



Vol. 68 No. 1

Wednesday, January 4, 2012

NAS Whiting Field 2011 retrospective

Editor's note: Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Training Air Wing FIVE and the entire base community enjoyed a memorable year in 2011. From a Senator's son being winged to the continued transition to the T-6B "Texan II," and the receipt of four commemorative aircraft to celebrate the Centennial of Naval Aviation, the year passed as one of the more eventful in the base's history. As the Navy, NAS Whiting Field, and Training Air Wing FIVE continue to train the air warriors and leaders our country needs, we can enthusiastically look toward another 100 years of Naval aviation.

January 13 - Two T-34C "Turbo Mentors" arrived at Naval Air Station Whiting field as part of a line of aircraft that were repainted to raise awareness of the Centennial of Naval Aviation. These aircraft returned from regularly scheduled maintenance with paint schemes reflecting the history of aviation training. The designs mimic training aircraft from the late 1930s.

January 14 - Married couple 1st Lt. Hyunhak Yim (Sam)
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Senator John McCain smiles as his son, Ensign John McCain, IV, receives his Wings of Gold during the pinning ceremony at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. The younger McCain completed initial helicopter training with Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN and was designated a pilot Jan. 28. Senator McCain, also a retired Navy Captain, served as the guest speaker for the ceremony. U.S. Navy file photo by Lt. j.g. Megan Dooner.

Trees for Troops caps holiday at NASWF



Air Traffic Controller 3rd Class Jacob Selph picks out a tree for his home. The trees were provided free to 50 service members at Naval Air Station Whiting Field by the Trees for Troops program. This is the second year the base has participated in the initiative. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

By Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Whiting Field capped the recent holidays with a fitting tribute to the spirit of the season. Free Christmas trees were distributed to air station Sailors as a gesture of goodwill and gratitude.

The base's Chief Petty Officer and First Class Mess, in conjunction with Federal Express, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation, the Foundation, and participating tree farms, provided fifty trees for families of junior enlisted personnel.

The air station's tenant commands and enlisted leaders played a key role in spreading word of the program and ensuring that each tree found a home. Targeted efforts to assist families and fill identified needs ensured that all trees were distributed within four hours of their delivery to the base.

Every resource was engaged to ensure that qualifying families were recognized and invited to participate.

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Year in review

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and 1st Lt. Sarah Megan Yim pinned on each other's wings, during TRAWING-5's first winging ceremony of the calendar year.

January 28 – Arizona senior Senator, retired Navy Captain, and former presidential candidate John McCain served as the guest speaker for a winging ceremony at Naval Air Station Whiting Field that included his son. Ensign John S. McCain IV, received his "wings of gold" following his completion of initial helicopter training.

February 18 - Base security is awarded the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Captain's Cup for 2010. Capt. Pete Hall, NAS Whiting Field commanding officer, and Todd Mooneyham for Morale, Welfare and Recreation presented the award.

February 20-27 - Naval Air Station Whiting Field kicked off its annual Military Saves Campaign with a series of classes, information booths and flyers to inform Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines about fiscal security.

February 24 - Aviation Boatswain's Mate First Class Shane Ammons represented NAS Whiting Field at the Margaret Flowers Civic Award luncheon, which honors those who displayed leadership and community engagement. It was presented by the Pensacola Council of the Navy League.

March - Training Squadron SIX begins T-6B transition from the venerable T-34C.

March 2 - CMDCM Rafael E. Rosado becomes Naval Air



Capt. Pete Hall receives his end of tour award during the Naval Air Station Whiting Field change of command. Hall transferred to Washington D.C. to work in the Pentagon. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso.



Master-at-Arms 1st Class Adam Turner carves the turker for the Child Development Center's annual Thanksgiving meal for the children and their families at the facility. U.S. Navy file photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso.

Station Whiting Field's newest command master chief (CMC). His 27-year career spans both submarine and surface warfare communities.

March 4 - Helicopter Training Squadron TWENTY-EIGHT observed a change of command. Lt. Col. Mark Thompson assumes command from Cmdr. Matthew Frost.

March 10 - Outdoor Adventures program by Morale, Welfare and Recreation began renting equipment such as kayaks, canoes, mountain bikes, telescopes for stargazing, and all the necessities for backpacking and camping.

