



# Whiting Tower

Seventy Years of Aviation Training News

Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.  
Vol. 70 No. 6

Forging Wings for the Fleet  
Wednesday, April 16, 2014

*-Conatser Assumes Command of VT-3*

*Page 2*

*-Sailors of the Quarter Selected*

*Page 2*

*-Sexual Assault Awareness Month*

*Page 6*

*-CWO4 Retires After 30 Years*

*Page 7*



## Conatser Assumes Command of VT-3

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

A mixture of Air Force and Navy traditions blended to create a unique farewell for Training Squadron THREE's former commanding officer and welcome for the new Skipper April 4 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. The two officers exchanged command of the squadron during ceremonies in the installation's Atrium building.

The event paid tribute to the fact that Lt. Col. Brian Schafer was the final Air Force squadron commander officer serving for any of the Training Air Wing FIVE commands at NAS Whiting Field. Since 1995 VT-3 had alternated Air Force and Navy commanding officers, but with the suspension of the student pilot exchange program for primary training



Cmdr. James Conatser relieves Lt. Col. Brian Schafer of duty as Commanding Officer of VT-3 on Apr. 4. U.S. Navy Photo by Ensign Lindsay Grover

between the two services, command of the squadron reverted back to solely Navy.

The ceremony highlighted Air Force influence with an Air Force color guard, playing of the Air Force anthem, use of Air Force sideboys and more. The mutual respect and camaraderie between the two services was apparent throughout, and good natured teasing was apparent from the beginning of the guest speaker's comments.

[Schafer] gave me two ground rules for my remarks this morning; keep them brief and number two; no Air Force jokes," TRAWING-5 Commodore Capt. James Fisher said with a grin. "You will be happy to know that I agreed to the first rule and look forward to not honoring the second one."

- (Cont. on Page 10)

Cover Photo: Capt. James Fisher, TRAWING-5 Commodore, Commander James Conatser, Lt. Col. Brian Schafer and Chaplain Jason Hart stand at attention as the U.S. Air Force Color Guard Parade the Colors during the VT-3 Change of Command. U.S. Navy Photo by Ensign Lindsay Grover

## Sailors of the Quarter Announced

By Ensign Josh Lamb, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NASWF) recently announced its Sailors of the Quarter (SOQ) for the Second quarter fiscal year 2014. This awards program is designed to give recognition to the top performing Sailors at various levels of enlisted service. The Sailor of the Quarter is the top performing first class petty officer. The Junior Sailor of the Quarter



Master-at-Arms 1st Class Shaun Ruschhaupt. U.S. Navy Photo by Ensign Josh Lamb

is the best performing second class petty officer. Lastly, the Blue Jacket of the Quarter is the most impressive Sailor in the junior ranks.

Master at Arms 1st Class Shaun Ruschhaupt, Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Mario Santis, and Air Traffic Controller 3rd Class Takiyah Wat-

- (Cont. on Page 13)

## The Whiting Tower

### Commanding Officer

- Capt. Matthew Coughlin

### Executive Officer

- Cmdr. Gregory Gray

### Command Master Chief

- Command Master Chief (AW/SW) Alton Smith

### Interim Public Affairs Officer

- Jay Cope

### Public Affairs Staff

- Ensign Lindsay Grover

- Ensign Josh Lamb

The Whiting Tower is an authorized publication for members of the Naval Air Station Whiting Field team, tenant commands, their family members and retirees in the surrounding area. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Navy, and do not imply endorsement thereof. The editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

## DoD Unveils Improved Sexual Assault Prevention Training

By Amaani Lyle, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- As part of efforts to eliminate the crime of sexual assault in the military, Defense Department officials announced April 14 improvements to sexual assault prevention and response training for all members of the armed forces and civilian employees.

Officials said the improvements center on development of consistent sexual assault prevention and response core competencies and learning objectives for training for new accessions; annual and refresher training; pre- and post-deployment training; professional military education; training for commanders and senior enlisted leaders before assuming their new positions; and training for sexual assault response coordinators, victim advocates and chaplains.

### *This Day in Naval History*

#### Apr. 19

1917 - The U.S. Naval Armed Guard crew on board SS Mongolia engages and damages a German U-boat, the first engagement against the enemy after declaration of war on April 6.

1920 - The first German submarine brought to the United States after World War I arrives at New York. During World War I, U 111 sank three Allied merchant vessels that included the British steamer Boscawen on April 7, 1918. The submarine surrendered later that year.

1945 - USS Buckley (DE-51) and USS Reuben James (DE-153) sink the German submarine U-879 southeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

1955 - USS Albany (CA 123) and USS William Wood (DD 715) begin providing disaster relief to citizens of Volos, Greece, following a catastrophic earthquake.

