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During World War II, in the rural fields of Milton, Florida, a small outlying field named Naval Auxiliary Air Station Whiting Field began its primary mission—producing the military's best-trained aviation warfighters. The value of aviation to the war and to the nation was never more evident than during the Battle of Midway, when aircraft and aircraft carriers essentially turned the tide of the war in the Pacific. In July of 2018, Whiting Field celebrates 75 years of training the world's best Naval, Coast Guard and Marine Corps aviators, following a legacy that began during the war.

Construction on the field commenced in early 1943 as Pensacola's largest auxiliary air field, approximately 35 miles northeast of the town, and eight miles north of Milton. As the war churned on, the need for aviators increased and the Navy selected Whiting Field to fulfill a significant piece of the aviation training mission.

Two individual airfields, about a mile from one another, connected by base facilities between the two, supported the increased demand of pilots. Dedicated in a July 16, 1943 ceremony, the field was named after innovator, submarine and aviation pioneer, Captain Kenneth Whiting, following his death on active duty in April 1943. Whiting is known for his unparalleled contributions to naval aviation, submarine emergency egress and for being a fierce advocate for the importance of aviation, especially aircraft carrier-based operations. He was inducted into the National Naval Aviation Museum's Naval Aviation Hall of Honor in 1984.

From its early beginnings through the 1970s, the focus of Whiting Field training was on fixed wing aircraft training. The first platform to arrive at the station was the SNJ Texan, quickly followed by the SNB Navigator, and the PB4Y Liberator bomber. As the war drew down, there was rumor that the base would be closed due to the reduced need for pilots. But a new mission with heavy bombers, the PB4Y-1 and 2 models, soon graced the skies over Santa Rosa County. In 1949, the Navy's first jet training unit was established at Whiting, and the TO-1 Shooting Star took over North Field. After Korea, the base welcomed a new primary trainer, the T-34B Mentor, for a short time, until the T-28 Trojan became the longest serving fixed wing trainer at Whiting from 1956 to 1983. The T-34C Turbomentor phased out the T-28, and was the primary platform until 2009, when the T-6B Texan came on the scene as the primary aircraft training system. The Texan is still the fixed wing platform flown at North Field and will be in service for the foreseeable future.

A new era in Whiting's history was established in 1973 with the introduction of advanced helicopter training to South Field. UH-1 Hueys and TH-57 Sea Rangers were flown to Whiting Field on the same day, with some in the community remembering a spectacular sight of more than 100 rotary airframes flying down Highway 90 and over Milton to South Field. Today, the TH-57 is the primary airframe used to train Navy, Marine, Coast Guard and international students in helicopter aviation. Currently, three fixed wing squadrons and three rotary wing squadrons are hard at work bringing prospective pilots the best training in the U.S. military.

Kenneth Whiting’s innovative spirit still lives on at Whiting Field as the Nation's future aviators study, train and fly to become the next Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard
Captain Kenneth Whiting, Naval aviator #16 in the pioneering age of Naval Aviation.

pilots. Instructors lead more than 1,200 students per year through a rigorous training regimen that produces the world's best pilots. NAS Whiting Field is responsible for 100 percent of all helicopter training, graduating helicopter pilots to advanced training in their assigned platforms.

Today, NAS Whiting Field averages more than one million flight operations a year and is the busiest aviation complex in the world. That comprises a staggering average of 11 percent of all Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard flight hours, and more than 52 percent of the Navy's outlying field footprint. So though a relatively small installation in stature, the station's reach and impact with 12 Naval outlying fields, more than 4.4 million square yards of airfield pavement and 131,000 flight hours flown in 2017, is greater than most large installations today.

The future for NAS Whiting Field will be exciting and innovative as we continue to provide the U.S. military with the finest aviators in the world. With the new North Air Traffic Control tower construction beginning in the next few years, the acquisition of a new helicopter training system, coupled with our tremendous base and community partnerships, the aviation training mission at NAS Whiting Field will remain strong well into the future. We will continue providing the Nation's most professional aviators who will defend our freedoms for decades to come.
NAS Whiting Field Anniversary Gala Dinner
“Celebrating 75 Years of Military Excellence”

VADM Kevin Scott, Director, Joint Force Development, Joint Force Staff, Pentagon, provides keynote remarks at the 75th anniversary dinner. He reminisced about his time at Whiting Field in the 1980’s when he earned his wings of gold. (Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field, Public Affairs Office)

