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First T-6 Student Completes Primary

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

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. Ens. Christopher Farkas, who was the first student to take an instructor-aided flight in the T-6 back in May, completed later in the day.

"Being in the first class, there were definitely a lot of growing pains," Gaul said, "but overall, it was a great

- (Cont. on Page 6)

CNO Wishes USMC a Happy Birthday

Special from Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead released the following Marine Corps birthday message to the fleet Nov. 8:

"On behalf of the men and women of the United States Navy, I extend a happy 235th birthday to the United States Marine Corps.

As you celebrate another birthday, you can be proud of the strength you have shown throughout our nation's history in facing the challenges posed by those who would threaten our security. Your actions this year – in Iraq, in Afghanistan, at sea in the middle

East and beyond - add a glorious chapter to a long legacy of taking the fight to our adversaries wherever we

- (Cont. on Page 2)

Pilots Find Meaning in Blessing of the Wings



Student-pilots are lined up in the base chapel on the day of their winging ceremony to receive their "wings" during the blessing ceremony. The tradition is one that many of the students participate in that adds a personal meaning to the process of leaving the student ranks to become pilots. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Michael Daharsh.

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

The verses of the classic Navy Hymn, Eternal Father, Strong to Save can be heard from outside Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Chapel every other Friday as student Naval Aviators and their families take a final moment to reflect on their Lord's blessing on their training before they make their way over to the auditorium for the winging ceremony. The "Blessing of the Wings" ceremony is a tradition at Whiting Field where after a short message from a chaplain the Wing-ers are brought to the front of the chapel to hold their wings as the priest performs a blessing over them.

"It's an event that brings all Christians together for the service," Chaplain Ray Summerlin said. "It's ecumenical, and there is much diversity."

The "Blessing of the Wings" used to take place in Sike's Hall while the chapel was being renovated following Hurricane Ivan, but in April 2009 it was moved to the newly refurbished chapel. The ceremony is experienced by over

- (Cont. on Page 5)

ROTC Graduates to be Held in IRR

By Naval Service Training Command Public Affairs

GREAT LAKES, Ill. (NNS) -- The Navy is implementing a plan to commission Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) accessions into the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) starting Dec. 1.

Following similar practices of the other branches of military service, who routinely send their new graduates to the IRR, this change allows the Navy to better match new accession manpower with warfare community billet and training requirements and promotes increased fiscal stewardship.

"The IRR provides the Navy the opportunity to align active duty start dates with training start dates, which results in cost savings since there is no wait time for new accessions to enter training," said Rear Adm. David Steindl, commander, Naval Service Training Command (NSTC), who oversees the NROTC program. "Fiscal constraints have caused all services to examine ways to implement cost-savings. This policy change is one step the Navy has taken to accomplish that goal."

This revised policy, established in April 2010, begins with 265 out of more than 800 NROTC midshipmen graduating in December of 2010 and the spring of 2011.

The IRR consists of individuals who have had training or have previously served in the active duty component or in the selected Reserve. They receive no pay and are not obligated to take part in any military activities during the time they are in the IRR.

The NROTC graduates will average approximately five months and will not exceed 12 months in the IRR. The time spent in the IRR will not impact future rank, promotion or pay. Each member will still be eligible for promotion two years after commissioning. Additionally, they will remain on track for the pay increase at their two-year commissioning anniversary.

Affected communities will be continuously evaluated

based on the needs of the Navy. In order to provide sufficient lead time for planning, the Navy has been aggressive in informing all midshipmen about the change. These midshipmen were notified of this change in the spring of 2010.

"It is in the best interest of our midshipmen that they are fully-informed, and the Navy has been proactive in taking steps to ensure they know what to expect," Steindl said. "NROTC unit commanding officers are conducting face-to-face meetings with the affected midshipmen to address their questions and concerns. Additionally, each midshipman was briefed on their benefits under the IRR."

While assigned to the IRR, ensigns will receive medical and dental benefits, commissary and exchange privileges, use of Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs and facilities and remain eligible for Department of Defense (DoD) vehicle decals. Family members are not eligible for any of these benefits until the member goes on active duty.

