



Brock assumes mantle as commanding officer VT-3

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

Following 15 months at the helm, Lt. Col. George K. Hobson passed command of Training Squadron THREE to Cmdr. Philip M. Brock Friday, September 9, at 10 a.m. in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field atrium. Before an assembly of friends, family and colleagues, Brock accepted the command pennant symbolizing the passing of the squadron's reins.

The change of command ceremony is a time honored tradition that enables the crew to welcome the new commanding officer to the unit and to praise the efforts of the outgoing skipper.

VT-3 enjoys unique status as NAS Whiting Field's only Joint Forces



Cmdr. Philip M. Brock addresses an assembly of squadron personnel and honored guests at the VT-3 change of command ceremony. U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso

Training Squadron. Accordingly, command alternates between Air Force and Navy officers, and each service

simultaneously is represented in the command suite at the executive and commanding levels. Hobson and Brock pooled their experience and the values of their respective service branches to make VT-3's pioneering inauguration of the T-6B Texan II training aircraft a success

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. He offered a battlefield-seasoned perspective to frame the significance of the occasion;

"In the desert today, it doesn't matter what patch you're wearing, you fight the same fight and answer to the same boss... there's no

- (Cont. on Page 6)

Bladerunners cut a wide swath at HITU

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

The smallest of Training Air Wing FIVE's aviation operations, the Helicopter Instructor Training Unit may rank among the Navy's greatest force multipliers.

The sparse "Bladerunner" roster board lists only seven full-time instructors. Absent the unit's striking logo, the Lilliputian division's diminutive working spaces might be overlooked beneath the shadow of the air station's towering T-34 bailout trainer.

However, the HITU casts a vast shadow of its own; virtually every active Navy and Marine Corps as well as many Coast Guard rotorcraft aviators were trained by gradu-



SOWING THE WIND: A seasoned aviator's transition to rotorcraft instruction begins at the HITU. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso

ates of this unit.

"Here is where we establish the standardization foundation that helicopter instructors will pass to their students who, in turn, carry it to the fleet," noted Lt. Cmdr. Jamie Rauscher, HITU Officer-In-Charge.

The HITU is NAS Whiting Field's schoolhouse for rotorcraft flight instructors. Its mission is to provide fleet-seasoned rotorcraft Naval Aviators with the tools to become instructors at the air station's three rotary wing training commands.

"We take new instructors coming back from the fleet, get them comfortable in the aircraft, get them comfort-

- (Cont. on Page 7)

NPC beginning review for enlisted retention boards

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW) Maria Yager, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- Navy Personnel Command (NPC) published final quotas and guidance for Phase I of the Enlisted Retention Board (ERB) to the NPC website Aug. 22.

According to documents posted on the ERB Web page, the board will review the records of 6,243 active duty E-4 and E-5 Sailors from 31 overmanned ratings for 4,403 available retention quotas during the first phase.

Approved quotas broken down by rating were posted to the ERB Web page along with the ERB precept. The precept is a written order signed by the chief of naval personnel, providing general and specific guidance to the selection board.

According to the precept, the primary factor for retention is sustained superior performance. Other factors include:

- Deck-plate leadership
- Competency/skill requirements
- Navy Enlisted Classifications
- Education/personal and professional development
- Navy Special Warfare enablers
- Anti-terrorism and force protection
- Special duty assignments
- Overseas and arduous duty
- Collateral duties

The board is charged with reviewing each candidate's official military personnel file and any correspon-

dence submitted by the member to identify the best qualified Sailors to receive retention quotas. After the selection board reviews the records of all eligible candidates and selects the best and fully qualified Sailors based on the precept, their results are forwarded to the chief of naval personnel for final approval.

Navy announced the ERB earlier this year as a result of record-high retention and low attrition among active duty Sailors. The ERB is designed to ensure the Navy meets its congressionally mandated end-strength while rebalancing the force.

