

Vol. 67 No. 6

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

# Sailors/instructors recognized at NL banquet

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

Naval Air Station Whiting Field's best and brightest were recognized Friday Feb. 4, at the Navy League's annual Sailor and Flight Instructor of the Year Awards Banquet. The event was held at the base's Sikes Hall, and sponsored by the Santa Rosa County Council of the Navy League.

Seven Sailors and seven flight instructors were hailed as top performers from NAS Whiting Field, Naval Branch Health Clinic, Training Air Wing FIVE, and squadrons VT-2, VT-3, VT-6, HT-8, HT-18 and HT-28.

The evening began with a social period at 6:30, followed by the presentation of colors and pledge of allegiance led by the Naval Sea Cadets, Whiting Field Division. The buffet dinner, catered by The Cutting Board, began at 7 p.m., and was concluded with the annual election and installation of officers and board members of the Navy League of Santa Rosa.

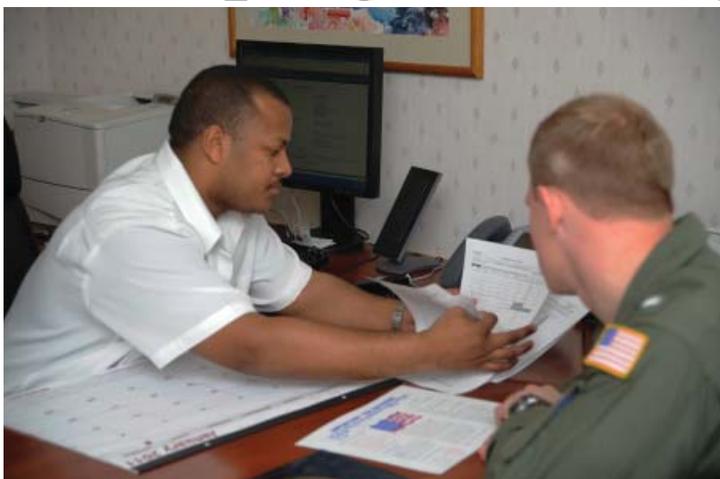
The guest speaker for the event was retired Marine Corps Col. Chris "Cave Man" Holzworth, a former commanding officer of HT-18. Following the meal, Holzworth engaged guests with an animated speech that acknowledged the award recipients and emphasized the tremendous importance of the jobs they do.

- (Cont. on Page 6)



The Santa Rosa County Council of the Navy League recognized Sailors of the Year, Feb. 4, from various commands at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, including: Aviation Boatswain's Mate, First Class Joseph Stager, NAS Whiting Field; Master-at-Arms, First Class Adam Turner, NAS Whiting Field; Aviation Boatswain's Mate, Second Class Epiphane Elam, NAS Whiting Field; Hospital Corpsman, Second Class Jeremy Skurecki, Naval Branch Health Clinic; and Naval Air Crewman, 1st Class Logan Robertson, HT-18.

# VITA program ready to help file returns



By Bill Brock, NAS Whiting Field VITA Program Coordinator

On February 1st, NAS Whiting Field began offering free tax preparation services through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to active duty, dependents, retirees, and reservists on active duty for more than 30 days. Through this program, those eligible individuals not only can save hundreds of dollars on tax preparation fees, but they also get their refund in just a couple of weeks. Due to manpower shortages reducing the number of our volunteers, we are limited to processing simple Federal and State tax returns. A simple tax return is one without rental property, numerous stocks or bonds, or self-employment income.

During the 2009 tax season, Navy-wide volunteers with the VITA program filed more than 61,000 federal and state tax returns, saving service members and dependents more

Information Systems Technician Second Class Derek Jackson, a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) tax preparer, helps Lt. j.g. James Okorn, USCG, file his 2010 tax paperwork. Jackson has helped with the program the past two years. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

- (Cont. on Page 5)



**Capt. Pete Hall**  
Commanding Officer

## CAPTAIN'S CORNER

It's been too long since I've talked with you via the Whiting Tower. Here are a couple of quick items from the suggestion box. I'll paraphrase the issue to save space:

Q: Now that the POOW has been stood down can the E-5's stand CDO? A: No. The POOW was intended to not only be a quarterdeck watch but also a means to

train young Sailors how to stand a watch and properly deal with all the associated problems and challenges that come with it. I need experienced watchstanders at night to handle the occasional issues that come up.