March 15 - Naval Air Station Whiting Field bade farewell to a local landmark March 15 with the demolition of the Wing's Club and Convention Complex.

March 18 - Cmdr. John C. Hensel, USN, officially took command of Training Squadron TWO "Doerbirds" from Capt. Timothy M. McGuire. McGuire went to Washington, D.C. to assume the position of Deputy Director of Coast Guard Health and Safety.

March 31 - Naval Air Station Whiting Field's new Diversity Committee held its first Women's History Month observance luncheon with the theme "Our History is Our Strength," in the base auditorium.

April 14 - Naval Air Station Whiting Field's commissary staff celebrated the Month of the Military Child by embracing First Lady Michelle Obama's campaign against child obesity. The store hosted 14 children from the Child Development Center on base for a look around the store and a fun presentation about foods for a healthy diet.

April 18 – Thirty-five T-34 aircraft formerly of Training Air Wings FOUR and FIVE reached their service life limit and were scrapped for parts in order to keep other T-34s operational until the transition to the new T-6B Texan is complete.

April 29 - Naval Air Station Whiting Field hosted sixty second graders for the base's second annual Wildlife Ecology Field Day. The students, from Bagdad Elementary School, experienced a day of hands-on activities designed to foster respect, appreciation, and understanding of the Northwest Florida environment.

May - Naval Air Station Whiting Field installed a high-tech arsenal of utility meters on all major base structures. They utilize radio signals to provide instant consumption data for

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News and Notes

ERAU Registration - Embry Riddle Aeronautical University is now registering for the Spring term through Jan. 9, 2012. Hours on board NAS Pensacola are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Fridays in Bldg. 634, Suite 033, 250 Chambers Avenue. Hours on board NAS Whiting Field are Wednesdays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Bldg. 1417, Room 163. Late registration and add/drop a course for a full refund will be held Jan. 9-13. Classes begin Jan. 9. New Student Orientation will be held Wednesday, Jan. 4 between 5 - 6 p.m. on board NAS Pensacola in Bldg. 634, Suite 033. Embry Riddle Aeronautical University's Pensacola campus offers certificate programs, associate and bachelors degree programs with various specializations in Professional Aeronautics and Technical Management and the Master of Aeronautical Science degree. Email pensacola@erau.edu, visit www.embryriddle.edu/pensacola or call 458-1098 for more information.

Carnival Cruise Specials - The Information Tickets and Travel (ITT) office at Naval Air Station Whiting Field has "Pack and Go" opportunities for heavily discounted cruise specials. These include: a four-day cruise for two ~ Leaves 2/2/12 from New Orleans and sails to Western Caribbean ~ \$771.92 for interior and a four-day cruise for two ~ Leaves 1/26/2012 from Jacksonville, Fla. and sails to Freeport/Nassau ~ \$729.90 for interior. As "Pack and Go" opportunities, these are limited and must be fully paid at booking. Call the ITT office at x7032 for details.

Precautionary Report - Dr. Jo Ann Rooney, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, advised the three exchange commanders and directed the Defense Commissary Agency to temporarily remove all dietary supplements containing the ingredient dimethylamylamine (DMAA, trademark name Geranamine) until more information is gathered. Dr. Rooney's decision is a precautionary measure and in the interest of the health of service members and their families."

Wings Over America - The Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation is currently accepting applicants for their 2012 college scholarships. The fund offers scholarships to dependent spouses and children of active duty, retired, honorably discharged or deceased servicemembers. The sponsors must have served in naval aviation and subordinate commands. More than 40 scholar-



Retaining Our Best and Brightest
Aviation Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Joseph Sokpoli stands at attention as Lt. Russell Lawrence reads his Honorable Discharge certificate. Sokpoli reenlisted for six more years in the midfield hangar Nov. 22. Photo courtesy of Navy Counselor 1st Class Gwendolyn King.

ships were awarded in 2011. Check www.wingsoveramerica.us for qualification forms or to review eligibility requirements.

Leave Donor Program - A fellow DON civil service employee, Ms. Deloris Moffett, at the Base Communications Office in Pensacola, FL, has been approved to become a leave recipient under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. For those interested in donating annual leave to Ms. Moffett, please complete Form OPM 630-A (attached) and forward to Ms. Karen Dickerson, email: karen.dickerson@navy.mil. Ms. Dickerson can be reached at 904-542-4110 or DSN 942-4110.