1960 - the Grumman A2F-1 "Intruder" makes its first flight. The Intruder receives the designation of A-6A in 1962, and upon entering service in 1963, becomes the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps principle all weather/night attack aircraft.

#### Apr. 20

1861 - Union forces burn screw frigate Merrimack and Gosport Shipyard, Portsmouth, Va., to prevent Yard facilities and ships from falling into Confederate hands during the Civil War.

1914 - The first call-to-action of naval aviators is given, creating an aviation detachment of three pilots, 12 enlisted men, and three aircraft to join the Atlantic Fleet forces operating off Tampico during Mexican crisis.

1942 - USS Wasp (CV 7) launches 47 British aircraft to reinforce Malta, repeating the exercise May 9.

1944 - USS Seahorse (SS 304) torpedoes and sinks Japanese submarine RO 45 off the Mariana Islands.

1947 - Navy Capt. L.O. Fox, backed by 80 Marines, accepts surrender of Japanese Lt. Ei Yamaguchi and 26 Japanese soldiers and sailors, two and one half years after the occupation of Peleliu and nearly 20 months after the surrender of Japan.

1953 - USS New Jersey (BB 62) shells Wonsan, Korea, from inside the harbor during the Korean War.

1964 - USS Henry Clay (SSBN-625) launches a Polaris A-2 missile in the first demonstration to show that Polaris submarines could launch missiles from the surface as well as from beneath the ocean.

2007 - USS Saipan (LHA 2) is decommissioned at Norfolk, Va., after serving the Navy for 30 years, including operations Urgent Fury, Sharp Edge, Desert Storm, Deny Flight, and Iraqi Freedom.

Within the first 14 days of service, officials explained, new accessions to the armed forces receive training that provides a basic understanding of the sexual assault prevention and response program, specific information on reporting options, and the services and resources available both on base and in the local region. Additionally, service members receive annual refresher training in sexual assault prevention and response, as well as before and after deployments.

At the professional military education level, officials said, the training emphasizes participants' leadership role in supporting the Defense Department's sexual assault prevention and response efforts.

In their training, officials said, commanders and senior enlisted leaders learn about the complexities of the crime and their role in fostering a command environment of professional values, team commitment, and dignity and respect; proactive measures to reduce sexual assaults in their units; the protections afforded victims and the accused; and the elements of quality victim care.

Training for sexual assault response coordinators and victim advocates emphasize effective crisis management in addition to advocating for the victim and coordinating care, officials said.

For chaplains, training competencies focus on awareness of sexual assault as a crime, its impact on vic-

- (Cont. on Page 4)



*A U.S. Navy Grumman A-6 Intruder (BuNo 155670) aircraft from attack squadron VA-52 Knightriders in 1981. VA-52 was assigned to Carrier Air Wing 15 (CVW-15) aboard the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63) from 1 April to 23 November 1981 for a deployment to the Western Pacific. The date given (15 January 1984) has to be incorrect, as BuNo 155670 was assigned to VA-52 for the 1981 cruise. In 1984 CVW-15 was also assigned to the USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70). 155670 was an A-6A modified to an A-6E. After its retirement it was sunk as an artificial reef. Photo provided by U.S. Defenseimagery.mil*

## Training

- (Cont. from Page 3)

times, and sexual assault prevention and response resources the Defense Department provides.

“The department is committed to eliminating sexual assault and ensuring an environment that provides dignity and respect for all members of the military community,” said Army Col. Litonya Wilson, deputy director of prevention and victim assistance in the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office. “We took steps to improve the quality of SAPR training with a specific focus on developing core competencies and learning objectives, ensuring consistency, and implementing methods for assessing the effectiveness of these training programs.”

The training improvements incorporate a coordinated effort designed to ensure that everyone in the military community - including first responders, commanders, new service members, and those deployed around the world - have consistent training standards and effective tools to prevent and respond to sexual assault, officials said. The services and the National Guard Bureau developed the core competencies and learning objectives jointly to incorporate best practices from the field and input from sexual assault survivors, they added.

“The entire military community must be engaged in creating an environment where sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexist behaviors are not tolerated,” Wilson said. “It is our aim to field innovative prevention strategies, new training approaches, and incorporate best practices for SAPR training to instill an environment that promotes respect and proper treatment of everyone within the department.

“Our focus is on creating a climate where sexual assault and sexual harassment are seen as unacceptable,” she continued, “not just because they are illegal, but because they are wrong.”

*Don't forget to visit us  
on  
facebook  
at*

*<http://www.facebook.com/naswhitingfield>*

## Eco-nomics

Many people believe it is better to leave fluorescent lights on rather than turning them off when you leave a room, since turning them on and off makes the bulb burn out faster.

The reality is that, while it is true that switching fluorescent lights on and off does shorten the operating life of the bulbs, it is also true that their operating life is shortened by leaving them lit. Leaving a light on when the room is empty also consumes unnecessary energy. Unless the switching frequency is greater than once every few minutes, it is generally cost effective to turn the lights off as needed.

