

NASWF honors Hispanic heritage

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

Naval Air Station Whiting Field celebrated National Hispanic American Heritage Month Thursday, Sept. 27 with a showcase of culturally distinctive food, music, and history.

The Hispanic American Heritage Festival, which was organized by the base Diversity Committee, attracted a broad spectrum of the air station community and exceeded all expectations for turnout and participation.

“We expected about 200-300 for the two hours, and we exceeded that in one hour,” Command Master Chief Ralph Rosado exclaimed.

Members of the Diversity Committee worked at a brisk tempo to handle the influx of enthusiastic guests. Lunchgoers took advantage of the occasion to please their palates with selections from among the dozens of hearty appetizers, entrees, and desserts prepared by base volunteers or purchased with donations.

A ravenous chow line materialized quickly following the welcome and opening remarks by air station
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Children scramble for candy in the aftermath of the pinata party at the NAS Whiting Field Hispanic American Heritage Festival Thursday, Sept. 27. Festival organizers provided several family-friendly attractions including a bounce-house, food to suit all age groups, and the pinata game. While only one youngster was able to land a telling blow, all youthful revelers enjoyed the spoils. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso.

Outdoor Adventure gets out the goods for open house

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Placing equipment all across the lawn in front of their warehouse, Morale Welfare and Recreation’s Outdoor Adventure staff wanted Naval Air Station Whiting Field’s team to know of the types of fun available to them if they decide to hit the “great outdoors.”

By turning the afternoon of Friday, Sept. 28 into a small party, the group encouraged potential patrons to make the trip over to the warehouse and hopefully could surprise them with the wide array of equipment they keep stored for use by authorized customers. The Outdoor Adventure team set up displays, provided door prizes, cooked hamburgers and hot dogs, and allowed tests of some of the equipment.

2nd Lt. Zach Eldridge, USMC, who only recently checked on board, scoped out the scene and thinks he will use the equipment in the near future.

“My wife and I use Whiting Park a lot, and I wanted to see the equipment,” he said. “Now that the weather is getting nicer, we might want to use the mountain bikes, kayaks

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Ron McCurdy from ground electronics and several of his children look over one of the small Hobie kayaks that Outdoor Adventures placed on display for guests during the open house event Friday, Sept. 28. Guests were treated to grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, a chance to win door prizes, as well as an opportunity to view and even use some of the equipment. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

West's last HOOYAH, Stevens Takes Helm

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West gave his last 'HOOYAH' during the change of office ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard Friday, Sept. 28.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert was the guest speaker for the ceremony and highlighted MCPON West's accomplishments during his Naval career while thanking him for his leadership.

"MCPON West, you made the Navy better through your willingness to listen and learn," Greenert said. "I watched you firsthand in the Pacific Fleet, at U.S. Fleet Forces, as VCNO, and I had the honor to serve with you for one year as CNO. MCPON West



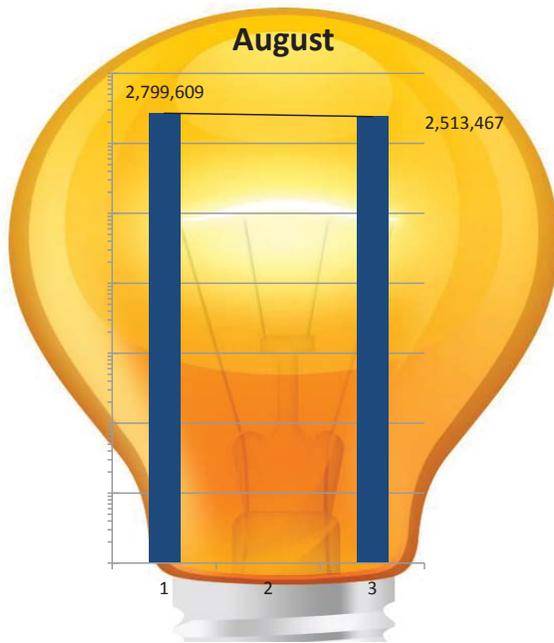
Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Michael D. Stevens accepts the ceremonial cutlass from the Navy's 12th MCPON, Rick D. West, during a change of office ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Thomas L. Rosprim/Released.

had the heartbeat of the Navy. Sailors communicated with him. He challenged Sailors, and they loved it."

The ceremony marked the end of a nearly 32-year career for West, who had served as the 12th MCPON since Dec. 12, 2008. During his time as MCPON, West instituted the Senior Enlisted Continuation Board, introduced CPO 365, and implemented the mandatory enlisted warfare designation.