Military Mardi Gras - The Coast Guard ATC Mobile sponsored Gulf Coast Military Mardi Gras Ball will be held on Friday February 10th 2012. It is open to all military branches. It will take place at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza in Downtown Mobile. Discounted rooms are available at the hotel, but they usually run out pretty quickly. Tickets and more information is available at www.militarymardigras.com

Health Notice - The following information was released by Cynthia Smith, DoD Spokeswoman, Defense Press Office, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs):
"Dr. Jo Ann Rooney, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, advised the three exchange commanders and directed the Defense Commissary Agency to temporarily remove all dietary supplements containing the ingredient dimethylamylamine (DMAA, trademark name Geranamine) until more information is gathered. Dr. Rooney's decision is a precautionary measure and in the interest of the health of service members and their families."



Capping Off a Great Christmas

Members of the Helicopter Training Squadron TWENTY-EIGHT staff ham it up with an ugly hat contest for the holiday. Debbie Poole (kneeling left) took home the honors with Theresa Houston (second from left standing) finishing a close second. Photo courtesy of HT-28.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 13, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Jan. 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Jan 27, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Feb. 23 - Presidents' Day Holiday

Feb. 23, 1100 - Navy League P-Cola Civic (Margaret Flowers)

Award Luncheon - New World Landing

Navy COOL Offers Opportunities for Sailors

PENSACOLA, Fla. -- Naval administration message (NAVADMIN) 396/11 released Dec. 22 provides important information on credentialing opportunities available through Navy Credentialing Opportunities Online (COOL) for those selected for separation under FY-12 quota-based Enlisted Retention Board (ERB).

Navy COOL is a centralized, Web-based hub that consolidates information from numerous sources at the federal, state and local levels on certifications, licenses, apprenticeships and growth opportunities that correspond with each Navy rating, job and occupation. Navy COOL also provides funding for Navy enlisted personnel to obtain these civilian licenses and certifications.

The message describes how Sailors identified for separation may apply for a waiver from the Navy COOL requirement to have a minimum one year remaining on their enlistment to apply for funding toward commercial certi-

fication and/or licensure exams found on the Navy COOL website, <https://www.cool.navy.mil>.

"Though it isn't the purpose of the Navy's credentialing program to be used solely as a component of transition, earning an industry-recognized certification or license may provide a key factor toward a successful transition from Sailor to civilian employee," said Keith Boring, program manager, U.S. Navy Credentials Program Office.

To be eligible for credentialing, enlisted Sailors must meet one of the following eligibility requirements: they must be in the appropriate rating or occupation to which the credential is mapped; be currently working in, or have been assigned to a position to which the credential is mapped; or have prior documented experience in a position to which the credential is mapped for credentials outside of their specific rating, and the credential has relevance or applicability to

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Join us for a day of exploring one of the few state parks in Florida with dry (air filled) caves and the only Florida state park to offer cave tours to the public. This cave has dazzling formations of limestone stalactites, stalagmites, soda straws, flowstones and draperies. Once we arrive at the park we will be taking a guided tour of the cave. The tour lasts for about 45 minutes and takes you along a path about 1600 feet long. There you can view a number of beautiful formations as they are explained by your tour guide. Once we are out of the cave we will eat lunch in the park and then we can explore the trails around the cave and check out the Blue Hole Spring.

For more information or to sign up please contact the Outdoor Adventure Program on board NAS Whiting Field at 850-623-7670 or email us at Outdooradventure.wf@gmail.com



**Florida Caverns State Park
Guided Cave Tour
February 4, 2012
\$20.00 per person**

Trees for Troops

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"We also received request from Fleet Family services whose unique knowledge of Sailors and Soldiers for establishing needs is important to the process," Naval Air Station Whiting Field Command Master Chief Raphael Rosado related.

2011 marked the second year of the air station's participation in the program. Previously, the program had made trees available to all base personnel, including Sailors, Officers, and civilians, but this season's distribution focused on areas of greatest need.

MWR Director Joseph Vukovcan lauded the hands-on involvement of the base's senior enlisted leadership in executing a seamless progression from the selection to delivery phases of the donations.

"The trees came in on December eighth, and [Command Master Chief Rosado] had already generated a list of who would get them.

