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Wednesday, September 8, 2010

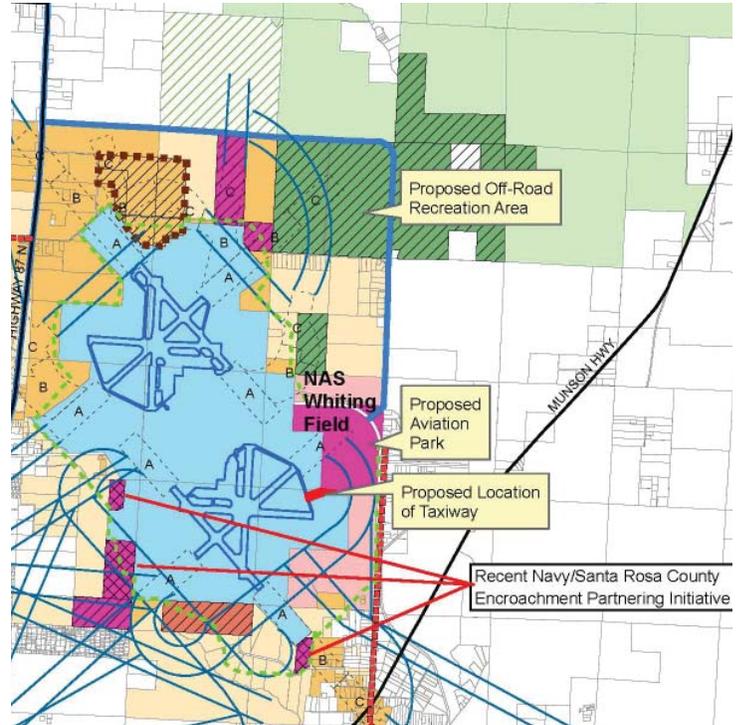
# SRC and Base Partner to Protect NASWF Mission

By Randy Roy, NAS Whiting Field Community Liaison

Naval Air Station Whiting Field partnered with Santa Rosa County in the recent 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. The southeast parcel could eventually be used for compatible light industrial development. Both parcels will help to restrict residential encroachment near base property.

"The Santa Rosa County / NASWF partnership continues to be one of the most unique partnerships in the country, where local government and the Navy work hand-in-hand to protect the mission of the base and the largest economic engine in the county. The property the county purchased is an investment, not only to protect the future of



- (Cont. on Page 5)

# Local Retiree Receives Prestigious Award for Past Service

*- Former HT-8 CO Earns Accolades from Thai Government*



Retired Navy captain, Walter "Bruce" Watson, Jr. receives the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant from the Thai ambassador July 22. Photo courtesy of Bruce Watson.

A Pensacola resident and former commanding officer of Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT was the first ever U.S. Naval attaché to receive the Royal Thai government's Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant decoration.

Retired Navy captain, Walter "Bruce" Watson, Jr., recently received the award from the government during a July 22 ceremony at the Royal Thai Embassy in Washington D.C. The medal recognized his service and support during his tenure as the U.S. Naval attaché in Bangkok, Thailand from June 2005 to June 2008.

The citation reads in part: "As recommended by the Royal Thai Government, in recognition of his distinguished services, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand is graciously pleased to bestow the decoration of 'Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant' upon retired Navy captain, Walter Bruce Watson Jr.

May he be blessed with health, happiness and prosperity

- (Cont. on Page 4)

# New Credit Card Rules In Place

By Eugene Jackson, FFSC Work and Family Life Consultant

Credit card companies saw a new set of rules implemented Aug. 22 which are designed to protect the consumer. The Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure (CARD) Act of 2009 mandated a lot of changes to the credit card industry.

Some of those changes went into effect Feb. 22. They included: 45 days notice for interest rate changes; ability to opt out of changes and pay off your balance over 5 years; restrictions on getting a credit card under age 21; and no more double billing cycles. Now new guidelines are in place. According to the Federal Reserve Board, here's what these new credit card rules include.