"MCPON West made a difference and led by example. He made a tangible improvement in our Navy," Greenert said. "I say to you and [your wife] Bobbi, thank you very much and our nation and our Navy thanks you."

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Power Outage

Conserving energy continues to be one of the Navy's prime objectives, so each month we will display the energy usage comparisons for Naval Air Station Whiting Field between 2011 and 2012. As you can see, in August, the base consumed 286,142 fewer kilowatt hours of power than in 2011.

This Week in Naval History

Oct. 1

- 1880 - John Phillip Sousa becomes leader of Marine Corps Band.
- 1928 - The first class at school for enlisted Navy and Marine Corps radio intercept operators (the "On the Roof Gang") is held.
- 1937 - Patrol aviation is transferred to Aircraft Scouting Force, a re-established type command. With the change, five patrol wings were established as a separate administrative command over their squadrons.
- 1946 - Truculent Turtle lands at Columbus, Ohio, breaking the world's record for distance without refueling during flight of 11,235 miles.
- 1949 - Military Sea Transportation Service is activated.
- 1955 - USS Forrestal (CVA 59), the first of post-war super carriers, is commissioned.
- 1979 - President Jimmy Carter awards the Congressional Space Medal of Honor to Neil Armstrong, retired Navy Capt. Charles Conrad Jr., retired Marine Col. John Glenn, and retired Rear Adm. Alan Shepard Jr.
- 1980 - USS Cochrane (DDG 21) rescues 104 Vietnamese refugees 620 miles east of Saigon.
- 1990 - USS Independence (CV 62) enters Persian Gulf (first carrier in Persian Gulf since 1974).

Oct. 2

- 1799 - Washington Navy Yard is established.
- 1842 - The sloop Concord wrecks with the loss of three lives in the Mozambique Channel.
- 1939 - Foreign ministers of Western Hemisphere countries agree to establish a neutrality zone around the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North and South America to be enforced by the U.S. Navy. The zone is established at a Congress of American States meeting in Panama.

From - http://www.navy.mil/search/display_history.asp

News and Notes

Navy Ball 2012 - The NAS Whiting Field Navy Ball will be held on Saturday, Oct. 13 in the Atrium. There will be music, dinner, dancing and door prizes. Prices are set at the following rates: E3-\$25/ E5 and E6 - \$35/ E7 and above and Civilians-\$40. Tickets are on sale now! Please see Command Master Chief Rafael Rosado or contact AC1 Jones @ (850) 291-7311.

Whiting Pines Residents' Meeting - There will be a Town Hall meeting on Oct. 29 for all Whiting Pines residents time TBD. The meeting is being held to answer all questions you may have concerning the Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP).

Kennedy Space Center Salute - We are happy to announce the re-activation of the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex Salute to America's Heroes (SAH) program. Offer good through December 18, 2012. The offer invites active and retired U.S. Military Personnel to visit KSCVC for free! See ITT to receive your free ticket and to purchase additional discounted tickets for family/friends; Adult \$44.50 Child (3-11) \$35.50, 850-623-7032 or 850-665-6250.

Combined Federal Campaign - The local CFC program, EscaRosa CFC, kicked off Sept. 4. Command/office CFC Activity Chairs and Keypeople have materials in hand and are ready to make contact with eligible base personnel. Until Oct. 31, please see your command/office Activity Chair for your chance to support the non-profit of your choice. Contact Aviation Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Hamilton Bryant at 850-623-7220 with questions or to obtain a CFC worksheet.

ERAU Registration - Embry Riddle Aeronautical University is now registering through Oct. 15. 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 Oct. 15 - 21. Everyone is encouraged to register early. Classes begin Oct. 15. New Student Orientation will be held Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012 5 - 6 p.m. on board NAS Pensacola in Bldg. 634, Suite 033. ERAU's Pensacola campus offers multiple certificate and 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 details.

Military Engineer Business Breakfast - The Pensacola Chapter of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) is hosting a Business Opportunities Breakfast at the Lighthouse Point restaurant on Friday, Oct. 19 at 7:30 a.m. The event features speakers from NAVFAC Southeast, the Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District and the UWF Small Business Development Center. All topics are focused on small business contracting and business opportunities with the federal government. The registration cost is \$25 per person. For more information contact pensacola.post@gmail.com.

Golf Specials - Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Morale Welfare and Recreation department is promoting some new golf specials for the base course. Mondays now feature special \$18 fees for all players - cart is included. Each foursome can now have one member play free each Wednesday, and Fridays now feature unlimited play with cart for only \$24. Call 623-7348 with any questions or to check on restrictions.