"We value every Sailor and family, so the decision to establish this board was made after careful consideration," said Rear Adm. Don Quinn, acting chief of naval personnel. "We simply had to face the reality of the situation. Unlike the drawdown nearly ten years ago, we are providing the opportunity this time, on a level-playing field, for all to compete to stay."

A second phase will convene in September 2011 to review active duty E-6, E-7 and E-8 Sailors.

Sailors not selected for retention, but qualified by their Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery scores to convert, may compete for a selected Reserve Perform to Serve quota. Sailors not selected for retention will have access to the Navy's Transition Assistance Management Program and post-separation benefits allowed by law.

For eligibility criteria, affected rates and more information, visit the NPC ERB Web page at <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/boards/ERB/Pages/default2.aspx>.

This Week in Naval History

Sept. 12

1961 - Navy task force sails to aid the Galveston area after Hurricane Carla hits Texas.

1966 - Launch of Gemini 11, piloted by Cmdr. Charles Conrad Jr. and Lt. Cmdr. Richard F. Gordon Jr. Their mission lasted two days and 23 hours and included 44 orbits at an altitude of 1368.9 km. Recovery was by HS-3 helicopter from USS Guam (LPH 9).

1992 - Joint Task Force Hawaii activated to provide humanitarian aid after Typhoon Iniki struck Hawaiian Islands.

Sept. 13

1814 - British bombardment of Fort McHenry inspires the Star Spangled Banner.

1847 - Marine Brigade leads U.S. forces that storm Chapultepec Castle near Mexico City, inspiring one line of the Marine Hymn.

1939 - Navy suspends transfers to the Fleet Reserve after 20 years of service and retains men on active duty.

Sept. 14

1976 - USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) and destroyer Bordelon (DD 881) collide during night operations 100 miles north of Scotland.

Ec  **-nomics**

Get Cooler Lights

Incandescent bulbs don't contribute as much heat as unshaded windows, but they do add heat to a house and can raise the perceived temperature, sending you to the thermostat to seek relief. To reduce this hot-light effect and save lighting costs year-round, replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents. They use about 75 percent less energy and emit 90 percent less heat. Cost: \$12 to \$25 per bulb. Benefit: Up to 5 percent off your cooling bill plus electricity savings.

Cook Smart

Any appliance that generates heat adds to your cooling load. An oven baking cookies can easily raise the room temperature 10 degrees. Save cooking (especially baking) for cooler hours, or cook outdoors on your grill. It is also a good idea to run the dishwasher and clothes dryer at night. Cost: \$0. Benefit: 2 to 5 percent of your cooling costs

News and Notes

236th Navy Ball - Naval Air Station Whiting Field will be holding their annual Navy Ball Saturday, Oct. 8 beginning at 5 p.m.. The event will feature music, dinner, dancing and door prizes, as well as a guest speaker for the function. Tickets are \$25 for E3 and below, \$30 for E4, \$35 for E5 and E6, and \$40 for everyone else. Please call Chief Air Traffic Controller Cecilia Knight-Holton at 623-7755 for more information.

POW/MIA Day - Naval Air Station Whiting Field will host a POW / MIA Recognition Day Event, 10-11 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 15, in the base auditorium. Guest speaker will be retired Navy Capt. Collins H. Haines. Capt. Haines was shot down by enemy anti-aircraft fire on June 5, 1967, captured by the North Vietnamese, and remained a Prisoner of War until Mar. 6, 1973.

Golf Tournament - The Milton Knights of Columbus will hold the John "Rob" Baker Memorial Golf Tournament, Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. The event will be a four person scramble with a shot gun start. Entrance is \$40 per person; which will include the cart, range balls, and food. Call 981-8078 for more information.

POW/MIA Ceremony - VFW Post 4833 in Milton will host a POW/MIA remembrance ceremony Saturday, September 17 at 2 p.m. The Post is located near Avalon Boulevard about one-half mile south of Highway 90. Anyone interested should contact Lutz Gruse at 982-4178 for details.

