Navy Reservist Takes Helm of Helicopter Training Squadron 8

By Julie Ziegenhorn NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Officer and Lt. Alek Hoffman, HT-8 Public Affairs Officer

INCOMING COMMANDING OFFICER, CMDR. LENA KAMAN, received the Helicopter Training Squadron Eight command flag from Chief Petty Officer (AWS) Robert Hand during a change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station Whiting Field June 7. The ceremonial passing of the flag signifies the orderly transfer of responsibility for the unit from one leader to the next. (Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)

MILTON, Fla. - Cmdr. Jessica Parker turned over command of Helicopter Training Squadron (HT) 8 to Cmdr. Lena Kaman during a change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field in Milton June 7.

Parker and Kaman were the first female leadership team to command a Navy helicopter training squadron together.

HT-8 is the Navy’s oldest active helicopter training squadron and is responsible for flying more than 26,000 flight hours and graduating an estimated 168 naval aviators every year. Serving as the commanding officer of the squadron represents a pinnacle achievement for Kaman, following 19 years of distinguished service.

A Navy Reservist, Kaman is also the first full-time support (FTS) officer, to take command of a training squadron at Whiting.

“It is a unique opportunity to be the first FTS officer to command a helicopter training squadron,” she said. “I have the opportunity to be a mentor and to pass along my knowledge and experience to all those affiliated with the Reserve in the entire air wing.”

Kaman graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Bachelor of Arts in French in May 2000. She earned her Wings of Gold onboard NAS Whiting Field in March 2002 and reported to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light) (HSL) 40, in Mayport, Florida, for ad-
Kaman advanced training in the SH-60B Seahawk helicopter.

Kaman’s first operational assignment was with HSL-48 in Mayport, where she deployed aboard USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55) from February 2004 to August 2004 on a MED/MEF cruise. She was awarded the Air Medal for flying more than 100 combat hours in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Following her first fleet tour, Kaman reported to HT-18, NAS Whiting Field, in January 2006 as an instructor pilot in the TH-57 Sea Ranger helicopter. She transitioned to the Navy Reserve FTS community in February 2009. Kaman became a member of America’s Squadron, HT-8, in August 2009. She served as the Reserve department head, safety department head, and operations officer. She was also named the Association of the United States Navy Full-Time Support Officer of the Year for all Chief of Naval Air Training squadrons for 2010. In 2011, she earned her Masters of Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Kaman reported for duty as executive officer of HT-8 in April 2018, under Parker’s leadership, ultimately preparing her to take the helm. Kaman said she is honored by the responsibilities of command, but feels the weight as well.

“...To me personally, to be selected for command is a huge responsibility to the student naval aviators, their families, and our nation, to ensure we provide them with the best and safest training possible,” Kaman said. “I have a high level of respect for that responsibility. We’re about training warfighting aviators, but we’re also about developing leaders. The fleet relies on us to produce quality aviators and leaders.”

Guest speaker for the event, retired Capt. Mark Murray and former Commodore of Training Air Wing Five, lauded Parker’s influence and time as the commanding officer of HT-8.

“During her (Parker’s) time as the commanding officer, her accomplishments are significant and very impressive,” said Murray.

“When I think of someone like Commander Parker, I know she’s been focused on the opportunity to have a positive influence during her entire career.” He went on to say that her influence had an immeasurable effect on the success of the squadron and training of helicopter pilots.

“And that influence will last long after she walks off this dais,” he commented.

Before reading her departing orders, Parker gave her final words to the squadron as the commander. “This has been the best tour of my career. Thank you to my squadron for being absolutely amazing. You keep me in awe each day, and I’m extremely proud of all the progress you’ve made.”

Parker will continue her naval service as air boss aboard amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) based in Norfolk, Va.
NAS Whiting Field Summer Safety Message

By Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office

The heat is upon us already. Every year as the summer kicks off, the Navy focuses on messaging and an information campaign to emphasize the prevention of summer-related injuries and to promote safety precautions for off-base and on-base outdoor activities.

The 101 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day are designated critical days for safety as this timeframe historically brings an increase in injuries and safety-related incidents.

Due to our location on the Emerald Coast in northwest Florida, outdoor activities, including activities related to the beach, boating and exposure to the sun for extended times are popular and widespread. The Navy uses the annual 101 critical days of summer campaign to remind personnel to focus on what may be needed to mitigate problems that can arise from such summer activities.

