Navy to Conduct Annual Force Protection Exercise

By: Commander, Navy Installations Command and Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy will commence its largest annual force protection exercise next week at installations throughout the United States.

Exercise Citadel Shield-Solid Curtain 2019, which is scheduled to take place Feb. 4-15, is an annual two-week force protection and anti-terrorism exercise conducted by Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) and Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFFC) on all Navy installations in the continental United States.

The exercises are designed to enhance the readiness of Navy first responders and ensure seamless interoperability among Navy commands, other services and agency partners. Citadel Shield is the field training exercise led by CNIC, and Solid Curtain is a command post exercise co-led by USFFC and CNIC.

“Anti-terrorism force protection is one of my top priorities; this annual exercise builds readiness by enhancing awareness and increasing lethality across the fleet,” said Adm. Christopher Grady, commander of USFFC.

“We train as a team with local authorities to rapidly identify and respond to existing and emerging threats to our Navy installations, units, Sailors, our civilian shipmates, and families.”

These exercises use realistic scenarios to ensure U.S. Navy security forces maintain a high level of readiness to respond to changing and dynamic threats. The exercise is not in response to any specific threat.

“Our Navy installations are key enablers that directly support warfighting capabilities and readiness,” said Tim Alexander, director of operations for CNIC. “Exercises such as Citadel Shield-Solid Curtain allow our regions, bases and tenant commands to hone our force protection skills.”

Measures have been taken to minimize disruptions within local communities and to normal base operations, but there may be times when the exercise causes increased traffic around bases or delays in base access. Area residents may also see or hear security activities associated with the exercise. Advanced coordination has taken place with local law enforcement and first responders.
RP Rate Marks 40 Years of Service

By Lt.j.g. Ashley Koenig, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

They manage and execute religious programs, accommodating more than 250 different religious ministry requirements of personnel and their families— they are the people who are available night and day to provide support to Navy chaplains— they are the religious program specialists of the U.S. Navy. This month, religious program specialists, more commonly known as RPs celebrate their 40th anniversary of continued service.

RPs play a special role in today’s Navy and provide the support and development to assist Naval chaplains and meet the needs of U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard personnel and their families. Onboard NAS Whiting Field, Religious Program Specialist 2nd class (RP2) Aaron Spangler, works in the chaplain’s office and serves as the ‘go-to’ for all support, managing religious programs, spaces, finances, offering funds and the day to day schedules of Whiting Field’s chaplains.

Spangler, who has served fourteen years as an RP, joined the Navy on his 21st birthday, enlisting as an RP as part of his contract. From there, he continued on to ‘A’ school in Meridian, Mississippi and was there during Hurricane Katrina. He served at Camp Lejeune in 2005, followed by two tours in Iraq in 2006 and 2009.

Deployed, Spangler’s main job was to provide force protection expertise for the religious ministry team but said, ‘his job was not to judge, mine was to facilitate.’

The core values of the chaplain’s office are to provide, facilitate, care, and advise. Spangler continued that, ‘to facilitate was to ensure all service members had what they needed, so at the end of the day they knew that they did the right thing by whichever god they prayed to.’

RPs facilitate the free exercise of religion for all personnel and support the delivery of care as part of the religious ministry team. Coming to Whiting Field in 2016, Spangler said, ‘The dynamics of this base are unique because the service members have so much direct contact with the chaplain’s, my job is mainly just to stay aware.’ The chaplains office, unlike other services on base, is one of complete confidentiality. ‘No matter what the issue is, this is the only place where 100% confidentiality exists, and I wish more people knew that,’ said Spangler.

For Spangler, what makes this rate special is the size of the career field. He stated that he is proud of ‘how small the rate is... you don’t get lost in the numbers. We are small, but it’s a really tight knit community.’ The rate of religious program specialist was established in 1979, a specialization from the welfare specialist (W) rating created in 1942, whose original responsibility was to provide security and assistance for Navy chaplains. RPs still provide the security and assistance to chaplains, but in addition to that, the RP has taken on the management and administration of religious programs, advising on morale, and providing service members what they need to worship.
Naval Air Station Whiting Field celebrated its 27th consecutive year as a Tree City USA participant recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The designation recognizes a community’s dedication to conservation and urban renewal.

