

Whiting Tower

Sixty-Six Years of Aviation Training News



Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, FL

Forging Wings for the Fleet

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Wednesday, March 16, 2011

McGuire to Turn Over Command of VT-2

By 2nd Lt. Molly LeBlanc, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Cmdr. Timothy McGuire, USCG, will turn over command of Training Squadron TWO (VT-2) to Cmdr. John Hensel, USN, Friday, Mar. 18, at 10 a.m. in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Atrium.

During his tenure as executive officer and commanding officer, McGuire led the “Doerbirds” in executing more than 51,000 flight hours, completing over 38,000 syllabus events, and designating 515 Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force,



Cmdr. Timothy McGuire

Coast Guard, and Allied Aviators. His leadership inspired the command to unprecedented success in earning the 2008 and 2009 Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award, as well as a nomina-

tion for the Chief of Operations Safety Award for 2010.

As the commanding officer, McGuire implemented numerous command initiatives and modified squad-



Cmdr. John Hensel

ron operating procedures to save limited T-34C aircraft after a rudder material defect was discovered and grounded the majority of the fleet. This type of operational ingenuity and “big picture” strategic grasp allowed not only VT-2 to continue to meet lofty CNATRA training goals, but also allowed other TRAWING 5

squadrons added sortie generation.

McGuire was commissioned through the United States Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in July 1981,

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CTF 76 prepares to offer relief



Sailors and Marines, aboard the USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19), watch an SH-60F conduct a vertical replenishment. Blue Ridge is taking on humanitarian assistance supplies to ensure the crew is ready to support tsunami relief operations in Japan. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Aaron M. Pineda.

From Task Force 76 Public Affairs

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan (NNS) -- In response to the earthquake and tsunami disasters in Northern Honshu, Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet, Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, directed Commander, Task Force (CTF) 76 to organize a Maritime Response cell on March 11, to coordinate U.S. Naval relief efforts out of U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) headquarters on Yokota Air Base.

As the amphibious force for 7th Fleet, CTF 76, commanded by Rear Adm. Richard Landolt, is designated as the Humanitarian and Disaster relief executive agent for earthquake and tsunami response in Japan.

“Seventh Fleet’s amphibious forces have a lot of experience with humanitarian and disaster relief,” said Landolt. “So it makes sense to use that experience to shape our response and help our ally and regional partner recover from this catastrophic

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NASWF to train with local SWAT

Naval Air Station Whiting Field anti-terrorism and emergency response teams will coordinate with local SWAT and Navy Criminal Investigative Service personnel on a training exercise March 23 in the base auditorium.

To facilitate the exercise, the base picnic pavilion will be use as a staging and collection area, USS Yorktown Street in front of the gymnasium and the auditorium’s west parking lot will be closed for much of the day beginning approximately at 8 a.m.

The exercise will involve many emergency vehicles and base personnel should be aware but not alarmed.

Free Training for 200 Military Spouses in Personal Finance

- Applications Accepted for Fellowships to become an Accredited Financial Counselor®

ALEXANDRIA, VA March 1, 2011 – The FINRA Investor Education Foundation together with the National Military Family Association and The Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education® (AFCPE®) are pleased to announce that the application period for the FINRA Foundation Military Spouse Accredited Financial Counselor® Fellowship is now open. This program will provide up to 200 military spouses with the education necessary to enter the financial counseling career field.



NATIONAL
MILITARY FAMILY
ASSOCIATION

Together we're stronger

The fellowship covers the costs associated with completing Accredited Financial Counselor® (AFC®) training and tests. Upon successful completion of the program and required practicum, the participant will be awarded the Accredited Financial Counselor®

designation from AFCPE®.

Current or surviving spouses of any service member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and the Commissioned Corps of PHS or NOAA (active duty, National Guard and Reserve, or
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This Week in Naval History

March 15

1865 - In the largest amphibious operation of the war, Union forces capture Fort Fisher, N.C.
1943 - The Numbered fleet system is established.
1957 - Airship ZPG-2 lands at Naval Air Station Key West, Fla., after an 11-day non-stop flight across the Atlantic.
1966 - River Squadron 5 is established in Vietnam.

