



Vol. 67 No. 1

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

# 2010 A year in review

*- 50th anniversaries for training squadrons highlight banner year*

*Editor's Note - Any year will see its shares of highs and lows, and 2010 was no exception. Much of the year was filled with Training Air Wing FIVE's initial transition to the T-6 Texan from the venerable T-34 Turbomenter training aircraft. While the full transition will continue for a few more years, the first student began and completed training during 2010. Additionally, four separate squadrons celebrated golden anniversaries, demonstrating the importance and longevity of aviation training. Unfortunately, training naval aviators does come with risks, and the Training Air Wing FIVE and Naval Air Station Whiting Field family mourned the loss of Lt. Clinton Wermers, who died in an aircraft accident near New Orleans, La. So as Naval Air Station Whiting Field begins its 68th year of operation, let us hope it is one that brings prosperity and good fortune to the base, training wing, and community.*



Cmdr. Jody Bridges shakes hands with Ensign Christopher Farkas after a safe completion of his first flight in the T6-B Texan II. Farkas is the first student military aviator to fly the long awaited T6-B. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Michael M. Daharsh.

**January 11** - A flight instructor on board Naval Air Station Whiting Field passed a significant milestone Jan. 11 when he completed his 8,000th flight hour in a TH-57 helicopter. Cmdr. David Moynihan, USCG was honored with a splash of water from a fire truck and a cake presented by Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN and his wife, Tannia, upon return from the flight. Moynihan has spent close to 30 years on active duty between the Army and Coast Guard, rising through the enlisted, warrant officer, and officer ranks.

**January 23** - Training Air Wing FIVE and Training Squadron SIX lost one of their own Saturday, Jan. 23 during a routine training mission Saturday evening near New Orleans, La. Lt. Clinton Wermers, an instructor pilot with the VT-6 "Shooters" was killed after a T-34 Turbomenter aircraft he and a student Naval aviator were flying went down in Lake Ponchartrain. Coast Guard teams responded and were able to rescue the student within the first two hours following the accident.

**January 29** - Training Squadron SIX bid fair winds to Argentine instructor pilot Lt. Luis Arbini at a Hail and Farewell ceremony Friday Jan. 29, marking the end of a fifteen year exchange program that had Argentine pilots serving as instructors for the squadron. Throughout the program, VT-6 has hosted seven exchange instructor pilots.

**March 18** - Training Air Wing FIVE observed a change at the helm Thursday, March 18 at 1 p.m. in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field auditorium. Col. John Walsh passed the reins of command to Capt. James Vandiver. Walsh had been the first Marine commanding officer of the unit. During his tenure as the deputy commodore and then as the commodore of TRAWING-5, he oversaw the training of more than 1,400 aviators and more than 378,000 flight hours, and the time needed to train the aviators decreased for both primary fixed-wing and rotary training pipelines.

**March 26** - Comics on Duty, an international comic tour, came to NAS Whiting Field on Fri. March 26, at 7 p.m. Comics on Duty is an adult themed stand-up comedy act featuring four stand up comics for a 90 minute performance. Comedians Steve Bills, Steve Burr, Ian Gutoskie, and Jack Mayberry provide a variety of comedic entertainment for the show. Since 1992 Comics on Duty has been performing all over the U.S. and overseas, offering high quality entertainment to the armed forces and those who support the troops.

*- (Cont. on Page 5)*

# TRAWING-5 officer selected for New York trip

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Alumni Association has selected a Lieutenant Commander from NAS Whiting Field as one of two students from 130 Worldwide Campuses to attend their annual Wing's Club trip in New York City, December 14th-16th, 2010.

The Wing's Club is an association of aviation industry leaders who collaborate to discuss the state of the industry. Once a year, Embry-Riddle students are invited by the Office of Alumni Relations to join industry leaders as they gather to discuss current events and critical subjects affecting the aviation and aerospace industry.