"They were dropped in back of the Chiefs' Mess, and when the Chiefs heard the trees were in, they delivered them to their Sailors," Vukovcan recalled.

The Trees for Troops program has donated approximately 100 Christmas trees to air station families

since 2010. The Christmas Spirit Foundation worked through base MWR to arrange delivery of the trees to the Chief's Mess, which acted as this season's conduit to air station families.

"I really like the way it was done this year, and the CMC got these trees to the right people," Vukovcan said.

Trees were donated by over 650 participating tree farms, and the Christmas Spirit Foundation works with MWR representatives for all five branches of the Military to distribute the offerings.

The Trees for Troops program is an annual initiative of the Christmas Spirit Foundation, which is a registered non-profit arm of the National Christmas Tree Association

Over 50 military bases in 29 states received trees through the programs, which were facilitated by the tree farmers and individual donors who chose to express their appreciation for the sacrifices military members make throughout the year.

In addition to stateside distributions, 1,700 trees were shipped overseas to personnel who are forward deployed.

"We're planning on doing this for as long as [the Foundation] will support it," Vukovcan concluded.

Weekly Spotlight - AWS2 Michael Watson

Branch of service:

USN

Hometown:

Ft. Worth, Texas

Job title:

Aviation Warfare Specialist/AirCrewman

Command:

Helicopter Training Squadron

TWENTY EIGHT

Years in service:

Six-and-one-half years

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I like everything. If I could do it for 20 years, I would. I like the work hours and having seniority. I like the flying and the people. Everyone is positive and has a great attitude.

What is the best part of working for/with the Navy?

The best part would be getting the pilots trained. I feel like I have a hand in shaping the finished product, the pilots.

What do you envision yourself doing in 5 years?

I hope to have a recording contract for my country music band, "Carbondale". Also I would like to go into radiology.



Santa Rosa County announces tree recycling sites

- Residents urged to recycle materials year round

Santa Rosa County residents are urged to start the New Year "green" by recycling their live Christmas trees. Trees dropped off by Tuesday, January 31 at the five recycling areas around the county will be chipped and offered as free mulch at Clean Community System in Milton at a later date to be announced.

When dropping off trees, please place the trees in the designated area identified by signage. Do not place trees in front of the recycling containers. Trees can be disposed at (Maps available online at www.santarosa.fl.gov/recycle):

- * Clean Community System on Park Avenue
- * Quintette Recycle Area at the Five Points Intersection
- * Pace Patriot Boulevard next to Pace Volunteer Fire Department
- * Tiger Point recreation area in Gulf Breeze, east of Walmart
- * Jay Transfer Station, on Transfer Station Road

With more recycling choices available in Santa Rosa County than ever before, recycling is an easy New Years resolution to make for 2012. Citizens can recycle glass, metal, plastic containers, paper and cardboard with curbside collections by their garbage collection service, taking items to one of the 26 recycling drop off sites located throughout the county, or hauling the items to the Central Landfill or Gulf Breeze and Jay transfer stations.

Residents are also reminded that recycle areas are not disposal areas for furniture or household garbage that is not sorted, recyclable material. Please do not dispose of carpet, furniture, toilets, sinks, vinyl flooring, or wicker furniture in the recycle bins. Not only can people be fined for illegal dumping, it can cause the site to be closed or relocated, which can be a great inconvenience to those that are using the site as intended. A list of all Santa Rosa County recycling points and acceptable materials can also be found on the county's website at: www.santarosa.fl.gov/recycle.

This Week in Naval History

Jan. 4

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

1989 - Aircraft (VF-32) from USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) shoot down 2 hostile Libyan Migs.

Jan. 5

1875 - CDR Edward Lull begins expedition to locate best ship canal route across Panama. Route followed 30 years later.

1968 - First Male Nurse Corps officer in Regular Navy, Lt. Clarence W. Cote.

Jan. 6

1916 - First enlisted flight training class at Pensacola, Fla.

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

Jan. 7

1960 - The first fully-guided Polaris missile is launched at Cape Canaveral, Fla. It flew 900 miles.

1967 - The Mobile Riverine Force begins arriving at Vung Tau, Vietnam.

1991 - Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney gives the coup de grace to the Navy's behind-schedule, over-budget A-12 Avenger stealth aircraft. At more than \$52 billion, is the largest defense contract ever canceled.

