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NASWF Selects Sailors of the Year

- Top Sailors announced at end of year ceremony in Sikes Hall

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Aviation Boatswain's Mate First Class Petty Officer Joseph Stager, Master-at-Arms First Class Petty Officer Adam Turner, and Aviation Boatswain's Mate Third Class Epiphane Elam were named Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Sailor, Junior Sailor and Bluejacket of the Year for 2010.

This honor recognizes the efforts and achievements of exceptional Sailors who have set themselves apart from their peers within their division through leadership, professionalism, technical knowledge, and community involvement.

Similar awards are presented quarterly throughout the year, and the three Sailors were selected from among all the quarterly recipients.

Stager served as the leading petty officer for crash division, which provides fire and emergency services to the 13 Navy outlying fields across five counties and two states. He manages a staff of more than 100 Sailors and coordinated in excess of 2,400 training hours and nearly 700 live training exercises. His efforts ensured full readiness for the command and enabled advanced fire-fighting certifications for

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MA1 Adam Turner receives his four day special liberty certificate from Capt. Pete Hall, commanding officer Naval Air Station Whiting Field. The certificate was awarded in recognition of his selection as the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Junior Sailor of the Year. Turner was frocked to first class petty officer after he had already been selected for the award. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

TRAWING-5 receives T-6B CONA aircraft



For the Centennial of Naval Aviation, one of each type of aircraft the Navy owns will be painted an historical color scheme to celebrate the anniversary. The T-6B Texan arrived to Naval Air Station Whiting Field in December. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Megan Dooner.

By Lt. j.g. Megan Dooner, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

With the arrival of the centennial of naval aviation, at least one type of each training aircraft in the Navy is being repainted with historical schemes to celebrate the occasion. Training Air Wing FIVE recently received its T-6B "Texan", known as 'Yellow Tail' among instructors. The Navy hopes these aircraft will honor the men and women of naval aviation as well as commemorate the 100th year of unique service to the nation.

Yellow Tail was flown in to North Whiting Field by the Training Air Wing FIVE commodore, Navy Capt. James L. Vandiver, Dec 9. Since its arrival the aircraft was

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E-Books available on Navy Knowledge Online



Did you get a new E-Reader for Christmas? Have you had one for awhile but don't use it very often because of the expense? Don't have an E-Reader

but would like to download them to your PC or laptop? Would you like to just listen to someone read you a book in your car?

Navy Knowledge Online or NKO has a good selection of popular E-Books and Audio Books available for download to many E-readers, computers, MP3 players and CD's. The E-books are lent to you for a period of 21 days and are free. Most of the books are up to date versions and come in EPUB/PDF or audio format. Unfortunately they are not currently compatible with "Kindle" E-Readers.

NKO can be tricky to understand if you do it on your own so FFSC is offering a 2 hour workshop on Navigating NKO with emphasis on how to download E-Books and Audio Books. Audio Books are especially good when driving long distances. Just pop a pre loaded book into the car CD player and before you know it, you're at your destination.

If you have an e-reader or laptop it is recommended that you bring it to class, but not required. The workshop will be held Jan 18, 9-11 at the FFSC. Attendees must have a military ID to attend because registration for NKO is verified through DEERS. Call 623-7177 for more info or to register. But Hurry! Class size is limited to 10 people due to technical issues.

5th Annual Pensacola USNA/NROTC Information Symposium Announced

There is a special event in Pensacola, 29 January - for students, parents, teachers, counselors, coaches and any "youth influencer" - to get valuable, first-hand information about the incredible college opportunities available through a Service Academy or ROTC program. The event is sponsored by the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) Alumni Chapter of Pensacola.

Information presentation will be from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm in the Blue Angel Atrium.

Speakers include – representatives of: USNA Candidate Guidance Office, US Naval Academy Foundation, Navy ROTC Headquarters, and USNA Parents' Club of Pensacola.

