

Whiting Tower

Seventy-two Years of Aviation Training News

Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.
Vol. 72 No. 4

Forging Wings for the Fleet
February, 26, 2016



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Time at Whiting Sets Foundation for Stellar Career

By: Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Editors Note: As the "Backbone of Naval Aviation," Naval Air Station Whiting Field has a proud history of training student military aviators to become the best pilots in the world. Training Air Wing FIVE establishes the foundation of skill and dedication that is necessary for each officer/aviator to succeed. As they transition to more advanced helicopters, jets, or propeller driven aircraft, a few select individuals may eventually find themselves in a pipeline that is, literally, out of this world. Military pilots are an important source of NASA astronauts, and more than a few who had "The Right Stuff" have been trained here at NAS Whiting Field. This is the third in a series of three stories to focus on the NAS Whiting Field aviators who went on to great careers in the military, in space, and beyond.

Cover Photo: Aviators followed a Navy tradition by dunking LCDR Cliff Camamile prior to his final flight in a T-6 Texan. Camamile retired after having served 20 years in the Navy. Photo by Matthew Hughes, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

The Whiting Tower

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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.

When the days get tough, the work is hard, and a person is tired from studying, it helps to have some kind of external motivator to remember the end goal of all the effort. For Col. Randy Bresnik, that motivation came from a poster given to him from an uncle that said, "The Sky is No Limit." Seeing that slogan everyday has pushed him to a career that has defied the boundaries of Earth and led him beyond the skies.



Astronaut Randolph J. Bresnik, STS-129 Mission Specialist. Bresnik started his flight career at NAS Whiting Field Training Squadron 3 (VT-3). Photo courtesy of NASA.

Now working in Star City, Russia, Bresnik is training to become one of the select few individuals to

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Commissary Value Brands offer patrons extra savings

By: Kevin L. Robinson, DeCA Public Affairs Specialist

FORT LEE, Va. – Since the introduction of Commissary Value Brands in November 2014, patrons like retired Army Master Sgt. James Camm are seeing "orange" when it comes to the program's signature "Value" sign.

"As you look around, the 'Value' stickers letting you know that here, here's your best value for what you can get out of that product," said Camm, while shopping at the Fort Lee, Virginia, Commissary. "Every time I come there's quality and there's good variety, and I love that."

- (Cont. on Page 4)

USS Carter Hall Rescues Fishermen

By: Lt. Michael Hatfield, Expeditionary Strike Group 2 Public Affairs

ATLANTIC OCEAN (NNS) -- The Norfolk-based dock landing ship USS Carter Hall (LSD 50) rescued three fishermen Feb. 15 after responding to a distress call.

It was late afternoon and the crew of the Carter Hall was conducting training and qualification operations in the Atlantic Ocean when they received a bridge-to-bridge mayday call. Two fishing vessels were sinking, and a group of fishermen needed help.

Carter Hall quickly responded and steamed toward their location, about 60 miles off the coast of Virginia.

As the sun began to set, the Sailors aboard Carter Hall could see a flare sent by the motor fishing vessels (MFV). The ships, MFV Miss Kaylee and MFV Capt. David, were both taking on water.



The amphibious dock landing ship USS Carter Hall (LSD 50), right, and the amphibious transport dock ship USS San Antonio (LPD 17) are underway in formation. Official U.S. Navy File Photo.

After arriving at the MFVs, Carter Hall launched a rescue life boat and assessed the damage to the vessels. Miss Kaylee was determined to be seaworthy, but Capt. David was not.

The three-man crew of Capt. David returned to Carter Hall, and the two-man crew of Miss Kaylee chose to stay aboard their vessel until the U.S. Coast Guard arrived.

Once the fishermen arrived aboard Carter Hall, the ship remained there until a Coast Guard vessel arrived. Carter Hall then escorted the Coast Guard ship towing Miss Kaylee to the Oregon Inlet near Nags Head, North Carolina.

"My crew's performance was outstanding, and I couldn't be more proud," said Carter Hall's Commanding Officer Cmdr. Christina Dalmau. "We train for these types of lifesaving events because assisting the distressed is the responsibility of all vessels at sea."