Greatly Obligated

Candy Culberson from the Panhandle Community Theatre group presents NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Matthew Coughlin with a sign thanking him for his participation in the recent Vaudeville Revue at the Imogene Theatre Sept. 14-16. He, along with other notable area personalities, helped as Masters of Ceremonies for the sold-out event. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope. Below, Coughlin and Brent Lane from Cat Country 98.7 introduce the next set of performances during the final rehearsal. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso.



Monster Dash - The 2nd Annual Monster Dash 5k Fun Run through Milton will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012. The race will begin at 5 p.m. and will start & end at Milton High School track. The course will include a creepy stroll through the Milton Cemetery. Participants are encouraged to dress up as they run or walk on the course through the city of Milton. This will be a family friendly event and children are invited to participate with their parents on the run or in the Kids Mini-Monster Dash on the track. The festivities will conclude with a Post Race Monster Bash. Pre-registration is \$20.00 and includes a Dri-fit shirt. Participants can register at The Open Rose Florist or online at www.Active.com <<http://www.active.com/>>. Registration on the day of the event is \$25.00. The Kids Mini-Monster Dash is \$10.00. Group discounts are also available. Packet pickup and day of registration will begin at 4 p.m. In addition to the First, Second and Third place prizes, the post run party will include awards for Last Place, Best Costume, Best Group Costume and Most Creative Costume. For more information call (850) 626-1796.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 8 - Columbus Day Federal Holiday Observed
Oct. 12, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
Oct. 13, 1800-2200 - Navy Ball - Atrium

Oct. 23-26 - NHA Fleet Fly-In
Oct. 26, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
Oct. 29, 1700 - RECP Town Hall Meeting - Base Auditorium

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

VA Representative - Friday, Oct 5 & 19 from 8 a.m. to Noon. (850-623-7177 for Appointment)

CSP (2-5 year olds) - Wednesday, Oct. 10 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Unfortunately, children do not come with instruction manuals. As a result, FFSC is holding a class that will provide you with the tools that will equip you with the skills for raising responsible and well-adjusted children. This class is for any parent who wants to “brush up” on their parenting skills or new parents that are not sure where to begin. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 850-623-7177.

Money and the Move - Wednesday, Oct. 10 from 1 to 3 p.m.

A Permanent change of Station (PCS) move can be one of the most exciting adventures of your career as well as one of the best benefits. However, a PCS move can also become a financial disaster that can take months to recover from if not properly prepared for. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 850-623-7177.

Holiday Spending - Friday, October 12 from 9 to 11 a.m.

It's that time of year when stores display holiday decorations, increase their inventory, and gear up to convince you to spend your 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 850-623-7177.

Dating Series #1 - Monday, October 15 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Learn about the warning signs of a difficult partner, relationship skills essential for a healthy relationship, five key areas that you need to explore during the dating process, the difference between “acting like a jerk” and “being a jerk,” and how to follow your heart without losing your mind. For more information, contact a work and Family Life Specialist at 850-623-7177.

REMEMBERING THE PAST

SECURING THE FUTURE

2012

NAVY BALL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH
ATRIUM 1800-2400
MUSIC, DINNER, DANCING & DOOR PRIZES
E3-\$25 / E4-\$30 / E5 & E6-\$35 / E7 & ABOVE & CIVILIANS-\$40
CONTACT YOUR NAVY BALL REP OR AC1 JONES AT (850)291-7311

SRC announces voter registration deadline of Oct. 9

The Santa Rosa County Supervisor of Elections would like to remind voters that Tuesday, Oct. 9 is the last day to register to vote in the 2012 general election on Tuesday, Nov. 6. Florida law mandates that registration books close 29 days before an election. This year, due to the Columbus Day holiday, the deadline was extended. New registrations must be completed on or before the end of the close of business on Tuesday, Oct. 9. You may register to vote at the following locations:

- In Milton, the elections office is located at 6495 Caroline St. in Suite F of the Santa Rosa County Administrative Complex (located directly behind the McDonald's restaurant on Hwy 90). Hours of operation are 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.

- In Gulf Breeze, the elections office is located at 5841 Gulf Breeze Pkwy. in the Southside Service Center (located one block from the Gulf Breeze Zoo). The office



will be open Oct. 1-5 and Oct. 8-9. The hours of operation will be 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on the appropriate dates.

Sample ballots for all precincts in the county will be mailed to households Oct. 1-5. Sample ballots are also available at www.santarosa.fl.gov/elections/ballots.cfm <<http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/elections/ballots.cfm>> .

