Bash" t-shirt. Refreshments will follow the run. Late registration fee will be \$30.00 after Jun 4, 2011. This promises to be a family event with many children's activities. A variety of Arts and Crafts and other vendors will be on hand, as well as an array of Fun Food items to enjoy. There will be various local entertainment performing throughout the day. Blueberry plants and fruit will be available for purchase. For additional information, please contact Mr. Debbie Goss at [dgoss@bellsouth.net](mailto:dgoss@bellsouth.net) or contact The ARC Santa Rosa at 623-9320.

**Discovery Workshop** - Chaplain Summerlin will be offering a Couples DISC personality type workshop. Come learn more about how to relate to your significant other. The seminar is open to active duty; reservists; family members; and civilians. If attending, please have your significant other join you. The class will be held Thursday, June 9, from 8 a.m. to noon in the Atrium Bldg., classroom 169. Please come in appropriate civilian attire. To register, or for more information, contact the Chaplain's Office at 850-623-7211 or see the NAS Whiting Field Religious Ministry Team Facebook page.



## Remembering Those Who Fell

Naval Air Station Whiting Field Sailors fire a salute to honor fallen service members on Memorial Day. The team participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans' Memorial Plaza in Milton, Fla. Photos courtesy of Bill Gamblin.



## Holding a Memory

Shannon Wermers, the widow of Lt. Clinton Wermers, places a brick in the Veterans' Memorial Plaza in her husband's memory. Lt. Wermers, a former pilot at Training Squadron SIX, died in an aircraft mishap in 2010. Photo courtesy of Bill Gamblin.

**Mount Pinatubo Reunion** - Anyone who was ever stationed in the Philippines or assisted with Operation Fiery Vigil is invited to a 20-year reunion, Sunday, June 12 from 12-2 p.m. at the Cubi Bar Café inside the National Naval Aviation Museum at NAS Pensacola. Cost is \$17.50 per person. For information, call Gay Lynn O'Hara (850) 607-2449 or email [gay.lynn.ohara@gmail.com](mailto:gay.lynn.ohara@gmail.com).

**Troy Closing** - Troy University's branch office at NAS Whiting Field closed Friday May 27 at the end of the work day. Troy U's point of contact for questions will be David Durham, Assistant Director of Marketing & Development of Military Services. He may be reached via email at [dbdurham@troy.edu](mailto:dbdurham@troy.edu) and by phone at 850-458-4722 office and 850-292-8434 cell.

**Starbase Atlantis Registration** - NASWF Starbase Atlantis is now accepting applications for their Summer Program, Session July 11-14. There are 25 spaces available so signups are on a 'first come, first served basis.' Completed applications can be dropped off at Bldg. 1907 NAS Pensacola, faxed to (850) 452-8288, or emailed to [starbaseatlantis@mchsi.com](mailto:starbaseatlantis@mchsi.com). Cost is FREE! The program is open to any child 9-11 to include visiting grandchild from out of state, home schooled, etc. For additional information, call (850) 452-8287. Please mention Naval Air Station Whiting Field Program during the call.

## Upcoming Events

June 3, 0900 - Battle of Midway Comm. - Corry Station

June 3, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

June 17, 1000 - VT-6 Change of Command - Atrium

June 17, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

June 24, 1000 - HT-18 Change of Command - Auditorium

July 1, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

# Fleet and Family Support Center classes

## **Landrum Staffing Recruiting Event - June 6, 10 a.m. to Noon.- 623-7177**

As an industry leader in temporary and permanent staffing services, the recruitment professionals at Landrum Staffing are committed to taking the hassle out of hiring. We are constantly searching to find what you're looking for - the right employee for the right job. <http://jobs.landrumstaffing.com/JobOpenings.aspx>.

## **Grief Loss and Support Group - June 7, 2 to 3 p.m. - 623-7177**

We experience grief and loss for a variety of reasons; death or sickness of a loved one, ending of a relationship, losing a job, experiencing trauma. Our reactions can vary, (e.g., anger, sadness, anxiety, etc). Come gather for support and learn strategies for coping. Call 623-7177 for details.

## **E-Books Workshop - June 13, 1 to 2 p.m. - 623-7177**

A new class designed to help you navigate the Navy Knowledge Online program and use the library of free e-books and audio book to your best advantage. It is recommended that you bring your laptop computer or e-reader with you. NKO is not yet compatible with the Kindle e-reader.

## **IA Discussion Group - June 13, 2 to 3 p.m. - 623-7177**

## **Smooth Move Class - June 16 & 30, 1 to 3 p.m. - 623-7177**

Make your next change of duty station move a smooth one. Learn what resources are available to you and five key steps to minimizing stress during the relocation and transition period. For more information, call NAS Whiting Field Fleet and Family Support Center at 623-7177.

