

Whiting Tower

Seventy-two Years of Aviation Training News

Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.
Vol. 71 No. 22

Forging Wings for the Fleet
Friday, December 18, 2015

2016 INSTALLATION EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER

- 
- *Page #2 Whiting Field Named Best Small Base in Navy*
 - *Page #2 NASWF Helps Celebrate REPO Project*
 - *Page #4 Top Sailors Recognized as Sailors of the Year*

NAS Whiting Field Named Best Small Base in the Navy

By: Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs



RDML Jeff Ruth, Commander, U.S. Navy Region Northwest and RDML Mary Jackson, Commander, Navy Region Southeast at Navy Installations Command headquarters.

Cover Photo: Naval Air Station Whiting Field's base Christmas Tree is lighted Wednesday, Dec. 2 in front of the Atrium. Morale Welfare and Recreation hosted a fun, family night with a Christmas movie, music, a snow-pit, Christmas crafts for the kids, snacks and more. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

For the second year in a row, Commander Naval Installations Command named Naval Air Station Whiting Field as the recipient of the Installation Excellence Award. The award lauds the top Navy commands at shore for their installation management, program excellence and community outreach.

Installations are graded across fifteen key areas including: facilities management, quality of life, environment, energy, property stewardship, communication, safety and health as well as many other categories. Each entry is limited to a four page write-up of accomplishments plus supporting documentation and photographs.

NAS Whiting Field received word of the award Wednesday morning, Dec. 2, and Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Bahlau quickly praised his team for the accomplishment.

- (Cont. on Page 8)

NASWF Helps Break Ground on Three Renewable Energy Projects

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Departments of the Navy and the Air Force broke ground with Gulf Power, a subsidiary of Southern Company, at Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, marking the start of construction for three large-scale solar electric generating facilities Dec. 16.

Combined, these facilities will have approximately 1.5 million solar panels that could generate up to 157 megawatts (MW) of direct current (DC) or 120 MW of alternating current (AC) power. This translates to powering roughly 18,000 homes on a sunny day.

Gulf Power and its third party developer, Coronal Development Services, will construct three facilities—one at NAS Pensacola, one at NAS Whiting Field and one at Eglin Air Force Base.

On April 16, 2015, the Florida Public Service Commission approved all three project plans. Respectively, the Departments of the Navy and the Air Force signed land lease agreements with Gulf Power on Oct. 28 and Nov. 24.

Notable groundbreaking ceremony presenters and attendees included Dennis V. McGinn, assistant secretary of the Navy for energy, installations and environment; Miranda A.A. Ballentine, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and energy; Capt. Keith W. Hoskins, commanding officer, NAS Pensacola; Capt. Todd A. Bahlau, commanding officer, NAS Whiting Field; Col. Matthew W. Higer, vice commander, 96th Test Wing, Eglin Air Force Base; and Stan Connally, president and CEO

- (Cont. on Page 9)

The Whiting Tower

Commanding Officer

Capt. Todd Bahlau

Executive Officer

Cmdr. Don Gaines

Command Master Chief

Command Master Chief (AW/SW) Alton Smith

Public Affairs Officer

Jay Cope

Public Affairs Staff

Lt.j.g. Jenné Jolie

Ensign Matthew Hughes

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.

CNRSE Announces 2015 Region Sailor of the Year

By: Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Stacy D. Laseter, Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs
JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Air Traffic Controlman 1st Class (AW/SW) Leonor E. Ortegacruz of Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans was



named Navy Region Southeast (NRSE) Sailor of the Year for 2015 during a ceremony on board NAS Jacksonville Dec. 3.

The ceremony was the conclusion of NRSE Sailor of the Year Week, during which the top five finalists selected from the region's 18 installations

were invited to Jacksonville, Florida, to compete for the honor of Sailor of the Year.

The finalists were able to participate in a series of recreational activities, including a visit to Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home located in St. Augustine, Florida; a tour at EverBank Field, home of the Jacksonville Jaguars; and a visit to Jacksonville's Lone Sailor Memorial. The final day included an oral board, with command master chiefs from various Southeast installations serving as board members, followed by a luncheon during which the winner was announced.

"Our five Sailor of the Year finalists were selected from an extremely talented group of Sailors from our 18 in-

stallations across the region," said NRSE Command Master Chief (AW/SS) Michael Jackson.

According to NAS JRB New Orleans Command Master Chief Chad Helms, Ortegacruz is very worthy of the award, but the other competitors were equally deserving.

"I'm super excited because the competition was so great," said Helms. "The bases really brought their best forward. It was evident not only in their packages, but also at their oral boards. These Sailors came to compete."

Ortegacruz said she appreciated the time spent at NRSE and the ability to bond with fellow first classes.

"Meeting the other Sailors and forging friendships with them was probably the most rewarding part of the experience," Ortegacruz said. "We are all in different ratings, but we all have something in common. We all have the same wants and the same goals -- to better ourselves."

Along with Ortegacruz, the top five also included Gunner's Mate 1st Class (SW/EXW) Joseph Blacka of Joint Base Charleston, Air Traffic Controller 1st Class (AW/SW) Ayanna Gregg of NAS Jacksonville, Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class (AW) Theophilus McLaw-

- (Cont. on Page 7)

This Day in Naval History

December 20, 1822 - Congress authorizes the West Indies Squadron to suppress piracy in the Caribbean. Under the leadership of Commodores James Biddle, David Porter, and Lewis Warrington, the newly created squadron crushes the pirates.