Early voting for the general election is Saturday, Oct. 27 through Saturday, Nov. 3, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. To avoid lines, voters are encouraged to take advantage of early voting or request an absentee ballot. Requests can be made online at

<<http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/elections/Absenteevote.cfm>> www.santarosa.fl.gov/elections/Absenteevote.cfm <<http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/elections/Absenteevote.cfm>> . For more information, call (850) 983-1900 or visit www.santarosa.fl.gov/elections/index.cfm <<http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/elections/index.cfm>> .

Outdoor Adventure

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or the canoes.”

The list of equipment available through Outdoor Adventures is substantial, and the rental fees are kept affordable for a primarily military clientele. Items such as Hobie-brand sail kayaks, fishing kayaks, tandem units, and more are the premiere items. However, the list of available equipment includes almost anything you could need for some outdoor fun. Mountain bikes, sleeping bags, tents, coolers, camping stoves, outdoor chairs, and more can be rented for daily, weekend, or longer durations.

“The Hobie dealer said we have one of the best fleets of their equipment in the country,” new Outdoor Adventures director Jessica Arbogast said. “We really want to make sure everyone knows that we have these items available. For the fantastic equipment that it is, it is underutilized.”

Typical hours for the program are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays, and half-days on Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. The facility will be open Monday, Oct. 8 (Columbus Day) from 8 a.m. to noon and will be running some special promotions: one-half price for any day rental and any weekend rental for Oct. 6 & 7 receives Oct. 8 for free. Tuesday, Oct. 9 will be open from 8 a.m. to noon for drop offs. Outdoor Adventure has a standing ten percent discount for active duty and retired military and their dependents.

Arbogast took over the program Aug. 1 and has been trying to increase patronage of the facility over the last two months. Zip lining at Outdoors Unlimited, rock wall climbing at University of West Florida, and a canoe/kayak day are some of the items she intends to offer in the future as she attempts to reinvigorate the program. In the meantime, base personnel have the ability to plan their own fun with minimal costs.

“Our program gives people the opportunity to use top equipment at really low prices. We just want to help everyone take advantage of that,” she said.



Two visitors to the Sept. 28 Outdoor Adventures open house check out the Hobie double catamaran on display. The small sail powered boat is one of two the facility had on display and one of six different types of Hobie vessels maintained for rentals in Outdoor Adventures' warehouse. The open house was held to help introduce patrons to the wide array of equipment available to them. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

Navy releases guidance for FY14 CPO board

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- The Navy announced guidance for the administration of the Cycle 218 Chief Petty Officer Advancement Examination and the Fiscal Year 2014 Active Chief Petty Officers (CPO) Selection Board via Navy message Sept. 26.

NAVADMIN 294/12 pertains to first class petty officers from the Full Time Support (FTS) and active component communities. Navy Selected Reserve (SELRES) exam dates and selection board information will be announced in a separate message.

The Navy will administer exams to active component and FTS Sailors Jan. 17, 2013.

Exam ordering timelines, eligibility criteria, deadlines for commands to confirm eligibility lists, waiver application procedures, and special requirements are contained in the NAVADMIN. The message also outlines procedures and deadlines for submitting correspondence to the selection board.

Sailors should review their Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) for accuracy at www.bol.navy.mil.

According to the message, the selection board will review the OMPF and performance summary record (PSR) parts I, II, and III of all candidates as well as any items submitted by candidates. Each eligible candidate is responsible for ensuring their OMPF is correct and up-to-date with the latest evaluations, awards, and other appropriate information.

Candidates may submit a letter to the board to provide



any new information or missing information that is not currently in their OMPF.

Letters to the selection board for FTS CPO eligible candidates must be received by the Navy Personnel Command (NPC) customer service center by April 22, 2013. The FTS Selection Board is scheduled to convene May 13, 2013.

Letters to the selection board for active component CPO Selection Board eligible candidates must be received at NPC customer service center by May 28, 2013.

The active component selection board is scheduled to convene June 17, 2013 and is the largest selection board held at NPC.

Letters to the board may be mailed or submitted electronically. Submission procedures and mailing addresses are outlined in the NAVADMIN. Communication to the board must originate from individual candidates; correspondence from the command or from any source other than the candidate to the president of the board will not be accepted or considered.

Additional information regarding this cycle will be posted at the NPC website under "Boards" at www.npc.navy.mil. For more information read NAVADMIN 294/12 and visit the NPC website.

For more news from Navy Personnel Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/npc/.