Marking the 27th year, NAS Whiting Field has the longest active history of military installation participation with the Tree City program in the state of Florida.

The NAS Whiting Field environmental team along with base leadership, planted a Live Oak tree near the Cmdr. Clyde E. Lassen Auditorium on USS Saratoga Street in December to recognize the completion of the annual certification requirements.

The Arbor Day Foundation presented a banner to the command to recognize the achievement. NAS Whiting Field Executive Officer Cmdr. Jim Brownlee read a proclamation among the base personnel announcing the dates of Dec. 3-7 as Tree Week across the base and the significance supporting such a program.

The certificate reads in part: “Whiting Field will continue to annually celebrate Tree Awareness Week during the first week of December and recognize the importance of preserving and managing our trees with planned activities for the planting of trees throughout the planting season, demonstrating our responsibility as federal land stewards.”

These events highlight and serve to raise awareness about how important trees are to our society. Trees absorb traffic noise, create a shade canopy and habitat for wildlife, help to lower temperatures in urban areas, increase the oxygen level in their areas and help to cleanse pollutants from groundwater and the air.

The ceremony is only the final step in the process. Throughout the year, the NAS Whiting Field Natural Resources team is engaged in: ensuring an allocated cost is directed toward forestry projects (this has to exceed $2 per person on the base), maintaining an Urban Forestry Ordnance, and holding regular board meetings.

The installation’s environmental department works closely with NAS Whiting Field operations department to create a balance between creating a healthy woodland habitat and the operational requirements for the high number of flight operations that occur each year.
NAS Whiting Field Command Master Chief Retires after 30 years of Service

By Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Whiting Field Command Master Chief (CMC) Lee Stephens retired after 30 years of service to the U.S. Navy in a ceremony onboard the installation on January 18 among family, friends and shipmates.

Stephens served as the Command Master Chief beginning April 2016, culminating 30 years of Naval service. The ceremony included the reading of the “Old Glory” and flag pass, shadowbox presentation, reading of the CPO Retirement Creed,” “The Navy Wife,” and “The Watch.” Guests included many former shipmates who traveled from far and wide to take part in honoring Stephen’s Naval career. Guest speaker for the ceremony was Cmdr. Gil Clark. Clark is currently the Commanding Officer of Afloat Training Group, Western Pacific.

Clark spoke about serving with Stephens aboard USS The SULLIVANS (DDG 68) and wished him the best as he moves forward after retiring from the Navy. “For 30 years Lee, you stood the watch with honor, courage and commitment, now we will relieve him. This truly is the American dream, a retired Master Chief, a teacher and two beautiful kids that are starting to walk down their own paths,” Clark said.

“It has honestly been one of the most cherished professional relationships that I have had working with Lee. Even better, I made a life-long friend,” Clark said.


His assignments and deployments include the USS MACDONOUGH (DDG 39), USS REASONER (FF 1063), Fleet Area and Surveillance Facility Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, USS NIMITZ (CVN 68), USS ANTIETAM (CG 54), USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67), Fleet Area and Surveillance Facility, Jacksonville, Fla., Joint Special Operations Center, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. USS VICKSBURG (CG 69), Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., USS THE SULLIVANS (DDG 68), and NAS Whiting Field.

After Bowdich presented the certificate of retirement and certificate of appreciation from the President of the United States, Stephens also received letters of appreciation from former President of the United States George Bush, the Chief of Naval Operations, Secretary of the Navy, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, and the Governor of Florida. Master Chief Jason Schaefer and Master Chief Keith Heatherly presented Stephens retirement gift prior to a reading of “Creating the Navy Wife,” by Chief Petty Officer (ret) Racheal Kempston. During his time as Nas Whiting Fields CMC, the installation received the Installation Excellence award two times, along with numerous installation awards.