Riverwalk Run - Early registration is now being accepted for the annual Riverwalk 5K Run through historic Milton and along the Blackwater River trail. The race is Oct. 1 and features prizes for both running and walking - in a variety of age groups. An early registration event at Academy Sports, Sept. 2, will be the last opportunity to run the event for \$15. The fee will be \$20 through Sept. 8 and \$25 afterwards. The early registration window will be open from 4 to 6 p.m. This is the third year of the event, and it is growing. Contact Linsey Williamson at 850-983-5466 or through email at miltonparks@ymail.com with questions.

Charity Run - The Marine Corps League and Marine Corps Aviation Association will host their 28th annual Semper Fi Charity Run Saturday, Sept. 17 at 8 a.m. Registration is \$25 for active duty and \$30 for all other participants and may be completed online at



Retaining Our Best and Brightest

Aviation Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class John David Dominguez recited the oath of enlistment with Crash Division Officer Lt. Russell Lawrence. Dominguez reenlisted Aug. 8 for six more years of service. U.S. Navy photo courtesy of Crash Division.

www.wemperficharityrun.org. The run through scenic downtown Pensacola will include a post-race party at Seville Quarter. Check the website for additional information.

Motor Sports Show - The Marine Corps League is hosting their 10th Annual Motor Sports Show, Saturday, Nov. 5 at the 5 Flags Speedway in Pensacola, Fla. The event is seeking entrants for the various categories of vehicles. There is a \$20 registration for each car, and cars must be registered no later than Oct. 15. There will be trophies for the winners, door prizes, food and refreshments and much more. Call (850) 912-2351 for details.

Songwriters' Sunset Cruise - The Portino I will carry passengers for the Third Annual Songwriter Songs and Sunset Cruise, Friday, Sept. 30. The cruise is part of the annual Pensacola Beach Songwriters' Festival. The cruise leaves the dock promptly at 6 p.m. from Hemmingway's. Tickets are \$25 or \$40 per couple. See www.pensacolabeachsongfest.com for details.

Country Music Festival - For a fun time of food, drink, and country music, check out the Classic Country Music Festival Sept. 28 through Oct. 1. Nashville performers will headline the event. See www.farmersopry.com for more information. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17 and 18.

Pensacola Cycling Classic - Top amateur cyclists from the Southeast racing for \$12,000 in prize money in a three stage event. The stages include a Road Race on Saturday in the Blackwater River State Forest area in North Milton, a Time Trial on Pensacola Beach starting at Park East and a Criterium in downtown Pensacola on Sunday with the start/finish at Government and Jefferson Street. New this year will be a free Kid's Fun Race for ages 10 and younger at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday at the Criterium downtown Pensacola. Each child will receive a raffle to win a nice bike. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17 and 18.

Coffee Cupping Event - Patrons will learn about the method professionals use to evaluate the aroma and flavor profiles of a coffee, while getting the chance to sample three South American coffees. Cost: Free. 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17. Call (414) 795-7843.



Welcome Home

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Erica Roten cuts a welcome home cake with Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate Daniel McCrae. Roten returned to a hero's welcome, Aug. 16, following her one-year tour in Iraq and Afghanistan. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 22, 1000 - CTW-5 Change of Command
- Base Auditorium

Sept. 23, 0800 - Navy Ball Golf Tourney- NASWF Golf Course

Sept. 30, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Oct. 8, 1700-2400 - Navy Ball - Base Atrium

Oct. 18-20, 0700-1600 Daily - NHA Fleet Fly-In

Oct. 21, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

IA Discussion Group - Monday, Sept. 19, 1-2 p.m.

E-Books Workshop - Tuesday, Sept. 20, 1-2 p.m.

Time Management - Thursday, Sept. 22, 2 to 3 p.m.