The same thinking extends to other equipment, after all, why do we need to turn off equipment at night, since there is no energy used if no one comes into the office to use the equipment.

The reason is because of “phantom” loads that lurk in the office and the home. Equipment such as computers, printers and photocopiers consume energy when turned on and left in their “idle” mode (when they are not being used). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is sponsoring an ENERGY STAR® program to encourage equipment manufacturers to produce equipment that goes into a “sleep” mode when left idle for a certain period of time. This “sleep” mode consumes far less energy than in the conventional “idle” mode, but powers up almost instantly when the user wants to use the equipment. So, unless your equipment is ENERGY STAR compliant, turning it off at night when not in use can save a considerable amount of energy.



### Navy Commissions New Ensign

Ensign Nina Buruca-Nation was commissioned Friday Apr. 4 in the Auditorium of NAS Whiting Field. Family and friends were in attendance to celebrate this momentous occasion honoring Buruca-Nation's hardwork and dedication. U.S. Navy Photo by Ensign Lindsay Grover.

# News and Notes

**Good Friday Service** - Chaplains Office will hold an ecumenical Good Friday service Friday, April 18 beginning at 1100 in the chapel. The service should last about one hour.

**Energy Savers** - The Naval Air Station Whiting Field Public Works Department recognizes the following buildings for their efforts in energy conservation as compared to 2013 costs for the same time frame. Bldg. 1415 BCO at 5.4; Bldg. 1423 VT-3 at 5.3, and Bldg. 1417 MWR at 4.3.

**Humana Self Service** - Please note Humana's new "Self Service" website to encourage our beneficiaries to utilize the internet and Contact (Call) Center to conduct business as opposed to walk-in service at the TRICARE Service Center which will officially close on 1 Apr 2014. Site is <https://infocenter.humana-military.com/South/Bene/obs/infocenter.asp>.

**FFSC Finance Packets** - Please stop by the Fleet & Family Support Center and pick up your "free" Personal Finance Packet, the packet contains information regarding financial tips, security and safety on the internet and identity theft prevention as well as financial advice to teach children and young adults. Supplies are limited so swing by the FFSC to pick up your "free" copy. Contact Eugene Jackson, AFC Work & Family Life Consultant, NAS Whiting Field Fleet & Family Support Center, 850-623-7177 or [Eugene.Jackson1@navy.mil](mailto:Eugene.Jackson1@navy.mil).

**Receive Daily Reflection** - Daily Reflection is a brief, inspirational thought-for-the-day, e-mailed throughout the work week. To receive Daily Reflection, e-mail Chaplain Charles Luff at [charles.luff@navy.mil](mailto:charles.luff@navy.mil).

**New ITT Vendor** - Six Flags Over Georgia tickets are now available at ITT - 1 day \$38.00 / 1 day Whitewater \$35.75 / Dual Park Season \$65.00. Call 665-6250 for additional information.

**Goat Rope Golf Tournament** - The NAS Whiting Field Chief Petty Officer Association will host their Third Annual Goat Rope Golf Tournament Friday April 25 at the Whiting Field golf course. The cost will be \$35 per player and includes green fees, cart, lunch, and one bucket of range balls. There will be a closest to the pin and longest drive competition as well as a



## Fair Winds and Following Seas

Aviation boatswain's Mate First Class John Sibley retired from active duty March 21 at the American Legion Post 193 in Pensacola. He joined the Navy after graduating from Yazoo City High School in Miss., officially joining in April 1994. Sibley served aboard the USS Boxer (LHD-4), USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6), and the USS Makin Island (LHD-8) as well as completing two tours ashore at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. He and his wife Sheila have four sons and two daughters: Tiara, Maurice, Shareka, John, Tavon, and Ladarius. U.S. Navy Photo by Ensign Lindsay Grover

50/50 drawing. Mulligans, tee-busters, and the goat rope will be available at registration which begins at 8 a.m. with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. The event is a four-person best ball tournament. Call 850-623-7675 for additional details.

**Swimming Pool Summer Opening** - NAS Whiting Field's Morale Welfare and Recreation Department will be opening the lap pool by the gym for its summer hours beginning Friday May 2. The pool hours will be Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The pool will be open for early swimmers Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning at 6 a.m. Call the Fitness Center at 850-623-7412 for more information.

**Relay for Life** - The Milton/Pace Relay for Life event will be held Apr 25-26 from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. at Pensacola State College. Call 850-266-2285 or log on to [www.relayforlife.org/miltonpacefl](http://www.relayforlife.org/miltonpacefl) for more information.

