

# Whiting Tower

Seventy-one Years of Aviation Training News

Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.  
Vol. 71 No. 21

Forging Wings for the Fleet  
Thursday, November 12, 2015

**2015 INSTALLATION EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER**



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## Helicopters Flock to 26th Annual Fleet Fly-In

By: Sheri Grabus, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs



MH-53 Sea Dragon at the 2015 Fleet Fly-In aboard NAS Whiting Field, Oct. 27 - 30. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

The week started wet and windy, but the weather didn't stop U.S. Navy and Marine Corps fleet helicopters from

*Cover Photo: Aircrewmembers prepare to guide an MH-60 naval helicopter as it starts to spin up, while TH-57 training helicopters fly above and are parked in the background at Naval Air station Whiting Field. This MH-60, accompanied by more than a dozen fleet aircraft, spent a week at NAS Whiting Field in celebration of this year's Fleet Fly-In. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Jenné Jolie.*

## 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 Officers

Jay Cope

Sheri Grabus

Lt.j.g. Jenné Jolie

Ensign Jeremy Griffin

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.

joining this year's Fleet Fly-In at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field.

Training Air Wing FIVE (TRAWING-5) and the Naval Helicopter Association (NHA) coordinate the Fleet Fly-In each year, with help from corporate sponsors and military contract personnel. Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT (HT-8) is the host of the event.

Cmdr. John McBryde, HT-8 Commanding Officer, was pleased with the results of this year's Fleet Fly-In. "I think the event was extremely successful. The most important part is that our Student Naval Aviators got a chance to see what their future is going to hold. They got a chance to see what they are going to be doing; the aircraft that they're going to be flying; the type of people that they're going to be interacting with in the very near future."

One exciting component of the Fleet Fly-In was the  
- (Cont. on Page 7)

## Moving day for local tortoises --Protected tortoises at NOLF Holley are relocated before new construction begins.

By: Ensign Jeremy Griffin, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Whiting Field began relocating gopher tortoises at Naval Outlying Field (NOLF) Holley starting the week of 28 Sep. to ensure the safety of the animals while preparing for a major construction project at the site.

Contractors temporarily moved all the tortoises from the affected area before October to a fenced area with pre-estab-



Erik Oien and Elva Peppers measure a gopher tortoise as part of relocation efforts at Naval Outlying Field Holley. U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Jeremy Griffin.

- (Cont. on Page 12)

# Across the Fleet

## NAS Whiting Field Earns Navy Community Outreach Recognition

By: Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

MILTON, Fla. -- Naval Air Station Whiting Field will be one of Commander Navy Region Southeast's nominees for the prestigious USS Bainbridge Award following Wednesday's announcement of the Flagship Awards for Navy Community Service.

The Flagship Awards recognize outstanding community service programs throughout the Navy every year in five categories: Personal Excellence Partnership; Health, Safety and Fitness; Campaign Drug Free; Project Good Neighbor; and Environmental Stewardship. Shore, sea, and overseas commands are eligible to compete in three categories, based on the size of the command.

NAS Whiting Field ranked first in four categories and second in Campaign Drug Free within the region to earn the nod to represent CNRSE for the USS Bainbridge award for overall excellence in community service. NAS Whiting Field will compete in the medium ashore category.

In her message announcing the winners, Commander Navy Region Southeast Rear Admiral Mary Jackson praised the installations for their service to others.

"This years recipients epitomized our core values and demonstrated a sincere commitment to community service throughout the Southeast Region," she said. "My sincerest personal thanks to all commands and individuals who selflessly volun-

- (Cont. on Page 6)

## *This Day in Naval History*

**November 11, 1920** - Lenah S. Higbee becomes the first woman to be awarded the Navy Cross. It was awarded for her World War I service.

**November 13, 1943** - Fifth Fleet carriers begin long range night bombing attacks on Japanese positions in Gilberts and Marshalls in preparation for landings.

**November 17, 1941** - Congress amends Neutrality Act to allow U.S. merchant ships to be armed. Navy's Bureau of Navigation directs Navy personnel with Armed Guard training to be assigned for further training before going to Armed Guard Centers for assignment to merchant ships.

**November 19, 1969** - Navy astronauts CDR Charles Conrad Jr. and CDR Alan L. Bean are 3rd and 4th men to walk on the moon. They were part of Apollo 12 mission. CDR Richard F. Gordon, Jr., the Command Module Pilot, remained in lunar orbit. During the mission lasting 19 days, 4 hours, and 36 minutes, the astronauts recovered 243 lbs of lunar material. Recovery by HS-4 helicopters from USS Hornet (CVS-12).



**Turkey Trot**  
**"FUN RUN"**  
2 Miles  
Win a Bird!  
**Tuesday**  
**17 November 2015**  
**RUN STARTS AT 1100**  
Join us for a two mile fun run and a chance to win one of five turkeys.

 Call the Fitness Center  
For more information  
623-7412 



### Not the Most A-Peeling Job

During World War Two, two crewmen of the USS Presley peel potatoes onboard as a part of general ship-board activities.

