



Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, FL

Forging Wings for the Fleet

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# VITA program kicks-off to help file income taxes

By Ensign James Hedman, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program has returned to Naval Air Station Whiting Field to assist with 2012 income tax filings. The VITA program provides free tax advice, tax preparation, and tax filing each year in the months leading up to the April filing date.

VITA began providing services to active duty, dependants, retirees, and reservists on active duty for more than 30 days, Monday, Jan. 30.

The volunteers who run the program provide their services free of charge, which can mean a substantial savings from the cost of using a local tax service company or a Certified Public Accountant. The VITA program also provides electronic filing (ELF). Traditionally, taxes filed through the mail could take months to complete processing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). With the Navy ELF system, tax returns are expedited to be received within fourteen days.



Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Derek Jackson counsels Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handler) Cesar Rivera on his tax filings as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program at NAS Whiting Field. VITA provides free tax advice, preparation, and filing to active duty service members, reservists and retirees. The office opened Jan. 30 and is taking calls for appointments at 850-665-6120.

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# TRAWING-5 supports youths with Caps to Kids program



The Caps for Kids program gives Sailors an opportunity to present Navy ballcaps to children facing serious illnesses in hospitals across the country. Training Air Wing FIVE has been collecting caps and tee-shirts to present to the program coordinators. The Navy Office of Community Outreach has been supporting the program for more than ten years. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso.

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

Training Air Wing FIVE and their tenant commands are bringing Navy colors to children in need through the Navy's Caps for Kids outreach program.

The Caps for Kids program is a unique and meaningful outreach program conducted solely to raise the spirits of children fighting serious illnesses in hospitals across the country. Under the program, Sailors visit children's hospitals and present patients with Navy ball caps and other Navy mementos, and conferring on them the title of "Honorary Sailor."

The Caps for Kids program is made possible by the generosity of Navy commands around the Fleet which elect to donate caps and other materials.

The program, which is coordinated through the Navy Office of Community Outreach, has been a valuable community service program for over a decade.

TRAWING-5 has been an enthusiastic participant

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# Saving for College: Ways to Minimize the Sticker Shock

*Editor's Note: This is the third in a series of financial notes the Whiting Tower will run through the Military Saves Campaign Feb. 19-25. All these notes will inform about money savings or financial issues to help service members "build wealth not debt."*

There's no doubt that a college education can be costly, but according to U.S. Census Bureau data, someone with a college degree can earn, on average, 60 percent more than a person with only a high school diploma. Now, as states tighten their belts and higher-education budgets are squeezed, we follow up with tips on saving for college.

Start planning and saving for college as early as possible. "Small, steady savings — ideally starting as soon as possible after a child is born — can help parents manage the sticker shock of a college education," said Luke W. Reynolds, Chief of the FDIC's Community Outreach Section.

Estimate how much you need to save to meet college expenses. Several online calculators can help, including one from the U.S. Department of Education (go to [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) and click on "College Savings Calculator"). Research your savings options. Some come with substantial tax benefits or other incentives. In each case, carefully consider the potential risks, costs and limitations before in-

vesting any money. Examples include Section 529 college savings plans. These programs, which are mostly offered by individual state governments, carry many of the same federal tax benefits as Roth Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). There are two basic kinds of 529 plans: pre-paid tuition programs that allow savers to lock in today's prices for future tuition payments at designated universities, and traditional savings plans that allow families to contribute money into investments or FDIC-insured deposit accounts.

Also, consider U.S. Savings Bonds. "One of the great things about Savings Bonds is that parents can purchase them through regular, recurring deductions from their salary or a bank account," said Elna Johns, an FDIC financial educator. Savings bonds are backed by the government, but one tradeoff for the safety is a moderate rate of return. For qualifying taxpayers, the interest earned is exempt from state or local income tax, and the bonds may be exempt from federal income tax when they are used for education expenses. Learn more at [www.treasurydirect.gov/indiv/indiv.htm](http://www.treasurydirect.gov/indiv/indiv.htm).

*From FDIC Consumer News Winter 2010/2011 (<http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/news/cnwin1011/college.html>):*

## This Week in Naval History

### Feb. 6

1778 - Treaties of commerce and alliance are signed with France. This turns the American Revolutionary War into an international conflict.

