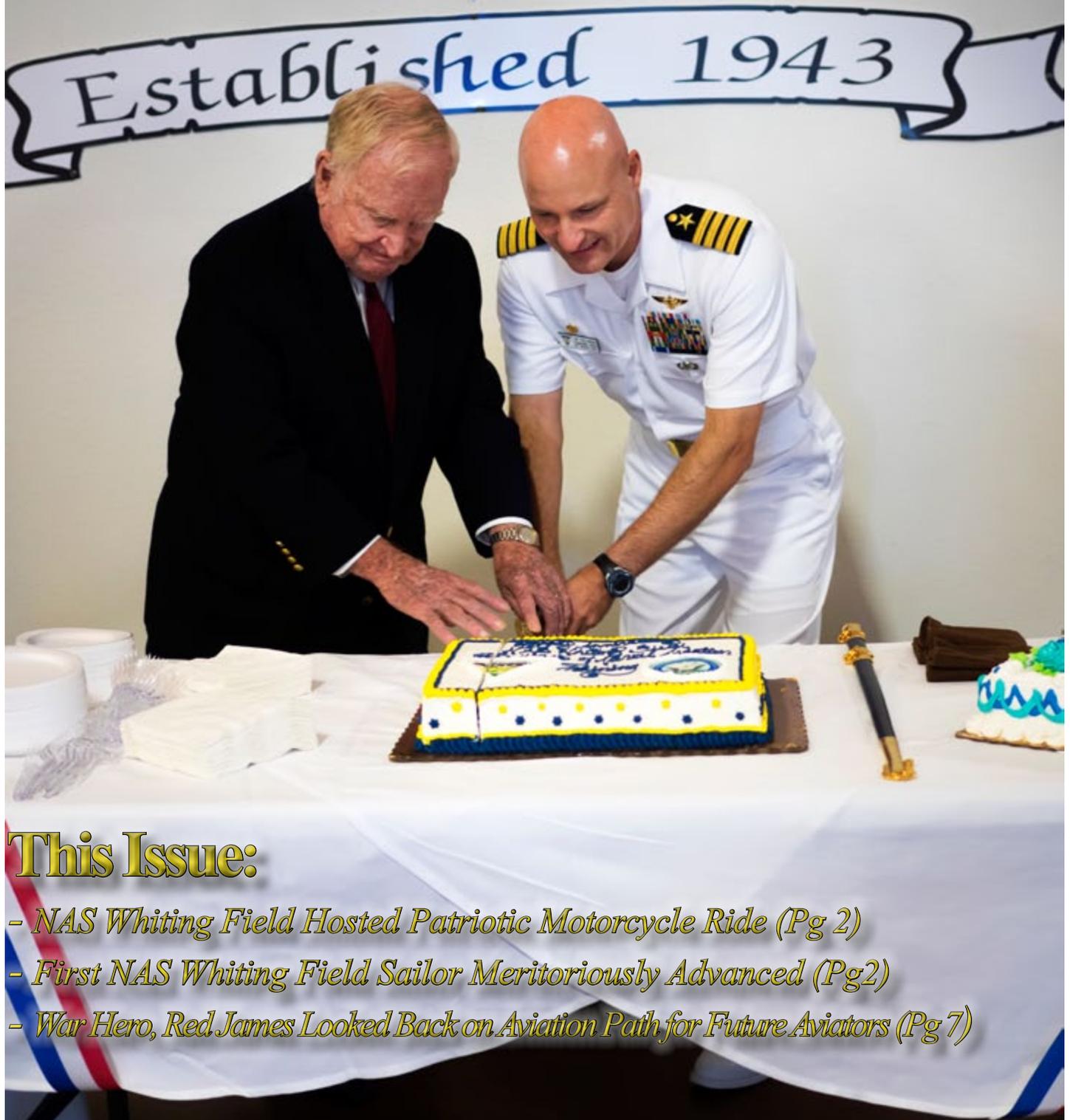


# Whiting Tower

Seventy-two Years of Aviation Training News

Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.  
Vol. 72 No. 13

Forging Wings for the Fleet  
July 15, 2016



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- *First NAS Whiting Field Sailor Meritoriously Advanced (Pg2)*
- *War Hero, Red James Looked Back on Aviation Path for Future Aviators (Pg 7)*

# NAS Whiting Field Hosts Patriotic Motorcycle Ride



A motorcycle rider from Tallahassee hands an American Flag to local veteran Tom Zolecki, Assistant Director of the Harley Owners Group Northwest Florida Chapter. The flag started its 100 day journey from Madison, Wis. U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. j.g. Marissa Tungjunyatham.

**By: Lt. j.g. Marissa Tungjunyatham, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs**

The rumble of patriotism rolled through Naval Air Station Whiting Field Wednesday, July 6 as two motorcycle groups escorted a single American Flag to the installation.

The two organizations were part of the cross-country Nation of Patriot's campaign called the 2016 Patriot Tour. Since 2009, their mission has been escort one American Flag across 48 states for 100 days to pay tribute to all members and families of America's Armed Forces — the past, the present, and the fallen. Harley Owners Group (H.O.G) Chapters from throughout the country helped the Nation of Patriots organize the flag relay to make the journey possible

The flag began its travel on May 28 from the Harley Davidson of Madison, Wis. The flag is handed off from motorcycle group to motorcycle group as it makes a full circle back to Wisconsin over Labor Day weekend. NAS Whiting Field was the 39th stop out of the 99 made during the tour.