Capt. Paul D. Bowdich, Commanding Officer, NASWF, thanks the surrounding community for the support and partnership with NAS Whiting Field over the years. (Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field, Public Affairs Office)

Local business, Milton Bakery donated the cake commemorating the 75th anniversary of NAS Whiting Field. (Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field, Public Affairs Office)

NAS Whiting Field Color Guard presents colors during the National Anthem at the 75th anniversary gala dinner. (Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field, Public Affairs Office)

Portrait of Capt. Kenneth Whiting, the base’s namesake, along-side the branch service flags and the American flag. (Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field, Public Affairs Office)
Cdr. Isaiah Blake relinquished command of HT-8’s Squadron Augment Unit to Cdr. Haji Ibn Akmal Shareef on board NAS Whiting Field in the base Atrium July 20. Cdr. Blake, after serving in San Diego, returned to Training Air Wing FIVE as the Commanding Officer of HT-8’s Squadron Augment Unit (SAU) for more than two years. Cdr. Shareef returned to TRAWING 5 in 2013 as an HT-8 instructor and was awarded Reserve Officer of the year. He later became the Executive Officer of the HT-8 SAU.

The NAS Whiting Field color guard prepares to present colors, at the HT-8 Squadron Augment Unit change of command on board NAS Whiting Field July 20. (Photo by Lt. j.g. Harrison Garrett, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs staff)

Cdr. Isaiah J. Blake (left) and Cdr. Haji Ibn Akmal Shareef (right) pose together at the conclusion of the change of command ceremony at NAS Whiting Field. (Photo by Lt. j.g. Harrison Garrett, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs staff)

Cdr. Haji ibn Akmal shareef relieves Cdr. Isaiah J. Blake of his duties as Commanding Officer of the HT-8 Squadron Augment Unit (Photo by Ens. Matt Lembo, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs staff)
Today, he’s Wendall Cooley, the Deputy Projects Manager for NAS Whiting Field, overseeing all of the base and airfield maintenance. But 30 years ago, he was “Wildcat Wendall Cooley,” a Continental Championship Wrestling (CCW) and World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) pro-wrestling superstar. Wendall grew up here in Milton, Florida and during his childhood, his TV only had three channels. One of the only things he had to watch was professional wrestling, and he eventually developed a strong passion for it.

When Wendall’s brother, Greg, was 21, he met retired pro-wrestler, Bad Boy Hines, while working at a hardware store. He started talking to him about becoming a pro-wrestler. Greg and his cousin scraped up the money to buy materials from the hardware store to put together a wrestling ring in his cousin’s backyard, and they started training and working out with Bad Boy Hines.

At the time, Wendall was working as a plumber’s assistant, but wanted something bigger, something better. With a passion for wrestling, he joined his brother and cousin and started training with Bad Boy Hines. Eventually, Bad Boy Hines introduced them to Larry Pearson, a Deputy Sheriff at the time, who was also a retired pro-wrestler. He was one of the Mighty Blue Yankees many years ago. In 1983, Larry was able to setup Wendall with his first TV match.

After wrestling locally for a few months, Larry told Wendall that if he wanted to make a career out of this sport, he needed to leave the local area and find bigger programs. He eventually got a phone call from Christopher Love, who was starting a program in Iowa. They flew Wendall up to Iowa to film a few shows, and Wendall started to feel like a big deal. “I’m a superstar,” Wendall said, “they’re already flying me places.”
Wendall was making a living doing something he loved. He was living his dream. He was being paid to travel, meet people, and wrestle. At this early point in his career, he was wrestling under the name Rick Casey. He wrestled for several different people in different locations and after wrestling in Memphis for about 7 months, a spot opened up back in Florida. He was originally supposed to play a supporting role, but this opportunity turned into the highlight of his wrestling career, where he got the name “Wildcat Wendall Cooley.” He knew that he was a big deal when one of his boss’s agents told him, “You’re one of his money men.”

After sustaining a severe knee injury during a match, he took a break from wrestling and then started again in Puerto Rico in 1990. He then went to Nashville. But it was different. They wouldn’t let him use his name, “Wildcat Wendall Cooley,” and he would have to develop a new character despite the fact that he had been wrestling as “Wildcat Wendall Cooley” for years. He wasn’t going to have a lead role. He finally decided to completely stop wrestling in 1993.