1862 - A Union gunboat squadron captures Fort Henry on the Tennessee River.

1991 - Within two hours of relieving her sister battleship during the Gulf War, USS Wisconsin (BB 64) conducts her first naval gunfire support mission since the Korean War, destroying an Iraqi artillery battery in Southern Kuwait.

### Feb. 7

1800 - USS Essex becomes the first U.S. Navy vessel to cross the equator.

1815 - The Board of Naval Commissioners, a group of senior officers, is established to oversee the operation and maintenance of the Navy under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy.

1965 - In response to a Viet Cong attack on a U.S. barracks area in Pleiku, South Vietnam, aircraft from carriers USS Coral Sea (CV 43), USS Hancock (CV 19) and USS Ranger (CV 61) attack a North Vietnamese area near Donghoi.

1991 - Using her remotely piloted vehicle for spotting, USS Wisconsin (BB 64) pounds Iraqi artillery and naval sites with her 16-inch guns. Fifty rounds sink or severely damage 15 boats, and destroy piers at Khawr al-Mufattah Marina.

*For more news, visit [www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil).*



### Use a Fan

*A fan, which costs two to five cents per hour to operate, will make a room feel 4 to 6 degrees cooler. Also, a fan works well in tandem with an air conditioner because the dehumidifying action of the air conditioner provides drier air that the fan can then move around. In frequently used rooms, install a ceiling fan (set it to spin counterclockwise in summer). You'll save the most money by running the fan only when you're in the room. A motion-detector switch (around \$20), which turns the fan on when you enter a room and off when the room is empty, is a good addition.*

*If nighttime temperatures drop into the 70s where you live, you might want to purchase a whole-house fan, which runs \$300 to \$600 installed. This type of unit goes in an upstairs ceiling, ideally in a central hall. When run at night with the windows open, the fan will pull cool air into the house as it vents hot air out through the attic. Most models are designed to slip in between joists for easy installation. They are usually outfitted with a variable-speed switch and/or timer. Be sure to get an insulated box to cover the portal in winter. Cost: Ceiling fans range from \$30 to \$200. Floor fans cost around \$20, and whole-house fans run from \$300 to \$600. Benefit: Ceiling fans can decrease your cooling bill up to 15 percent, a whole-house fan can slash it by 50 percent.*

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

## News and Notes

**Black History Month Luncheon** - The Naval Air Station Whiting Field diversity committee will sponsor an African-American / Black History Month event in the atrium, Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 11 a.m. The guest speaker for the event will be Ms. Rosalind President. Lunch will be provided for all guests.

**Military Mardi Gras** - The Coast Guard ATC Mobile-sponsored Gulf Coast Military Mardi Gras Ball will be held on Friday, Feb. 10 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 run out pretty quickly. Tickets and more information is available at [www.militarymardigras.com](http://www.militarymardigras.com)

**Softball Tryouts** - The Whiting Warriors softball team will hold tryouts Feb. 12, 19, and 26 at 3 p.m. at the base softball complex. Call 850-665-6102 for details.

**Mardi Gras** - The Milton Mardi Gras parade is gearing up for their annual route down Stewart Street Thursday, Feb. 16. The parade will line up at 4:30 p.m. and move out at 6 p.m. The route will head south down Stewart Street, east on Berryhill Street and south on Willing Street. Call 850-626-6246 or visit [www.mainstreetmilton.org](http://www.mainstreetmilton.org) for details.

**Pensacola Beach Law Enforcement Polar Plunge** - 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, behind Holiday Inn Beach Resort on Pensacola Beach. Entrance Fee will be for the price of a t-shirt: \$15.00 short sleeve / \$20.00 long sleeve / \$10.00 for children. The "Bear Logo" will be on the back of the shirt and 2012 will be on the front. Pre-registration is required so that the t-shirts can be pre-ordered. Please provide your name, contact information, number of t-shirts required (with sizes, to include adult or children) and colors (pink, black, white, green). POC: Ms. Kady Hall, (850) 983-5984, or Ms. Mattie Smith, (850) 981-7824.

