

# Whiting Tower

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Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.  
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Forging Wings for the Fleet  
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## NAS Whiting Field Service Members Participate in Dedication Ceremony

By: Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Against the backdrop of sparkling ocean waves, majestic oak trees and white-sand beaches, a bronze eagle now seemingly takes flight from an American flag in Navarre Park to memorialize the lives of 11 service members who lost their lives March 10, 2015. The new monument was unveiled to the public Friday, Nov. 18 to nearly 200 guests and dignitaries.

The thirty-five members of Santa Rosa Leadership Class 29 took up the challenge more than one year ago to raise the funds, coordinate the creation, and plan the dedications to the four Soldiers and seven Marines who lost their



Unveiling of the new memorial sits in Navarre Park following unveiling ceremony. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

Cover Photo: A new memorial sits in Navarre Park following unveiling ceremony. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

### The Whiting Tower

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lives in the tragic helicopter accident. The memorial pays tribute to their service to the nation and their tragic sacrifice.

Four members of Class 29 serve as part of the Naval Air Station Whiting Field/Training Air Wing FIVE team - Chief Warrant Officer Frank Cherry, Ground Electronics Officer NAS Whiting Field; Cmdr. J.D. McBryde, Commanding Officer Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT; Capt. Mark Murray, Commodore Training Air Wing FIVE; and Capt. Todd Bahlau, Commanding Officer NAS Whiting Field. Each member supported the efforts to create the monument and plan the unveiling event.

Bahlau served as the Master of Ceremonies for the unveiling occasion. In addition to introducing the guest speakers and VIPs during the at the observance, Bahlau reminded the audience of a prior ceremony to present each of the families one of the gold stars that originally decorated the monument's pedestal. The event honored the sacrifices of the family members of the service members and the sense of community the local residents have with their military.

"After the tragic event on March 10, 2015, our class immediately knew what we needed to do for our class project," he stated. "It has been a long and challenging process, but for the 35 members of my leadership class, it was our mission to see it through... Today is a special day, and I

- (Cont. on Page 4)

## NASWF Selects Sailors of the Year

By Ensign Brittany Stephens, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field recently designated the Sailor of the Year (SOY), Junior Sailor of the Year (JSOY), and Blue Jacket of the Year (BJOY) for fiscal year 2016.

Petty Officer First Class Jerry A. Garcia, Petty Officer Second Class Kyle Wyrock, and Petty Officer Third Class Tinea A. Lewis were chosen to be the Sailor, Junior Sailor, and Blue Jacket of the Year, respectively.

The SOY must embody "a history of sustained superior performance, command impact, mission contribution, proven leadership, dedication to self-improvement, outstanding professionalism, and superior personal appearance," according to OPNAVINST 1700.10N.

SOY candidates consistently demonstrate exceptional performance and personal standards

They exhibit passion for improving the lives of those around them, both within the workplace and the community.

SOY recipient Garcia serves as the Fire and Emergency Services Leading Petty Officer and is directly responsible for firefighter teams, stations, and equipment pertaining to NAS Whiting Field across five counties and

- (Cont. on Page 11)

# Fallen Hero Arrives in Dover

By: Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Public Affairs

U.S. Navy military leaders and the family of fallen hero, Senior Chief Petty Officer Scott C. Dayton, paid their respects Nov. 27, at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware during the dignified transfer of his remains.

Dayton, who was serving with Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve, died Nov. 24 after wounds sustained in an improvised explosive device blast in northern Syria.

“Senior Chief Petty Officer Scott Dayton was a true patriot and highly regarded member of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) community,” said Capt. John Moulton, commander, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group (EODGRU) 2. “His legacy will continue in the lives of those who knew him, especially those he trained, led and mentored throughout a distinguished 23-year career of naval service.”

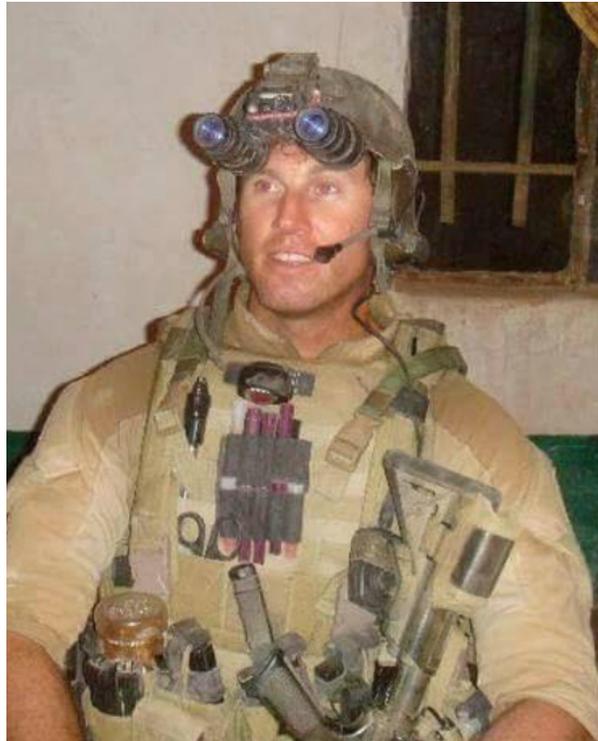
Dayton’s family is currently making arrangements for a private memorial and funeral service. The family requests continued privacy as they mourn his loss. In a statement for release, the Dayton family said, “Scott was so dedicated to the Navy and truly loved what he did for his country and at this time, we request that you respect our wishes

for privacy during this time of grieving.”