Returning to Florida, he went to the next thing on his bucket list, so he started a band called “Nothing Special” with some friends from high school. He also took a job as a carpenter at NAS Whiting Field. He realized he couldn’t keep his job at NAS Whiting Field and play with the band, so he quit the band and he kept his job at NAS Whiting Field due to financial reasons.

At NAS Whiting Field, he started with carpentry and then worked as a plumber. He eventually took part in maintaining the airfields as a collateral duty. This involved keeping them clean, in good condition, and keeping the striping up to date with the latest aviation regulations.

In 2016, he was offered the Deputy Project Manager (DPM) position, responsible for overseeing all of the maintenance on the base. He took the position and is still the DPM today. During his time working for Whiting Field, he has lived by the philosophy that you “always leaving something better than the way you found it.” That’s exactly what he plans to do at NAS Whiting Field.
Mildred H. McAfee takes the oath of office to become the first female line of officer. She is commissioned a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve and simultaneously undertakes the duties of being the first director of the newly-established WAVES (“Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service”).

USS Mingo (SS 261), USS Skate (SS 305), USS Sunfish (SS 281), USS Flasher (SS 249), and USS Bonefish (SS 223) sink up to eight Japanese ships.

Rear Adm. David G. Farragut successfully navigates through a deadly torpedo field Confederates lay in order to block the channel into Mobile Bay. During the battle, Farragut gives his famous quote, Damn the Torpedoes, Full speed ahead!

The U.S. flag gains the nickname of Old Glory from William Driver, master of the brig USS Charles Daggert.

The Japanese accept the terms of the Potsdam Declaration and agree to surrender, ending World War II. It is known as V-J Day! Announcing the news to the country in the evening, President Harry S. Truman proclaims a two-day holiday. Explosive celebrations immediately follow as Americans and their Allies rejoice that World War II is finally over.

This Day in Naval History

August 17, 1942

The submarines USS Nautilus (SS 168) and USS Argonaut (SM 1) land more than 200 Marines on Makin Island, Gilbert Islands, in the first amphibious attack made from submarines.
The Command Career Counselor provides an important connection between Sailors, their commands, and supporting Navy organizations. The Command Career Counselor’s job is to provide knowledge to Sailors and their families regarding career opportunities, as well as their own personal development within the Navy. Rather than advising Sailors on what to do or not to do, career counselors provide the necessary information and available resources that will ultimately help the individual make their own educated decision about their future. Sailors’ spouses also greatly benefit from being involved with the discussions between Sailors and the Command Career Counselor, especially for those individuals in the process of transitioning out of the Navy. The Command Career Counselor works closely with Fleet and Family Services during the pre-separation counseling, and includes important information concerning post military benefits available to families.

Here at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, we are fortunate to have Aviation Boatswain’s Mate First Class Ross Thornton as our local Command Career Counselor. ABH1 Thornton has been in the Navy for 6 years, his first assignment being on board the USS George H. W. Bush in Norfolk, Virginia. Thornton worked as an aircraft director in the hangar bay for 3 years, then moved to be the career counselor in the air department for his last 2 years onboard. Thornton is originally from Leeds, England and moved to the United States when he was 14 years old. He describes his experience as challenging at first, but says he has adapted well and loves living in the USA. Thornton is the first and only person in his family to become an American citizen, and he is very proud of that fact.

Thornton states that the most challenging and interesting aspect of his job is keeping up with the Navy’s seemingly constant policy changes, and disseminating the correct information to his fellow Sailors. He says that the challenge keeps his job interesting and keeps him on his toes. Thornton attributes his effectiveness to his helpful fellow department career counselors and his mentors at his previous duty station. “I had the chance to work with some senior career counselors at my last command, and they taught me a lot about what it takes to be a good career counselor.” If you have any questions regarding your future or would like to talk about development opportunities, the NAS Whiting Field Command Career Counselor is located in the command building, room 118.
NAVDADMIN Outlines Changes to Post-9/11 GI Bill

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- NAVADMIN 170/18 announces updated changes to the Department of Defense Post-9/11 GI Bill instruction. Department of Defense released changes July 12, to department policy on the transfer by service members in the Uniformed Services of “Post-9/11 GI Bill” education benefits to eligible family members.