The primary purpose of the presentations is to allow middle & high school students to gain information about the opportunities available; learn about the college application process; get information about the Service Academy Nominations process and provide insight into the impacts of high school course selection, sports participation, extra-curricular activities and leadership responsibilities on college applications. It is an INFORMATION SYMPOSIUM.

From 12:00 – 1:45 and 3:00 – 4:00 admissions representatives, recent graduates and parents will be available in a college-fair setting – for one-on-one Question & Answer session. Representatives attending from:

- All five Service Academies (U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy)
- USNA Candidate Guidance Office
- USNA Foundation
- NROTC Candidate Guidance Office
- NROTC College Units (Florida A & M, Univ. of Florida, Tulane, Savannah State, and Embry-Riddle)
- UWF Army ROTC Unit
- Marion Military Academy
- Congressman Miller's Staff
- USNA Parents' Club of Pensacola

Admission is free. Space is limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible by calling (850) 435-9179 or (850) 291-4446.

This Week in Naval History

Jan. 11

- 1863 - CSS Alabama sinks USS Hatteras off Galveston.
- 1900 - The gunboat Princeton takes possession of the Batan Islands in the northern Philippines.
- 1944 - Aircraft from USS Block Island (CVE 21) lead the first aircraft rocket attack on a German submarine.

Jan. 12

- 1813 - U.S. frigate Chesapeake captures the British warship Volunteer.
- 1848 - Sloop Lexington attacked in San Blas, Mexico.
- 1953 - Aircraft landings are tested aboard USS Antietam (CVS 36), the first angled-deck carrier.

Jan. 13

- 1865 - Amphibious attack on Fort Fisher, N.C.
- 1917 - The cruiser Milwaukee (CL 21) strands off Eureka, Calif., while attempting to refloat the submarine H-3 (SS 30).
- 1964 - USS Manley (DD 940) evacuates 54 American and 36 allied nationals after Zanzibar government is overthrown.

Jan. 14

- 1813 - U.S. Frigate Chesapeake captures British brig Hero.
- 1863 - Navy General Order 4, Emancipation Proclamation issued.
- 1943 - In the first submarine resupply mission, USS Gudgeon lands 6 men, 2,000 pounds of equipment and supplies on Negros Island, the Philippines.

News and Notes

Disney Military Salute - Disney resumed its Military Salute program Oct. 24 through Oct. 1, 2011. The program is for active duty military personnel, reservists, retirees, National Guardsmen, and other military members with valid identification card. The program entitles approved personnel to purchase six tickets for family members or friends at \$135.00 per four day hopper. Spouses can purchase if Military person is not available. Blackout dates do apply for the following dates: Nov. 24-26, 2010, Dec. 26-31, 2010 and April 14-17, 2011. For further information please feel free to contact Marcy or Theresa at ITT - 623-7032 ITT hours of operation are: 9-5 Monday-Friday.

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 for tour reservations

Military Appreciation Game - The University of West Florida Athletic Department would like to invite all active duty/retired military and their families to the Argonauts home basketball games on Saturday, Jan. 15 for "Military Appreciation Night." It's a double-header - women's game starts at 2 p.m., followed by the men's game 4 p.m. Our goal is to celebrate the military personnel of the local area. All active duty/retired military and their family members will receive free admission into the games with their military ID. In addition, they will have access to free drinks and snacks in the Argonaut Athletics Club between our first and second game. For the actual in-game activities, there will be five in-game promotions (one for the Marines, Navy, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard). Some of the promotions will include a push-up competition, a pull-up competition, a large boxing glove fight, a blindfold flag find, and a pie eating contest with a member from each branch.

Soccer for 2011 - The Allied Forces Soccer Club is kicking off the new year with tournament and league play. Anyone is welcome to join in. Several Allied Forces Soccer club teams will participate in a January 15 tournament and there is still room for new players. Additionally, Tuesday night and weekend league play begins this month. We would like to have a team from each base to represent the area military. Information can be found on the Allied Forces Soccer Facebook page or by contacting LCDR David Toellner, (850) 382-5494 or kiwi_soccer@yahoo.com for more information or to be placed on a team.