Q: We see a lot of speeders both on base and outside the gates up to the base perimeter (traffic light on west gate on highway 87 and parking lot at the beginning of Marty Martin Way on East gate). Are we going to go after the speeders outside the gate but still on base property? A: People are speeding out the gates and endangering the Security personnel who man the gates and we've seen people ac-

celerate well beyond the posted 45 mph speed limit. We're increasing the security presence at the gates outbound to include additional radar.

Q: Can we open the gun range for use with our privately owned firearms? A: Yes. The instruction to allow use of the range has been signed. Before you run out to the range, stop by security to check on the requirements.

You're doing great. I couldn't be prouder of not only what you are doing each day, but how you do it. Your professionalism and the can do attitude are fantastic. Thanks for everything you do.

We are going to have some fun this year too. May 13th will be the Military Appreciation Month Picnic. More to follow on the details, but it'll be great.

Also a challenge: I've been touring around the base and have noted a lot of green thumbs; people who are good at gardening...so we're going to have a Victory Garden challenge on base. Each unit / squadron / division / group / building / entity...are challenged to grow, on base or at OLF's, vegetable gardens which at a future date will be judged. The winners will receive a small trophy and other prizes. Tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, zucchini, radishes etc. are all welcome and encouraged. Gardens would by necessity need to be small. Before you start tilling the soil contact PWD at 623-7260. Would like to see the "5 gallon bucket garden" used to max extent to avoid worrying about dig permits.

You did great work in 2010 and 2011 will be better. Thanks.

## This Week in Naval History

### Feb. 7

- 1800 - USS Essex becomes the first U.S. Navy vessel to cross the equator.
- 1815 - The Board of Naval Commissioners, a group of senior officers, is established to oversee the operation and maintenance of the Navy under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy.
- 1955 - Ships from the 7th Fleet begin the evacuation of Chinese nationalists from the Tachen Islands.
- 1965 - In response to a Viet Cong attack on a U.S. barracks area in Pleiku, South Vietnam, aircraft from carriers USS Coral Sea (CV 43), USS Hancock (CV 19) and USS Ranger (CV 61) attack a North Vietnamese area near Dong-hoi.
- 1991 - Using her remotely piloted vehicle for spotting, USS Wisconsin (BB 64) pounds Iraqi artillery, electronic warfare and naval sites with her 16-inch guns. Fifty rounds sink or severely damage 15 boats, and destroy piers at Khawr al-Mufattah Marina.

### Feb. 8

- 1862 - A Union joint amphibious force captures Roanoke Island, N.C., opening the entire North Carolina coast to the Federals.
- 1890 - USS Omaha Sailors and Marines assist the city of Hodgogary, Japan, in subduing a large fire.
- 1974 - Three Skylab III astronauts are recovered by USS New Orleans (LPH 11) in the Pacific Ocean about 150 miles west of San Diego.
- 1991 - Battleship USS New Jersey (BB 62) is decommissioned at Long Beach, Calif.

## CNO provides latest on 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW/AW) Tiffini Jones Vanderwyst Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The chief of naval operations (CNO) released a video statement expressing the Navy's guidance on personal conduct during the repeal process of the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' (DADT) policy Feb 4.

In the video, CNO discussed the Navy's process of implementing the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell".

"It is important for our Sailors to understand what this change means to them, their families, and our Navy," he said.

CNO said the Navy will continue to maintain its high level of professionalism and reinforce the high standard of conduct in the Navy.

"Leadership, professionalism and respect are the basis for executing this change in the law," said Roughead.

To watch CNO's DADT statement, visit [www.navy.mil/navydata/featurePlay.asp?id=134/](http://www.navy.mil/navydata/featurePlay.asp?id=134/).