“No matter what activities you are planning for the summer, you should always have a plan and practice sound risk management prior to engaging in an activity. Step back and think; ‘Can I get hurt? What are the consequences if something goes wrong?’” NAS Whiting Field Occupational and Safety Specialist Ken Cube said. Cube recommends completing boating safety courses, understanding rip current safety, and knowing the beach flag system prior to trips to the beach. Additionally, recommending everyone know the signs and treatment of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

“Beat the heat! Hydration is key, please take appropriate steps to protect yourself if you are working or playing outdoors this summer by wearing appropriate clothing, take frequent water breaks, apply sunscreen and never leave kids or pets unattended in vehicles, “Rick Ballinger NAS Whiting Field Safety Manager said.

The Navy community is advised to prepare, plan, and stay safe on the upcoming summer season, which includes using smart and sound judgment, having a backup plan, and emphasizes drinking responsibly.

For more safety information on the 101 critical days of summer, safety questions and answers, lessons learned, recreation activity safety and water safety please visit the Naval Safety Center’s website at http://www.public.navy.mil/navsafecen/Pages/index.aspx

Swimming Pool Hours of Operation (Through Sept. 2)

Monday-Friday: 6:00am – 8:00am (lap swimming only)
Monday-Friday: 11:00am – 6:00pm (recreation & lap swimming)
Saturday, Sunday and Holidays: 10:00am – 4:00pm (recreation and lap swimming)

Float Days every Sunday – Bring your own float/inner tube.

For more information, please call the Fitness Center Pool at 850-623-7412.
Airfield Management “Keeping aviation training running safely”

By Lt.j.g. Drake Greer, NAS Whiting Field public affairs office

Directly responsible for the 12 different outlying landing fields in Alabama and Florida, and two airfields on the base used for naval aviation training at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, one would be surprised to learn that airfield management has only existed officially in the Navy since 2012.

Originally only a collateral duty for Air Traffic Controller Facility Officers, the Navy began to adopt similar policies to the Army and Air Force by maintaining airfield management as a full time position and responsibility. The airfield management team is currently located in the NASWF Command Building and is responsible for the safe and efficient operations at the airfields and their primary facilities.

The airfield management office, led by Dr. Leann Bair, Whiting Field’s airfield manager, is comprised of 13 active enlisted military and 8 civilians.

The civilians are either management in charge of project review and creation, or specialists who work the duty desk, inspect airfields and help manage wildlife on and around the airfields.

Airfield management handles all airfield inspection, maintenance, scheduling and coordination of daily operations along with wildlife detection and dispersal.

Airfield specialists inspect each airfield daily to ensure they are maintained and ready for safe flight operations. They work closely with the three U.S. Department of Agriculture wildlife specialists assigned to NAS Whiting Field and are capable of identifying wildlife and authorized with the final decision about how to handle wildlife to ensure the airfields are safe for the aircraft.

“We help protect the aircraft from damaging wildlife strikes by moving the wildlife away from the aircraft operating areas. There are multiple methods we use to herd birds and other wildlife away from the airfields: pyrotechnics, recorded sounds, clapper boards,” noted Randy Smith, Assistant Airfield Manager who has been with NASWF for the past 14 years.

Originally a surface electronics warrant officer, Smith transferred to Whiting Field as the Ground Electronics Maintenance Officer before retiring and then working with airfield management.

Together, the civilians in airfield management have an estimated total of 180 years of experience among them.

“Whenever the [Air Traffic Control] towers are open, we’re here,” said Doug Wood, airfield specialist.

Airfield management hours begin at 5:00 a.m., when specialists arrive at each airfield to inspect the runways, landing pads and facilities. Despite differences in airfields used for primary fixed wing training or helicopter training, both inspections follow similar parameters, looking
for anything that needs to be addressed before the flight operations begin for the day.

Throughout the day, airfield management is in touch with the base’s air traffic controllers, squadron Flight Duty Officers and Training Air Wing Five to maintain airfield integrity, usually with the last shift ending at 1:00 a.m. the next day.

“When pilots have blown tires, we’re out there inspecting the runway and coordinating getting personnel out of there,” Wood explained.

The enlisted members of the team are all Aviation Boatswain’s Mates (Handling) and, in ABH2 Christina Heron’s words, it is a lot different from serving on a ship.

“It’s good as far as shore duties go. We come in early, get our 8 hours in. It is good for the AB’s. It helps us adapt out of our element,” she noted.

The enlisted staff function is similar to the airfield specialists in that they conduct airfield inspections and wildlife dispersals, and perform many other functions for the base, if necessary.

Heron remarked, “The biggest change [from working on a ship] is working with civilians but we’ve adapted quickly.”