Following a police escort onto the installation, more than 30 motorcycle riders parked in front of the Command Building to hold a flag exchange ceremony passing the colors from the Tallahassee group to the Northwest Florida Chapter.

- (Cont. on Page 4)

## First NAS Whiting Field Sailor Meritoriously Advances to Next Rank

**By: Lt. j.g. Marissa Tungjunyatham, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs**

Aviation Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Corey Montford's hard work came to fruition when the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Bahlau, awarded him with immediate advancement to First Class Petty Officer through the Meritorious Advancement Program (MAP) at the installation's Midfield Hangar July 6. Montford was the very first Sailor at NAS Whiting Field to promote through this program.

MAP is designed to give commanding officers the authority to recognize the superior work of their best Sailors and advance eligible Seaman, Petty Officer Third Class, and Petty Officer Second Class Sailors to the next higher paygrade. Previously only available to operational commands, the Navy announced policy updates April 19 expanding program eligibility to shore commands.

"I'm proud of him," Bahlau stated to Montford's assembled shipmates, "This just shows what hard work will do for you. [He] is mentor you need to latch onto."

- (Cont. on Page 12)

Cover Photo: World War II and Korean War Veteran, Retired Maj. Eugene "Red" James and NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer, Capt. Todd Bahlau cut the cake for the 73rd Anniversary of NAS Whiting Field. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Marissa Tungjunyatham.

### The Whiting Tower

**Commanding Officer**

Capt. Todd Bahlau

**Executive Officer**

Cmdr. Don Gaines

**Command Master Chief**

Command Master Chief (AW/SW) Lee Stephens

**Public Affairs Officers**

Jay Cope

Jamie Link

**Public Affairs Staff**

Lt. j.g. Marissa Tungjunyatham

Lt. j.g. Dat Nghiem

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.

## USFF Force Protection Advisory Message

**By: Message Center San Diego Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Systems Center Pacific**

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- According to multiple sources, protests and public gatherings are scheduled throughout the United States and Canada through July 16 in response to two recent fatal police shootings.

There are planned protests coming up and the Navy want to remind all Department of the Navy service members, civilian employees and their family members are reminded that large gatherings of this nature can turn violent at a moment's notice. NCIS does not have information regarding a specific threat to Department of Defense personnel.

This advisory is to provide situational awareness for all DoD personnel who may find themselves in the vicinity of any of the protests, planned or spontaneous. NCIS continues to coordinate with law enforcement and intelligence community partners to monitor known threats and will provide updates as warranted.

Known locations and dates of upcoming protests are San Diego and Pullman, Washington July 15; Rockford, Illinois and London, Ontario July 16.

Although the planned protests are intended to be peaceful in nature, the recent shootings in Dallas illustrate the potential for protests to escalate to violence. NCIS is aware of posts on social media claiming multiple groups are calling for or planning riots and/or violence against law enforcement personnel.

Additionally, political and social awareness groups may use large gatherings as an opportunity to promote conflict, follow-on violence or copy-cat crimes may occur at future public gatherings or rallies. There is nothing to suggest a change in the threat environment to U.S. military assets or installations in the United States at this time. However, service members are encouraged to stay vigilant and remain aware of their surroundings in the vicinity of protest areas and depart the immediate area if violence erupts.

All commands are directed to ensure widest dissemination.

For more information, visit <http://www.navy.mil>, <http://www.facebook.com/usnavy>, or <http://www.twitter.com/usnavy>.



### First Organized Dive Bombing Attack

Although instances of diving attacks occurred during World War I and Marine Corps pilots used the same technique in Haiti in 1919, this attack is considered the first organized dive bombing attack in combat. Rowell later attains the rank of lieutenant general.



### Navy Unveils National Museum of the American Sailor

The Great Lakes Naval Museum was renamed the National Museum of the American Sailor July 4 in order to honor the diverse history of Sailors who have served in the U.S. Navy. "Dedicated to telling the story of anyone who has ever worn the Navy uniform, this building will do more than house history," said retired Rear Adm. Sam Cox. The National Museum of the American Sailor currently features exhibits on life in Navy boot camp, naval uniforms and traditions, the history of Naval Station Great Lakes, the role of diversity in the Navy and the role of women in the Navy. Over the next two years, the museum will expand its exhibits to introduce visitors to the overall history and role of the U.S. Navy and the experiences of American Sailors in the past and today. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Eric Lockwood.

### This Day in Naval History

July 13

1943 - TBF aircraft (VC 13) based on board USS Core (ACV 13) sinks German submarine U 487, 720 miles southwest of Fayal, Azores.

July 14

1955 - The first flight of jet-propelled Martin P6M seaplane is completed at Baltimore, Md.

July 15

1943- TBF aircraft from (VC 29) from USS Santee (CVE 29) sinks German submarine (U 509) south of the Azores.

July 16

1862 - Congress establishes the rank of Rear Admiral, with David G. Farragut named as the first Rear Admiral.

July 17

1927 - Maj. Ross E. Rowell, USMC, leads a flight of five DHs, which are two-seat biplanes, in a strafing and dive bombing attack against bandit forces surrounding a garrison of Marines at Ocotal, Nicaragua.

