

# Whiting Tower

Sixty-Six Years of Aviation Training News



Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, FL

Forging Wings for the Fleet

Vol. 66 No. 11

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

## Walsh to Transfer Command of TRAWING-5

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Training Air Wing FIVE will observe a change at the helm Thursday, March 18 at 1 p.m. in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field auditorium. Col. John Walsh will pass the reins of command to Capt. James Vandiver.

Walsh was the first Marine commanding officer of TRAWING-5.

He has been serving in the Marine Corps for nearly 25-years, since his graduation from the University of California, Berkeley. Walsh was an honor



Col. John Walsh

graduate of both the Platoon Leaders Course and USMC Basic School. Designated a Naval aviator in 1988, his first assignment was to Marine Corps Aviation School at Cherry Point, N.C. for training

in the AV-8B Harrier.

Since then, Walsh has deployed during the Gulf War, served in various Marine Expeditionary Units, graduated from the U.S. Naval War



Capt. James Vandiver

College with distinction and performed two tours at Marine Corps Headquarters. He has also served as the executive officer and commanding officer of Training Squadron SIX here at Whiting Field. His most recent assignment before returning to Milton, Fla., was at the USAF Air War College

where he graduated with highest distinction in 2006.

During his tenure as the deputy commodore and then as the commo-

- (Cont. on Page 4)

## TRAWING-5 Student Receives Wings After Injury

By: Lt. j.g. Michael M. Daharsh

Lt. j.g. Scott Curtin took the stage with 24 fellow student aviators to receive their long awaited "Wings of Gold" on Fri., Mar. 12. The path to becoming a Naval Aviator is a long and arduous process. It requires focus, determination, and a great amount of hard work. For Curtin, this road was a little bumpier and longer than most.

Curtin and a flight instructor, LT Jack Clark, were involved in a mishap while on their way back to Naval Air Station Whiting Field during a formation flight in October, 2009. As a result of this hard landing, Curtin suffered a fractured back, and was unable to fly for three months. He states they were flying back when a warning horn sounded, followed directly by several warning lights of the TH-57 caution panel.

"At first I thought the instructor was testing me on an emergency procedure, but it only took a second to realize

- (Cont. on Page 6)



### Honoring a Hero

Lt. Clinton Wermers is carried to his burial in Arlington National Cemetery, where he was interred with full military honors Mar. 8. Wermers died following an aircraft mishap when his plane went down in Lake Ponchartrain near new Orleans. Photo courtesy of the Wermers family.

# International Comic Tour, “Comics on Duty” to Perform for NAS Whiting Field

By Lt. j.g. Michael Daharsh, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

They have been to Iraq, Italy, Germany, Key West, Fl., Jacksonville Fl., and all over the U.S., and now they are coming to Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Comics on Duty, an international comic tour, will be coming 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. Co-sponsored by AT&T and “That Guy”, this free show is sure to have the audience rolling with laughter.

“This will be an enjoyable event of comedy and camaraderie open to the entire Whiting Field Team and their families,” Joe Vukovcan, NAS Whiting Field Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Director said.

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.

“Before I started Comics on Duty I worked for the USO,” said Richard Davis, Executive Producer of the Comics on Duty Tour. “I realized that there was a huge need here on the continental United States side. I mean these men and women are fighting the war too. We still want to support the troops overseas, but it takes everyone to fight the war: reservist, families, DOD, training commands, and everyone back at the home field bases too.”

Originally, Davis helped develop the USO Comedy Tour, but feeling the desire to help the effort on the home front he left the USO to develop Comics on Duty.

“The concept of a multi-headliner show developed after I saw Evening at the Improv. We began with the headliners and a road manager, me.” Davis said.

The USO liked his idea so much they ended up hiring him to produce the show from the road. At first he was doing all the leg work and production work on his own. As the show developed they were able to attain a sponsorship for eight years. With sponsorship they were able to offer more shows to more bases at an affordable rate. When their sponsorship was lost, however, Comics on Duty was forced to redesign their show. They were able to continue, but on a much smaller scale.

Davis was determined not to let the loss of his major sponsor stifle his vision. After some hard work and perseverance Davis finally got new sponsorship, and this time it was huge.

“Because of “That Guy” we are now able to reach 50 Navy bases, 27 Army bases, 12 Marine and Air Forces bases, and an overseas tour,” Davis exclaimed. “I mean, that’s almost 100 national locations and an overseas tour. That’s huge. And this isn’t a small show either. It’s a high

caliber performance that cost a lot to develop, yet it’s still the most cost effective program of its type.”