**Reasonable late-payment penalty fees** - In the past you paid the same expensive late fee whether your minimum required payment was small or large. The new rule says that your credit card company can't charge you more than \$25 for a late payment unless you've been late on one of your last six previous payments, in which case it can up the fee to \$35. Also, it can't charge you a late payment fee that's more than the minimum payment you owe. So if your minimum payment is only \$10 this month, then \$10 is all the company can charge you as a late fee.

**No inactivity fees:** No more being charged a fee for not using your card enough!

**One-fee limit** - You can't be charged more than one penalty fee for the same transaction.

**Explanation of rate increase** - If your credit card company increases the Annual Percentage Rate (APR) it charges you, it has to tell you why.

**Re-evaluation of rate increases** - If your credit card company does increase your APR, it has to re-evaluate that rate increase every six months. If it decides to lower your **rate based on that evaluation**, it has to do it within 45 days after completing the evaluation.

To learn more about the new credit card rules, visit the Federal Reserve Board's Web site. <http://www.federalreserve.gov/consumerinfo/>

A word to the wise: if you always pay your credit card on time you won't have to worry about penalty fees and your credit score will thank you!

# Correction

Last week's Whiting Tower incorrectly stated that the Spouse Appreciation Dinner/Dance was free for the spouse and the active duty member. The dinner is free for the spouse, but service members, as is the case for all other guests, must purchase a \$25 ticket. We apologize for any confusion. The dinner will now be held Oct. 15.

# Hall Signs Suicide Awareness Proclamation

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Capt. Pete Hall, Naval Air Station Whiting Field's commanding officer; signed a proclamation emphasizing the importance of suicide prevention at the Fleet and Family Support Center, Sept. 8. Hall was joined by Training Air Wing FIVE's Deputy Commodore Col. James Grace and several squadron commanders.

The proclamation announced September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and stressed the need for service members to be conscious of the needs of their shipmates. Constant vigilance for the signs of someone contemplating suicide is key to preventing it, and it is a year-round effort for the FFSC staff.



Capt. Pete Hall, Naval Air Station Whiting Field commanding officer, signs the Suicide Prevention Awareness Month proclamation at the NASWF Fleet and Family Support Center Sept. 8. The proclamation stresses intervention and training and states in part: "WHEREAS, The Department of the Navy (DON) suicide prevention effort seeks to use evidence based interventions with three aims: 1) to reducing risk factors, 2) to strengthening protective factors, and 3) to training Sailors and Marines to respond to suicide risks. This suicide prevention campaign is aimed at first responders - anyone who notices the warning signs of suicide and takes preventive action..." U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

"Suicide prevention is something we focus on all year long. The key is early, early recognition," said Lead Clinical Counselor Jeannine DeCuir, LCSW. "We appreciate leadership coming out and emphasizing the importance of this program. It is vital to have command support to make the program work."

With quarterly training efforts with the squadrons, constantly available counseling, active suicide prevention programs like Operation Stress Control, and peer-to-peer counseling programs, FFSC isn't just paying lip service to the program. It is an effort Hall appreciates.

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## News and Notes

**Wounded Warrior Golf Tournament** - The Wounded Warrior Program will have its second annual charity golf tournament Sept. 11 at Tiger Point Country Club. The event will be a two-man scramble format with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Registration will be between 10 a.m. and noon with an optional lunch available. Following the tournament, there will be a banquet dinner with the presentation of the prizes. Entry is \$75 per person. Please see [www.911wwpgolftournament.com](http://www.911wwpgolftournament.com) for additional information.

**September 11 Remembered** - The Naval Air Station Whiting Field Chief Selectees, Fire and Police Departments, and base Chaplains are sponsoring a 9/11 remembrance ceremony Friday, Sept. 10 in the NASWF Chapel at 9 a.m. Capt. Pete Hall, NAS Whiting Field's commanding officer, who was in the Pentagon during the attack will be the guest speaker.

