

# Whiting Tower

Seventy-two Years of Aviation Training News

Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.  
Vol. 72 No. 7

Forging Wings for the Fleet  
April 13, 2016

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## Santa Rosa County Honors Training Air Wing FIVE Officers



Former Training Air Wing FIVE Commodore, Col. Gary Kling, receives a framed picture of the Blackwater Riverwalk from Milton Mayor Wesley Meiss. U.S. Navy Photo by Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

*Cover Photo: Naval Air Station Whiting Field service members and staff stepped out to the command flag pole Wednesday, Mar. 30 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. U.S. Navy Photo by Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.*

### 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  
Jamie Link

#### Public Affairs Staff

Lt.j.g. Andrew Bertucci  
Ensign Benjamin Ziemski

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.

**By: Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs**

Members from the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce, Blackwater Pyrates, the Navy League, and the City of Milton joined together Thursday, March 31 to hold a “Hail and Farewell” for the leadership of Training Air Wing FIVE at Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

The local leaders gathered to the Milton Garden Club to welcome Col. David Morris to the community, congratulate Capt. Mark Murray on his new responsibilities as Commodore for TRAWING-5, and bid adieu to the outgoing commodore and wish him the best in his retirement from military service.

Santa Rosa County Commissioner Don Salter served as the master of ceremonies for the reception and expressed his appreciation to the military officers, including Capt. Todd Bahlau, the commanding officer of the air station.

“This is a great opportunity to get together and say ‘thank you’ for the great leadership at NAS Whiting Field, both at the base and the Training Wing,” he stated.  
- (Cont. on Page 6)

## Coleman to relinquish command of HT-18 to Sanderson

**By: Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs**

Lt. Col. Rafford Coleman, USMC, will formally turn over command of Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN to Cmdr. Brian Sanderson, USN, Thursday, Apr. 14 at the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Auditorium. The 10 a.m. ceremony will mark the transition of authority from one officer to the other in front of the assembled staff, instructors and students.

Serving first as the Executive Officer for the command and then as Commanding Officer, Coleman displayed unmatched dedication to safe, quality training throughout his two and one-half year tour. Under his leadership, HT-18 exceeded its fiscal year 2015 pilot training goals, designating 189 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Allied helicopter aviators. Coleman, furthermore, led the “Vigilant Eagles” in the execution

- (Cont. on Page 7)

# Secretary Mabus Names Next Destroyer Carl M. Levin

By: Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs

DETROIT (NNS) -- Today, during a ceremony in Detroit, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced the next Arleigh-Burke class destroyer, DDG 120, will be named Carl M. Levin in honor of the longest serving senator in Michigan history.

During his 36 years in the Senate, Levin was a member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and its chair for more than nine years. He also served as chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. He led the Senate in adoption of the Defense Authorization Acts from 2007 through January 2015 when he retired.

Currently, Levin is senior counsel at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP and chair of the Levin Center at Wayne State University Law School and the law school's distinguished legislator in residence.

"It is a great honor to name this ship in recognition of such a dedicated public servant," said Mabus. "I have no doubt that all who serve aboard her will carry on the legacy of service and commitment exemplified by Carl Levin during his storied career."

"My family and I are deeply moved by this singular honor and to be so wonderfully connected to the men and women of our great Navy," said Levin.



WASHINGTON (April 11, 2016) An artist rendering of the future Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Carl M. Levin (DDG 120). (U.S. Navy photo illustration/Released)

Arleigh-Burke class destroyers conduct a variety of operations from peacetime presence and crisis response to sea control and power projection. DDG 120 will be capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously and will contain a combination of offensive and defensive weapon systems designed to support maritime warfare including integrated air and missile defense and vertical launch capabilities.

The ship will be constructed at Bath Iron Works in Maine and is expected to enter the Navy fleet in 2020. The ship will be 509 feet long, have a beam length of 59 feet and be capable of operating at speeds in excess of 30 knots.

Levin's wife, Barbara, is the sponsor of littoral combat ship USS Detroit (LCS 7), which is expected to be commissioned later this summer along the Detroit River.

## *This Day in Naval History*

### Apr. 11

1970 - Apollo 13 is launched, commanded by Navy Capt. James A. Lovell. The ship endures an explosion forcing an immediate return to Earth. Recovery is by helicopters from USS Iwo Jima.