Kathy Buck received flowers from members of the branch health clinic during her retirement ceremony June 27, following more than 33 years working in Federal civilian service. She served 30 of those years at the NAS Whiting Field Naval Branch Health Clinic. (Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs)
Laura Whiting Field News

Father, Son Duo Takes to the Air for Last Flight Together
By NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

LtCol David “T-bone” Trombly took to the air in a T-6B aircraft one last time Friday, Jun. 21, culminating a twenty-five-year career in the Marine Corps. He has served as Training Air Wing (TRAWING) Five’s Marine Reserve Officer in Charge (OIC) for the past five years, assisting with and educating current active duty Marine Corps flight instructors attached to TRAWING Five, Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

As the Marine OIC, he provided details about the many Marine Reserve opportunities available to flight instructors as they complete their active duty commitment to the Corps. He also recruited and mentored Marine flight instructors who choose to leave the active component and continue their military service as reserve instructors with the 4th Marine Air Wing, NAS Whiting Field, as Marine Corps Reserve Instructor Pilots, or MCRIPs.

His career began as a student in the T-37 primary jet trainer, which he flew when he volunteered to be one of the first four Marines to train with the Air Force in 1994. Trombly went on to fly the T-2 and T-45 as a student, and then the F/A-18 aircraft in the Fleet Marine Forces.

Following a successful eleven-month battle with a rare form of bone Lymphoma completely holistically and to be granted a waiver back into the cockpit by the Navy’s Bureau of Medicine.

Because of his three-year effort to conquer both cancer and then receive his flight clearance, Trombly was unable to return to the fighter he loved having promoted to major during this period. He instead flew the T-2 at VT-86, Naval Air Station Pensacola, training naval flight officers before departing for a four-year staff tour at the Naval War College in Newport, RI.

Trombly served as an instructor four times during his career, first as a SERGRAD, or Selectively Retained Graduate, in the T-45 in Kingsville, TX. He then instructed students in the T-2 Buckeye in Pensacola on active duty. He finished the last eleven years of his Marine Corps career as a reservist flying the T-6A and T-6B at both TRAWING Six, Pensacola, and TRAWING Five, Whiting Field, respectively.

His passion for the Marine Reserve is “understandable considering the promotion, leadership, and flying opportunities he was afforded as a reservist himself,” he commented.

Trombly has been a staunch advocate for the continuation of Marine Aircraft Group -42, (MATSG-42), and the MCRIP program and for the Marine Reservists he mentored over the past decade.

Like Father, Like Son: Lt Col David Trombly and his son, 2nd Lt Alex Trombly, congratulate each other for a successful last flight flown Jun. 21. This was the lieutenant colonel’s final flight in the T-6B Texan at NAS Whiting Field before he retired Jun. 27. (Photo by Lt.j.g. Drake Greer, NAS Whiting Field public affairs office)

LtCol David Trombly and family: wife, Megan, daughters Brianna, Grace and Morgan, and sons, Brad, Noah and Alex. With 2nd Lt Alex Trombly is his fiancée, April. (Photo by Lt.j.g. Drake Greer, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)
On Jun. 21, in a first known for TRAWING Five, Trombly and his son, 2nd Lt Alex H. Trombly, strapped into a T-6B Texan, took off and landed together at Whiting Field for what would be the lieutenant colonel’s final flight. His son is currently a Marine student naval aviator attached to Training Squadron Six (VT-6) onboard NAS Whiting Field.

The younger Trombly may not have received a grade sheet for his efforts today, but he received “valuable guidance, and words of advice” from his retiring father while being shown the proper way to execute some of the more challenging aerobatic maneuvers.

Both father and son are graduates of LeTourneau University in Longview, TX. They have Bachelor of Science degrees in Missionary Aviation and have their A&P mechanic licenses as well as numerous civilian ratings acquired through their degree program.

The father and son duo share not only the title Marine and degrees from the same university, but both are fraternity brothers as members of Lambda Alpha Sigma, the aviation society at LeTourneau University.

The younger Trombly is hoping to share one more accomplishment with his father. He is only a few flights away from completing primary aviation training and selection for his next aircraft, and hopes to get follow on orders to either Kingsville, TX or Meridian, MS for the Marine Strike pipeline to fly jets.

According to the retiring Trombly, the most important aspect of the final flight is these two Marines also share a common faith. He said they used the time inverted over Pensacola to thank their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for their many successes and blessings.

Trombly said he also took time on this final flight to share a prayer of gratitude to God for sparing his life when he was a young fighter pilot and father of four, receiving a miracle cure and a second chance at life and a full and rewarding Marine Corps career.