**Allied Forces Soccer Fall Season** - The area military soccer program is resuming for it's Fall season. Anyone interested in playing soccer is welcome to join us for either our competitive (college level), Recreational/Co-ed or the new Under-19 teams. Teams from NAS Whiting Field, Cory Station, Naval Hospital and NAS Pensacola of forming for full field and small sided teams. Games against the All-Navy and All-Air Force teams as well as other area bases and universities are coming up this season. Practices and pick up matches are Thursdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at 5 p.m. on the Barrancas Field complex. For more information see our Allied Forces Soccer group site on FaceBook or contact David Toellner (850) 382-5494, [kiwi\\_soccer@yahoo.com](mailto:kiwi_soccer@yahoo.com).

**Semper Fi Charity Run** - Join the Marines and thousands of runners and participants Sept. 18, in this year's 5K run through scenic downtown Pensacola! All proceeds benefit local charities. The race will begin at 8 a.m. and will conclude with a post-race party at Seville Quarter. Participants may register online at [www.semperficharityrun.org](http://www.semperficharityrun.org). Please refer questions to [childrensr5k@gmail.com](mailto:childrensr5k@gmail.com).

**Spouses Night Out / Date Change** - The Santa Rosa County Council of the Navy League and the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Fleet and Family Support Center will host their 2nd annual Spouse/Ombudsman Appreciation Dinner and Dance Saturday, Oct. 15 from 6 p.m. until midnight at the base's Sikes Hall. The event is free for all active duty military spouses with a \$25 ticket cost for additional guests. Reservations are required and are requested to be made to the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce at 623-2339 by Sept. 6. The event is semi-formal and military dress is requested to be Service Dress Blue or better.

**The Patriot Quarterback Club Golf Tournament** - A golf tournament will be hosted by the Patriot Quarterback Club Monday, Sept. 13, at Stonebrook Golf Course. This is a 4-man scramble, with registration and lunch at noon and a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$75.00 per person. Entry fee includes lunch, green & cart fees & range balls. Prizes include: 1st place - \$100 gift certificate per player; 2nd place - \$75 gift certificate per player; 3rd place - \$50 gift certificate per player. Other prizes such as: Hole-In-One wins a new car, longest drive hole, closest to the pin hole, Hole-In-One prizes for all par 3's, are also possible to win. To sign up or get additional information, please contact Tom Hammond, at (850) 554-9389 or via email at [tom@selanddesign.com](mailto:tom@selanddesign.com).

**College Prep Class** - Do you have questions about enrolling and paying for college? Do you have children you would like to



**Recognizing Top Performers**  
Master-at-Arms Second Class Jason Donovan receives his Navy Achievement Medal certificate from Capt. Pete Hall, Naval Air Station Whiting Field commanding officer, Sept. 3. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Tyler Watters.

go to college? If you answered yes, then we have the meeting for you. NAS Whiting Field will be hosting a College Prep Workshop, 1000-1130, Thurs, 16 Sep 2010, in the Base Auditorium (Bldg. 2980). Experts will be on hand to answer questions about applying/paying for college and what specific services (active duty military/dependents) you qualify for. Representatives from local colleges and other support members will be available to aid in planning your (or your child's) future Education. An additional College Prep Workshop is scheduled that same evening (Thurs, 16 Sep 2010), 1800-1930, at Navarre High School Cafeteria. Please contact Chris Hendrix at 665-6105 for additional information.

**POW/MIA Ceremony** - The Milton Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 4833, will hold a POW/MIA remembrance ceremony Saturday, Sept. 18 at 2 p.m. at 5918 Carroll Rd in Milton. Please call Peggie Carroll at 623-6404 for details.

**Come Get Fit** - Come to the MWR Fitness Center and try our afternoon TRX classes. Classes will be held 5:30 - 6:30, beginning Monday Sept. 13, and will be offered every Monday and Wednesday in the basketball court. For additional information, please contact the MWR Fitness Center at 623-7412.

**Hispanic Heritage Month** - The NAS Whiting Field 1st Class Association will host an Hispanic American Heritage Celebration Luncheon, 1100-1200, Thurs, 23 Sep 2010, in Bldg. 2980 (Base Auditorium). Guest speaker will be Father Dennis O'Brien. Menu includes: Carnitas (Mexican Pork), Polo Guisado Tostones (Puerto Rican Chicken), Seven Bean Salad and Cake. All base personnel are invited and cost is FREE!