## Patriot Ride

- (Cont. from Page 2)

"It's a pleasure to have the riders of the 2016 Patriot Tour here at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. We are happy to support you towards your goal of aiding wounded veterans and their families," NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer, Capt. Todd Bahlau said as he welcomed the veterans to the base. "We are honored to have you here today."

The veterans fell in rank behind NAS Whiting Field colors detail as they marched to the base's main flag pole. The riders presented the flag to the colors detail, and they raised the flag high for the Pledge of Allegiance. When the flag reached the top, a moment of silence was held to honor the fallen patriots who have bravely served to protect The Nation.

As the colors detail retrieved the flag and began to fold it with assistance from the veterans, the flag bearer from Tallahassee read "The Rite of Passing the Flag" to the Pensacola group who will carry the flag onward in its journey.

"By accepting this duty, you are accepting all that is embodied with the colors of this Flag. You will proudly represent the Nation's collective past, present, and our future. You will represent the many that have stood to the call of duty, the many that serve today, their families and above all, rider, you will bear the memory of those that have fallen defending what is represented in these colors. You ride for honor, for country and for all members of our military – the heart of our Nation travels with you. Godspeed, Flag Bearer."

The Pensacola flag bearers, Director of H.O.G. Northwest Florida Chapter Bob Booth and Assistant Director Tom Zolecki accepted the American Flag from Aviation Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Matthew Beasley.

Many of the riders and members of the Northwest Florida H.O.G. Chapter enjoyed their time on base as it was a homecoming of sorts. Booth was a former fixed-wing flight instructor at Training Squadron THREE in the 70's, and several other members were also instructors at NAS Whiting Field. The Patriot Tour gave them a chance to raise awareness for a cause they feel passionate about.

"We're here to drum up support for the Nation of Patriots," Zolecki said, "100 percent of donations they collect are given to wounded veterans and their families. I'm a retired Air Force service member and half of the members in our chapter are retired Armed Forces. This is something that's near and dear to us."



Motorcycles from Tallahassee and Northwest Florida are lined up in front of a gathering of riders and military personnel. The riders from Tallahassee brought a single American flag that has travelled from Madison, Wis. to its 39th stop at Naval Air Station Whiting Field as part of the Nation of Patriot's 100 day, 48 state journey called the 2016 Patriot Tour. U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. j.g. Marissa Tungjunyatham.



Veterans on the 2016 Patriot Tour along with NAS Whiting Field military personnel follow the colors detail to the flag pole in front of the Command Building to raise the flag that has travelled from Madison, Wis. in honor of fallen members of the Armed Forces. U.S. Navy Photo by Jamie Link.



Aviation Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Matthew Beasley folds the single American Flag that travelled from Madison, Wis. with a veteran before handing it to the Pensacola flag bearers that will continue the flag's journey west as part of the Nation of Patriot's 2016 Patriot Tour to cover 48 states in 100 days. The tour is a tribute to the past, present, and fallen members of the United States Armed Forces. U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. j.g. Marissa Tungjunyatham.

**Ec-nomics**

## Summer Energy Saving Tip

In hot climates, select white or light colored exterior paint that will reflect heat rather than absorb it.

## War Hero, Major Eugene "Red" James Looks Back on his Aviation Path to Pave a Legacy for Future Aviators

By: Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

*Editor's Note: Naval Air Station Whiting Field's mission to train the best aviators in the world was formed during the fires of World War II and has been tempered and hardened through the years by the men and women who have served their nation in war and peacetime. Through its 73 years of preparing our nation's best and brightest to go in harms way, the base has seen a great number of heroes walk through its gates, but it is rare to be able to speak to them and allow later generations to see how the foundations established here at NAS Whiting Field prepared them for future success. This is the first part in a two-part series where the Whiting Tower has reconnected with members of the Greatest Generation who served here during the early years of the base and a chance to relate their histories.*

As he approached the carrier, it became clear that this would be no ordinary landing. Putting an F4U Corsair down on an aircraft carrier was a tricky task under ideal circumstances. But this day, the seas would be an enemy as fierce as any Eugene "Red" James had faced during his time in the Pacific campaign in World War II. As he approached the ship, the carrier pitched side-to-side like a metronome in the 20-foot swells. With no choice but to commit to a landing, Red



Eugene "Red" James in his home two weeks ago with a photo of himself receiving the Purple Heart in 1953 with the unit U.S.S. Badoeng Strait. James is a decorated World War II and Korean War Veteran. James is a former instructor pilot from NAS Whiting Field. U.S. Navy Photo by Jamie Link.

James called upon every bit of his training and experience as a Marine Corps pilot. He turned his craft into the wind, lined up his approach, and dropped from the sky towards the roiling deck.

We call them "The Greatest Generation", the men and women who served around the globe during World War II and the Korean War. There are countless stories of heroism, sacrifice and perseverance that justify that nickname. Each member of the Greatest Generation has their own personal stories, tales of their contributions to the war effort. WWII and Korean highly decorated veteran, Red James, lives amongst us right here in Milton, Florida, with strong ties to Milton and Whiting Field history.