Affected midshipmen may apply for an IRR waiver due to hardship. Professors of naval science will submit an endorsement and forward each waiver request to NSTC, where a panel of senior officers will review each waiver request and make a recommendation to the NSTC commander for final determination.

The NROTC program was established to educate and train qualified young men and women for service as commissioned officers in the Navy or Marine Corps. The program offers full tuition scholarships, book and lab reimbursements and a monthly stipend at our nation's most competitive and elite universities. More than 1,000 Navy ensigns and Marine Corps second lieutenants are commissioned annually through the NROTC program.

For more information about NROTC, visit <https://www.nrotc.navy.mil>.

This Week in Naval History

Nov. 16

1776 - First salute to an American flag (Grand Union flag) flying from Continental Navy ship Andrew Doria, by Dutch fort at St. Eustatius, West Indies.

1942 - Navy's first Night Fighter squadron (VMF(N)-531) established at Cherry Point, N.C.

1963 - President John F. Kennedy on USS Observation Island (AG 154) witnesses launch of Polaris A-2 missile by USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN-619).

1973 - Launch of Skylab 4 under command of Lt. Col. Gerald P. Carr, USMC. The mission lasted 84 days and included 1,214 Earth orbits. Recovery by USS New Orleans (LPH-11)

Nov. 17

1917 - USS Fanning (DD 37) and USS Nicholson (DD-52) sink first enemy submarine, U-58, off Milford Haven, Wales.

1924 - USS Langley (CV 1), first aircraft carrier, reports for duty.

Marine Birthday

- (Cont. from Page 1)

might encounter them.

In today's interconnected world, where international events hit home more frequently and powerfully than ever before, there is little doubt that global demand will grow for the American leadership our Navy and Marine Corps team provides. Along with those of our allies, your efforts have helped us promote global maritime security, stability and prosperity. Together, in missions ranging from humanitarian assistance to power projection ashore, our teamwork represents the most flexible option in our nation's formidable arsenal.

Today, we take a moment to celebrate those Marines and their families who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation.

Marines today honor their memory with the same warfighting spirit you have always shown in forging the foundation of the world's indispensable expeditionary team. The Navy is as proud as ever to serve alongside you.

Thank you for another year of unrivaled service in defense of our great nation. Happy birthday, Marines."

News and Notes

Flu Vaccines Under TRICARE - TRICARE will now cover the cost of influenza and pneumococcal vaccines received at participating TRICARE networked retail pharmacies. Claims will be submitted electronically by the pharmacy to Express Scripts and will be covered by the TRICARE pharmacy benefit at no cost. This is available to both Standard and Prime Beneficiaries. Make sure the pharmacy you choose is in your Express Scripts participating pharmacy network. To locate a pharmacy near you that provides this service, click on: <http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/pharmacy> or call 1-877-363-1303.

Getting Ready for a Party - NAS Whiting Field will host their annual Christmas Party Dec. 11 at Sikes Hall. Tickets are on sale now and will be sold at a discounted price through Nov. 17. There is a \$5 reduction for each ticket purchased before the cutoff date. The following personnel will be selling tickets: MA1 Pratt (x7709), IT2 Jackson (x6123), AC2 Hodge (x7945), ABH3 Elam (x7220), and ABHC McCrae (x7012). Tickets will also be sold at NAS Whiting Field quarterdeck from 1000-1300 daily. Ticket Prices are as follows: E4 & below - \$15, E5/E6 - \$20, E7 & above - \$25, GS-6 and below - \$20, and GS-7 and above - \$25. Additionally, if you are using the CDC for childcare you will need to pre-register by Dec. 2 with ticket in hand. You will also need to pay a non-refundable deposit for your spot. In the event of late pick-ups a \$1 per minute fee will be added to your bill. The Christmas Party Committee will cover half the child care cost less any late fees.

Ice Flyer Tickets - Tickets to attend the Pensacola Ice Flyers home games are now available at the ITT office located in the Atrium building. Tickets are \$6 for active duty and \$6.50 for retired and DOD civilian employees. The first home games at the Pensacola Civic Center are: Call Marcy Allen the MWR ITT manager at 623-7032 for details.