**Navy Birthday Ball** - The 235th Navy Ball 'New Horizons Preserving Traditions' will be held from 5 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Oct. 9, in Sikes Hall. Pre-register for Child Care at the CDC no later than Oct. 6 by calling 623-7472. The Navy Ball Committee pays half of the cost. For tickets, contact your division or squadron representatives or call 623-7045/7371.

## Upcoming Events

Sept. 9-10 - MCEC Transition Institute - Atrium  
Sept. 10, 0900 - September 11 Remembrance - Chapel  
Sept. 10, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Sept. 23, 1100 - Hispanic Heritage Luncheon - Auditorium  
Sept. 24, 0800 - Navy Ball Golf Tournament - Golf Course  
Sept. 24, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

# Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

## **HOW TO APPLY FOR A FEDERAL JOB - Tuesday, September 14 & 21 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

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 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.

## **CREDIT MANAGEMENT - Wednesday, September 15 - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Credit Management: Using Credit Wisely is a 60-90 minute program designed to help participants to use credit wisely, establish and maintain a good credit rating, and avoid excessive debt. Credit has become a normal part of everyday personal financial management for most Americans. Used appropriately it can be an excellent tool, but used the wrong way it can bring the financial wheels of your life to a grinding halt for a long, long time. This class will educate attendees on the wise and unwise use of credit, establishing credit history, the cost of credit, and the warning signs of having too much credit.

## **RESUME WRITING - Tuesday, September 28 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

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.

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## Award

- (Cont. from Page 1)

always."

In addition to flight training, Watson performed two tours at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. He served as a flight instructor with HT-18 from 1986 to 1989 and followed that up with the executive officer and commanding officer tour with HT-8 in 1996 to 1998. He also served as the executive officer of Naval Air Technical Training Center and as the executive director of the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training. Both commands are based at NAS Pensacola.

During his tour as commanding officer, the "Eightballers" led the training wing, and Navy, with 34,000 flight hours and 17,000 sorties. The unit exceeded pilot training goals by 9% and was recognized with the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) Training Excellence Award, CNO Safety Award, CNET Silver Anchor Award, and the Training Air Wing FIVE Community Service Award.

The attaché assignment was one Watson liked tremendously despite the heavy emphasis on ceremony and protocol. As an advisor to the U.S. ambassador to Thailand on military and Naval matters and as a liaison with other Navy organizations, the job held a number of interesting challenges.

He lists the effort to open the Port of Laem Chabang to U.S. Navy ships, to include aircraft carriers, as the accomplishment he cherishes the most. However, almost equally important was his role in arranging for a WWII Landing Craft Support Ship to be inducted into a Navy and Marine

Corps museum in California. The Royal Thai Navy ship, the HTMS Nakha served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific theater, was used in the Japanese Maritime Defense Force, and later was transferred to the Royal Thai Navy where it served for more than 40 years.

Watson helped coordinate the turnover of the ship back to the U.S. Navy, although the ship will retain the name HTMS Nakha, and arranged the transportation to the museum through a U.S. company.

But it was the friendships he established and maintains today, that made the time there so gratifying for him.

"I enjoyed the tour very much! The Thai people were great," he said. I knew I was making a good impression, but never realized it was that good."

When Watson left Thailand in 2008 he never gave any thought to receiving an award, since it had never happened before. He learned something was in the works when one of the Thai admirals he stays in contact with, called to congratulate him. A few days later he learned why, when he was invited by the Thai Naval Attaché, Capt. Pichet Tanaset, who is also a good friend from his days in Thailand, to come to D.C. and receive the award.

"I am both honored and greatly humbled, but I feel this award is also deserved by everyone who was assigned to the Defense Attaché Office in Bangkok, especially Cmdr. Ken Porter, my former Assistant Naval Attaché. I think it is as much his award as mine."

Watson retired with 30 years of service in 2009.

# Land Purchase

- (Cont. from Page 1)

Whiting, but to continue to provide land for public use," Salter said.