December 23, 1910 - Lt. Theodore G. Ellyson becomes the first naval officer sent to flight training when he was ordered to report to the Glenn H. Curtiss Aviation Camp at North Island, San Diego, Calif.

December 26, 1862 - The first female nurses to serve on a U.S. Navy ship report on board hospital ship Red Rover. They are nuns from the Catholic order Sisters of the Holy Cross.

December 30, 1959 - The first fleet ballistic missile submarine, USS George Washington (SSBN-598), is commissioned.

January 1, 1962 - The Navy SEAL teams were established with Teams One and Two, formed with personnel from Underwater Demolition Teams.



Mastering Sea and Sky

Vought OS2U Kingfisher floatplane, of Observation Squadron One, on a seaplane mat towed by the USS Arizona, while being recovered after a flight in the Hawaiian Operating area on the morning of 6 September 1941. The plane flown by Ensign Lawrence A. Williams. Rear-seat man was Radioman 3rd Class G.H. Lane, who is preparing to hook up the aircraft to the ship's crane for recovery. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Navy and the National Archives.

Top Sailors at Whiting Field Recognized as Sailor of the Year

By: YNC Gina Green



**MA1 Alvin Bicasan, Navy Reserve
NOSC Pensacola Sailor of the Year**

Naval Operational Support Center (NOSC) Pensacola, Fla. recently announced their Reserve Force Sailor of the Year and Junior Sailor of the Year. The program recognizes the top Sailors nominated by 17 reserve component units assigned to NOSC Pensacola, Fla. This year's recipients are drilling reservists assigned to Navy Reserve Navy Security Forces (NR NSF) at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field.

The recipients were Master-at-Arms First Class Alvin Bicasan and Master-at-Arms Second Class Eric Alexander.

Bicasan's performance was consistently outstanding as he demonstrated a "can do" attitude and an attention to detail that was essential in meeting mission requirements. He serves as NR NSF Whiting Field unit Assistant Leading Petty Officer (ALPO) for 31 Sailors, is directly responsible for oversight of the training and operations departments, and personally manages nine cross-assigned in (CAI) Masters-at-Arms. In addition to his primary duties, Bicasan plays a vital role in the newly established Navy Region Southeast Annual Sustainment Training Academy (ASTA) located on Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga. As ASTA Coordinator, he provided 33 regional CAI Master-at-Arms the opportunity to complete required patrolmen qualifications resulting in 720 hours of operational support for security force protection at their gaining commands across the southeast region.

According to Senior Enlisted Leader YNC Gina Green, "Bicasan displays outstanding leadership ability and command involvement that exemplify that of an experienced Chief."

Within his unit, Bicasan is a key figure in the training of his reserve force Sailors managing the unit training and operations departments. He ensured 1,811 hours of training mandates were met to include: multiple force protection and law enforcement related courses, emergency vehicle operator certification (EVOC), and personal qualifica-

tions standards completion. The result was a 90 percent increase of fully qualified Master-at-Arms at NSF Whiting Field and a 20 percent increase in EVOC operators who provided an unprecedented 5,896 man hours of direct operational support alongside the active duty counterpart.

"Training his Sailors is his forte and his number one priority is providing mission ready reserve force Master-at-Arms to the Navy," states NR NSF Whiting Field Commanding Officer LT Robert Tighe. "He is absolutely an invaluable asset to my unit and the Navy Reserve."

While Bicasan serves a vital role here at NAS Whiting Field, he also served twenty-nine days of active duty at NOSC Chattanooga. After the tragic shooting incident that occurred July 16, 2015, he was hand-selected to be the Training Officer for the security force protection Restoration Response Team. During his mission, he collaborated with the Chattanooga Police Department Range Master and Training Coordinator to formulate a plan that enabled the military to utilize civilian law enforcement weapons qualification ranges, and he performed two range-site visit inspections. His contribution to this mission has opened the door for future training opportunities in the community for local reserve component Master-at-Arms. Bicasan has also volunteered to return for one year to serve in the same

- (Cont. on Page 12)

Ec-nomics

MYTH

Always fill up your tank with premium gasoline to ensure the optimal performance of your car.

REALITY

Different engines have different octane requirements. Octane is not a measure of the fuel's power or quality. Using a higher octane does not necessarily increase the engine's performance, so check your owner's manual to find out what's right for your car. Not only could you be spending too much for your gasoline by buying too high an octane gasoline, but producing higher octane fuels uses more crude oil than producing lower octane fuels.

NASWF Named Tree City USA for 24th Year

By: Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

The National Arbor Day Foundation once again recognized Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field as a Tree City USA for its dedication to conservation and urban renewal. This is the 24th consecutive year the base has received the designation.

NAS Whiting Field planted a Live Oak tree to recognize the completion of the annual certification requirements and to celebrate the accomplishment Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 10 a.m. next to the base's fire department.

The Arbor Day Foundation presented a proclamation and banner to the command to recognize the achievement. NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Bahlau read the certificate to the assembled staff.

The certificate read in part: "[I] declare that 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."

The ceremony is only the final step in the process. Throughout the year, the NAS Whiting Field Natural Resources team has to: ensure an allocated cost is directed to-

ward forestry projects (this has to exceed \$2 per person on the base), maintain an Urban Forestry Ordinance, and have a board with regular meetings. All of the requirements serve to raise the awareness of how important trees are to our society. Not only do they provide a natural beauty, but trees

also give shade, 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 was coordinated by Ron Cherry, NAS Whiting Field's natural resources manager, and it serves as one of the highlights of his year.