Stephens thanked his family and showed appreciation for their support in his remarks before presenting his wife, April, and daughter, Hannah, with flowers, and his son Logan with a flag after the passing of the flag ceremony.

“My admiration also lies with our Sailors and their families. Our 26th president, Teddy Roosevelt, once stated “speak softly and carry a big stick.” Speak softly is diplomacy but diplomacy will only work if you have the strength to back it up. Ladies and gentlemen, the military members in this room and on this installation are the big stick. The ones who do the work, who put in the sacrifice every day to make sure that this country, this most beautiful great nation, still stands. They are the reason I stayed in our Navy so long. Shipmates you are the best of the best. You are by far without exception the very best this country has to offer bar none. I am honored to be a part of the legacy of serving our country, and I am proud to have served alongside every man and woman who volunteered to continue to preserve the liberties and freedoms that our veterans fought so hard to establish and defend,” Stephens said.
A look back at 30 years of service: Command Master Chief Lee Stephens retired January 18th in the Clyde E. Lassen Auditorium. In attendance were sailors and command staff from across the country who had previously served with Stephens. There to celebrate with him were his wife, April, daughter Hannah, and son, Logan. Master Chief Stephens served aboard NAS Whiting Field from April 2016 to November 2018 as the command master chief for Whiting Field. During the ceremony Capt Paul Bowdich, NAS Whiting Field commanding officer presented Stephens with his retirement certificate and various letters of appreciation.

(Photos by Lt.j.g. Ashley Koenig, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)
Dispelling Common Myths about the Advancement Exam

By Lt. j.g. Terryll Daguison, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

The Navy-wide advancement exams are approaching, and if you haven’t already -- it’s time to break out your study material. Rumors abound around the work center about what will be on the exam and what it will take for you to pass and advance. But how do you know what’s scuttlebutt and what’s gouge? This article will address common myths Sailors often hear about the exams, so you have a better understanding about how to give yourself the best possible chance for advancement.

Myth number one: Civilians write advancement exams. Advancement exams are actually written by chiefs who are selected to participate in the Advancement Exam Readiness Review (AERR) process. Exam reviews are held at the Navy Advancement Center (NAC), part of the Naval Education and Training Professional Development Center (NETPDC) in Pensacola, Florida. For every rating, a group of chiefs E7- E9 selected by their type commanders come together for one-to-two weeks to formulate and review a bank of exam questions. These chiefs serve as subject matter experts and are selected based on their mastery and skill in specified ratings.

The SME’s work with a civilian team leader (NAC staffer) who assists these chiefs in writing the exam, analyzing each question to confirm it is written properly and in a way fleet Sailors will understand. The team leaders also assist with formatting, grammar, and the standardization of questions. Each exam question written by the AERR members is always linked to a specific reference which is listed in the bibliography for each rank and rating.

Myth number two: “I scored an 80 on the exam, that means I aced it!”

The advancement exam is scored using a system referred to as “norm-reference scoring.” This means that your exam score is a numerical representation of how well you did compared to your peers taking the same exam. Depending on how many questions you answered correctly, your score will be placed on a scale from 20 to 80, with 20 being the lowest raw score and 80 being the highest. This number will then be recorded onto your profile sheet, which you can access through the Navy Enlisted Advancement System (NEAS).

Let’s say your profile sheet indicates that you received a score of 80 on the exam. Because the distribution of scores is all relative to each other, a score of 80 only signifies you had a high score relative to your peers. It does not mean you answered every question correctly – there’s almost always room for improvement.

Myth number three: Some test questions are always thrown out.