“That Guy” is a multimedia campaign that uses online and offline communication to raise awareness of binge drinking and encourages drinking responsibly. “That Guy” has traditionally been purely informational and has not ventured beyond the realm of print and the internet. This is their first endeavor to take a more proactive role in getting their message out to the Troops.

“That Guy is an awareness campaign, not a deterrent from drinking campaign,” Davis said. “Because of them we can afford to put on these great shows with great come-

- (Cont. on Page 7)

**FREE TICKETS**  
COMICS ON DUTY  
LIVE AT:  
**NAS WHITING FIELD**

**STEVE BILLS**  
www.ComicsOnDuty.com

**STEVE BURR**  
www.SteveBurr.com

**IAN GUTOSKIE**  
www.IanGutoskie.com

**JACK MAYBERRY**  
www.JackMayberry.com

**FRIDAY, 26 MARCH**

**SIKES HALL**  
**SHOWTIME - 1900**

Ace's will be open for business!  
Free Hors D'oeuvres while they last!

NAVY Entertainment MWR at&t THAT GUY

WWW.COMICSONDUTY.COM PROUDLY SERVING ALL WHO SERVE SINCE 1992  
THE COMICS ON DUTY WORLD TOUR IS A DAVIS ENTERTAINMENT GROUP PRODUCTION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NO FEDERAL ENDORSEMENT IMPLIED.

# News and Notes

**Comics on Duty** - Morale, Welfare and Recreation, in conjunction with [www.thatguy.com](http://www.thatguy.com), will host the Comics on Duty tour March 26 at Sikes Hall. Four comedians, Steve Bills, Steve Burr, Ian Gutoskie, and Jack Mayberry will perform beginning at 7 p.m. Aces will be open during the event and MWR will provide free hors d'oeuvres while they last.

**Santa Rosa County Fair** - The Santa Rosa County Fair, located at East Milton Park, is almost here. This year's schedule includes: monster truck rides, The Modern Eldorados, Nickelodeon presents - Sponge Bob, and an Easter Egg Hunt with 4000 Easter Eggs!! Wednesday, April 1 is Military Day and the fair will have a live video game tournament of "Tekken 6!" The tournament offers a chance to win a \$100.00 gift card. Also, don't miss the 19th annual Dodge Rodeo on Friday and Saturday. The price of a ticket includes: live bands, rides, petting zoo, pony rides, and to top it off -- mechanical bull riding tournaments all week! The fair starts March 30 and ends Apr. 4. Check out [www.srctfair.com](http://www.srctfair.com) for details.

**TPC Tickets for Military** - All active duty, Reserves, retired military members and their dependents are invited to be guests of THE PLAYERS Championship (TPC) and see the best professional golfers in the world compete at TPC Sawgrass May 3-9. Military members and their families can receive complimentary tickets by going online to [www.ticketmaster.com/promo/t0p06r](http://www.ticketmaster.com/promo/t0p06r) and downloading their free tickets. A valid CAC card must be shown when entering the golf course at the appropriate gate. The complimentary tickets will be valid Monday through Sunday. Parking passes are also available. For the second year, military members and their dependents attending TPC are also invited to enjoy a private hospitality venue called the Patriot's Outpost, which is located on the hill between #16 and #18 fairways. A valid CAC card must be presented to gain admission into the area. A free lunch will be provided. For more information, call 623-7032.

**Voluntary Leave Donor** - A fellow employee needs help. Mr. Gregory T. Majewski of CNRSE, Budget Department, Naval



## Doerbirds in Action

**Lt. Brian Steckroth, Ensign Eric McBee, Ensign Christopher Lloyd, Capt. Christopher Davin and Lt. Cmdr. Ben Boyer from Training Squadron TWO spent March 4 volunteering with Habitat for Humanity in Pensacola. The Doerbirds spent the day framing doors, installing baseboards and preparing the house for painting. "This was a great opportunity to both help out the community as well as learn a useful skill," said Steckroth. If you are interested in helping out with Habitat for Humanity in Pensacola contact Rachael Cox at 850-434-5456 for more information.**

Air Station, Pensacola has been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Mr. Majewski is required to be out of work approximately 3 months or more due to an unexpected medical emergency, and has exhausted all of his leave. Mr. Majewski currently is in a Leave Without Pay (LWOP) status and truly in need of donated leave. Please complete the applicable Leave Donor Form. Anyone wishing to donate annual leave under this program may contact Diane Stukes at CNRSE (Code N1), (904) 542-2283 or DSN 942-2283.