Family Management - Thursday, Sept. 22, 2 to 3 p.m.

At the end of the day, do you ask yourself, "Where did the day go?", and feel like you have accomplished very little on your list of "things to do?" If you answered, "yes." to these questions, this class is for you. The information provided will help you with tools to make the most of your busy and demanding days. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

VA Representative - Friday, Sept. 23, 8 a.m. to Noon

Veteran Service Representative Norman Freeman will help with processing compensation claims at the FFSC. Participants must have a minimum of 60 days and no more than 180 days left on active duty at time of filing; must provide an official copy of your service medical record to the VA; and must be available to participate in a VA physical examination within 30 days after filing the claim. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 623-7177.

Common Sense Parenting for 6 to 18 Year Olds, Wednesday, Sept. 28, 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 tools to 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 call 623-7177.



NAVY BALL
CENTENNIAL OF NAVAL AVIATION

236TH

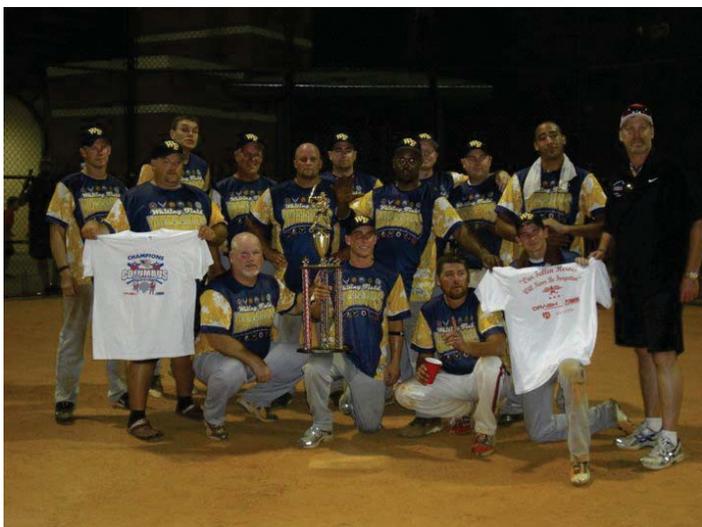
CENTENNIAL OF NAVAL AVIATION

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH
ATRIUM 1700-2400
MUSIC, DINNER, DANCING & DOOR PRIZES
E3-\$25.00 / E4-\$30.00 / E5 & E6-\$35.00 / E7 & ↑ & CIVILIANS - \$40.00
CONTACT YOUR NAVY BALL REP OR ACC KNIGHT-HOLTON @ 7755

ANY WINNING FIGHT

The poster features a collage of naval aviation and fleet elements. At the top, the text 'NAVY BALL' is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a blue outline, set against a blue background. Below this, 'CENTENNIAL OF NAVAL AVIATION' is written in smaller white letters. The central image shows a person's hands holding binoculars, with the lenses showing various aircraft. The background is a light blue sky with clouds. Various aircraft are depicted: a red and white biplane, a red and white helicopter, a yellow biplane, a yellow and blue biplane, and a yellow and blue propeller plane. At the bottom, there is a red and white fire truck, a yellow and blue propeller plane, and a yellow and blue propeller plane. The text '236TH' is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a blue outline. The text 'CENTENNIAL OF NAVAL AVIATION' is written vertically on the right side. At the bottom, the event details are listed in bold black text. A small logo for 'ANY WINNING FIGHT' is in the bottom right corner.

Whiting Field Warriors take third in softball championships



The Whiting Field Warriors show off their team trophy and tournament tee-shirts following their third place finish in the world military slow-pitch championships in Panama City, Fla. Photo courtesy of www.ussa.com

By Ensign John Llewellyn, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Developing a reputation as a tough team to beat in the military softball arena, the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Warriors went into this year's military world championships ranked fourth of 18 teams.

After a surprise third place finish last year, the Warriors duplicated the feat again this year falling twice to the eventual tournament runners up.

