



Vol. 66 No. 24

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

# Hobson Assumes Command of VT-3

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

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), Friday, at 1 p.m. in the air station's atrium building.

For Bridges, the ceremony marked the end of an exciting tour that exceeded any expectations he had when he assumed command in 2009. Given the exemplary status of the squadron, Bridges figured the only direction they could go would be down.

"All the measurable factors were high. The squadron was awesome! Somehow, they became awesomer," he said with a smile. "But that's what VT-3 is. They are true professionals who know how to get the job done right."

- (Cont. on Page 8)



Cmdr. Jody Bridges shows off the Training Squadron THREE pennant he received during the change of command ceremony with Lt. Col. George Hobson. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

# HT-28 Flight Student Uses CPR to Help Save a Life

By Lt. j.g. Michael M. Daharsh



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. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Michael M. Daharsh

One of the perks of going to flight school at Naval Air Station Whiting Field is the short drive to some of the most beautiful beaches in America. Throughout the flight program students undergo the most rigorous and demanding flight training syllabus that inevitably creates some of the greatest aviators in the fleet. While a trip to the beach usually provides some time for relaxation and recreation, for a flight student of Helicopter Training Squadron TWENTY-EIGHT it brought a more startling experience.

On a warm April afternoon Ensign Matthew Morse was enjoying his time with friends at a beach between Pensacola and Navarre when they heard screams.

"There was a group of girls not too far away and we heard a lot of them screaming," Morse said. "When I turned around, not ten yards away, we saw a couple of them trying to pull a guy out of the water."

Morse and his buddies ran to the aid of the individuals. The man they pulled out of the water was unresponsive. His eyes were glossed over, and his lips had turned blue. Taking control of the situation, he told one of the onlookers to call 911. Morse and his friend, who is an assistant EMT, immediately began administering CPR.

"To be honest I can't even remember what my first thought was." Morse

- (Cont. on Page 5)

# CNO Receives Public Service Award for Diversity

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Kyle P. Malloy, Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Asian-American Government Executives Network (AAGEN) recognized the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead with the AAGEN Excellence in Public Service Award Jun. 10.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs L. Tammy Duckworth presented the award which is given to an outstanding leader in public service who has demonstrated great spirit, courage and dedication to public service.

"Unquestionably, Admiral Roughead has served our nation in peace and war with the highest courage, honor and patriotism that exemplifies the best of our military leaders," said Duckworth.

Duckworth went on to highlight that currently, under Roughead's leadership, the Navy has the highest number of Asian-Pacific American (APA) flag officers in its history with nine APA's serving at the rank of rear admiral or higher.



Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead, right, is presented the Excellence in Public Service Leadership Award by representatives of the Asian American Government Executives Network. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kyle P. Malloy/Released)

Roughead, the 29th CNO, received the award for his leadership and his diversity initiatives throughout the Fleet.

"I can't tell you how humbled I am to receive this award but I really receive it on behalf of the United States Navy," said Roughead. "[The Navy leadership] makes the achievements that the Navy has enjoyed possible."

CNO talked about the importance of racial and gender diversity in all ranks of the military and how much stronger of an organization the Navy is with a fleet which reflects the face of the nation.

"[I appreciate] the richness and the value that can be derived from the many different view points, ideas and thoughts that can come together and make any organization stronger, better and more effective," said Roughead.

Finally, CNO addressed the magnitude of possibilities offered to a Sailor in the Navy and the extraordinary opportunities available to be part of a 'Global Force for Good.'

"We in the Navy, and the Armed Services, can offer young men and women an opportunity to play a role on the global stage, to cause outcomes that make life better for people around the world in ways that they never thought possible," said Roughead.

For more news from the Chief of Naval Operations, visit <http://www.navy.mil/cno/index.asp>.

## HT-28 Celebrates Their 3rd Birthday May 28



Helicopter Training Squadron TWENTY-EIGHT Commanding Officer Cmdr. Mathew Frost cuts the cake and hands one slice to Lt. Cmdr. Stewart Kahler and AWS2 Brandon Guzek. HT-28 celebrated their 3rd anniversary Friday, May 28. Photo courtesy of Helicopter Training Squadron TWENTY-EIGHT.

The sword was drawn and the cake was cut as Helicopter Training Squadron TWENTY-EIGHT celebrated their third year anniversary Friday, May 28. HT-28 was founded May 25, 2007 as a solution to help fill the growing need and increase in demand for helicopter pilots in the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

"The Hellions continue to focus on accomplishing its mission one safe maneuver at a time while demonstrating its ethos of 'professionalism, integrity, and judgment'," HT-28 Public Affairs Officer Lt. Keri Tereick said.