**Military Appreciation Picnic** - Santa Rosa County will once again show their love of the military through the annual Military Appreciation Day Picnic May 16 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the NAS Whiting Field Sports complex Pavilion. Music will be provided by the Crosstown Band, and hamburgers, hotdogs and other food and refreshments will be provided to all attendees. The first 500 active duty military will receive a gift and the first 200 will receive a bonus gift. There will also be door prizes, activities for children, vendors, games, and much more. See flyer for more details.

## Usage Information

### Total Used

1,649,285 kWh

	1 Year Ago	Last Month	This Month
Total kWh Used	1,853,040	1,912,710	1,649,285
Average Daily kWh	59,037	61,700	58,903
Days In Billing Period	28	31	28

## Energy Conservation

Conserving energy remains an important goal in the operation of Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Steps taken during the past year by Public Works continue to pay dividends in our energy conservation programs. Please help decrease usage even more by remembering to turn off lights, shut down computers and printers, and limit usage of non-essential equipment.

# Family Assistance

NAS Whiting Field



## APRIL 2014

TO REPORT A SEXUAL ASSAULT:



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>Sexual Assault Awareness</b>	 1 <b>Conflict Management</b> 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	 2 <b>Anger Management</b> 1:00 - 2:00 pm <b>Stress Management</b> 2:00 - 3:00 pm	 3 <b>CAN I KISS YOU?</b> <b>SAPR Presentation</b> Base Auditorium 1330 & 1500	 4 <b>VA Representative</b> 8:00 am - 12:00 pm	 5
 6	 7 <b>Federal Jobs</b> 1:00 - 3:00 pm	 8 <b>Anger Management</b> 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	 9 <b>Time Management</b> 1:00 - 2:00 pm	 10 <b>Chall of FS &amp; Marriage</b> 11:00 am - 1:00 pm <b>Smooth Move</b> 1:00 - 3:00 pm	 11	 12
 13	 14 <b>Resume Writing</b> 8:00 - 10:00 am	 15 <b>Conflict Management</b> 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	 16 <b>Stress Management</b> 11:00 am - 12:00 pm <b>Time Management</b> 1:00 - 2:00 pm	 17 <b>CSX Railroad Visit</b> 9:00 am - 3:00 pm <b>Money &amp; The Move</b> 1:00 - 3:00 pm	 18 <b>VA Representative</b> 8:00 am - 12:00 pm <b>Anger Management</b> 1:00 - 2:00 pm	 19
 20	 21 <b>How to Start a Business</b> 8:00 - 10:00 am	 22 <b>Stress Management</b> 11:00 am - 12:00 pm 	 23 <b>Communication Skills</b> 11:00 am - 12:00 pm <b>Parenting 101</b> 1:00 - 3:00 pm	 24 <b>Chall of FS &amp; Marriage</b> 9:00 - 11:00 am <b>Consumer Awareness</b> 1:00 - 3:00 pm	 25	 26
 27	 28	 29 <b>Stress Management</b> 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	 30 <b>Couples Communication</b> 1:00 - 3:00 pm	<b>Suicide Prevention</b> <b>ACT!    Ask    Care    Treat</b>		

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<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/WhitingField/>

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[www.facebook.com/NASWF.FleetandFamily](http://www.facebook.com/NASWF.FleetandFamily)

## NASWF Honors Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

With the arrival of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), it is time to turn attention to the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program and its efforts to provide ready avenues to support victims of sexual assaults and enhance the knowledge about these programs throughout the base and tenant commands.

With this year's theme of "Live Our Values: Step Up to Stop Sexual Assault," the Department of Defense is emphasizing the need to provide a vital, beneficial, and immediate response to aid survivors of sexual assaults. Programs that support this mission have support from the highest levels of the Navy command structure, and the local chain-of-commands are responsible for providing an environment of trust, professionalism and caring that is intolerant of any form of sexual misconduct.

"We've created changes in our reporting, investigative, and adjudicative procedures – changes which have

earned critical trust and resulted in increased reporting, which deepen our understanding. No one should serve in fear. Together we will work to protect victims of sexual assault and hold perpetrators appropriately accountable," Rear Adm. Sean Buck, Director, 21st Century Sailor Office, stated in a recent news interview.

Naval Air Station Whiting Field's SAPR team takes such responsibilities seriously, and worked aggressively to create an effective and flexible program to meet these challenges. Consisting of Kristen Klein, the Command Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), and Jennifer Walker, the Civilian Victims Advocate, as well as nearly two dozen Victim Advocates (VA); the team works with the chain-of-command and the Fleet and Family Support Center to ensure NAS Whiting Field can respond in the event of a sexual assault.