This Day in Naval History

Feb. 22
1909 - The Great White Fleet returns to Hampton Roads, Va., following its 14-month round-the-world cruise.

Feb. 23
1945 - Four days after landing on Iwo Jima, an invasion where uncommon valor was a common virtue, the United States flag is raised on Mt. Suribachi.

Feb. 24
1813 - The sloop of war Hornet, commanded by Capt. James Lawrence, encounters HMS Peacock off British Guyana and easily wins the engagement.

Feb. 25
1933 - USS Ranger (CV 4), the US Navy's first true aircraft carrier, is launched.

Feb. 26
1991 - During Operation Desert Storm, A-6E aircraft of VA-155 from USS Ranger (CVA 61) and Marine aircraft bomb Iraqi troops fleeing Kuwait City to Basra.



The Great White Fleet

The "Great White Fleet" sent around the world by President Theodore Roosevelt from 16 Dec. 1907 to 22 Feb. 1909 consisted of sixteen new battleships of the Atlantic Fleet. The battleships were painted white except for gilded scrollwork on their bows. The Atlantic Fleet battleships only later came to be known as the "Great White Fleet." The fourteen-month long voyage was a grand pageant of American sea power. The squadrons were manned by 14,000 sailors. They covered some 43,000 miles and made twenty port calls on six continents.

Commissary

- (Cont. from Page 2)



Quality at a low price is the hallmark of Commissary Value Brands, the Defense Commissary Agency program designed to provide savings on national name brand items comparable to

low-cost store brand or private label items in commercial stores.

Through the end of 2015, sales of the products in the value brand lineup have increased 7 percent for more than \$120 million. On average, these products save patrons about 23 percent when compared to the commercial retail stores' brand and private label items and about 38 percent against national brands.

Over the past 14 months, DeCA's Value Brands lineup has expanded from 300 products and 33 categories to nearly 500 items and 55 categories. Orange-tabbed products include beverages such as coffee, soft drinks and juices; dairy products including several cheeses, butter, canned and powdered milk; lunch meats, canned tuna and salmon; canned and frozen vegetables; canned fruit and soup; hot and cold cereals; bread; dry pasta and rice; pizza and entrees; peanut butter, jelly, honey and condiments; ice cream; cleaning supplies, disposable bags, laundry bleach and paper towels; pet foods; batteries; health and beauty care and more.

To achieve these savings DeCA works with its industry partners every six months to choose products under Value Brands umbrella that are consistently equal to or lower than comparable store brand and private label products downtown. Products are subtracted or added under the "Value" sign based on price, sales performance and market changes. The current six-month phase began in January 2016.

"We use [Value Brands] – it's good stuff," said Army Maj. Richard Crocker, visiting Fort Lee for a training course. "I found that it compares to higher-priced, name brand stuff."

A list of Value Brands items is on the DeCA

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Veteran Assistance

Available at FFSC

By: LT J.G. Andrew Bertucci, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Staff

After months without a Veteran Assistance (VA) counselor, Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Fleet Family Support Center (FFSC)

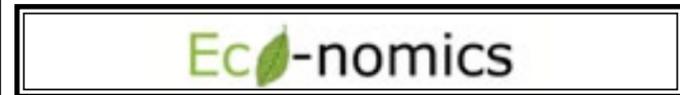


Meeting Your Needs at Home & at Sea

once again has a representative on site who can help service members successfully trek through the maze of VA services.

Retiring from the service can be a daunting task especially for military members who have a service related injury. The FFSC here at NAS Whiting Field can help ease the transition by coordinating an appointment with the VA representative. Starting Friday Feb. 26, and every other Friday after that, at 8 a.m. Jim Badini, Veteran Assistance Representative, will have an hour question and answer

- (Cont. on Page 6)



MYTH - Renewable energy is still new and unproven.

REALITY - Throughout history renewable energy sources, such as sunshine, wind, water, vegetation and the heat of the earth, have been successfully harnessed and used to provide energy. Almost 2,500 years ago, the Greeks designed their homes to use winter sunlight for heating. Large, south-facing windows were used to collect solar heat, which was stored in massive walls and floors for gradual release throughout the night. The wind has also been used as an energy source for centuries. Some of its early uses include propelling ships and pumping water. Today's technological advancements have developed more efficient means of harnessing and using renewable energy sources, and these sources are gaining increasing popularity.