**Steel Magnolias** - Panhandle Community Theatre will present Steel Magnolias Feb. 9-12 and 16-19 at the Storage Masters retail complex on Woodbine Road in Pace. This comedy-drama play centers around a small Louisiana town, six Southern women, a beauty parlor, Christianity, medical battles, relationships with men, and the underlying group-friendship among all six women and the bond they ultimately share. This hit play was made into a movie in 1989 starring Julia Roberts and Dolly Parton. Tickets are \$12. Call 850-221-7599 or email [panhandlecommunitytheatre@yahoo.com](mailto:panhandlecommunitytheatre@yahoo.com) for reservations.

**Ice Flyer Tickets** - The Naval Air Station Whiting Field Information Tickets and Travel office has dicounted tickets to all Pensacola Ice Flyers home games at the Pensacola Civic Center. Games start at 7:05 p.m. and only cost \$8.50 to watch (regular price is \$16). They have several games in February, including: Saturday, Feb. 11 vs. Louisiana - Mardi Gras Jersey Auction; Sunday, Feb. 12 (5:05 p.m. start) vs. Huntsville - Boy Scout Day; Thursday, Feb. 16 vs. Louisiana; Saturday, Feb. 18 vs. Mississippi Surge - (come downtown early for the Mardi Gras Parade @ 2 p.m.); Friday, Feb. 24 vs. Columbus - Ladies night; and Saturday, Feb. 25 vs. Mississippi Riverkings - Weiner Dog Race

**FFSC Victim's Advocate Training** - The Fleet and Family Support Center will host Ms. Lisa Burrus, Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate, Feb. 22 at 9:30 a.m. She will share information regarding the services she and her staff offer to the citizens of Santa Rosa County and how to access those services. The primary function as a Victim Advocate is to provide immediate crisis intervention to crime victims within the Santa Rosa County community. They



### Honoring Top Sailors

Naval Air Station Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Matthew Coughlin and Command Master Chief Rafael Rosado join with Navy League representatives, Bob Asmus and Walt Reese to recognize the base's Sailors of the Quarter. Master-at-Arms 1st Class Scott Grettum, Aviation Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Darrell Zofcin, and Air Traffic Controller Airman Keesha Hunt were the awardees for the first quarter 2012. They were recognized at the monthly Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce breakfast at Oops Alley in Pace. Photo courtesy of Donna Tucker.

provide services 24/7 and are available upon request of any local emergency response agency in need of an advocate. Most common cases where needed: Sexual Assault/Battery, Homicide, Hostage situations, Robbery, Home Invasion, and Child abuse cases requiring immediate response. They also provide transportation to court hearings and assist victims with obtaining Protection orders and navigation of the local court system. Anyone aboard NASWF who may benefit from learning more about this community resource is cordially invited to attend. Clinic staff, Command Leadership, Security and Fire Department Personnel, Supervisors, etc... For further information or to sign up please contact Pat Dillenback at FFSC, 850-623-7177.

**Renaissance Faire** - Come see knights, wizards, jesters, jugglers, jousting, fire breathers, dancers, sword fights, and more at the 11th annual Gulf Coast Renaissance Faire, Saturday and Sunday March 3 & 4 at the Pensacola Fairgrounds. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children five years old and over. Children four and under get in free. For more information, call 850-429-8462 or see [www.gcrf.us](http://www.gcrf.us).

**Daytona 500 Tickets** - ITT has tickets for the Daytona 500, Feb. 26. Tickets are available in the turn one tower (Lockhart Tower) for \$99 and in the Super stretch terrace seats for \$59. Fanzone for adult tickets are \$55.00 and children under 12 free passes in the Fanzone. For more information contact ITT at 850-623-7032

**Shipwrecks and Lumber** - The Blackwater Pyrates are sponsoring a lectured featuring Della Scott-Ireton of the West Florida Archaeology Network, and Brian Rucker of Pensacola State College. They will speak on shipwrecks of the Blackwater River and the lumber mill industry in Santa Rosa County. The event will be held at the SR County Auditorium Feb. 11 at 5 p.m. Call 850-623-3868 for details.