March 16

1911 - The hulk of battleship USS Maine is sunk at sea with full military honors.
1945 - The island of Iwo Jima is declared secure.
1966 - Gemini 8 is launched. Former naval aviator Neil Armstrong flew on this mission, which completed seven orbits in 10 hours, 41 minutes at an altitude of 161.3 nautical miles. Recovery was by USS Leonard F. Mason (DD 852).

March 17

1898 - USS Holland, the first practical submarine, is launched.
1942 - U.S. Naval Forces Europe is established to plan joint operations with the British.
1958 - A Navy Vanguard rocket launches a 3.25 pound sphere from Cape Canaveral, Fla.
1959 - USS Skate (SSN 578) surfaces at the North Pole.

March 18

1781 - Continental sloop ship Saratoga goes down with all hands in a sudden gale, three days after sailing from Cap Francais, Haiti.
1945 - Carriers begin a three-month Okinawa campaign by destroying aircraft on Kyushu, Japan.

The Commanding Officer
Naval Air Station Pensacola
cordially invites you to attend the
National Medal of Honor Day Ceremony
Friday, 25 March 2011
beginning at 0900 at the
National Naval Aviation Museum



Uniform:
Military: Working Uniform
Civilian: Appropriate civilian attire

News and Notes

Safe Driving Course - NAS Whiting Field will host a AAA Driver Improvement Course March 25 Bldg. 1417 room 169A from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This course satisfies the training requirement for military and DoD civilian personnel who operate a GMV as their primary duty, or who operate a GMV more than eight hours a week as part of their incidental duties. This course may also get you a discount with your insurance company. Sign up through Navymotorcyclerider.com.

West Florida Railroad Museum - Every Friday and Saturday you can inspect pieces of railroad history in Milton at the Old Louisville and Nashville Depot, 5003 Henry Street. There are several railroad cars at the site, including two cabooses and a dining car, that you and your children can climb around on. Inside the museum freight house there are displays of a dispatchers office, yard tools and equipment from years gone by. There's an indoor HO gauge model train display in a real bridge tender's house and a huge outdoor layout of G-scale trains operated by the Emerald Coast Garden Railway Club. Children can ride our 7-1/2 inch gauge freight train around the layout. The museum is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 to 3 (other times by appointment). The outdoor G scale display runs only on Saturdays. Email: conductor@wfrm.org. Museum: www.wfrm.org. Garden Railway Club: www.ecgrc.com. Telephone: 850-623-3645.

Artists Needed for Arts Festival (Date Change) - The Santa Rosa Arts and Culture Foundation (SRACF), is calling for all artists, entertainers, performers, historic and ethnic cultural groups, vendors and volunteers for the 23rd Riverwalk Arts Festival. The Festival will take place April 8, 9 and 10 in downtown Milton. Call 850-393-0121 for more information.

St. Patrick's Annual Antiques and Arts Faire - The Bagdad Waterfronts Florida Partnership is sponsoring St. Patrick's Annual Antiques and Arts Faire on March 19, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the corner of Church St. and Old Bagdad Hwy and Forsyth St. in Bagdad. There are events and activities for the entire family to enjoy: art and antique dealers, dog show (parade and judging, \$5.00 entrance fee), children's activities (crafts, face painting, games, moonwalk), silent auction, vintage cars and wooden boats, musical entertainment, food, and ice cream. Proceeds will benefit the Bagdad Mill Site Park. Admission is free. For more information call Gloria Cook at (850) 623 8000.

Traffic Advisory - For the next month, traffic on State Road (SR) 10/US 90 through downtown Milton can expect intermittent lane restrictions between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. Panhandle Grading & Paving will be widening shoulders and paving the roadway from SR 87/ Stewart Street to Bayou Drive. Weather permitting; this work should be complete by the end of March.