Originally, HT-28 was formed by pulling instructor pilots from Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN and Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT. Under the guidance of HT-28's commanding officer Cmdr. John McClain and executive officer Lt. Col. Clay Stackhouse the 50 instructors became "plank owners". A "plank owner" is an individual who was a member of the crew of a ship or squadron when that it was placed in commission.

As the squadron worked to overcome the hardships that any new squadron would face, they achieved substantial accomplishments. The Hellions have flown over 62,400 flight hours, completed nearly 36,600 sorties, and winged 417 Naval Aviators. Today the squadron is run by Commanding Officer Cmdr. Mathew Frost. HT-28 currently wings 200 aviators annually and is anticipating being the first squadron to begin flying the much anticipated TH-57 D, the next generation of advanced helicopter training.

# News and Notes

**Summer Salute III** - Cat Country 98.7's Summer Salute III concert is Thursday, June 17th aboard NAS Pensacola and once again, ALL TICKETS ARE ON THEM! The Cat bought all of the tickets and are giving half to the Military and the other half to the rest of Cat Country. You will need a ticket to get in to see Country Superstar Tracy Lawrence. The station will announce each Summer Salute Ticket Stop location and time (will also be posted on the website: <http://www.catcountry987.com/>). You can get up to 4 free tickets at each ticket Stop. All adults will need a ticket, kids 12 and under get in free, if accompanied by an adult.

**Free Concerts at Seville Square** - Pensacola's outdoor concert series returns for its 23rd season of music under the stars. The 2010 series features 14 concerts, satisfying musical tastes from big band to jazz to reggae. Take a lawn chair or a blanket for seating. Evenings in Olde Seville Square begin at 7 p.m. and continue until 9 p.m. each Thursdays through the summer. Admission to the concerts is free. The 2010 schedule includes:

June 17: Rosie O'Grady's Dueling Pianos and Modern Eldorados.

June 24: Jones & Company and Perdido Brass.

July 1: The Reunion Band.

July 8: Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band.

July 15: Don Snowden Big Band.

July 22: The Swingin' Dick Tracys.

July 29: The Sawmill Band.

Aug. 5: Mass Kunfuzion.

**"My Little Eye"** - The Panhandle Community Theatre will perform the locally written mystery "My Little Eye" June 18-20. Friday and Saturday evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday June 19 will feature an additional matinee performance at 2:30 p.m. and Sunday June 20 will also be a matinee. Tickets are \$12. Call 221-7599 for reservations.

**'Pirates of Pensacola' Trolley Tours** - The Red Trolley sets sail Jun. 18 on the seas of adventure. Along the way, passen-



## Fair Winds and Following Seas

Chief Air Traffic Controller Maria Humphrey steps through the sideboys at the conclusion of her retirement ceremony Jun. 11. She retired at the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Atrium following approximately 25 years of Naval service. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

gers will face rival pirates, find clues, and learn the Secrets of the Seven Seas. During the voyage, you'll learn how to tie a pirate bandana and wear an eye patch and a hook. Take your pirate gear along and arrive early to get a tattoo applied by a pirate lass. Tickets: \$20; \$5 for ages 9 and younger. Visitor Information Center, 1401 E. Gregory St., 435-0914, or visit [www.piratetrolley.com](http://www.piratetrolley.com).

**FFSC Has Consumer Handbooks** - Hear Ye Hear Ye! The 2010 Consumer Action Handbooks are finally in! Swing by the Fleet & Family Support Center to pick up your "free" copy. This handbook is packed with consumer assistance info on topics that can help make you a saavy consumer.

**Child Safety Seat Services Offered Free** - Fire and Emergency Services Gulf Coast (F&ESGC) now offers free child seat install assistance to parents or caregivers that have base access. There are nine nationally certified technicians available to assist with this service. Please call (850) 452-3211 to schedule an appointment with a technician that can assist you free of charge.

**Big Band Music** - Milton High School will host the Drum Corps International Drum and Bugle Corps show, Thursday, Jul. 29. The show is titled Sounds of the South. There will be seven drum and bugle corps at this event and the DCI corps are the elite of the elite when it comes to marching bands. For more information visit: <http://www.mhsbandboosters.info/index.php?menu=event4> or <http://www.tealsound.org/drumbuglecorps/events/soundsofthesouth/>. Tickets are \$20 for the Super Section and \$15 for General Admission. There is also a \$5 Military discount with ID at the gates. For additional information, please call 207-8206.