# Give thanks...for Energy Conservation

**By: Ensign Jeremy Griffin, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs**

Even though Energy Awareness month ended on October 31st, Naval Air Station Whiting Field is committed to continue conserving energy throughout the year. Establishing a culture of energy conservation is a goal shared by everyone who works on the base; from the newest check-in all the way to the Commanding Officer.

“Energy conservation will always be a priority at NAS Whiting Field. We have to be very cognizant of what we’re using and we need to always improve as time goes on,” Capt. Todd Bahlau, Commanding Officer of NAS Whiting Field, said.

NAS Whiting Field was recently recognized as a gold level of achievement for the fiscal year 2015 Secretary of the Navy Energy and Water Management award. The award recognizes the efforts of leadership and personnel to develop energy awareness campaigns, deploy energy efficiency technologies, and adopt new operational procedures that result in a consistent reduction in energy or water consumption. The gold level of achievement indicates a very good to outstanding energy or water program for an installation.

“I’d like to improve even more, and see our efforts exceed the top expectations of the SECNAV’s criteria,” Bahlau said.

One of the most significant improvements involves the NAS Whiting Field partnership with Gulf Power. The installation and Gulf Power are developing a project called the Utilities Energy Services Contract (UESC).

A UESC is a limited-source contract between a federal agency and its serving utility for energy- and water-efficiency improvements and demand-reduction services.

At NAS Whiting Field, the UESC encompasses 55 buildings, which covers about 60 percent of NAS Whiting Field’s footprint. Within these buildings, the project will look to upgrade interior and exterior lighting, HVAC systems, HVAC controls, building envelope, plumbing fixtures, and renewable technologies. The project is expected to save approximately \$315,000 annually and reduce NAS Whiting Field’s overall energy consumption by 6-8%.

“We have two UESC projects running and we need to keep looking at the UESC to continue to save more and improve our conservation,” Bahlau said.

Other specific Energy Conservation Measures (ECM) within the UESC is the replacement of interior fluorescent lighting systems with tubular LEDs (TLEDs), which were approved for usage by Navy Facilities Command Atlantic in July of this year.

“NAS Whiting Field will be one of the first naval installations to implement this technology,” Jason Poe, Installation Energy Manager for NAS Whiting Field, said. “Our ultimate goal is to upgrade 100 percent of our interior and exterior lighting systems to LED.”

In addition to the UESC, NAS Whiting Field will also perform energy audits on 216,000 square feet of facilities in January of fiscal year 2016, and look to develop and submit projects on the facilities that are not included as part of the UESC.

“Ultimately, conservation is about saving money and our environment,” Bahlau said. “Doing small things like turning off lights may not seem like much, but it adds up on a base like NAS Whiting Field, which helps the environment and the Navy overall.”

**Ec-nomics**

### MYTH

When buying an air conditioner, the bigger the better.

### REALITY

A bigger unit is not necessarily better. The unit should be sized properly to cool and dehumidify (dry) the intended space. A small unit running for an extended period of time operates more efficiently and is more effective at dehumidifying than a large unit that cycles on and off too frequently. An air conditioner that is too large will not cool an area uniformly and may not provide proper dehumidification. In areas that have high humidity during the cooling months, proper dehumidification may be as important to feeling comfortable as lowering the air temperature. Lower humidity reduces skin temperature and makes you feel cooler in warm weather. Conversely, high humidity level produces a “clammy” feeling even though the air temperature is cool.

## Helicopter Training Squadron Eight celebrates its 65th year

By: Ensign Jeremy Griffin, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Four pilots were flying helicopters for the Navy on their first or second tours of duty after flight school. Things were going well, and they were learning much about their chosen craft. Then a call came through for volunteers for a new squadron. They decided to give it a shot, never realizing that the memories and comrades they would form would still be with them half a century later. They shared their experiences with today's pilots as part of the Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT (HT-8) 65th anniversary celebration October 27, at the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Atrium.

The event coincided with the 2015 Fleet Fly-In and featured retired Navy Captains Gary Skaar, Pete Peterson, Dick Catone, and retired Navy Cmdr. Mike Louy. They were selected to speak about their careers in the Navy, beginning with flying helicopters in Vietnam as part of Helicopter Attack Squadron (Light) 3.

Catone, Peterson, Louy, and Skaar each spoke about their history in the Navy and how they came to serve in HA(L)-3, which was an all-volunteer U.S. Navy squadron formed to support Naval Special Warfare operations and Mobile Riverine Forces.

"HA(L)-3 has the distinction of being the only squadron in the Navy established outside the continental United States, and in a war zone," Catone said.

Drawing from their experiences as members of HA(L)-3, the speakers would go on to serve full careers in the Navy before retiring. Catone spoke about the maturation everyone experiences when they begin active duty, and no matter if you're a "brown bar, silver bar, oak leaf, or even an eagle, it's all about responsibility."

Louy extolled the virtues of the aircrew in a helicopter and the instrumental role they play in keeping the aircraft safe. He then related a story about one of his crews when they were forced to put a helicopter down into water.