The Warriors started their preparation for the World Tournament by scrimmaging with an all-Marine team from Pensacola. The two teams battled it out a total of four times, two here at Whiting Field and two at NAS Pensacola. The Warriors won all four games, and it helped them refine their talents for the tournament.

A total of 15 players composed of a variety of NAS Whiting Field military and civilian employees, from security, L3 Vertex, PRI/DJI, air traffic control, MWR, and TRAWING-5 pilots, traveled to the Frank Brown Complex in Panama City, Fla. to play in the USSSA Military World Tournament, August 19.

The tournament was comprised of 82 softball teams from around the country. The Warriors competed in a slow-pitch men's military intramural class against 17 other teams.

"The opening ceremony started Thursday with some para-jumpers landing on the field, followed by a military jet flyby," team member Todd Mooneyham stated.

"The weather was great, but hot! What was really neat was The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team held an exhibition game at the ceremony. They were just as good as our team," Mooneyham added.

The Warriors played six games and won four. The

two losses came from a nearby rival the Who Dat Military Softball Team from New Orleans, La.

The Warriors scored a total of 70 runs, giving up only 43 in the tournament and was voted the best defensive team of their class. The final scores were:

NAS Whiting Field 15-WTB 7; NAS Whiting Field 12-NSA Mid-South 2; Who Dat Military Softball 13-NAS Whiting Field 11; NAS Whiting Field 10-NSA Mid-South 0; NAS Whiting Field 13-Tyndall AFB 8; Who Dat Military Softball 13-NAS Whiting Field 9.

"It was bittersweet. It was great to be in the top three," Mooneyham said. "We really wanted to finish higher, and we were so close in the two games we lost."

Four of the Warrior players were selected for the All Tournament Team: second baseman Anthony Bral, pitcher Gilbert Gonzales, outfielder Josh Waring, and short-stop Wes Williamson.

Many of the player's families and friends were on hand to support the 3rd place finish and see the Warriors receive their trophy and t-shirts.

The Whiting Field Warrior's season is over for this year, but anyone interested in trying out for next year's team should contact Todd Mooneyham of NAS Whiting Field MWR at 665-6102.

An advertisement for the NAS Whiting Field's Annual Navy Ball Golf Tournament. The background is a circular hole-in-one shot from a golf course, with a golfer's head and shoulders visible through the hole. The text is arranged around the hole. At the top, it says "NAS Whiting Field's Annual Navy Ball Golf Tournament" in green and yellow. Below that, in white, it says "September 23rd shotgun start @ 0800". At the bottom, in white, it says "We will be looking for you there!". At the very bottom, in yellow and white, it says "\$40.00 per person - Pre register by Sept 2nd to get a free mulligan \$5.00 Mulligan pkg includes 3 mulligans & 1 tee buster Prizes for closet to pin, longest drive & longest putt. To register contact AC3 Richardson @ kyle.w.richardson@navy.mil or AC2 Balcom @ kelsy.balcom@navy.mil".

Brock assumes command

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reason this joint force experience has to start at the senior level; it should start in training. Although the Air Force and Navy have different philosophies, we have common goals, and I think the VT-3 student product speaks to that mission, that goal.”

VT-3 achieved the Navy’s calendar year 2010 pilot graduation goals and is on course to advance an additional 200 student military aviators to their follow-on training during fiscal year 2011.

The squadron has reduced the attrition rates of its trainees, and the squadron’s graduates have achieved lower attrition rates at subsequent training commands.

Under Hobson’s guidance, VT-3 extended its stellar record of flight operations free of Class-A mishaps to 24 consecutive years.

The squadron advanced the art and science of aviation safety through comprehensive reviews of best practices and proactive moves to implement improvements.

For his achievements, Hobson was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for meritorious service.

The overarching message of all speakers was that cooperation between service branches, military and civilian staff, student and pilots, and Training Air Wing FIVE executives had been integral to Hobson’s vision for VT-3.