### Apr. 12

1861 - The Civil War begins with Confederates firing on Fort Sumter, S.C. The Union Navy plays an integral part blockading Confederates, keeping them diplomatically and economically contained from other nations.

### Apr. 13

1981 - AV-8A Harriers deploy as a Marine Air Group on board an amphibious assault ship for the first time.

### Apr. 14

1945 - USS Tirante (SS 240), commanded by Lt. Cmdr. George L. Street III, attacks a Japanese convoy in the approaches to the Yellow Sea and sinks a transport ship and two vessels. Street earns Medal of Honor for his actions.

### Apr. 15

1918 - The First Marine Aviation Force, under the command of Capt. Alfred A. Cunningham, USMC, is formed at Marine Flying Field, Miami, Fla.



### Battle of Fort Sumter

The Fort Sumter Battle and start of the Civil War began in Apr. of 1861, when Union troops used the fort as a base. Confederate troops eventually opened fire on the fort and are said to have continued shooting at Fort Sumter for more than 36 straight hours. After about a day and a half, the Union troops under Maj. Robert Anderson surrendered and were evacuated. No one is reported to have died in this battle; however the event marks the beginning of the American Civil War and was followed by many subsequent battles throughout the south.

# First-time Seder meal held on board NAS Whiting Field Chapel

By: Jamie Link NAS Whiting Field Assistant Public Affairs Officer



Seder Meal participants receive the traditional dishes in the symbolic order that is customary for Passover. U.S. Navy File Photo.

Naval Air Station, Whiting Field Chaplains served a Passover meal for the first time held at the Chapel Fellowship Hall as part of the Command Religious Program. Participants were an active part of the ceremony which celebrated both Jewish and Christian faiths in a hybrid service.

The goal of the event was to present a Christian adaptation of Passover to retain the theological, confessional, and educational dimension of the service. The celebration is presented in a way for people of Christian faith to express those beliefs in a community gathering by participating in the story of salvation, and to observe and honor the faith journey of Israelites and Jewish people over time.

The Passover meal is known as the Seder, which translates to “order” because the meal and service are completed in a prescribed sequence.

Command Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Michael Griggs explained, “This is a celebration originating with the Jewish religion and the Passover [celebration].”

The food was intentionally set at different positions on the plate and each food item represented a portion in the story of salvation. Food served included; green beans, lamb, hard-boiled eggs, parsley dipped in salt water, flat-bread and an apple/granola dish. After the regimented portion was complete, additional dishes were served.

“This was my first experience with a Seder meal and one of the most interesting parts was learning how each food item had significance and symbolism,” said Toby Ledbetter, an attendee of the event.

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# Military Children Benefit from New Sponsorship Program

By: Lt. j.g. Andrew Bertucci, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Staff

Military children transitioning into Santa Rosa County Schools have a helping hand in a new program aimed at assisting them when their parents PCS into the local area. The Navy School Liaison Office has partnered with the Trevor Romain Company to develop a comprehensive program called the “Trevor Romain Transition and Resiliency Program (TRTRP).”

The Navy School Liaison Office provided input to the Trevor Romain Company on issues in regard to military children who struggle when transitioning into their new schools. Failure to properly integrate into a new school can make it hard for the new student to know their way around, make friends, and feel a part of their new community. The Trevor Romain Company with the help of the Navy School Liaison Office was able to create a program with the goal to help foster a positive and welcoming environment for incoming students with these issues in mind.

Through a two-day course staff and about six to twelve students are formed into what the TRTRP calls Comfort Crews. These Comfort Crews meet and interact with new students as soon as they arrive to help build confidence, develop team building and offer support. By building a positive connection with the new student on day one the Comfort

- (Cont. on Page 7)

Ec-nomics

**MYTH** - It's better to leave fluorescent lights on rather than turning them off when you leave a room, since turning them on and off makes the bulb burn out faster.

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

# News and Notes

## Ice Flyers Tickets

ITT has discount center ice tickets (not glass) for only \$17 each. Can be exchanged for any game, no limit. Games notated "Military Appreciation" are discounted at the door for only \$13. Contact Community Recreation-ITT with any questions.

## MWR - Disney Cruise

Disney Cruise Line has released military discounts for select sailings in Mar., rates per person starting at \$186 for a four night Bahamas Cruise out of Port Canaveral. They have also released a military discount for a 14-night Transatlantic in May. Contact the Tickets & Travel office for a quote at 850-665-6250.