Peterson told the audience about his crew's efforts to use increasingly larger armaments for the helicopter, culminating with a few missions using army bombing munitions. They scrapped the idea when they were attempting to carry more than the helicopter could actually take off with.

Skaar spoke last, and while sending pointed looks at Louy, who had heaped praise on Air Crewmen, talked about the time his aircrew gunner accidentally shot up the helicopter they were flying. He then expressed the importance of trying new things in the Navy while talking about his tour after Vietnam flying support for the National Science Foundation in Antarctica.

Each of the speakers accomplished much as helicopter pilots, and returned to NAS Whiting Field to celebrate HT-8's anniversary, which shaped the rotary side of Training Wing FIVE into what it is today.

HT-8 bears the honor of being the oldest helicopter squadron in continuous Naval service. For nearly 65 years the squadron's motto has been "The Best Helicopter Pilots in the World are Trained Here." Although the curriculum and aircraft utilized have evolved as the strategic importance and complexity of the fleet's helicopters has grown, its mission to provide primary and advanced helicopter training for

U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Allied Student Naval Aviators selected for rotary-wing designation hasn't changed.

The anniversary will commemorate 65 years since HT-8 began as Helicopter Training Unit ONE (HTU-1) on Dec. 3, 1950. The squadron designation changed in 1957, to Helicopter Training Group ONE, before it was re-designated for the last time on Jul. 1, 1960. As the eighth training unit designated by the Naval

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Capt. Gary Skaar, USN (Ret), Capt. Pete Peterson, USN (Ret), Capt. Dick Catone, USN (Ret), and Cmdr. Mike Louy, USN (Ret) (l-r) speak at the Helicopter Training Squadron 8 65th anniversary celebration, held at the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Atrium. U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Jeremy Griffin.

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### Usage Information

#### Total Used

1,841,485 kWh

	1 Year Ago	Last Month	This Month
Total kWh Used	1,975,098	2,044,994	<b>1,841,485</b>
Average Daily kWh	63,713	68,166	59,403
Days In Billing Period	31	30	31

### 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.

# NAS Whiting Field Earns Installation Excellence Distinction

By: Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs



Rear Adm. Mary M. Jackson, Commander Navy Region Southeast, recognized Naval Air Station Whiting Field as the Commander Navy Region Southeast nominee for the Installation Excellence Award Tuesday, Oct. 20, in the small base category. The award lauds the top Navy

commands at shore for their installation management, program excellence and community outreach.

NAS Whiting Field will continue on to compete at the Commander Navy Installations Command level against the top bases from other regions worldwide for the Navywide award. Winners at the CNIC level will compete with military bases from other services for the Commander in Chief awards.

This is the second year in a row for NAS Whiting Field to represent the region in the competition. Last year, the base received the Navy-wide award in the small installation category.

Installations are graded across thirteen 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 Tuesday afternoon, and Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Bahlau commended the Whiting Team.

"We have once again set the example for excellence - for the

second year in a row we are the Southeast Region nominee to CNIC for the Installation Excellence Award (IEA) for the small installation category," he said in an email to everyone in the command. "We have a lot to be proud of - congratulations on a job well done!"

However, while NAS Whiting Field receives the recognition, the honor couldn't be achieved without a community that supports and partners with the air station to accomplish the mission. The award nomination package included citations emphasizing partnerships with Santa Rosa County toward maintaining a "Safe Community" designation for the county, encroachment partnering to secure property around the base to prevent incompatible development, incorporating 16 Military Family Life Counselors in area schools, hosting the Military Appreciation events for local military and retirees; and maintaining a resolute program toward building strong community/military bonds.

"Our county exemplifies an attitude that is unparalleled in maintaining, sustaining and enhancing lives of our military and their families," Bahlau stated. "The cooperative effort between the county and NAS Whiting Field is truly what enables us to stand out among our peers."

NAS Whiting Field was selected as the regional representative from a field of eight military bases from Florida to Tennessee to Texas. Navy Region Southeast is the largest of the Navy's eleven regions and consists of more than 25 percent of all the entrants within this competitive category.

## Community Outreach

- (Cont. from Page 3)

teered their time to improve the quality of life in our local communities."

Naval Air Station Whiting Field's nomination package showcased the base's 22,129 hours of volunteer service towards goals to 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. Volunteer programs and events that exemplified the installation's efforts throughout 2015, included: Men in Action, Earth Day, Sea Cadets, Civil Air Patrol, 12 Months of Running, Bay Area Food Bank, and other opportunities that helped to make positive impacts in the local community.

"Santa Rosa County and NAS Whiting Field have an amazing relationship that fosters tremendous goodwill between the residents and our military/civilian team at the installation. We truly want to be good neighbors within our community and my team here at Whiting Field displays that spirit every day," Capt. Todd Bahlau stated.

## TRICARE NOTES

### TRICARE COVERS SHINGLES VACCINE FOR PATIENTS AGE 60 AND OLDER

Shingles is a viral disease that affects more than 1 million Americans every year. More than half of those cases occur in people age 60 and older. TRICARE covers the shingles vaccine for beneficiaries age 60 and older. The shingles vaccine, Zostavax®, is in high demand so please check with your provider to ask if it is available.