# News and Notes

**Lunch and Learn** - NAS Whiting Field's Fleet and Family Support Center is hosting "Lunch and Learn" seminars beginning March 3 and continuing on the first Thursday of each month. FFSC, is providing the sessions from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The first topic, on March 3, is Divorce and Separation. Check back for more information on additional topics provided each month. For information contact Julie or Pat at 623-7177.

**Candlelight Tours by the Beach** - Gulf Islands National Seashore will present a Candlelight Tour of Fort Barrancas on Saturday, Feb. 12, 5:00 - 7:15 p.m. Superintendent Dan Brown announced today. The free tour highlights Pensacola in the Civil War. In addition, the Fort Barrancas Visitor Center with new museum exhibits, audiovisual programs, and bookstore will be open. Reservations are required and visitors should call (850) 455-5167.

## Artists Needed for Arts Festival

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 on 26 and 27 March in downtown Milton. Call 850-393-0121 for more information.

**Orange Beach Seafood Festival** - For the 18th year, Orange Beach will play host to the annual Orange Beach Seafood Festival and Car Show Feb. 19. This event combines classic Gulf of Mexico seafood, arts and crafts booths, and jaw-dropping Southern muscle cars and antique automobiles on display. The event is the main fundraiser for the Orange Beach Sports Association which supports baseball, softball and other youth sports related-activities in the city of Orange Beach. Each year this festival attracts about 3,000 people, so get there early. Festival goers will feast on fried grouper, fried shrimp, chicken and Orange Beach grits, a traditional Southern grit with lots of cheese.



## Recognizing Top Sailors

**Lt. Russell Lawrence presents Aviation Boatswain's Mate First Class Joseph Stager with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal Feb. 7. Stager served as the leading petty officer for Crash Division and was transferring to his next command, USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74.) U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.**

Car lovers will gaze at more than 100 sleek automobiles including Orange Beach Fire Department's very own retired antique fire truck. More than 30 arts and crafts booths, artists displaying works such as oil and acrylic paintings, photography, hand-made jewelry, pottery and ceramics, fabric creations, handmade soaps, plus much more. Orange Beach Sportsplex, 4389 William Silvers Parkway, Orange Beach, Ala. Food served 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost: Free admission to the festival, \$10 for plate of seafood. For details, call 251-981-1524.

**MILITARY AMERICA Saves**  
START SMALL. THINK BIG.

**BUILD YOUR SAVINGS ARSENAL**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT  
**Eugene Jackson - 623-7177**  
[militarysaves.org](http://militarysaves.org)

**TAKE THE PLEDGE TODAY!**  
at [militarysaves.org](http://militarysaves.org)

- ESTABLISH A FINANCIAL PLAN
- SAVE MONEY
- REDUCE DEBT
- ENROLL IN THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN

## Upcoming Events

Feb. 11, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Feb. 16, TBD - RADM Olutoyin, Nigerian Navy CSO Visit

Feb. 21, All Day - Presidents' Day Holiday

Feb. 22, 0700 - Exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield Begins

Feb. 25, TBD - Margaret Flowers Award Luncheon - PCola

Feb. 25, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

# Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

## ***Money & The Move - Thursday - 1 to 3 p.m., Feb. 17***

Relocating due to a permanent change of station assignment is exciting but can be expensive. Even though the government provides relocation allowances, many families find a move puts a definite strain on their budget. This sixty-minute session targets active duty military and their spouses who are relocating due to reassignment or transition. This class will educate participants of these entitlements.

## ***VA Representative (Call for Appointment) - Friday - 8 a.m. to Noon, Feb. 11 & 25***

## ***Resume Writing - Monday - 10 a.m. to Noon, Feb. 14***

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.

## ***IA Discussion Group - 1 to 2 p.m., Feb. 14***

## ***Time Management - 1 to 2 p.m., Feb. 16***

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 list of "things to do?" If you answered "yes" to these questions, this class is for you. The information provided in this class will provide 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 623-7177.

## ***Thrift Savings Plan - 9 to 11:30 a.m., Feb. 22***

Start investing in your future now. The money you save and earn through your TSP account will provide an important source of retirement income. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, call 623-7177.

## ***E-Books Workshop - 1 to 3 p.m., Feb. 22***

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.