"As Natural Resource Managers, we like to see the preservation and renewal of our natural resources. Trees help make an environment more pleasant and bring many benefits to the local area," he stated. "We always want to ensure we are planning for the future and ensuring the continuity of our renewable resources."

Base forestry programs in 2015 spent more than \$28,000 in maintenance for existing woodlands. The amount invested in maintenance was approximately four times the necessary amount to qualify for the program.



NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Bahlau (center), Natural Resource Manager Ron Cherry and Public Works Officer Lt. Cmdr. Tim Gleason place the first shovelfuls of dirt around the live oak tree planted Tuesday, Dec. 1 by the installation fire department. The planting of the tree is the final step in the process to be designated a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation. This is NAS Whiting Field's 24th year participating in the program. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/naswhitingfield

Follow us on Twitter
 @naswf

Usage Information			
Total Used 2,044,994 kWh			
	1 Year Ago	Last Month	This Month
Total kWh Used	2,217,070	2,303,445	2,044,994
Average Daily kWh	73,902	74,305	68,166
Days In Billing Period	30	31	30

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.

NASWF Sailors Wear New Ranks



Naval Air Station Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Bahlau speaks to the newly frocked petty officers, Thursday, Dec. 3. The Sailors selected for advancement are: (L-r) Aviation Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Yasmier Penton, Aviation Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Jarren M. Enriquez, Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Thomas Taikina, Air Traffic Controller 3rd Class Jordan Fritz, Air Traffic Controller 3rd Class Mark Graham, Air Traffic Controller 3rd Class Donald Sapp II. U.S. Navy photo by Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Camille Faison/released.

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field recognized the accomplishments of soon-to-be-advanced Sailors during a frocking ceremony Thursday, Dec. 3 in the installation's Operations Auditorium. Six Sailors were all smiles as they were able to

wear the new collar devices for the first time.

The frocking ceremony is a Navy tradition that provides the selected Sailors an opportunity to wear the uniform and take on the responsibilities of their new rank before they are formally advanced. Second Class Petty Officers were frocked to First Class, Third Class Petty Officers were frocked to Second Class and Airmen frocked to Third Class.

Each Sailor received a frocking letter from Capt. Todd Bahlau, NAS Whiting Field commanding officer, which reads in part, "Your appointment carries with it the obligation that you exercise increased authority and willingly accept greater responsibility. Occupying now a position of greater authority, you must strive with a renewed dedication toward the valued ideal of service with honor."

Sailors from NAS Whiting Field selected for advancement with their new ranks were: Aviation Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Yasmier Penton, Aviation Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Jarren M. Enriquez, Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Thomas Taikina, Air Traffic Controller 3rd Class Jordan Fritz, Air Traffic Controller 3rd Class Mark Graham, and Air Traffic Controller 3rd Class Donald Sapp, II.

Bahlau praised the Sailors on their accomplishment and urged them to appreciate the moment.

"Today is a great day. As a commanding officer, recognizing the hard work of the Sailors is the most enjoyable part of the job," he said. "This is an important milestone in your careers, so share your achievement with your family. And I know there is much, much more to come in your futures."

NAS Whiting Field Earns Navywide "Flagship" Award

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

MILTON, Fla. -- Naval Air Station Whiting Field's environmental staff and volunteer team earned some well-deserved accolades Wednesday, Dec. 2 when the Navy announced the winners of the "Flagship" award for Environmental Stewardship. The installation received recognition in the Medium Ashore category.

The Flagship awards are presented each year to commands for "outstanding community service efforts" in their local communities. These include Personal Excellence Partnership; Health, Safety and Fitness; Campaign Drug Free; Project Good Neighbor; and Environmental Stewardship. The USS Bainbridge (CGN 25) Award is presented for overall excellence in community service.

Overall, Naval Air Station Whiting Field Sailors volunteered more than 22,000 hours of time to the local community in fiscal year 2015 to help inspire community youths in their professional development and life-skills, improving the quality of life for struggling families, encouraging healthy lifestyles, and emphasizing educational outreach in the good

stewardship of environmental resources.

The Environmental Stewardship Award recognizes commands engaged in exemplary voluntary community service activities that promote good stewardship of environmental resources. NAS Whiting Field was specifically mentioned for participation in activities such as: Earth Day, Longleaf Alliance Project, Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership, Tree City USA, Blackwater River Liaison Panel, Adopt-a-Highway, and more. Approximately 5,400 hours of volunteer time were spent on projects like these.

"Congratulations to all of our deserving award winners," said Vice Adm. Phillip H. Cullom, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations in the message announcing the recipients. "I would like to extend my gratitude for your tremendous commitment to improving the environment and your local community for future generations. The Navy prides itself in maintaining good relations with our neighbors and these awards reinforce that bond."

- (Cont. on Page 8)

CNRSE Sailor of the Year

- (Cont. from Page 3)



Gunner's Mate 1st Class Joseph Blacka of Joint Base Charleston, Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class Marlon Squires of Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Leonor Ortegaruz of Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Ayanna Gregg of Naval Air Station Jacksonville, and Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Theophilus McLawrence Jr. of Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth display their awards at the culmination of Navy Region Southeast's Sailor of the Year week. Ortegaruz will go on to compete against Sailors from other regions for the honor of Commander, Naval Installations Command Sailor of the Year. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Stacy D. Laseter.

rence Jr. of NAS JRB Fort Worth, and Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) (AW/SW) Marlon Squires of NAS Whiting Field.