Navy history takes center stage for upcoming birthday

Editor's Note: With the forthcoming 327th birthday of the Navy approaching on Oct. 13, this timeline details events prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Oct. 13, 1775 - The first legislation of the Continental Congress in regard to an American Navy directed the equipment of one vessel of 10 guns and another of 14 guns as national cruisers. At the same time an act was passed establishing a "Marine Committee," consisting of Messrs. John Adams, John Langdon, and Silas Deane, which was chosen by Congress from among its own members, and was to be in complete control of Naval affairs.

Oct. 30, 1775 - Act of the Continental Congress authorizing the equipment of two additional armed vessels, the one to carry 20 guns, the other 36, and increasing the membership of the Marine Committee to 11.

Nov. 10, 1775 - Organization of a Marine Corps, to consist of two battalions, authorized by Act of Congress.

Nov. 25, 1775 - Act of Congress authorizing the capture and con-



USS Alfred, (1775-1778), flagship of the United States' first Navy Squadron. Artwork by Al Mattal. Courtesy of the Cochrane Collection. Lithograph of painting. NHHC Photograph Collection.

quisition of all British armed vessels, transports, and supply ships, and directing the issuing of commissions to captains of cruisers and privateers.

Nov. 28, 1775 - Rules for the Regulation of the Navy of the United Colonies, the first regulations of the Navy.

Dec. 3, 1775 - The first fleet of the United States put in commission.

Dec. 11, 1775 - A Committee appointed by Congress "to devise the ways and means for furnishing these Colonies with a Naval Armament."

Dec. 13, 1775 - The report of the Committee providing for the construction of "five ships of thirty-two guns, five of twenty-eight guns, and three of twenty-four guns," accepted by Congress, and a law passed for their immediate construction.

Dec. 14, 1775 - The number of the members of the Marine Committee increased to thirteen, one from each colony, by Act of Congress.

Dec. 22, 1775 - The Marine Committee appointed the following officers, with the approval of Congress: Commander-in-Chief: Esek Hopkins

- Captains: Dudley Saltonstall, Abraham Whipple, Nicholas Biddle, John B. Hopkins - First Lieutenants: John Paul Jones, Rhodes Arnold, Eli Stansbury, Hoysted Hacker, and Jonathan Pitcher.

Heritage

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Executive Officer Cmdr. Jonathan Lewis. Wafting aromas of fresh ceviche, arroz con frijoles, chicken empanadas, pork roast, and black beans offered enticing previews of the feast in store. From the dessert table, tres leches cake, Mexican wedding cookies and flan beckoned.

Rosado was pleased by the sheer volume of the contributions and the cross section of base agencies that offered support.

“We had contributions from Morale, Welfare, and Recreation, PRI/DJI, the Chiefs’ Mess, and many others,” he declared.

Although the organizers declared in advance that the event would continue until food supplies were exhausted, planners had allotted a conservative two hours to give diners sufficient time. The broad participation of base military members, dependents, military civilians, and contract personnel reduced an estimated \$500 of food to crumbs in less than fifty minutes.

Diversity Committee President Aviation Boatswain’s Mate 2nd Class Derrick Watkins worked with nine other members of the group to plan, organize, and execute the production. Preparations commenced over a month in advance, and multiple facets of Hispanic American Heritage were emphasized.

“We only have ten full-time members on the Diversity Committee, but many more people helped make this happen,” Watkins noted.

The committee’s manpower was reinforced by an estimated 40 individuals – both military and civilian – who volunteered to donate time, money, or both to the project.

In addition to themed cuisine, committee members designed and prepared a sound track, an historical overview of Hispanic American contributions, and traditionally-themed children’s activities.

Airman Naysha Sotogonzalez took the lead in assembling a backing track featuring selections from familiar Hispanic American acts while introducing revelers to artists from beyond the scope of most U.S. pop charts.

“I wanted to take care of all musical arrangements. I’m from Puerto Rico, and I wanted to bring a piece of Puerto Rico here today. I included mainstream songs by, for example, Ricky Martin, but there’s also work from Puerto



Members of the NAS Whiting Field Fire Department file through the chow line at the air station’s Hispanic American Heritage Festival Thursday, Sept. 27. Military community members of all backgrounds arrived by the hundreds to enjoy culturally-distinctive music, history primers, and dine upon a dazzling array of foods. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso.

Rican groups like Plena Libre and Grupo Mania.

“We also have Vicente Fernandez of Mexico, among others, to give additional exposure to different styles of Hispanic music. For extra background, we prepared all of the booklets and information handouts,” Sotogonzalez explained.

The family-friendly atmosphere ensured that a sizeable children’s contingent joined in the festivities. Diversity Committee planners provided the youths with a bounce-house, an assortment of meal options, and a dessert surprise.

