

Whiting Tower

Seventy-three Years of Aviation Training News

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Discamus vincere in caelum

Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.
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Forging Wings for the Fleet
February 8, 2017



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NAS Whiting Field Participates in Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield Exercises

By Ensign Brittany Stephens, Whiting Field Public Affairs

NAS Whiting Field participated in training exercises Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield (SC-CS) this past week with an active shooter drill on base.

Since 2007, Naval bases across the continental United States conduct SC-CS as a means to enhance Anti-Terrorism and Force Protection measures. The exercise creates a learning environment for security personnel to test operations plans in response to real world threats.

Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Commander, Navy Installations Command coordinate SC-CS each year to ensure the Navy is prepared to tackle changing and dynamic threats.

This year, NAS Whiting Field built a scenario with an active shooter at the Naval Branch Health Clinic. The simulated gunman made his way to the clinic and “shot” four people inside using a red plastic firearm while gunshot noises were heard over a loudspeaker. He then took one of the base personnel hostage, in an office.

Security effectively responded to the situation, neutralizing the gunman after the hostage escaped. Hostage negotiators and emergency medical services from Life Guard ambulance were brought on scene to treat simulated victims and coordinate with NAS Whiting Field security personnel.

SC-CS will continue through Feb. 10.



Patrolman Spivey arrests simulated active shooter Master at Arms First Class Joseph Pellicano. The arrest comes after several hours of the shooter isolating himself and a hostage in an office in NAS Whiting Field Medical Branch. US Navy Photo by Ensign Brittany Stephens.

Travel Show Arrives to NAS Whiting Field

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office

Morale Welfare and Recreation’s Community Recreation Ticket and Travel Office will host their 5th annual Amazing World of Travel and Recreation show Friday, Feb. 24 in the Atrium building at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. The show will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to provide patrons an opportunity to learn about travel and leisure opportunities across the southeast.

More than 40 representatives from travel and recreation destinations will be on hand to provide information about their venues. Hotels, amusement parks, athletic teams, scenic destinations and more will be represented at the event.

A few of the many vendors will include: Adventures Unlimited, Audubon Nature Institute, Best Western, Blue Wahoos, Disney World, Kennedy Space Center, Medieval Times, Naval Aviation Museum, Spirit of Suwannee Music Park, Wild Adventures and many more.

Patrons of the show will also be eligible to win one of the many door prizes that will be given away during the show. Previous shows have included door prizes such as free entrance to the parks, hotel stays, and gift baskets. To be eligible for a door prize, pa-

- (Cont. on Page 5)

Cover Photo:

NAS Whiting Field Security Patrolmen enter the Branch Medical Clinic as participants in an active shooter drill. The drill was part of a country-wide training exercise known as Solid Curtain Citadel Shield. U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Brittany Stephens, 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.

New Financial Literacy App Prepares Sailors for Blended Retirement Choices

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- A new application for mobile devices designed to enhance financial literacy for Sailors is available today and helps provide the latest info on the Blended Retirement System (BRS) that goes into effect in 2018.

The app is designed to provide Sailors with anytime, anywhere access to both training and resources that will help them make informed decisions about their financial future, which is especially critical as the military gets ready to begin BRS Jan. 1, 2018.

“This is a very important time for Sailors to be aware of their finances and this app covers a wide range of topics that will keep them on top of their money,” said Jim Simpson, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) N170. “Whether they are opting-in to the new retirement system, looking to make smart car-buying choices or planning for their children’s future, this gives them one spot to start building that knowledge.”

Targeted primarily for active duty and reserve service members, the app also serves as a valuable tool for Navy family members. Users will be able to explore issues like managing their credit, building a spending plan, home buying, moving, as well as how to navigate survivor benefits, insurance and the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) among many other topics.

Outside of the standard financial topics, there is a BRS resources tab that includes info and Appropriated Fund civilian employees, with the exception of those specifically excluded under applicable laws. The current April 1 rollout and mandatory training affects CNIC. - (Cont. on Page 5)

The Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System

COMMANDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Encourage retirement preparation - ask your Service members “What is your retirement goal?”
- Remind eligible Service members the BRS Opt-In Course is mandatory.
- Ensure your Service members are provided time and access to retirement and financial management counseling.
- Encourage members to share and discuss financial and retirement information with their family members.

KEY TALKING POINTS ABOUT BRS:

- About 85% of Service members will receive some form of government retirement benefit.
- Receive automatic 1% DoD and up to 4% DoD matching contributions to Thrift Savings Plan.
- BRS adjusts the multiplier from 2.5 percent to 2.0 percent for calculating monthly retired pay.
- Service members can elect 25% or 50% lump-sum of their discounted retired pay in exchange for reduced monthly retired pay at retirement.
- Eligibility for continuation pay in exchange for committing to additional service.
- No one will be automatically switched to BRS.