Pensacola Table Tennis (Ping Pong) Club - Beginners and novices alike are invited to join the Pensacola Table Tennis Club at the Fricker Community Center: 900 North F St. Pensacola, Fla., Jan. 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. The evening is for the young or older player wanting to learn to play or just to have fun. Coaching is available. Thursday, Jan 15, from 6 to 9 p.m. intermediate to advanced players are welcome. Call 436-5195 for more information..

Art classes with Fuller Brown - Learn how to paint at Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church: 4115 Soundside Drive, Gulf Breeze, Fla. For more information, call 916-1660. The classes are held each Wednesday at 9 a.m. for oil painting and at 1 p.m. for



Recognizing Top Sailors

Master-at-Arms First Class Kenneth Pratt receives his Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal certificate from Naval Air Station Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Pete Hall, Jan. 3. Pratt is being recognized for emergency first aid he provided to a neighbor who was accidentally shot Dec. 24 . U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

water colors. The class is meant for students of all levels of skill. Cost is \$15 per class.

Kyle Grooms in Concert - Comedian Kyle Grooms, known for his guest appearances on "Last Comic Standing" and "Chappelle's Show," will perform at the University of West Florida, Thursday, Jan. 13 at 8:30 p.m.. Kyle gives an intimate look into his life experiences growing up and an intelligent view of the world. Tickets are \$5.50 for the public; \$3.50 for military and non-UWF students; and free for UWF students. The concert will be held in the Commons Auditorium, Bldg. 22. For details call 474-2405.

Pre-natal Yoga - The Om Site Yoga Center at Aradia's Closet presents pre-natal yoga at 7 p.m. each Thursday. Aradia's Closet is located at 5055 Highway 90 in Milton Call 850-994-2055 for details.

Pensacola Beach Run - Keep your calendars open Saturday, Jan. 15 for the Pensacola Beach Run. The event will be a 5K, 10K, 1/2 Marathon beginning at Casino Beach on Pensacola Beach. All three courses are flat and fast. Pick the distance you want at the turns. If you feel good at the 5K turn, keep going for the 10K, and the same is true for the 1/2 marathon. There will be an after-race party at Capt'n Fun Beach Club. Call 939-3527.

4 Troops at the Erie Meyer Civic Center - Entertainment Series 2011 presents 4 Troops at the Erie Meyer Civic Center in Gulf Shores, Jan. 17. Four American soldiers who have served on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan come together to sing on behalf of all troops, to honor their sacrifices. Tickets cost: \$26 and \$22. For details call (251) 968-1172, or visit www.cityofgulfshores.org.

Rings, Rings, Rings - Learn how to make a wire wrap ring, a copper ring, and set a cabochon for a ring. Instructed by Kristina Weick of the Florida Society of Goldsmiths. Cost: \$75 for FSG members; \$115 for non-members.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 14, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
Jan. 17, All Day - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Jan. 28, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Feb. 11, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
Feb. 16, TBD - RADM Olutoyin, Nigerian Navy CSO Visit
Feb. 21, All Day - Presidents' Day Holiday

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

Challenges of Flight School and Marriage - Wednesday - 6 to 8 p.m., January 12 & 26

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 - 8 a.m. to noon, January 14 & 28

Navigating NKO and the E-reader/computer - Tuesday - 9 to 11 a.m., January 18

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.

Credit Management - Wednesday, - 1 to 3 p.m., January 19

The average American family has nine credit cards (1996 American Express survey); three or four of those are used regularly. The average total balance on those cards is nearly \$4,000 at a common interest rate of 18 percent. Attend this class to find out ways to better manage your credit. Class will be held in the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a work and family life specialist at 623-7177.

Grief and Loss Support Group - Tuesday - 2 to 3 p.m., January 25

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.