---

# BBB® warns of bait and switch air duct cleaners

**Pensacola, Fla. (Feb. 4, 2011)** – Your Better Business Bureau Serving Northwest Florida has noticed ads running locally that may be cause for concern based on investigations in at least 20 other states. Ads offering air duct cleaning at extremely low rates may seem like a great deal to homeowners. But Better Business Bureau offices across the country have found that while some businesses advertise unreasonably low rates ranging from \$49.95 to \$89.95, consumers are being charged significantly more.

“Less-than-reputable businesses bait consumers with unreasonably low rates and then use scare tactics to convince the homeowner they have a mold problem or other risky situation that requires expensive treatments,” said Norman Wright, president and CEO of BBB|Northwest Florida.

Using mass mail, local advertising and road-side signs, customers are baited with low advertised prices for air duct cleaning services. Once sales agents are in the customers' homes, they run tests that "find" mold or other unhealthy conditions and tell the owner they must pay hundreds or thousands of dollars for removal or remediation. However, investigations by BBBs have shown that these tests results are often bogus.

When looking for a professional to clean air ducts, your BBB recommends consumers:

Check out the business with BBB. Before having an air



duct cleaner come to your home, ideally, the business will be a BBB Accredited Business or at least have a good rating from BBB. Pay close attention to the name of the business – unscrupulous outfits often choose a name similar to an existing business with a solid reputation in an attempt to confuse homeowners.

Read the fine print. Ads and contracts may contain fine print which the business might think will absolve them from having to honor their advertised price. Ask questions to verify the final cost before you sign a contract.

Get a second opinion. If the air duct cleaner claims that you have a mold problem or other hazardous situation, get a second opinion. Because mold remediation can cost thousands of dollars, it is well worth the time and money to get a second opinion before agreeing to expensive, possibly unnecessary work.

If you believe you've been the victim of a business' bait and switch tactics, file a complaint with BBB. Even if BBB isn't able to resolve the issue for you (which unfortunately has been the case with some fly-by-night businesses), the complaint can at least serve as a warning to other consumers about the business.

For additional information and advice you can trust and to check out a business in advance, start with [bbb.org](http://bbb.org) or call 850.429.0002 or 800.729.9226.

# VITA

- (Cont. from Page 1)

than \$7 million in commercial tax preparation fees. Locally, last year the NAS Whiting Field Tax Center filed over 700 tax returns, with a savings to the taxpayer of over \$77,500. The VITA program is a proven winner that improves morale and readiness and keeps money in sailors' pockets. VITA significantly reduces the effort and cost involved in meeting federal and state tax obligations:

A. No preparation fees. Commercial tax preparers may charge over \$140 for the average electronically filed return. VITA/ELF volunteers prepare and file the same returns at no cost to sailors and dependents.

B. Faster refunds. Paper returns may take eight or more weeks to process. By using VITA, refunds are deposited directly into a sailor's bank account an average of two weeks from the date of transmission, even from overseas and afloat commands. These rapid refunds greatly reduce the need for refund anticipation loans (short-term loans with added charges and high interest rates).

C. Fewer mistakes. VITA prepared returns are very

accurate - less than a 1 percent error rate compared to 15 percent for paper returns.

This year, the NAS Whiting Field Tax Center is located in the White House, building 1401, room 122 (legal suite). Currently, tax preparation assistance is available Monday through Friday, 0800 - 1600 and offered on an appointment-only basis. Please call 665-6120 to schedule an appointment.

Before making an appointment, please ensure you have all of your tax documents. You will need W-2's, 1099R's, and bank documents showing interest/dividends earned. You will also be required to provide last year's tax return or copies of your Social Security Card (for each member listed on the return), and if the return will be filed electronically, a blank check to verify RTN and account number.

The VITA program is only viable if it is utilized. This is another one of those good programs that may go away if it is not used. Please call 665-6120 to make an appointment.

## TRICARE Notes

### MONITOR YOUR NETWORK REFERRALS AND AUTHORIZATIONS

Managing your health care is a team-effort, with each member of the team performing important roles. When you need to see a specialist or receive treatment that requires prior authorization, your primary care manager (PCM) will submit the necessary requests to Humana Military. If the referral or service is authorized by TRICARE, Humana Military will give your PCM an authorization number along with specific instructions, and send you an approved letter that includes the details of the authorization.

