



Vol. 68 No. 5

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

NASWF retention team earns excellence award

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Whiting Field's command retention team was named a recipient of the 2011 Retention Excellence Award via a Navy administrative message last week. The base was one of only 39 Navy shore commands to achieve this designation.

The award recognizes commands that achieve established retention goals through the course of the year.

"Your dedication and commitment to career motivation and excellence not only exemplify your superb performance, but also attest to your concern for the personal and professional needs of our Sailors. Every member of your command can be justifiably proud of their achievements," Vice Adm. Michael Vitale stated in the message.

Requirements for the award include achieving a passing grade above 85 in the annual retention review; having a first term attrition rate below 5.5 percent; and exceeding 59, 66, and 72 percent retention for first, second, and third term Sailors.

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Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Gary Ashley, Navy Counselor 1st Class Gwendolyn King, Senior Chief Naval Aircrewman Sage Mathis, Master-at-Arms 1st Class Lynn Hults, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Tanisha Thompson, Aviation Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Jorge Ocasio, Aviation Maintenance Administration 1st Class Julio Castro join Capt. Matthew Coughlin in front of the anchor that will be painted gold to symbolize NAS Whiting Field's receipt of the Retention award. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

NAS Whiting Field announces Sailor of the Quarter recipients

By Ensign James Hedman, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Whiting Field recently selected its Sailors of the Quarter for the First Quarter for fiscal year 2012.

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Scott Grettum, Aviation Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Darrell Zofcin, and Air Traffic Controller Airman Keesha Hunt were respectively named the Sailor, Junior Sailor and Blue Jacket of the Quarter.

All three Sailors were recognized for their outstanding performance on duty and within the community.

Grettum fulfills the duties of Naval law enforcement on base. Specifically, Chief Master-at-Arms Russell Nunn says Grettum "renders assistance to military and dependant personnel on the clarification of Naval law enforcement



ABH2 Darrell Zofcin

rules and regulations."

Grettum does this, of course, while acting as mentor and trainer to junior Sailors and Department of Defense patrolmen and guards in security. All told, Grettum is responsible for the guidance of 50 security members.

In addition to being a watch commander on weekends, Grettum has donated over 200 hours of his time to various charitable organizations and causes such as the Moreno Mission, Religious Child Development, Operation Christmas Tree and Operation Elf.

Security department Head Lt. j.g. Daron Pettus had high praises for Grettum, noting, "Grettum is without a doubt a true motivator, leader, and mentor... he is the finest

- (Cont. on Page 6)

Read fine print on credit cards before you sign

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of financial notes the Whiting Tower will run through the Military Saves Campaign Feb. 19-25. All these notes will inform about money savings or financial issues to help service members "build wealth not debt."

Not all credit cards are alike. That's why it's important to carefully review a card's terms and costs before you sign up for it.

In general, if you expect to pay your card bill in full each month, your best bet is a card with no annual fee and with the kinds of rebates or rewards that fit your lifestyle.

"You also want to make sure the creditor grants you a 'grace period' before incurring interest charges; not all card companies do that nowadays," said Karen Porter, a Senior Consumer Affairs Specialist at the FDIC. With cards that have no grace period, you always pay interest, starting from the date of purchase.

If you don't expect to pay off your card balance in full most months, go for a card with a lower Annual Percentage Rate (APR) and the right mix of rebates or rewards to justify any fees. Also, if the card has a low, introductory in-

terest rate, be sure you know when the new, higher rate will take effect and what that rate will be. And credit cards with offers of "zero-percent interest" on purchases for a certain amount of time could end up being more expensive if you don't pay the balance in full by the expiration date.

"When considering a balance transfer, make sure you know all the details and terms of the transfer," added Nancy Tillmon, an FDIC Consumer Affairs Specialist. "Online credit card calculators also can help you compare the terms of existing accounts against the details of the new card. Comparing card products could save you money."