Opting into the Blended Retirement System

Anyone serving BEFORE Jan. 1, 2018 is grandfathered under the legacy retirement system.	Serving as of Dec. 31, 2017 Active Duty with < 12 years or Reserve Component with < 4,320 retirement points may Opt-In.	AFTER Dec. 31, 2017 new accessions will be automatically enrolled into BRS.
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This Day in Naval History

February 8

1862 - A joint amphibious expedition captures Roanoke Island, N.C., securing Norfolk Navy Yard and the eventual destruction of CSS Virginia.

February 9

1799 - During the Quasi-War with France, USS Constellation, commanded by Capt. Thomas Truxtun, captures French frigate Insurgente off Saint Kitts and Nevis Island.

February 10

1945 - U.S. Navy submarine USS Batfish (SS 310) sinks three enemy submarines from Feb. 10-13.

February 11

1862 - SecNav Gideon Welles directs the formation of an organization to evaluate new inventions and technical development that will become National Academy of Science.

February 12

1935 - USS Macon (ZRS-5) crashes into the sea off Point Sur, Calif., effectively ending the Navy’s trouble-plagued rigid-airship program.



USS Batfish fires upon enemy submarines. Source: Naval History and Heritage Command, Communication and Outreach Division

Commissary Store Brand Names Unveiled

From DeCA Corporate Communications

FORT LEE, Va. – The Defense Commissary Agency has chosen the names “Freedom’s Choice™” and “HomeBase™” for its private label product assortment. That announcement came from DeCA Director and CEO Joseph H. Jeu.

Private label, also known as store brands, will be appearing on commissary shelves in May.

“Commissary patrons have been telling us for quite some time that they want to take advantage of the value offered by store brands, but commissaries have not had their own brand until now,” Jeu said. “We are proud of our new brands, and I believe our customers are going to be very pleased with the quality and low prices that Freedom’s Choice and HomeBase bring to our shelves.”

Freedom’s Choice will be the commissary brand name for food items and HomeBase for nonfood items such as paper products and other household items. With the initial rollout targeted

for May, patrons in commissaries worldwide can expect to see a number of DeCA’s Freedom’s Choice and HomeBase products.

It takes time to develop and allow for a store brand to reach maturity, so the number of Freedom’s Choice and HomeBase products will continue to grow much larger over the next four to five years.



“Freedom’s Choice and HomeBase will give our patrons another chance to save money without sacrificing quality on brands priced significantly lower than national brands,” Jeu said. “Our private label products will also be equal or lower in price to commercial grocery store brands. These products will give our patrons the quality they expect and the savings they deserve.”

Private label products are offered by retailers under their own, in-house brand or under a brand developed by their suppliers. DeCA conduct-

- (Cont. on Page 7)

Six Things To Know About the New DoD Defense Performance Management and Appraisal Program (DPMAP)

By Junarion Hubbard

The new Defense Performance Management and Appraisal Program (DPMAP) will roll out on April 1 and mandatory training sessions are now being held on all Southeast Region installations. DPMAP will replace the Interim Performance Management System (IPMS) and the Performance Appraisal Review System (PARS) utilized by CNIC appropriated-fund employees.

The mandatory training is critical for understanding the changes employees and supervisors can expect as

DPMAP becomes the new appraisal system. Here are six things CNIC civilians need to know:

WHAT is the new Program? DPMAP is the new DoD Performance Management and Appraisal Program. Under the program, employees will be rated on a three level rating pattern at either 5 (Outstanding), 3 (Fully Successful), or 1 (Unacceptable) level. The program will link organizational mission and goals to individual performance plans, ensure regular feedback during the ap-

- (Cont. on Page 6)



TOWER CAFE
 Mon-Fri 0600 - 1300
 STUDENT STUDY CENTER
 NOW OPEN 24/7



Travel Show

- (Cont. from Page 2)

trons only need to complete their “passport” to each of the vendors’ booths.

Additionally, for the first time, MWR will host an “Amazing Race” competition for 12 two-person teams. The race will start and finish at the Atrium in conjunction with the travel show. Grand prize for the winning team is a two-night, beachfront getaway. Each team will have an assigned route to complete with a series of tasks at key locations on base. Interested participants should call the fitness center at 850-623-7412 to sign up.

The show usually draws around 300 people to the event and is open to active and reserve military, DoD civilians, contractors and family members with base access. It is one of MWR’s marquee events each year.

“The travel show provides lots of fun and great door prizes donated by our vendors,” MWR Director Tom Kubalewski stated. “It brings together venues from a variety of states offering discounts for our Whiting Field team.”