Dayton entered the U.S. Navy Feb. 17, 1993 and obtained the following qualifications during his military career: master EOD technician, naval parachutist, military freefall parachutist and enlisted surface warfare specialist.

During his naval career he received 19 awards, which include the Bronze Star, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, seven Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation, Navy “E” Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, two Iraq Campaign Medals and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

EODGRU-2 mans, trains, equips and sustains seven subordinate commands comprising 39 EOD platoons, five Mobile Diving and Salvage Companies and three Expeditionary Mine Countermeasures Companies that support Naval and Special Operations Force commanders worldwide. 🇺🇸



Senior Chief Scott Dayton was killed in the blast of an improvised explosive device in Northern Syria on Thanksgiving day, 2016. U.S. Navy photo.

## *This Day in Naval History*

### **December 5**

1813 - During the War of 1812, the frigate Congress captures the British brig Atlantic in the North Atlantic. Also on this date USS President captures schooner Comet off New York.

### **December 6**

1959 - Cmdr. Lawrence E. Flint, Jr., piloting a McDonnell F4H-1 Phantom II powered by two GE J-79 engines, better the existing world altitude record by reaching 98,560 feet above Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The previous record of 94,658 feet was reached in the USSR by a TU-431 jet.

### **December 7**

1796 - In his Eighth Annual Message to Congress, President George Washington urges Congress to increase naval strength.

### **December 8**

**1941 - Ensign Francis C. Flaherty remains in his turret, holding a flashlight so the remainder of the turret crew could see the escape, thereby sacrificing his own life. For devotion to duty and courage during the Pearl Harbor attack, Flaherty is awarded the Medal of Honor.**

### **December 9**

1942 - Eight PT boats (PT 36, PT 37, PT 40, PT 43, PT 44, PT 48, PT 59, and PT 109) turn back eight Japanese destroyers attempting to reinforce Japanese forces on Guadalcanal.

### **December 10**

1941 - SBD aircraft from USS Enterprise (CV 6) attack and sink the Japanese submarine I-70 north of Hawaiian Islands. A participant in the Pearl Harbor attack, I-70 is the first major Japanese combatant ship sunk during World War II.



### **Ensign Saves Lives at Expense of Own**

“For conspicuous devotion to duty and extraordinary courage and complete disregard of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, during the attack on the Fleet in Pearl Harbor, by Japanese forces on 7 December 1941. When it was seen that the U.S.S. Oklahoma was going to capsize and the order was given to abandon ship, Ens. Flaherty remained in a turret, holding a flashlight so the remainder of the turret crew could see to escape, thereby sacrificing his own life.” Medal of Honor Citation.

# Don't be a 'Grinch' and Miss Out on Commissary Savings

By: Sallie Cauthers, DeCA marketing and mass media specialist



FORT LEE, Va. – Special in-store promotions and your Rewards Card make the commissary the place to go to save on holiday groceries, according to the Defense Commissary Agency's director of sales.

"Our commissaries are full of great promotions for the holidays," said Tracie Russ, DeCA sales director. "Customers will be able to save quite a bit of money for their holiday entertainment and meal needs, thanks to our industry partners."

Throughout the holiday season stateside commissaries will feature Deals of the Week, while overseas commissaries may have substitute events for certain promotional programs. Customers should check with their local commissary for details on dates and times for their promotions.

Although thanksgiving has come and gone, one of the commissary's largest worldwide promotions, the Free Turkey Coupon Booklet, continues through Dec. 31 allowing patrons to save on their holiday turkey dinners.

Through the Turkey Coupon Booklet promotion, the following industry partners have combined their efforts to help patrons earn a free fresh or frozen whole turkey

when they buy items for their holiday meal: Kraft Heinz Company, Kellogg's, General Mills, P&G, Heinz, Nabisco, Hefty/Reynolds Wrap, Fresh Express, Johnsonville, Ocean Spray, Pepperidge Farms, Chinet, Quaker, Del Monte, College Inn, Persil, French's, Entemann's, Nexium, Kimberly-Clark and Frito Lay. This coupon booklet also includes preparation tips and holiday recipes.

Commissary patrons will see another holiday promotion, "Celebrate the Holidays with General Mills – Time to cook and bake!," supported by store displays throughout December highlighting deeply discounted items with high value, in-store coupons.