Navarre Fun Fest - The Navarre Area Chamber of Commerce will present their 27th Annual Fun Fest Friday, April 29, and Saturday, April 30, at Navarre Beach. The family two-day event is sponsored in part by Santa Rosa Medical Center. Application forms for: Artists & Crafters, Food Vendors and Sponsors are located on the Navarre Chamber website at: www.navarrechamber.com. The event is seeking painters, potters, stain glass artists, beach arts and all types of crafts welcomed. Spaces are available for \$100.00 per 10 x 10 space. Any artist or crafter seeking information may contact Connie Jones at: 939-7964, For general information about Fun Fest, call: 939-3267.



A Sad Farewell

“An excavator tears into the brick of the Wing’s Club, efficiently leveling the complex March 15. The long-standing landmark was one of the earliest buildings on the base, with portions of it built in 1944. The pool area will remain, and is scheduled to be enlarged. Contractors will begin removing debris today, and possibly continue for several weeks. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Megan Dooner

Talladega Trip - NASCAR FANS ...WE WANT YOU! Join MWR's ITT staff on a trip to Talladega Super Speedway to watch the "Aaron's 499" on April 17. The 499 is part of the "Sprint Cup Series" and promises to be an exciting race. Cost is \$175, and includes: comfortable bus ride to and from Talladega, tailgate party before and after the race, choice of hotdog or hamburger with sides, dessert & a soda, tower seats diagonal from pit row exit and start/finish line (\$125 value). Pit passes are also available for an additional \$60. A \$75 non-refundable deposit is required by 18 March, with balance due on 1 April. For more information, please call Marcy Allen at 850-623-7032. Please print and pass along the attached flyer. SPACE IS LIMITED!

CPO Golf Tournament - Join the NAS Whiting Field Chief Petty Officers for "The Goat Rope" the Inaugural Chiefs Birthday Golf Tournament presented by the NAS Whiting Field CPOA. The scramble tournament will be held Apr. 1, at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Cost is \$35 per person, and prizes will be held for top 3 teams, closest to the pin, longest and "shortest" drive. Contact ACC Carl Proffen at 623-7045 or via email at carl.proffen@navy.mil for reservations. Please RSVP by March 25.

Spring Slam Tournament - NAS Whiting Field's MWR is hosting a Spring Slam Softball Tournament, March 18-19. The tournament will follow USSSA rules for class C and D players. Each team will hit their own .44 core softballs and will have a five home run limit. Entry fee is \$150 per team, and prizes will be available for first place (team and individual), second place (team and individual) and third place (team). If you have additional questions, call Dan at 850-529-8718 or Todd at 850-665-6102.

Parade of Paws - Bagdad Waterfronts Partnership is sponsoring a dog parade in the St Patrick's Antique and Arts Faire, March 19. Proceeds will benefit Bagdad Mill Site Park. Registration for the parade opens at 10 a.m. at the intersection of Church Street and Henderson Drive in Bagdad. The parade will begin at noon with WEBY radio host Dave Daughtry leading the way. Entry fee is \$5.00. Dogs must be at least 1 year of age, wear their current vaccination tags, and be walked on a 6 foot or less non-retractable leash. For details see www.BagdadWaterfronts.org.

Upcoming Events

March 18, 1000 - VT-2 Change of Command - Atrium

March 18, 1230 - NASWF Safety Standown - Auditorium

March 23, 0900 - NASWF AT Exercise w/SWAT - Auditorium

March 25, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Auditorium

April 1, 0900 - CPOA Golf Tournament - Golf Course

April 8, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Auditorium

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

Car Buying Class - Thursday, March 17, 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 623-7177.

Resume Writing - Monday, March 21, 10 a. to noon.

This class will assist you in efficiently creating an effective resume. Learn how to handle sticky resume situations like military-to-civilian transition, age, employment gaps, layoffs, and career change. Learn to use your resume as a marketing tool. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a work and family life specialist at 623-7177.