Beneficiaries may receive the shingles vaccine from your Primary Care Manager or any TRICARE-authorized provider or TRICARE retail network pharmacy. NOTE: If you get the vaccine from your provider, you may have copayments or cost shares for the office visit or other services received during the office visit; however the shingles vaccine is no cost and you do not have to have a referral or prior authorization.

TRICARE for Life (TFL) beneficiaries: Medicare only covers the shingles vaccine under Medicare Part D (prescription drug plan). For TFL beneficiaries who do not have Medicare Part D, TRICARE is the primary payer for the vaccine.

## Fleet Fly-In

- (Cont. from Page 2)

opportunity for TRAWING-5 flight students to explore, ride in, and potentially fly Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard fleet helicopters. Large groups of future military helicopter pilots took advantage of this opportunity during the open flight periods Wednesday and Thursday.

McBryde went on to acknowledge the efforts of HT-8 personnel in coordinating the Fleet Fly-In events. According to McBryde, planning starts almost immediately after an event ends, which makes preparation a year-long process.

“This event would not have happened – without a doubt, no question – without the efforts of many. Specifically, Lt. John Geary and Lt. Adam Boyd: they were the main coordinators of this event,” McBryde said. “Each different event had a specific person that was responsible for that specific event. But John and Adam just knocked it out of the park.”

Networking events held during Fleet Fly-In provided opportunities for students to talk to fleet helicopter pilots and senior leadership to get answers to tactical questions, such as what it’s like to use a specific weapons system. Student naval aviators, air crewmen, and spouses also gained insight into how the lifestyle affects family members; for example, what the wife of a helicopter pilot might experience during his deployment. Networking events included a welcome aboard barbeque, mixer, air crewman picnic luncheon, NHA golf tournament, spouse’s orientation meeting, and fleet aircrew breakfast.

There was also time scheduled to encourage good-natured rivalry during the Fleet Fly-In. Each helicopter training squadron selected a team, consisting of an instructor pilot and air crewman, to participate in Wednesday’s skills competition event. Teams each performed an autorotation (unpowered) landing, hover, and cargo drop. Squadron members came out in full force to cheer on their teams. A few even went that extra mile: going shirtless so that they could boldly decorate their chests with their



SH-60 and MH-53 helicopters line up on the NAS Whiting Field flight line in preparation for the 2015 Fleet Fly-In. The four-day event is the one time each year that fleet helicopters come to the installation to provide training flights to student aviators. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.



Student Naval Aviators offload from a recently returned SH-60 during a flight demonstration at the 2015 Fleet Fly-In aboard NAS Whiting Field. U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Jeremy Griffin. Squadron number to proudly, and memorably, show their support. Although judging was tight, the team from HT-18, Lt. Brendan Roc and Chief Naval Air Crewman Jason Pulk, earned top honors for the second annual Helicopter Skills Competition.

Col. Gary Kling, Commodore of TRAWING-5 and one of the judges for the skills competition, said, “This event, designed to demonstrate the precision and teamwork of a helicopter crew, builds camaraderie and good-spirited rivalry across the squadrons - both essential parts of Naval aviation. We definitely had a good time and certainly met all of the objectives.”

Student aviators also heard from fleet helicopter pilots and industry professionals during a variety of informational sessions at Fleet Fly-In. These sessions provided students with valuable insight as they start on the path to selecting their fleet aircraft. Events included senior officer panel discussions on large-scale aviation issues, a future of vertical lift briefing, and detailer presentations on future assignments. In addition, DART Aerospace, Airbus, Lockheed Martin, Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, FLIR Systems, Inc., Bell Helicopter, L-3 Vertex Aerospace and Agusta Westland displayed booths and information showcasing the latest helicopter technologies.

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# Around the Base

## Helicopters Showcased at NAS Whiting Field



**(Above)** A TH-57 Training Helicopter participates in a skills competition held at this year's 26th annual Fleet Fly-In held at Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

**(Above-right)** Helicopter aircrewmembers, instructor pilots, and student aviators peruse the fleet helicopters parked on the NAS Whiting Field flight line, as the helicopters showcase their advanced technology

**(Right)** The sun peeks through at daybreak and sheds light on a MH-53 naval helicopter parked on the South Field flight line at NAS Whiting Field

**(Bottom-right)** A MH-53 naval helicopter aircrewman preflight his aircraft in preparation for the day's flight.

**(bottom-left)** A MH-60 helicopter welcomes the morning as the sun rises in the distance over the horizon at NAS Whiting Field

**(below)** Three MH-60 Naval helicopters taxi next to parked TH-57 training helicopters to the South Field runway before taking off and departing NAS Whiting Field after the conclusion of the 26th annual Fleet Fly-In.



## Commissaries focus on families, veterans, Thanksgiving

By: -- Sallie Cauthers, DeCA marketing and mass media specialist



*Editor's Note: To access a video related to this news release, go to <https://youtu.be/o8hVtE6AhsU>*

**FORT LEE, Va.** -- Military appreciation and November go together like turkey and gravy as commissaries worldwide fea-

ture a lineup of great promotions throughout the month, including high-value coupon booklets for free frozen turkeys.