## 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).

## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Free tax assistance is available to active duty, retirees, dependents, reservists, and entitled former spouses. The service is available at NAS Pensacola, Bldg. 680, Suite D (which faces Cuddihy Street). The hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Deadline for filing taxes is Monday, Apr. 18.

## Talladega Race Weekend

Talladega Spring & Fall Race Weekend tickets now available at MWR Community Recreation Ticket office. Pricing is the same for both races: Spring Race Saturday Apr. 30, May 1. Fall Race Weekend Saturday, Oct. 22, Sunday, Oct. 23. Call 850-665-6250 to purchase/reserve your seats.

## Flicks on the Field Outdoor Movie Series

Back by popular demand, Santa Rosa County's "Flicks on the Field" is a free community event, sponsored by the Santa Rosa County Parks Department. The event shows newly released family movies on a 43-foot screen starting at 7 p.m. on the fields of the PARA Football Complex located at 3536 Limbaugh Lane in Pace. This year's lineup includes:

\**Peanuts The Movie (G)* - Apr. 16

\**Minions (G)* - Apr. 23

\**Jurassic World (PG 13)* - Apr. 30

Contact [flicksonthefield@gmail.com](mailto:flicksonthefield@gmail.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/FlicksOnTheField](http://www.facebook.com/FlicksOnTheField). For more information on Santa Rosa County parks, visit [www.santarosa.fl.gov/parks](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/parks)

## 1st Annual MHS Band Crawfish Festival

The Milton High School Band is putting on a crawfish



### Center Ice Hero

NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer, Captain Todd Bahlau, was the "Center Ice Hero" for the ceremonial dropping of the puck at the Pensacola Ice Flyers Hockey Game Saturday, Apr. 2. He was joined on the ice by his daughter, Abigail, to help celebrate Apr. as the Month of the Military Child. U.S. Navy Photo by Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

festival Apr. 16 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. with admission being only \$5. Children 5 and under are free. There will be live bands, local vendors, great food, and of course crawfish. All proceeds go to new instruments and equipment for the band.

## Shipwrecks of the Blackwater

Hosted by Blackwater Pyrates, this pirate friendly event raises awareness for local maritime history at the historic Imogene Theatre. Mr. Thomas Garner of The University of West Florida will speak on Shipwrecks of the Blackwater and the Luna Settlement an archaeological site recently discovered in Pensacola Apr. 23 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Free admission and parking. For further details contact CPT Dragon (aka Ralph Palmer) at (850) 748-5695.

## Troy University Military Scholarship

Troy University is currently accepting applications for Term V, 2016 (23 May – 24 July) Registration begins May 2 and ends May 22. We offer a variety of Bachelors and Masters Programs online and our Master of Science of Counseling and Psychology in class at our Pensacola Support Center! For more information, call 850-287-4102 or email Mr. Morrison at [jrmorrison@troy.edu](mailto:jrmorrison@troy.edu).

## Southern Fried Band

The Southern Fried Band will be playing at Oops Alley this coming Saturday, Apr. 16 from 8 p.m. to midnight. No cover charge, good food and good music. Come on out and get your dance on to classic rock music with some country thrown in for good measure.

## Santa Rosa

- (Cont. from Page 2)

The event followed the March 18 TRAWING-5 change of command ceremony where Murray officially assumed responsibilities as the commanding officer for the Training Wing. Kling turned over the duties of command following a successful eighteen-month tour during the ceremony and held his retirement ceremony the next day at the Naval Aviation Museum. Morris will serve as the Deputy Commodore for the next year and one-half and will follow Murray as Commodore.

The event provided an opportunity for the various organizations to honor the service of the three officers and present them with gifts on behalf of the community they serve.

Milton Mayor Wesley Meiss joked about the fact, that although he was very young when Kling first joined the U.S. Marine Corps, he was pretty sure the officer could “run rings around him now,” before presenting Kling with a picture of the city’s Riverwalk area. An historian, Meiss also presented Murray with the key to the city before, reminding the audience that Santa Rosa County, and Milton in particular, were extremely depressed economically before World War II. The building of then Naval Auxiliary Air Station Whiting Field was a much needed jolt to the community. Throughout the intervening 73 years, the base has continued to provide an important economic boost to the area as it continues to train the aviators needed for the nation’s defense.