Ice Flyers Tickets

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

MWR - Disney Cruise

Disney Cruise Line has released military discounts for select sailings in Mar., rates per person starting at \$186.00 for a 4 night Bahamas Cruise out of Port Canaveral. They have also release a military discount for a 14 night Transatlantic in May. Contact the Tickets & Travel office for a quote at 850-665-6250.

NEX Specials and Rewards

A-OK Student Reward Program - The A-OK Student Reward Program offers all qualified students to participate in a quarterly drawing for monetary awards of \$2,500, \$1,500, \$1,000 or \$500 for a total of \$5,500 per quarter. The next drawing will be at the end of Feb. To enter, stop by NEX with a current report card and have a NEX associate verify the eligibility.

CO's Suggestion Box STOMP Workshop

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

MWR Survey

Naval Air Station Whiting Field Morale, Welfare & Recreation Department is interested in your opinion of their programs and services. The survey is approximately 10 minutes long and your feedback will help us develop and improve our programs and services to better meet your needs. Survey will remain open until Feb. 28. Link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NASWF_MWR

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.

Enlisted Prize Essay Contest

Sponsored by Textron Systems the contest is a 1,500 word essay on a topic that makes the Naval Profession stronger. There will be a first place prize of \$3,000, a second place prize of \$2,000, and a third place prize of \$1,000. The deadline to submit your essay is March 31 and is open to all enlisted personnel -- active duty,



Public Works Award

Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Public Works Department accepted the 2015 Plant Operations Excellence Award Feb. 23 at Gulf Coast Community College. (Right to Left) Jon Croci, Water Compliance Manager, Eddie Wright, Water Plant Operator, Lonnie Ross, Environmental Installation Director. U.S. Navy Photo by LT J.G. Andrew Bertucci, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Staff.

reserve component, and retired.

ASIST Training

ASIST Training will be offered Wednesday & Thursday, 23 & 24 Mar., from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days at the J. B. McKamey Center Bldg. 634. For more information, call the NAS Pensacola Chaplains office 850-452-2093 or email Tony Bradford at tony.bradford.ctr@navy.mil.

SAPR-C Training

The NASWF SAPR team will be conducting the SAPR-C (One team, One fight) training for new civilian employees who have not attended this training in person. The training will be held on 22 Mar. at 2 p.m. in the Atrium classroom. Please contact Dora Ford (665-6393 or dora.ford@navy.mil) if you plan to attend.

Walking the Kiso Road: A Modern-Day Exploration of Old Japan

Japan American Society of Northwest Florida is sponsoring a meet and greet with William Scott Wilson, well known author for the book Walking the Kisco Road in Japan coming to Pensacola, on Mar. 19. The event will be held at the West Florida Public Library Main Branch, 239 N. Spring St., Pensacola. Admission is free and refreshments will be served after the talk. RSVP appreciated, by e-mail to info@jasnwfl.org or telephone at (850) 361-8750.



Income Tax Help Veteran

[MILTON, FL, Feb. 8, 2016] – United Way of Santa Rosa County (UWSR) encourages Americans earning \$62,000 or less to keep more of their hard-earned money this tax season by using a free, online tax preparation service and accessing valuable tax credits. A new national survey finds 72 percent of working Americans making that amount or less are unaware they qualify for free tax filing and counseling.

The survey, conducted for United Way Worldwide, finds that most respondents are unfamiliar with My-FreeTaxes, a mobile-optimized software program allowing free federal and state tax preparation and filing in all fifty states and Washington, DC. The self-file service is available for anyone earning \$62,000 or less. United Way also offers free in-person filing assistance through our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. On average, filers can save \$200 in tax preparation fees by using the free platform.

“We recognize that affordable tax preparation ser-
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Fire Department of the Year Award

By: LT J.G. Andrew Bertucci, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Staff

Naval Air Station Whiting Field is in safe hands thanks in part to the Gulf Coast Fire and Emergency Services. The combined NAS Pensacola and NAS Whiting Field Fire Departments were recognized for their emergency response performances as well as training and education of firefighters with the Fire Department of the Year Award in the large base category.