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# ER Extra app introduced by SR Medical Ctr.

## *- Program should ease decisions for those not needing emergent care*

**Milton, FL— May 26, 2011** – The next stage in the “ER Extra” campaign at Santa Rosa Medical Center is the addition of a free iPhone app and mobile sites that perform a similar function for smartphones. For those not requiring immediate emergent care, the ER Extra app is designed to help decision making in emergency care extra fast and extra easy.

The latest implementation is that of our signature iPhone app designed specifically to provide wait times, a map, a link to the main website and the phone number of the nearest Health Management hospital. The ER Extra iPhone app can be downloaded for free at the iTunes app store, and can also be used on the iPad. Even though this app is dedicated solely to iPhone and iPad users, we have also created mobile sites that allow similar features to be used on any smartphone.

Mobile sites are designed to recognize that the user is accessing a website via their smartphone as opposed to a traditional computer. When you search for the name of a Health Management hospital, and click on the link, you will immediately see a very important safety reminder.

The safety reminder reads as follows: Information in this application is not a substitute for medical advice. If you think you may have a medical emergency, call your doctor or 911.

Users are then prompted to continue on to the hospital's ER Extra webpage where they can see the current wait time, click through for directions to the hospital or to call the hospital, and they also have the option to view the hospital's full website.

ER wait times are tracked by the ProMed tool. They reflect the average wait time of the patients that were triaged during the previous hour. The data comes to our hospital in a feed directly from ProMed, a tool which tracks Time to Triage.

“All of these tools are made possible because of the strides we made last year in providing ER wait times online. I am confident that these new tools will only further enhance our patients' experiences and allow us to reach our goal of exceeding their expectations. We made a promise to continue developing new ways to do this and the addition of the iPhone app and mobile sites for smart phones are the next step,” said Santa Rosa Medical Center CEO Phillip Wright.

For more information about “ER Extra” and the latest iPhone app and mobile site technology at Santa Rosa Medical Center, contact Lisa Walsh at 850.626.5370.

# Diversity

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said.

Nguyen's mother worked from seven in the morning until 11 at night for nearly eight years to provide the family with the necessities. The four children also worked odd and part time jobs to help make ends meet. All four kids learned from their mother the value of giving one's best in school, and each is a success story in his/her own right. One brother is a dentist while the other brother graduated with a degree in computer engineering, but answered another calling and is a doctor with the Air Force. The two daughters are both practicing physicians in Florida.

Nguyen, the youngest, received her Doctor of Medicine degree from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and has been practicing medicine for 22 years in Oklahoma, Guam and now in Pensacola, Fla.

"Through my mother's hard work, we learned the way up is through education," she stated. "Everything is possible in this country. You have to dream the American dream and work hard. I can tell you that if we had stayed back in Vietnam, I would not have the future I have today."

Though Nguyen's speech was the centerpiece of the luncheon, much of the rest of the event was a family affair. Her young daughter Hanh-Nhan Tran sang "America the Beautiful" following the opening prayer and Tran and her cousin Rachel Nguyen performed a traditional folk dance which celebrated the scenery of the rice fields and the harvest.

Throughout the program the diversity committee played a slide show with interesting facts about Asian countries



Dr. Nguyen's daughter and niece perform a traditional Vietnamese dance celebrating the rice fields' beauty during the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The diversity committee hosted the event in the base auditorium May 26. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

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# Kids run

- (Cont. from Page 1)



A father and daughter run through the finish line during the CDC Fun Run May 21. U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Tim Mosso.

for the 9-13 year olds. The event was not timed, and was non-competitive. Prizes were awarded in each age group, and standings were irrelevant in the presentation.

It was such a casual course, that several parents got out and traversed the course with their kids.

"This wasn't a race. It was a fun get out and exercise day," Mary Marcoux, CDC director said. "Walk, run, it didn't matter."

The Child Development Center issued certificates to each child who completed the course, and worked to enlist some of the children into the Fit Factor program that provides prizes that kids can earn through achieving fitness goals. They even provided fruit and water to the runners for a healthy snack.

Morale Welfare and Recreation donated the prizes, which included free bowling passes, movie passes, boat rentals and more. Security blocked off the streets for the duration of the run and helped ensure the safety of the participants. Dog tags were even handed out by the Navy Exchange. The team effort helped make the event a success in Marcoux's eyes.

"I'm glad we had it. We are already looking at ways to improve for next year. It was nice to see parents out there having a good time with their children."

# Diversity

- (Cont. from Page 5)



Dr. Nguyen speaks to the Naval Air Station Whiting Field audience about her family's immigration to America. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

and prominent Asian-Americans and their accomplishments.