“Of course, for the kids, we have candy-filled piñatas, and they get to smash ‘em at the end,” Sotogonzalez enthused.

Attendees were offered insights into the historical achievements of Hispanic Americans in general and Hispanic Navy veterans in particular.

Hispanic American Heritage has been recognized with an official national observance only since 1968. However, visitors to the festival were reminded that the community’s contributions to the nation and Navy date to the earliest days of the republic.

Pioneering Hispanic American Sailor David Glasgow Farragut experienced sea combat as a 12-year-old midshipman in the War of 1812; later in life, he rose to national prominence as the architect of Civil War conquests at New Orleans, La. and Mobile Bay, Ala.

Diversity Committee members highlighted the fact that since Farragut’s era, Hispanic Americans have achieved flag rank, served as Secretary of the Navy, and have featured in every occupational specialty within Naval service – including the Blue Angels.

Rosado, himself an Hispanic American Navy veteran of 29 years, believes that the growth of Hispanic personnel on Navy rosters parallels the currents of American history.

“Like many Americans, Hispanics realize that the Navy offers unique chances to have a career, provide for their families, and serve the nation while opening many new opportunities. When you look at [former Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy] Joe Campa, who is of Mexican descent, you can see that the Navy is an opportunity to advance and build a career.”

Congrats to TRAWING-5's Wingers and Scholars



Third Row: Cmdr. Paul D. Bowdich, USN; Ensign Gregory C. Sutter, USN; Lt. j.g. Matthew J. Dori, USN; Lt. Alexander B. Currie, USCG; Ensign Caleb J. Wyman, USN; Lt. j.g. Joshua A. Mann, USN; Ensign Anthony J. Wich, USN; and Col. James D. Grace, USMC.

Second Row: Lt. Col. Robert S. White, USMC; 1st Lt. Mark P. Washington, USMC; 1st Lt. John T. Fischer, USMC; Lt. j.g. Nathan L. Tocco, USN; Ensign Derek P. Greene, USN; 1st Lt. Alexander J. Hammac, USMC; 1st Lt. Raymond C. Webb II, USN; and Capt. Joseph A. Bauknecht, USN.

First Row: Cmdr. Christopher L. Pesile, USN; 1st Lt. Aaron T. Nelson, USMC; Lt. j.g. Matthew C. Simpkins, USN; Lt. j.g. Chaz T. Brown, USN; Ensign Christa A. Turner, USN; Ensign Thomas A. Higgins, USN; Lt. j.g. Natalya E. Cooper, USN; and 1st Lt. Joshua W. Banks, USMC.



2nd Lt. Christopher K. Mills, USAF, receives his Academic Achievement Award from Training Air Wing FIVE Commodore Col. James Grace. Mills was presented with the award Friday, Sept. 28 in the TRAWING-5 headquarters building.

What is RECP and how will it affect me

Editor's Note: The Resident Energy Conservation Program is a military housing utilities conservation effort that you will be hearing a great deal about in the coming months. Although it won't be officially rolled out locally until next April/May, the plan is to start preparing residents early so they can be informed before the initiative takes effect. The Housing Office will hold a meeting in the base auditorium Monday, Oct. 29 at 5 p.m. to explain the program, help everyone understand the basics, here are some frequently asked questions and answers about the program. This is the second set of questions and answers about the program that began in last week's Whiting Tower.

11. What if there is an extremely hot or cold month?

Your utility usage target is established on a monthly basis to account for actual weather changes.

12. How and when will I expect a rebate or a payment?

Residents whose monthly utilities usage is below the Normal Usage Band will be notified in the monthly utility usage report including the amount of the rebate earned. When the accumulated rebate exceeds \$25 the property manager will issue a check to the resident. Residents have the option to "bank" the savings if they want and use savings to offset future payments. The payments work in a similar fashion – the resident will be notified monthly and will make payment whenever the total owed exceeds \$25.

13. How do I know that my utility usage report is correct?

Your monthly utility usage report is based on the individual utility meters on your home. The PPV project company will collect information from the meters and develop a usage report for each home. If you feel there are inaccuracies on your bill, please contact your property manager for review.

14. How can I be sure my home is energy efficient?

Residents can request their property manager perform an evaluation of the home to ensure that all of the appliances and energy using features of the home are in good order. The property manager will also provide tips on how to make your home more energy efficient.

15. If my neighbor in the same like type group has a more efficient kitchen appliance, does that entitle me to new appliances?

No. We account for these differences by setting the 10% plus or minus buffer around the utility usage target.