Each of the finalists was accompanied by his or her command master chief. According to McLawrence, the time spent with these senior leaders was a highlight of the competition.

"We discussed leadership and guidance," McLawrence said. "Hearing the different takes on leadership from master chiefs and senior chiefs was very rewarding, and something I will take back with me."

While the board could only select one Sailor of the Year, all of the candidates should be extremely proud to have made it as far as they did, according to Jackson. "It is truly a great accomplishment," he said. "The competition was fierce."

Ortegaruz will go on to compete against Sailors from other regions for the honor of Commander, Naval Installations Command Sailor of the Year. The selectee from that competition will go on to compete for Chief of Naval Operations Sailor of the Year.

TRICARE NOTES

AVOID OVERBRUSHING YOUR TEETH AND GUMS

Brushing regularly is important for your teeth and gums, but overdoing it can cause problems. Brushing your teeth too often, with too much pressure or with the wrong toothbrush can push back your gums and wear down the enamel on your teeth.

Here are some tips to avoid overbrushing:

- Use a soft-bristle toothbrush and stay away from brushes that are medium- or hard-bristled.
- Do not brush in a sawing motion back and forth across your teeth. Gently brush in a circular motion.
- Use an electric toothbrush, which can help you avoid brushing too vigorously.

Other factors, such as a genetic risk for receding gums or clenching or grinding your teeth, can increase your risk for damage as well.

For more tips on maintaining good dental hygiene, visit www.mouthhealthy.org.

VIEW THE TRICARE STANDARD HANDBOOK ONLINE

You can view, download or print the latest version of the TRICARE Standard Handbook and other TRICARE products online at the TRICARE SMART site. Visit www.tricare.mil/smart and select "Eligibility and Enrollment" as the category from the dropdown menu. Then, click on the link to view or print the most up-to-date version of the TRICARE Standard Handbook.

You can also sign up to receive TRICARE news and benefits updates via e-mail.

Visit www.tricare.mil/subscriptions and enter your email address. On the next page, confirm your email address and set your delivery preferences and optional password. On the third screen, select any topics for regular updates by e-mail.

LOG ON TO MILCONNECT FOR ECORRESPONDENCE

<http://milconnect.dmdc.mil> is the Defense Manpower Data Center's (DMDC's) portal that gives you access to your information in DEERS and allows you to:

- Receive alerts when a change to your benefit occurs
- Access health care info on enrollments, primary care manager assignments, other health insurance, claims, catastrophic caps, deductibles and fees
- Print proof of insurance/eligibility letter
- Manage your TRICARE enrollment
- Review and update (where applicable) personnel information
- Transfer your education benefits
- Update contact information in DEERS instantly
- Find answers to frequently asked questions
- Review Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (SGLI)

Now milConnect speeds finding the functions you're looking for by organizing them into three new menus beginning November 15th:

My Profile, which includes Update and View My Profile, ID Cards and Immunizations

Correspondence/Documentation, which includes eCorrespondence and Proof of Coverage

Benefits, which includes Medical/Dental/Pharmacy, Premiums and Claims (Catastrophic Cap and Deductible), Other Health Insurance, Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB), and Life Insurance (SGLI and FSGLI).

Visit the website at <http://milconnect.dmdc.mil> for more info.

Best Small Base

- (Cont. from Page 2)

“You all continue to amaze me with how you enable our base to operate at such a high level of excellence. I am extremely proud to lead such a wonderful team,” he said. “Congratulations on a Job exceptionally well done.”

CNIC is the Naval command tasked with overseeing the 69 U.S. Navy shore installations worldwide. NAS Whiting Field was selected as the winner in the small base category (less than 500 personnel) from a field of 32 installations.

In his congratulatory message, Vice Adm. Dixon Smith praised the winners and emphasized the high level of professionalism evident in each of the nomination packages.

“Competition this year was extremely keen, as each Large and Small Installation nomination package was impressive, and spoke to the myriad of great accomplishments that you and your teams have made,” he said. “For your outstanding leadership and world class support to the Fleet, Fighter, and Family, I am proud of your collective accomplishments.”

However, while NAS Whiting Field receives the recognition, the honor couldn’t be achieved without a community that works hand-in-hand with the air station to accomplish the mission. The award nomination package included citations emphasizing partnerships with Santa Rosa County toward achieving buffering initiatives to secure property

around the base to prevent incompatible development, gaining grants to support infrastructure improvements, incorporating 16 Military Family Life Counselors in area schools creating the most robust program in the country, and many, many more.

“To achieve this honor two years in a row is amazing, and couldn’t be accomplished without the support of the local community. Santa Rosa County and our many neighbors support our mission and ensure our families are taken care of in the local area,” Bahlau emphasized. “This award is as much a testament to our partnership with the community as

“Flagship” Award

- (Cont. from Page 6)

Coming on the heels of the Installation Excellence Award announcement, this is proving to be a banner year for NAS Whiting Field.

“This is another huge accomplishment for the NAS Whiting Field team. I can’t say enough about the quality work they do, day-in and day-out,” Capt. Todd Bahlau stated. “In my 25 year career this is by far the most talented team I have been a part of.”

FORCE PROTECTION

WHY ME?

STAY VIGILANT

REMAIN ALERT

SPEAK UP

DON'T BE PREDICTABLE

AVOID COMPLACENCY

BLEND IN, DON'T BE A TARGET

KNOW YOUR SURROUNDINGS

ATTENTION TO DETAIL, WHAT DOESN'T BELONG HERE?