Also, be cautious of all fees. For example, credit cards that offer generous "rewards" (such as points or cash back) may have high annual fees. "The terms and conditions of earning and using the rewards can be complicated," warned Porter. "Rewards cards may also cause you to overspend just to earn the points."

Other fees to think about include late fees, over-the-limit fees, and balance transfer fees.

From FDIC Consumer News Spring 2011 (<http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/news/cnspr11/creditcards.html>):

This Week in Naval History

Jan. 30

- 1862 - Launching of the first turreted warship, USS Monitor.
- 1863 - The gunboat Isaac Smith is captured by Confederate land forces while on reconnaissance up the Stono River.
- 1968 - The Tet Offensive begins in Vietnam.

Jan. 31

- 1944 - A U.S. amphibious landing takes place on Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.
- 1961 - Lt. Cmdr. Samuel Lee Gravely Jr. becomes the first African-American to command a combat ship, USS Falgout (DER 324).
- 1981 - The era of enlisted naval aviators ends when the last pilot retires.

Feb. 1

- 1941 - The U.S. fleet is reorganized, reviving the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets.
- 1942 - USS Enterprise (CV 6) and USS Yorktown (CV 5) make the first World War II air strike on the Japanese in the Marshall Islands.
- 2003 - Space shuttle Columbia brakes apart during re-entry on mission STS-107. Cmdr. William C. McCool (Pilot), Capt. David M. Brown (Mission Specialist) and Cmdr. Laurel B. Clark (Mission Specialist) are killed in the incident, along with four other astronauts.

For more news, visit www.history.navy.mil.



Recycle More Bottles and Cans

It may not be immediately obvious, but one of the benefits of recycling is saving fuel that would otherwise be used to extract and process virgin materials. A typical family consumes 182 gallons of soda, 29 gallons of juice, 104 gallons of milk, and 26 gallons of bottled water a year, and all those containers add up! Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours -- or the equivalent of half a gallon of gasoline. So if you recycle two cans a day that would save 365 gallons of gas a year. When it comes to plastic, recycling saves twice as much energy as burning it in an incinerator. And the 29 billion water bottles we use a year require 17 million barrels of oil to make, enough to keep a million cars going for twelve months. The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle is enough to run a 100-watt light bulb for four hours or a compact fluorescent bulb for 20 hours.

Make Your Own Natural Cleaning Products

You may not have given it much thought, but many cleaning products on the market are made from petroleum derivatives. (This also goes for candles, beauty products, fabrics and many other common items.) The average American uses about 25 gallons of cleaning products a year. Since some of these products have a lot of water in them as well, let's assume that it takes half that volume in oil to make them - 12.5 gallons. As an alternative, make your own cleaning products! The process can be simple and fun, and you can scent them exactly to your taste with natural essential oils.

See www.thedailygreen.com for more tips.

News and Notes

Wings Over America - The Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation is currently accepting applicants for their 2012 college scholarships. The fund offers scholarships to dependent spouses and children of active duty, retired, honorably discharged or deceased servicemembers. The sponsors must have served in naval aviation and subordinate commands. More than 40 scholarships were awarded in 2011. Check www.wingsoveramerica.us for qualification forms or to review eligibility requirements.

Military Mardi Gras - The Coast Guard ATC Mobile sponsored Gulf Coast Military Mardi Gras Ball will be held on Friday, Feb. 10 2012. It is open to all military branches. It will take place at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza in Downtown Mobile. Discounted rooms are available at the hotel, but they run out pretty quickly. Tickets and more information is available at www.militarymardigras.com

Pensacola Beach Law Enforcement Polar Plunge - 1000, Saturday, Feb. 25, behind Holiday Inn Beach Resort on Pensacola Beach. Entrance Fee will be for the price of a t-shirt: \$15.00 short sleeve / \$20.00 long sleeve / \$10.00 for children. The "Bear Logo" will be on the back of the shirt and 2012 will be on the front. Pre-registration is required so that the t-shirts can be pre-ordered. Please provide your name, contact information, number of t-shirts required (with sizes, to include adult or children) and colors (pink, black, white, green). POC: Ms. Kady Hall, (850) 983-5984, or Ms. Mattie Smith, (850) 981-7824.