NAS Whiting Field Fire Department was duly recognized for their perfect performance at three separate TH-57 aircraft emergencies at three different outlying fields (OLFs) during 2015. The Fire Department was also recognized for their innovation and initiative in helping others with the “Pilot for a Day” program which gave station tours, fire truck rides, cake, and fire t-shirt to 10 children with serious/chronic life challenging conditions.

“The work between the civilian and military firefighters to accomplish and be recognized for the award
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walk-in followed by five one hour appointments. The VA representative will help service members screen their records for VA benefits as well educate them on the process of getting the necessary benefits when they get out.

“It is best to educate service members early so they have a better idea of how the process works. The purpose of these meetings is to educate them not just on claims but to prepare them on how to handle the process once they are separated from the military. By establishing the paperwork necessary even if they do not get rated allows documentation to be in place in case those health issues get worse down the road,” Jim Badini, Veteran Affairs Representative, said.

Badini offers two programs to help active duty members get the VA benefits they need through the Benefit Delivery at Discharge (BDD) and Quick start programs. The BDD is for those active duty members who are within 180 days of separation. The quick start program is for members who are within 60 days of separation and is the same process as the BDD only expedited.

Prior to meeting with Badini, service members must have service treatment records (STR) which enables the meetings to progress expeditiously. All other forms and information are found by calling the FFSC (850) 623-7177 and asking to speak with Eugene Jackson or Darryl Johnson about scheduling an appointment with the VA representative.

“You may be fine now but think of your health ten years from now. If you have any service related health issue then it important you pursue the free screenings offered and potential benefits through the VA,” Eugene Jackson said

Usage Information			
Total Used	1,765,503 kWh		
	1 Year Ago	Last Month	This Month
Total kWh Used	1,808,444	1,758,515	1,765,503
Average Daily kWh	58,337	56,726	56,952
Days In Billing Period	31	31	31

Energy Conservation
Conserving energy remains an important goal in the operation of Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Steps taken during the past year by Public Works continue to pay dividends in our energy conservation programs. Please help decrease usage even more by remembering to turn off lights, shut down computers and printers, and limit usage of non-essential equipment.

Astronaut

- (Cont. from Page 2)



Astronaut Randy Bresnik, STS-129 mission specialist, participates in the mission's second session of extravehicular activity. Photo courtesy of NASA.

command the International Space Station. He is slated for a Nov. 8, 2017 return to space in a Russian ship, and he will command the ISS until May 2018. Considering that Bresnik will need to know Russian as well as a Russian cosmonaut does, he emphasized that he is studying as hard as he ever has to prepare for the flight.

As a former Marine aviator and test pilot, the first graduate of the Citadel to ever fly in space learned many of the basic lessons he continues to use from his early days in flight training at Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

“Biggest thing at flight training is to focus on time management. Attention to detail, the way you prepare and the way you debrief. Brief – Execution – Debrief. Skills learned in primary are still skills used in space flight.”

Following an impressive 11-year career with NASA and 12 successful years as a military pilot before that, Bresnik should be justifiably confident in his capabilities. However, he stressed that it wasn't always that way. The start of flight training at the installation was fairly nerve-wracking for the 24-year old officer.

“We all finished college and we chose to do it,” he stated, “but you come to NAS Whiting Field and you don't know if you have the skills. You question whether it is something you will be compatible with.”

Academically, the questions were answered quickly. During ground school, Bresnik saw an earlier student score 299 out of 300 on the series of 6 tests prospective aviators take. He then wondered why someone can't do 300 out of 300. He assumed the challenge, pushed himself, and achieved that perfect score.

He then was assigned to primary flight training in

the T-34 Turbo Mentor with Training Squadron THREE at NAS Whiting Field. Although at the installation for less than a year, he called the experience “exciting” and still recalls the unique setup of the two airfields less than one mile apart, and the incredible pace of flight operations.

“Seeing how busy both fields constantly were, it was amazing how Whiting Field functioned so efficiently. It is a testament to how well the system works and how well we train,” he said. “You hear about the exploits of those who went before you and you want to do the same.”