Santa Rosa County announces Christmas tree disposal sites

Santa Rosa County residents can dispose of their live Christmas trees until Monday, February 28 at five recycling areas throughout the county. Please place trees in the designated area identified by signage. Do not place trees in front of the recycling containers. The trees will be chipped and offered as free mulch at Clean Community System in Milton at a later date to be announced.

Trees can be disposed at: Quintette recycle area at the Five Points Intersection, Gulf Power recycle area on East Spencer Field Road, Clean Community System on Park Avenue, Tiger Point recreation area in Gulf Breeze, east of Walmart, and Jay Transfer Station, on Transfer Station Road.

Street maps for each location can be found at: www.santarosa.fl.gov/recycle <<http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/re>



cycle>

Citizens are urged not to cut up and burn their tree in a home fireplace. Burning evergreens gives off tar and creosol, which can ignite and cause a chimney fire. Mulch from the Christmas tree recycling is available at the Santa Rosa Clean Community System's Green-Up Nursery, located at 6758 Park Avenue in Milton. It is available on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, please call 623-1930 or visit srclean.org.

Residents are also reminded that recycle areas are not disposal areas for furniture or household garbage that is not sorted recyclable material. Santa Rosa County recycle sites accept glass, metal, plastic containers, paper and cardboard. A list of all of Santa Rosa County's recycling points and accepted materials can also be found on the county's website at: www.santarosa.fl.gov/recycle.

Sailors of the year

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more than 25 percent of his crew.

As the president of the First Class Petty Officer Association, he led the group through numerous fund raising and volunteer service activities, which enhanced the group's status on the base and within the community. His volunteer efforts with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program weighed heavily on his nomination for the Military Volunteer Service Medal which he received shortly after his selection.

"Petty Officer Stager is a superior leader who combines extraordinary talent and unparalleled professionalism with a team first approach...his leadership, initiative and professional performance clearly set him apart when compared to his colleagues and peers," Lt. Russell Lawrence stated.

Called an "invaluable asset" by the base security officer, Ensign Daron Pettus, Turner was recognized for his efforts as a security watch commander. As watch commander, he is responsible for the safety and performance of all patrols during his shift. He also conducted more than 250 preliminary investigations during 2010.

Additionally, Turner is on the Parent Involvement Board for the NAS Whiting Field Child Development Center and plays an integral role in base ceremonies as an Honor Boatswain's Mate. He also received an award for his par-

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**Capt. Pete Hall
NAS Whiting Field
Commanding Officer**

ticipation in the Color Guard Team for the base.

"[Petty Officer Turner] manages all patrol operations both on base and in the outlying fields...He is the example for all Second Class Petty Officer's and has my highest recommendation," Pettus said in Turner's award nomination package.

Elam was selected to serve as the administrative petty officer for crash division where she maintains the personnel files for nearly 100 Sailors. Called a "dedicated professional with a take charge attitude" by Lawrence, she is also a stalwart volunteer within the community. Elam works exten-

sively with the local Girl Scouts and the African American Cultural Club at Milton High School.

Stager, as the Sailor of the Year, will be considered for further recognition at the regional level.

"It's terrific to be able to recognize these young Sailors for the tremendous jobs they do day in and day out. We have an incredible team of talented Sailors here at the base, and for these three to stand out above the crowd is a testament to their initiative, their dedication, and professionalism," Capt. Pete Hall, NAS Whiting Field commanding officer said.

CONA aircraft

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put straight to work training students as part of the normal flight rotation.

Air Force Lt. Col. George K. Hobson, commanding officer Training Squadron THREE reinforced that the primary mission of the aircraft is training. Ceremonial use of Yellow Tail is strictly on an as available basis.

"First and foremost this aircraft is a trainer for the students. Its secondary mission will be to travel to air shows and be available for select tours. The aircraft's coloring is a natural conversation starter and will enable our students and instructors to talk with people about the history it represents and the Navy's ever present commitment to training. We're all spokesmen and women for the military and so it's important to remember where we came from and to honor our forerunners."