The Navy's contribution to the project of \$189,750 dollars was funded by the Navy through assets allocated specifically to protect the missions of Naval bases. These parcels are located within accident potential zones, high noise contours, flight tracks, and within an established military planning zone one-half mile around the base.

Naval Air Station Whiting Field is the Navy's "Crown Jewel" supporting primary and advanced helicopter training for aviators from the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force and foreign countries. Flight operations typically exceed 160,000 flight hours and average more than 1.5 million flight operations annually.

"The encroachment partnering efforts of Santa Rosa County and U.S. Navy is touted as the model program throughout the Department of Defense. These types of purchases and the tremendous relationship between the county and Navy continue to protect the mission of the Navy's busiest air station, through the reduction of incompatible use from areas where the operational noise might be intrusive or by keeping incompatible development away from potential accident zones," Randy Roy, NAS Whiting Field community liaison said.



**Don't Be Idle With Your Car** - Limit the amount of time you let your vehicle's engine run in the garage, and keep the garage door open. An idling vehicle emits twenty times more pollution than one traveling thirty-two miles per hour. There are sixty-five million garage owners in the United States. If 10 percent of garage owners were to idle their cars for just five fewer minutes per day, the total savings would be 84.5 million gallons of gas a year, enough for a million people to drive an average-size car across the country.

**Workin' at the Car Wash** - Washing your car in a commercial car wash is better for the environment than doing it yourself. Commercial car washes not only use significantly less water per wash – up to 100 gallons less – but they often recycle and reuse rinse water. If every American who currently washes a vehicle at home chose instead to go to a professional car wash – just once – up to 8.7 billion gallons of water could be saved, and some 12 billion gallons of soapy polluted water could be diverted from the country's rivers, lakes, and streams.

**Be a Drip...Irrigation User** - For flower beds and gardens, use drip irrigation or soaker hoses instead of regular sprinklers. You can save up to 70 percent of the water you would typically use because evaporation will be minimal and only base of plants will be receiving water as opposed to the leaves and foliage.

See [www.thedailygreen.com](http://www.thedailygreen.com) for more tips.



<p><b>\$35.00 per person</b>  <b>Four players per team</b>  <b>\$5.00 for</b>  <b>3 Mulligans and</b>  <b>1 Tee Buster</b>  <b>Prizes TBA</b>  <b>Start time 0800</b></p>	 <b>FRIDAY</b> <b>SEPTEMBER 24th</b>	<p>Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the 235th Navy Ball. Come out and make this a Great Navy Ball!</p>
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**Contact information:**

ACCS(AW/SW) Rowe - 623-7371 [trevor.rowe@navy.mil](mailto:trevor.rowe@navy.mil)  
 AC1 McGroarty [evan.mcgroarty@navy.mil](mailto:evan.mcgroarty@navy.mil)  
 AC3 Egerdahl [timothy.egerdahl@navy.mil](mailto:timothy.egerdahl@navy.mil)

Rain date October 1st

## This Week in U.S. Navy History Sept. 7

1776 - David Bushnell attempts to destroy British ship-of-the-line, HMS Asia, in New York Harbor with his submarine Turtle.

1814 - USS Wasp captures HMS Avon.

1942 - First air evacuation of casualties to hospital ships off shore occurs at Guadalcanal.

## Sept. 8

1939 - President Roosevelt increases enlisted strength in the Navy and Marine Corps; and authorizes the recall to active duty of officers, men and nurses on the retired lists of the Navy and Marine Corps.

1954 - U.S. signs Manila Treaty forming SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization).

# BBB Industry of the Month: Auto Repair and Service

**Pensacola, Fla. (August 25, 2010)** – Auto repair and service businesses were in the top 10, out of 1,700 industries, for both inquiries and complaints to your BBB Serving Northwest Florida in 2009. By highlighting an industry each month that had the most activity last year, BBB hopes to proactively provide the information that consumers seek from us as the leader in advancing marketplace trust.