QUESTION SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY, & REPORT TO AUTHORITIES

BE AWARE

FORCE PROTECTION IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

Outdoor Recreation Christmas Special

4 DAYS FOR THE PRICE OF 2!

- All Rentals -
pick up by 1100
Thursday, 24 December
& return on
Monday, 28 December

Outdoor Recreation is located
in the Bowling Center: 623-7670

MWR NAS WHITING FIELD

MWR Accredited Program

Ground Breaking

- (Cont. from Page 2)



Military, government and industry officials break ground for Florida's largest solar energy project Dec. 16. (Left-right) Matt Hantzmon, COO of Coronal Development Services; Air Force Col. Matthew Higer, vice commander 96th Test Wing (Eglin Air Force Base); Miranda Ballentine, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and energy; Dennis McGinn, assistant secretary of the Navy for energy, installations and environment; Stan Connally, Gulf Power president and CEO; NAS Pensacola Commanding Officer Capt. Keith Hoskins, and NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Bahlau. U.S. Navy photo by Mike O'Connor.

of Gulf Power.

These initiatives support the Department of Defense's commitment to renewable energy and show the joint leadership displayed in pursuit of energy security.

McGinn said the collaboration between Gulf Power and the Department of the Navy to construct new solar facilities on Florida Navy installations will have a myriad of benefits.

"Together, we can provide physical security to the assets, increase the regional grid resiliency and upgrade the energy infrastructure where our Sailors and Aviators live and work, as well as stimulate economic activity through development. Energy, the economy, the environment and our national security are bound together; you cannot affect one without affecting the others, and these projects have positive benefits in all four dimensions," said McGinn.

Ballentine said this type of enhanced use lease highlights how public and private collaboration benefits the Air Force, industry and local communities.

"The Air Force is focused on using these types of partnerships as a viable business model to improve the service's energy resiliency and provide mission assurance through energy assurance," she said. "Renewable energy projects like this are good for the nation because it increases grid diversity, improves resiliency, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution."

Together, these facilities will be the largest photovoltaic arrays in Florida and have the potential to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 4.6 million tons.

According to Stan Connally, Gulf Power President and

CEO, these solar projects help Gulf Power to further diversify its energy portfolio and support the mission to provide safe, affordable and reliable energy to its Northwest Florida customers.

"This is an important collaboration between Gulf Power, the Navy and Air Force," said Connally. "Through careful planning, we've been able to work alongside our military partners to help support solutions for them to meet federal renewable energy and energy conservation mandates, while Gulf Power pursues cost-effective forms of renewable energy at the same time."

The parties anticipate these solar facilities to be operational by Dec. 2016 and serve all Gulf Power customers. Once operational, the respective facilities are estimated to generate the following numbers on a sunny day:

- * NAS Pensacola: 65 MW DC or 50 MW AC to power approximately 7,400 Escambia County homes
- * NAS Whiting Field: 52 MW DC or 40 MW AC to power approximately 6,100 Santa Rosa County homes



Naval Air Station Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Bahlau displays one of the engraved shovels provided for the ground-breaking. The joint groundbreaking between the Navy, Air Force and Gulf Power could add enough electricity to power 18,000 homes. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas!



Above: Santa looks out the window of his orange and white colored sleigh to see the children waiting for him at Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Child Development Center.

Above Right: During the Children's Christmas Party Dec. 5, HT-8 Instructor Lt. Andrea Giuliano helps J.J., age 7, put together his donut snowman.

Right: Santa gives a Christmas present to a young girl from the NAS Whiting Field Child Development Center during his visit there Dec. 10.

Below Right: A few party goers take advantage of the funny photo booth at the MWR Tree Lighting Christmas event Dec. 5. MWR hosted a bunch of activities during the event including stocking decorating, music, refreshments, crafts, and more. More than 150 people attended the event including a young lad having fun in the snow pit tossing some snow on Mary Marcoux (below). U.S. Navy photos by Jay Cope and Ensign Matt Hughes.



SECURITY CORNER



By: Stacy McFadden, NAS Whiting Field Security

For this month security corner will cover Christmas holiday decoration safety tips. Before you start stringing up those lights or looking for that perfect tree or putting up the one from last year, plan out what you want your house or work place to look like. Even with a good plan, you have to keep safety on your mind all the time. Every year hospital emergency rooms treat about 12,500 people for injuries, such as falls, cuts and shocks, related to holiday lights, decorations and Christmas trees, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). In addition, CPSC warns, candles start about 11,600 fires each year, resulting in 150 deaths, 1,200 injuries and \$173 million in property loss. Christmas trees are involved in about 300 fires annually, resulting in 10 deaths, 30 injuries and an average of more than \$10 million in property loss and damage. We will cover trees, lights (indoor and outside), electric cords (indoor and out), decorations and Santa entry way into your home, the fire place.