Ec-nomics

Nearly one in four cars needs an air filter replacement. A clean air filter can improve gas mileage by as much as 10%. Cost Savings: 20 cents a gallon*.

Poor alignment not only causes tires to wear out more quickly, but also forces your engine to work harder. Align your tires, and save up to 10%

When was your last tune up? A properly maintained engine can improve mileage by up to 4%

Believe it or not, it's been estimated that nearly 17% of cars on the road have broken or missing gas caps. What's the big deal? Escaping fumes not only hurt fuel economy but release smog-causing compounds into the air. Avoiding air pollution and improving fuel mileage is as easy as replacing a bad gas cap.

For every 5 mph you reduce highway speed, you can reduce fuel consumption by 7%

Riding with your foot on the brake pedal will not only wear out brake pads (which will cost you at the maintenance shop) but can also increase gas consumption by as much as 35%. Cost Savings: 70 cents per gallon.

Besides causing pollution, idling wastes gas. If stopped for more than 30 seconds, turn off the engine, and don't bother to "warm up" your car before driving -- it is not necessary.

See www.thedailygreen.com for more tips.

Year in review

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Naval Air Station Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Pete Hall addresses the audience at the University of West Florida Memorial Day remembrance ceremony. Hall was the featured speaker for the event and other members of the NAS Whiting Field team participated in the ceremony to recognize the sacrifices of America's military service members. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso.

Whiting Field moved to a temporary location on base while the main clinic building continues to undergo extensive heating and air conditioning upgrades

June 17 - Cmdr. Sean Maybee passed command of Training Squadron SIX to Lt. Col. Danny Verda. Under Maybee, VT-6 reduced its average student time-to-train to less than 31.5 weeks, producing more student military aviators in less time than any primary training squadron.

June 24 - Lt. Col. Shawn Coakley passed the command of Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN to Cmdr. Jeffrey DeBrine. Col. Kevin Wild, National Plans Branch Head, Plans, Policies and Operations Department, Headquarters Marine Corps served as the guest speaker for the occasion.

June 30 - The Navy and State Environmental Protection partnership scored a big win with the acquisition of 172 acres adjacent to the eastern fence line of Naval Air Station Whiting Field. This purchase was the second of its kind in fiscal year 2011. An additional purchase was completed earlier and encompassed about 175 acres.

July - Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO) celebrated its 40th anniversary. For married couples that participate in retreats, Lt. Cmdr. Raymond Summerlin, NAS Whiting Field Command Chaplain said, "It's an opportunity to get people out of their uniforms, a chance for them to relax, and maybe a way to connect with their spouse. Couples truly respond to the marriage retreats and often re-bond with each other."

July 7 - Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Ray Mabus, presented the Department of the Navy Safety Excellence Award to Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN during the award ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial.

July 17-30 - Naval Air Station Whiting Field hosted 71 recruit Naval Sea Cadet Corps cadets in boot camp style training. Recruits came from several different units around the nation, including the following states: Alabama; California; Florida; Georgia; Minnesota; Mississippi; Louisiana; and Texas.

August 3 - NAS Whiting Field has recognized its distinguished enlisted personnel for the Third Quarter of 2011. Air Traffic Controller First Class Thorice Armstrong was selected as Sailor of the Quarter, Aviation Boatswains Mate Second Class Edwards A. Forbes was recognized as Junior Sailor of the Quarter, and Air Traffic Controller Darrah L. Crow was selected as NAS Whiting Field's Bluejacket of the Quarter.

September 9 - Following 15 months at the helm, Lt. Col. George K. Hobson passed command of Training Squadron THREE to Cmdr. Philip M. Brock in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field atrium. Col. Christopher M. Marcell, Professor of Leadership and Warfare Studies at the United States Air Force Academy, served as the guest speaker for the event.

September 11 - Naval Air Station Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Pete Hall spoke at the Milton High School

electricity, water, and gas.

May 2 - A new paraloft, located between the North Field hangar and the Training Squadron THREE line shack, began construction. The paraloft will issue gear to outfit T-6 students and instructors in a more timely and efficient manner.

May 13 - Santa Rosa County hosted approximately two thousand service men and women, their families, retirees, and civilian employees at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. They enjoyed the generosity of the community during the annual Military Appreciation Day Picnic.