"November is National Military Family Appreciation Month and more at commissaries," said Tracie Russ, the Defense Commissary Agency's sales director. "We're showing our thanks through commemoration ceremonies that honor our war veterans and also with great values for customers through Veterans Day holiday weekend sales, Black Friday weekend sales and seasonal promotions.

"This year we're offering not only our annual free frozen turkey offer available worldwide via high-value coupon booklets, but also a fresh turkey special at prices sure to please in stateside commissaries," she added.

Patrons can find out more details about turkeys and other discounted items in their commissary by accessing the sales flyer on the "Savings Aisle" of [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com).

Throughout November, DeCA's industry partners – vendors, suppliers and brokers – are collaborating with stores to offer discounts beyond everyday savings. Overseas stores may have substitute events for certain promotional programs. Customers are asked to check their local commissary for details on dates and times for the following promotions:

- The Fifth Annual "Get Your Turkey Free – When You Buy Holiday Favorites! This worldwide promotion features a 16-page recipe booklet with coupons valued at more than \$38. The coupons provide commissary shoppers with greater than normal savings or free turkeys when purchasing their holiday meal essentials using the coupons. Terms and conditions are on the coupons. Vendors include Kraft Foods, Kellogg's, Campbell's, Pepperidge Farms, Frito Lay, General Mills, Hefty/Reynolds Wrap, Fresh Express, Nabisco, Proctor & Gamble, Heinz and Johnsonville. Look for these recipe/coupon booklets in your local commissary beginning Nov. 1, with coupons good through Dec. 21.

- On Nov. 17, stateside commissaries start featuring fresh turkeys at low prices. The sales flyer on [www.commissaries.com/shopping/sales-events.cfm](http://www.commissaries.com/shopping/sales-events.cfm) has details.

- Black Friday Weekend Extravaganza Sale! Stateside commissaries will feature "rock-bottom" sale prices on "Black Friday"-tagged items Nov. 27-29. Participating brands include: AXE, Folgers, Russell Stover, Nestle, Twinning Tea, Dove, Armour, Monster drinks, Suave, Scott, Good Sense, Nongshim Noodles, Lipton Tea, Country Crock, Eight O' Clock Coffee, Glad, Yoo-Hoo drinks, Planters, Hawaiian Punch, Rittersport Chocolate, Purina and Hellman's. Go to [www.commissaries.com/shopping/sales-events.cfm](http://www.commissaries.com/shopping/sales-events.cfm) on Nov. 5 for a list of participating commissaries.

- Celebrate the Holidays with General Mills and its "Santa Claus (and your entire family) is coming to town. Time to cook and bake!" promotion. This holiday event features high-value in-store coupons and online Commissary Rewards Card discounts.

- Acosta and its participating brand products present the "Believe in Heroes!" promotion. Commissaries worldwide will receive 300,000 flyers featuring high-value coupons to support this cause promotion for the Wounded Warrior Project Foundation.

"The holidays are busy times and we assure customers that your commissary offers all the items you need for your holiday meals," Russ said. "Now's the time to stock up!"

## Fleet Fly-In

- (Cont. from Page 7)

The Fleet Fly-In also gave fleet helicopter pilots the opportunity to revisit some of their old stomping grounds at NAS Whiting Field. A former Student Naval Aviator with HT-18 mentioned a specific memory that was sparked by the temperamental weather during the first days of the Fleet Fly-In.

Lt. Andrew "Rain Man" Poreda, a MH-60R pilot out of NAS North Island, San Diego, said the weather brought back memories of "...sitting on the back porch, waiting for the cloudy weather to clear on the November days. . . So seeing this out here kind of brings back all those memories – just waiting around and being ready to go at any moment."

McBryde expressed that it is that very nostalgia that brings fleet personnel back to NAS Whiting Field year after year.

"Everybody who's flying helicopters started here," McBryde said. "So everybody was a student here at one point in time. So, as a seasoned fleet pilot, it's neat to come back and remember your roots and where you learned."

## SECURITY CORNER



The holiday time is among us and the first one up is Thanksgiving, and all the wonderful food! It's that time of the year that is someone first time cooking Thanksgiving dinner or someone wants to try something different, like a fried turkey. Now I'm not going to go into how to cook a fried turkey, but what to do /not to do

frying a turkey. Make sure you position your burner and propane tank away from your house on solid ground and never set it up in a garage, on a porch/covered area or on a wooded deck. Wear a long sleeve shirt and long pants and shoes. Have a fire extinguisher nearby just in case a fire start. Never use water on an oil/grease fire. If there's a breeze or a windy day, position the burner so the wind is blowing away from the propane tank. Now that everything is setup and ready, you need to do a dry run before we start cooking. You'll need your pot you cooking the turkey in, the turkey and a marker and water. Put your turkey in the pot (breast in first) and fill it up with water until it covers the top part of the turkey. Take the turkey out and mark where the water is and empty the water and dry it out good, remember that oil and water don't mix! Make sure your turkey is dry inside out and don't fry a stuff turkey. Fill the pot with oil (your choice) to the line you marked and heat the oil. Make sure you have a thermometer and enough propane to cook the turkey. Remember don't drop the turkey in the pot, lower it slowly and that the oil will splash out while you put in the turkey. Enjoy cooking your fried turkey and think safety first!! **HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY NAS WHITING FIELD!**



### Welcome Home Mr. Bossenberger

Brian Bossenberger is welcomed home by Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Security Department after a fifteen month Individual Augmentee assignment at the National Security Agency. Naval Air Station Whiting Field Leadership, Security department coworkers, and Bossenberger's wife, Kathy, joined in the celebration in held at NAS Whiting Field's main security building. U.S. Navy photo courtesy Ron McCurdy.