We spend hours and days looking for that perfect tree each Christmas. We have a choice of different types of live trees and

different types of fake (artificial for the political correct) trees. If you going for a live tree, you have your selection of eight common types of fir's, which have the benefit of not shedding their needles when they dry out as well as retaining good foliage color and scent. And then you have 5 different types of pine that do lose their needles when they dry out and but have that fresh pine smell. For those who choose to get a live tree, plan where you going to set your tree up. Make sure that your tree isn't near a heat source and that you have a tree stand. Choose a tree stand that has an adequate water reservoir and fits the trunk of your tree. Remember that live Christmas trees need to have their bases constantly in water to keep the tree as moist as possible. Trees that are allowed to dry out are an extreme fire hazard. Position the Christmas tree stand far enough from the wall so that the branches will not bend against the wall. If you must leave the tree stand in a place where the branches push against the wall, trim the branches so that they aren't touching the wall. Branches that have too much contact with the wall can make it difficult to straighten the tree in the stand. For the ones that are getting an artificial tree, it's about size, color, with lights or without lights and fiber optic trees. Just as a live tree, don't place it near a heat source. Next week, we'll go over lights for the tree and outside.

NAS Whiting Field NR NSF Earns 2015 Unit of the Year Accolades

By: YNC Gina Green

Navy Operational Support Center Pensacola, Fla. recognized Navy Reserve Navy Security Forces (NR NSF) Whiting Field as the recipient of the 2015 Best Small Unit of the Year in its respective category. This award is presented for outstanding unit achievement in mobilization readiness, operational support and administrative performance.

NR NSF Whiting Field is one of 17 units at Naval Operational Support Command (NOSC) Pensacola, and is one of two local off-site NSF units that provide vital operational support to their gaining commands. NR NSF Whiting Field is comprised of 31 Sailors that support Naval Air Station Whiting Field with qualified Master-at-Arms security force protection. Their strong commitment to provide exceptional reserve component Sailors led in the achievement of 1,811 hours of training mandates, an unprecedented level of 5,896 hours of direct operational support alongside the active duty counterpart, and gained them specific mention at the 2015 U.S. Fleet Forces Command Higher Headquarters Operations Assessment command debrief as "Outstanding Navy Reserve Support, Best Navy Reserve training records observed". Additionally, the Sailors of NR NSF Whiting Field have gained well-earned recognition for their personal achievement and professionalism in the form of NOSC Pensacola's 2015 Sailor of the Year and Junior Sailor of the Year, Commander, Navy

Region Southeast, Reserve Component Command Junior Sailor of the Quarter 4th quarter, three Navy Commendation Medals, ten Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal's, and four advancements.

Along with providing year around support to this gaining command, ten unit Sailors volunteered to serve 29 days of active duty for an emergent mission to NOSC Chattanooga. Within 48 hours of the tragic NOSC shooting incident, Lt. Robert Tighe, the unit commanding officer, arrived to serve as Officer-in-Charge of 16-reserve component Sailors, NOSC Chattanooga Task Force, Restoration Response Team. He established the first of 71 off-site NOSC entry control points manned by his Master-at-Arms, who served as sentry watch standers providing safety and security of personnel and property on-site.

"Each of you display a selfless commitment to excellence and consistently demonstrate an aggressive work ethic that brings an invaluable presence of reserve component Sailors to inspire others to higher standards," Tighe praised his Sailors. "Your commitment to your active duty counterpart and support of Navy wide command objectives is evident by your receipt of this award. Your dedication to duty has led to five consecutive years in the achievement of this milestone. You truly deserve this special recognition!"

News and Notes

Special Offer - Martial Arts Training

Special offer for NASWF personnel (military, civilians, and their dependents) for the month December 2015: an introductory one month free of Martial arts training in Judo/Jiu-Jitsu, and Wu-Wei Gung Fu. Space is limited. For more information contact Lonnie Ross at lonnie.ross@navy.mil or (850) 665-6169.

Recreation Christmas Special

MWR's Outdoor Recreation team is providing you the opportunity to rent equipment for four days and only pay for two. Simply sign out the equipment for the long Christmas holiday (Thursday, Dec. 24) and return it Monday and the rental will only cost you for Sat and Sun. It is better than a BOGO! Call 623-7670 for details.

Ice Flyers Tickets

ITT has discount center ice tickets (not glass) for only \$17.00 each. Can be exchanged for any game, no limit. Games notated "Military Appreciation" are discounted at the door for only \$13.00. Contact Community Recreation-ITT with any questions.

East Gate Opening

The East Gate will be open for traffic between 6 and 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 4 to accommodate the additional traffic expected due to the morning "Back in the Saddle" training.

Poker Night

MWR will be sponsoring a Poker Night at Aces Pub Friday, Jan. 8 beginning at 5 p.m. Although the event is just for fun, and no money will change hands, this event is still limited to those 21 and older. Come join the fun.

ITT Specials

- Disney Cruise Line -- Military Rate for a 6 Night Eastern Caribbean Cruise from Galveston, ports are St. Thomas/St. John, US Virgin Islands & Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Example; for 2 adults & 2 children \$2,974 includes port fees & on board gratuities
- 2016 Annual Travel Extravaganza – Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the NAS Whiting Field Atrium. ITT will host vendors from Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and more. Come and see all that is available to you through your Community Recreation ITT office right here at Whiting



Whiting's Most Famous Reindeer

Old Saint Nick arrives in a TH-57 training helicopter instead of his eight, trusty, reindeer to visit Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field Saturday, December 5 at 10 a.m. to say hello to all the good boys and girls from Training Air Wing FIVE and NAS Whiting Field during the Children's Christmas Party held at the Child Development Center. The event included food, crafts, activities for the kids, and photos with Santa. U. S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

Field. Door prizes will be given away.

Leave Transfer Program

Dolores Marshall, a Management Analyst at CNRSE, is qualified under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program and is in need of annual leave donations. To donate annual leave forward completed form OPM 630-A Inside Agency (DON) or OPM 630-B Outside Agency (other than DON) with your LES to the CNIC SLDCADA via encrypted email to CNIC_SLDCADA_HELP@navy.mil. For more information, contact Kathleen McGuire at kathleen.mcguire1@navy.mil or 305-293-2789.