May 26 - The Naval Air Station Whiting Field Diversity Committee hosted an engaging celebration of the history and culture of the Western Pacific with its Asian Pacific American Heritage Month luncheon.

Dr. My-Huong T. Nguyen shared her story of her extended family emigrating from Vietnam to America in 1975.

May 26 - University of West Florida hosted a Memorial Day ceremony in which Naval Air Station Whiting Field posted and retired the colors. NAS Whiting Field Command Master Chief Rafael Rosado and Commanding Officer Capt. Pete Hall attended the ceremony.

June 2 - The Naval Branch Health Clinic at Naval Air Station

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Year in review

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As Training Air Wing FIVE transitioned to the new T-6 Texan II, T-34 Turbomentors were pulled from the aircraft rotation. Many were sent to NAS Corpus Christi to augment their flightline for training, but others were scrapped and shredded for the spare metal. U.S. Navy file photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso.

Combined Federal Campaign. 2011 was CFC's 50th anniversary. The CFC was established by the federal government in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy to promote charitable donations and service by federal employees.

October 17 - The final class of T-34C ground school students began for Training Air Wing FIVE (at Training Squadron TWO), as the wing continues to transition to the T-6B Texan II.

October 21 - Cmdr. Jeffrey Chown passed responsibility for the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Detachment, Milton, Fla. to Lt. Cmdr. Vencent Logan during a change of charge ceremony aboard Naval Air Station Whiting Field. CNATT Commanding Officer Capt. Terry M. Burt acted as guest speaker and presiding officer for the occasion.

November - Naval Air Station Whiting Field officially recognized Sailor of the Quarter awards for the fourth quarter. Sailor of the Quarter was awarded to Master-at-Arms First Class Adam M. Turner, Junior Sailor of the Quarter, Master-at-Arms Second Class Erica D. Roten, and Blue Jacket of the Quarter, Air Traffic Controller Airman Charlotte A. Miller.

November - Naval Air Station Whiting Field announced Sailor of the Year honors. Air Traffic Controller First Class Thorice Armstrong was selected for Sailor of the Year, Air Traffic Controller Second Class Ayanna Gregg was named the Junior Sailor of the Year, and Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handler) Third Class Ogarry Clarke earned Blue Jacket of the Year.

November 10 - Naval Air Station Whiting Field welcomed its new commanding officer, Capt. Matthew Coughlin. Capt. Pete Hall was relieved by Coughlin after an exchange of salutes to Rear Adm. John Scorby, Commander Navy Region Southeast. Coughlin became the 39th commander officer of NAS Whiting Field.

November 17 - The NAS Whiting Field Child Development Center hosted its annual Thanksgiving celebration. Service members joined their children to give thanks for family, fun, and food on the eve of the quintessential American holiday.

November 23 - Naval Air Station Whiting Field recognized the professional advancement of 25 outstanding Sailors at a frocking ceremony. Base Commanding Officer Capt. Matthew Coughlin presented each selectee with a personalized frocking letter and congratulations.

November 30 - Capt. Guy O. Vilardi passed command of the Training Air Wing FIVE Reserve Component to Cmdr. Jay R. Vannice in a ceremony aboard Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Rear Adm. John Sadler, Commander, Naval Air Force Reserve, Deputy Commander, Naval Air Forces, Deputy Commander, Naval Air Forces Pacific Fleet, acted as presiding officer and guest speaker.

December 2 - Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT held a change of command ceremony in which Cmdr. Hans Sholley passed authority to Cmdr. Paul Bowdich at the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Atrium. Training Air Wing FIVE Commodore Col. James Grace was on hand to serve as the guest speaker. In total, Sholley oversaw more than 20,000 flight hours, 11,000 sorties, and the winging of 193 professional aviators.

December 6 - Naval Air Station Whiting Field marked its 20th consecutive year as a National Arbor Day Foundation, "Tree City, USA." The base celebrated the platinum anniversary of its green leadership by planting a sapling river birch on the grounds of the air station's fire department.

Stadium at an event entitled, "Santa Rosa County God and Country Rally – Restoring Faith in God, Country, and Patriotism."

September 12 - The Flight Instructor Training Unit of Training Air Wing FIVE marked the end of T-34C Turbo Mentor instructor training. Lt. Don Lauderdale, U.S. Navy, and Capt. William Wilkerson, U.S. Air Force, both of Training Squadron TWO, were the final instructors to be qualified to train students in the T-34C.