**Free Museum Entrance** - The American Association of Museums, in conjunction with the National Endowment for the Arts is offering free admission to various museums across the United States this summer to active duty military personnel and their immediate families. More than 700 museums across the 50 states are participating in the program from Memorial Day, May 31, through Labor Day, Sept. 6. Free admission extends to up to five immediate family members. The program also supports National Guard, Reservists, and Coast Guardsmen. The link to the website is: <http://www.nea.gov/national/bluestarmuseums/index.php>.



## Fair Winds and Following Seas

Cmdr. Kevin Balderson is presented with a shadow box at his retirement by Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT Commanding Officer Cmdr. Michael Fisher, Friday, May 28. Balderson was a U.S. Coast Guard Instructor Pilot for HT-8. He will be setting roots in Santa Rosa County with his wife and two children. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Michael M. Daharsh.

## Upcoming Events

Jun. 18, 1230 - Wining Ceremony- Base Auditorium

Jun. 18, 1300 - NASWF Safety Stand Down - Sikes Hall

Jun. 21 - Fathers' Day

Jul. 02, 0800 - NASWF Safety Stand Down - Sikes Hall

Jul. 02, 1230 - Wining Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Jul. 03 - 1830 - Milton Stars and Stripes Parade

Jul. 04 - Independence Day Holiday

Jul. 16, 1230 - Wining Ceremony - Base Auditorium

# Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

**VA Representative (Call for Appointment) - Fri, 18 Jun., 0800 – 1200**

**Resume Writing - Mon, 21 Jun., 0800 – 1000**

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.

**Homeowner's Financial Disaster Preparedness - Wed, 23 Jun., 1030 –1200 - (Base Auditorium)**

Mr. Arthur Youngblood from the Florida Department of Financial Services will discuss flood insurance, hurricane deductibles and other property insurance coverage's a consumer might need in order to recover after a disaster. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

**How to Apply for a Federal Job - Mon, 28 Jun., 0800 –1000**

Is it worth your while to invest your time and effort in searching and applying for a Federal Job?" If your answer is "yes", then you need to attend this class in order to learn how to prepare the best application possible. You will learn how to read an announcement, analyze core competencies for language, analyze vacancy listings for keywords, and how to apply for jobs. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

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## Deepwater Horizon: BBB® Provides Tips for Donors / Volunteers

**PENSACOLA, Fla. (June 11, 2010)** – In the wake of any disaster, many reach for their checkbooks or look for volunteer opportunities. Your BBB Wise Giving Alliance <<http://www.bbb.org/charity>> cautions, however, that the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is unlike previous disasters and offers specific advice to potential donors and volunteers.

"Although tens of thousands of individuals are already involved in the response to the oil spill, many others wonder how they can pitch in and help, whether it means writing a check or volunteering their time," said Norman Wright, president and CEO of your BBB|Northwest Florida. "Businesses, communities and wildlife across several states have been seriously impacted by the spill and the need for assistance is great. However, the constraints in the clean up effort limit what charities can do with your money or how you can volunteer."

Your BBB recommends that donors and volunteers consider the following:

- \* Beware of well-intentioned but inexperienced organizations – New non-profits and relief organizations spring up following any major disaster. While these groups might have the best of intentions, new charities may lack the resources, experience and management needed to be effective.

- \* Understand where your money is going – charities are assisting in a number of areas including shoreline rescue and protection, needs assessment, litigation, economic relief, advocacy for new governmental energy policies and research into long-term solutions to minimize effects of future disasters. Ask whether the organization will restrict your donation for a specific program, for use only in its Gulf-related activities or for general support for all of its programs.

- \* Rely on expert opinion when it comes to evaluat-

ing a charity – Be cautious when relying on third-party recommendations posted on blogs or websites, as the authors might not have fully researched the organizations they list. Start with [www.bbb.org/charity](http://www.bbb.org/charity) to research charities to verify that they are accredited by the BBB and meet BBB's 20 Standards for Charity Accountability <<http://www.bbb.org/us/Charity-Standards/>> .

- \* Ask if the charity is doing Gulf-related work or raising funds for other Gulf relief organizations – If a charity is raising money for other groups, you may consider "avoiding the middleman" and giving directly to those performing the work.