Sitting in his living room in Milton, James' recollections of his time as a Marine Corps and Navy pilot, culminating as an instructor pilot at Whiting Field, are lively and remarkable for the 94-year old war hero. James also maintains a visceral connection to his aviation past: a treasure trove of photos, documents, uniforms, and memorabilia. James' medals, logbooks, citations, flight suit, and other mementos serve as his connection to his aviation accomplishments, and allow him to share his experiences with others.

- (Cont. on Page 13)



World War II and Korean War veteran, Retired Maj. Eugene "Red" James poses with his flight suit and a photograph of himself wearing his flight suit and gear in 1944, in his home two weeks ago. The handwritten caption on the photo reads, "A fightin' Gyrene". U.S. Navy Photo by Jamie Link

## School Physical Rodeo

Naval Hospital Pensacola is hosting a School/Sports Physical Rodeo July 16, 23, 30, and Aug. 6 from 8 a.m. to noon at Medical Home Port Green Team. Come to the Rodeos before school starts to be ready to play. Appointments are encouraged. Walk-ins will be accepted from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Please remember to bring any completed paperwork, including school physical forms if for out of state. Only school/sports physicals will be addressed. If there are other concerns or issues, please make an appointment during regular clinic hours. Family Medicine phone number is (850) 505-7120.

## Texar Drive Pedestrian Bridge Improvements

Construction activities will begin on the State Road 752 (Texar Drive) pedestrian bridge in Escambia County the week of July 18, 2016. The rehabilitation project will include cleaning the structure and replacing the fence along the overpass and ramps. Access to the bridge will be closed for approximately one month while improvements are made. Intermittent lane restrictions will occur. Eastbound ECAT bus stops located at the overpass will be temporarily relocated just west of N Miller Street. Drivers are reminded to watch for construction workers and equipment entering and exiting the roadway. Construction activities are weather dependent and may be rescheduled in the event of inclement weather. For more information, follow the Florida Department of Transportation District Three on Twitter @myfdot\_nwfl or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MyFDOTNWFL.

## Cram the Van Volunteer Opportunity

We have a great opportunity to give back to the community by participating in Cram the Van. On July 28, 2016, United Arms of Santa Rosa will be holding their annual Cram the Van event, where we will be collecting school supplies for under privilege children in our community. It will be held at Walmart in Gulf Breeze starting at 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in 4 hour shift intervals. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for a time, please email me at kyle.wyrock@navy.mil or ABH2 Johnson, Brian at brian.a.johnson2@navy.mil. Please take advantage of this opportunity by giving back to the community.

## Navy Gateway Job Openings

Navy Gateway Inns & Suites is currently recruiting team players who have positive attitudes and enjoy working with people. We have openings in both housekeeping and front desk operations. Stop by the NGIS Front Desk in Building 2942 for an application or call us at 623-7605 for further information.

## Study Skills Classes and Study Groups for Next Advancement Exam

Want to do better on your next promotional exam? The Fleet & Family Support Center can help! We can develop Study Skills classes by rating and we're organizing small study groups for the upcoming advancement exam in September. Just let us know what rating and we can help you get more points on your exam! We would like to get small groups, by rating, if possible. Classes immediately available are ABH, HM and MA. Please call Donna at 623-7404 for further information or assistance.

## Commissioner Rob Williamson Hosts Second Annual County-wide Listening Tour District Four

Commissioner Rob Williamson is hosting his second annual county-wide listening tour this summer. Residents are encouraged to attend one of five meetings, held in each voting district of the county at a variety of times, to discuss issues that impact our community and the county as a whole:

- Wednesday, July 20, 7:30 a.m. at the Pace Chamber of Commerce BreakfastOops Alley, 3721 U.S. Hwy. 90 in Pace
- Wednesday, July 20, 5 p.m. at the Navarre Visitor Information Center 8543 Navarre Parkway in Navarre
- Monday, August 1, 12 p.m. at the Jay Chamber Luncheon Jay Community Center, 5259 Booker Lane in Jay
- Tuesday, August 2, 8 a.m. at the Milton Library 5541 Alabama Street in Milton

## ProCamps Bring Football Stars to Military Youth

ProCamps Schedule from July 19-20: Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, Graham Gano, kicker, Carolina Panthers; Day 1: 1-4 p.m., Day 2: 9 a.m. - noon (Barrancas Ballfield); autograph signing at commissary: July 19, 4:30 p.m.

## Who Teaches Cooks to Cook?

James Briscione, culinary innovator and two-time champion on Food Network's CHOPPED, is offering a lesson called "Who teaches the Cooks to Cook?" as part of the IHMC (Florida Institute for Human & Machine Cognition) lecture-series. The event is on Aug. 11 with the reception time at 5:30 p.m. and talk time at 6 p.m. The lecture will be held on 40 South Alcaniz Street Pensacola, Fla. 32502. Seating is limited on a first come, first serve basis. To register, call 850-202-4462 or follow the link provided: <http://dm.ihmc.us/click?u=http%3A%2F%2Fihmc-20160811.eventbrite.com&i=4&d=5PSiERkXQ9-rGCbY3v-Ogg&e=stan.harper%40nexweb.org&a=u9NoCtMdTYGOgCdOkPtDsg>



### Pilot for a Day

As part of the Pilot for a Day Program, Ajani Wright, 12, enjoys his time with NAS Whiting Field Personnel at Training Squadron EIGHT, seeing what it was like to fly the TH-57. U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. j.g. Dat Nghiem

## Twins Soar through Flight School Together

By: Lt. j.g. Marissa Tungjunyatham, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs



1st Lts. Matteo and Andy Occhipinti celebrate their first formation solo flight in the T-6B Texan II during their Primary Flight Training with Training Squadron SIX. U.S. Navy File Photo.