- (Cont. on Page 11)

# CWO4 Buechler Retires after 30 Years



Chief Warrant Officer Four Daniel Buechler celebrated the ending of his 30 year Naval Career on Apr. 4 at the National Aviation Museum on NAS Pensacola. U.S. Navy Photo by Ensign Zach Mix

**By Ensign Josh Lamb, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs**

Following 30 years of dedicated Service to the United States Navy, Chief Warrant Officer Four Daniel J. Buechler retired April 4 at Naval Air Station Pensacola's aviation museum. In front of his family, friends, and shipmates, Buechler embarked on the next chapter of his life. The United States Navy has held retirement ceremonies since the 1700's. This tradition has been a way to honor and recognize the many years of service and accomplishments of the Sailor. This retirement tradition continues today, and recognized a career that began May 1 1984.

Buechler's enlisted career began on the USS Forrestal CV-59. While there, Buechler rose to the rank of Petty Officer Second Class. From there, Buechler went to Naval Air Station Bermuda. While at his next command, Buechler became a Petty Officer First Class while working as Quality Assurance Representative for VP-45 the "Black Birds" stationed at NAS Key West. Buechler would then serve on-board the USS John F. Kennedy CV-67 and achieved the rank of Chief Petty Officer. Following this tour, Buechler arrived at the Naval Air Technical Training Center Pensacola as the Aviation Ordnance Course Supervisor.

Even early in Buechler's career, people noticed his take charge attitude and leadership ability. The guest speak-

er, Command Master Chief Jeffery Grosso, recalls "I was just getting to my first ship, The USS Forrestal when I met Buechler. I was looking at getting slated into a job when he grabbed me and said come with me you are going to work as an aviation ordnanceman."

Buechler's superb leadership and dedication to service was recognized when he returned to the USS John F. Kennedy for a second tour in OCT. 2001. While there, Buechler completed the tour as the G-1 Division Leading Chief Petty Officer, promoted to Senior Chief Petty Officer, and received his commission.

Grosso went on to state "It had been over a decade since Buechler and I had met up since first meeting on the Forrestal, but his natural leading presence was still there. In addition, you know you have a great friend when you can pick up as if nothing has changed after so long."

Buechler's first tour following his commission was with the "Blue Wolves" VS-35 stationed in San Diego, Cal. working as the Weapons Officer. From California, Buechler proceeded to NAS Brunswick, Me. where he served as Weapons Officer for VP-26 the "Tridents". During that tour, Buechler deployed twice and picked up Chief Warrant Officer Three. Buechler then found himself at NAS Pensacola as an Aviation Ordnance Training Officer. After transferring from Pensacola to Jacksonville, Fl. Buechler worked with VP-10, the "Red Lancers" as the weapons officer. Buechler completed two deployments overseas and picked up Chief Warrant Officer Four during this time.

Buechler's final duty station was at the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Detachment in Milton. While there, Buechler worked as the Instructor and Course Supervisor providing more than 1,500 hours of Naval Aviation Ordnance Officer career progression levels of 1, 2, and 3 of instruction to 268 Naval and Marine Corps officers.

- (Cont. on Page 8)

## TRICARE Notes

### TRICARE URGES VIGILANCE WHEN SHARING PERSONAL INFORMATION

Identity theft becomes a significant issue in recent years and cases involving fraud and similar crimes continue to be on the rise. Social Security Numbers, birth dates and addresses are all examples of personally identifiable information (PII) that can be used to steal an identity to commit fraud, affecting finances and even health records. Whether it's on the phone or over the internet, TRICARE beneficiaries should be vigilant when asked to disclose their personal information. For more information about protecting personal information, visit [www.tricare.mil/PII](http://www.tricare.mil/PII) and for general information, visit [www.consumer.ftc.gov](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov).

## ITT Travel Expo Excites 30 Years

By Ensign Lindsay Grover, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

The second annual ITT Travel Expo brought active duty service members, DoD civilians and their families together with vendors from four states across the southeast region. The ITT Office as part of the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation department helps military families enjoy attractions and travel at discounted rates.

“I am so very pleased at how this show turned out. Our expectations were exceeded tremendously,” explained Marcy Allen, ITT event coordinator. “These events require the support of the community which we received fully.”

The ITT Travel Expo, though only in its second year, has become an annual event helping to increase awareness of all the leisure opportunities provided to the military. Often companies and organizations wish to thank the military and their family for their service by offering deals and discounted prices.

“These shows are mutually beneficial. Military personnel are informed of all the incredible opportunities provided to them while we as the vendors are able to promote our business and offers, often gaining more in revenue,” stated Stacy Springmann of Daytona International Speedway.

Vendors from Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, and Georgia promoted a variety of attractions and hotel accommodations to over 350 attendees. Representatives also endorsed tourism of their local areas. Local vendors including Adventures Unlimited Outdoor Center and Visit Pensacola were also in attendance showing their support for the NAS Whiting Field MWR and ITT offices.