And patrons with a Commissary Rewards Card will have a special deal: With any purchase of four Campbell's Chunky soup or chili can items, they can enter for a chance to win a \$100 NFL Gift Card when they use their rewards card. This worldwide promotion runs through Jan. 3. Patrons also can receive a chance to win one of seven Apple iPad Pro 9.7 inch up for grabs when you use their rewards card now through Dec. 9. Simply purchase any two qualifying items from Folgers, Smucker's or JIF to automatically be entered to win.

"The Defense Commissary Agency wishes you and your family, here and abroad, a very happy, healthy, and safe holiday season," Russ said. "Your commissary is worth the trip for all your holiday needs!"

# Comedians Bring Stories and Laughs to NAS Whiting Field

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Navy Community Recreation brought the Laughcatchers Comedy tour to Naval Air Station Whiting Field for the third year in a row Thursday, Nov. 17, and brought more than a few laughs with them for the installation team.

Making a run through the military installations in the southeast, the tour brought nationally known comics to entertain shore-bound service members. Lace Larrabee, Dan Gabriel, Mark Evans and Brad Upton brought their A-list talent to Sikes Hall for a nearly two-hour show.

Larrabee warmed up the crowd for the rest of the crew with her own brand of southern charm. A veteran of comedy clubs across the county, Larrabee appeared on FOX's Laughs in 2015 and on Viceland's Flophouse this year.

A former beauty pageant contestant, she spoke about her days as a beauty queen, love, being poor, and the troubles she has with her family. Larrabee especially complained about the pain of baby showers. Between the silly games, ridiculously expensive gifts on the registry, and the lame "Thanks for Coming" gifts, it was easy to see she wasn't a fan. The only redeeming qualities she found in the events were seeing how fat the mother was getting and the

bottles of champagne.

"If I am at a shower, what I'm looking for is alcohol," Larabee emphasized. "That's how you can thank me



Comedian Brad Upton entertains the crowd with a tale about his wife and the trouble he gets himself into with her. Laughter ripples through the audience. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

# News & Notes

## West and East Gate Under Construction (December 9 to Jan 6)

Public Works has awarded a project that will repair the outbound lane of the West Gate and implement new traffic controls for the East and West Gates at NAS Whiting Field. This project will begin December 9, 2016 and is planned to conclude January 6, 2017. For the duration of this work west gate outbound traffic will be detoured around the CDC and through the RV lot as depicted. For one day during this work period, inbound traffic will be routed through the same path in order to install speed bumps at both the East and West gates. For the remainder of the project, the inbound traffic pattern will remain the same. Please be aware that the adjusted traffic pattern has the potential to cause delays and extend travel times for the duration of the project. Please plan accordingly.

## Christmas Tree Lighting

The NAS Whiting Field Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony originally scheduled for Thursday 1 December at 1630 has been rescheduled to 1000 on 3 December during the Children's Christmas Party. We encourage everyone to come out to the Christmas Party and help us greet our special guest (who dresses in Red), who together with the NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer, will light the tree.

## Children's Christmas Party

Come on out to the Children's Christmas Party this Saturday, Dec. 3 at the NAS Whiting Field Atrium (next to the chapel). Santa's Coming, so bring your camera. Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN is standing in for his red sleigh and eight reindeer! The event begins at 9 a.m. and Santa will be "Flying-In" at 10 a.m. There will be crafts and games and lots of fun. Enjoy some snacks and light refreshments as the children get their pictures taken with Santa. Thanks to the support of Training Air Wing FIVE, NAS Whiting Field and the USO.

## Reindeer Dash

Can you run as fast as a reindeer? Well, if even if you can't, this two-mile Fun Run is for you. MWR will host their annual holiday fun run Thursday, Dec. 15 at 11 a.m. starting at the Fitness Center. In this two-mile Fun Run, patrons have a chance to win one of 5 hams. First place male and female win a ham. The remaining hams will be raffled off. No more than one ham per family.

## Trees for Troops

The Trees For Troops program will bring 100 trees to give out during the holidays. The trees will range from 5 - 7 feet in height. They will be delivered to the command between November 28 - December 16. Once the coordinators have the trees they will send out an email notifying the commands and they will be offloaded and staged behind the Chief Petty Officer Mess. If you desire to reserve a tree, please contact CPO Thurman Winkler at 623-7761 or PO1 Terrance Wever at 623-7175.

## NGIS Employment

Navy Gateway Inns & Suites has employment opportunities for motivated individuals and are currently seeking applicants for Front Desk Associates and Housekeeping Associates. Please stop by NGIS in Building 2942 to pick up an application package or call 623-7605, Monday - Friday from 0700-1500 for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.

## The Christmas Party is Selling Tickets

The Christmas Party will be selling Christmas Party tickets. The POCs are CPO Jernigan, PO2 Dornbusch, PO2 Martin and SN Gray. Prices are as follows: E6 & below: \$21.00; E7 & above: \$25.00; civilian: \$25.00. CDC will provide childcare from 5:30-11:30 p.m. Space is limited so sign up early. Parents must show their Christmas Party ticket to register their child - the price will be \$4 per hour/per child. Payment methods are cash or credit.