## Upcoming Events

Feb. 10, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Feb. 15, 1100 - African-American History Lunch - Auditorium

Feb. 20 - Presidents' Day Holiday

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

Award Luncheon - New World Landing

Feb. 24, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

# Fleet and Family Support Classes

## **Gambling Awareness - Thursday, Feb. 9 from 1 to 3 p.m.**

Ever wonder how gambling affects your relationships with your family, friends and even the risks it can pose to your career. This class details gambling statistics, the prevalence of gambling problems and military directives that govern conduct of military personnel concerning gambling. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact FFSC at 850-623-7177.

## **IA Discussion Group - Monday, Feb. 13 from 1 to 2 p.m.**

## **Thrift Savings Plan - Tuesday, Feb. 21 from 1 to 3 p.m.**

Start investing in your future now. The money you save and earn through your TSP account will provide an important source of retirement income. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact FFSC at 850-623-7177.

## **Time Management - Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 1 to 2 p.m.**

At the end of the day, do you ask yourself "where did the day go?" and feel like you have accomplished little on your list of things to do? If you answered "yes" to these questions, this class is for you. The information provided in this class will provide you with tools that will help you make the most of your busy and demanding days. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact FFSC at 850-623-7177.

## **Savings & Investing - Thursday, Feb. 23 from 1 to 3 p.m.**

Who wants to be a millionaire? Do you think you can become a millionaire on your military paycheck? This class will show you how money can grow. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact FFSC at 850-623-7177.



# 109 YEARS OF SERVICE

## NAS Whiting Field Chief Petty Officer's Association



**Invites you to our 2nd Annual Chief Petty Officer  
Birthday Golf Tournament**

**at the NAS Whiting Field Golf Course March 30.**

**Check in begins at 7:30 with a 9 a.m. Tee Time**

**Four Man Scramble / Shotgun Start**

**Cost is \$40 per person (includes lunch)**

**Call 850.665-6121 to reserve a slot.**



# Caps for Kids

- (Cont. from Page 1)

in the program for years. TRAWING-5 Commodore Col. James Grace lauded the program as “a noble cause” as he enjoined wing personnel to participate in the 2012 effort.

Lt. Cmdr. Bryan Schultz, TRAWING-5 Navy Caps for Kids Program Coordinator, described the gesture as multi-pronged drive to serve the public on the home front.

“We want to give back to the community, even in areas where there might not be a strong Navy presence; it shows we’re still going to be a good neighbor,” Schultz reflected.

Indeed, Navy Caps for Kids allows the service and its Sailors to aid embattled youths in areas that are remote from naval installations and personnel. Through coordination with NAVCO, Sailors are able to deliver encouragement to the children irrespective of geography.

“We conduct many Caps for Kids visits in conjunction with Navy Weeks across the country. It has tremendous meaning for the kids receiving the caps and for the Sailors who deliver them,” John Wallach, NAVCO Deputy Director observed.

TRAWING-5 engaged its primary and advanced training squadrons to gather both caps and command t-shirts for its 2012 donation drive. Schultz estimated the total col-

lection amounted to four dozen shirts and caps, all of which are appropriately-sized for their petite recipients.

Navy-wide donations are collected by NAVCO, which then arranges visits to children’s hospitals across the country. Commands may also conduct Caps for Kids visits independently, with NAVCO available to provide assistance and guidance. NAVCO maintains an official Navy instruction on the program which explains the purpose, guidelines and limitations associated with hospital visits. In 2012, over 500 Navy commands contributed apparel, personnel, or a combination of both.

“We probably average about one thousand caps and 50 hospital visits per year in regions across the country. The delivery is always by Sailors on a volunteer basis,” Wallach explained. “There are two goals of the Caps for Kids program: to raise the spirits of children battling illnesses in hospitals across the country, and underscore the Navy’s commitment to community service, especially those in need. The program is not intended to earn publicity for the Navy.”

“Service really starts at home. It makes these kids feel better to know the Navy is thinking about them,” Schultz reflected.

## Weekly Spotlight - Lt. Brad Holmes

**Branch of service:** USN

**Hometown:** Littleton, CO

**Job titles:** Instructor Pilot

**Command:** HT-28

**Years in service:** Seven

**What do you enjoy most about your job?**

Lots of flying

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

Job satisfaction, great opportunities, good benefits

**What do you like best about Whiting Field?**

Small base



# Navy set to release updated evaluation program

## From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

**MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS)** -- The Navy is set to deploy a new version of the performance evaluation software used throughout the fleet, officials said Feb. 6.