Steel Magnolias - Panhandle Community Theatre will present Steel Magnolias Feb. 9-12 and 16-19 at the Storage Masters retail complex on Woodbine Road in Pace. This comedy-drama play centers around a small Louisiana town, six Southern women, a beauty parlor, Christianity, medical battles, relationships with men, and the underlying group-friendship among all six women and the bond they ultimately share. This hit play was made into a movie in 1989 starring Julia Roberts and Dolly Parton. Tickets are \$12. Call 850-221-7599 or email panhandlecommunitytheatre@yahoo.com for reservations.

SOY & FIOY Banquet - Santa Rosa County Navy League Council will host the 2012 Sailor-of-the-Year / Flight Instructor-of-the-Year Recognition Banquet, 6:30 - 10 p.m., Friday, Feb. 3, in Sikes Hall. All base personnel are invited. Cost is: Active Duty: \$15 and Retirees / DOD / contract personnel: \$25. The meal will be catered by the Cutting Board. Please RSVP and pay in advance by 31 Jan 2012: Mrs. Angela Johnson, CTW-5 Secretary, 623-7555.

Ice Flyer Tickets - The Naval Air Station Whiting Field Information Tickets and Travel office has dicounted tickets to all Pensacola Ice Flyers home games at the Pensacola Civic Center. Games start at 7:05 p.m. and only cost \$8.50 to watch (regular price is \$16). They have several games in February, including: Saturday, Feb. 11 vs. Louisiana - Mardi Gras Jersey Auction; Sunday, Feb. 12 (5:05 p.m. start) vs. Huntsville - Boy Scout Day; Thursday, Feb. 16 vs. Louisiana; Saturday, Feb. 18 vs. Mississippi Surge - (come downtown early for the Mardi Gras Parade @ 2 p.m.); Friday, Feb. 24 vs. Columbus - Ladies night; Saturday, Feb. 25 vs. Mississippi Riverkings - Weiner Dog Race and Race Jersey Auction; and Tuesday, Feb. 28 vs. Mississippi Surge.

FFSC Victim's Advocate Training - The Fleet and Family Support Center will host Ms. Lisa Burrus, Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate, Feb. 22 at 9:30 a.m. She will share information regarding the services she and her staff offer to the citizens of Santa Rosa County and how to access those services. The



Retaining Our Best and Brightest
Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Thorice Armstrong recites the oath during his reenlistment, Friday, Jan. 27. Lt. Chris Mitchell administered the oath to Armstrong who reenlisted for six years. U.S. Navy photo by Ensign James Hedman.

primary function as a Victim Advocate is to provide immediate crisis intervention to crime victims within the Santa Rosa County community. They provide services 24/7 and are available upon request of any local emergency response agency in need of an advocate. Most common cases where needed: Sexual Assault/Battery, Homicide, Hostage situations, Robbery, Home Invasion, and Child abuse cases requiring immediate response. They also provide transportation to court hearings and assist victims with obtaining Protection orders and navigation of the local court system. Anyone aboard NASWF who may benefit from learning more about this community resource is cordially invited to attend. Clinic staff, Command Leadership, Security and Fire Department Personnel, Supervisors, etc... For further information or to sign up please contact Pat Dillenback at FFSC, 623-7177.

Softball Tryouts - The Whiting Warriors softball team will hold tryouts Feb. 12, 19, and 26 at 3 p.m. at the base softball complex. Call 850-665-6102 for details.

Renaissance Faire - Come see knights, wizards, jesters, jugglers, jousting, fire breathers, dancers, sword fights, and more at the 11th annual Gulf Coast Renaissance Faire, Saturday and Sunday March 3 & 4 at the Pensacola Fairgrounds. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children five years old and over. Children four and under get in free. For more information, call 850-429-8462 or see www.gcrf.us.