Effective July 12, 2019, eligibility to transfer those benefits is limited to Sailors with less than 16 years of total service, active duty service and/or selected Reserves as applicable.

Previously, there were no restrictions on when Sailors could transfer education benefits to their family members. The provision for a Sailor to have at least six years of service to apply to transfer benefits remains unchanged.

Sailors with more than 16 years of credible service who have not completed the transfer eligibility by July 12, 2019 will not retain the ability to transfer education benefits to eligible family members.

The policy change allows Sailors to retain their eligibility to transfer education benefits even if they have not served the entirety of their obligated service commitment through no fault of their own. This means if a Sailor fails to fulfill their service obligation because of a “force shaping” event (such as officers involuntarily separated as a result of being twice passed over for promotion, or enlisted personnel involuntarily separated as a result of failure to meet minimum retention standards, such as high-year tenure) the transfer of benefits to a family member would not be impacted.

All approvals for transferability of Post-9/11 GI Bill continue to require a four-year commitment in the Armed Forces and, more importantly, the member must be eligible to be retained for four years from the date of election.

There’s an App for That

By Raelyn Latchaw, Fitness Center Team

Trying to get yourself moving to the gym, but wish you had a preplanned workout? Tight schedule and wondering how to best use your time for today’s sweat session? Not up to speed on your exercise lingo or wish someone would just take the time to demonstrate an exercise to you? Or maybe you are simply confused on how to create a healthy diet? Well, I’ve got some great news for you…there IS an app for that!

The Navy partnered with EXOS, a company known for its expertise in human performance, and some of the top exercise science brains out there and birthed “NOFFS.” Perhaps you are already familiar with the term or maybe its your first time to lay eyes on it. Either way, you might be surprised at all that it has to offer. NOFFS, otherwise known as Navy Operational Fitness and Fueling System, is like a personal trainer in the palm of your hand. Downloadable onto your phone, you can carry your trainer with you to the gym and get the workout plan along with a video demonstration of every move as you are working up your sweat.

Shower and head out on the town, but don’t forget NOFFS, with a personalized meal plan tailored to your calorie zone. The app gives you all the information necessary to calculate your calorie requirements and will break down exactly how much of each food group you need to maintain that trim and fit “you” that you are.

Muscles needing a good stretch, but you don’t know how or where to begin? Yes, the app has got you covered there as well! And best news of all, it’s absolutely free! Navy endorsed and scientifically based, it’s some of the best information out there.

Well, there’s my quick tip for this month! And yes, you can thank me later for all of the great info I’ve just sent your way. But for now, grab that phone, snag that app, and get moving! You’ll be glad you did!

For further information about NOFFS, take a swing by the fitness center, and we’ll fill you in. See you soon!
Voting

*Primary Elections Are in Full Swing - Register and request your absentee ballots for all 2018 elections now at FVAP.gov* This year, the entire House of Representatives and a third of the U.S. Senate are up for election. Don’t miss your opportunity to vote in your state’s primary election as it will determine who is on the November 2018 general election ballot. To register and request your absentee ballot, visit FVAP.gov to complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA).

2018 AFBA Financial Planning Guide

The 2018 AFBA Financial Planning Guides have arrived. They contain information on retirement, life insurance, health benefits, survivor benefits, veteran’s benefits, savings & investing, annuities, social security, wills & trusts, and taxes. Please stop by the FFSC and pick up your free copy.

OneBlood Mobile Blood Drive

Thursday, August 31: 0700-1200 hours
Parked in the NEX parking lot

The Mobile Blood Drive “OneBlood” will be at NAS Whiting Field on Friday, August 31 from 0700-1200 hours. All donors receive a free OneBlood beach towel and a wellness checkup including temperature, blood pressure, pulse, iron check and cholesterol screening! ID is required, and donors must be at least 16 years old (with parental permission, if 16 years). Contact OneBlood.org or 1-888-9 DONATE for further information or questions.