The selection process is lead by the university deans, who nominate outstanding students based on the following criteria: superior academic achievement, university and community involvement, as well as their stated career goals within the aviation industry. Nominated students must either be undergraduate seniors or graduate students.

This year's recipient is LCDR Lena Buettner, a graduate student from the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University NAS Pensacola and NAS Whiting Field campuses.

LCDR Buettner will graduate with her Master of Aeronautical Science degree specializing in Human Factors and Management. She is an accomplished United States Navy Helicopter Pilot, who has served in multiple combat deployments, including Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Her awards are numerous, and she is a two-time recipient of the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. In 2009, Buettner received the Navy Commendation Medal. She is currently an Instructor at NAS Whiting Field, with over 2,486 hours in flight time. Her community involvement includes volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, Cancer Awareness, Toys for Tots, and she is currently Leader of the Pensacola Chapter of Women in Aviation.

The opportunity to attend The Wing's Club provides students with unparalleled insight into their industry. The itinerary also includes dinner with Alumni of the NYC Chapter, a luncheon at The Yale Club with Gary Kelley, CEO of Southwest Airlines, an evening downtown for dinner and the theater, and sight seeing in the city on the afternoon of the 15th, including a stop at the Statue of Liberty.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the world's largest, fully accredited university specializing in aviation and aerospace, offers more than 30 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in its colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation, Business, and Engineering. Embry-Riddle educates students at residential campuses in Daytona Beach, Fla., and Prescott, Ariz., through the Worldwide Campus at more than 170 locations in the United States, Europe, Asia, Canada, and the Middle East, and through online learning. For more information, visit [www.embryriddle.edu](http://www.embryriddle.edu).

## This Week in Naval History

### Jan. 4

1863 - Blockading ship USS Quaker City captures sloop Mercury carrying despatches, emphasizing the desperate plight of the South.

1910 - Commissioning of USS Michigan (BB 27), the first U.S. dreadnought battleship.

1989 - F-14 Tomcats from Fighter Squadron 32 embarked aboard USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) shoot down two hostile Libyan MiGs.

### Jan. 5

1855 - USS Plymouth crew has skirmish with Chinese troops.

1875 - Cmdr. Edward Lull begins expedition to locate the best ship canal route across Panama.

1943 - In the Southwest Pacific, USS Helena (CL 50) fired first proximity-fused projectile in combat, shooting down a Japanese divebomber in the process.

1968 - Lt. Clarence W. Cote becomes the first male Nurse Corps officer in the regular Navy.

### Jan. 6

1916 - The first enlisted flight training class is held at Pensacola, Fla.

1942 - Japanese troops capture 11 Navy nurses in Manila, Philippines.

1967 - Operation Deckhouse V begins in Mekong Delta, Vietnam.

1996 - USS Hopper (DDG 70), named for Rear Adm. Grace Hopper, is commissioned.

## Corpsman Study Materials Available from NAVMED MPT&E

Navy Medicine Manpower, Personnel, Education & Training Command (NAVMED MPT&E) has free Hospital Corpsman advancement study material available in hard copy or online as a download. Hospital Corpsman Manual Flashcards (NMHCMF10V1), a flashcard "quizzer," are available via Navy eLearning and accessed via NKO. NAVEDTRA 14295A, the Hospital Corpsman Rate Training Manual, is available at <https://www.sas.cnet.navy.mil/Login/SASLogin.aspx?redirecturl=https://www.courses.netc.navy.mil/>. For more information, contact Mr. Chris Hawkins at [RTM\\_feedback@med.navy.mil](mailto:RTM_feedback@med.navy.mil).

# 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.

**“The Informant” to visit UWF** - Mark Whitacre, the subject of the movie “The Informant,” starring Matt Damon, shares the story of his life, Wednesday, Jan. 12 at 6 p.m. Whitacre will share the compelling story of his life as a corporate whistleblower at the University of West Florida Conference Center, Bldg. 22. Limited seating is available. The presentation will last about 45 minutes followed by Q&A. For more information, contact UWF Internal Auditing at 850-474-2636 or email [bbowers@uwf.edu](mailto:bbowers@uwf.edu).