## Paint and Sip

Join MWR in the Atrium, Thursday, Dec. 8 for their 1st Annual Paint and Sip recreation

event. MWR will provide everything you will need to create a masterpiece with help from an instructor. Cost is \$25 per person and beverages will be available for purchase as well. Call Community Recreation at 665-6250 to reserve your pallet by 1 Dec.

## Tree Planting

Join NAS Whiting Field for its 25th annual tree planting with Tree City USA. The location will be the south side of building 1401 on December 6 at 1:00 p.m. The Live Oak being planted will serve as a symbol of NAS Whiting Field's commitment to a healthy environment, in addition to providing aesthetic beauty.

## Florida 511 App

The last thing warriors should worry about is commuting to and from work safely and being on time. Traffic congestion and incidents on Florida roadways can be monitored and avoided using Florida's 511 Traveler Information System, a service provided by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The service even provides weather alerts, advisories, watches and warnings from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), as well as hurricane evacuation route information should a storm hit your geographic area. Download the Florida 511 app from your device's app store or visit FL511.com to set up a personalized services account and receive alerts when a crash or congestion might cause a delay during your commute.

## Big Screen on the Blackwater

Join the city of Milton for a Christmas movies on the lawn December 2, 9, and 16. The movie will begin at 6:00 p.m. and Santa will arrive at 5:30 p.m. for the kids. Bring lawn chairs and blankets for warmth. Call 850-983-5466 for more information.

## Best Christmas Pageant Ever Performance

Take a break from all the holiday shopping with the Panhandle Community Theatre as they present:

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson at the Imogene Theatre, 6866 Caroline Street, Milton

Thurs - Sat, December 1-3

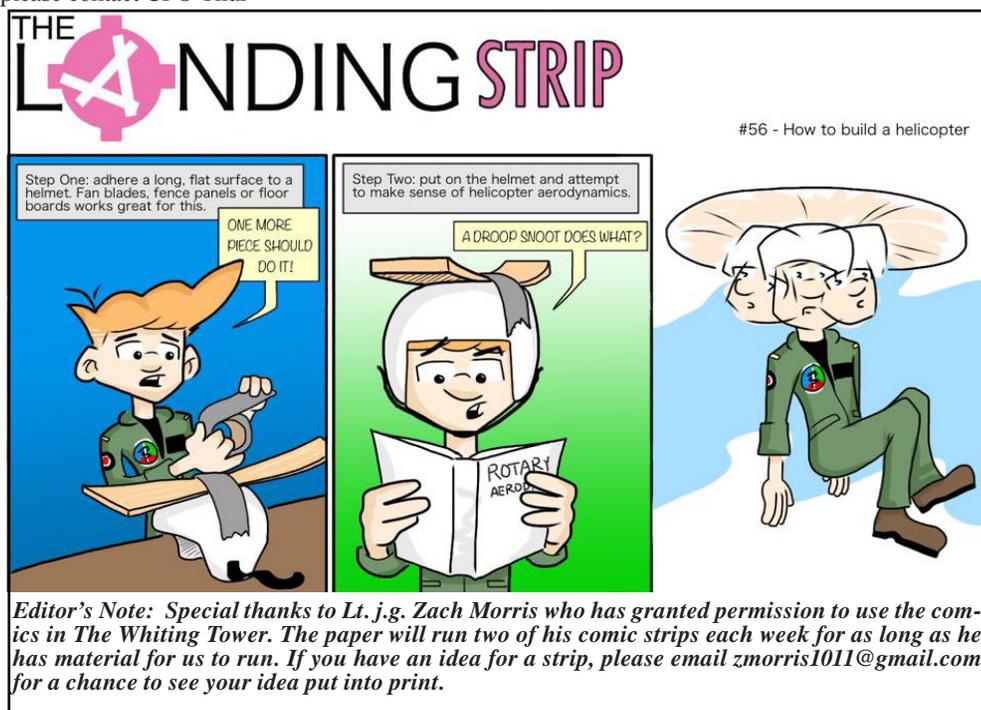
Doors open at 6 p.m. for activities. Choir begins singing at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 4

Doors open at 1 p.m. for activities. Choir begins singing at 2 p.m. and the show starts at 2:30 p.m.

Parents bring your cameras, Santa Claus will be in the house to meet the kids!

For more details or to order online visit our website [www.panhandle-communitytheatre.com](http://www.panhandle-communitytheatre.com) or call 850-221-7599



**Editor's Note:** Special thanks to Lt. j.g. Zach Morris who has granted permission to use the comics in The Whiting Tower. The paper will run two of his comic strips each week for as long as he has material for us to run. If you have an idea for a strip, please email [zmorris1011@gmail.com](mailto:zmorris1011@gmail.com) for a chance to see your idea put into print.