Mardi Gras - The Milton Mardi Gras parade is gearing up for their annual route down Stewart Street Thursday, Feb. 16. The parade will line up at 4:30 p.m. and move out at 6 p.m. The route will head south down Stewart Street, east on Berryhill Street and south on Willing Street. Call 850-626-6246 or visit www.mainstreetmilton.org for details.

Bridge Run - The 15th annual Pensacola Double Bridge Run will begin at 7 a.m. at Plaza De Luna Saturday, Feb. 4 for 15K participants at 8:30 a.m. at GulfBreeze High School for 5K participants. There is still time to register. Call 850-434-2800 or visit www.doublebridgerun.com for details.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 3, 1830 - SOY and FIOY Banquet - Sikes Hall
Feb. 10, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
Feb. 15, 1100 - African-American History Lunch - Auditorium

Feb. 20 - Presidents' Day Holiday
Feb. 23, 1100 - Navy League P-Cola Civic (Margaret Flowers)
Award Luncheon - New World Landing

Fleet and Family Support Classes

How to Apply for Federal Jobs - Monday, Feb. 6 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Is it worth your while to invest your time and effort in searching and applying for a federal job? If your answer is yes, then you need to attend this class to learn to prepare the best application possible. You will learn how to read an announcement, analyze core competencies for language, analyze vacancy listings for keywords and how to apply for jobs. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact FFSC at 850-623-7177.

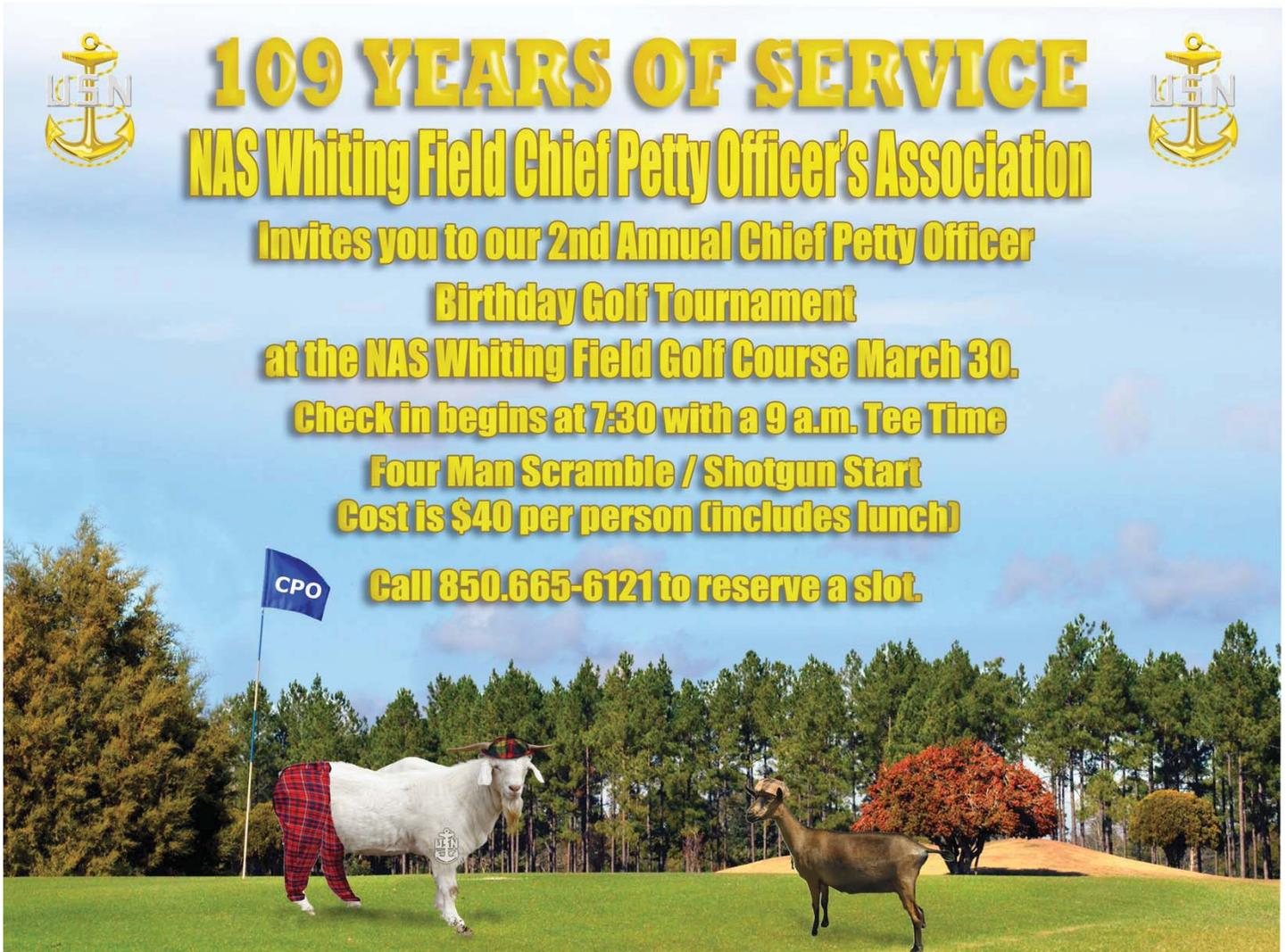
Anger Management - Wednesday, Feb. 8 from 1 to 2 p.m.