- \* Volunteering for Gulf clean-up may require special skills or training – Learn what qualifications are necessary before setting off for the site. If you're looking to get your hands dirty, you're out of luck unless you're certified to handle hazardous materials or have received training to care for injured wildlife. In fact, Gulf Coast residents are being asked not to touch tar balls or other debris that washes ashore. Other volunteer opportunities are available and charities with volunteer programs ask that you register with them so that they can assess your skills and place you appropriately.

- \* There will be many opportunities to give, so keep checking – The Gulf region will be suffering from the effects of the oil spill for years to come and, as the situation unfolds, there will be more opportunities for donors to help in the future.

BBB Wise Giving Alliance has compiled a list of nationally soliciting charities <<http://www.bbb.org/us/article/charities-assisting-gulf-coast-oil-spill-clean-up-20061>> which meet BBB standards that are asking for donations and volunteers for the Gulf effort. For additional information and to find charity evaluations, start with [www.bbb.org/charity](http://www.bbb.org/charity).

# Morse

- (Cont. from Page 1)

said. "It was so surreal. I didn't even think. It was more of a reaction."

The two men continued the CPR, taking turns giving compressions. After a short time someone in the group noticed there was still someone out in the current treading water. It was the unconscious man's girlfriend. Morse looked to an onlooker with a surfboard and directed him to use the board to swim out and retrieve the girl. She was safely brought to shore without any injuries. After 30 minutes of trying to revive the man and persistently executing CPR, an ambulance arrived and took the man to Baptist Hospital. The latest news on the man is that he is at Baptist Medical in critical condition, but still alive.

"It's crazy looking back on how everything happened," Morse explains. "We joke about the standard training we receive in API and how silly the videos explain the situation. Then it happens and you really have to remember what to do. The CPR certifications we receive are good for three years, but after experiencing the situation like I did... I'm just thankful I remembered how to do it, and that my training kicked in."

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 will be awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. The University of Phoenix graduate served in the Navy for 10 years before receiving his commission as an officer. Morse has only a few months left in the aviation training pipeline before he receives the coveted "Wings of Gold".

2010 Drive for Life

Donate Blood during the month of June and receive a beach towel.



"Give from the HEART get into a SOUL"

Everyone who donates between June 11th and December 31st will be registered to win a KIA SOUL

**KIA** AUTOSPORT OF PENSACOLA  
www.kiaautosport.com

**Whiting Field  
BLOOD DRIVE  
Friday, June 18  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

IT'S FAST! IT'S EASY! [www.fbsdonor.org](http://www.fbsdonor.org) to make an appointment for your next donation. Use Sponsor Code **WSW01**

ID REQUIRED TO DONATE  
Age 16 with Parental Consent • Minimum 110 lbs.  
1-800-66-BLOOD (25663)  
[www.fbsblood.org](http://www.fbsblood.org)



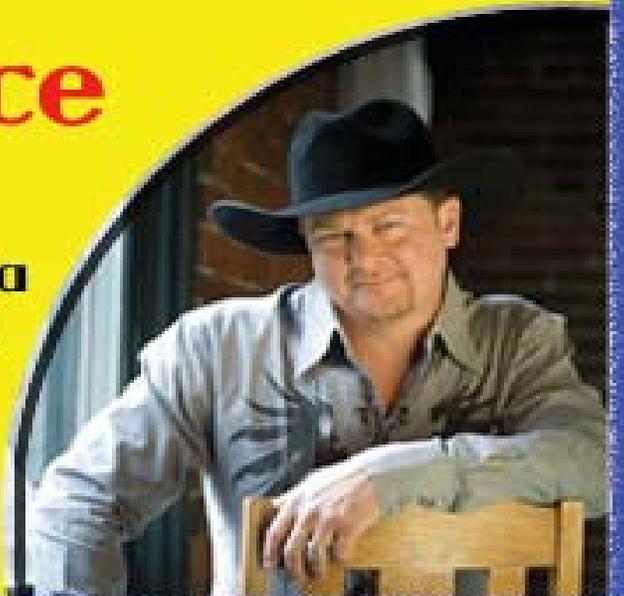
# CAT COUNTRY 98.7 SUMMER SALUTE III

## Tracy Lawrence

with special guests

Naval Air Station Pensacola  
Thursday, June 17th, 2010

Tickets available at the  
MWR ITT Office.