“We came last year and it was such a great turn out that we had to come back. We wanted to support Marcy and her efforts as well as promote the great state of Georgia. Our aim is to inform individuals of our state parks as well as provide maps and tourism guides to anyone interested. The state parks tend to be a popular attraction for the military

- (Cont. on Page 12)

- (Cont. from Page 7)

Buechler was also earned his Master Training Specialist Designation.

Instructor Lieutenant Commander David Fowler discussed the many achievements of Buechler and presented him with a Navy Commendation Medal, presidential letters of appreciations, and Buechler’s Shadow box. In addition to Buechler’s awards, his wife Rebecca, his daughter Ashley, and his three sons Skylar, Ashton, and Greyson received certificates of appreciation.

Fowler went on to state that “much of what we do in the navy is demanding, it takes a strong individual to dedicate 30 years of service, and an even stronger family to help support the service member through it.”



CWO4 Buechler salutes the National Ensign prior to receiving the flag during the Passing of the Flag ceremony. U.S. Navy Photo by Ensign Zach Mix.

## SECURITY CHECKPOINT



Posted speed limit signs – Due to the high number of traffic citations for speeding approaching and departing NAS Whiting Field gates, speed bumps have been placed right outside and inside both gates. The posted speed limit for both gates are 15mph or slower and put in place for the safety of the personnel that are posted at the gates. Be aware of personnel and vehicles that are crossing the road at the West Gate. There’s a residential area on the right approaching the West gate. This area on Langley Street is also a school bus loading zone. It’s illegal to pass a school bus with its lights flashing and stop sign deployed. When departing NASWF, pay attention to where the 45mph speed limit signs are posted. You should gradually increase your speed while approaching the signs to 45mph, not going 45mph before you reach it.

## From TRAWING-5

# Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Wingers



**Back Row:** Cmdr. Matthew J. Bowen, USN, Commanding Officer HT-8; Ensign Rylee J. Streff, USN; Lt. j.g. Stephen M. Sanders, USCG; 1st Lt. Matthew D. Dieska, USMC; Ensign David A. Simone, USN; Ensign Eugene T. Flood IV, USN.

**Middle Row:** Cmdr. Kevin Pickard, Jr., USN, Commanding Officer HT-18; Ensign Logan G. Sprague, USN; Ensign Andrew J. Reynolds, USN; Ensign Jonathan J. Yaede, USN; Ensign Jonathan C. Happy, USN; Ensign Amanda H. Lowery, USN; Capt. Matthew F. Coughlin, USN, Commanding Officer NAS Whiting Field.

**Front Row:** Lt. Col. Jeffrey M. Pavelko, USMC, Commanding Officer HT-28; Ensign Samantha A. Smith, USN; Ensign Adam B. Granic, USN; Ensign Jacob M. Amon, USN; 1st Lt. James R. Davin, USMC; Capt. James J. Fisher, USN, Commodore TRAWING-5. U.S. Navy Photo by Ensign Lindsay Grover

# Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Scholars



2ndLt Joseph W. Bielamowicz USMC; 1stLt Ryan M. Klenke USMC; ENS Charles A. Shaffer, USN; 1stLt John B. Zimmer USMC (Commodore's List); LT Kenneth E. Kapp, USN; 1stLt John E. McArthur USMC received their Academic Achievement Award Apr. 4 in the Training Air Wing FIVE headquarters building.

## Command

- (Cont. from Page 2)

Throughout the nearly 20 year history of the Air Force / Navy student exchange program more than 1,700 Air Force students completed primary flight training encompassing more than 85,000 flights and almost 180,000 flight hours. Fisher recognized the accomplishments and impact the exchange program exerted on the training mission for the Wing.

“I am confident that Training Air Wing FIVE will benefit from years to come from the hard work and dedication of all the Air Force officers who have served here. We learned from each other along the way, and in the end produced better pilots because of joint training.”

However, the joint training will not be eliminated as 16 Air Force officers will continue to serve as instructor pilots for primary flight training.

Schafer’s impact will certainly continue to be felt as he was instrumental in the conversion from the T-34 Turbo-mentor to the T-6 Texan II as the primary aircraft for fixed wing training at NAS Whiting Field.

Additionally, Training Squadron THREE flew more hours, completed more syllabus flights, and produced more primary graduates than any other Training Wing FIVE Primary Flight Training Squadron while under Schafer’s guidance. Not only did the squadron have the highest production under his leadership, it also proved to be the most efficient, earning the Training Excellence Award and Vice Admiral Goldthwaite Award for 2012. VT-3 developed numerous training innovations during Schafer’s tenure in an attempt to improve the quality of student graduates and efficiently managing valuable resources. The squadron developed “Knight School” to bridge the gap between the ground school, computer based training and the high paced, flight line instruction provided by active duty instructors. This three week course reduced overhead sorties by 83 percent and decreased check-ride failures by 81 percent.