His parting words as commanding officer lavished praise on each group for its respective contributions.

“The last fifteen months have been the most challenging and most rewarding of my life.

“Our operational tempo was relentless, but I’m proud to say we met our fiscal year 2011 mission; the men and women of the Red Knights—military and civilian—made that happen.” Hobson reflected.

Hobson reserved his final and most effusive approbations for Brock, who Hobson commended as a skilled pilot, a model of military bearing, and an invaluable partner in leadership.

Immediately after issuing his unqualified

endorsement and gratitude to Brock, Hobson formally relinquished command.

Brock was introduced as the Commanding Officer of

VT-3 amidst a flourish of applause from family, friends, and colleagues.

His wife, Amie, dressed his uniform with the gold trident and laurel of the Navy Command Ashore pin - an act symbolizing the assumption of Brock’s new authority.

The new squadron commander offered a final tribute to the departing Hobson, who Brock congratulated for “a job well done, leading us through the T-6 transition... and for being a great friend and a tremendous leader.”

Brock graduated from Norwich University in May of 1994 with a Bachelor of Science degree

in Mechanical Engineering and was commissioned as an Aviation Maintenance Duty Officer.

In 1996 he was selected to attend pilot training. Brock was designated Naval Aviator in July of 1998 at NAS Corpus Christie, in Corpus Christie, Texas.

He has served as Deputy Director for the War on Terror and Deputy Director for Special Operations under the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Brock’s decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, three Navy Achievement Medals in addition to many campaign, service and unit-specific awards.

Lt. Col. Brian M. Schafer, previously the Director of Operations, 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron, Bagram Airfield, in Bagram, Afghanistan, will supplant Brock as the executive officer of the squadron.

Schafer’s fifteen years of Air Force service have encompassed aerospace acquisition management, combat sorties as an F-15 Eagle pilot, instructor tours, and qualification as an Operational Test and Evaluation Pilot.



Lt. Col. George K. Hobson reflects on his experience as commanding officer of VT-3. He stressed gratitude to colleagues, students, and his family. U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso



Cmdr. Philip Brock passes the VT-3 command pennant to Master Sgt. Kurt Megala after relieving Lt. Col. George K. Hobson as commanding officer. U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso

HITU

- (Cont. from Page 1)

able with the working areas, and get them qualified in the aircraft,” Rauscher said.

When an aviator initially reports to his or her parent squadron for instructor duty, he or she is temporarily assigned to the HITU as an instructor-under-training. At the unit, the IUT spends approximately three months learning the skills necessary to instruct students in the Bell TH-57 Sea Ranger. Upon completion of the syllabus, the new instructor pilot returns to his parent squadron to become a teacher in his or her own right.

Reacquainting fleet aviators with the light and responsive TH-57 can be a challenge. The journey from an aviator’s initial training at NAS Whiting Field to fleet environment must be retraced.

This experience can make for an ironic homecoming. Although most rotary wing Naval Aviators start their helicopter careers flying the basic TH-57 as a flight student, virtually all aviators spend their fleet time becoming experts in advanced models of role-specific helicopters.

Compared to fleet-based “heavy metal,” the TH-57 offers less inherent stability and greater maneuvering agility; both traits are ideal for teaching basic rotorcraft dynamics to students. IUTs require some time to re-acclimate to this lively machine.

“One of the biggest challenges we face is overcoming the varying styles of helicopter flying each new instructor brings back from the fleet. Each IUT that reports to the HITU has different flying techniques tied to a specific aircraft type,” Rauscher reflected.

Additionally, certain facets of situational awareness must be revisited. While fleet aviators may be conditioned to expect hazards in combat or storms at sea, instructor pilots must adapt to a new form of operational risk: students.

“We do teach defensive posturing to the IUTs and give them a heads-up to expect certain common student pilot mistakes,” Rauscher added.