While there are cases in which certain questions are excluded from the total score of each exam, it’s more of an exception than a rule. When 75 percent of completed exams are returned and scored, a review of the test questions is conducted for any errors that may have been missed in the exam writing and publication process. If there are red flags that arise, analysts will check to ensure that the content is still current, the information is relevant, the answer provided is correct, and that the exam question is important to that rate. If an exam question is deemed inadequate, that question will be excluded from all exams and will not be counted towards the overall score. “Only about a dozen or less questions are thrown out per each paygrade, E-4 to E-7,” said Darlene Barrow, head of the statistical analysis branch for the NAC. “And that is across 80 different ratings.”

It is important to remember that while you are answering 175 questions on the exam, your overall score will not indicate anything above an 80. This is not because the rest of the questions have been thrown out, but due to the norm-reference scoring system used by the Advancement Center.

Myth number four: Other than the score, how you did on the exam is secret.

Although your overall score is a solid indicator of how you did on the exam, the key to deciphering your overall performance is to take a close look at your profile sheet, which is broken down into sections of the exam.

“For those who have taken the exam before, the best way to prepare for the exam is to look at your previous exam profile sheet, determine your weak areas, and then compare that with what is listed for the upcoming exam bibliography,” said NETPDC Command Master Chief, Master Chief Electronics Technician, Nuclear Power (SS) Gregory Prichard. “This allows you to understand what you need to work on and formulate an effective study plan.”

Prichard added that exam bibliographies can be found on the Navy Advancement Center pages on My Navy Portal and are also available through the Navy Credentialing...
Dispelling Myths about the Advancement Exam Continued

Opportunities Online (Navy COOL) website. The NAC updates bibliography information as Fleet instructions and manuals change, and that candidates should check their bibliography a few times prior to the exam administration date to make sure they have the most recent BIBs.

“Bibliographies and their listed references should be a critical part of each Sailor’s exam preparation program,” said Prichard. “When the exams are created, each test question is tied to a specific reference, and the bibliography is a compilation listing of all references used to create that specific exam. With that in mind, I would recommend Sailors use only the official Navy bibliography sources for studying their references.”

To download the bibliographies and an exam-specific topic list for the upcoming cycle, go to the Navy Advancement Center’s My Navy Portal bibliography page: https://www.mnp.navy.mil/group/navy-advancement-center/bibliographies or the Navy Credentialing Opportunities Online (Navy COOL) website: http://www.cool.navy.mil/un, under the Find & Select Related Credentials, Enlisted tab.

For more information on the Navy advancement exam or the Navy Enlisted Advancement System, visit the Navy Advancement Center at https://www.facebook.com/Navy-Advancement-Center-213190711299/

You can receive additional information by visiting the Naval Education and Training Professional Development Center website via https://www.public.navy.mil/NETPDC/Default.aspx

NETPDC is located onboard NAS Pensacola Saufley Field and is home to the Navy Advancement Center, the Voluntary Education Department, and the Resources Management Department.

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A Letter from the Personal Financial Counselor and Educator

By Michael LeClear, Fleet and Family Services

Hi everyone--my name is Michael (Mike) LeClear, and I’m the new Personal Financial Counselor and Educator here at NAS Whiting Field. My credentials include being an Accredited Financial Counselor, AFC® and a Financial Fitness Coach, FFC®. Both accreditations are from the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education (AFCPE.) I work for the Armed Forces Services Corporation (AFSC), a military contractor and have more than 20 years of experience working in the financial counseling/coaching field. I have a passion for working with military personnel, and I’m looking forward to working together with those here at Whiting Field who can benefit from my assistance. I’m located in the Fleet & Family Support Center at 7511 USS Enterprise Street, Building 3025. My contact phone number is 850-623-7644; email michael.leclear.ctr@navy.mil.

Starting in January, I’ll include a monthly financial tip or article in the Whiting Tower to help make your financial life a little less stressful. For this month, I want to show you how certain financial mistakes, such as a 30-day late payment, can greatly affect your FICO credit score—see below.

The good news is if your credit report and FICO credit score are not where you would like them to be, there are things that you can do to improve both. Number one, you can obtain a free copy of your credit report. You’re entitled to one free copy of your credit report every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting companies. Order online from annualcreditreport.com, the only authorized website for free credit reports, or call 1-877-322-8228. Your credit report is free from annualcreditreport.com, but if you want your current credit score through them there is a charge. Most major credit card companies normally will give you your credit score for free each month listed on your billing statement.

