Navy Addresses Problems with Military Housing

From Commander, Navy Installations Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy is aggressively working to address unresolved complaints associated with housing, especially those identified during the “100 percent Sailor contact” and completion of requested home visits.

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. John M. Richardson, directed command leadership Feb. 23 to contact every Sailor residing in privatized or government housing to ask about their current living conditions and offer for leadership to conduct a home visit.

“As we close out this initial surge in contact and visitation, I want to thank Navy leaders for reaching out to our Sailors and their families, listening to them, and addressing their housing concerns,” Vice Adm. Mary Jackson, Commander, Navy Installations Command, said.

Based on town hall meetings and home visits, common issues in privatized family housing include poor workmanship, lack of follow-up, inconsistent customer service, addressing symptoms rather than the root cause of problems, and minimal or absent government oversight. Immediate actions taken since Feb. 13 include increased Navy oversight to hold public private venture (PPV) partners accountable for timeliness benchmarks, improved customer service, efforts to address root causes instead of symptoms, and more thorough measurement of resident satisfaction after service calls.

To speed up fixing the deficiencies, the issues identified during Chain of Command residence visits were entered into existing trouble call systems, as well as the enterprise military housing data base. The Navy also has direct access to the property managers’ trouble call databases, and is able to monitor trouble calls throughout the housing enterprise.

Additionally, the Navy commissioned an independent, third-party firm to conduct a survey for Navy privatized housing residents. This “out-of-cycle” survey was directed by the Navy and is different than past annual surveys conducted on behalf of the companies. For more information on Navy housing, go to https://www.cnic.navy.mil/ffr/housing.html.
NAS Whiting Field Air Operations Officer retires after 21 years of Naval Service

By Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

After 21 years of faithful service in the United States Navy, Cmdr. Doug “Rammer” Ramsey, NAS Whiting Field Air Operations Officer (OPSO), rendered his final salute in the base auditorium last week during a retirement ceremony among friends, family, and Navy personnel.

Ramsey reported to NAS Whiting Field in July 2017 to become the OPSO, the last step in a distinguished career. “With all the experiences, with all the countries, all the adventures, I’ve loved it. But that’s not what makes the Navy. What makes the Navy is the people. The people you serve with, the people you lead with and work for—that’s what sticks with you in the long run.

This opportunity, this day is really not about me, it’s about you and it’s my chance to say thank you,” Ramsey said.

Ramsey graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1998 and earned his wings as a Naval aviator in May 2000. After completing Fleet Logistics Support Squadron Three Zero (VRC-30) with aircraft commander qualification and two deployments supporting Fifth and Seventh Fleet Operations, he reported to Training Squadron Four (VT-4). He was assigned to USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) in May 2007, with tours in the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf. In August 2009, he reported to Fleet Logistics Support Squadron Four Zero (VRC-40). He had deployments with the Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group (CSG-1), during which he supported relief efforts following the Haiti earthquake in 2010. He then moved to Kadena Air Base, Japan as Air Operations Officer in May 2012. Ramsey reported to the aircraft carrier, USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70), in May 2015 as the Assistant Air Officer before a final report to NAS Whiting Field as the OPSO and instructor pilot for Training Squadron Three (VT-3), “Red Knights.”

The guest speaker for Ramsey’s retirement ceremony was Cmdr. Lucas “Spicoli” Kadar. Kadar currently serves as an aerospace engineering instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy. He and Ramsey served together aboard the USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) as the Air Officer and Assistant Air Officer, respectively.

Kadar commented that “this brings me to [another] one of Doug’s finest qualities--his relentless efforts and ability to help others. He does this with a degree of patience that most of us only wish we had. He taught me the ropes of catapult launching aircraft and explained what was in the heads of the people that were working on the flight deck (USS Carl Vinson).”

The “Navy Wife” poem was also read during the ceremony, and Summer Ramsey and the children received a letter of appreciation from NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Paul Bowdich.

“Permission to go ashore for the last time” rang out before Ramsey and his family stepped through the bullets completing his Naval service. Ramsey plans to fly with a commercial airline following his retirement.

