Navy Awards Contract For New Advanced Helicopter Training System

From Program Executive Office Tactical Aircraft
Public Affairs

NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND, PATUXENT RIVER, Md. (NNS) -- The U.S. Navy announced on Jan. 13, 2020 that AgustaWestland Philadelphia Corporation (Leonardo) was awarded a contract for $176.5M for the production of 32 TH-73A helicopters in support of the Advanced Helicopter Training System (AHTS) program.

“Today marks a great team effort to procure and deliver a helicopter trainer for the next generation of helicopter and tilt-rotor pilots for the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard,” said James F. Geurts, assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition. “I’m proud of the aggressive work the team did to leverage the commercial industrial base to get this capability to the warfighters, and our nation, at the best value to the taxpayer. This effort is key to ensure the readiness of our Naval Aviators for decades to come.”

Five proposals were submitted for the contract. The new firm fixed price TH-73A contract was awarded on a best-value tradeoff basis with a base and three one-year options. The base year contract is for $176.5M for 32 aircraft. The total contract value is $648.1M for the procurement of 130 aircraft. Helicopter deliveries are scheduled to begin in calendar year 2020 and continue through calendar year 2024.

The new helicopter will meet advanced rotary wing and intermediate tilt-rotor training requirements for the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard through 2050. The TH-73A will be manufactured in United States with assembly taking place, through FAA Airworthiness certification, in the contractor’s FAA Part 21 facility in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In addition to the TH-73A, the contract includes initial spares, peculiar support equipment, flyaway kits, hoists, sling loads, data in excess of Commercial Form Fit Function (FFFF) / Operations Maintenance Instructional Training (OMIT) Data, as well (CONT. Pg. 3)
as ancillary instructor pilot & maintenance personnel training. The award is the culmination of a competitive source selection process supported by personnel from the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) and the Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA).

“The new Leonardo TH-73A helicopters are the cornerstone of AHTS, which is the planned replacement to address the capability and capacity gaps of the current aging TH-57 Sea Ranger helicopter training platform,” said Capt. Todd St. Laurent, Naval Undergraduate Flight Training Systems (PMA-273) Program Manager. “The TH-73A will provide a modern helicopter training platform that will serve rotary and tiltrotor training requirements into the foreseeable future. These new helicopters will ensure the Navy has capacity to train several hundred aviation students per year at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field in Milton, Florida.” PMA-273, at NAS Patuxent River, Maryland, oversees AHTS.

The Navy awarded a contract Jan. 13, 2020, for the new TH-73A Advanced Helicopter Training System to replace the TH-57, such as the one shown here. TH-73A deliveries are scheduled to begin in calendar year 2020 and continue through calendar year 2024. Sundown for the 35-year-old TH-57s, which are becoming more difficult to maintain due to obsolescence and lack the appropriate cockpit avionics and aircraft performance capability, will begin in fiscal year 2022 and conclude in fiscal year 2024. (US Navy photo by Lt. Michelle Tuck-ker, CNATRA Public Affairs Officer)

Bob Asmus, NAS Whiting Field Assistant Operations Officer received the Chamber “Hall of Fame” award from Sharon Pitts on Jan. 10. (Photo courtesy of Linda Clark, LC Creative Pro- ductions).

The Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce recently recognized Mr. Bob Asmus, Assistant Operations Officer for Naval Air Station Whiting Field, at an installation and award luncheon. Asmus received the “Hall of Fame” award from the chamber for his long term contributions to Santa Rosa County, the Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Santa Rosa, and many other activities that foster and support the community and surrounding areas.

Asmus is a retired Naval aviation commander and helicopter pilot. During his 24-year Naval career, he was assigned in many positions including NAS Whiting Field Operations Officer. In the 1990s, he was assigned as the Secretary of the Joint Staff, Headquarters European Command, Stuttgart, Germany. Throughout his successful career, he supported five deployments in various positions in the HSL (helicopter anti-submarine light) community. As a lieutenant, he was also a flight instructor for VT-2 squadron in the 1985-1988 timeframe. Asmus retired from the Navy in 2001, and immediately continued to serve at Whiting Field as a civil service employee in many different capacities.