Americans of Asian descent have a long history of service to their adopted country through Naval service. From Will Iam Ah Hang who enlisted in the Navy in 1863 through today when the service has nine admirals and 137 master chiefs leading the way, more than 340,000 Asian Pacific Americans are veterans of the armed forces. More than 50,000 Americans of Asian descent are part of the Navy's total force either through uniformed or civilian service.

About 50 people attended the ceremony to celebrate that service and history, and the diversity committee served them lunch after the scheduled events were complete. Cultural foods such as pancit, egg rolls, vegetable lomein, fried rice and chicken adobo were gratefully eaten by the audience. But as good as the food was, Nguyen's inspirational speech was easily the highlight of the afternoon.

"For her to provide an example of the hard work and perseverance her family showed in coming over her - I loved it," Navy Counselor First Class Gwendolyn King said.



DEFY is seeking active duty personnel and/or DoD civilians to serve as Team leaders, Camp Corpsman, and Administrative Assistants for the 2011 - 2012 DEFY Program. Camp will focus on substance abuse prevention, gang resistance, physical fitness, citizenship, conflict resolution, and self esteem development for Youth ages 9 - 12.



## Staff Volunteers needed for Summer Leadership Camp 01 - 05 AUG 2011



Persons interested in serving should be:

- Highly motivated
- Interested in positively influencing the lives of military youth,
- Attend day-staff training
- Able to participate Monday - Friday, 01 - 05 AUG 2011
- Have approval from your Command to participate
- Required to be on one week, on cost TAD orders

Pick up an application at <http://www.hq.navy.mil/DEFY> .

Applications are due to DEFY Coordinator no later than 15 JUN 2011. For more information contact ACCS Rowe at (850) 623-7372 or AC2 Brooks at (405)625-7893

# Congrats Training Air Wing FIVE Wingers and Scholars



**First Row:** Lt. Col. Shawn J. Coakley, USMC; Ensign Margaret E. Gardner, USN; Lt. Christopher N. McAndrew, USCG; 1st Lt. Phillip D. Fernandez, USMC; Ensign Maile E. Cornish, USN; 1st Lt. Donald J. Carlsen, Jr., USMC; Ensign Macedonius K. Melonas, USN; and 1st Lt. James T. Kerrigan, USMC.

**Second Row:** Lt. Col. Mark C. Thompson, USMC; Lt. j.g. Rami R. Alzahrani, RSNF; Chief Warrant Officer Nathan Eric Kelly, USN; 1st Lt. Christopher J. Ust, USMC; 1st Lt. Christopher M. Butler, USMC; Ensign Kevin D. De Ceoursty, USN; Lt. j.g. Meshal Q. Al-Mutairi, RSNF; and 1st Lt. Stephanie J. Larsen, USMC.

**Third Row:** Cmdr. Hans E. Sholley, USN; Ensign Benjamin W. Rogers, USN; Lt. j.g. Eric M. Hierholzer, USN; Ensign Timothy D. Wood, USN; Chief Warrant Officer Andrew C. Bernhardt, USN; 1st Lt. Andrew J. Guthrie, USMC; Col Jon G. Doering, USMC; and Capt. James L. Vandiver, USN.



**Left Photo:** Training Air Wing FIVE presented their Academic Achievement Awards May 20 to: Lt. j.g. John W. Pasichnyk, USN; Lt. j.g. Zachary S. Smith, USN; Ensign Christopher E. Blanchard, USN; Lt. John Gustine, USN; Ensign Timothy J. Nasta, USN; Ensign Gavin R. MacGarva, USN; Ensign Eric A. Hodina, USN; Ensign Meredith N. Wydra, USN; 2nd Lt. David J. G. Hook, USAF; 1st Lt. Christopher A. Richgruber, USMC; 2nd Lt. Hugh E. Anderson, USMC; 2nd Lt. Jacob G. Broullire, USAF; Ensign Zachary C. Edge, USN; 1st Lt. Adam J. Fuller, USMC; Ensign Jeffrey P. Lindbom, USN; 1st Lt. Travis R. Harrison, USMC; 2nd Lt. Andrew R. Wing, USMC; and Ensign Brian E. Stong, USN.

**Right Photo:** Academic Achievement awards were presented May 27 to Ensign Matthew S. Delahunty, USCG; 1st Lt. Alan R. Holt, USMC; Ensign Kira L. Devers-Jones, USN; Ensign Robert L. Hallum, USN; Ensign Bradley J. Toman, USN; Ensign Chase T. Strickland, USN; 1st Lt. Nathaniel Swanson, USMC; 1st Lt. Daniel E. Callaway USMC; 2nd Lt. James W. Robertson, USAF; Ensign Benjamin J. Arnett, USN; 2nd Lt. Aaron C. Arntz, USAF; Ensign Kevin J. Callan, USN; 1st Lt. Phillip A. Rogers USMC; 1st Lt. Jason M. Cullen, USMC, and 2nd Lt. Eric T. Laprade, USAF.