A select cadre of some of the HTs’ finest aviators acts as the full-time HITU staff; these are the teachers of teachers.

HITU instructors stand among the elite within Naval Aviation. Having achieved the designation of Aviator during initial student training at NAS Whiting Field, they progressed to Instructor Pilot status at the HITU. A small group, never more than a half-dozen at a given time, will return to the HITU as TH-57 Standardization Pilots.

“A small group- rarely more than one half dozen at a time – serves a nine to twelve month tour with the HITU after about two years of high-performance with the HTs. The squadron COs hand select their most senior and quali-



REAPING THE WHIRLWIND: Long-serving HITU Administrative Clerk Lisa Bastien juggles rotating rosters of students, instructors, and disparate departmental duties. U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso

fied people as nominees to the [Training Air Wing FIVE] Commodore for approval, and I provide input during the screening process as needed,” Rauscher explained.

The HITU operates at a brisk tempo. Despite its small size, the organization yields an average of 66 rotary instructors per year while accumulating an average of 3,000 flight hours.

The frenetic flow of personnel between fleet, schoolhouse, and squadrons requires the steady hand of continuity and experience. HITU Administrative Clerk Lisa Bastien holds the dual distinction of being the longest-serving and sole civilian member of the Bladerunners.

“Other staff members are all instructors and continually rotate in and out. However, despite this constant turnover, Lisa manages to maintain a smooth, well-oiled operation. As the only administrative clerk, she fills the role of what are typically multiple staff positions in a squadron,” Rauscher noted.

“She’s the heart and soul of the HITU,” he added.

The Bladerunners are NAS Whiting Field’s most direct conduit to the fleet. As returning fleet aviators, they are versed in the latest tactics, techniques, and challenges of deployment. However, HITU IUTs differ from their primary training phase counterparts in a critical respect; rotary instructors represent the Air Station’s last opportunity to interact with and influence newly-pinned, fleet-bound aviators.

As the Navy continues to add rotary wing squadrons and expand the scope of rotorcraft operations, the shadow of NAS Whiting Field’s Bladerunners looms ever larger.

DEFY students enjoy summer camp event

By Air Traffic Controller Second Class Brittane Brooks

The NAS Whiting Field Drug Education For Youth (DEFY) program had another successful and fun filled residential summer camp.

DEFY coordinators and mentors took the 29 kids to Camp Timpoochee in Niceville FL. With Private beachfront swimming facilities, kayaks, marine education, a pontoon boat, large playing fields and a campfire circle, the DEFY team never had a dull moment.

DEFY is a preventative program to help reduce the use or potential use of drugs as well as enhance the life skills of the program's participants.

The eventual goal is to build healthy, drug-free, and successful citizens. Even though camp was all about fun and becoming a DEFY "family" the kids still attended daily drug awareness classes, made entertaining by dedicated mentors.

Classes like "Saying No" (where the kids were able to stand in front of the class and perform their own skits on how to deal with peer pressure) and "My Own Coat of Arms" (where they create a coat of arms to reflect their personality and values) helped them strengthen their own sense of self worth.

Camp lasted five days with a jam packed schedule. Water Wars was a huge hit which ended up being a free for all water gun fight to stay cool.

Archery, kayaking, and jumps from the top of a pontoon boat ensured the kids moved outside of their comfort



The Drug Education for Youth students, mentors and counselors gather for a group photo in front of one of the cabins used for the 2011 DEFY residential summer camp. The camp was just one of the many events planned for the youths in 2011. U.S. Navy photo.

zone and created amazing memories and many new experiences.

"My favorite activity with the kids was the Last Night Dance Party, watching the kids attack the piñata and show off their dance moves!" said DEFY Training Coordinator Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Ayanna Greg.

The night of the party also showcased the DEFY talent show, where the kids utilized the camp's large stage and sound system to show their skills in a safe and friendly environment.