"NMCI (Navy Marine Corps Internet) will begin deploying NAVFIT98A Version 30 throughout the Non-Classified Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNET) during scheduled maintenance periods starting February and concluding mid-March," said Jim Price, director, Performance Evaluation Division, Navy Personnel Command.

Version 30 supports the lieutenant force distribution policy change announced in NAVADMIN 219/11, incorporates the chief evaluation (CHIEFEVAL), previously available only through PDF and provides additional lines to the comments block for FITREPS, CHIEFEVALS, and EVALS. In addition, this version is a complete technology refreshment to increase compatibility across various workstation configurations.

The NAVFIT98A Version 30 update will be pushed to all NMCI NIPR workstations throughout the Navy as a core application; however the new software will not be automatically loaded on the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNET).

"It will not be listed as a core application for SIPR computers, but will be available by request," said Price. Beginning Feb. 28 the old version of NAVFIT98A will be removed from all SIPR workstations.

Commands that require NAVFIT98 Version 30 on their SIPR workstations can submit a Move/Add/Change (MAC) request through their command information systems technician.

Non-NMCI users may download NAVFIT98A Version 30 along with frequently asked questions and a reference guide on using the application at <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/career/performanceevaluation/pages/softwareforms.aspx>.

NAVFIT98A is used by Navy to create, store, organize, validate and print officer fitness reports and enlisted evaluation reports for signature as well as the summary sheet required for each reporting group to be mailed to the NPC. The reports are saved to Sailors official military personnel file and may be reviewed by selection and promotion boards.

Users will receive an NMCI User Alert email providing the dates of the upgrade and any actions required by the user. For more information visit [www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil) and read NAVADMIN 047/12.

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## VITA

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Rapid processing is especially helpful for time-pressed members, members preparing for a change of station or deployment, and households faced with the challenge of a member presently deployed. To make it easier, refunded money can also be directly deposited into a bank account, saving even more time.

The combination of assisted filing and streamlined processing helps participants to avoid often unnecessary refund anticipation loans, or RALs. RALs are short-term loans with excessive annual percentage (interest) rates designed to exploit individuals in desperate need of refund payments. The VITA program makes taxes free, fast, and easy.

VITA began in 1995 by the Judge Advocate General Corps as a limited initiative designed to file only a few thousand returns a year. VITA currently files "tens of thousands returns," based on published Navy JAG Electronic Filing 2011 participation rates.

Navy JAG members partner with the IRS to train volunteers on tax preparation practices. At NAS Whiting Field, Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Derek Jackson is fully qualified to help others with their taxes.

Jackson emphasized that at the air station's VITA headquarters, "it's convenient and free. A lot of people aren't able to afford to go out, and for a hundred-and-something dollars, get their taxes done."

Of the VITA program itself, Jackson said, "I've seen the program being run at other military installations... I'm glad I'm doing it; I love helping people, and a lot of people appreciate the help that we offer."

Jackson is in his third year of working the VITA program and is currently training other base members that have joined his team.

Participants are required to ensure that all of their tax documents are present at the time of the appointment. Such documents include form W-2, all variants of form 1099, all records of earned and unearned income, and documentation of charitable donations or events that could affect tax obligations. Participants who are uncertain about which documents to bring should contact the NAS Whiting Field VITA personnel and determine appropriate documentation in advance of their appointments.

Those filing electronically are required to bring last year's tax return statement or documentation of their Social Security numbers as well as a sample check for direct deposit information.

For more information about the VITA program, or to set up an appointment, you may call the VITA office, located in room 122 of base building 1401 at 850-665-6120. Office hours for appointments are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

# Sailors More Responsible; Less ARIs and DUIs in 2011

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Andrea Perez, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

**MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS)** -- With Navy-wide decreases in alcohol-related incidents (ARIs) and driving under the influence (DUI) reports in 2011 over past years, Sailors are reminded to stay responsible in 2012, officials said Feb. 6.