## Memorial

- (Cont. from Page 2)

know that this community will continue to honor these brave men long after this ceremony.”

The bronze eagle and flag sit atop a pedestal with 11 stars cut into it. Each star represents one of the service members on the UH-60M Blackhawk helicopter, called MOJO 69 that was carrying the team on a routine training mission when it crashed while flying through dense fog over the Santa Rosa Sound. The cement base of the monument is shaped like the Pentagon with the top point facing the direction of where MOJO 69 went down.

The memorial also pays tribute to all the service members who wear the nation’s cloth – a point brought home by Santa Rosa County Commissioner Rob Williamson. When he was offered a turn to speak, he reminisced about the one year anniversary of the accident. Williamson had been asked to speak at the commemoration of the anniversary and remembered that after offering condolences to the family he was told that he had represented the county well and that he did them “proud.”

“I felt like I was part of something bigger than me that day and I thought, ‘this must be what it is like to wear the uniform of our military – to be part of something bigger and more important than yourself,’ he said. “They did us proud. They represented us well, and on behalf of us all, we thank you.”

Florida State Senator-Elect Doug Broxson and Con-

gressman-Elect Matt Gaetz also praised the military and the sacrifice of the Mojo 69 team before turning the microphone over to Class 29 alumni Murray.

Murray reminded the audience that what was “most meaningful” for him was that the idea for building the monument originated from the civilians in the class, not the military members. That it was the civilians who developed the idea, devised the plan, ran the fundraising, and coordinated the events surrounding the memorial. The class was told that it was too big of a project, but they believed and persevered. Now, more than a year and one-half later, the class stood together in solemn support of the men of Mojo 69.

“To the family and friends of the men of MOJO 69, our prayer is that this memorial gives you some measure of comfort as you move forward,” he said. “Comfort that the love and support of people whom you have never met, are standing strong for you and your 11...our 11. The 11 who moved 35 men and women from Leadership Santa Rosa Class 29 to action.”

Bahlau then called forward Randy New, the artist who designed the memorial; Corey Swindle, who cast the bronze work; and Brian Pettigrew, of GCF Incorporated who helped bring the memorial to completion. The three men, along with members of Class 29, removed the parachute covering the memorial to reveal it to the public for the first time. ✨

## SECURITY CORNER

By: Stacy McFadden, NAS Whiting Field Security



This month security corner will cover Christmas holiday decoration safety tips.

Before you start stringing up those lights or looking for that perfect tree or putting up the one from last year, plan out what you want your house or work place to look like. Even with a good plan, you have to keep safety on your mind all the time.

Every year hospital emergency rooms treat about 12,500 people for injuries, such as falls, cuts and shocks, related to holiday lights, decorations and Christmas trees, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). In addition, warns CPSC, candles start about 11,600 fires each year, resulting in 150 deaths, 1,200 injuries and \$173 million in property loss. Christmas trees are involved in about 300 fires annually, resulting in 10 deaths, 30 injuries and an average of more than \$10 million in property loss and damage.

We spend hours and days looking for that perfect tree each Christmas. We have a choice of different types of live trees and different types of fake (‘artificial’ for the

political correct) trees. If you go for a live tree, you have your selection of eight common types of fir’s, which have the benefit of not shedding their needles when they dry out as well as retaining good foliage color and scent. And then you have 5 different types of pine that do lose their needles when they dry out and but have that fresh pine smell.

For those who choose to get a live tree, plan where you are going to set your tree up. Make sure that your tree isn’t near a heat source and that you have a tree stand. Choose a tree stand that has an adequate water reservoir and fits the trunk of your tree. Remember that live Christmas trees need to have their bases constantly in water to keep the tree as moist as possible. Trees that are allowed to dry out are an extreme fire hazard. Position the Christmas tree stand far enough from the wall so that the branches will not bend against it. If you must leave the tree stand in a place where the branches push against the wall, trim the branches so that they are not touching. Branches that have too much contact with the wall can make it difficult to straighten the tree in the stand. For those getting an artificial tree, it’s about size, color, with lights or without lights and fiber optic trees. Just as a live tree, don’t place it near a heat source.

Next week, we’ll go over lights for the tree and outside. ✨

## Comedy Show

- (Cont. from Page 2)

for coming.”

She then passed the baton to Dan Gabriel. Billed as a man who performs “smart, stupid comedy” he has appeared on Comedy Central’s Premium Blend, The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson, and Star Search among others.

Gabriel’s brand of PG-13 humor focused on everyday life like going through airport security and wanting a doctor to check out your X-rays after, being in first class and never wanting to go back to coach, and cooking shows where he has watched Giada 500 times and still doesn’t know what she’s cooked.

But he stressed how bad of an idea it is to play attitude poker with your wife in the morning.