Twins spend a lot of their lives growing up, going to school, and hanging out together. 1st Lts. Matteo and Andy Occhipinti, however, took it to the next level. Through luck and a little bit of effort, the fraternal twins have managed to go through flight school at the same time and soared through the skies together.

Matteo and Andy were born in Italy, Aug. 16, five minutes apart from each other with Andy as the older of the two. Ever since they were young, aviation had an influence in their lives. Matteo nostalgically recalled holding an F-14 Tomcat model while on their flight to America. They worked hard on discovering programs that would give him the best grades and athleticism needed to be officers of the Marine Corps.

While both knew they wanted to be Marines, Andy and Matteo took separate paths after high school. Andy was accepted to the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Marine Option at the Illinois Institute of Technology, while Matteo went to the University of Illinois in Chicago where he spent the summer of his junior and senior years working on his earning his commission through the Platoon Leaders Class (PLC). Matteo commissioned September 2013 and Andy commissioned May 2014, both with air contracts to be pilots for the Marine Corps.

The twins were then sent to The Basic School (TBS), but they were in different classes and platoons from each other. After completion of TBS, they checked in to Naval Air Station Pensacola School's Command for flight school one month apart.

Although Andy was ahead by one week during Aviation Preflight Indoctrination (API), the two studied together to pass all the tricky and rigorous exams the first four weeks of the curriculum threw at them.

"It's kind of like having both your best friend and your best study buddy here with you," Matteo said. "We know how we each study, and we know how the other thinks."

The twins passed their exams and celebrated their right to wear their flight suits for the first time on a day nicknamed as "Flight Suit Friday." Following that day, two weeks of API remained. By chance, on the final week of API, Andy had a bout with food poisoning that caused a delay in his training. When he recovered, he joined his brother's API class and graduated together with him.



1st Lt. Matteo Occhipinti watches his twin brother, 1st Lt. Andy Occhipinti, takeoff in a Lockheed Martin F-35 simulator. Both completed primary training with Training Squadron SIX, and are currently at Training Squadron SEVEN in Meridian, Miss. for advanced jet training. U.S. Navy File Photo by Lt. j.g. Marissa Tungjunyatham.

## Congratulations to TRAWING 5 Wingers



Top Row: Lt. Col. Cory DeKraai, USMC, CO Ht-28; Lt. j.g. Derek Pelletier, USN, HT-28; Lt. j.g. Jason Torres, USN, HT-28; Lt. j.g. Alexander Goulette, USN, HT-18; Lt. j.g. Christopher Manchiglia, USN, HT-28; John Galdieri, Guest Speaker; Middle Row: Cmdr. John McBryde, USN, CO HT-8; Lt. j.g. Dalton Webster, USN, HT-8; Lt. j.g. Shane Kerber, USN, HT-8; Lt. j.g. Jordan Wall, USN, HT-28; Lt. j.g. Ryan DeFranco, USN, HT-18; Col. Davis Morris, USMC, Deputy Commodore Tw-5; Bottom Row: Cmdr. Brian Sanderson, USN, CO Ht-18; Lt. j.g. Catalina Thompson, USN, HT-28; 1st Lt. David Fuentes, USMC, HT-8; Lt. j.g. Daniel Lee, USN, HT-8; 1st Lt. David Hansen, USMC, HT-18; Vice Adm. Joseph Mulloy, USN, Deputy CNO, Integration of Capabilities and Resources. U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. j.g. Marissa Tungjunyatham.



Congratulations to our Training Air Wing FIVE Academic Scholars from June 10 and June 17. Their awards were presented at the TRAWING 5 Headquarters building. Photo courtesy of Training Air Wing FIVE.

## 700 Military Children Earn Scholarships

By: Mike Perron, DeCA Public Affairs Specialist

FORT LEE, Va. – Seven hundred students from military families each received a \$2,000 scholarship this year thanks to the 2016 Scholarships for Military Children program.

The program, created in 2001, recognizes the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force and celebrates the commissary’s role in enhancing military quality of life. It’s administered by Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides assistance to service members and their families.

“With a 13 percent increase in applications this year, the program was even more selective than in the past,” said Fisher House Foundation Vice President Jim Weiskopf. “In addition to recognizing the scholastic achievements of the 700 recipients, we owe special appreciation to the Defense Commissary Agency business partners whose donations each year make the scholarship program possible,” he added.

No government funds are used to support the program. DeCA’s industry partners — vendors, manufacturers, brokers, suppliers — and the general public donate money to fund the program, and every dollar donated goes directly to funding the scholarships. The contributions go to Fisher House Foundation Inc., which treats each as a “restricted donation.” The foundation in turn contracts with Scholarship Managers, a professional scholarship management firm, to evaluate the applications and select the best qualified as awardees. In all there were 4,513 qualified applicants this time around.