With the foundations of flight training in place, Bresnik received orders to Texas to earn his Wings of Gold as a jet pilot. He then transferred to Cecil Field Florida and completed training in the F/A-18 Hornet with VFA-106. Bresnik completed three overseas deployments while bouncing between Hawaii and California with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA)-212. While with the “Lancers”, he completed Marine Corps Weapons and Tactics Instructors Course as well as Naval Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN), before being accepted into the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School in 1999.

After completing the year-long program, he flew every model of the F/A-18 through all manner of flight tests as an F/A-18 Test Pilot Project Officer, and returned to the Test Pilot School in 2002 as an instructor. His final military duty station was with VMFA-225 where he flew combat missions in support of Operation Southern Watch and Operation Iraqi Freedom before being one of only two

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Astronaut Randy Bresnik, STS-129 mission specialist, gives a salute while performing a Extravehicular Activity (EVA) exercise outside the International Space Station (ISS) using the Extravehicular Mobility Unit (EMU) spacesuit. Photo courtesy of NASA.

Commissary

- (Cont. from Page 4)

website, commissaries.com. Shoppers can simply click on the Value Brands webpage at <http://www.commissaries.com/shopping/value-brands.cfm>. Frequently asked questions and a video of the program are also there. The agency's social media outlets, especially Facebook and Twitter, also identify Value Brand deals.

Both Camm and Crocker agree that Value Brands and other commissary savings programs like Commissary Rewards Cards help maximize their commissary benefit, and they try to spread the word to those who may not know.

"I would tell people who aren't using the benefit that they're cheating themselves," Camm said. "When you have earned the right [to use commissaries], you should always take advantage of it."

"Those guys who aren't shopping the commissary, I call them knuckleheads," Crocker added. "I tell them they need to go to the commissary, especially if they have kids and a big family. You are wasting your time and money by not going to the commissary."



Real ID Act

"On Feb 1, 2016, Navy Installations Command began implementation of the REAL ID Act of 2005 across all installations world-wide in response to guidance put forth by the Department of Defense (DoD)."

BACKGROUND:

Oct. 10, 2015, DoD implemented ID compliance guidelines outlined in DHS's REAL ID Act of 2005, which mandated that visitors seeking access to military bases and almost all Federal facilities using their state-issued driver's licenses or identification cards must present proper identification issued by REAL ID-compliant states or a state that has received an extension. Previously, those with any valid driver's license could use that form of ID as proof of identity when applying for a temporary access pass at base security's visitor control (pass and ID) offices.

On Jan. 10, 2016, however, five state-issued and one territory-issued driver's licenses identified by DHS as being non-compliant are no longer accepted for access to DoD and Federal installations.

- The non-compliant states and territory are:
- Illinois
 - Minnesota*
 - Missouri
 - New Mexico
 - Washington*
 - American Samoa

*EXCEPTION: Possession of state-issued driver's licenses which meet Real ID Act requirements.

What do I have to do if I have an ID from a non-compliant state?

An alternative form of identification must be provided before access to a Navy base is authorized. All tentative identification options include:

- U.S. passport or passport card
- Employment authorization document (EAD)
- Foreign passport with an I-551 stamp
- Federal, state or local government ID
- Social Security card without restrictions
- Student ID with photo
- Original or certified copy of a birth certificate issued in the US.
- Native American tribal document U.S. citizen identification card (Form I-179).

What happens if I show up at NAS Whiting Field without the appropriate identification?

Individuals without the proper identification will not be allowed to access NAS Whiting Field and must provide an alternative form of ID in accordance with the REAL ID Act of 2005.

For more information, call the NAS Whiting Field Pass Office at (508) 612-7285.

More information about compliant driver's licenses can be found on the DHS website (<http://www.dhs.gov>). Information on Navy installation access to this site can be found at www.navy.mil/visitors.

Income Tax

- (Cont. from Page 6)

vices may be out of reach for many in Santa Rosa; it concerns us that people may be missing out on refunds and tax credits they have earned," says Debra Baez, Operations & Campaign Director of United Way of Santa Rosa County. "In addition to the savings derived from using this service, taxpayers can reduce the amount of income tax they pay by claiming valuable credits. Tax refunds help many hard working families in our community achieve greater financial stability, and we want to help them keep more of what they earn."