**Give a Day, Get a Day** - Visit Walt Disney World Resort, for free? For one day of volunteer work you can receive a 1-day, 1-theme park ticket to the Disneyland Resort or Walt Disney World Resort, free. There's no better time to make a dream come true for others and let Disney make a few come true for you! For more details, visit: <http://disneyparks.disney.go.com>.

**Embry Riddle Registration** - The Pensacola Campus of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University is now holding registration for the March Term through March 22. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. through Thurs. and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fri. in Bldg. 634, Suite 033, 250 Chambers Avenue, NAS Pensacola and Mon. and Wed., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Bldg. 1417, Room 163 on NAS Whiting Field. Add and drop for a full refund will be held March 22-28. New Student Orientation will be Sat., March 20, 8:30am-noon in Bldg. 634. Email [pensacola.center@erau.edu](mailto:pensacola.center@erau.edu), visit [www.embryriddle.edu/pensacola](http://www.embryriddle.edu/pensacola) or call 458-1098 for details.

**Military Appreciation Night** - The Pensacola Ice Flyers will host their final home game and Military Appreciation Night Sat., March 20. The Naval Air Station Whiting Field Information Tickets and Travel office has tickets available for \$5 each. Call 623-7032 for details.



## A Little More to Save

CMDM Hari Singh picks the winner of the Military Saves Week drawing for a \$50 savings bond. The bond, donated by Pen Air, was the prize for those who signed up at the military saves locations set up by Fleet and Family Service Center Family and Life Specialist Eugene Jackson (right). Kristal Kelley represented Pen Air for the drawing. Staff Sgt. Benjamin Davis won the drawing. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

## Upcoming Events

Mar. 17 - Saint Patrick's Day

Mar. 18, 1300 - NASWF Safety Standown - Sikes Hall

Mar. 18, 1300 - TRAWING 5 Change of Command - Base Aud.

Mar. 26, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Mar. 26, 1500 - VT-6 Change of Command - Base Auditorium

Mar. 29, 1100 - Women's History Month Progr. - Auditorium

# Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

## Deployment Support Group for Children - Monday, March 22, 1800 - 1930

Kids and youth ages 5-18 who are children of deployed service members are invited to meet for fun and fellowship! Creative activities engage the mind and promote conversation. Share experiences and feelings with others who are also dealing with the absence of a parent due to deployment. For more information, please contact the FFSC at 850-623-7177. Hope to see you there!

## VA Representative (Call for Appointment) - Friday, March 26, 0800 – 1200

## Resume Writing - Monday, March 29, 1000 - 1200

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.

## Insurance Needs - Wednesday, March 31, 1400 - 1500

A 60 – 90 minute interactive program suitable for all audiences, designed to develop knowledge and skills that will enable participants to make informed consumer decisions on the basic types of insurance, and to determine their personal need for life insurance. Class will be held in the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

## Common Sense Parenting for Ages 5 - 18 - Wednesday, March 31, 1800 - 2000

Unfortunately, children do not come with instruction manuals. This class is for any parent who wants to “brush up” on their parenting skills or new parents that are not sure of where to begin. For details call 623-7177.

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## TRAWING-5

- (Cont. from Page 1)

dore of TRAWING-5, Walsh oversaw the training of more than 1,400 aviators and more than 378,000 flight hours. Time needed to train the aviators decreased for both the primary fixed-wing and rotary training pipelines. Helicopter training standards were set to such a high level during his command that only one student attrited from the Fleet Replacement Squadron in the past two years. He also guided the Wing through the early stages of transition to the first new fixed-wing aircraft for training at NAS Whiting Field in more than 30-years.

Vandiver has been serving as the deputy commodore for TRAWING-5 since September 2008. Prior to his arrival, he most recently worked as the Antisubmarine Warfare Section Head and later as Maritime Warfare Systems/Surface Strike Branch Head for the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Director of Surface Warfare (N86) in Washington D.C. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Naval War College which he graduated from in 2005. Prior to that, he served as the executive officer and commanding officer of Training Squadron TWENTY-SEVEN in Corpus Christi, Tex.

He will now assume command of the Navy's largest Training Wing which flies approximately 44 percent of the Chief of Naval Air Training flight hours. Col. James Grace will become the new deputy commodore.