If you have questions about the status of your referrals or authorizations, you can check online at [www.humana-military.com](http://www.humana-military.com) or call Humana Military at 1-800-444-5445.

### TRICARE SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE

Many military associations and commercial insurers offer supplemental insurance policies to TRICARE beneficiaries. Unlike other health insurance, which pays for health care services before TRICARE pays, supplemental insurance pays after TRICARE has paid its portion of the bill. Supplemental plans reimburse you for out-of-pocket medical expenses paid to civilian providers.

For questions regarding TRICARE supplemental plans, visit TRICARE on the web or call 1-800-444-5445.

## Ec-nomics

### *Upgrade to a Hybrid Car*

Among the more exciting technologies to hit the market in recent years are hybrid cars, which boast higher efficiency as well as cleaner tailpipe emissions (remember, with cars, the amount of oil consumed isn't the only environmental impact). So how much fuel could we really save? Taking the most popular hybrid in the country, the iconic Toyota Prius, as an example, we see that the reported fuel economy is 51 mpg for highways and 48 for city driving -- let's say 50 mpg to make it simple. An average Prius driver would then use 300 gallons of gas a year (15,000 miles divided by 50). A driver of a typical car uses 642, for a difference of 342. (By the way, it's worth pointing out that the groundbreaking Model T Ford got 25 miles per gallon back at the turn of the last century. At least we've improved somewhat since our low point in 1973, when we averaged only 11.9 mpg.)

### *Carpool, Walk, Bike or Take Transit*

Carpooling is slowly catching on, in part because of incentives like HOV (high occupancy vehicle) lanes, toll exemptions and free parking. It's also a good way to bond with coworkers or spend time with friends and family, and it certainly saves on gas and wear and tear on personal vehicles. Even better, if you can bike or walk to work you'll get some exercise and (hopefully) fresh air. If you get around everywhere just on your own power, you'll save the full 642 gallons of gas per year used by the average driver. Ditto if you only take public transit, as long as that is powered with electricity (even if the trains, buses or ferries use fossil fuels, you'll result in less fuel use than from individual vehicles). If you are more typical and use alternative transportation for, say, a quarter of your annual trips, you'll save 160 gallons of fuel.

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

# Navy League

- (Cont. from Page 1)

At the completion of Holzworth's speech, the awards presentation began. Each recipient was introduced by their respective commanding officer, who detailed the accomplishments of each Sailor or instructor. All of the awardees were described as exemplary citizens; assets to their command who went above and beyond the basic requirements of their jobs.

"It's an honor and a privilege to be recognized at this event," said Navy Lt. Dillon Jackson, Instructor of the Year for VT-6, "it feels great."

The 2010 Instructors of the Year were: Lt. Derek Bintz, VT-2; Lt. Thomas Brayden, VT-3; Lt. Dillon Jackson, VT-6; Lt. Andre Gomez, HT-8; Lt. Anthony Petrosino, HT-18; Lt. Raul Dominguez, HT-28; and Lt. Paul Lee, USNR, TW-5 Reserve Component.

Service members selected as 2010 Junior Sailors of the Year were: Hospital Corpsman Second Class Jeremy Skurecki, USN, Naval Branch Health Clinic; and Master-at-Arms First Class Adam Turner, USN, NAS Whiting Field.

The Senior Sailor of the Year recipients were: Hospital Corpsman First Class Raymond Brandt, Naval Branch Health Clinic; Naval Air Crewman First Class Logan Robertson, HT-18; Naval Air Crewman Second Class Timothy Hollis, HT-28; and Aviation Boatswain's Mate First Class Joseph Stager, NAS Whiting Field. The 2010 Blue Jacket of the Year recognition went to Aviation Boatswain's Mate Second Class Epiphania Elam, USN, NAS Whiting Field.