"Responsible alcohol use is knowing how much alcohol your body can handle," said Dorice Favorite, Navy Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NADAP) director. "Some people aren't aware of how much alcohol is in a particular drink and those who aren't educated on how much alcohol they can consume and still function, might drink too much and make irresponsible decisions."

Per OPNAVINST 5350.4D, alcohol and drug abuse undermines combat readiness and is incompatible with the maintenance of high standards of performance and military discipline. It is a severe detriment to the Navy's overall mission readiness. The instruction also defines responsible use as the application of self-imposed limitations of time, place, and quantity when consuming alcoholic beverages.

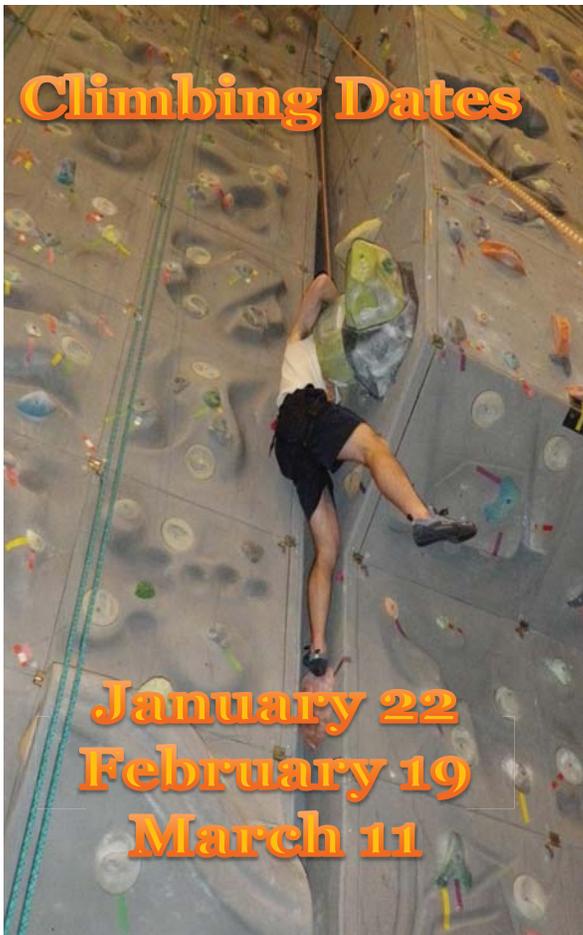
Alcohol shall not be consumed to the extent that it: impairs rational and full exercise of a member's mental and physical faculties while in a duty status or in the performance of military duties; reduces member's dependability and reliability; reflects discredit upon the member personally or upon Navy; or results in behavior that is in violation of this instruction and/or the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

"Sailors who make poor choices and receive a DUI are subject to non-judicial punishment," said Favorite. "They also may be processed for administrative separation and receive counseling, and if the DUI happened in town, they will have court costs. So, there are great ramifications to a poor decision."

Violation of policies set forth in OPNAVINST 5350.4D subjects military members to the full range of administrative and disciplinary actions available. These include informal counseling, comments in fitness reports and evaluations, punitive measures, and administrative separation as required by the UCMJ.

"If a Sailor needs assistance for alcohol or drugs, we recommend that they refer themselves to their command Drug and Alcohol Program Advisor (DAPA), the chaplain or the Fleet and Family Support Center," said Favorite.

NADAP's mission is to support Fleet readiness by fighting alcohol abuse and drug use. For more information and resources visit the NADAP web page located under the Support and Services tab at [www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil).



## The University of West Florida Indoor Rock Wall Military Climbing Day

Climbing days are scheduled for one Sunday a month from **1:00-4:00**. The fee is **\$7.00** per person and families are welcome. This fee includes 3 hours of climbing, rental shoes, harnesses and belay instruction.

The University of West Florida's Rockwall is 36 feet high and offers something for all skill levels. For more information or to sign up please contact the Outdoor Adventure Program onboard NAS Whiting Field at **850-623-7670** or email us at **[Outdooradventure.wf@gmail.com](mailto:Outdooradventure.wf@gmail.com)**

There are only 20 spots available so sign up soon!

**UWF Fitness Center address.  
11000 University Parkway  
Pensacola, FL 32514  
Bld.72 Downstairs**