The bright yellow aircraft is the most sought after aircraft for the Training Squadron THREE instructors, said Air Force Capt. Brandon S. Conwill, a VT-3 instructor himself. He stressed that they see it as a chance to stand out from the crowd and feel a part of the Navy's past.

"They are attracted to the one different aircraft in a sea of orange and white ones. Instructors will request to fly Yellow Tail by name, not tail number. They can appreciate the 'throw back' paint job and recognize its importance as a connection to our naval flight history."

The aircraft's yellow surface is the same as its 1920-1940's predecessor, the SNJ T-6 "Pilot maker". The SNJ was painted yellow in an effort to make it highly visible in its operating environment. The color of the new T-6B not only provides a link to its forerunner, but also the aviators that flew it.

The plane will undoubtedly be a highly visible participant in the various air shows celebrating the centennial. There it will enable the Navy to connect with its enthusiastic supporters and retired service members alike. People who frequent air shows or aviators who trained in the SNJ, will recognize its yellow paint and likely ask about it. The hope is that these questions will link the general public and our retirees to the history and future of naval aviation.

DOD announces \$150 billion reinvestment from efficiencies

From the Department of Defense

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced Jan. 6 a series of efficiencies decisions designed to save the Department of Defense more than \$150 billion during the next five years primarily by reducing overhead costs, improving business practices and culling excess or troubled programs.

Most of the resulting savings will be used by the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force to invest in high priority programs that strengthen warfighting capabilities.

In anticipation of an era of modest defense budget growth, Gates launched a comprehensive effort in May 2010 to reduce the Department's overhead expenditures. The goal was to sustain the military's size and strength over the long term by reinvesting those efficiency savings in force structure and other key combat capabilities. Specifically, the military services were directed to find at least \$100 billion in savings that they could keep and shift to higher priority programs. To achieve the savings targets, service leadership conducted a thorough and vigorous scrub of bureaucratic structures, facilities, programs, business practices, civilian and military personnel levels, and associated overhead costs.

The measures announced Jan. 6 are the latest in a series of DoD reform initiatives, to include the President's last two annual defense budgets, which have rebalanced the Department's spending habits while increasing investments in proven capabilities most relevant both to current wars and to the most likely future threats.

"Meeting real-world requirements. Doing right by our people. Reducing excess. Being more efficient. Squeezing costs. Setting priorities and sticking to them. Making tough choices. These are all things that we should do as a Department and as a military regardless of the time and circumstance. But they are more important than ever at a time of extreme fiscal

duress, when budget pressures and scrutiny fall on all areas of government, including defense," said Gates.

The service departments achieved savings in several areas, including the number and size of headquarters staffs, base operations, energy consumption, and facilities sustainment. At the same time, the service leaders undertook the normal process of setting priorities and assessing risks

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Give Your Heating System a Tune-Up

Keeping your furnace clean, lubricated and properly adjusted will reduce energy use, saving up to five percent of heating costs. The good news is many utilities offer free annual checkups by qualified technicians -- but you often have to call early, as HVAC crews get backed up once heating season starts. Some furnace manufacturers and dealers also offer free or discounted inspections. If your entire furnace is in need of replacement, it will cost a lot more -- but replacing an inefficient burner for a modern machine will save you every month through the heating season.

Mind That Thermostat

It's easy to forget to turn down the heat when you leave the building, but doing so is one of the surest ways to save money. Most households shell out 50 to 70 percent of their energy budgets on heating and cooling, so why pay for what no one uses? For every degree you lower the thermostat during heating season, you'll save between one and three percent of your heating bill. Make it easier with a programmable thermostat.

Put Up Some Plastic

For just a few dollars, pick up a window insulation kit at your local hardware or discount store. Don't worry -- properly installed, window plastic is essentially invisible. Adding a buffer against drafts and extra still air space can give a nice boost to your home's ability to hold heat. Save even more by hiring a pro to install a high-tech "low-e" film directly to the window glass. If your windows are old, consider investing in a set of efficient windows.