16. We have two children in our family and live in a 3-BR home. Many of our neighbors do not have children. Will the monthly usage average for our like-type group be skewed?

The rent for PPV homes is typically the BAH rate. BAH does not vary depending upon family size. Families are placed in homes appropriate for the size of the family and only similar homes will be included in average calculations.

17. What happens if I don't pay on time? Will late payments affect my credit?

Residents with a past due account will receive delin-

quency notice letters and a late fee. Extreme delinquencies can result in a notice to vacate housing and can potentially affect your credit. The PPV partnership will work with you to arrange payment plans if you need help making payments.

18. Am I responsible for paying for water usage?

At this time PPV homes are not individually metered for water therefore the RECP excludes water. Water conservation is very important because excess usage drains funds from the PPV project. You can expect to see the property manager promote water conservation initiatives in your PPV housing area even though the homes are not individually metered.

19. If this is a Department of Navy program, do I have to participate if I am in another branch of Service?

All military members, regardless of branch of Service, living in Navy and Marine Corps PPV housing must sign a lease that requires the resident to participate in RECP. The Army and Air Force are transferring responsibility for payment of utilities to residents that live in their privatized housing much like the Navy and Marines Corps.

20. How can I reduce my energy usage in PPV housing?

The easiest way to reduce your energy usage is by regulating your thermostat to minimize heating and or cooling requirements. Wise use of hot water, lighting and appliances can also contribute significantly to energy savings. Finally, you can request the property manager perform an energy audit to identify energy savings strategies specific to your home.

21. Is there a waiver policy if a member in my family has a medical circumstance that requires us to use more electricity?

Yes, a waiver from the RECP can be requested if your family member is enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member (EFM) program and you can demonstrate the medical condition has a direct impact on utility usage. In addition, handicapped members outside of the EFM may also submit a waiver request for consideration. Each housing office will have procedures for submitting a waiver. Wounded Warriors are exempt from RECP.

22. What utility rate will I be charged when living in PPV housing?

You will be charged the same rate the PPV partner is charged to provide utilities to your home. The rate will be included on your bill and is available at any time by contacting your PPV property manager. Sometimes the utilities are provided by the supporting Installation for the PPV project and other times it will be the rate from a 3rd party utility provider. By law, the PPV partner is not allowed to charge you a higher rate than they pay for utilities.

23. Why is the pilot RECP buffer of 20% changing to 10%?

A 20% buffer was initially used to minimize RECP financial impacts to residents during the pilot program. Using RECP pilot data it was determined that a 10% buffer should result in increased conservation without significantly increasing the financial burden on residents. In fact, it is easier to earn a rebate under the 10% program, and simple conservation measures such as monitoring thermostat settings and turning off appliances and lighting can result in frequent rebates.



Every year in October, especially during the week of Oct. 9, Fire Safety is promoted throughout the world. A lack of awareness about fire safety practices can leave people vulnerable to the devastating effects of fire. In the United States alone, thousands of people are injured, thousands die, and billions of dollars in property is lost because of fire.

The sad fact about most fires is that they could have been prevented. The truth is, 98 percent of all fires are preventable and the other 2 percent are caused by lightning strikes and equipment malfunction. Preparation before a fire is the key to fire prevention. Everyone must be proactive when it comes to making sure our homes and work places are fire safe. No longer can we assume we are prepared, and preparation starts with attention to detail. Hindsight as it relates to fire is good but foresight is better. The little things we do mean a lot in preventing fires. We are caretakers of our possessions and we are responsible for the safe keeping of what we have. Our most precious possession is life.

The members of Fire and Emergency Services Gulf Coast Fire Prevention Branch are aggressively getting the word to the military population and surrounding communities about the importance of Fire Safety. One death because of fire is one death too many. Our goal is to reach as many people as we can and raise their awareness about Fire Safety. We have teamed up with the National Fire Protection Association and their efforts to get the word out. This year's theme for Fire Prevention Week is "Have Two Ways Out: Be Rabbit Ready." The emphasis is in case of fire, know two ways out and get out in a hurry.

In our effort to promote Fire Safety education, we have prepared a checklist of things that are necessary for a fire safe environment:

- Escape Planning; do you have a plan, have you practiced the plan, where is the meeting place on the outside?
- Cooking Fires; do not leave cooking unattended.
- Heating Equipment; space heaters are nice to have but they must be used responsibly, three feet from any combustible material.
- Smoking Material; smoking in bed is prohibited, smoking while consuming alcohol in the home is dangerous, be extra cautious, follow-up.
- Electrical; check for frayed wires, do not overload circuits, do not run wires underneath rugs, check dryer lint traps, vacuum excessive lint around the dryer.
- Candles; do not leave candles unattended, keep them out of the reach of small children, when you go to bed at night blow the candles out.