“I’m always impressed with the creativity and dedication to the pursuit of scholastic excellence shown by these students,” said Michael J. Dowling, DeCA deputy director and COO. “These scholarships are a wonderful way to give back to the military communities we serve by investing in the futures of these brilliant children.

“Our stores are honored to host awards ceremonies for the students who’ve earned a scholarship,” Dowling added, “and it’s important that we also recognize the support of the many folks — our industry partners and Fisher House Foundation — for making the scholarship program possible.”

“The competition among applicants was keen,” said Weiskopf. “We are recognizing the best of the best.”

One student selected for a scholarship is definitely going places. Megan Stith of Chester, Virginia, said she will be attending school at Queens University Belfast, in Northern Ireland. Her father, Richard, retired from the Army as a chief warrant officer 3 after 24 years of service in 2014.

“I chose to apply there because it is sort of like home base for me,” said Stith. “I have friends and family there, because that is where my mother is from, and for me it is a place



Scholarships for Military Children recipient Traylan Rose celebrates with cake in the Sagamiyara Commissary, June 17, with help from Sagamiyara Commissary store director Velma Silver (left) and USAG Japan Command Sergeant Major Rosalba Dumont-Carrion. Rose was among 700 students selected this year to receive a \$2,000 scholarship from the Scholarships for Military Children program. DeCA Photo by Gabriel Webb

that I feel grounded. With the help of this generous scholarship, I will be able to continue my international education whilst minimizing my student debt. It is encouraging to know that I have the support of the military community.”

The number of scholarship awards each year is based on funds available, but the program awards at least \$2,000 at each military commissary. If there are no eligible applicants from a given commissary, the funds designated for that commissary are awarded as an additional scholarship at a different store.

The list of this year’s winners is posted at <http://www.militaryscholar.org/sfmc/winners16.html>.

Planning for next year’s program begins soon, and the announcement of open dates to apply is usually made in the fall.

Applications will be available in commissaries worldwide and online at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. To be eligible to apply for a scholarship, a student must be a dependent, unmarried child, younger than 21 – or 23, if already enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university – of a service member on active duty, reservist, guardsman, retiree or survivor of a military member who died while on active duty or survivor of a retiree.

Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current military ID card. 🐾

## Commissary Named Top Small Commissary in U.S.

By: Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Commissary recently earned recognition as the top small commissary in the United States from the Defense Commissary Agency.

The Richard M. Paget Award honors the best small commissary in the armed forces across a selection of grading criteria – customer satisfaction, sales, safety and more. Commissary Director Joseph H. Jeu praised the team for their superior performance.

“Considering the hard work you put forth to achieve this award, your efforts are truly commendable,” he said in his letter congratulating the staff. “Thank you for all you do on a daily basis to ensure the military community in your area receives the highest quality service from the commissary benefit.”

The crystal trophy will maintain a place of honor in the commissary in the trophy case next to the exit. Additionally, next to the display behind Register One the commissary staff will post the congratulatory letter from Jeu. Receiving the award was bitter-sweet due to the recent passing of the store manager under whose leadership the award was earned. The commissary staff created the display of photographs to honor Kristen Linn's memory and will keep the letter with the display recognize her dedicated leadership to the team.

“It is very exciting for the store to earn the award,” Grocery Department Manager Dawn Schultz stated. “The saddest part is that it would have been great to celebrate with [Kristen]. She did a lot of work to prepare the award.”

Schultz emphasized that the comments on the action line were undoubtedly one of the key reasons the staff was chosen. According to her, at most stores, the line is used to make complaints, but the Whiting Field store gets three or four comments a week, and they are nearly all positive.

“We are here for our patrons and we work hard to provide great service,” she said.

The commissary last earned the Paget Award in 2004.



The NAS Whiting Field Commissary Team is all smiles for their purple themed group photo. Official DeCA Photo.



NAS Whiting Field Commissary employees hold up the Richard M. Paget Award in front of their team photo to show that they could not have done this without everyone's dedication and teamwork. U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. j.g. Marissa Tungjunyatham.

**School Physical Rodeo**  
**Tuesday July 26th**

Call the Family Medicine Front desk to make an appointment at  
**623-7551/7552**

Please show up 15 minutes early to fill out necessary paperwork

Appointments will be for school & sports physicals **only!!!!**  
**Bring any shot cards you have**




## SECURITY CORNER

By: Stacy McFadden, NAS Whiting Field Security



Security Corner will review driving privileges onboard NAS Whiting Field as detailed in the NASWFINST 5560.5A. Last week covered section 5. Information - paragraph b. Inspection of individuals and Automobiles. This week continues with an overview of section 5. Information – paragraph b. Inspection of Individuals and Automobiles and c. Traffic Court.

5. Information – b. Inspection of Individuals and Automobiles –

(3) Persons convicted in civil courts for acts comprising similar conduct as described in subparagraph 5c will be subject to similar sanctions, regardless of where the conduct actually occurred.

(4) Persons committing acts prohibited by sub-

paragraph 5b (2) on other federal properties of military installations will also be subject to sanctions described in this instruction as though the offense occurred onboard.

(5) Any person who is issued a citation for a suspended or revoked state driver license and/or driving under the influence will have their vehicle towed by commercial wrecker at their own expense.