See www.thedailygreen.com for more tips.

TRICARE Notes

TRICARE BENEFICIARIES HELPED NCI CANCER PREVENTION AND TREATMENT CLINICAL TRIALS

An interagency agreement between the DoD and the NCI (National Cancer Institute) provides TRICARE beneficiaries more options for cancer care and including greater access to the latest advances in cancer prevention and treatment through clinical trials.

For more information about cancer clinical trials, TRICARE beneficiaries should speak with their oncologist. To learn more about DoD/NCI clinical trials agreement, link to www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/NCI/TRICARE. For information on TRICARE cancer clinical trials benefit and authorization, beneficiaries should contact their TRICARE Clinical Trials Coordinator at 1-800-444-5445.

Congrats to TRAWING-5's wingers and scholars



Bottom row: Lt. Col. Shawn J. Coakley, USMC; Cmdr. Mathew R. Frost, USN; Lt. j.g. Charles M. Arena, USCG; Lt. j.g. Timothy R. Phillips, USN; Lt. j.g. Mathew B. Stuber, USCG; 1st Lt. Sarah R. Zerr; and Capt. James L. Vandiver, USN.
 Middle row: Lt. j.g. Stanton F. McWhorter, USN; 1st Lt. Stephen M. Blanchette, USMC; Ensign Kyle D. Wiest, USN; 1st Lt. Matthew J. Castagna, USMC; Lt. j.g. Erin M. Gill, USCG; 1st Lt. Keenan J. Chirhart, USMC; and Capt. Markus K. Hannan, USN.
 Top row: Cmdr. Hans E. Sholley, USN; Lt. j.g. Samuel J. Oberg, USN; Ensign Timothy G. Boyce, USN; Lt. j.g. Eric K. McBee, USN; Lt. j.g. Richard A. Bicsak, USCG; Lt. j.g. Adam M. Rollins, USN; and Ensign Kenneth G. Callahan, USN. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Megan Dooner.



Left Photo: 1st Lt. Lucas A Woyton, USMC; 1st Lt. Christopher A. Richgruber USMC; Lt. j.g. Mallory E. Wright, USN; 1st Lt. David E. Goodrich, USMC; 1st Lt. Stephen M. Blanchette, USMC; Ensign Timothy J. Prechter, USN; Ensign Matthew S. Swartz, USN; 1st Lt. Christopher M. Smith, USMC; and Ensign Stephanie F. Altomare, USN stand in the Training Air Wing FIVE conference room Dec. 17 to receive their Academic Achievement awards. Photo courtesy of Training Air Wing FIVE.

Right Photo: Training Air Wing FIVE presented academic awards Jan. 7, to: (1st Row) 2nd Lt. Benjamin G. Vanwingerden, USMC; Lt. j.g. Davide E. Tamborini, Italian Navy; Ensign Trenton M. Daiuto, USN; (2nd Row) Lt. j.g. John F. Sauve, USCG; 2nd Lt. Matthew W Poynter, USMC; 1st Lt. Matthew T. Riley, USMC; Lt. j.g. Kathleen E. Pauls, USN; 2nd Lt. Kevin S. Anderson, USAF; (3rd Row) Ensign Christopher M. Danielczyk, USN; Ensign Bowen R. Vernan, USN; 1st Lt. Kevin N. Flippin, USMC; and Capt David R. Haines, USMC.

Navy efficiencies

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in preparing the fiscal 2012 budget request – a process that led to the recommended termination or restructuring of a number of troubled or unneeded weapons programs.

The services will keep the savings they were motivated to find and reinvest in the needed capabilities each service needs to support the warfighter. The bulk of the savings will be used by the service departments to make key investments in areas such as ship building, long-range strike, missile defense, intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance (ISR), wounded warrior care and facilities, and much more.