“My wife woke up mad at me, and I hadn’t even done anything...yet,” Gabriel stated. “I raised her bad mood with an inappropriate comment. She said, ‘I will raise your comment with [stuff] you thought I forgot about years ago. ALL IN!’”

Evans, an Atlanta native, took the microphone next to remind everyone that having a southern accent does not mean someone is dumber than someone else. He contends that stupid is universal. Fresh off his Southern, Not Stupid tour he pinpoints the silly things that happen every day and all around everyone.

He stated that although you know you are in a southern military town when you see an F-18 on blocks in the front yard, Evans emphasized that he felt more comfortable at a military base. At a recent southern show he



Lace Harrabee tells a story about her Southern upbringing during the Laugh Catchers Comedy Show. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

performed, the audience laughed at the first joke and scared the hell out of him because “they looked like a bunch of Jack-O-Lanterns.”

His stories also featured the issues of southern language, portrayals of southern people in movies, and putting your mother in a nursing home where he said “if you can’t afford it...go to Pets Mart and get an invisible fence.”

But what Evans couldn’t really get his head around was the dumb stuff that people do in the south – like Civil War reenactment.

“Hundreds of people gather around in the hottest weather and humidity we have to offer, he said. “They spend bundles of their own money on thick, wool uniforms; eat food off the ground; and reenact a huge [butt]-whoopin where we finished second.”

Larrabee then introduced the headliner for the Laughcatchers Tour and Upton grabbed the microphone. With more than 30 years of comedy under his belt and around 6,000 shows, he has performed across the country and in many parts of the world. Upton has opened for a number of country performers like Dolly Parton, George Jones, Glen Campbell as well and an eight year stint as an act with Johnny Mathis. He toured with the late, great, Joan Rivers and just released a new CD, Brad Uptonogood, and DVD, Brad Upton, Live from the 509.

A former school teacher from Seattle, Upton finds almost everything ironic. From radio ads for emergency room care, to banning Native American mascots in the NCAA (you know they are based in Indianapolis, Indiana, right?), to Hallmark Cards for 100th birthdays (you better wait until the last minute for that one), no topic was off-limits during his 40-minute stint – including himself.

Like most men, Upton gets in trouble with his wife of 35 years regularly. He stressed that even though you know you shouldn’t say things, men still do. He talked about the time he and his wife were watching a Halle Berry movie and she leaned over and whispered, “tonight you can pretend I’m Halle Berry.”

“I said, ‘I’ve been doing that for the last 10 years’... not a good thing to say.”

He also mentioned the time his wife complained about him buying a \$43 bottle of Scotch. She thought it was too expensive, so he went to the bathroom drawer and saw a one ounce bottle of Estee Lauder skin cream that cost \$63. He said all told, that there was probably \$15,000 in make-up in the drawer, so he pulled it out and asked what did she need it for?

“It makes me look young and beautiful,” she replied.

“So does the Scotch!”

About 135 people attended the show hosted by MWR at Sikes Hall, a turnout that seem destined to continue to bring a comedy show back to the installation.

“I thought the entertainers were great and I am very happy with the turnout,” MWR Director Tom Kubalewski said. “We definitely are hoping to continue the shows.”

## NAS Whiting Fields Honors Civilians of the Year

By: Ensign Brittany Stephens, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs



Junior Civilian of the Year Eric Wuesthoff

Every year, Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field recognizes the dedication and impact of the civilian workforce on base with the Civilian of the Year award. This year, Recreation Specialist Eric Wuesthoff and School Liaison Officer Christopher Hendrix received the award for Fiscal Year

2016 on November 23 as Junior and Senior Civilians of the Year, respectively.

NAS Whiting Field draws from a pool of highly motivated and hard-working individuals within the base staff, operations, security, and the Moral, Welfare, and Recreation Center. Recipients of the awards promote the Navy core values and excel in assisting with the Navy mission. They serve as examples for all workers at NAS Whiting Field.

“Chris and Eric maintain the image that the command should uphold and promote,” Thomas Kubalewski Director of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation emphasized. “They deserve this recognition for their hard work.”

Wuesthoff manages the Whiting Park Outdoor Recreation Facility. Prior to his promotion he worked as an MWR Administrative assistant, managing MWR correspondence through files, mail, phone calls, and personal meetings. Wuesthoff also took the initiative to learn about any position he could be of assistance, and he also functioned as a de facto Human Resources Assistant.

Hendrix coordinates education support for children of military families, in order maximize their academic opportunities. He routinely visits and services 32 schools with-

in Santa Rosa county, and personally met with several families and their children, as well as counselors who work with them. Hendrix travels approximately 350 miles every month to visit these sites.

Hendrix also helped orchestrate outreach to families with deployed family members. East Milton and Pea Ridge Elementary hosted a day to honor fathers, where the children could bring their fathers to school. In his Doughnuts for Daddies event, Hendrix found 15 voluntary “fathers” from NAS Whiting Field to stand in place of fathers who were deployed.