## 65th Anniversary

- (Cont. from Page 5)

Air Basic Training Command, the squadron became Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT.

Catone spoke about his time as Commodore of the Training Air Wing, when HT-8 first began to be responsible for basic helicopter instruction. During his speech, Catone reflected on the growth to the structure of helicopter training that he witnessed as Commodore.

"In 1972 HT-8 had a baby, and that was HT-18," Catone said. "It's interesting to see how these things spin off and change."

The newly-beget HT-18 conducted the advanced instrument and tactics portion of the curriculum after students finished the basics in HT-8. Later, in October 1985, HT-8 and HT-18, became "mirror image" squadrons with both teaching the entire training syllabus. On Nov. 1, 1985, HT-8 designated its first Naval Aviator since moving to Whiting Field in 1972.

Finally, on May 25, 2007, both HT-8 and HT-18 detached one third of their personnel to form Helicopter Training Squadron TWENTY-EIGHT. Both HT-18 and HT-28 retained the numeral eight in their designations when they were formed to honor their historical origins from HT-8.

After the panel held a question and answer session with the audience, Skaar gave parting advice for the student Naval Aviators.

"During your career, you're going to be called upon to do some things you've never even thought about before," Skaar said. "Like it was for us in Vietnam, the most important thing is that you have to find a way to do it."

OCT. 9, 2015

### Unisex Covers



DIXIE CUP

Dixie Cup to be worn by all E-6 and below with all jumper style uniforms. Authorized for wear April, 2016  
Recruit Training Command Issue: April, 2016  
Mandatory Wear: Oct. 31, 2016 with Service Dress White  
Jan. 1, 2020 with Service Dress Blue



COMBINATION COVER

The Alternate Combination Cover (ACC) and current male combination cover now authorized for immediate wear by all officers and chiefs  
ACC now available for purchase at Navy Exchanges  
Mandatory Wear: Oct. 31, 2016

### Service Dress Uniform

E-6 AND BELOW



#### Redesigned Service Dress Blue

New SDBs will be jumper style uniforms for all Sailors and incorporates side and front zippers to help ease changing in and out of uniform

SDBs will have traditional 13 buttons, though they will not be functional.

Dixie Cup worn by all Sailors

Recruit Training Command Issue: Oct. 1, 2017

Mandatory Wear: Jan. 1, 2020



#### Redesigned Service Dress White

New SDWs will be jumper style uniforms for all Sailors and incorporates side and front zippers to help ease changing in and out of uniform

SDWs will have jumper flap with navy blue piping and stars, cuffed sleeves with navy blue piping and navy blue button fasteners

Dixie Cup worn by all Sailors

Recruit Training Command Issue: Oct. 1, 2017

Mandatory Wear: Oct. 31, 2021

### Service Dress Uniform NWU Type I

Chiefs and Officers



#### Choker

Redesigned Service Dress White (SDW) coat for women

Cover: ACC or current male combination cover

Expected NEX availability: Jan. 1, 2017

Mandatory Wear: Jan. 1, 2020



#### LIGHTWEIGHT NWU TYPE I

Sailors can wear new lightweight style with all current NWU Type I uniform components

The current version of the NWU Type I will be phased out as stock is depleted

Available: April 1, 2016 at Navy Exchange Uniform Centers in Guam and Hawaii, and through the call center for Diego Garcia and Singapore

Recruit Training Command Issue: Oct. 1, 2016

# News and Notes

## Retirement and Benefits Webinars for Civilian Employees

Nov. 12 at 1 p.m.: The Interactive Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) Q & A. Registration info: [https://www.ltcfeds.com/meet\\_us/webinars.html](https://www.ltcfeds.com/meet_us/webinars.html). Past webinars: [http://www.ltcfeds.com/meet\\_us/webinars\\_on\\_demand.html](http://www.ltcfeds.com/meet_us/webinars_on_demand.html).

## Okinawa Culture Week

•Nov. 12-19: workshops, demos, group tours, meet & greets, dinners. Schedule: FloridaOkinawaKenjinkai@yahoo.com

•Okinawa's Traditional Performing Arts - Nov 14 from 2-4:30 p.m. at the Santa Rosa County Auditorium. Discount tickets available at ITT. More information 850-994-4890.

## MATSG-21 Officer Birthday Ball

Tickets available through Friday morning, Nov. 13. Ball is Nov. 14 from 6 – 11 p.m. at the National Naval Aviation Museum. Call Sonja at 850-623-7147 for more info and ticket purchase.