Santa Rosa County Council of the Navy League President JoAnn Sisson and past president Walt Reese serve as bookends to the 2010 Flight Instructors of the Year. Lt. Derek Bintz, VT-2; Lt. Thomas Brayden, VT-3; Lt. Dillon Jackson, VT-6; Lt. Andre Gomez, HT-8; Lt. Anthony Petrosino, HT-18; Lt. Raul Dominguez, HT-28; and Lt. Paul Lee, USNR, TW-5 Reserve Component received the recognition Feb. 4 during the Navy League's annual banquet. U.S. Navy photo by 2nd Lt. Molly LeBlanc.

## Guidance Provided to Sailors on DADT Repeal Provision

- *New NAVADMIN details a three-tiered approach for implementation*

From Defense Media Activity - Navy

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy released NAVADMIN 041/11 Feb. 4 to provide Sailors with additional information and guidance following the repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) policy.

The message, which is the second in what will be a series of NAVADMINs to inform leadership and Sailors on the subject, details a three-tiered approach to how training will be conducted across the fleet in order to provide for a smooth transition once the final repeal has been issued.

The chief of naval operations (CNO) has designated Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command as the executive agent for delivery and tracking of the education and training and OPNAV N1 as the executive agent for the development of content.

"The path to repeal of DADT requires informed and proactive leadership at every level. I will ensure you remain fully informed as we progress. I am counting on each of you to ensure that throughout this implementation period we do

what we have always done: conduct ourselves with the highest level of professionalism and treat our shipmates with respect," said CNO Adm. Gary Roughead.

Command leadership teams will be used to implement training throughout the fleet, ensuring revised policies and standards of conduct are understood.

Sailors are reminded that the current DADT policy remains in effect. The final repeal will not occur until 60 days after the president, secretary of defense and the chairman of the joint chiefs certify to Congress that the repeal can be made in a manner consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion and recruiting and retention of the Armed Forces. Additionally, no policies, regulations or benefits will change until 60 days after the final repeal.

To read NAVADMIN 041/11, visit <http://www.npc.navy.mil/NR/rdonlyres/78978720-CFEB-42EB-A6D1-1C4EEE993DAC/0/NAV11041.txt>.

# Congrats to TRAWING-5 wingers and scholars



1st Row: Cdr. Mathew R. Frost, USN; Lt. Sara P. Monaco, USCG; Ensign Patrick D. Sippel, USN; Ensign John S. McCain IV, USN; 1st Lt. William C. Tate, USMC; and Lt. j.g. Geoffrey Tipton Clift, USN.  
2nd Row: Lt. Col. Shawn J. Coakley, USMC; 1st Lt. Clinton R. Adams, USMC; Lt. j.g. Emory V. Miller, USN; 1st Lt. Carl P. Beierl, USMC; Lt. j.g. Alberto Rastrollo Marcos, SPNAV; Lt. j.g. Amanda K. Centella, USN; and Capt. James L. Vandiver, USN.  
3rd Row: Cdr. Hans E. Sholley, USN; Lt. j.g. Stephen J. Watson, USN; Ensign Daniel Pollini, USN; Lt. j.g. Brendan H. Leahy, USCG; Lt. j.g. Amanda L. Harris, USCG; 1st Lt. Christopher R. Corbeille, USMC; 1st Lt. Andrew J. Matthes, USMC; and Senator John S. McCain..



Left Photo: Pictured above are the Academic Award recipients from Training Air Wing FIVE for Jan. 28: 1st Lt. Lane A. Daigle, USMC; Lt. Christopher C. Moran, USN; Lt. j.g. Daniel J. Gift, USN; Lt. j.g. Mary E. Alexander, USCG; Lt. j.g. Caroline Kearney, USCG; and Lt. j.g. Travis Wolf, USN.



Right Photo: Training Air Wing FIVE held their weekly awards ceremony, Feb. 4, and recognized six students for their academic achievements: 1st row: Ensign Adam Beauregard, USN and 1st Lt Robert Clary, USMC. 2nd Row: 2nd Lt. Britt Nemeth, USAF, Ensign Paul D. Dixon, USN; 1st Lt. Jeremy Weber, USMC, and Lt. j.g. Christopher Marsh, USN.