**Candlelight Tours by the Beach** - Gulf Islands National Seashore will present a Candlelight Tour of Fort Barrancas on Saturdays, Jan. 8 and 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 per-



## Retaining Our Best and Brightest

**Air Traffic Controller Second Class Karen Slezak receives her Honorable Discharge certificate from Lt. Christopher Mitchell during her Dec. 28 reenlistment ceremony. She reenlisted for six years. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.**

sonnel 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](mailto:kiwi_soccer@yahoo.com) for more information or to be placed on a team.

**Twelfth Night Party** - The Navarre Krewe of Jesters will host their Twelfth Night Party from 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Jan. 8, at the Holley-Navarre Elks Lodge No. 2787, 2002 Elks Way, Navarre. The krewe’s party is scheduled to include entertainment by Steve Hall, heavy appetizers and a cash bar. Tickets are \$15 per person, or \$25 per couple. For tickets call Charlene Tremor at 699-7825 or email [charlenetremor@yahoo.com](mailto:charlenetremor@yahoo.com).

**David Allan Coe** - The singer/songwriter will be in concert 9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 6 at Vinyl Music Hall. With nearly three decades in the business, David Allan Coe has crossed the panorama of American roots music. Coe is also a magician, deep sea treasure hunter and movie star. He signed with Sun Records in 1968 and recorded his first album “Penitentiary Blues,” featuring all songs that he wrote while in prison. Coe’s newest album, “Songwriter of the Tear,” includes “The Penny” and “Drink Canada Dry.” Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of the show for ages 18 and older. There is an additional \$3 surcharge for ages younger than 21.



## Recognizing Our Top Sailors

**Air Traffic Controller Second Class Alec Granderson, III receives his Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal from Capt. Pete Hall, NAS Whiting Field commanding officer, during the December awards quarters. It was Granderson’s second such award. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.**

# Navy launches first aircraft using EMALS

**PATUXENT RIVER, Md. (NNS)** -- The Navy made history Dec. 18 when it launched the first aircraft from the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), Lakehurst, N.J., test site using the Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System, or EMALS, technology. The Navy has been using steam for more than 50 years to launch aircraft from carriers.

The Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (ALRE) program launched an F/A-18E Super Hornet Dec. 18 using the EMALS technology that will replace steam catapults on future aircraft carriers.

"This is a tremendous achievement not just for the ALRE team, but for the entire Navy," said Capt. James Donnelly, ALRE program manager. "Saturday's EMALS launch demonstrates an evolution in carrier flight deck operations using advanced computer control, system monitoring and automation for tomorrow's carrier air wings."

EMALS is a complete carrier-based launch system designed for Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) and future Ford-class carriers.

"I thought the launch went great," said Lt. Daniel Radocaj, the test pilot who made the first EMALS manned launch. "I got excited once I was on the catapult, but I went through the same procedures as on a steam catapult. The catapult stroke felt similar to a steam catapult and EMALS met all of the expectations I had."

The current aircraft launch system for Navy aircraft carriers is the steam catapult. Newer, heavier and faster aircraft will result in launch energy requirements approaching the limits of the steam catapult system. The mission and function

of EMALS remains the same as the steam catapult; however, EMALS employs entirely different technologies. EMALS will deliver the necessary higher launch energy capacity as well as substantial improvements in system weight, maintenance, increased efficiency and more accurate end-speed control.

"I felt honored to be chosen as the shooter to help launch the first live aircraft tested on the new EMALS track at Lakehurst," said Chief Petty Officer Brandon Barr, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division Test Department, Lakehurst. "It was very exciting to knowingly be a part of naval aviation history. Petty Officers 1st Class Hunsaker and Robinson, Petty Officers 2nd Class Williams, Wong and Simmons, were the Sailors on my team who worked together to help make this test a success. We all look forward to seeing this cutting edge technology deployed on the Gerald R. Ford."