The guest speaker for the event will be Brig. Gen. Jon Davis, the deputy commandant for aviation, U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters.

## TRICARE Notes

### EASE TRANSITION FROM ACTIVE DUTY

#### – KEEP YOUR TRICARE PRIME COVERAGE THROUGH TAMP

Leaving active duty does not necessarily mean that you are no longer eligible for TRICARE benefits. The Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) provides 180 days of transitional health care benefits in making a smooth transition to civilian life.

You and your eligible family members may be qualified for health care benefits under TAMP if the sponsor is:

- Involuntarily separating from active duty under honorable conditions;
- A National Guard or Reserve member separating from a period of active duty that was more than 30 consecutive days in support of a contingency operation;
- Separating from active duty following involuntary retention (stop-loss) in support of a contingency operation; or
- Separating from active duty following a voluntary agreement to stay on active duty for less than one year in support of a contingency operation.

To learn more about TAMP and how to maintain your TRICARE Prime coverage, visit [www.humana-military.com](http://www.humana-military.com) and click on Beneficiary and then TRICARE Plans. Click on Transitional Coverage.

# Training Squadron THREE Prepares for Fiftieth Anniversary

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

The "Red Knights" of Training Squadron THREE will be golden May 1 when they celebrate their 50th anniversary. The unit will celebrate the milestone April 28 and 29, and are looking for former squadron members to help mark the occasion.

"We want to bring alumni back to the squadron to see how things have changed, and to see what the future holds for VT-3," Lt. Nicholas Scerbo, VT-3 public affairs officer said.

The "Red Knights" are planning a series of events during the two-day celebration to have fun, and to share "sea" stories about the unit. Their squadron is preparing a Legacy Hall with a painted mural and photos denoting the history of the squadron and the three aircraft they have flown - the T-28 Trojan, the T-34 Turbomentor, and the new T-6B Texan. Following the welcome ceremony and a tour of the squadron spaces Apr. 29, VT-3 will have a ribbon cutting of the new hall at 4 p.m. All alumni and instructor pilots will then be invited to an evening social.

The next day will start off with a four-man scramble golf tournament or trip to the Naval Aviation Museum. A black-tie 50th anniversary gala, highlighted by Navy Band New Orleans, tops off Apr. 30's events.

"For us as current instructor pilots, hearing how it was back in the day and sharing stories with previous pilots will be incredibly interesting," Scerbo said.



VT-3 was commissioned on May 1, 1960, at South Whiting Field. Its primary mission at the time was to instruct student Naval Aviators in radio instruments, formation flying, and air-to-air gunnery. Air-to-air gunnery was discontinued in January 1965 and familiarization and basic instrument training was added in its place. VT-3 moved to its present location at North Whiting Field in 1973 where it has been ever since.

The squadron was one of the early units selected to be alternately commanded by a Navy or Marine Corps officer beginning in 1980. The "Red Knights" were honored again in 1994 when they became the Navy's first and only joint primary flight training squadron. The first Air Force instructors reported in February 1994 and the first Air Force students followed in July of that same year. VT-3 now alternates Navy and Air Force commanding officers. The squadron will be the first unit to switch over to training in the T-6B Texan and is currently in preparation to begin that training pipeline.

The unit has been a stalwart in the training of Naval Aviator throughout its history and VT-3 wants to celebrate the men and women who have made that mission successful through the years.

"Even though we have been a stable presence in aviation training, we have evolved," Scerbo said. "Through all the changes, though, our number one mission is still producing the aviation warfighters our country needs."

## 2010 Military Census Preparations Underway- Make Your Voice Heard

**From The Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs**

**WASHINGTON--NAVADMIN 001/10**, released in Jan., is the second in a series of military census newsgrams which provide guidance for Sailors to make their voices heard during the 2010 Decennial Census.

Beginning Mar.15, the Census Bureau will conduct the Nation's twenty-third decennial census to gather a complete count of the population of the United States to include personnel living onboard naval installations and ships with a U.S. homeport.

The decennial census is an in-depth survey used to gain population counts which fuel government decisions on how approximately \$400 billion per year of federal funding is spent in your

neighborhood on hospitals, schools, senior citizen centers, emergency services and public works projects. In addition, the enumeration determines the number of seats a state occupies in the House of Representatives.

Sailors will be asked to complete a short Military Census Report containing 6 questions.