Many of the 1,000 adults surveyed were unaware that they were eligible for tax credits. Just four in ten adults reported awareness of the Child Tax Credit (CTC), while fewer than 60 percent said they are familiar with the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Almost 20 percent were not aware of any tax credits they could access.

Since UWSRC focuses on financial stability, health and education in Santa Rosa, the organization sees firsthand how important it is to connect people to tax credits through MyFreeTaxes and VITA.

Last year, taxpayers used VITA to complete nearly two million returns, bringing \$2.35 billion back to communities, including more than \$681 million in refunds from tax credits, which Congress made permanent at the end of 2015.

Tax refunds help working Americans put money in their pockets for everyday items and save for the future. About 23 percent of those asked say they spend their refunds for food, while 22 percent spend the money on housing costs; 31 percent use their refunds for utilities. A quarter of those who receive refunds put the money into savings or invest the funds for the future.

Filers can enter data into the secure MyFreeTaxes site anytime, from anywhere, making it easy to update the documents from home, at work or on mobile devices. The service also includes a helpline, 1-855-MY-TX-HELP, which operates through Apr. 18 from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. EST Monday through Friday and noon to 9:00 p.m. EST Saturday; staff will continue to provide assistance on a more limited basis through Oct. 15, based on demand. The website also provides a live chat function. To find a VITA site near you, visit MyFreeTaxes.com or call 1-855-MY-TX-HELP. Dial 2-1-1 for VITA locations in Santa Rosa and Escambia.

MyFreeTaxes is provided by United Way, with the support from the Walmart Foundation. The tax filing software is provided by H&R Block.

SECURITY CORNER



By: Stacy McFadden, NAS Whiting Field Security

The following applies to all DoD installations regardless what state it located in.

Florida's Move Over Law: Protects law enforcement officers, emergency workers and tow truck drivers stopped along roadways while performing their jobs. It requires motorists to move over when a patrol car, emergency vehicle or tow truck/wrecker that is stopped on the side of the road with its lights flashing. If such movement cannot be safely accomplished, motorists shall slow down to a speed of 20 mph below the posted speed limit.

Motorists are required to: Approach the emergency vehicle with caution; change lanes away from the emergency vehicle if traveling on a multi-lane roadway and able to move over safely; or slow down while maintaining a safe speed of 20 mph below posted speed limit and be careful not to impede or block the flow of

traffic unless otherwise directed by an Law Enforcement Officer. Violators of the Move Over Law will be issued a citation! You also can receive points on your license for this violation besides paying a fine.

Pull Over for Emergency Vehicles: We've all experienced an ambulance, police car, or fire truck quickly approaching behind us with their lights and sirens on. And it's important to remember exactly what you should do and what the emergency driver expects you to do. They expect you to "Pull Over." When an emergency vehicle including police cars, fire trucks, ambulances, other law enforcement, and tow trucks approaches you are expected to pull over to the closest edge of the roadway and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed. The intent is for you to make way for the emergency vehicle so it can quickly move through traffic. Never block an intersection. This applies to pedestrians as well as drivers. Not many people realize that this also included funeral processions that have a police escort.

Fire

- (Cont. from Page 6)

speaks volumes to the level of training and discipline shown by our firefighters and is why we won the award for Fire Department of the Year," Rodriguez, NAS Whiting Field Fire and Emergencies Services Department Head, said.

NAS Whiting Field was further recognized with awards won for Military Officer of the Year; ABH1 Jason Bruce, Military Firefighter of the Year; ABH2 Derrick Rogers, and Fire Instructor of the Year; ABH2 Corey Montford. Bruce is the only certified fire officer IV in the Navy and took charge of the firefighting certification program, exceeding staffing requirements by processing 106 certifications. Rogers, selected to lead the military Fire Station Santa Rosa, led his firefighting team in responding to 22 aircraft emergencies providing rescue and medical aid for 10 pilots with zero loss of life. Monford is the only qualified military member authorized to conduct respirator fit test at the command and spearheaded the completion of 122 respirator fit tests for civilian and military firefighters.