"I'm excited about the improvement EMALS will bring to the fleet from a capability and reliability perspective," said Cmdr. Russ McCormack, ALRE, PMA-251, deputy program manager for future systems. "EMALS was designed for just that purpose, and the team is delivering that requirement."

The system's technology allows for a smooth acceleration at both high and low speeds, increasing the carrier's ability to launch aircraft in support of the warfighter.

The system will provide the capability for launching all current and future carrier air wing platforms – lightweight unmanned to heavy strike fighters. Engineers will continue system functional demonstration testing at NAVAIR Lakehurst. The team will expand aircraft launches with the addition of T-45 and C-2 aircraft in 2011.

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## 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/recycle) <<http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/recycle>>

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. 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](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/recycle).

# Year in Review

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**Cmdr. Michael Fisher cuts the cake in the Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT lounge to celebrate the 50th anniversary of HT-8's existence. The helicopter training squadron was founded July 1, 1960. U.S. Navy file photo.**

**March 26** - Amidst the pomp and circumstance of a traditional military ceremony, Cmdr. Sean Maybee assumed command of Training Squadron SIX (VT-6) from Lt. Col. Javier Ball. The change of command ceremony was held Friday, March 26 at 3 p.m. With the simple act of passing the squadron flag from one officer to another assumes the responsibility of the highly decorated squadron.

**March 25** - The Naval Helicopter Association recognized some top military performers, including two Training Air Wing FIVE Sailors, during the Region Five luncheon at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, March 25. Lt. Damon Comp from Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN (HT-18) earned Instructor Pilot of the Year, while Aviation Warfare Specialist First Class Tabriz Ommanney from HT-8 was awarded the Aircrewman of the Year award.

**March** - United States Marine Corps' Chief Warrant Officer Four Carlos Lobo was honored as Commander Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT) Officer Instructor of the Year for 2009. Lobo is an Instructor for Aviation Ordnance Officer Career Progression at CNATT, Detachment Milton, and was presented with the award Mar. 2 by Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Chown, the officer-in-charge.

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**April** - Ensign Mathew Morse, an advanced helicopter training student, helped save a man's life by performing CPR on him for more than 30 minutes this past April. Morse and his buddies pulled an unconscious man out of the water at a beach between Pensacola and Navarre. Taking control of the situation, he told one of the onlookers to call 911, while he and his friend immediately administered CPR. Morse was declared the "Safety Pro" by HT-28, a squadron award aimed at rewarding those who are safe and responsible professionals at work and in their personal lives. Also, Morse was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

**April 7** - Hawker Beechcraft Corporation (HBC) celebrated the delivery of the 600th Beechcraft T-6 – the world's most proven military training aircraft. The U.S. Navy took delivery of the milestone aircraft, a T-6B, which will be based at Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Milton, Fla. Training Air Wing FIVE Commander Capt. James Vandiver was present at the Wichita, Kan. ceremony and was handed the keys to the 17th T-6B Texan to be stationed at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Apr. 7.

**April 9** - During the Apr. 9 winging ceremony, Lt. j.g. La'Shanda Holmes became the first black female Coast Guard helicopter pilot. Her wings were pinned by Lt. Jeanine Menze, the first female, black pilot in the U.S. Coast Guard. The two officers became friends while Holmes was assigned temporarily to Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater. Menze was winged in 2005, and Holmes is still just the second black, female pilot in the Coast Guard. She will be stationed at Coast Guard Air Station Los Angeles to fly HH-65 helicopters.

**April 19** - Training Air Wing FIVE initiated its first class into ground school training for the new T-6B flight syllabus Monday, Apr. 19. The 14 students are beginning a 26 week syllabus that is the first phase of the year and one-half to two year process it takes to become a Naval aviator. The T-6B Texan II is the newest training aircraft to hit the flight lines replacing the T-34 Turbomentor. This aircraft has twice the performance power of the T-34 and is equipped with a digital display (glass) cockpit, heads-up display, and ejection seats.