Old Glory: Cmdr. Doug Ramsey receives the American flag during part of his retirement ceremony last week. (Photo by Lt.j.g. Chase Dowell, NAS Whiting Field public affairs office)

Family support: Cmdr. Doug Ramsey salutes his family during his retirement ceremony onboard NAS Whiting Field last week. Ramsey retired after 21 years of service in the U.S. Navy. (Photo by Lt.j.g. Chase Dowell, NAS Whiting Field public affairs office)
Four Sailors Advance as part of the Navy’s Meritorious Advancement Program

By Lt.j.g Drake Greer, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Lyndsay Robinson, Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Mansoor Kyemtore, Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Mervin-Ross Ibanez, and Master-at-Arms 1st Class Richey Solis recently advanced to the next rank through the Meritorous Advancement Program, or MAP.

Both Robinson and Kyemtore are assigned to the Branch Health Clinic. Ibanez and Solis are assigned to the base’s police force. Ibanez serves as a patrolman but is in the process of becoming a watch commander, a position previously held by Solis. Solis has already departed from NAS Whiting Field and is, according to Ibanez, stationed in Bahrain. His service as watch commander set the template for Ibanez, and they both worked closely together.

Robinson has been an aviation medical technician for two years. Her job sometimes entails sick call for Naval aviators and students, but her primary focus is on prelim or eye and audio exams.

Kyemtore works closely with retirees and active duty family members. He sees patients daily to listen to their needs, and to direct them if they need minor surgeries. He said, “my favorite aspect is my patients—listening and working with them to help them long term. When I see my patients doing better, it makes me happy. We remember them and they remember us.”

Established to allow command triads to recognize and advance deserving Sailors regardless of their exams, the MAP was recently expanded to include two seasons. The first season takes place from Mar. 1 to Apr. 30, and the second will be Sept. 1 to Oct. 31. Both seasons are expected to account for approximately 20% of all E-4 through E-6 advancements for 2019.

Sailors who advanced in season one through the MAP are ineligible for season two and can only advance one paygrade. Frocked Sailors are not eligible for meritorious advancement to the next higher paygrade, but CO’s can MAP a frocked Sailor if he or she has not reached their effective pay date.

When asked what advice they had for their fellow Sailors, Ibanez replied, “get qualified. Do School. It’s a meri-

tocracy, for certain so hard work pays off."

Kyemtore said, “I chose this (HM rate) because I have a passion. You can always develop that passion. See it as more than just a job.”
SITE Program on NAS Whiting Field providing resources and guidance for young adults

By Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office

Early morning the yellow bus arrives on the installation and unloads young adults and the guidance begins. The goal is to provide them with help and support as they enter the workforce.

The SITE (Skills for Independence, Transition and Employment) Program has been onboard Naval Air Station Whiting Field for 18 consecutive years.

The SITE Program held a full mock job fair for the students on Mar. 13, complete with provided interview clothes, job fair venue and mock interviewers. WEAR TV came out to cover the event and highlight a special visit from Hills-Kelly Dodge that presented a monetary award of $500 dollars to the SITE program.

The event began with greetings at the entrance to the mock job fair where students had to introduce themselves upon entering. Questions filled the room of the anxious interns, “Why don’t you tell me about your work experience?” as interviewers from various base entities quizzed the interviewees. The SITE instructors were on-hand to ease the nervousness and give immediate feedback to the interns.

The SITE Program was established by the Santa Rosa County School District in 2000 with a mission to provide unique educational opportunities for students with disabilities located at NAS Whiting Field. The program is the result of a partnership between the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Department, Workforce Education Department and the U.S. Navy.

The program operates with 3 different levels; skills, SITE and Search. This unique vocational education opportunity is geared for adults ages 18-22, to train on a daily basis through job skills and independent living activities with an ESE Certified instructor and support staff or job coach.

Some of the skills provided include: vocational training in an adult-oriented, community-based environment, job coaching as non-paid employment, training opportunities at real-world job sites, to increase student independence and self-advocacy and to assist in transition from the school world to the adult workforce.

Components are geared to the needs and skills such as functional community living, social skills, and vocational academic skills. Their mission statement reads, “Our mission is to provide opportunities for interns with disabilities to acquire continuous growth in the areas of social/emotional skills, independent functioning, self-determination, and vocational skills through community based vocational education for post school adult living.”

“It is amazing to watch the interns move from high school students to young adults entering the workforce. Our goal is to foster and grow independence while exposing the interns to many different occupations and skills,” Ronda Curtis, SITE and SKILL instructor said.