“You have been an outstanding commander of an outstanding squadron, and you have continued the run of excellence at VT-3, a squadron that I am proud to have started my aviation career with. Well done!” Fisher stated before he called Schafer forward to receive his Meritorious Service medal.

Following the award presentation, Schafer stepped up to the microphone and expressed his appreciation and pride in the team which supported him during his tour as



Lt. Col. Schafer passes the VT-3 Guidon to the new VT-3 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Conatser. U.S. Navy Photo by Jay Cope

commanding officer and executive officer for the squadron.

“Red Knights, we worked hard and played hard. We sweated, bled, got angry, and we had fun – but we got the job done,” he said. “The commitment to the team, the support you had for each other on the ground and in the air, the warrior spirit you displayed; you earned it so be proud.”

Schafer and Conatser then stepped forward in front of the stage while the senior enlisted member of the squadron, Tech Sgt. Herbert Copeman, retrieved the command pennant and brought it to Schafer. He in turn passed it to Conatser, symbolically passing command of the squadron to its new commander.

After formally requesting to exchange duties from Fisher, Conatser’s wife Eliza pinned the command

at shore insignia on his uniform. He then stood in front of the squadron as the commanding officer for the first time and received his first salute from the assembled students in ranks. It is simply the next step in a distinguished career.

Conatser is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and earned his wings of gold in 1998. Following the P-3 Fleet Replacement Squadron, Conatser reported to the Fighting Tigers of Patrol Squadron Eight in Brunswick Maine where he flew missions during Operations DELIBERATE FORGE and JOINT GUARDIAN. He followed that tour with service as a Fleet Replacement Squadron Instructor Pilot in VP-30 as ISIS Branch Officer and Pilot NATOPS Evaluator, Assistant Strike Operations Officer onboard USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72), VP-8 department head flying missions to support operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM, and US Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany where he served as the Support Officer and Focal Point Program Control Officer.

As the Skipper, Conatser stepped up to the podium and addressed the troops.

“I am truly glad to be here today. Your passion and drive for excellence is inspiring. Just keep doing what you are doing. You are the ones who make it all happen,” he said before giving the traditional order for the executive officer to continue executing the plan of the day and keep all standing orders in effect.

Schafer leaves the “Red Knights” to work in the Pentagon with the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Commander Jade L. Lepke will replace Conatser as the executive officer for the squadron.

# Around the Base

## SAAM

- (Cont. from Page 6)

Within the past five weeks, the team has doubled the size of its VA force and coordinated a simulated response with the Branch Naval Health Clinic to ensure the capability is in place to provide support to the victim.

Victim Advocates provide sexual assault victims es-



**Capt. Matthew Coughlin, Commanding Officer NAS Whiting Field, stands next to the signed proclamation, declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. U.S. Navy Photo by Ensign Zach Mix.**

sential non-clinical support and information on available options and resources, and also maintain communication and contact with the victim as needed for continued victim support. The NAS Whiting Field VAs maintain a 24/7 on call watch rotation and are called in immediately if an assault occurs. Klein and Walker coordinated a week-long course March 10 to 14 which enabled the nine graduates to increase the pool of VAs to 22. This volunteer force is large enough to both serve as a consistent first line of support as well as provide adequate coverage as service members transfer to other commands.

Klein and Walker also set up a sexual assault response drill with the Navy Branch Health Clinic at NAS Whiting Field. The drill exercised the response procedures in place should a patient speak to a physician about having been sexually assaulted. Following the restricted report (a report initiated by the victim where they wish their anonymity to be maintained), a victims advocate was called in to assist the individual as were counselors and other support personnel. The drill ran successfully and spurred a host of questions from clinic staff who wished to learn more about the program and the procedures followed in other types of situations.

“We need these drills so we can improve in our responsibilities. We are fortunate in that we don’t get a lot of cases, so we need to be up to speed to give our victims the best care possible when it does happen,” Klein stated. The ability to respond to an event is only part of the program.

The other half is to create a culture where sexual misconduct doesn’t happen in the first place.

“We need to help create a climate where people feel free to step in if they see something happen,” Klein said. “Anyone could potentially see a situation start to develop, but to make the effort to stop it is the key.”

To that end, Klein and Walker presented the “Can I Kiss You” production, set up informational booths throughout April at various locations, and held the proclamation signing ceremony.

The sometimes funny, always candid, and imminently educational “Can I kiss You” program was a hit as more than 280 service members attended the event. Nationally known speaker Mike Domitrz presented the seminar Apr. 3 in the base auditorium. For over 15 years, Mike Domitrz has been inspiring audiences with his truly unique approach to healthier dating and communication. He teaches audience members how to ask for what they want. The show is about ensuring that everyone’s boundaries are respected.