I’d also advise you to call the Fleet & Family Support Center at 850-623-7177 and schedule a free and confidential financial counseling session to review your credit report and to create an action plan for improving your credit.

### Damage Points: How Mistakes Affect FICO Credit Scores

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<td>Maxed-out credit card</td>
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<td>30-day late payment</td>
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<td>Debt settlement (Less than full balance)</td>
<td>40-65 points</td>
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<td>Foreclosure</td>
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<td>Bankruptcy</td>
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Reserve Component Change of Command: Captain James Miller shakes hands with incoming Reserve Component Commander, Cmdr Rigel Pirrone during the change of command ceremony. (Photo by Lt.j.g. Ashley Koenig, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)

Taking the plunge: Members of the Whiting Field team and their families joined together to brave the cold weather, during the MWR’s Polar Plunge event. (Photo by Julie Ziegenhorn, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)

The Doc is in: Bella gets her yearly checkup and shots at the Vet Clinic onboard NAS Whiting Field, January 16th. (Photo by Lt. j.g. Ashley Koenig, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)

Frocking ceremony at the base office: Aviation Boatswains mate 1st class (ABH1) Anthony Bral was frocked by his daughter onboard NASWF. (Photo by Lt.j.g. Ashley Koenig, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)

Reserve Component Change of Command: Captain James Miller shakes hands with incoming Reserve Component Commander, Cmdr Rigel Pirrone during the change of command ceremony. (Photo by Lt.j.g. Ashley Koenig, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)
News & Notes

February 2019

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- **News & Notes**

**February 1, 1942**
USS Enterprise (CV 6) and USS Yorktown (CV 5) make the first World War II air strike against the Japanese at their outposts in the Marshall Islands to protect the Trans-Pacific supply route to Australia.

**February 2, 1848**
The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends the Mexican-American War and establishes the boundaries between the two republics.

**February 5, 1888**
The battleship Maine explodes in Havana Harbor and nearly three-quarters of the battleship's crew die as a result of the blast. Popular opinion blames Spain and the Spanish-American war starts soon after.

**February 10, 1942**
USS Enterprise (CV 6) and USS Yorktown (CV 5) make the first World War II air strike against the Japanese at their outposts in the Marshall Islands to protect the Trans-Pacific supply route to Australia.

**February 12, 1948**
The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends the Mexican-American War and establishes the boundaries between the two republics.

**February 15, 1898**
The battleship Maine explodes in Havana Harbor and nearly three-quarters of the battleship’s crew die as a result of the blast. Popular opinion blames Spain and the Spanish-American war starts soon after.

**February 17, 1974**
Lt j.g. Barbara Ann (Allen) Rainey becomes the first Navy designated female aviator.

**February 22, 1893**
The first true U.S. Navy battleship, USS Indiana (BB 1), launches.

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Contacting Base Security in Emergency and Non-emergency situations:

For an **EMERGENCY** on base, at Whiting Pines Housing, at Whiting Park, or at any of our outlying airfields, please dial 9-1-1 and identify that you are on base to the operator.

For a **NON-EMERGENCY**, please dial 904-542-8681.

To reach the NAS Whiting Field Security Department Administrative Staff during normal working hours:

- **Antiterrorism Officer**: 850-623-7387
- **Physical Security**: 850-623-7433/7349
- **Security Administration**: 850-623-7694
- **Visitor Control Center (Pass & Tag)**: 850-623-7205

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**THIS DAY IN NAVAL HISTORY**

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**FEBRUARY 5, 1888**
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**FEBRUARY 15, 1893**
The first true U.S. Navy battleship, USS Indiana (BB 1), launches.
Whiting Field Awards and Recognition

Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Wingers

TOP ROW: Cdr. Nathan K. Moore, USN, XO, HT-28; Lt j.g. Billy J. Chisum, USN, HT-8; Lt j.g. Grant S. Starnes, USN, HT-8; Lt j.g. Anthony A. Savola, USN, HT-28; Lt j.g. Michael J. Franklin, USN, HT-28; Lt j.g. Robert C. Johanssen, USN, HT-18; Lt j.g. Martin J. Larson, USN, HT-18; Lt j.g. Luis Nebot Pitarch, SPN, HT-18; 1st Lt John R. Marino, USMC, HT-18; Lt j.g. Stephen J. Kussmaul II, USN, HT-8.

MIDDLE ROW: Cmdr Kenneth M. Kerr, USN, CO HT-18; 1st Lt Walker S. Mook, USMC, HT-18; Lt j.g. Kellen A. French, USCG, HT-28; Ens Nathan T. Dunham, USN, HT-18; 1st Lt Alexander J. Lee, USMC, HT-28; Lt j.g. Matthew N. Megli, USN, HT-8; 1st Lt Jonathan C. Shomsky, USMC, HT-28; 1st Lt Andrew N. Mendez, USMC, HT-28; Lt j.g. Paul M. Powers, USN, HT-18; Lt j.g. Patrick W. Martin, USN, HT-18; Col David C. Morris, USMC, Commodore TW5.

BOTTOM ROW: Cdr. Jessica R. Parker, USN, CO HT-8; Lt j.g. Ian M. Grover, USN, HT-28; Lt j.g. Gleam A. Getty, USN, HT-8; 1st Lt Karah M. (Brown) Jaeb, USMC, HT-8; Lt j.g. Casey J. Fall, USCG, HT-28; Lt j.g. Rebecca M. Modiano, USN, HT-28; Lt Alyssa P. Fuller, USCG, HT-18; Lt j.g. Margaret B. Van Gorder, USN, HT-28; Lt j.g. Christina M. McGee, USCG, HT-28; Lt j.g. Michael B. McGee, USCG, HT-28; RDML Matthew P. O’Keefe, Deputy Commander Naval Air Force Atlantic (guest speaker) (January 11)

TOP ROW: Lt.Col. Gregory R. Curtis, USMC, CO HT-28; Lt j.g. Andrew W. Stueckemann, USN, HT-28; Ens Brian A. Evertson, USN, HT-8; Lt j.g. John P. Gildersleeve, USN, HT-28; Lt j.g. Salvador A. Fernandez, USN, HT-8; 1st Lt Rory C.S. Gross, USMC, HT-18; Lt j.g. Nathaniel D. Wilson, USN, HT-18; Col David C. Morris, USMC, Commodore TW5.

MIDDLE ROW: Cdr. Kenneth M. Kerr, USN, CO HT-18; Lt j.g. Derek E. Cruz, USN, HT-8; Ens Joseph Douglas R. Dube, USN, HT-18; 1st Lt Jahziel J. Sanchez, USMC, HT-28; 1st Lt Alexander M. Obrenski, USMC, HT-28; Lt j.g. Shannon E. Yancey, USN, HT-8; Lt j.g. Tyler D. Williams, USN, HT-8; 1st Lt Daniel J. McCaffrey, USMC, HT-28; Capt Tim Kinsella, USN, Prospective Commanding Officer NAS Pensacola, FL (guest speaker).

BOTTOM ROW: Cdr. Jessica R. Parker, USN, CO HT-18; Ens Kelly E. Evertson, USN, HT-18; Lt j.g. Lena A. Reid, USN, HT-18; Lt j.g. William L. Whitaker, USN, HT-28; Lt j.g. Devaughn A. Blake, USN, HT-28; Lt j.g. Kyle C. Kaykendall, USN, HT-18; Lt j.g. Gabriella C. Deza, USCG, HT-18; 1st Lt Karly E. Boecker, USMC, HT-18; Lt j.g. Whitney A. Heer, USN, HT-8 (January 25)