## MWR News

*Turkey Trot Fun Run* (2 miles) – Nov. 17 starting 11 a.m. Chance to win one of five turkeys. Call 623-7412 for more info.

## Navy/DoD Virtual Education Fair

Nov. 19 from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. Registration: <https://dodeducationfair.com/signup.html>. More info: <http://www.dodeducationfair.com>.

## Critical Incident band Plays:

*The Marine Corps Ball Pre-Party*: Nov. 14 from 2 – 6 at Seville (tickets required)

*Doc's Courtyard Bar* in Milton: Nov. 20 from 8 p.m. – 12 midnight

*Blackwater Bistro* in Milton: Nov. 21 from 6 – 8 p.m

## Selecting and Planting Trees Program

Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. at the Gulf Breeze Public Library (1060 Shoreline Dr). Free; no registration. More info: contact Mary Derrick at (850) 623-3868 or [maryd@santarosa.fl.gov](mailto:maryd@santarosa.fl.gov).

## Thanksgiving Radio Shout Out for All Sailors

1. Call our toll-free number: 1-855-OUR-NAVY before Nov 20 at 7 a.m.

2. Have below script ready and follow the recorded voice directions.

3. Wait for 3-5 second pause after voice directions and record message after beep. \*\*\* (PLEASE DELIVER WITH ENTHUSIASM, SPEAK AUDIBLY AND CLEARLY) \*\*\*



## Cemetery Cleanup

Naval Air Station Whiting Field leadership and staff volunteered to clean a local cemetery just outside of the base's main gate. The cemetery dated back to the civil war, and the Whiting Field volunteers restored the cemetery for the family members who have not been able to its upkeep. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. J. G. Jenné Jolie

Script:

HI, I'M NAVY [RANK, FIRST NAME, LAST NAME] FROM [HOME TOWN], CURRENTLY SERVING AT NAS WHITING FIELD.

I WANT TO WISH [FAMILY MEMBERS YOU WISH TO RECOGNIZE] AND EVERYONE BACK IN [HOME TOWN] A VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON. I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL VERY SOON. GO NAVY!

4. Hang-up and the audio file will automatically be sent to NAVCO's email. Once received, NAVCO will thoroughly screen for useable files and share the audio file with a full range of radio media outlets in their home town.

## Volunteers Needed:

•Nov 24 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Milton Community Center (5629 Byrom St). 10 volunteers needed to help with distributing food in time for Thanksgiving. To volunteer contact ABH2 Ford NLT COB Nov. 20 at (850) 623-7212 or [nikki.l.ford1@navy.mil](mailto:nikki.l.ford1@navy.mil).

## ITT News

Contact: 850-623-7032 or 850-665-6250 for these or other specials

•Legoland specials:

» Appreciation days Nov. 1 - 22, 2015. All US military veterans are entitled to free admission. Discounted tickets for family members at ITT.

## CO's Suggestion Box

[http://cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/nas\\_whiting\\_field/about/cosuggestion.html](http://cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/nas_whiting_field/about/cosuggestion.html).

## Gopher Tortoises

- (Cont. from Page 2)

lished burrows. The gopher tortoise is a protected species in Florida and all efforts are being made to ensure that the tortoises are healthy and that they were relocated safely. After the last burrow was dug up and gopher tortoise moved, then work on a new solar array for the area began.

There were ecological preparations that must be made first though. Ron Cherry, Natural Resource Manager at NAS Whiting Field, was in charge of the relocation efforts.

“NAS Whiting Field has previously done controlled burning in the area where the gopher tortoises were moved to and ensured that the best grasses and vegetation have grown into those areas,” Cherry said.

The solar array at NOLF Holley will add ground-mounted photovoltaic panels over roughly 300 acres in the runways and surrounding clear zones. The arrays will produce an estimated 50 megawatts of electricity generated for consumption by the local community.

“The gopher tortoises were living in the area set aside for the construction of the solar array. We relocated all of these gopher tortoises to an area outside of the construction area,” Cherry said. “The gopher tortoises were relocated to one of four areas that have been penned off on site at NOLF Holley.”

The pens themselves are large sets of land that have been mesh fenced off, with approximately six to eight inches of the



Erik Oien holds a gopher tortoise that has been excavated as part of a relocation at NOLF Holley. U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Jeremy Griffin.

mesh going underground. The pens are spacious enough to accommodate both the tortoises that already live in the area and the relocated ones while still maintaining the maximum of only two tortoises per acre recommended by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The process of capturing the tortoises is done by using bucket traps and excavation of the burrows. Even if the bucket traps don't catch anything, each burrow still had to be dug out. This ensures that each burrow was empty of gopher tortoises and other cohabitating animals such as gopher frogs, several species of snake, small

invertebrates, and burrowing owls. The empty burrow was then collapsed.

Once a gopher tortoise was found, a brief health assessment was conducted and unique identification number assigned. The animals were handled as little as possible to minimize stress. Elva Peppers, a contractor from Florida Environmental and Land Services Inc. helped to dig out the tortoises and conducted the evaluations.