For more information on the program please contact the SITE Program at 850-983-5147.
This chart shows why you should take advantage of the power of compounding as early as possible. Let’s say this is you on the left – you put $2000 annually in your mutual fund for ten years starting at age 18, and continuing to 28. You never put another penny in after 27, but earned on average 7% annually and retired at 65 with $337,774.

Your friend on the right is also a great saver, but didn’t start investing until age 31, putting the same amount -- $2000 -- into the same fund every year until retirement. Despite 34 years of diligence, your friend retired with $256,518, or nearly $81,000 less, because you had the power of compounding for a longer period of time.

The takeaway lesson: start investing as early as possible. Source: Investor.gov Compound Interest Calculator

Did you know that the Fleet and Family Support Center offers free and confidential 1 on 1 meetings with a Certified Financial Educator and Counselor? To schedule your meeting please contact:

Michael LeClear AFC® FFC®
Financial Educator/Personal Financial Manager
Fleet and Family Support Center
Naval Air Station Whiting Field
(850) 623-7644
DSN 868-7644
michael.leclear.ctr@navy.mil
**VT-3 Change of Command:** VT-3 holds a change of command ceremony at the Naval Aviation Museum on board NAS Pensacola. Cmdr. Barnet Harris was relieved by Cmdr. Mike Gerhart on Apr 26. (Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)

**Leadership Santa Rosa:** Leaders from Santa Rosa County and NAS Whiting Field pose in front of the TH-57 helicopter, part of a tour given on base on April 18 (Photo by Lt.j.g Chase Dowell, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)

**Egg Hunt:** Naval Air Station Whiting Field MWR provided military and civilian members and their children an opportunity to celebrate and enjoy Spring with an Easter “Eggstravaganza” onboard the base Apr. 13. MWR and Fleet and Family Support Center on-board Whiting Field honor all military children during April’s month of the military child. (Photo by Julie Ziegenhorn, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Officer)

**Military Child:** Capt Paul Bowdich, Commanding Officer, NAS Whiting Field signs the National Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Military Child Proclamation on April 9. (Photo taken by Julie Ziegenhorn, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)

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**MAP:** Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Mansoor Kyemtore (left photo) and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Lyndsay Robinson (right photo) advance to their next rank through the Meritorious Advancement Program (MAP) on Apr. 5.

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News & Notes

May 2019

Whiting Park begins Summer Hours on Thursday, 2 May

Fri, Sat, Sun & Mon - 9:00am to 7:00pm

Tues & Wed - Closed

8:00am - 6:00pm & 8:00am - 12:00pm

Pool Opens

Fri - 2 May

May 4, 2011

President Barack Obama announces Navy SEALs raided Osama bin Laden’s compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, and killed America’s most wanted terrorist during Operation Neptune Spear.

May 4, 1942

Battle of the Coral Sea begins when TF 17 attacks the Japanese Tulagi Invasion Force at Tulagi, Solomons.

May 5, 1961

Cmdr. Alan Shepard Jr. makes the first U.S. manned space flight. USS Lake Champlain (CVS-39) recovers the capsule after the 15 minute flight.

May 8, 1911

Capt. Washington I. Chambers prepares the requisition for the first US Navy airplane, the Triad A-1, marking the birth of Naval Aviation.

May 13, 1908

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Veterans Benefits Administration Brief

Spouses are Welcome and Encouraged to Attend

Fleet and Family Support Center would like to introduce

Beth M. Juachon, Military Services Coordinator/Outreach, San Diego, CA

When: 9 May 0800 – 1000
Where: NAS Whiting Field’s Fleet & Family Support Center’s TGPS Classroom
(West side of the Coffee Shop 2998 BLDG)
2998 USS Long Island St, Milton, FL 32570

What: Brief on:

Veterans Benefits Administration

- All non-medical VA Benefits: Compensation, Pension, Education, Home Loan Guarantee, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, Life Insurance
- Administered by VA Regional Offices

Veterans Health Administration

- All VA health care services
- Administered by VA Medical Centers, Ambulatory Care and Community Based Outpatient Clinics

National Cemetery Administration

- Support to State Veterans Cemeteries
- Headstones and Markers
- Presidential Memorial Certificates

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Whiting Field Awards and Recognition

Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Academic Award Recipients

Two Commodore’s List Recipients receive recognition at TRAWING-5 Headquarters on April 5.

Two Commodore’s List with Distinction Recipients receive recognition at TRAWING-5 Headquarters on April 18.
Whiting Field Awards and Recognition

Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Wingers