SCUBA Regulator Recall


2017 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (CCR)


Cyber Awareness Challenge Training-2018:

NAVADMIN 314/17 established the annual requirement for Cyber Awareness training as Cyber Awareness Challenge 2018/ Cyber Awareness Challenge v5. The training requirement is in TWMS, posted as “FY18 DOD CYBER AWARENESS CHALLENGE V5,” with a no later than suspense date of 30 Sep 2018. Per CNRSE, “in order to meet this timeline, all CNRSE personnel shall complete the Cyber Awareness Challenge NLT 31 Aug 2018.” This will allow region ISSM/ISSO personnel time to verify employees with no access to Navy IT and accommodate those personnel that have been on extended leave/TDY. As the training is located in TWMS, this is the recommended choice and completion status reports will be generated regularly from this system. Following is the location of the training in TWMS: 1) https://twms.navy.mil/selfservice/login.asp 2) Select “Online Training and Notices” 3) Select “Available Training” 4) Select “FY18 DOD CYBER AWARENESS CHALLENGE V5”
Whiting Field Awards and Recognition

Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Wingers


MIDDLE ROW: Lt. Col. Aaron J. Brunk, USMC, CO HT-18; Lt. j.g. Ryan L. Frederick, USN, HT-28; Lt. j.g. Thomas J. Courtney, USN, HT-28; Lt. j.g. Cory D. Trotter, USN, HT-8; Capt. Zachary T. Stewart, USMC, HT-18; Lt. j.g. Christopher H. Mckee, USN, HT-28; 1st Lt. Carl Y. Chen, USMC, HT-28; Lt. j.g. Kelley A. Robinson, USN, HT-28; 1st Lt. Luke G. Ritter, USMC, HT-28; Lt. j.g. Michel L. Richardson, USN, HT-28

BOTTOM ROW: Cmdr. Jessica R. Parker, USN, CO HT-8; Lt. j.g. Colleen M. Fricke, USN, HT-8; Ens. Olga A. Lamah, USN, HT-8; Lt. j.g. Bradley J. Williams, USN, HT-8; Lt. j.g. Nathan G. Beatty, USN, HT-8; Lt. j.g. Madeline C. Hyde, USN, HT-8; Lt. j.g. Colby W. Shinholser, USN, HT-18; Lt. Kristin B. Euchler, USCG, HT-28; Lt. j.g. Daniellie N. Mcknight, USN, HT-28; 1st Lt. Jonathan Hernandez, USMC, HT-8; Capt. Alan M. Worthy, USN, Commodore Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Atlantic (guest speaker) (July 13)

TOP ROW: Lt. Col. Gregory R. Curtis, USMC, XO HT-28; Lt. j.g. Benjamin B. Hannon, USCG, HT-8; Lt. j.g. Chad D. Alvarez, USN, HT-28; Lt. j.g. William H. Hamiter, USN, HT-28; 1st Lt. Jason T. Motycka, USMC, HT-18; Lt. j.g. David M. Miles, USN, HT-28; Col. David C. Morris, USMC, Commodore TW5

MIDDLE ROW: Lt. Col. Aaron J. Brunk USMC, CO HT-18; 1st Lt. Toni E. Taylor, USMC, HT-18; Lt. j.g. Dana N. Andres, USN, HT-28; Lt. j.g. Shane M. Bohn, USN, HT-8; Ens. Roy D. Billodeau, USN, HT-18; Lt. j.g. James F. Sireci, USN, HT-28; 1st Lt. Stephen M. Lennon, USMC, HT-28; Cmdr. Barnet L. Harris II, USN, CO VT-3 (guest speaker)

BOTTOM ROW: Cmdr. Jessica R. Parker, USN, CO HT-8; Lt. j.g. Rachel M. Boelsehe, USN, HT-28; Lt. j.g. Jane C. Wisssmann, USN HT-28; 1st Lt. Joseph D. Morales, USMC, HT-28; Ens. Nicole M. Peterson, USN, HT-18; Lt. j.g. Omar I. Alfuntukh, RSNF, HT-18; Lt. j.g. Sulaiman I. Alghofaili, RSNF, HT-18 (July 27)
Whiting Field Awards and Recognition

Congratulations to Training Air Wing Five Academic Award and Commodore’s List Recipients

TW-5 Academic Award and Commodore’s List Recipients receive recognition at TRAWING-5 Headquarters on July 13 and July 27.

Congratulations NASWF 3rd Quarter Award Recipients

Senior Sailor of the Quarter: ABH1 Anthony Kirby

Junior Sailor of the Quarter: ABH2 Dominic Caviness

Blue Jacket of the Quarter: MA3 Wade Green

Senior Civilian of the Quarter: Kevin Fraley

Junior Civilian of the Quarter: Raelyn Latchaw