Steve Rhodes representing the Navy League then presented plaques to Murray and Kling recognizing their service and Donna Tucker from the chamber of commerce presented gift baskets, filled with items donated by local businesses, to all three officers.

Kling emphasized as he addressed the audience that such recognition by a local community is rare.

“In all my 28 years of military service, I have never been part of a community that embraces the military the way Santa Rosa County does,” he said.

Salter, as he prepared to end the official portion of the ceremony, stressed to the officers that the beneficial partnership between the military and the local area wasn’t going to change.

“You all take care of the military team inside the fence,” he stated. “We will continue to take care of them outside of the fence and in the community —”

## DeCA enjoys 14 years of clean financial audits

By: Kevin L. Robinson, DeCA public affairs specialist

FORT LEE, Va. – A lot happened in 2002.

The Euro became legal tender in 12 European countries. The UN froze the assets of Osama bin Laden. Kmart became largest retailer in U.S. history to file for bankruptcy. In Super Bowl XXXVI, the New England Patriots defeated the St. Louis Rams for their first NFL championship. Tiger Woods won the Masters Golf Tournament for the second straight year. American Idol premiered on Fox. On Sept. 11, the Pentagon was rededicated after repairs were completed – one year after the terrorist attack. And, Hollywood released “The Gangs of New York,” starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Leonardo DiCaprio and Cameron Diaz.

Also in 2002, the Defense Commissary Agency began its string of clean audits, an unbroken streak that continued with the agency’s financial statements for fiscal 2015 being given an “unmodified” audit opinion by independent auditors.

“This opinion means our financial house is in order, and we’re good stewards of the appropriations entrusted to us,” said DeCA Director and CEO Joseph H. JEU, “and that’s crucial to our mission of delivering an effective and efficient commissary benefit.”

DeCA received \$1.4 billion in appropriated funding for fiscal 2015. During that timeframe the agency generated nearly \$6 billion in annual sales and processed

- (Cont. on Page 10)

### Usage Information

#### Total Used

1,779,845 kWh

	1 Year Ago	Last Month	This Month
Total kWh Used	1,824,392	1,632,188	1,779,845
Average Daily kWh	58,851	56,282	57,414
Days In Billing Period	31	29	31

### Energy Conservation

Conserving energy remains an important goal in the operation of Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Steps taken during Mar. 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.

## HT-18

- (Cont. from Page 2)



Lt. Col. Rafford Coleman  
Commanding Officer

Helicopter Training Squadron  
EIGHTEEN

of more than 55,000 flight hours across 30,000 syllabus training evolutions. HT-18 set the standard for advanced rotary wing production in key metrics including: lowest time-to-train and total hours flown. Under his leadership, the squadron provided the core of future aviation warfighters to meet the nation's demands.

Sanderson comes to the "Vigilant Eagles" after having most recently graduated from the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base where he earned a Master of Military Operational Art and Science degree.

- (Cont. on Page 10)

## Military Children

- (Cont. from Page 4)

Crew are able to help integrate the student into the school. This is done by showing the student around, eating lunch together, and being someone they can come to if they have questions.

"One of the areas we are very concerned about is the transition of military children into their new schools. Research has shown us that a school has about two weeks to make a child feel integrated and comfortable in the school or they will never really consider it a home school," Christopher Hendrix, NAS Whiting Field School Liaison Officer said.

The new program is a one-time presentation over two days that shares similar themes with another Trevor Romain program, the With You All the Way! Tour coming to Santa Rosa County Schools this May.

The With You All the Way Tour! is an encouraging event using guest speakers to assist military kids and their classmates in becoming happier, healthier, and more confident. The tour through a fun filled day of talks and activities helps to make sure that military kids feel welcomed and secure at their new school.

- (Cont. on Page 9)

## Seder Meal

- (Cont. from Page 4)

The flat bread, known as Matzot symbolizes the yeast less bread that was eaten by the Hebrews after they were set free. Chazeret is a bowl of salt water symbolizing the tears that were shed in Egypt. The hard-boiled egg is known as Beitzah and is a symbol of mourning, (as eggs are the first thing served to mourners after a funeral), evoking the idea of mourning over the destruction of the Temple and our inability to offer any kind of sacrifices. Maror is bitter herbs, symbolizing the bitterness and harshness of the slavery the Hebrews endured in Egypt.