Retaining Our Best and Brightest

Air Traffic Controller Second Class Joshua Waring receives his Honorable Discharge certificate from Lt. Chris Mitchell during his reenlistment ceremony, Nov. 10. U.S. Navy photo by Chief Air Traffic Controller Jacqueline Williams.

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.

Military Family Month Roller Skating Party!

All Military
Families
Welcome!



For Reservations Call Fleet
and Family Support Center
@ (850) 623-7177.

Saturday, November 20, 2010

2:45 – 5:00 p.m.

Skateland

6056 North Stewart Street

Milton, Florida

Upcoming Events

Nov. 19, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving
Dec. 3, 1000 - Santa Scramble Golf Tournament

Dec. 3, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
Dec. 9, 1000 - Tree City USA Tree Planting - TBD
Dec. 11, 1800 - NASWF Christmas Party - Sikes Hall

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

VA Representative (Call for Appointment) - Friday, Nov. 19 - 8 a.m. to Noon

How to Apply for a Federal Job - Monday, Nov. 22 - 8 to 10 a.m

“Is it worth your time and effort to search and apply for a federal job?” If your answer is “yes,” then you need to attend this class to prepare the best application possible. Learn how to read an announcement, analyze core competencies for language, analyze vacancy listings for keywords, and how to apply for jobs. call 623-7177.

Grief and Loss Support Group - Tuesday, Nov. 23 - 2 to 3 p.m.

We experience grief and loss for a variety of reasons; death or sickness of a loved one, ending of a relationship; losing a job; experiencing trauma. Our reactions can vary, (e.g. sadness, anger, anxiety, etc...). Come gather for support and learn strategies for coping. Call 623-7177 for details.

How to Survive the Holidays Financially - Wednesday, Nov 24 - 1 to 3 p.m.

It's that time of year when stores display holiday decorations, increase their inventory, and gear up to convince you to spend money. Attend this class to learn techniques to control your holiday spending. Class will be held in the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a work and family life specialist at 623-7177

BBB® Advice: Creating a Holiday Budget

- Plan Now to Avoid a Financial Hangover in January

Pensacola, Fla. (Nov. 12, 2010) – According to a survey by Consumer Reports, shoppers planned on spending an average of \$699 over the holidays last year, but, in a follow-up survey, admitted to actually spending closer to an average of \$811, 16 percent more than planned. While most consumers probably don't consider budgeting to be their idea of holiday fun, mapping out your spending now can help avoid a financial hangover in January. Your Better Business Bureau Serving Northwest Florida is here to help.

“While it isn't the most festive way to spend an evening, grab a mug of eggnog, crunch the numbers and create a realistic approach to holiday spending,” recommended Norman Wright, president and CEO of BBB|Northwest Florida. “Building a budget and sticking to it over the holidays, especially during tough economic times, can save a much larger headache in the long run.

Your BBB offers the following five steps to create a holiday budget: 1. Consider your income: Measure how much money is coming in, including salaries, any child support payments, dividends or interest payments and other sources of income. 2. Add up regular monthly expenses: Start with your rent or mortgage, utilities and credit card payments. Also factor in other expenses for gas and vehicle



maintenance, healthcare and groceries. A full list of monthly expenses to consider is available at BBB's website (<http://www.bbb.org/us/article/tips-on-how-to-develop-a-working-budget-6101>). 3. Estimate extra holiday expenses: A lot of little purchases add up quickly over the holidays so it's important to consider all the expenses of the season including gifts, entertaining (including going to restaurants and the movies – both popular expenses around the holidays), decorations, travel and charitable donations. 4. Revisit, evaluate and revise your budget as you go: Once you've added up your income and expenses, it's time to compare. If more is going out than coming in, go back and pare down expenses. Perhaps reduce your gift list or reuse last year's decorations. And remember,

your budget isn't set in stone! Once you've balanced your budget, revisit it frequently since you may find you over-estimated in some categories and under-estimated in others. 5. Reward yourself: Work into your budget a small reward that you can earn if you meet your goals, recognizing that if you don't meet your goals, you can expect to put your money toward paying off credit card debt in January.