**May 14 & 15** - Training Squadron SIX, based at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, celebrated 50 years of training Naval avia-



**Shaffer brings her boat in from the water after her victory in the semi-finals in British Columbia. Shaffer went on to win the Canadian Rowing National Championship in the two kilometer sprint by three seconds Sept. 26. Photo courtesy of Patti Holmes.**

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# Year in Review

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tors May 14-15. The unit was first commissioned May 1, 1960 to provide initial flight training to aspiring Student Naval Aviators. More than 15,000 students have been trained and in excess of 1.1 million flight hours performed through VT-6's history. The squadron celebrated the occasion with a new sign in front of their building, athletic competitions, a flightsuit formal reception, and more.

**April 29** - Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN observed a change at the helm Thurs., Apr. 29 as Lt. Col. Shawn Coakley assumed command of the unit. With an exchange of the squadron colors from Cmdr. Mark Murray, a salute and the reading of orders, Coakley became the commanding officer of a unit that will train roughly 200 helicopter pilots for the fleet. He is the thirty-third commanding officer in the history of the 38-year old squadron.

**May 1** - The Red Knights kicked-off their Golden Anniversary celebration with a little help from Congressman Jeff Miller (R, FL). Miller submitted the squadron's accomplishments into the Congressional Record as a way to honor the history, service and the achievements of the unit's 50 years of Naval aviation training.

**May 7** - Training Squadron TWO (VT-2) observed their golden anniversary with a simple yet meaningful ceremony May 7 in front of the squadron headquarters at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Maj. Daniel S. Haworth, former instructor pilot with the "Doerbirds," was memorialized with a stone plaque next to the flagpole in front of the squadron's building. It was a way for the squadron to pass on the ideals of devotion to duty and dedicated service.

**May 18** - It was another historic day for Training Squadron THREE and Training Wing FIVE as the first student Naval aviator to train in the T-6B Texan II took flight at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Student Naval Aviator, Ensign Christopher D. Farkas, teamed up with U.S. Marine Corps instructor pilot, Capt. Michael Perkins to complete the inaugural flight Tues., May 18.

**June 11** - A 17-year Air Force officer assumed command of the Navy's first primary flight training squadron to transition to the new T-6B "Texan" Jun. 11 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Cmdr. Jody G. Bridges was relieved by Lt. Col. George K. Hobson as the commanding officer of Training Squadron THREE (VT-3). Bridges effectively led Training Squadron THREE as the first squadron to commence the transition from the T-34C to the T-6B.

**??????** - Rear Adm. Steven Romano, Commander Navy Exchange Command, announced that Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Navy Exchange was named a 2009 Bingham Award recipient. This award demonstrates a NEX's competencies in such areas as: excellence in management, customer service and operating results. NEX Whiting Field took the award for sales volume in the \$5 to \$20 million dollar category.

**July 1** - With a few words from the Skipper and the cutting of the cake, Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT celebrated 50 years of rotary wing aviation training Jul. 1. With its July 1, 1960 inception date, HT-8 is the oldest helicopter training squadron in the Navy. HT-8 has a storied history, having served as a pipeline for many of the original Apollo program astronauts; training two of the astronauts in the shuttle program; teaching helicopter pilots for combat in wartime, rescue operations in peacetime, and ongoing humanitarian operations, and producing at least one Medal of Honor recipient.

**August 4** - In a stark contrast to the bright orange and white training helicopters flying every day above Naval Air Station Whiting Field, a new addition arrived Aug. 4 with a drastically different color scheme to help celebrate the Centennial of Naval Aviation. Training Air Wing FIVE (TRAWING-5), the most senior tenant command at NAS Whiting Field, took custody of the blue and grey TH-57 "Sea Ranger," the first of the new modified aircraft to be delivered to a Chief of Naval Air Training command. As part of the Centennial of Naval Aviation celebration, one aircraft of each type, model and series from



McGruff the Crime Dog high-fives a young festival goer during the annual Fire and Crime Safety Night held annually at Whiting Pines housing complex. McGruff was only one of the attractions to help kids learn to be safe.