Grief and Loss Support Group - Tuesday, March 22, 2 to 3 p.m.

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.

Smooth Move - Wednesday, March 23, 1 to 3 p.m.

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 the Fleet and Family Support Center at 623-7177.

Challenges of Flight School and Marriage - Wednesday, March 23, 6 to 8 p.m.

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 623-7177.

VA Representative (Call for Appointment), Friday, March 25, 8 a.m. to noon

BBB® advises donors on tsunami relief efforts

- Do your research before giving to charities

PENSACOLA, Fla. (March 11, 2011) – In the wake of the most powerful earthquake to ever hit Japan, many Americans want to help those impacted by the earthquake and the tsunami that followed. Your Better Business Bureau warns donors to exercise caution when making donations to relief agencies and charities.

As with every natural disaster, there are unscrupulous people who will attempt to take advantage of the public's eagerness to help victims.

"In the face of any disaster, Americans will immediately step forward with donations to aid the victims and their families," said Norman Wright, president and CEO of your BBB Serving Northwest Florida. "Unfortunately, we've seen time and time again that scammers will try to take advantage of the generosity of the public after a disaster; that's why it's so important to take your time and do your research before donating to relief efforts."

Your BBB offers the advice for donors to ensure their donations go to trustworthy relief efforts: 1) Before donating, visit www.bbb.org/charity to research organizations you're considering supporting. 2) Be wary of charities that are reluctant to answer reasonable questions about their operations, finances and programs. 3) Ask for written information about the charity's program(s) and finances such as the charity's latest annual report and financial statements. 4) Ask what the charity intends to do

with any excess contributions remaining once they've fully funded the disaster relief activities mentioned in solicitations. 5) Don't give cash. Checks or money orders should be made out to the name of the charitable organization, not to the individual collecting the donation. 6) Beware fake charities that imitate the name and style of well-known organizations in an attempt to confuse donors. 7) Don't give in to excessive pressure for on-the-spot donations. Be wary of any request to send a "runner" to pick up your contribution. 8) Be wary of any charity that is inexperienced in carrying out relief efforts but is suddenly soliciting for aid in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami. Although well intentioned, they may not be able to quickly deliver aid to those in need. 9) Be wary of appeals that are long on emotion, but short on describing what the charity will do to address the needs of victims and their families. 10) Don't give your credit card number or other personal information to a telephone solicitor or in response to an e-mail solicitation. 11) Make sure your contribution is tax deductible: donations should be made to charitable organizations that are tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

For additional information you can trust when making giving decisions, or to view BBB Wise Giving Reports on charities across the nation, start with [bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org) <<http://www.bbb.org/>> .

CTF 76

- (Cont. from Page 1)

event.”

In order to centralize command and control efforts for surveying affected areas, logistic support, troop and equipment transfer, and helicopter operations, representatives from CTF 76, CTF 70, CTF 72, CTF 73, and CTF 74 formed a Maritime Response cell to advise USFJ, and carry out the combined efforts of the Navy’s air, ground, and sea assets. This also allows for more effective coordination with our Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) counterparts, to ensure that the right assets are employed to affect a prompt and appropriate response.

U.S. 7th Fleet forces are assisting in search and rescue operations, surveying at-sea debris fields, and will soon assist the JMSDF with transporting vehicles, equipment, and supplies to support relief efforts

NMCRS Annual Fund Drive Underway

Naval Air Station Whiting Field’s Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society is conducting their annual fund drive now, and will continue through April 15.

According to the organization’s website - www.nmc.rs.org, the group’s mission is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational, and other assistance to members of the Naval Services of the United States, eligible family members, and survivors when in need; and to receive and manage funds to administer these programs.

NMCRS is recognized by the Department of the Navy, but it is its own non-profit agency. The annual fund drive and a direct mail campaign to retirees are their primary income programs during the year. Contributions are tax deductible.

Funds are distributed from NMCRS in the form of emergency aid, scholarships, grants or low cost loans to Sailors, Marines and their families in need. Financial education and counseling services are also offered.