Finance App

- (Cont. from Page 3)

graphics, frequently asked questions, as well as training links that will be refreshed as new courses and training materials become available. Once finished, the retirement calculator for BRS will be included as part of the app as well.

BRS is effective Jan. 1, 2018 and service members eligible to opt-into BRS will have until the end of 2018 to decide if they want to switch to the new plan. Everyone serving today can stay under the current system, while those with fewer than 12 years of service as of the end of 2017 will have an opportunity to opt-into the new retirement system. New Sailors will automatically be enrolled into the new system as of start of 2018.

The U.S. Navy Sea Warrior Program (PMW 240) produced the app and Tracen Technologies Inc., a company that specializes in integrated mobile and web solutions, was the software developer.

The Navy Financial Literacy mobile application is available for download from the iTunes and Google Play online stores. To find the free app, search “Navy Financial Literacy” in the app stores or in your Web browser.

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/naswhitingfield

Follow us on Twitter: @naswf

Follow us on Instagram: @naswhitingfield



The Feb. 24 Travel Expo will have over forty vendors that attendees will be able to discuss discount rates and programs available. U.S. Navy File Photo.

SECURITY CORNER

Ways to Avoid Getting a Ticket On A Naval Base

By: Stacy McFadden, NAS Whiting Field Security



Before you get in your vehicle, make sure:

- You have a valid driver license. You can check with your state about military extensions.
- Your registration is up to date. Each state is different, consult

with your state DMV if you are unsure.

- Your vehicle is insured, and that the insurance is up to date. Always carry proof of insurance in the vehicle (see NASWFINST 5560.5A Paragraph 11 for coverage).

The vehicle you are driving is operationally sound (everything works: lights, wipers, no cracked windshield, smog and noise, height compliant with state laws).

- 2) Once you’re in the vehicle, check:
 - That you and all vehicle occupants have on seat belts
 - Before you enter the base turn off and unplug your radar detection device. They are prohibited on all DOD installations.

Drivers, don’t use cell phones while driving on base, safely park the vehicle then use the phone.

As per NASWFINST 5560.5A - The Prohibition against using hand-held cellular phones does not include hands-free cellular phone devices. Hands free devices include consoled/dash-mounted or otherwise secured cellular phones with integrated features such as voice-activation, speed dial, speakerphone, or other similar technology for sending and receiving calls. Remember it’s prohibited to drive with anything in your ear canal or over your ears, except for fire and emergency response or law enforcement/security purposes (does not include hearing aids or devices designed and required for hearing enhancement).

Commissary Brands

- (Cont. from Page 4)

ed extensive research into developing the commissary brands, surveying hundreds of military members and their families to obtain their input for names and logos.

“We talked to our customers about a number of package titles and showed them potential artwork for our commissary brands,” said Chris Burns, DeCA’s executive director for business transformation. “The Freedom’s Choice and HomeBase names and logos proved to be overwhelmingly popular.”

Plans to start promoting Freedom’s Choice and HomeBase have already begun and commissary customers will be noticing these names and logos very soon.

In December, DeCA announced its partnership with SpartanNash to begin developing the commissary brands. SpartanNash, through its military division MDV, is the leading distributor of grocery products to military commissaries in the United States. 🛩️

DPMAP

- (Cont. from Page 4)

praisal cycle between employees and supervisors, and result in increased employee engagement, morale, and effectiveness.

WHO is covered? All Department of Defense GS employees who are covered by the Interim Performance Management and Appraisal System (IPMS). Employees under the PARS system or other systems can expect more information later this year.

WHEN will it be implemented? CNIC employees currently covered under the Interim Performance Appraisal System (IPMS) will transition into the new program on April 1, 2017.

WHERE can I find more information? Mandatory training courses are being offered to CNIC employees and their supervisors. To register for one of the training courses contact your command training officer.

WHY is it being implemented? DPMAP is being implemented per the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act requirement that DOD implement a “fair, credible, and transparent” way to link employee bonuses to performance appraisals of employees. The program is designed to implement a fair, credible, and transparent appraisal program, ensure employee engagement, and encourage continuous feedback and ongoing recognition of employee contributions.

HOW will it be implemented? Commands will use a standardized automated performance appraisal tool called MyPerformance to create employee performance plans. This will be the only tool authorized to create, review and approve performance plans, document modifications, progress reviews, employee input and performance appraisals. Employees who do not have access to work place computers will use a hard copy version of the updated DD Form 2906 to create their performance plans 🛩️



Sailors Give Back at Local Charity Event
NAS Whiting Field Sailors volunteer their time at the event Stop Hunger Now. Volunteers unloaded ingredients from a truck for more than 10,000 meals for distribution. On Saturday, Jan. 28th at first United Methodist Church at the Fellowship Hall. US. Navy Photo by Aviation Boatswains Mate First Class Bryan Nutter.