Attendees enjoy the various foods served such as green beans, lamb, hard-boiled eggs, and parsley dipped in salt water. U.S. Navy File Photo.

"I was so impressed with how it was all put together and with the precision and purpose," said attendee Angela Johnson.

The service was held Mar 22 at lunch time and lasted one hour. One aspect to overcome was the need to condense the ceremony from a full service to a one hour time frame.

"There were a few challenges like finding kosher foods to fit 21st century palates but many people volunteered to help and the timeline had to be cut in order to fit the one hour given for lunch on base but fortunately one of our Chaplain's Assistants, Ensign Rowland George was greatly helpful with his efforts and expertise," said Griggs.

More than twenty participants joined in the ceremony meal. Many denominations attended including active duty, retired, civilians, and community pastors. "It's important to hold ceremonies of different faiths, one reason is that looking at other religions with openness always gives us room for discussion, learning and a better appreciation of those that are religiously and culturally of a different orientation," said Griggs.



TrainingAirWingFIVE



@TrainingWing5

# Operazzi Ball

By: Kristen Wisniewski, Director, Marketing and Public Relations

The Pensacola Opera presents an evening of dinner, musical entertainment, and dancing in the style of the Moulin Rouge Apr. 16, inspired by our March production of The Merry Widow. All proceeds benefit the artistic and educational programs of Pensacola Opera.

The evening will include a sit down dinner crafted by celebrity chef Gus Silivos, dancing to music by The Don Snowden Big Band with Holly Shelton, and special performances by Pensacola Opera's 2016 Artists in Residence and Ballet Pensacola. The ball begins at 6:30p.m. with passed hors d'oeuvres and champagne. Complimentary wine will be served throughout the evening with a cash bar. Unique items and experiences will be featured in live and silent auctions including the

announcement of the winner for the Chance To Win drawing, a one week European Viking River Cruise.

Currently, we are offering special pricing for our active duty, guard, and reserve servicemembers through Tuesday, April 12th. Tickets will be \$75 for one ticket or \$150 for two tickets that's 50% off the regular price! To take advantage of this offer, please call Annie at 850.433.6737. Dress is black tie and the military member is highly encouraged to wear their dress uniform to the gala. New World Landing is located at 600 S Palafox St, Pensacola, FL 32502. Please visit [www.pensacolaopera.com](http://www.pensacolaopera.com) for more information

NAS WHITING FIELD  
Pool Grand Opening  
**LUAU** 2016  
SATURDAY **7 MAY** \*Rain Day, May 14th\*  
FUN STARTS  
~ AT NOON ~  
Games  
Contests  
... and the **Biggest Pool in Town!**  
Join us for a fun filled afternoon and  
celebrate the season ALOHA STYLE!  
We'll have FREE food, fun & prizes  
for the whole family.  
Fitness Center Pool : 623-7412

# Blue Wahoos to Bring Baseball Camp to Military Kids

By: Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

For the second year in a row, the Pensacola Blue Wahoos will showcase their support for area service members with a baseball camp for military families, Saturday, May 7 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

The two-hour camp will run from 10 a.m. to noon at the installation's ball fields, and will feature a series of activity stations such as stretching, running, hitting, pitching, fielding and fundamental exercises. The goal is to help the children enhance a few baseball skills while enjoying some time with professional athletes.

The players will also hold an autograph session after the skills' stations are finished. Every child that attends will receive a Blue Wahoos' souvenir.

May is an ideal time to hold the camp as it coincides with Military Appreciation Month which is a primary motivation for the team to host such events.

"After such a great camp in 2015, we are very excited to return to Whiting Field for a second year," said team president Jonathan Griffith. "It is important for us as members of this great community to improve the quality of life for our area military members and their families."

The camp is targeted for children ages 6 to 14 and participants must be related to active duty military, reserve military, retirees, DoD civilian employees or contractors. Families interested in bringing their children to the event should call the NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office at 850-665-6122 to register.

"The Blue Wahoos' players and staff are great partners in the community and we were thrilled to have them on the base last year. The kids loved the event last year and enthusiasm for this year's event is even higher. We are truly grateful for their support of our military families," NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Bahlau stated.