CLEP/ Dantes Subject Standardized Tests at Milton

Next dates for CLEP/DSST are: Jan. 22, Feb. 12, Feb. 26, Mar. 11, Apr. 1, Apr. 15, and Apr. 29. Tests are available for Active Duty for free, approximately \$100 for civilians. Tests are by appointment only by contacting CWO3 Cherry at frank.e.cherry@navy.mil. For more information, go to: <http://getcollegerecredit.com/>. CWO3 Cherry has CLEP handouts that contain some great information about CLEP tests and how to prepare. Contact him for more information.

CO's Suggestion Box

http://cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/nas_whiting_field/about/cosuggestion.html.

Top Sailors

- (Cont. from Page 4)



MA2 Eric Alexander, Navy Reserve NOSC Pensacola Junior Sailor of the Year

Pensacola at the Commander, Navy Region Southeast, Reserve Component Command Sailor of the Year Competition.

As Junior Sailor of the Year, Alexander's initiative, esprit de corps, and command involvement were cited as outstanding examples of this junior enlisted Sailors performance.

Alexander serves at NR NSF Whiting Field as a security patrolmen and as the unit supply assistant leading petty officer. In the former, he worked alongside his active component counterpart during 52 days of operational support. He responded to calls for security services to include traffic accidents, criminal complaints, traffic enforcement and entry control point duties. As part of a security detail, he performed additional duties to include traffic control, safety for two winging ceremonies, completed 146 building checks, 62 antiterrorism force protection random antiterrorism measures, and one drug arrest. He represented the reserve component at the USFF Higher Headquarters Operations Assessment with distinction as he provided 40 hours of operational support with zero professional or rate knowledge deficiencies noted by the assessment team.

As the Supply ALPO for his unit, he ensured 15 Master-at-Arms were equipped with the most current personal protective equipment to provide optimum ballistic protection while on patrol. He secured \$15,000 in concealed body armor (CBA) vests

capacity strengthening the exceptional rapport between civilian and military law enforcement in the community.

His readiness to take on the above responsibilities, as well as his devotion to the training of his Sailors and the US Navy Reserve is why Tighe described him as, "uncompromisly committed to excellence."

As recipient of the Sailor of the Year Award, Bicasan will now represent NOSC

for 15 of his local Master-at Arms enabling his reserve force unit to improve mission readiness and provide operational support year around at NAS Whiting Field.

Alexander's active duty service goes far beyond his drill weekends at NAS Whiting Field. He volunteered 45 days in support of several missions to include, Fleet Week New York, Navy Operational Support Center Chattanooga, and Naval Air Station Oceana Air Show, Virginia Beach, VA.

Despite his extensive accomplishments, the award came as a pleasant surprise to Alexander, "I was shocked and didn't even know I was nominated for the award. I work with a great group of Sailors and I'm very thankful to be nominated for this award. I am also especially thankful for the Walton County Sheriff's department for their unwavering support."

In addition to his many contributions to the Navy Reserve, Alexander has proven to be a suburb asset to his civilian employer the Walton County Sherriff's department and his community. In collaboration with the Walton County Sheriff's Office, he has contributed numerous hours to repairing and remodeling the Walton Community Building to create an environment conducive to hosting community meetings, and spaces for local deputies to complete after duty reports. In support of Alzheimer and Dementia citizens, he completed the nationwide "Project Life Saver Course" that serves as a coordinated effort between aviation and ground assets utilized to track and locate those citizens at risk who have wandered from home.

"MA2 Alexander is a Sailor who consistently represents the best the Navy Reserve Security Forces has to offer", Tighe said. "He is a stellar example of professionalism and dedication to duty to his peers and active duty Navy."

These two Sailors exemplify the type of commitment that is readily apparent throughout active duty component at NAS Whiting Field and we are proud to have these Reserve Force Sailors serving alongside NSF Whiting Field in support of their mission.

Lt. Stephen Pakola, Security Officer stated, "We have a superb team of Master-at-Arms here at NSF Whiting Field, and for these two Navy Reserve Force Sailors to receive this recognition is truly a testimony to their professionalism and their dedication to the installation and the U.S Navy. Congratulations!"



TrainingAirWingFIVE



@TrainingWing5

Family Assistance

Announcing the TROY Military and Family Scholarship Program!

By: Rob Morrison, Troy University Florida-Texas District

Editor's Note: For any questions regarding this information or the academic experience at Troy University in general, please contact Rob Morrison at: jrmorrison@troy.edu.

As a further demonstration of its ongoing commitment to those who serve and those who support those who serve, Troy University announces the TROY Military and Family Scholarship Program designed to make higher education more affordable and more accessible to currently serving members of the Air Force, the Army, the Coast Guard, the Marines, the Navy, the Guard, the Reserves and their families.

Effective January 1, 2016, active duty military students enrolled in or enrolling in graduate degree programs will be eligible to have their tuition fees capped at \$250.00 per semester hour bringing graduate level tuition fees in line with those currently charged to our active duty population at undergraduate level. And, from that same date, spouses and dependents of active duty members enrolled in or enrolling in undergraduate and/or graduate level degree programs at the University will also be eligible to have their tuition fees capped at \$250.00 per semester hour. Scholarship eligibility is dependent on the completion and submission of a scholarship application and the maintenance of satisfactory academic progress while enrolled. These rates apply to online and face to face instruction at any TROY location worldwide.