# TRICARE Notes

## CONTINUED HEALTH CARE BENEFIT PROGRAM

Due to the high cost of health care, you shouldn't go without health care coverage – the Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP) can help. If you or your family members will be losing TRICARE coverage due to separation from the military, divorce, age or a dependent adult getting married, CHCBP might be the tool you need to keep your health care coverage.

### What is CHCBP?

CHCBP is optional, temporary health care coverage extended to certain individuals when they lose military health benefits until they obtain civilian health coverage.

### Who is Eligible?

- Service members discharged from active duty and/or their family members
- Unremarried former spouses
- Children who lose military coverage due to age or marital status

### What Does it Cover and How Do I Enroll?

CHCBP benefits are the same as TRICARE Standard, which covers most medical conditions and uses TRICARE-authorized providers. Eligible beneficiaries must enroll in CHCBP within 60 days following the loss of entitlement to TRICARE or the Transitional Assistance Management Program.

### How Much Does it Cost?

The premium rates are \$993 per quarter for individuals and \$1,996 for families

### When Will Coverage Begin and End?

CHCBP coverage begins the day after you lose military benefits. Eligibility periods are:

- 18 months for separating service members and their families
- 36 months for others (in some cases, unremarried former spouses may continue coverage beyond 36 months if they meet certain criteria)

### Where Can I Get More Information?

You may contact Humana Military at the following address, visit <http://www.humana-military.com/south/bene/TRICAREPrograms/chcbp.asp> or the toll-free number:

Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc.  
Attn: CHCBP  
PO Box 740072  
Louisville, KY 40201  
1-800-444-5445

# FFSC Presents Disaster Preparedness Seminar

The Fleet & Family Support Center will host a home owners and Renters Financial Disaster Preparedness Insurance Seminar Jun. 23 from 10:30 a.m. - noon at the base auditorium. This seminar will help prepare families for hurricane season.

Mr. Arthur Youngblood, of the Department of Financial Services will facilitate the brief and discuss flood insurance, hurricane deductibles and other property insurance coverage's a consumer might need in order to recover after a disaster. The brief will also include details concerning homeowners, renters, and landlord policies.

Forecasters predict there will be 15 named storms, 8 hurricanes and 4 major hurricanes this season which started Jun. 1 and ends Nov. 30. They predict 69 percent chance of a major hurricane hitting a U.S. coastline, a 45 percent chance that a major hurricane will hit the East Coast, including the Florida peninsula and a 44 percent chance that a major hurricane will hit the Gulf Coast from the Florida panhandle to Brownsville Texas.

Please call Eugene Jackson, Fleet and Family Support Center Work and Family Life Counselor, at 623-7177 or email for more information on this seminar.



*Try not to buy drinks from vending machines. Forty-three percent of elementary schools, 89.4 percent of middle schools, and 98.2 percent of senior high schools have vending machines, schooled stores, canteens, or snack bars. Items sold from these sources are usually preserved with plastic packaging, a big source of landfill waste.*

*Sandwiches, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and treats packed in reusable lunch containers are healthy alternatives to cafeteria and prepackaged foods. Also, they can be bought in larger quantities, saving money and packaging. The packaging can be left at home for reuse or recycling.*

*Try using wire-bound notebooks with 20 percent post-consumer fiber. They're cheap and help reduce landfill waste. A paper mill uses 20 percent less energy to make paper from recycled material than it does to make paper from a fresh lumber. For every one hundred pounds of trash we throw away, thirty-nine pounds is paper.*

# Congrats TRAWING-5 Wingers and Scholars



First Row: Lt. Col. Shawn Coakley, USMC; Lt. J.g. Matthew Capaldo, USN; Lt. j.g. Richard Dugan, USN; 1st Lt. Timothy Swartz, USMC; 1st Lt. Ayleah Goodman, USMC; Lt. j.g. Jason Neiman, USCG; Lt. j.g. Reed Smith Jr., USN; LT. j.g. John Olsen, USN; Lt. j.g. Benjamin Storzum, USN; and Ensign Tobler Voght, USN.

Second Row: Lt. Col. Shawn Coakley, USMC; 1st Lt. Michael Mccollum, USMC; Lt. j.g. Stephen Mattingly, USN; 1st Lt. Clayton Piersall, USMC; Lt. j.g. Anthony Falce, USCG; 1st Lt. Vladimir Yarnykh, USMC; 1st Lt. David Cybulski, USMC; and 1st Lt. Richard Cardona, USMC.