**TOWER CAFE**  
COFFEE SHOP OPEN  
TUESDAY AT 0630

## SECURITY CORNER



**By: Stacy McFadden, NAS  
Whiting Field Security**  
New OPNAV IN-  
STRUCTION 5100.12J/NAVY  
TRAFFICE SAFETY PRO-  
GRAM  
Subject: Civilian Motorcycle

Drivers.

(6) Civilian Motorcycle Operator Training. All civilian motorcycle operators who have a current State motorcycle operator license, endorsement or permit are not required to complete any of the below training.

The below training is as following:

Level I. Level I courses include: the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) BRC, any State approved curriculum intended to provide novice riders the skills and knowledge needed to obtain a drivers license motorcycle endorsement.

Level II. These courses are intended to build

upon the skills and knowledge that riders obtain in level I courses. The MSRC and Advanced Rider Course are examples of level II courses approved for sport bike riders.

Level III. These courses are intended to improve the riders' skills and knowledge through a curriculum that includes practice maneuvers conducted at street or highways speeds, challenging cornering techniques and other realistic scenarios conducted in a controlled environment.

Civilians are as per OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5100.12J

b. DoD or DON Civilian Personnel – all DoD or DON civilian workforce personnel to include non-appropriated funds employees and master labor contract employees who are on duty.

c. Civilian – all other persons not described above to include retired members of DoD, dependents, contractors and sub-contractors, etc.



## Military Children

- (Cont. from Page 7)

The TRTRP differs from the tour as it is a sponsorship program that empowers the school children to take the lead in welcoming new students to their school. The TRTRP seeks to educate and empower staff and students on how to give the support necessary to new students.

“The Comfort Crews mission is to welcome new students into the school and to help them feel at home and a part of the school,” Hendrix said.

The TRTRP through its course asks students to take on a leadership role because they are the ones taking charge of creating that positive atmosphere. With Third through Fifth graders participating in this program, the TRTRP provides a unique opportunity for them to get involved in making the school a positive place for new students to feel welcome. With additional training and support each year the Comfort Crews are re-trained to help meet unique circumstances and adapt to challenges they may face.

For more information on the Trevor Romain Company visit their website at <http://trevorromain.com/> or contact Christopher Hendrix, NAS Whiting Field School Liaison Officer, at 850-665-6105

## DECA

- (Cont. from Page 6)



almost 90 million transactions in its stores, while delivering \$2.4 billion in patron savings. Commissaries also redeemed nearly 90 million coupons in fiscal 2015 for additional customer savings of nearly \$84 million.

“We have a dedicated team of employees in Resource Management (RM) who help ensure DeCA’s financial statements are presented properly,” said Larry Bands, the agency’s chief financial officer. “However, this level of fiscal excellence is an agency achievement, when you consider the daily activities affecting all employees such as time and attendance, and accounting for resale items, equipment and property.”

There are plenty of moving financial parts to a defense agency such as DeCA that’s organized to operate like a business, Bands added. “So when we receive this rating from an independent audit, it certifies that we’re

- (Cont. on Page 11)

## Change to NEX Lay-away Policy

By: Kristine M. Sturkie, NEXCOM Public Affairs Specialist

The NEX has made a change to its popular lay-away policy. The amount of time clothing and shoes may be put on layaway has increased from 45 to 90 days. The policy still requires equal payments to be made every 15 days. Customers may take their layaway purchase home once the items are paid in full.

A minimum deposit of 10 percent of the purchase price plus a \$5 non-refundable layaway fee is required

- (Cont. on Page 11)

## HT-18

- (Cont. from Page 7)



Cmdr. Brian Sanderson  
Executive Officer  
Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN

A native of Epes, Ala., Sanderson graduated from the University of South Alabama in 1997 and was designated a Naval aviator in 1999. His first assignment placed him with the “Dragonslayers” of HS-11 in Jacksonville, FL in January 2001 followed by a tour with HS-10 in San Diego, Calif. While there he graduated from the Seahawk Weapons and Tactics Instructor course in Fallon, NV and was recognized as the 2006

Naval Helicopter Association Fleet Instructor Pilot of the Year. His next assignments took him to Carrier Airwing EIGHT (CVW-8), where he served as Combat Search and Rescue Officer and Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer; the “Tridents” of HS-3 (later redesignated HSC-9). Sanderson then reported to Joint Staff Suffolk, Va. in 2012 and served as a Modeling and Simulations Planner and Service Support Team Lead for the Joint Staff. His personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), and various unit awards.