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# Year in Review

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the U.S. Navy aircraft inventory will be painted with a color scheme significant to Naval aviation history.

???????? - Naval Air Station Whiting Field partnered with Santa Rosa County in the closing on 128 acres of land adjacent to the southeast and southwest sections of the base. Under this agreement, Santa Rosa County granted "restrictive easements" to the Navy, fostering efforts in environmental preservation and incompatible development. Santa Rosa County Commissioner Don Salter envisions the southwest portion of the purchase to expand existing nature trails and provide access for recreational activities.

**September ???** - Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Rob Young started his career in the military as a Marine and received his wings of gold at Naval Air Station Whiting Field's base chapel in January 1982. Young not only is an experienced Coast Guard pilot, but has also flown aircraft within the Marine Corps and Army National Guard arsenals as well. He flew his 8,000th hour during an instructor pilot flight with the Cmdr. Michael Fisher, commanding officer Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT in the first week of September.

**September 24-26** - The wife of a Training Air Wing FIVE flight student shocked some of Canada's best rowers, earning top honors during the country's national rowing competition Sept. 24-26 in British Columbia. Training extensively at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, where her husband is stationed, Kerry Shaffer took the first step to what she hopes could be an Olympic dream. Competing against other Olympic hopefuls, Shaffer placed first in the two kilometer individual sprint rowing competition at Canada's National Rowing Championships.

**October 8** - Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) teamed up with community organizations, fitness organizations, and base stores to bring the first Health and Fitness Expo to Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Friday Oct. 8. The event filled the base gymnasium with more than 20 informational booths and a slew of entertaining presentations. The day included fitness demonstrations, a gymnastics presentation, martial arts displays, free give-a-ways, and more. Santa Rosa Medical even provided free diabetes screening, cholesterol screening, and body analysis.

**October 19** - Eighteen Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard helicopters from across the country arrived to Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field Oct. 19 for the 21st annual Naval Helicopter Association (NHA) Fleet Fly-In. The event is one



of just two national gatherings held by the organization each year. It serves to give the flight students in advanced helicopter training their first taste of which aircraft they may be flying after they complete training.

**October 29** - With a short salute, an exchanging of the squadron colors, and a reading of the orders, Cmdr. Hans Sholley accepted the mantle of Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT commanding officer. He replaced Cmdr. Michael Fisher during a brief ceremony at Naval Air Station Whiting Field Friday, Oct. 29 in the base atrium. The time-honored Navy tradition enabled the squadron to recognize Fisher's accomplishments as he moves on to his next command.

**October 28** - With a smooth landing and a quick taxi to the front of the Training Squadron THREE line shack, a student pilot became the first to complete primary training in the T-6 "Texan" pipeline, Thursday, Oct. 28. Ens. Robert Gaul was the first student to complete the training and earned a congratulatory handshake from Lt. Col. George Hobson, VT-3 commanding officer, and a thorough dunking from his fellow students in the solo pool in front of the line shack.

Members of the NAS Whiting Field team stand behind the Tree City USA banner presented by the Arbor Day Foundation to recognized the base's completion of the requirements to be named a Tree City. The designation recognizes NAS Whiting Field's dedication to urban forestry. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

**December 9** - For the 19th consecutive year, Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field achieved designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA for its dedication to conservation and urban renewal. The base planted a tree to recognize its completion of the requirements and to celebrate the accomplishment Thursday, Dec. 9 in front of the base fire house.

**December 9** - The Naval Air Station Whiting Field Commissary took first prize in a nationwide competition, and a few patrons of the store turned out to be the winners. Proctor and Gamble issued twenty \$25 store vouchers Dec. 9 on behalf of the NAS Whiting Field store. The vouchers were first prize in a sales contest of P&G products based on store sales, increase in sales and store size.