Third Row: Cmdr. Michael Fisher, USN; 1st Lt Jacob Schwam, USMC; Lt. j.g. Christopher Babcock, USN; 1st Lt. Lucas Ward, USMC; 1st Lt. Rider Barnes, USMC; Ensign Marco Mion, ITNAVY; 1st Lt. Michael Cullen, USMC; 1st Lt. Adam Scholl, USMC; Ensign Luca Di Capua, ITNAVY; and Lt. Col. Jon Hackett, USMC.



Ensign James D. Lovett, USN and Ensign Patrick D. Sippel, USN receive their Academic Achievement awards at the Training Air Wing FIVE headquarters May 28.

The Jun. 4 Academic Achievement award recipients are: 2nd Lt. Christopher E. Patton, USAF; Ensign Justin T. Mears, USN; 1st Lt. Oscar J. Sanchez Jr., USMC; Lt. Michael R. Koch, USN; 1st Lt. Jason A. Condi, USMC; Ensign Ryan M. Agte, USN; and 1st Lt. Molly A. Muldoon, USMC.

# Change of Command

- (Cont. from Page 1)

During Bridges' 34-month tour first as prospective executive officer, XO and then commanding officer, the Red Knights flew more than 22,291 mishap-free flight hours, completed 10,450 student training sorties, and graduated greater than 200 Navy, Marine, Coast Guard, Air Force and Allied Student Aviators. He also guided his command to an overall assessment of "Outstanding" on three annual Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization Inspections. Additionally, the squadron was praised for its performance during several Chief of Naval Air Training Standardization Inspections due to its "outstanding in-house training programs."

Bridges effectively led Training Squadron THREE as the first squadron to commence the transition from the T-34C to the T-6B. His visionary leadership ensured a seamless transition and set the foundation for the efficient T-6B transition to other squadrons and established operating standards which will have a lasting impact on Naval Aviation.

"When you are first, you better figure it out, and figure it out right," said Capt. Daniel Rieck, Director Naval Aviation Enterprise Total Force Planning in the Pentagon. Rieck, who commanded Bridges during a shared tour at Patrol Squadron NINE (VP-9), at Kaneohe Marine Corps Base in Hawaii, added, "You set the course for the future. You will change the course of history through your service."



**Capt. James Vandiver, Commander Training Air Wing FIVE, presents Cmdr. Jody Bridges with the Meritorious Service Medal for his accomplishments as the commanding officer of Training Squadron THREE. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.**

Rieck served as the guest speaker for the event.

Bridges' career spans nearly 20 years and includes tours of duty in Naples, Italy; Hawaii; Afghanistan; and Jacksonville, Fla. A P-3C Orion pilot who trained initially in Brunswick, Maine, Bridges also completed a tour as the Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer on USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69). He was with VT-3 at NAS Whiting Field since Aug. 2007. His next tour

of duty will have him stationed forward deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Bridges fervently praised Hobson and thanked him for helping to make the tour successful.

"I couldn't have asked for a better executive officer," he said. "You executed the mission flawlessly and made all the great things happen behind the scenes."

Hobson took command of the squadron after serving a tour as the executive officer. He is an ROTC graduate from North Carolina State University and has more than 17 years of service to his credit. An F-15C pilot, Hobson has flown more than 250 combat hours over Iraq during Operation Southern Watch. He has also served as an AT-38 Instructor Pilot at Columbus Air Force Base; flew with the 44th Fighter Squadron out of Kadena Air Base, Japan; completed a tour of duty in the Pentagon, and earned his Master's Degree at the Air Command and Staff College.

When his opportunity came to speak, he deflected much of the praise directed his way to the men and women working for VT-3.

"It has been a pleasure to serve as the executive officer for the squadron. You've taken us to the highest of highs. You have done the job with professionalism and style," he said. "Our legacy will be felt through the Chief of Naval Air Training command for decades to come."

## A View from the Big Chair

Lt. Col. L. R. Kendall observes as onlookers are allowed to sit in the President's chair as the Marine One aircraft pays a visit to Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1) is tasked with one of the most important missions of any military flying squadron – to transport the President of the United States. The Nighthawks fly several modified versions of naval aircraft, including the VH-3D and VH-60N.

The four crew members include a pilot, copilot, communications crewmember and a crew chief. There are two guards that accompany the crew to provide security for the aircrafts.

According to Lt. Col. T. P. Rampey, the aircraft's pilot, the squadron performs static display opportunities to help maintain and increase interest in the unit.