September 22 - Deputy Commodore Col. James Grace relieved Capt. James Vandiver of duties as Commander of Training Air Wing FIVE. Among the distinguished guests were Assistant Secretary of the Navy, The Honorable Juan M. Garcia, III and Rear Admiral William G. Sizemore II, Chief of Naval Air Training.

September 30 - Akiko "Suzie" Daniels finished more than 40 years working for the Navy Exchange system and over 39 at NAS Whiting Field.

October 5 - Naval Air Station Whiting Field kicked off the

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the current or future needs of the command or the Navy Reserve.

Eligibility for Sailor credentials must be validated and approved by their commanding officer or command-designated approving official. Additionally, before authorizing the request commands must also certify that Sailors have passed their most recent advancement exam, and passed or been medically waived from their most recent physical fitness assessment. The Sailor must not have received any non-judicial or courts-martial punishment within the past six months, and they must be selected for separation under FY-12 quota-based ERB.

Sailors must be able to complete all certification requirements no less than 60 calendar days prior to separation from the Navy. Personnel must also satisfy credentialing agency eligibility requirements for the certification/licensure being sought prior to requesting exam funding.

If a service member decides to withdraw the request for exam funding or is unable to complete the Navy-funded credentialing exam prior to 60 calendar days from separating from the Navy, they are required to return any voucher not used and provide correspondence from their commanding officer confirming withdrawal for military or emergency reasons.

Sailors must also provide pass and fail results to Navy's credential program office within 30 calendar days of notification of exam results from the credentialing agency.

Service members affiliating with the Navy Reserve will remain eligible for continued Navy-funded credentialing exams.

“Navy COOL operates one of the most valuable ancillary programs for Sailors. It is the most organized and painless program I've used in my 23 years of naval service. Once approved, I wasn't sent a generic list of instructions; rather it was specifically tailored to the program I was applying for. It's obvious that Navy COOL maintains contact with the programs they support,” said Senior Chief Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Brett Wallace who recently became certified in Anti-Terrorism and Homeland Security. “Getting my certificate in the mail was better than getting a \$500 bonus for the month, the cost of the certificate program, because I'm more competitive for advancement within the Navy and better poised for civilian employment when I retire.”

The certification and licensure exam voucher request form may be downloaded from Navy COOL website, <https://www.cool.navy.mil> and submitted electronically through e-mail to navycool@navy.mil, or faxed (850) 452-6897.

For more information about Navy credentialing opportunities visit <https://www.cool.navy.mil>

For more details on the ERB exemption, review NAVADMIN 396/11.

NAS Whiting Field MWR Outdoor Adventure Program January 2012 - September 2012 Adventure Trip Schedule	
<p>Blackwater Backpacking/Camping January 14-16 (MLK day) \$60.00</p> <p>Florida Caverns Tour Day Trip February 4 \$20.00</p> <p>Oak Mountain Mt. Bike/ Hike/Camp February 18-20 (President's Day) \$70.00</p> <p>UWF Mountain Biking Day Trip March 10 \$15.00</p> <p>Fort Pickens Camping March 24-25 \$50.00</p> <p>Fort Pickens Day Kayaking Trip April 14 \$15.00</p> <p>Ocoee Whitewater Rafting III-IV+ April 27-29 \$160.00</p> <p>Tallahatchee Gorge Full Moon Hike May 5-6 \$70.00</p> <p>Stand-up Paddle Board Day Trip May 12 \$20.00</p>	<p>Chattooga Whitewater Rafting III-V May 26-28 (Memorial Day) \$180.00</p> <p>Nantahala Whitewater Rafting I-II+ June 29-July 1 (Families Welcome) \$110.00</p> <p>Stand-up Paddle Board Day Trip July 14 \$20.00</p> <p>Ocoee Whitewater Rafting III-IV+ July 27-29 \$160.00</p> <p>Adventures Unlimited Tubing Trip August TBA \$15.00</p> <p>Cheoah Whitewater Rafting (experienced rafters only) September 1-3 (Labor Day) \$200.00</p> <p>Blackwater Canoeing Day Trip September 15 \$10.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For more information please contact us at 850-623-7670 or email us at outdooradventure.wf@gmail.com</p>