“It is very humbling and a huge honor to be recognized as a Santa Rosa County Chamber Hall of Fame recipient. Santa Rosa is a great place to live with amazing people. It’s such a supportive community to our military and civilian men and women who serve here, and I couldn’t ask for a better place to live and work,” Asmus commented upon receiving the award.
2019 Photos--NAS Whiting Field Year in Review

NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Paul Bowdich is greeted by Executive Officer Cmdr. Jim Brownlee and Command-er, Navy Region Southeast, Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar at Outly-ing Landing Field Site X opening Jan. 30, 2019. (Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)

Leaders from NAS Whiting Field, Public Works Department and Training Air Wing Five cut the ribbon at a ceremony for the new Fixed Wing Operations Center Sept. 9, 2019. (Photo by Lt.j.g. Nick Wren, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)

NAS Whiting Field’s Morale, Welfare Recreation team and partners from Santa Rosa County chamber of commerce host the annual military appreciation picnic in May 2019. Whiting fami-lies partake in a free meal and lots of fun activities. (Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)

NAS Whiting Field Navy Security Forces prepare for a training exercise. These men and women maintain security onboard the installtion 24/7, 365 days a year. (US Navy photo)

Visiting fleet helicopters parked on Whiting’s South Field ramp during the Naval Helicopter Association and Training Air Wing Five Fleet Fly In on Oct. 23, 2019. This annual event affords student aviators a chance to see and fly the helicopters they may one day operate in the fleet. (Photo by Lt.j.g. Nick Wren, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)

Helicopter Training Squadron (HT-18) Naval aviators and “Santa Claus” fly in to wish children at Pea Ridge Elementary School a happy holiday on Dec. 17, 2019. (Photo by Lt.j.g. Nick Wren, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)
NAS Whiting Field Credits Team Members For Saving A Life

_Milton, Fla._ – For many service members, hanging up the uniform at the end of a shift signifies the end of the workday and the beginning of some much needed downtime. Two NAS Whiting Field (NASWF) employees recently found out that is not always the case.

On Oct. 30, Chief Aviation Boatswains Mate (Handling) Shane Ammons and NASWF Patrolman Douglas Waller, retired U.S. Navy, were enjoying an evening with fellow members of the 210th Branch Fleet Reserve Association in Milton, Fla., until things took an unexpected turn.

“Does anyone know CPR?” a woman cried out as she pushed through the front door. Without hesitation, both Ammons and Waller sprang into action and rushed to help.

“My initial reaction was fear, but I literally jumped out of my flip-flops to help,” said Ammons. Only after losing his footwear was Ammons pointed outside to the scene where he saw a man unconscious in the driver’s seat of his truck.

As Waller approached the vehicle, he described seeing the man as unresponsive and “blue in the face.” To make matters worse, the man’s physical stature also proved to be a challenge.

“I didn’t really think of the idea until it happened, but I was able to pull the seat handle and lay him flat on his back while he was still in the vehicle,” said Waller. “He was a bigger guy, so CPR would have probably worked better there than trying to get him out of the truck.”

Ammons and Waller worked as a team alternating between giving chest compressions and rescue breathing until paramedics arrived. After nearly five minutes and three cycles, they were able to detect a pulse and soon saw visible signs of breathing. Once on scene, paramedics informed them the individual had suffered a heart attack and that their actions saved his life that day.

Waller, a native of Titusville, Fla., and former 1st Class Gunners Mate of twenty-years said, “we took an oath to serve. We train for this sort of thing and it feels good that I got to put the training to use and save a life that day.”

Ammons, originally from Lowell, Ind., previously served as an emergency medical technician (EMT) before joining the Navy. Since joining the Navy, training for these types of situations is common, especially within the ABH rating. Firefighting, rendering first aid, and practicing CPR are among the many forms of training within the profession.

“I take training very seriously,” said Ammons. “We never expect things like this to happen, but we train like it’s the real thing.”

When asked if he felt like a hero that day, Ammons said, “I try not to think about it too much. I really don’t know what a hero feels like. I’m just proud that we saved his life.”
2019 Junior and Senior Civilian Award Winners Announced

By Ensign Anthony Harrison, Public Affairs Staff

NAS Whiting Field has one of the busiest Morale, Welfare and Recreation teams in the Navy. They plan and execute dozens of fun, healthy and exciting activities every month for the Whiting family.

Behind the scenes of every MWR event is a motivated team whose dedication, creativity, and passion for making people smile all comes together. From family game nights and picnics to Christmas tree lightings and crafting events for kids, the MWR staff does it all. In 2019, two members of the MWR team went above and beyond expectations and proudly earned recognition as Junior and Senior Civilians of the year.

Hailing from Spencer, Iowa is Junior Civilian of the Year, Kayla Ashlock. Ashlock currently works as a recreational assistant at Whitting Park in Milton, Florida. She has nearly three years of experience under her belt.