"We are extremely proud of them in the fantastic work they have accomplished. The jobs and duties they perform help pass on the knowledge and training to keep the high level of qualified firefighters that make our base the very best," Rodriguez stated.



Congratulations to TRAWING -5 Scholar



Congratulations to TRAWING-5's Academic Achievement Award presented at the TRAWING-5 headquarters building Feb. Photo courtesy of Training Air wing FIVE.

Congratulations to the VT Solos

VT-6

LT. Prateek Buder, USCG
Ensign Andrea Varacalli, USN
Ensign Benjamin Gallegos, USN
LT. j.g. Edwin Forteza, USN
2nd Lt. Cory Kobel, USMC
Ensign Kyle O'Connor, USN
Ensign Christian Sveiven, USN
Ensign Walter Jones, USN
Ensign Thing Nguyen, USN

2nd Lt. Chase Mlnarik, USMC

2nd Lt. Lary Willey, USMC

VT-2

LT. Spencer Grinnell, USCG
Ensign Seth Walter, USN
Ensign Dale Bernstein, USN
Ensign Matthew Johnston, USN
2nd Lt. Matthew Schaidle, USMC
2nd Lt. John Nevins, USMC

Astronaut

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pilots selected by NASA to join the 11-member Astronaut Group 19.

Bresnik spent the next several years completing the scientific and technical briefings, instruction in space shuttle and ISS systems, physiological training and survival training required of all astronauts. He was selected to take the 31st shuttle flight to ISS which launched Nov. 16, 2009. The mission was a supply run to deliver approximately 30,000 pounds of replacement parts and two Express Logistics Carriers.

During the mission, Bresnik carried a scarf worn by aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart. The scarf had been on display at the Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots in Oklahoma City. His grandfather, Albert Louis Bresnik, was the personal photographer for Earhart for the five years preceding her disappearance in 1937. Upon its return to Earth, the scarf was placed in a new display at the Museum dedicated to the Bresnik's grandfather's photographs.

However, the highlight for Bresnik was his first Extravehicular Activity (spacewalk), Nov. 21. He compared his excitement preceding the event to his first time to solo, first night flight in Texas, First F-18 flight, first night trap, and his first time in combat – all rolled into one. "You can not be the same after your first view from space, looking at the planet," Bresnik emphasized. "I have been very fortunate to see that beautiful blue marble called planet Earth."

The very next day though, Bresnik received some even better news. His wife Rebecca gave birth to his daughter, Abigail Mae, the night before making him the second astronaut to become a father while in orbit. He received word via a phone patch early on Nov. 22, shortly before preparations began for his next EVA, Nov. 23.

"You have to be focused, like other dangerous jobs there are consequences [to wrong actions]," Bresnik said about his emotions following the birth of Abigail. "The very next day I had to compartmentalize my emotions and go out again. Exactly the stuff I learned in flight school and I was still using it 25 years later."

In the five years since his first space flight, Bresnik has been preparing for his next opportunity. He participated in the European Space Agency's Cooperative Adventure for Valuing and Exercising human behavior and performance Skills (CAVES) in Sardinia, Italy. This was the first event of its type with the participants living deep beneath the surface for nearly a week. The international

team, with members from Japan, Russia, Europe and the U.S., dealt with the dark, confined spaces while working a schedule similar to what is used during spaceflights. The activities promoted scientific knowledge while enhancing teamwork in a harsh, unfamiliar setting. In many ways it simulated the same type of difficulties as his week-long command in 2014 of NASA's Extreme Environment Mission Operation (NEEMO) project located under 62 feet of water six miles off the Florida Keys.

"All of this is done so that the first time you go into space, it is just another operation. It is good for team building and individual development. It helps ensure that physical and mental difficulties don't become overwhelming," he said.

As he prepares for his next opportunity in space in 2017, Bresnik has no clue what comes after. He does know that the 25-year old Bresnik from 1992 had no idea what was in store.

"I left Whiting Field just hoping to be a pilot and the opportunities kept coming. I just kept asking myself, "What can I do next?"

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