"By participating in the 2010 Census, Sailors of all ranks have an opportunity to help create a better future for those they care about," said Chief Petty Officer Melanie Kinchen, of Navy's Personal Readiness and Community Support Branch, and responsible for coordinating Navy's Census efforts. I can't imagine any Sailor who wouldn't want to make that difference."

Commander, Navy Installations

Command is the lead for executing census procedures onboard shore installations.

Military personnel assigned to a group quarters, to include bachelor's quarters, will be counted at the group quarter, even if it is located on a non-naval installation.

Census questionnaires will be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service to all housing units on military installations beginning March 15, 2010. If you live off-base, you will receive a census questionnaire at that address.

For additional information about the 2010 Census and the Census Bureau's Military Fact Sheet, visit <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/Census2010/>.

# Student

- (Cont. from Page 1)



Lt. j.g. Scott Curtin receives his “Wings of Gold” from his wife, Mal-lory, at Naval Air Station Whiting Field’s auditorium, Fri., Mar. 12, 2010. He was still able to earn his wings after having been involved in an aircraft mishap that broke two vertebrae. After about a two-month recovery, he was able to resume flying. Curtin will be moving to San Diego to fly the SH-60R. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Michael Daharsh. this was the real deal.” Curtin said. “The instructor took the controls and we began executing the autorotation emergency procedure.”

As the two Helicopter Training Squadron Eight aviators were executing the emergency procedure they initially looked out and saw only trees below them. However, through the lower corner of the cockpit, Curtin made out a small clearing and pointed it out to Clark. Clark turned the TH-57 to maneuver into the clearing below. Curtin switched the transponder to notify air traffic control of an emergency, and Clark put out a MAYDAY call over the radio. Once Clark had turned he realized they were too close and would over shoot the clearing. He arced back out and was able to delay their approach, giving them just enough room to make the clearing. The aircraft hit the ground hard and rolled onto its side, however both the crewmembers were able to climb from the wreckage and get clear of the aircraft.

“We are always told to learn our emergency procedures,” Scott said. “After being in a mishap I can definitely attest to that. I feel that was only the first part of the equation that saved our lives that day though. If it hadn’t been for Lt. j.g. Clark’s experience, I don’t know what would have happened.”

This incident stands as a testament to the type of high quality training that takes place at Training Air Wing Five. Every day before a flight, an instructor and a student will sit down and brief every aspect of the mission they are about to fly. In this brief, they review emergencies and Crew Resource Management (CRM). CRM is the understanding and execution of open communication between all the crew aboard an aircraft. From the beginning of flight school emergency procedures and CRM are stressed as some of the most

important things to know when flying. Plain and simple, it saves lives.

After the incident Curtin and Clark were taken to the Sacred Heart Hospital and it was discovered that Curtin had fractured two of his vertebrae due to compression of the spine. The doctors told him he would need 6-8 weeks to heal.

“My command was a great support,” Curtin said. “Both the commanding officer and the executive officer came and saw me in the hospital. People would often check up on me throughout my healing process, and once I was able to fly again they made sure I was ready.”

According to Navy standards, and for the sake of safety, Curtin had to be medically grounded for 90 days. His command made sure that Curtin would be taken care of during this time. However, the process of getting Curtin back into an aircraft wasn’t as simple as just signing a sheet of paper.

“First and foremost we wanted to make sure he was ready to fly,” Cmdr. Hans Sholley, HT-8 executive officer said. “In preparation for that 91st day, a Human Factor Board was convened in order to meet with Lt. j.g. Curtin to ensure he was ready and willing to get back in the air. From that meeting, we crafted a plan to give him a suitable number of flights to get him back in the saddle, and prepare him for his return to the syllabus.”

HT-8 assembled members from student control, operations, and safety to design a personalized syllabus to bring Curtin back up to speed and ready to move forward. The warm-up syllabus consisted of two simulator flights and six actual flights. Curtin’s first flight back was with Sholley.

“I knew that first flight was going to be tough,” Sholley said. “That first flight back is a real gut check. But he got right back on the horse and did really well.”

The events of what happened are not just a testament to Curtin and Clark, but also to the caliber of individuals that come to train at NAS Whiting Field. Everyday, students and instructors take off and execute their missions safely and successfully. The process and path to becoming a Naval Aviator is both tough and demanding. The lessons learned in flight school do not end there, but will stay with them thorough out their career only to be reinforced with experience.