C. Traffic Court. A Traffic Court is hereby established to aid in the administration of the Motor Vehicle Traffic Management Program onboard. This Court will operate as an administrative body to take action as delegated herein and to advise the Commanding Officer concerning traffic violations. As an administrative body, the Court need not adhere to the fine lines regarding evidence required in courtroom practice, but will attempt to reach the truth of the matter, and will be fair and impartial in its actions. The Traffic Court will be composed of a traffic administrator designated by the Commanding Officer.

## Twins

- (Cont. from Page 7)

When the twins checked into Training Air Wing FIVE for Primary Flight Training with the T-6B Texan II aircraft, they knew they had to tackle this phase together. They requested to be in the same squadron and had absolutely no regrets on this decision. With Training Squadron SIX, the twins were given the special opportunity to go through the formation phase of Primary together.

“There was nothing else like flying really close and up next to my brother in formation.” Matteo said, “To practice, we would ride next to each other on motorcycles to practice our maneuvers. We had ICS [Intercommunications Systems] rigged in our [bike] helmets and that was the best way to practice forms!”

On top of that, Andy and Matteo spent nearly 100 hours in the practice T-6B simulators and doubled their hours in the simulator compared to the actual plane. The brothers were dedicated to their jobs as student aviators, pushing each other to do the absolute best they could, and performed exceptionally well in Primary

“Primary was awesome!” Andy said, “It was more intense academically, but all this flying, learning, and doing formation together – it was way cooler than just riding together.”

Their teamwork, effort, and determination paid off when the brothers were selected to be jet pilots for the Marine Corps. They transferred to Training Squadron SEVEN in Meridian, Miss. to learn how to fly the T-45 for their Advanced Flight Training.

“We’re excited about it,” Matteo mentioned. “I can’t wait to practice dogfighting with him.”

They plan on using their study strategies that have given them much success so far in flight school. Their Advanced Flight Training will start in August, so in the meantime, Andy is sitting in on ground school classes and passing on information to Matteo.

In between studying, Matteo and Andy spend a lot of their free time working out, spearfishing, and learning to surf together. Though they may seem inseparable, the brothers like to hang out on their own at times.

“I like to go out and party, while Andy usually stays home and watches Lifetime and Oprah,” Matteo joked.

“Hey, it saves me money that I can use to take my bike to the racetrack at Barker Motorsports in Birmingham.” Andy said in response.

Though they described their relationship with each other similar to an annoying marriage, the brothers don’t regret their adventure through flight school together.

“I know we’ll be separated at some point when we get out to the fleet,” Andy said, looking towards their future, “We’ve done the separation thing in college, so I know we’ll be fine.”

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## MAP Sailor

- (Cont. from Page 2)

Montford has proven to be an exceptional manager. As the Assistant Training Officer, he spearheaded about 1,100 professional training hours, inputted over 2,500 reports in the National Fire Incident Reports System (NIFRS), and documented over 100 respirator user training requirements into the Enterprise Safety Applications Management System (ESAMS) completely error free. He managed and traced 135 Department of Defense (DoD) certification packages for 102 firefighters and facilitated almost 900 live fire exercise hours, meeting 100 percent command readiness.

He also had a made a huge impact on the Command. As a certified Fire Inspector, he assisted in the command zone inspections and enforced state code and National Fire Protection Association standards. In addition, he worked as an Assistant Command Fitness Leader, in which he personally directed 12 command Fitness Enhance Program (FEP) sessions, decreasing Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) failures by six percent. As the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Manager, his diligence and attention to detail led to the command raising funds for the program, exceeding region goals. To further help his fellow Sailors, Montford also devoted almost 100 hours with the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim's Advocate helpline.

During his off-duty hours, Montford assisted in operation of the city's youth basketball program at the Milton Community Center. He also volunteered to help the community in beautification projects and fundraising to give back to the local people. This dedication to the public strengthened the command and local community bond. On top of his work on and off duty, Montford earned an Associate Degree in Fire Science with honors while attending Columbia Southern University.

For all that he has accomplished, Montford was most thankful for his peers.

"I appreciate you all pushing me," Montford said to them, "Without you all, I couldn't have done this. Don't let anybody tell you 'no' - Just keep trying."



Aviation Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Montford is surprised amongst his peers with the announcement that he would be promoted to 1st Class through the Meritorious Advancement Program. U.S. Navy File Photo by Jamie Link



Aviation Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Corey Montford receives his official promotion to 1st Class July 6. He is the first sailor at NAS Whiting Field to receive a promotion through the Meritorious Advancement Program, which was previously only available to operational commands. He stands with Aviation Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Terrence Wever, left, who pinned on his 1st Class collar devices, and NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer, Capt. Todd Bahlau, right. U.S. Navy File Photo by Lt. j.g. Marissa Tungjunyatham.

# NAS Whiting Field Discourages "Pokémon Go" Playing on Base

The highly addictive and popular nature of the "Pokémon Go" app has created difficulties for Naval Air Station Whiting Field as users attempt to play the game on the installation.

As a military installation, taking photographs on base without proper authorization (the app has a camera function), entering the base illegally, or stopping a vehicle in the roadway to use the application interfere with standard base operations and could potentially be met with disciplinary action. Therefore, utilizing the Pokémon Go application on NAS Whiting Field or its outlying areas is not permitted.