Contact ACC Jaqueline Williams, 623-7594, the NAS Whiting Field NMCRS fund drive chairperson for details.

Change of Command

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Cmdr. Jennifer Whereat

and received his Wings of Gold in June of 1983. His first assignment was with the ‘Condors’ of HMH-464, flying the CH-53E in NATO operations in Northern Europe and operations in the Caribbean and the Eastern Mediterranean. In July of 1987, he transitioned to the Marine Corps reserves and joined the ‘Hustlers’ of HMH-772.

In April of 1990, then Capt McGuire, USMC transitioned to the Coast Guard under the Direct Commission Aviator program, and became Lt. j.g. McGuire, USCG. Throughout his 21 year career with the Coast Guard, he has served at Coast Guard Air Station Brooklyn; served as the HH-65 safety and Crew Resource Management program manager at USCG HQ; worked at the Operations Division, followed by a tour as instructor pilot in the HU-25, at the Aviation Training Center in Mobile, AL; earned an off-duty Masters degree in Aviation Management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; and served as the response officer at Sector Corpus Christi, TX. In August 2007, McGuire reported to TW-5 for follow-on assignment to VT-2.

Hensel was commissioned as an Ensign following his graduation from the United States Naval Academy

in May 1992. He was designated a Naval Aviator in March 1995, and reported to Patrol Squadron FIVE in Jacksonville, Florida to fly the P-3C Orion. While there, he was designated an instructor pilot and mission commander, deploying three separate times. Since 1995, he has worked at Fleet Replacement Squadron, Patrol Squadron THIRTY on a Multi-mission Maritime Aircraft (MMA) Concept Exploration Team, and as an Orion Weapons & Tactics IP; served with Commander Carrier Group ONE in San Diego, California as aide and flag lieutenant; earned a Master of Arts in National Policy and Strategic Studies at the Naval War College in Newport, RI; and worked at Patrol Squadron TWENTY-SIX in Brunswick, Maine in multiple billets, including department head.

In August 2005, Hensel reported to Naval Air Systems Command where he served as the assistant program manager, logistics for the MMA P-8A Poseidon Integrated Product Team, followed by a tour in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Acquisition Technology and Logistics. While there, he earned his Masters in Business Administration from Johns Hopkins University. Hensel reported to VT-2 in December 2009 as the executive officer.

The guest speaker for the event will be Capt. Andrew Berghorn, USCG

Cmdr. Jennifer Whereat will take over as the squadron’s executive officer.

NASWF Releases Final Environmental Assessment

The final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the planned runway extensions at Barin and Summerdale Navy Outlying Fields (NOLF) is complete and was signed Feb. 28 by Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Townsend Alexander.

The final EA is similar to the draft EA presented by Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast and Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NASWF) during a public scoping meeting Aug. 31, 2010 in Robertsedale, Ala. Using inputs from local residents, the angle of the runways were shifted slightly in the plan to reduce the number of residents impacted by the expansion.