Both Hendrix and Wuesthoff received a plaque during a command ceremony from Commanding Officer Capt. Todd A. Bahlau to honor their achievement.

“Most of all, they definitely showcase the outstanding civilian workforce we are very fortunate to have at NAS Whiting Field,” Bahlau said.



Senior Civilian of the Year Chris Hendrix

- (Cont. on Page 8)



## Pearl Harbor Day

By: Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs

Dec. 7 will mark the 75th anniversary as America remembers those who valiantly defended their nation against the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, and to memorialize the more than 2,400 American lives lost in that attack. In doing so, everyone can honor all of America's veterans of that war, every one of them a member of the "Greatest Generation," who selflessly devoted themselves to protecting cherished liberty that fateful Sunday morning and for over 1,300 subsequent days of bloody fighting. Their sacrifice and that of the men and women who followed in their valiant footsteps, remains emblematic of America's commitment to freedom.



Sailors in a motor launch rescue a survivor from the water alongside the sunken USS West Virginia (BB-48) during or shortly after the Japanese air raid on Pearl Harbor. Official U.S. Navy Photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives.

up arms in a worldwide struggle against tyranny. The nation suffered a terrible blow at Pearl Harbor, but unbowed, its ideals ultimately prevailed. The threats to freedom the country now faces against a new form of tyranny reminds everyone that our country owes much to those who served and those who died that day on Oahu.

Those heroes, many of whom still lie entombed beneath the waters of Pearl Harbor, embody the very ideals upon which America was founded. Dec. 7 is a day to recognize with heartfelt gratitude the sacrifices these extraordinary men and women – from the cities and farms across this vast country – have made to preserve and defend our freedom. ✈

From a generation that came of age during the Great Depression, millions of the country's best and bravest took

## Operation ELF Embraces Local Military Families

By: Lt. j.g. Kyle Shields, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

The Chief Petty Officer Association and the First Class Petty Officer Association in conjunction with the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) host this year's Operation ELF (Embracing Local military Families) program onboard Naval Air Station Whiting Field this holiday season.

Operation Elf is a program designed to help military parents provide gifts for their children during the holiday season and has been running onboard NASWF for 18 years and has grown steadily. According to Angela Dunn FFSC Information Resource Assistant who has been the spokesperson for this event for the past 6 years, describes that in 2014 there were 50 children sponsored, 75 the following year, and in all likelihood, there may be even more this year.

"Unfortunately, the demand has been going up and up due to the increased need by more and more families," Dunn states.

Operation ELF is open to all active duty military and IA Families with children 12 and under. Parents who wish to participate may go into The FFSC and request sponsorship starting November 28th through December 13th. Confidentiality is strictly maintained. The parents will then fill out a card with the child's gender, age, clothing size, shoe size, and any requested items. That card will then be placed on a display in the FFSC front office for a sponsor to select.

People wishing to sponsor a child may go into the FFSC and pick out a card on the display. Then purchase a gift (up to \$50 recommended) and bring the unwrapped gift back to the FFSC. All of the gifts will be wrapped by the Chief Petty Officer's Association and the First Class Petty Officer's Association and will be ready for pick up by December 19th.

"I am proud of the participation that we get each year from all of the sponsors and the Chief Petty Officers Association, and the First Class Petty Officer Association for helping those in need here on Whiting Field," proclaims NASWF Command Master Chief Lee Stephens.

For more information on Operation ELF please contact Angela Dunn at 580-623-7177 or email [angela.dunn.ctr@navy.mil](mailto:angela.dunn.ctr@navy.mil). ✈



Fleet and Family Support Center's Operation Elf Christmas Tree.

## Local Citizen Gives Thanks and Turkeys

By: Lt. j.g. Kyle Shields, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

This past Thanksgiving, Santa Rosa local Mike Patterson donated 67 fried turkeys to military families stationed at Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

Patterson worked closely with NAS Whiting Field's own Command Chaplain Michael Griggs and United Way's Kyle Holley Director of Grants and Gifts of Santa Rosa County.

The Turkeys were fried in Patterson's own backyard in Pace, Fla. on Wednesday, November 23. Patterson along with his crew of seven, injected, fried and packaged the turkeys, which were dropped off at the United Way Santa Rosa office.

Holly is long term friends with Patterson and the two teamed up this year to donate to military families E-6 and below.

Holley's contribution included providing donated side dishes such as vegetables, stuffing, and breads, and volunteers to help package the goods together. One of the volunteers sewed over 70 cloth shopping bags used to carry the side dishes.

"Once people start giving, it becomes contagious and everyone wants in on it," said Griggs.

Griggs served as a liaison for the United Way and NAS Whiting Field. He coordinated the list of names and organized the pick-up of the food items.