“I’ve been working with MWR since I was 17,” said Ashlock. “My typical day usually starts around 8:00 am, and I can do anything from opening the park, cleaning it, to renting and performing maintenance on our boats. During the park’s off season, I work at the Liberty Center on base. It’s all much better than working in fast food in my opinion!”

When she’s not working, most of her time is spent at the gym or in attendance at Pensacola State College finishing her associate’s degree in physical therapy. Earning recognition as this year’s top junior civilian, Ashlock says, “I really wasn’t expecting this, and I didn’t think the recommendation would go this far! But I’m happy to have earned it. The bonus and time off will be nice too!”

Also sharing recognition for her efforts is Senior Civilian of the Year, Katie Prestesater. Prestesater, a native of Columbia, Mo., has more than 11 years of experience from coast-to-coast working with MWR. She currently serves as the Recreation Director at Whiting Field.

Prior to coming to Whiting Field, her career has taken her to many places such as Chicago, Monterey and Lemoore, Calif., and Guantanamo Bay.

Over time, she developed a unique perspective in approaching her work. “To provide fun, you have to test the fun,” said Prestesater. Before every event, she and the MWR staff “test” the activities to ensure others will enjoy them.

Behind the scenes is a tireless and often overlooked aspect of the job itself and her personal connection to sharing fun with others. “It’s a constant state of improvement. I want every event to be better than the last one. Ultimately, it’s my goal to share excitement and enthusiasm with others!”

When it comes to accepting this year’s award Prestesater says, “It’s been an honor to earn but also tough to accept. It really is a representation of their [MWR staff] work. But, as a service-oriented person, giving back gives me purpose. For that, this is all a dream come true.”

Junior Civilian of the Year, Kayla Ashlock (Left) and Senior Civilian of the Year, Katie Prestesater (Right). (Photo by Ens Harrison, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office)
2019 Bluejacket of the Year: Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Handling) 3rd Class Shane Moniz conducts a radio check from a crash vehicle as part of his daily duties. The San Diego native is the acting Fire Captain at Navy Outlying Landing Field Santa Rosa and the only 3rd class petty officer to successfully earn this qualification on base. Fire captain is often earned later in one’s career. “I’ve worked really hard to earn this recognition. I’ve also had great mentorship along the way to help get me here. We are all family, and I am very blessed and thankful for this opportunity.” When asked what the future holds, Moniz said he plans to earn his EMT qualification.

Junior Sailor of the Year: Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Handling) 2nd Class Heath Mcardle directs a crash vehicle at NAS Whiting Field’s mid-field hangar. Hailing from Eustis, Fla., Mcardle is currently the Division 3 chief of training and is responsible for fire and emergency training, managing qualification trackers, and conducting field operations as needed. “All the work I’ve done between volunteering, college coursework, and helping the command has definitely been worth it. I believe I’m a Sailor for others to emulate, and I’m grateful for this recognition.”

(left photo) Senior Sailor of the Year: Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Robert Leverett, instructs a young controller at Whiting’s South Tower. Leverett, Whiting’s South Tower Branch Chief, is from Oldtown Fla., and has served for more than 14 years. His responsibilities include managing and qualifying Sailors in air traffic control operations. “My job is to ensure the tower operates at optimum efficiency,” said Leverett. Earning recognition as Senior Sailor of the Year, Leverett said, “It’s unbelievable yet very humbling. I wouldn’t be here without my junior Sailors. I believe their success is my success.”
USS Nautilus (SS 168) evacuated 29 civilians from Teop Island, Solomons. Also on this date, USS Porpoise (SS172) attacked a Japanese convoy and sank the freighter Renzan Maru off the coast of Honshu, Japan.

January 10, 1934
In the first nonstop formation flight from the United States to Hawaii, six Consolidated P2Y-1 aircraft from Patrol Squadron (VP-10) depart San Francisco, Calif. After flying 2,399 miles in 24 hours and 35 minutes, the P2Y-1 aircraft arrive at Hawaii on Jan. 11.

January 16, 1991
Operation Desert Storm begins to liberate Kuwait from Iraq. After three months, Iraq requests a cease fire, which is formalized by the United Nations in April.

January 22, 1945
Three US Navy destroyer escorts, Corbesier (DE 438), Conklin (DE 439) and Raby (DE 698) sink the Japanese submarine I-48 off Yap Island, Caroline Islands.