For additional information and advice you can trust this holiday season, start with bbb.org.

Veterans' Day

- (Cont. from Page 1)

2500 wingers, family members, and friends annually. So far this year, approximately 80 percent of the wingers participate in the "blessing" every winging. This is a sizable increase from the previous 60 percent who were participating in 2009.

"The entire ceremony is really an acknowledgment of their faith. They recognize how it has brought them through their training, and they will still rely on their faith when they leave here," Summerlin said.

The event begins every week with welcome, and an Old Testament reading from Isaiah 40: 28-31. After the reading the chaplain gives an Invocation, and the assembly interacts in a responsive reading of Psalm 25, followed by the minister reading an excerpt from the Book of John. At this part in the ceremony, as the names of the Wingers are called, the soon to be Naval aviators step forward, retrieve their wings, and take a place at the front of the Chapel. After all the Wingers are in place a local priest comes forward, anoints each set of wings with holy water, and performs a blessing on them. The ceremony concludes with the entire congregation singing Eternal Father, Strong to Save and the benediction.

The "Blessing of the Wings" occurs in the morning. The winging ceremony, when the aviators are able to wear their wings for the first time, happens later that afternoon. It is a day that the new pilots never forget.

"My faith is part of the reason I joined the military," 1st Lt. Seth Dillinger said. "Faith and family are very important to me. The 'Blessing of the Wings' made the day very personal for me and my family."

Ec  **-nomics**

Stop Using Disposable Plastic Bags

Lots of folks these days are talking about the need to reduce the amount of oil we use, in the wake of the BP Gulf oil spill, as well as concerns about energy independence and greenhouse gas emissions. Each year, 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are given out around the planet. Only a tiny fraction of them are recycled, and most are used just once, to get a purchase from a store to home. Yet Environment California reports that plastic bags and similar plastic refuse kill up to one million sea creatures every year, since many of them end up as pelagic litter. U.S. retailers spend \$4 billion a year on 100 billion plastic bags, and they pass on the cost to consumers in the form of higher prices. That takes an estimated 12 million barrels of oil, an amount that would otherwise produce 240 million gallons of gasoline. If we take that 240 million and divide it by the U.S. population, roughly 310 million, that's 0.77 gallons per person, which is how much you'd save if you always bring your own bag. A similar amount can probably be saved by using reusable utensils, mugs and other items. Savings: 0.77 gallons of gas equivalent per year.

See www.thedailygreen.com for more tips.

NAS Whiting Field SANTA SCRAMBLE

December 3rd Tee off @ 10:00

**4 Person Golf Scramble
\$35.00 per person**

**First, Second & Third Place prizes
Closest to the Pin
Longest and Shortest Drive**

Pay the day of the tournament.

**Contact ACCS Trevor Rowe @ 623-7372 email trevor.rowe@navy.mil
or ACC Carl Proffen @ 623-7045 email carl.proffen@navy.mil**

Student Pilot

- (Cont. from Page 1)

experience and a great plane to fly."

Training Air Wing FIVE initiated its first class into ground school training for the new T-6B flight syllabus Apr. 19 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. The 14 students started the 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. Following completion of primary training, the students are selected for advanced training in their next airframe. Gaul was selected for helicopter training and Farkas for strike. So far, six of the original class have completed the program.

The T-6B TEXAN II is the newest training aircraft to hit the flight lines replacing the aging T-34 Turbomenter. Training Air Wing FIVE has more than 40 of the aircraft in service at NAS Whiting Field, and the "Texans" will continue to trickle in through 2013 when the transition will be complete with 156 planes. The T-6 has twice the performance power of the T-34 and is equipped with a digital display (glass) cockpit, heads-up display, and ejection seats.

"Like any new program, it's had some [difficulties], but overall it is an exceptional trainer," Hobson stated. "The students have adapted well to the newer technology and have been able to meet the standards for which we are training too."