"Being a gentleman of the South, I feel right at home with the giving atmosphere, and my hope is for all of the service members who are away from their home to feel that way too." Patterson's Annual Turkey Fry started back in 2002 when he and his family and friends got together to fry around 10 turkeys for Thanksgiving. It's a tradition that has grown significantly over the years into a full scale community event with hundreds of turkeys fried. Any person within the community who wanted a fried turkey was welcome to drop off a thawed turkey. The turkey would be injected and fried completely free of charge.

Patterson has perfected his own recipe over the

course of 14 years.

"I fry the turkeys for three and a half minutes per pound, but not before injecting them with a blend of Cajun spices," said Patterson.

The Turkey Fry also featured special events to draw attention such as Chicken Drop Bingo, which was a game where a well fed chicken sits on a bingo card. Contestants pick a number, and the person who picks the number where the chicken lays its droppings wins a prize. The local rock and country band "The Southern Fried Band" performed a set. A bounce house was set up for the children to play on. And they even had a raffle with prizes such as a Benelli shotgun, Yeti Coolers' Big Green Egg, an AR-15 rifle and many more.

"It's just my way of giving back to the community." Stated Patterson.



Mike Patterson (left) Shakes hands with Command Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Michael Griggs with United Way Santa Rosa Director of Grants and Gifts present in front of the donor board at the 14th annual Turkey Fry. U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Brittany Stephens, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

## Congratulations TW-5 Academic Scholars



Congratulations to Training Air Wing FIVE's Student Marine Aviator who made the Commodore's List. Photo Courtesy of Training Air Wing FIVE.



Congratulation to Training Air Wing FIVE's Student Marine Aviators who made the Commodore's List. Photos courtesy of Training Air Wing FIVE.

## SOY

- (Cont. from Page 2)

two states. He supervised the training of scores of Fire Captains, Fire Instructors, Fire Officer Instructors, and Fire Inspector instructors. His leadership led to 126 certifications, 522 live fire training exercises, and over 1,400 hours of training, making NAS Whiting Field's F&ES department the most certified department in the Southeast Region.

Garcia's leadership also fostered growth in the people around him. He developed an in-rate study group for his Sailors; his passion and dedication contributed to 10 advancements, four JSOQs, two BJOQs, and 27 re-listments.

Garcia also volunteered with local veterans. He completed yard work for wounded veterans that were physically unable to care for their homes. He also worked the "Horses for Heroes" charity event, which enabled wounded veterans to spend time with horses as a form of stress relief.

"Petty Officer Garcia is the total package," Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Whiting Field Todd A. Bahlau asserted. "He exemplifies the Navy's core values in every aspect. The impact he made within the command and the community is matched only by his integrity and moral character. He is an asset in every endeavor."

JSOY recipient Wyrock works as the Fire Captain at Naval Outlying Field (NOLF) Harold. He and his team of six executed 87 fire drills and were on station for 116,000 flight evolutions this year. Wyrock also assisted in the qualification of over 20 Fire Fighters, 13 Air Rescue and Fire Fighting Driver operators, 3 Fire captains, 6 Fire Instructors, and 4 Fire Officers.

The Harold NOLF ranked Fire Station of the Quarter for the second and third quarter of fiscal year 2016.

Wyrock also volunteered off-duty for several local events. He participated in the Black Water River Cleanup, working the Santa Rosa fair and Blueberry Festival,



NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Bahlau congratulates the Sailor of the Year PO1 Jeffrey Garcia, Junior Sailor of the Year PO2 Kyle Wyrock, and Blue Jacket of the Year Tinea A. Lewis. U.S. Navy photo by Jt. j.g. Kyle Shields, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

and working at the Santa Rosa Library. Wyrock also coordinated and managed volunteer events such as "Cram the Van", which provided 1,000 book bags for school children.

"He's an exceptional deckplate leader, pillar to the community, and technical expert of aircraft firefighting," described Department head Lt. Mark Rodriguez. "He has my complete faith and confidence."

BJOY recipient Lewis functions as the North Field tower Supervisor and Flight Planning Supervisor, a position traditionally held by senior Second Class or First Class Petty Officers. She led a four member team (some senior to her paygrade) in tower operations, including the safe execution of 69,566 flight operations, 2,903 ground controlled approaches, and the filing and processing of 40,000 flight plans and flight notification messages.

Lewis's leadership also improved the community and coworkers around her, including 24 professional qualifications and 18 supervisor designations. She also dedicated more than 200 hours as a team leader at a summer camp for the Drug Education for Youth program, a platform that proliferates the knowledge of healthy alternatives for substance abuse and gang involvement for children.

Lewis's department head, Cmdr. Eric Seib, emphasized that the accomplishments of Lewis set the bar high for her peers.

"We need to recognize these vaulted milestones to show NAS Whiting Field Sailors the standard we expect them to follow. Petty Officer Tinea Lewis has the knowledge, skills, ability, and most importantly, the personal initiative to represent NAS Whiting Field as the Blue Jacket of the Year." 



White Wednesday Sale at the Navy Exchange brings bargain shoppers hungry for hot deals. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.