If you're having car trouble or just looking for a business to perform routine maintenance, your BBB offers tips to find a reputable auto repair shop:

-Shop around before you need a mechanic to avoid being rushed into a last-minute decision.

-Ask friends, family, and other people you trust for recommendations. Get a free Reliability Report from your BBB on a specific business or request a free list of all BBB Accredited auto repair businesses in the area. Check with the state Attorney General's office or Department of Consumer Services to see if the business has a record of complaints.

-Shop around by telephone for the best deal, and compare warranty policies on repairs.

-Ask to see current licenses.

-Make sure the shop will honor your vehicle's warranty.

-Look for shops that display various certifications

- like an Automotive Service Excellence seal. Certification

indicates that some or all of the technicians meet basic standards of knowledge and competence in specific technical areas. Make sure the certifications are current, but remember that certification alone is no guarantee of good or honest work.

## Understanding repair charges

Before having work done, ask how the shop sets its prices. Some charge a flat rate for labor based on an independent or manufacturer's estimate of the time required to complete repairs. Others charge based on the actual time the technician worked on the repair.

If you need expensive or complicated repairs, or if you have questions about recommended work, consider getting a second opinion.

Find out if there will be a diagnostic charge if you decide to have the work performed elsewhere.

Shops that do only diagnostic work and don't sell parts or repairs may be able to give you an objective opinion about which repairs are necessary.

Before starting repairs, ask for a written estimate that identifies the condition to be repaired, the parts needed, and the anticipated labor charge; get a signed copy. The contract should state that the shop will contact you for approval before doing any work exceeding a specified amount of time or money.



## 18 September 2010

8:00am Start at Seville Quarter

## Register Today at:

[www.semperficharityrun.org](http://www.semperficharityrun.org)

# Suicide Prevention

- (Cont. from Page 2)

"Suicide is something that the Navy deals with all too regularly and it is tragic. We are blessed here at Whiting Field with a terrific support systems and FFSC team," he said just before he signed the proclamation.

Suicide is a preventable and unnecessary death and current programs target informing people who can serve as first responders - people who notice the warning signs and can get the potential victim proper assistance. The acronym ACT, short for Ask - Care - Treat, reminds service members that everyone is capable of saving a life and that prompt intervention is the best course.

The proclamation reads, in part: "The key message is that anyone in the Navy can save lives. Whether you are a junior-level Sailor, a captain, active duty or reserve, you can help people before it's too late. It takes all of us to prevent suicide; WHEREAS, EVERY LIFE COUNTS! THE NAVY ENCOURAGES INDIVIDUALS TO 'ACT'."

Laura McLaughlin, the current Suicide Prevention Awareness coordinator for FFSC, encouraged anyone needing help or who noticed warning signs in others to contact FFSC at 623-7177 immediately.

## Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4833 POW/MIA Candlelight Service



September 18, 2010 at 2PM, 5918 Carroll Rd  
Public Invited  
For More Information call (850) 623-4833

## SLOs Hosting College Preparation Workshop for Military Families

Experts in college preparation will be available Sept. 16 and 17 to help students plan for their future education. Three seminars will be held to inform students and their parents on issues to help attendees prepare for and pay for college educations.

School Liaison Officers Chris Hendrix from Naval Station Whiting Field, Carissa Bergosh from NAS Pensacola, and Judy Cromartie from NAS Mayport, Fla. are co-hosting the event along with a representative from Military One Source, a program to provide information on military benefits to families.

The 90-minute presentation will include topics such as: post-secondary planning, financial aid, military scholarships, and more. Local colleges will also have representatives available for students to speak with about their educational goals.

The seminars will be held at three separate locations. The first is Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. at NAS Whiting Field's base auditorium. Anyone with authorized base access is welcome to attend. One will be held at Navarre High School's cafeteria later that evening at 6 p.m. and the final seminar will be Sept. 17 at Corey Field's Child Development Center at 10 a.m.

For more information about these seminars, please contact Chris Hendrix at 665-6105 or 324-1154. He can also be reached via email at [Christopher.p.hendri@navy.mil](mailto:Christopher.p.hendri@navy.mil).