Recycle your old plastic soda bottles, milk bottles, detergent bottles, and whatever other plastic your community accepts for recycling. These can be used to produce a variety of items, including other detergent bottles, plastic lumber, fiberfill sleeping bag insulation, and clothing. Twenty-six recycled plastic soda bottles can make one polyester suit.



Editor's Note: Special thanks to Ensign Zach Morris who 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. Look for a special feature on Morris in the next edition of the Tower. If you have an idea for a strip, please email zmorris1011@gmail.com for a chance to see your idea put into print.

MWR Happenings

- Our next Paint 'n' Sip event is scheduled for Thursday, March 2 in the Atrium entrance. It's only \$25 per person and is sure to sell out soon ... reserve your pallet before it's too late!
- 1-13 Feb “Chocolate Kiss Contest” at the Liberty Center - “Visit the Liberty Center to compare your kiss counting skills”
- Wednesday, Feb 8, 10 a.m. - Bagel Day at the Liberty Center - Enjoy complimentary bagels and coffee at the Liberty Center

- Wednesday, Feb 22, 4 p.m. - Darts and Billiards at Ace's Pub - Throw some darts and sink some balls at the pub
- Friday, Feb 24, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Travel Show in the Atrium with Community Recreation Tickets and Travel - Attend this event to browse through Travel & Recreation Destinations from across the Southeast. Visit the booths and register for an opportunity to win great door prizes - 12 teams of 2 will have a chance to compete for one Amazing Prize with the Amazing Race competition, visit the fitness center to register.

- Friday, Feb 10, 5 p.m. - Family Dinner at Liberty
- Saturday, Feb 11, Noon - Love Boat Rides at the Whiting Park Outdoor Recreation Facility - Hop on a canoe boat for ride along the Blackwater River
- Tuesday, Feb 14, 10 a.m. - Valentine's Day Party at the Child Development Center
- Tuesday, Feb 14, 10 a.m. - Stupid Cupid at the Liberty Center - Visit the Liberty Center to see what they have in store ... for Stupid Cupid
- Tuesday, Feb 14, 11 a.m. - FREE Red Velvet Cup Cakes at Mulligan's Snack Bar
- Saturday, Feb 17, 4:30 p.m. - Gallery Night Liberty Road Trip - Jump in the Liberty Van to Pensacola for Gallery Night”
- Saturday, Feb 18, 11 a.m. - “PENSACON” Liberty Road Trip - Jump in the Liberty Van to Pensacola for PENSACON”

TRAWING -5 Academic Achievers



Congratulations to Training Wing FIVE's Student Naval and Marine Corp Scholars who made the Commodore's List on Feb. 6, 2017.



Congratulations to Training Wing FIVE's Student Naval Aviator who earned the Academic Award on Feb. 6, 2017.

Whiting Field News

Congratulations to TRAWING -5 Wingers and Scholars



Top row: Lt. Col. Cory Dekraai, USMC, CO HT-28, Lt. Nathaniel D. White, USCG, HT-8; Lt. j.g. Marco Pilade, Italian Navy, HT-18; Lt. j.g. James M. Fennessey, USCG, HT-8; Ensign Ryan M. Litchert, USN, HT-18; Cmdr. Crain P. Bradford, USN, CO HSM-48
Middle Row: Cmdr. Brain Sanderson, USN, CO HT-18; 1st Lt. Stephens T. Picchini, USMC, HT-8; Lt. j.g. Gregory W. Turner, USN, HT-8; Lt. j.g. Jake B. Nichols, USN, HT-8; 1st Lt. Kyle R. Steenberge, USMC, HT-8; 1st Lt. Sahil K. Patel, USMC, HT-18; Capt. Mark Murray, USN, CO TW-5
Bottom Row: Cmdr. Stephen A. Audelo, USN, CO HT-8; Ensign Sean R. Reilly, USN, HT-28; 1st Lt. Anasitasia Ioane, USMC, HT-18; Ensign Anna H. Halverson, USN, HT-28; Lt. j.g. Jonathon B. Jones, USN, HT-8; Lt. j.g. Roberta Valloni, Italian Navy, HT-18



Congratulations to Training Air Wing FIVE's Student Naval and Coast Guard who earned Academic Achievement awards on Jan 25, 2017



Congratulations to Training Air Wing FIVE's Student Naval and Marine Aviators who earned Academic Achievement awards on Feb. 1, 2017