This action by the University will result in a cost savings of up to 25% for spouses and dependents enrolled in undergraduate programs; a reduction of up to 50% for

spouses and dependents enrolled in graduate level education; and, a reduction of 100% on the "out of pocket" tuition costs for currently serving military members enrolling in or enrolled in graduate level programs at TROY.

Reducing the cost of higher education and easing some of the financial pressure felt by our military families is an important component of Troy University's mission to continue building a more comprehensive approach to serving the needs of our military and their families.



New to the Navy Mobile Application
Now Available for Download to Apple iOS and Google Android Mobile Devices!

An official US Navy mobile application, produced by the Navy PMW 240 Program

What is the New to the Navy Mobile Application?

Welcome to the Navy! The New to the Navy mobile application is for those Sailors (Enlisted and Officers) who are fresh out of Boot Camp or Officer Candidate School and ready to report to their first command. The app answers common questions new Sailors may have on pay and personnel matters as they transfer to a school or to their duty station. The content has been organized under the broad topics listed below.

Transfers – Provides resource information to assist you in moving from one duty station to another. Topics include: Preparing to report to your first command, travel claims, PCS orders, pay and allowances, overseas screening, relocating your family and personal belongings, and the Hometown Area Recruiting Program (HARP).

Sponsor Program – Your new duty station will assign a sponsor to you. Learn how the Sponsor Program works, how to request a sponsor, and how your sponsor can help with housing, vehicles, moving your household goods, and other issues.

Pay, Personnel, and Advancement – Provides information on military pay, taxes, leave and earnings, direct deposit, the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), legal issues, personal advancement, the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS), and your Electronic Service Record (ESR).

Marriage and Family – Offers information on Navy-related issues pertinent to you and your spouse, such as getting married while on leave, obtaining an ID card for your spouse, Temporary Lodging Expenses (TLE), the TRICARE health care program, and Navy Spouse 101, a helpful introduction to the Navy for your spouse.

New Officers – Provides useful information on the duties and responsibilities of those assigned as division officers or placed into a position of leadership over enlisted personnel. Also includes resources to help address problems that fall outside typical pay and personnel issues.

Emergency – Provides various hotlines, such as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, Military OneSource, Veterans Crisis Link, and more. Also includes links to emergency service organizations, both military and civilian.

What Does This Mean? – Defines many terms and acronyms common to this app and the Navy.

Favorites – This section is the repository for information you mark for future reference as you go through the app.



Download New to the Navy and get the app in your hands NOW!



Google Android App Store:
[Download New to the Navy](#)
Apple iTunes App Store:
[Download New to the Navy](#)



DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.



Christmas & New Years Holiday Hours 2015



FITNESS CENTER

Operating Hours

M-F 0500-2100
Sat-Sun 0900-1800

Holiday Hours

Dec 21-24: 0500-1900
Dec 25: Christmas Day—CLOSED
Dec 26-27 - 0900-1800
Dec 28-31: 0500-1900
Jan 01: New Years Day—0900-1800

LIBERTY CENTER

Operating Hours

M-F 1000-2000
Sat-Sun 1200-2000

Holiday Hours

Dec 21-Jan 03: 1200-1800

INFORMATION TICKETS & TOURS

Operating Hours

M-F 0900-1700

Holiday Hours

Dec 24: Christmas Eve—0900-1200
Dec 25-26:—CLOSED
Dec 31: New Years Eve—0900-1200
Jan 01-02:—CLOSED

MULLIGANS SNACK BAR

Operating Hours

Mon-Sun 0630-1330

Holiday Hours

Dec 25: Christmas Day—CLOSED
Jan 01: New Years Day—CLOSED

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Operating Hours

M-F 0600-1800

Holiday Hours

Dec 24-25: —CLOSED
Dec 31 - Jan 01: —CLOSED

MWR ADMIN

Operating Hours

M-F 0730-1600

Holiday Hours

Dec 24: - 0730-1200
Dec 25: - CLOSED
Dec 31: 0730-1200
Jan 01: - CLOSED

BOWLING CENTER

Operating Hours

Friday-Saturday
1400-2200

Holiday Hours

Dec 25-27:—CLOSED
Jan 01-03:—CLOSED

WHITING PARK

Operating Hours

Fri-Mon 0700-1630

Holiday Hours

Dec 25: - CLOSED
Jan 01: -CLOSED

BOWLING SNACK BAR

Operating Hours

M-Th 0700-1900
Friday 0700-2100
Sat 1400-2100

Holiday Hours

Dec 24: 0700-1400
Dec 25-27:—CLOSED
Dec 31: 0700-1400
Jan 01-03:—CLOSED

SOUTH FIELD SNACK BAR

Operating Hours

M-F 0600-1900

Holiday Hours

Dec 24: 0600-1400
Dec 25:—CLOSED
Dec 31: 0600-1400
Jan 01:—CLOSED

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Operating Hours

Monday-Friday 0800-1600
Saturday 0800-1200
Sunday—CLOSED

Holiday Hours

Dec 24 0800-1200
Dec 25-27: CLOSED
Dec 31: 0800-1200
Jan 01-03: CLOSED

COFFEE SHOP

Operating Hours

M-F 0600-1200

Holiday Hours

Dec 25:—CLOSED
Jan 01: - CLOSED

Happy Holidays!!