The 26-week program trains flight students in the basic foundations of aviation. To complete the program, a student must have flown 75 aircraft hours, and 37 in the simulator. The program prepares students to move on to advanced aircraft and later into a fleet aircraft.

"This is an historic event - the beginning of a new era in primary training as we begin to close out the very successful career of the T-34 and introduce the Navy's newest trainer," Hobson said.



Ensign Robert Gaul earned a quick dunk in the solo pool for his accomplishment as the first student to complete training in the T-6 "Texan." The "Texan" is the newest training aircraft in the Navy's inventory. Photo courtesy of VT-3.



CNATT Det Milton Happenings

Left Photo: Commander Naval Aviation Technical Training Detachment Milton (CNATT DET Milton) staff celebrated the 235th birthday for the United States Marine Corps with a cake cutting ceremony Wednesday, Nov. 10. Maj. Dana Fike, Assistant Officer in Charge and the senior Marine present, led the cake cutting ceremony honoring all Marines past, present and future and the services and sacrifices made over the last 235 years. "It is very important to take time out and reflect on all the Marines who have and are serving in the Marine Corp. We have a proud heritage and it is my honor to play a role in such a ceremony. I have served in the Corps for 26 years, and each day I wear the uniform, and serve as a United States Marine, only makes my commitment stronger and makes me even prouder to serve," said Fike.

Right Photo: This day also was very special for two Marine instructors assigned to CNATT DET Milton. Master Sgt. Gerald Scott and Master Sgt. Jody Wiemholt both learned of their selection to the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant. This achievement is the pinnacle of all enlisted career Marines, signifying their remarkable performance and accomplishment that resulted in the attainment of the highest enlisted rank in the United States Marine Corps. Scott has been in the Marine Corps for 22 years in the Aviation Ordnance field and Wiemholt has served for 22 years in Aviation Maintenance, both will be promoted in 2011.

Congrats to TRAWING-5's Wingers and Scholars



Front row, left to right: Cmdr. Mathew R. Frost, commander, HT-28, USN; Lt. j.g. Leslie A. Brown, USCG; Ensign Meghan C. Snyder, USN; 1st Lt. Samuel L. Ksiaskiewicz, USMC; 1st Lt. James R. Gianelloni, USMC; 1st Lt. Jeffery W. Koller, USMC; 1st Lt. Joshua J. Wall, USMC and Capt. James L. Vandiver, commander, TW-5, USN.

Second row, left to right: Lt. Col. Shawn J. Coakley, commander, HT-18, USMC; Lt. j.g. John D. Cavanaugh, USN; Lt. j.g. Frank P. Minopoli, USCG; Lt. j.g. James P. Aguirre, USN; Lt. j.g. Wayne W. Cheney, USN; Lt. Jonathon R. Waechter, USCG; Lt. Bruce D. Wilson, USCG.

Third row, left to right: Cmdr. Michael D. Fisher, commander, HT-8, USN; Lt. j.g. Christopher C. Williams, USN; Lt. j.g. Michael W. Enloe, USN; 1st Lt. Bradley W. Beard, USMC; Lt. j.g. Felipe L. Guardiola, USCG; Ensign Daniel L. Moyer, USN and Capt. T. Michael Cashman, commodore, Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Atlantic, USN.



Left photo: Front row from left to right are: Ensign Walter Fredenhagen, USCG; 2nd Lt. Daniel Davis, USAF; Ensign Matthew Schreiner, USN; and Ensign Kyle Westman, USN. The second row contains 2nd Lt. Kelly Epperson, USMC; 1st Lt. Justin Schaber USMC-Ensign Richard Hall, USN; Lt. j.g. Jesse Ashmore, USN; and 2nd Lt. Scott Welshinger, USAF. Training Air Wing FIVE celebrates the academic achievements of nine students in the Wing headquarters Oct. 29.



Right Photo: The Oct. 22 academic award recipients are: Ensign Andrew Bacon, USCG; 2nd Lt. Casey Eickholt, USAF; 1st Lt. Phillip Break, USMC; and 1st Lt. Ryan Casey.