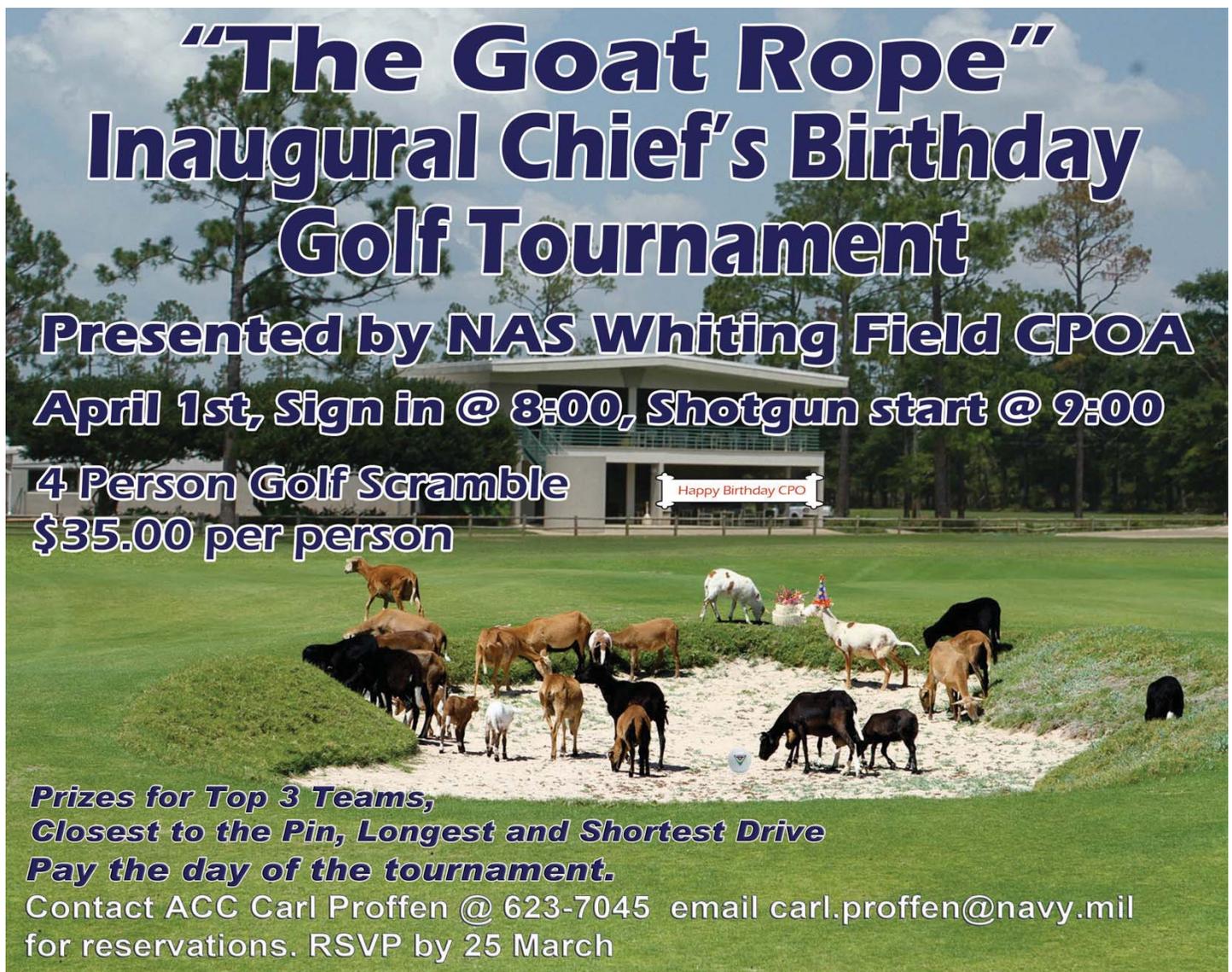
Resources analyzed in the EA include land use, water quality, local resources, air quality, noise, transportation, air traffic, and public health and safety. The Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer concurred that there would be no adverse effects on historic properties in the area of potential effects with regard to the proposed action.

With the signing of the Findings of No Significant Im-

pact (FONSI) complete, the next step is for NAVFAC Southeast to begin a thorough survey of the NOLF and affected properties. Discussions with affected residents on the land acquisition process will follow.

The EA and FONSI addressing this action is on file and interested parties may obtain a copy from: Department of the Navy; NAVFAC SE, NEPA Compliance Section; Box 30 (Bldg 903, Yorktown Avenue); NAS Jacksonville, FL 32212-0030 Attention: Mr. Royce Kemp, or via email at royce.kemp@navy.mil. The EA and FONSI will also be available for 30 days on the project website at <http://www.navyolfextensions.com>.