Congratulations are due to these two Marines for their service as they each leave the T-6B behind.
Summer Pool Classes: The fitness center pool offers plenty of fun aquatic classes and activities to cool off and stay in shape during the hot summer. Swimming, aerobics and paddle boarding are available for members, families and guests (guests are charged a nominal admission fee). (Photo by Jamie Link NASWF Public Affairs Office)

Battle of Midway and D-Day: Captain Paul Bowdich, commanding officer,NAS Whiting Field, laid a wreath in commemoration of the 77th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway and the 75th Anniversary of D-Day during a ceremony June 6. (Photo by Jamie Link, NASWF Public Affairs Office)

Magical moments: Local magician, Lee Bott, wow’d and amazed children during the first magic show at the Library in the Tower Books and Cafe’ June 27. The magic tricks held the children’s fascination, and Bott even taught the kids how to do a few tricks of their own. (Photo by Jamie Link NASWF Public Affairs Office).

The Future of the Marine Corps: Lt.j.g. Drake Greer, Public Affairs Office, explained details about the TH-57 Sea Ranger to Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps from Jesuit High School, New Orleans, LA, June 6. (Photo by Jamie Link NASWF Public Affairs Office)

Air Traffic Controller Frocking: (left to right) Matthew Sauerhoff, Omar Dubose III, and Jaisha Diggs Johnson advanced to the rank of Petty Officer Second Class during a recent frocking ceremony. These air traffic controllers have been given the trust to perform in their new responsibilities commensurate with the rank they now wear. (Photo by Lt.j.g. Drake Greer NASWF Public Affairs Office)

Drenched!: Cmrd. Aaron Beattie was sprayed by his sons with water guns while his fellow aviators drenched him with water after his recent successful last flight flown in the TH-57 Sea Ranger. Beattie retired the next day after 21 years of faithful Naval service. (Lt.j.g. Drake Greer NASWF Public Affairs Office)
July 1, 1972
Rear Adm. Samuel L. Gravely Jr. becomes the first African-American to achieve flag rank in the U.S. Navy

July 7, 1948
The first six enlisted women are sworn into Regular Navy: Chief Yeoman Wilma J. Marchal; Yeoman Second Class Edna E. Young; Hospital Corpsman First Class Ruth Flora; Aviation Storekeeper First Class Kay L. Lingen; Storekeeper Second Class Frances T. Devaney, and Telemann Doris R. Robertson.

July 20, 1969
Former Naval aviator Neil Armstrong is the first man to set foot on the moon, saying “That’s one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind.”

July 25, 1998
USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) is commissioned at Norfolk Naval Base, Va.
Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Academic Award Recipients

Three Commodore’s List Recipients and one Commodore’s List with Distinction received recognition at TRAWING-5 Headquarters on May 31.

One Commodore’s List Recipient and one Commodore’s List with Distinction received recognition at TRAWING-5 Headquarters on June 12.
Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Wingers and Academic Award Recipients

Two Commodore’s List Recipients and one Commodore’s List with Distinction received recognition at TRAWING-5 Headquarters on June 21.

**TOP ROW:** LtCol Gregory R. Curtis, USMC, CO HT-28; Lt.j.g. Andrew M. Kelly, USN, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Cory A. Himlin, USN, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Robert A. Macko, USN, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Brandt P. Fisk, USN, HT-28; Lt.j.g. William H. Beasley III, USN, HT-18; Lt.j.g. Andrew R. Long, USN, HT-18; 1stLt Mark M. Elias, USMC, HT-8; 1stLt Christopher L. Bier, USMC, HT-8; Lt.j.g. Alexander J. Barta, USN, HT-18; Lt.j.g. Erick A. Schwering, USN, HT-8; Capt Richard A. Catone, USN, (Ret)

**MIDDLE ROW:** Cmdr Kenneth M. Kerr, USN, CO HT-18; Lt.j.g. Natalia T. Karvelis, USN, HT-18; Lt.j.g. Daniel J. Fohley, USN, HT-18; Lt.j.g. Patrick J. Johnsen, USCG, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Jason L. Mapa, USN, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Charles P. Palmito, USN, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Garrett S. Woodrum, USN, HT-18; 1stLt Pierce T. Oka, USMC, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Eric R. Nord, USN, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Samuel A. Weaver, USN, HT-18; Capt Douglas Rosa, USN, Commodore TW-5

**BOTTOM ROW:** Cmdr Lena C. Kaman, USN, CO HT-8; 1stLt Joshua G. Ng, USMC, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Brittany I. Witkowski, USN, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Meghan M. Moloney, USN, HT-8; Lt.j.g. Elizabeth K. Bostian, USN, HT-18; Lt.j.g. David A. Colville, USN, HT-18; Lt.j.g. Brian A. Burlingame, USN, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Steven G. Dull, USN, HT-8; Lt.j.g. Joshua M. Frey, USN, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Rebecca F. Whatley, USN, HT-18.

(June 14)