January 27, 1967
Tragedy strikes the Apollo space program when a flash fire occurs in command module 012 during a launch pad test of the Apollo/Saturn space vehicle being prepared for the first piloted flight, the AS-204 mission. Three astronauts, Lt. Col. Virgil I. Grissom, a veteran of Mercury and Gemini missions; Lt. Col. Edward H. White, the astronaut who had performed the first United States extravehicular activity during the Gemini program; and (Navy LCDR) Roger B. Chaffee, an astronaut preparing for his first space flight, died in this tragic accident.
Whiting Field Awards and Recognition

Congratulations to Training Air Wing Five Academic Award and Commodore’s List Recipients

TW-5 Academic Award and Commodore’s List recipients receive recognition at TRAWING-5 Headquarters on Nov. 26, 2019.

TW-5 Academic Award and Commodore’s List recipients receive recognition at TRAWING-5 Headquarters on Dec. 18th, 2019.

TW-5 Academic Award and Commodore’s List recipients receive recognition at TRAWING-5 Headquarters on Dec. 27, 2019.
Whiting Field Awards and Recognition

Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Wingers

TOP ROW: Lt.Col. Gregory R. Curtis, USMC, CO HT-28; Lt.j.g. Tyler J. Brennan, USN, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Edward O. Honey, USN, HT-18; Lt.j.g. Tristan M. Morris, USN, HT-28; 1st Lt. Jay C. Stell, USMC, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Nicholas J. Yusko, USN, HT-18; 1st Lt. Tanoy Mandal, USMC, HT-18; Lt.j.g. Neil E. Forsberg, USN, HT-28


(November 22)

TOP ROW: Cmdr. Nathan Moore, USN, CO HT-28; Lt.j.g. Christopher S. Tribble, USN, HT-8; 1st Lt. Tyler S. Hardenbrook, USMC, HT-8; 1st Lt. Wyeth G. Rietveld, USMC, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Blake T. Krell, USCG, HT-8; Lt.j.g. Geoffrey P. Youngblood, USN, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Thomas J. McEntee, USCG, HT-28; 1st Lt. Jared D. Grove, USMC, HT-28; Capt. Timothy McGuire, USCG (Ret.) Guest Speaker

MIDDLE ROW: Lt.Col. John Beal, USMC, CO HT-18; 1st Lt. Patrick E. McEnaney, USMC, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Anthony R. Giovino, USN, HT-18; Lt.j.g. Francis J. Carmody IV, USN, HT-8; Lt.j.g. Griffin K. Walter, USN, HT-18; Lt.j.g. Christopher L. Jacobsen, USN, HT-8; Lt.j.g. Russell R. Pruitt, USN, HT-8; Lt.j.g. David J. Borden, USN, HT-8; Capt. Doug Rosa, USN, Commodore TW-5

BOTTOM ROW: Cmdr. Lena Kaman, USN, CO HT-8; Lt.j.g. Caleb J. Teachout, USCG, HT-18; Lt.j.g. Hayes P. McCullagh, USN, HT-8; 1st Lt. Henry C. Couzens, USMC, HT-8; 1st Lt. Evan N. Roberts, USMC, HT-8; Lt.j.g. Justin M. Luk, USN, HT-18; Lt.j.g. Hannah M. Vincent, USN, HT-8; Lt.j.g. Gretchen M. Krause, USCG, HT-8.

(December 13)
Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Wingers


MIDDLE ROW: Lt. Col. John Beal, USMC, CO HT-18; 1st Lt. Matthew B. Noffo, USMC, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Eric L. Jensen, USN, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Edmund A. Hendrickson, USN, HT-8; Lt.j.g. Andrew W. Robinson, USN, HT-18; Lt.j.g. Gabriel R. Samaniego, USN, HT-28; Lt.j.g. David N. Stewart, USN, HT-18; Lt. Daniel W. Siders, USCG, HT-8; Lt.j.g. Mark E. Thomsen, USN, HT-28

BOTTOM ROW: Cmdr. Lena Kaman, USN, CO HT-8; Lt.j.g. Sarah M. Lankford, USN, HT-18; 1st Lt. Brittany Hartsfield, USMC, HT-8; Lt.j.g. Tyler K. Evans, USN, HT-28; 1st Lt. Rene A. Ebarguen, USMC, HT-28; 1st Lt. Robert M. Whitlock, USMC, HT-8; Lt.j.g. Andrew M. Habil, USN, HT-28; Lt.j.g. Andrew T. Penney, USN, HT-8; Lt.j.g. Nicholas G. Tourney, USN, HT-8; Col. Joseph Richards, USMC (Ret.), Guest Speaker

(January 10)