Specifically, the Department of the Navy is proposing to use efficiencies savings to: accelerate development of a new generation of electronic jammers to improve the Navy's ability to fight and survive in an anti-access environment; increase the repair and refurbishment of Marine equipment used in Iraq and Afghanistan; develop a new generation of sea-borne unmanned strike and surveillance aircraft; buy more of the latest model F-18s and extend the service life of 150 of these aircraft as a hedge against more delays in the deployment of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF); and purchase additional ships – including a destroyer, a littoral combat ship, an ocean surveillance vessel and fleet oilers.

The Department of the Navy proposed efficiencies savings of more than \$35 billion over five years to include: reducing manpower ashore and reassigning 6,000 personnel to operational missions at sea; using multi-year procurement to save more than \$1.3 billion on the purchase of new airborne surveillance, jamming, and fighter aircraft; disestablishing several staffs (but not the associated platforms) to include submarine-, patrol aircraft-, and destroyer-squadrons plus one carrier strike group staff; and disestablishing the headquarters of Second Fleet at Norfolk, Va., and transferring responsibility for its mission to the Navy's Fleet Forces Command.

The Army proposed \$29 billion in savings over five years and the Air Force proposed \$34 billion.

Of the \$100 billion identified by the service departments, approximately \$28 billion will also be used over the next five years by the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps to deal with higher than expected operating expenses such as fuel, maintenance, health care and training costs.

In addition to directing the four services to find savings, Gates announced last August a set of initiatives aimed at reducing overhead costs and improving efficiency across the DoD as a whole – with special attention to the headquarters and support bureaucracies in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the combatant commands, and other defense agencies and field activities.

Gates announced Jan. 6 that this effort – combined with a government-wide freeze on civilian salaries – has yielded approximately \$54 billion in savings over the next

five years. These savings include further reducing the contractor staff cadre, consolidating IT support, culling redundant intelligence organizations, eliminating unnecessary reports and studies, freezing civilian staff levels and pay, downgrading overseas commands, decreasing the number of generals, admirals and civilian executives, and modest increases in TRICARE premiums on military retirees.

In addition to terminating the Marine Corps' Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle, Gates also stated that he is placing the Marine Corps' short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL) variant of the JSF on the equivalent of a two-year probation because of significant testing problems. As a result, the development of the Marine variant will be moved to the back of the overall JSF production sequence. To fill the gap created from the slip in the JSF production schedule, the Department of the Navy will buy more Navy F/A-18s.

The formal announcement of the President's fiscal 2012 budget submission next month is also expected to call for a \$78 billion reduction to the FYDP, to include no real growth in defense spending in fiscal 2015 and fiscal 2016. But because of the rigorous reform efforts undertaken over the past year, it is possible for the DoD to absorb this reduction in the projected top-line without significant impact to warfighting capability, although it will necessitate a reduction in the size of the Army and Marine Corps starting in fiscal 2015. The total savings generated by DoD-wide overhead efficiencies, the civilian staffing and pay freeze, and the future decrease in ground forces, when added together, are roughly equivalent to the sum of the top-line reductions projected in the FYDP.

With the efficiencies savings, Gates said he is confident the Department can effectively meet the threats it is likely to face over the next few years. But he also stressed the FYDP represents the minimum level of defense spending necessary given the complex and unpredictable array of security challenges the United States faces around the globe.

Gates concluded by talking about the importance of following through on all DoD reform measures while maintaining adequate levels of funding.

"This Department simply cannot risk continuing down the same path – where our investment priorities, bureaucratic habits, and lax attitudes towards costs are increasingly divorced from the real threats of today, the growing perils of tomorrow, and the nation's grim financial outlook," Gates declared. "These times demand that all of our nation's leaders rise above the politics and parochialism that have too often plagued considerations of our nation's defense... I look forward to working through the next phase of the President's defense reform effort with the Congress in the weeks and months ahead – to do what's right for our Armed Forces and what's right for our country."