"We understand the fun of the game," NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Officer Jay Cope stated, "however, the integrity of the base and the safety of its personnel are our top priorities."

The Pokémon Go application is prohibited on base due to the camera function which is not allowed without proper authorization. Furthermore, anyone without proper base access will be turned away. This includes the installation's Whiting Park area on the Blackwater River.

"If you choose to play Pokémon Go, please stay aware of your surroundings and enjoy the game with multiple players, but don't play it while on board NAS Whiting Field," Cope said.

## Red James

- (Cont. from Page 5)

Born in Brewton, Alabama in 1922, James was raised in West Virginia. Following the attacks at Pearl Harbor, James enlisted in the Marine Corps and was designated as a Naval Aviator at NAS Pensacola in 1943. His training then took him to NAS Jacksonville where he trained on the F4U Corsair, and was later assigned to MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina, and Mojave, California where he trained to become an aircraft carrier pilot.

Looking back on his Corsair training, James still has vivid recollections of his instructors and his first lesson in flying that airframe. "I remember one of my first lessons", James said. "Back then, I was in a one seater, and the instructor was standing on the wing, and he would say 'punch this, punch that, touch that, now go!'"

James' affinity for the Corsair is obvious. "The Corsair had 2000 horses", James said, adding "The F6F (a descendant of the Corsair) was not as good of an airplane as the Corsair. I always looked forward to jumping in the Corsair".

In June 1945, James got his first taste of combat during the crucial Battle of Okinawa as a member of VMF-311 "Hell's Bells". This unit gained notoriety for being the first to use the Corsair as a close air-support dive bomber in support of Marines on the ground. Following the American victory on Okinawa, James saw service on the Japanese mainland.

Upon conclusion of the war, Red transferred to the Marine Corps reserves, married his wife of nearly 70 years, Dorothy, and had children. Life was peaceful until he was recalled to active duty upon commencement of hostilities in Korea. Because of his training and experience flying the Corsair, James was assigned to the famous VMA/F-312 "Checkerboarders", and soon found himself flying combat missions from the USS Badoeng Strait and the USS Bataan.

During this period of service, James flew 101 combat missions, earning seven Air Medals and two Distinguished Flying Crosses, as well as the Purple Heart.

It was while returning from one of these combat missions that James found himself on that harrowing approach to the carrier. As he approached the ship, he carefully timed his touchdown to coincide with the time at which the ship was at the midpoint of its back-and-forth rolling. Skillfully and gingerly, James placed his aircraft down on the flight deck. Upon climbing out of the plane, James noticed that his left wheel was barely on the edge of the flight deck, inches away from disaster.

Following his service in Korea, James and Dorothy felt the calling of the Florida panhandle and settled down in Milton, where James served in several capacities at Whiting Field: instructor pilot, schedules officer, flight officer, and assistant Officer-in-Charge of Whiting South Field Flight Unit. James' service in the Marine Corp ended in 1956.

Following his distinguished service in the Marines, James founded a construction company in Milton. The company was a success, and many of the buildings and homes we see every day in Milton were built by him. As an active participant in Milton civic life, James served as President of both the Lion's Club and the Navy League. He was also named a Knights of Columbus Grand Knight. On two occasions, James was hon-

ored as Santa Rosa County's Man of the Year.

One legacy of James' flying career can be seen displayed prominently at the National Naval Aviation Museum on NAS Pensacola. The museum has a static display of an F4U Corsair, tail number 18; James piloted that very aircraft during his service in the Korean War. Recently, James was invited to participate in the Museum's Discovery Saturday series, in which the role of the Corsair was highlighted. "What are the odds?" said James. "They made 12,571 Corsairs, and what are the odds that I had flown this one?"

Even at age 94, James' enthusiasm for flight has not waned. He will be taking to the skies over Pensacola Beach as a member of the Veteran's Flight for the 2016 Pensacola Beach Air Show, "Red, White, and Blues".

Members of the Greatest Generation can be considered 'walking libraries', keepers of memories and experiences we shall never be able to replace. As we lose members of this generation, those memories and experiences can be lost as well. Men and women like James serve their country one last time by sharing, documenting, archiving their thoughts and memories of one of the most pivotal periods in American history.

When asked what advice he would give to today's aviators, James replied, confidently, "Live life like you're going to live forever".

## Accessing Higher Education

Donna Collins, Life Skills Educator at the Fleet & Family Support Center will facilitate this track at the FFSC's training room, Building 2998 from 0800-1600, 25 & 26 July 2016.

Service members and reserve component personnel in this course discover the education requirements needed to attain their career goals. Higher Education Institutions and degree programs are found. Options are reviewed such as the number of classes needed to complete the degree or certificate, number of military credits that may be transferred, what the degree will cost—GI Bill, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), loans, grants and scholarships are discussed—and how much flexibility the institution offers. For example, does the college offer a Health Sciences major and Nutrition minor?

- Although participants do not fully complete a college application package, they obtain the skills and information needed to fully complete the application outside class.
- CRS Note: A completed application for (or an acceptance letter from) a Higher Education institution is a CRS requirement on DD 2958, CRS/ITP Block 3.
- Application or acceptance letter must be presented at Capstone Event.

Spouses are welcome to attend.



Contact Donna Collins at (850) 623-7177 to reserve a seat.