- Garages; keep a tidy garage, a tidy garage is a Fire Safe garage.
- Storage of Flammables; gasoline and other flammables are dangerous when they are not stored properly, only use approved containers, and insure they are properly sealed.
- Smoke Detectors; make sure you have them, test them once a month, change the batteries every six months.
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors; purchase them if you have natural gas appliances, a wood burning fireplace or other fossil fuels. Place them closest to the bedrooms.
- Fire Extinguisher; every home should have one. We recommend a 5 lb. ABC extinguisher at minimum.

Following these Fire Safety Tips will help you prevent fire in the home and will keep you in a readiness posture in case of fire. Remember you are responsible for fire preparedness, "The Life You save May Be Your Own." For further information, contact Inspector Greg Snyder at: (850) 623-7856.

NOR
Navy Outdoor Recreation
Columbus Day
Specials
Half Price Day Rental
On any Item
Weekend Rental
(Saturday & Sunday)
Get the Holiday FREE

*** Facility will be open Tuesday after the holiday from 0800-1200 for rental returns***

MCPON

- (Cont. from Page 2)



Retired Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West delivers remarks during the MCPON Change of Office ceremony at the Sail Loft at the Washington Navy Yard. MCPON Michael D. Stevens replaced West as the 13th MCPON. Stevens was selected while serving as the U.S. Fleet Forces Fleet Master Chief. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kiona Miller/Released.

West did not discuss personal accomplishments during his retirement remarks, instead focusing on thanking family, friends, shipmates and mentors who helped shape him into a leader, and the memories he'll take with him of his years of service.

"There is simply no way I can mention you all. Just know that if you are here today, you played some part in the success that I have enjoyed," West said. "It has been an honor and privilege to serve our great Navy for nearly 32 years and especially to serve as MCPON for the last four. Thirty-two years is a long time, but when you are talking about the end of a fantastic journey, it was just a 'flash of time.' I've never had a 'bad command' because I feel commands are what you make of them and how you choose to seize the opportunities."

"The thing I'm going to miss the most is, by far, the people and the energy and innovation of our Sailors and families. The 'engine' that truly drives our Navy is our people. Our Sailors are what makes our Navy the best that's ever sailed the world's oceans," West said.

MCPON Mike D. Stevens took the helm of the enlisted force as the Navy's 13th MCPON after receiving the ceremonial cutlass from MCPON West.

"I was honored to pick MCPON 13," Greenert said. "It was not an easy task. MCPON Stevens is a proven and effective leader. This is a guy ready to lead our Navy and I look forward to your insight and perspective."

Stevens, a native of Montana, joined the Navy in 1983 and most recently served as Fleet Master Chief for U.S. Fleet Forces Fleet Master Chief in Norfolk, Va. His previous Command Master Chief tours included U.S. 2nd Fleet, Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Atlantic, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14, and Naval Air Station Pensacola.

MCPON Stevens thanked Greenert for his trust and faith in his selection as MCPON.

"I am both humbled and honored to have been provided this magnificent opportunity to lead and serve our Sailors, their families, and our government civilians as the 13th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy," Stevens said.

Stevens thanked West for his service, leadership, and friendship and spoke to the Navy, saying he is excited about the future and looking forward to serving the Navy as MCPON by working together to carry out the Navy's mission.

The MCPON serves as an advisor to the CNO and to the Chief of Naval Personnel in matters dealing with enlisted personnel and their families. The MCPON also is an advisor to boards dealing with enlisted personnel issues; is the enlisted representative of the Department of the Navy at special events; may be called upon to testify on enlisted personnel issues before Congress; and maintains a liaison with enlisted spouse organizations.

SECURITY CHECKPOINT



According to NAS WHITING FIELD STANDARD OPERATION PROCEDURES - SOP (A-19), dated May 2, 2012, the following personnel don't need a Decal (DD FORM 2220).

Per references (a) and (c), General and Flag Officers (0-7 and above) (active duty and retired), Navy Commercial Access Control (NCAC) cardholders (formerly known as RAPIDGATE), Retirees of any DoD branch, and any exception designated by the ISO (SECO) are waived from the requirement to affix the Registered Vehicle Decal to their vehicle(s).

Note – General and Flag Officers (0-7 and above) is all DoD installations. As for retirees (0-6 and below) and their dependents not needing decals only apply to NAS Whiting Field as per SOP (A-19).