“The knowledge and skills of those two men were sharp,” Cmdr. Michael Fisher, HT-8 commanding officer said. “This confirms they were well trained and reinforces their professionalism. What distinguishes aviation from other fields in the Navy is the necessity of CRM. It was a team effort and they did a great job.”

Curtin will be moving on to fly the SH-60R in San Diego, California.

## “Comics On Duty”

- (Cont. from Page 2)

dians.”

Comics on Duty didn't take the selection of their comedians lightly either. The comics chosen for the tour first undergo a series of auditions before they are hired. Each comedian shares a desire to give something back to the armed forces. This only adds to their dedication toward making their shows the best they can.

“The comedians of Comic on Duty are not here because they know somebody in the company or have a mutual friend. They are here because of their dedication to the armed forces, and because they have made it through a tedious process of elimination. They are good, and there is something in the show for everybody.” Davis said.

Comedians Steve Bills, Steve Burr, Ian Gutoskie, and Jack Mayberry provide a variety of comedic entertainment for Comics on Duty.

Steve Bills is a versatile performer with a wide range of skills including stand up comedy, acting, comedy writing, and public speaking. During his 10 year career Steve has performed for 5 star generals and fortune 500 CEO's, starred on television, and has opened for nationally known entertainers. Steve's commanding stage presence and intelligent style will make people take notice, listen, and enjoy!

Steve Burr is originally from Rochester, NY where he began his stand-up career. He has performed all across the country, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Italy, and Germany. He has an iTunes podcast called “3 Things You Never Talk About” and can soon



Steve Burr, one of the comedians appearing March 26 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field performs for the crew of the USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7) in December 2005. Photo from [www.steveburrcomedy.com](http://www.steveburrcomedy.com).

be seen filling the same role on a new program for the Turner Network called “Odd America”. Combining story telling, everyday obsessions, interaction with the audience and a simple desire to have fun, Steve brings the complete comedy package to the stage.

Ian Gutoskie, aka The Big Man of Comedy, can best be described as a freight train hitting the stage. This wonderfully insane, lovable giant uses his 6'7" frame to guide you throughout his experiences of getting older, skydiving, his four dogs, and the ritual of a girls night out. Ian's performed on a variety of shows and networks including CBS and FOX. Jack Mayberry has been performing comedy for a long time. His good ole'

boy comedy has won the hearts of many since 1984. Jack has appeared on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson and Jay Leno, A&E's “Evening at the Improve”, and other appearances on NBC. When Jay Leno first took over the tonight show he insisted on Jack Mayberry performing on his show the first week as Ross Perot. Jack has performed all around the nation and is sure to bring the house down with laughter.

Comics on Duty will be performing Friday, March 26 at 7 p.m. in Sikes Hall. Admission is free. Aces' Club will open at 3 p.m. for drinks. The Child Development Center will be providing child care for the event. Cost is \$3.00 per child per hour. Reservation for child care must be made by close of business March 23. A duty driver will be available for local area transportation to patron's residence only. The duty driver will be available till 11 p.m.

## DEFY Program Highlights Top Volunteers

At the 2010 Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) Summit, NAS Whiting Field was presented with a plaque honoring 7 years of service. As the program prepares to kick off this year's DEFY camp, they are putting the spotlight on some of their top mentors.

Air Traffic Controller Third Class Brittane Brooks is entering her second year as a mentor with the DEFY program. She signed up for the program almost as soon as she arrived to the command, and hasn't regretted it.

“When I heard about DEFY I thought it would be a great way to get involved with the command since I was a new check-in,” she said. “I adore kids so I figured it would be perfect.”

Trying to keep the attention of youths can be a real challenge. Brooks helped prepare many of the arts and crafts for their projects, learned to handle a 15-passenger van to



Air Traffic Controller Third Class Brittane Brooks

transport the kids, planned field trips, set up lesson plans and more. Volunteering while working a full schedule in the air traffic control tower was demanding, but she enjoyed being with the kids.

“I wanted to be able to make a difference. School and peers are rough on kids, I thought it would be nice to help them out, maybe just be someone to listen. It was all worth it though. I really think the kids enjoyed it. And that's why I do it in the first place.”

DEFY is a self-esteem building program that provides kids with the tools they need to resist drugs, gangs, and alcohol.

**Anyone interesting in volunteering for the DEFY program should contact Chief Air Traffic Controller Trevor Rowe at 623-7372 or via email at [trevor.rowe@navy.mil](mailto:trevor.rowe@navy.mil).**