Lt. Col. Aaron Brunk, USMC, will replace Sanderson as the executive officer for the squadron.

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*Follow us on Twitter*  
[@naswf](https://twitter.com/naswf)

# Whiting Field News

## DECA

- (Cont. from Page 10)

responsible caretakers of our patrons' benefit."

For DeCA, the road to a successful audit is continuous. Auditors from the CliftonLarsonAllen auditing firm, one of the 10 largest CPA firms in the country, start the process with onsite visits in February and March. They evaluate any internal controls and transactions that link to DeCA's financial statements.

Although DeCA's accountants collect and process the financial data that's audited, the process still hinges on support and cooperation across the agency, said Edna Willis, RM's chief of compliance and reporting branch.

"This unmodified opinion tells our patrons that the finances of their commissary benefit are accurately reported, open and accessible for review," Willis said.

## NEX

- (Cont. from Page 10)

when merchandise is put on layaway. Layaway cancellations will incur an additional charge of \$5. Some NEXs must limit the type or number of items permitted on layaway due to space constraints.

General merchandise may be put on layaway up to 90 days with equal payments required every 15 days. Jewelry and watches with a single item retail price of \$500 or more may be put on layaway for up to 180 days with equal payments required every 15 days. Computers, tablets, iPads, monitors, digital cameras, peripheral computer equipment, software and video games are not permitted on layaway. Clothing on clearance with prices ending in .96 is not authorized for layaway. However, sale priced clothing ending in .97 is permitted on layaway.

# APRIL 2016



[Http://twitter.com/#!/NASWFFSC](http://twitter.com/#!/NASWFFSC)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention & Prevent Child Abuse Month						 0900-1100 Horticulture 101 Whiting Pines Community Center	
3	4 0900-1000 Time Management	5 1300-1400 Anger Management	6 1300-1400 Stress Management	7	8	9	
10	11 0900-1000 Communication Skills	12 1300-1400 Dealing with Difficult People	13 1000-1200 Resume Writing	14 1300-1400 Conflict Management	15  1300-1500 Challenges of Flight School & Marriage	16	
17	18 0900-1000 Time Management 1300-1500 Smooth Move	19 1300-1400 Anger Management	20 1300-1400 Stress Management	21	22  Earth Day	23	
24	25 0900-1000 Communication Skills	26 1300-1400 Dealing with Difficult People	27 1000-1200 Federal Applications 1300-1500 Smooth Move	28 1300-1400 Conflict Management	29 0900-1000 Challenges of Flight School & Marriage	30	
1	2						

# Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Scholars



Congratulations to TRAWING-5's Academic Achievement Award presented at the TRAWING-5 Headquarters building in Apr. Photo courtesy of Training Air Wing FIVE.

# Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Wingers



Top Row: Lt. Col. Cory E. Dekraai, USMC, Commanding Officer HT-28; 1st Lt. Logan Beardslee, USMC, HT-8; LT. Paul Junghans, USCG, HT-8; Ensign Michael Jones Jr., USN, HT-28; Lt. j.g. Bradley Harbert, USCG, HT-18; Ensign Tyler Trainor, USN, HT-28; Ensign Aaron Fleming, USN, HT-18; Capt. Guy Vilardi, USN, Guest Speaker. Middle Row: Cmdr. John D. McBryde, USN, Commanding Officer HT-8; Lt. j.g. Ahemed Asseiri, RSNF, HT-8; Ensign Elizabeth Frey, USN, HT-18; Ensign Daniel Fisher, USN, HT-8; Ensign Luke Walocko, USN, HT-28; Ensign Mary Kiekintveld, USN, HT-18; 1st Lt. James Turner III, USMC, HT-28; Capt. Mark Murray, USN, Commodore TRAWING-5. Bottom Row: Cmdr. Brian Sanderson, USN, Commanding Officer HT-18; 1st Lt. Jarrett Loftis, USMC, HT-8; Ensign Amanda Zablocky, USN, HT-18; 1st Lt. Anton Shomshor, USMC, HT-28; Ensign James McMahon, USN, HT-28; 1st Lt. Mark Reaser, USMC, HT-28; Ensign Yechan Kim, USN, HT-18; Ensign Erin Snook, USN, HT-18