Assistant Program Coordinator and Camp Director Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Brittane Brooks stated, "The kids did a fantastic job overcoming insecurities and fears, we had a really talented group, I was so impressed. Magic acts and martial arts with nunchucks!"

Overall the DEFY group is off to a great start with an exciting year to come. The mentors will meet with the kids each month for a year, being there as an ear to listen and a friend to guide. Each month will bring a new adventure, gymnastics, karate, fire trucks and more.

VT-3 SAU Handoff

The Training Squadron THREE Support Augmentation Unit, which provides reserve personnel to bolster the ranks of VT-3 flight instructors, held a separate change of command ceremony on Thursday, September 1.

Capt. Mark J. Retzliff, USN, Commanding Officer, NR Joint Enabling Capabilities Command, served as guest speaker for the occasion. Cmdr. Guy O. Vilardi, USN, Commanding Officer, Training Air Wing FIVE Reserve Component, was in attendance.

Cmdr. Robert A. McCormick Jr., USN, ceded command of the unit to Lt. Col. Kent E. Walsh, USMC.

During routine monthly sampling, the NASWF and NOLF Choctaw drinking water systems exceeded the maximum contaminant level for total coliform bacteria. It is believed that this one-time event was caused by contaminated sample collection or laboratory analysis media and subsequent testing met all drinking water standards. However, per Florida Department of Environmental Protection requirements, the attached two Public Notices are included to inform our users.

**DRINKING WATER MONITORING REQUIREMENTS NOT MET FOR
NAVY OUTLYING FIELD (NOLF) CHOCTAW
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for total coliform bacteria on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the month of September 2011, our system collected two (2) distribution compliance samples which indicated the presence of coliform bacteria. Since our system may have no more than one (1) sample collected in a compliance period test positive for coliform bacteria, our system exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for total coliform for the month of September 2011. **All required additional (repeat) distribution samples collected on September 2, 2011, a total of four (4) samples, were absent of total coliform bacteria.**

What Should I Do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present.

What happened? What is being done?

- We believe that the sampling tools (i.e. sampling bags, sampling tubes, cooler...) used for collecting the monthly samples possibly were contaminated, resulting in exceeding the MCL for total coliform.
- **Immediately after learning of the exceedances, we collected six (6) additional distribution samples and analyses for coliform bacteria came back negative for all samples. The samples showed we are meeting drinking water standards.**
- Additionally, whenever we sample for coliform bacteria, we also check to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in any testing.**

For more information, please contact: Mike Pattison, NASWF Environmental Director at (850)623-7017.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).

This notice is being sent to you by NOLF Choctaw public water system.
State Water System ID#: 1570875.
Date distributed: September 12, 2011

**DRINKING WATER MONITORING REQUIREMENTS NOT MET FOR
NAS WHITING FIELD
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for total coliform bacteria on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. On September 1, 2011, four (4) distribution compliance samples were collected which indicated the presence of total coliform bacteria. Since our system may have no more than one (1) sample collected in a compliance month test positive for coliform bacteria, our system exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for total coliform for September 2011. **All required additional (repeat) distribution samples collected on September 02, 2011, a total of 12 samples, were absent of total coliform bacteria.**

What Should I Do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. *Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present.*

What happened? What is being done?

- We believe that the sampling tools (i.e. sampling bags, sampling tubes, cooler, etc) used for collecting the September monthly samples possibly were contaminated, resulting in exceeding the MCL for total coliform.
- **Immediately after learning of the exceedance, we collected 24 additional samples (12 distribution and 12 raw) and analyses for coliform bacteria came back negative for all samples. The samples showed we are meeting drinking water standards.**
- Additionally, whenever we sample for coliform bacteria, we also check to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in any testing.**

For more information, please contact: Mike Pattison, NASWF Environmental Director at (850)623-7017.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).

This notice is being sent to you by NAS Whiting Field Public Water System.

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