“Anytime we can bring in someone from the outside who is a professional speaker and deviates from the traditional types of training, it’s good,” Walker said. “It has a better chance to reach through to our Sailors.”

Reaching out to the Sailors is also why the SAPR team began setting up booths at locations such as the golf course, NEX, Subway, coffee shop, and more. They handed out information about support programs, important numbers to call, Navy guidelines, and so on. The goal is to increase knowledge about the programs, enhance the trust level between service members and the chain-of-command, and reinforce standards of conduct.

As stated in the proclamation signed by Coughlin, “The underpinning of our entire program is the need for every service member and civilian alike to live the values of our profession; integrity, trust, respect, fidelity and courage. If we all “Live Our Values” it will naturally create an environment intolerant of sexual assault.



**The set of the informative and entertaining Sexual Assault Awareness production “Can I Kiss You?” Presented by well-known speaker Mike Domitrz. U.S. Navy Photo by Ensign Zach Mix**

# Around the Base

## Expo

- (Cont. from Page 8)

and their families, but we also have historical attractions and aquariums,” declared Cathy Sasnett of the Department of Economic Development of Georgia.

Many vendors have already expressed the success of this event and look forward to participating next year.

“We work to provide great benefits to the servicemen and women and getting the word out is often our biggest obstacle. Events like this one allow us to reach a wider audience,” affirmed Allen. “It is my hope that this event con-



Clockwise from Upper Left: Vehicles advertising the different vendors in attendance line the entrance to the Atrium. ABH1 Adrian Bodensteindoonkeen, ABE2 Evan Sthole, and ABH2 Joshua McMullen get their “Passports” stamped by the vendors during the travel expo, Friday, Apr. 11. Executive Officer of NAS Whiting Field Commander Gregory Gray speaks with Leo Goodsell of Historic Westville, Inc. Marina Sanders explains the discounts offered by the Georgia Aquarium to Chief Fenoy Butler. Lt. Jason Hart speaks to each of the vendors, ensuring his “passport” is stamped in hopes of winning a door prize. The vendor representatives along with base and Training Wing personnel who helped to organize the event pose for a picture prior to the commencement of the expo. U.S. Navy Photos by Ensign Josh Lamb. *For more pictures and information “Like” us on facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/naswhitingfield>*



# Around the Base

## SOQ

- (Cont. from Page 2)

son have been respectively recognized as the Sailor, Junior Sailor, and Blue Jacket of the Quarter. These sailors are being recognized for outstanding performance while on duty and through their involvement within the community.



Air Traffic Controller Second Class Mario Santis. U.S. Navy Photo by Ensign Zach Mix

Ruschhaupt is currently serving as security leading petty officer for NASWF. In addition, Ruschhaupt is the command investigator, watch commander, field training officer, duty armorer, and anti-terrorism training supervisor. These duties have allowed the successful operations of the 95 composite security force personnel on base. Smooth workings with five local and three federal law agencies including NCIS.

Ruschhaupt's department head Lt. j.g. Stephen Pakola described him as "without a doubt a true motivator, leader, and mentor." With the demands of his job he still "encourages his shipmates to pursue off duty education."



Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Mario Santis' is a facility watch supervisor, Team 1 Training Petty Officer for South Whiting Field, assistant command fitness leader, and command diversity committee chairperson. While executing these duties, his team successfully conducted 23,000 mishap-free flight operations and 1,700 ground controlled approaches. Additionally, he and his team completed a total of 1,100 hours of professional and military training. This resulted in 12 professional qualifications, and increased the number of controller qualifications by 25 percent.

Cmdr. J. A. Hutchinson, operations officer, praised Santis' superior performance in his nomination statement by saying "Petty Officer Santis is an outstanding Sailor and Air Traffic Controller. He exhibits the finest qualities of leadership, personal example, and versatility. His proven performance, no matter what the undertaking, makes him the perfect model of the Navy's future leaders."

Air Traffic Controller 3rd Class Takiyah Watson is a very involved junior Sailor. Watson's present duties are North tower local controller, North tower ground controller, North tower flight data operator/clearance delivery, flight planning supervisor, flight planning dispatcher, North whiting field team two training petty officer, a member of the diversity, navy ball, and coalition of sailors against destructive choices committees. While performing these duties, Watson was responsible for controlling and sequencing over 16,000 flight operations, and responsible for the documentation of over 700 hours of in-rate and GMT training that yielded five professional qualifications.

NAS Whiting Field Executive Officer Cmdr. Gregory Gray stated "It's always difficult to select Sailors of the Quarter from the terrific pool of quality Sailors we have at NAS Whiting Field. These three Sailors were truly outstanding, and I am impressed with their professionalism and dedication. Congratulations to those selected and to all the other candidates recommended for the award this quarter."



Air Traffic Controller Third Class Takiyah Watson. U.S. Navy Photo by Ensign Zach Mix