“We inspected their eyes for drainage or discharge, weighed and measured them, and then we tagged them with microchips and paint marked them,” Peppers said. “The chips let us keep track of them on the property and give us an idea on how big their burrows might be, while the paint helps with visual identification.”

The final step of the relocation was to move the newly marked tortoises into the pen areas.

The gopher tortoises will remain in the temporary relocation areas until construction of the solar array is complete, after which they will be released. They will be monitored during their time in the pens and after their release to ensure they are in good health.

Florida Environmental and Land Services Inc. also will conduct monthly monitoring of the relocation sites for any new hazards, unusual behavior or signs of illness, and any damage to fencing. Anything out of the ordinary will be documented and remediated while minimizing disturbance to the animals. Overall the monitoring is to ensure the good health of the temporarily relocated population, and alleviate the potential for injury or illness.



Erik Oien, Ron Cherry, and Elva Peppers begin to dig up a small warren dug by a gopher tortoise to see if it is occupied as part of relocation efforts at NOLF Holley. U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Jeremy Griffin.

# DoD VOLED offering Virtual Education Fair

**By: Ed Barker, Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTC) Public Affairs**

PENSACOLA, Fla. – As part of an effort to expand the reach of military Voluntary Education (VOLED) and help make higher education accessible for all service members, veterans and family members, the Department of Defense Voluntary Education Program will host its first online Virtual Education Fair Nov. 19.

The online fair is designed to enable members' participation from anywhere in the world, helping them get a head-start on the information needed to reach their education goals.

The Military Evaluations Program Manager for the Defense Activity for Non Traditional Education Support (DANTES), Taheesha Quarells said this inaugural online education fair will serve as a pilot for future events and offers several advantages over local education fairs.

"We wanted the virtual education fair to act as a force multiplier, working in conjunction with the services' education centers to offer service members a greater variety of school options," said Quarells. "Each of the 43 schools participating in this fair have both online and face-to-face programs, and are currently members of the Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC) Degree Network System (DNS). SOC DNS schools have simplified credit transfers and reduced residency requirements making it easier for students to complete degree requirements."

Registration is required to participate, but takes only a few minutes and is anonymous, asking only for a unique username, location, e-mail, major interest, education level and how participants heard about the fair. Advance and day-of registration for the virtual education fair is available through: <https://dodeducationfair.com/signup.html>

Representatives from participating schools will be available via live chat from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST to accommodate different time zones. The fair is designed to offer an informative, pressure-free experience, where members can learn about:

- Schools having a signed agreement with the Department of Defense to provide a quality education to service members and military spouses
- Financial aid options to help defray the cost of your education
- Degree and certificate program offerings
- Cost of Tuition and Fees
- Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits

During and after the fair, several prerecorded video information sessions will be available, including: Top high-growth career fields and degrees; Resources for choosing a school; and Bridging education and credentialing. Informa-

tion from schools participating in the fair will be accessible online after the event as well.

One unique aspect of the virtual education fair is participation of education counselors representing each branch of the armed forces, offering real-time counseling during the fair.

"All of the services have unique rules, requirements and policies regarding Tuition Assistance, education plans and credit transfer options," said Dr. Deborah Harris-Sims, manager of special projects for Navy VOLED. "During the online fair, service counselors will be able to explain and clarify any misconceptions that service members may have about education benefits and get answers that are accurate for their particular service branch."

Quarells added that rarely will service members and their families find so many resources in one place and the virtual education fair is perfect for those who might not have an educational support office nearby.

"Depending on their location, it can be challenging for service members to find answers to their education questions quickly," she said. "During the virtual education fair, not only will they be able to speak with someone from DANTES or a counselor from their service, but they will also be able to chat live and get real-time answers from Federal Student Financial Aid and post-9/11 GI Bill representatives."

For additional information about the DoD Voluntary Education Virtual Education Fair, visit: <http://www.dodeducationfair.com>.

## Mulligans to Temporarily Close for Maintenance

Mulligans will close Nov. 23-25 due to required maintenance on the water systems that supplies water for that area of Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

This maintenance will cause a drop/loss of pressure as the system lines are opened and present a possibility of contaminants to enter the depressurized line.

The water supply to Mulligans will be secured Sunday, Nov. 22. However, more importantly, it will induce a standard boil water notice for two Golf Course Buildings (Bldgs. 2895, 3047). This boil notice affects any food preparations that would take place in Mulligans so the decision was made to suspend operations at Mulligans through Nov. 25.

Routine water sampling will be performed Nov. 23 and 24 to ensure the water is safe to drink and use in food preparation before Mulligans will be permitted to reopen.

## From TRAWING-5

# Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Wingers



Training Air Wing FIVE recognized these newly-winged Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Aviators on Nov. 6. U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Jeremy Griffin.

# Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Scholars



Congratulations to Training Air Wing FIVE's Academic Achievement Award recipients for (l-r): Oct. 23, Oct. 23, and Oct. 30. U.S. Navy photos courtesy TRAWING-5.



TrainingAirWingFIVE



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