The U.S. Navy is proposing to re-pave and extend runway surfaces at existing NOLFs located in Baldwin County, Ala. to accommodate T-6B "Texan" landing requirements. The proposed action would provide two 5,000-foot long runways with 1,000-foot long overruns for safety and 2,000-foot long clear zones for noise reduction at the end of each runway at Barin NOLF. Summerdale NOLF would have two runways extended to 4,000-feet with the same overruns and clear zones.



**“The Goat Rope”
Inaugural Chief’s Birthday
Golf Tournament**

Presented by NAS Whiting Field CPOA

April 1st, Sign in @ 8:00, Shotgun start @ 9:00

**4 Person Golf Scramble
\$35.00 per person**

**Prizes for Top 3 Teams,
Closest to the Pin, Longest and Shortest Drive
Pay the day of the tournament.**

Contact ACC Carl Proffen @ 623-7045 email carl.proffen@navy.mil
for reservations. RSVP by 25 March

Finance Scholarship

- (Cont. from Page 2)

retirees) are eligible for this program. Military spouses with interest or experience in financial education are encouraged to apply. At this time however, spouses who are current employees of the United States government or are employed by government contractors, are in the military, or who currently hold active securities licenses are not eligible for the program.

Many employers such as credit unions, financial aid offices, and community housing agencies need well-trained, ethical, and caring financial counselors to meet the increasing demand for financial counseling services. Military spouses can fill this need while building a rewarding career that is flexible to the demands of the military family lifestyle. This is a distance learning program and participants will receive all of the course materials by mail and are able to study at their own pace.

Applications are only accepted online at www.militaryfamily.org/fellowship and must be received by midnight EST April 15, 2011.

Author seeks interviews and stories about Naval aviation

Bob Taylor, an aviation enthusiast and author, is looking for people who are willing to share their insights and past stories pertaining to Naval aviation history.

He is working on a book called "Getting Our Wings" that will chronicle the training of Naval Aviation pilots from 1911 through the present.

"My method is to write, using as many appropriate stories as I can possibly collect. These stories may be humorous, nostalgic, sad, interesting, heart rendering...to describe what could happen over the 36,000 days of making professional military pilots from fledgling hopefuls," he said.

He is not only seeking pilots and student pilots, but also ground school instructors, outlying field crew members, air traffic controllers, flight line personnel, aircraft mechanics, and anyone with access to records on flight training. If there is an interesting story - unique, humorous, serious, heart wrenching, or otherwise, he would like to hear it.

Interested participants should go to www.gettingourwings.com for more information, and fill in the form if you choose to participate.

TRICARE Notes

YOU CAN QUIT SMOKING AND TRICARE CAN HELP

TRICARE offers a toll-free Smoking Quitline that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. TRICARE's Smoking Quitline is a telephone support and resource service. Call the toll-free number for your region for assistance.

Although the new TRICARE Smoking Quitline is geared toward smoking cessation only, any TRICARE beneficiaries who want to quit using tobacco, including the smokeless kind, can get support through the DoD's comprehensive, award-winning www.UCanQuit2.com website.

Regional TRICARE Smoking Quitline Contact Information

TRICARE North Region-Health Net Federal Services, LLC 1-866-459-8766

TRICARE South Region-Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc. 1-877-414-9949

TRICARE West Region-TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp. 1-866-244-6870



Get Creative and Go Alternative

Various local, state and federal incentives exist to encourage the use of alternative energy technologies, like solar panels, geothermal heating and cooling, biomass stoves, small wind turbines and even fuel cells -- all of which require a front-end investment that typically pays itself off in energy savings over a number of years. Whereas most incentives for energy efficiency improvements are capped at \$1,500 -- incentives for most household alternative energies cover fully 30% of the cost of, with no cap. (Learn more about geothermal heating and cooling from Climate Master, one of The Daily Green's sponsors.) Or, you can get creative. Tired of paying to chill food when it's cold outside? Take advantage of natural cool air by rigging up an ambient air refrigerator (pictured here) on the side of your dwelling. The process is more simple than you might think. You just need some wood, insulation and a couple of computer fans. Get all the details for your own super fridge here.

See www.thedailygreen.com for more tips.