Is anger affecting your health, your relationships or your work performance? Learn to understand the causes and effects of unhealthy anger and how to express and release that anger in a healthy way! Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact FFSC at 850-623-7177.

Gambling Awareness - Thursday, Feb. 9 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Ever wonder how gambling affects your relationships with your family, friends and even the risks it can pose to your career. This class details gambling statistics, the prevalence of gambling problems and military directives that govern conduct concerning gambling. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact FFSC at 850-623-7177.

IA Discussion Group - Monday, Feb. 13 from 1 to 2 p.m.



109 YEARS OF SERVICE
NAS Whiting Field Chief Petty Officer's Association
Invites you to our **2nd Annual Chief Petty Officer**
Birthday Golf Tournament
at the **NAS Whiting Field Golf Course March 30.**
Check in begins at 7:30 with a 9 a.m. Tee Time
Four Man Scramble / Shotgun Start
Cost is \$40 per person (includes lunch)
Call 850.665-6121 to reserve a slot.

Retention excellence

- (Cont. from Page 1)

NAS Whiting Field's numbers easily passed those thresholds with 80, 72 and 83.3 percent first, second and third term retention. The overall statistics for 2011 showed a 77.8 percent rate which was more than 20 percent higher than the 2010 numbers.

"The command reached retention goals because of aggressive mentoring, career development boards, and counseling to ensure all Sailors were given the best guidance and structure to make the best informed decisions and stay Navy. Every level in the chain of command played a role," Navy Counselor 1st Class Gwendolyn King said. "I believe we will continue to have sustained excellence in retaining our most qualified Sailors."

Certificates will be sent to the commands and NAS Whiting Field will be able to fly the retention pennant throughout 2012 to recognize the accomplishment.

"This is not only a testament to the efforts of the command retention team, but also recognizes the dedication our Sailors have to their careers and their country," NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Matthew Coughlin said. "It's exciting to receive the award and I hope it isn't the last. Great job!"

Navy releases FY-12 continuation board results to commanders

From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- Results from the Fiscal Year 2012 performance-based board for continuation of senior enlisted (FY-12 SECB) were posted in Bupers Online (BOL) for command access Jan. 31.

In accordance with NAVADMIN 194/11, Sailors not selected for retention will be notified by their commanding officer or officer-in-charge within seven calendar days of commander notification. After this seven-day notification period, a NAVADMIN will be released announcing that results are available in BOL for senior enlisted to check their individual status.

The board, which convened Dec. 5, 2011, was a performance-driven review of approximately 7,700 active, full time support and reserve master chiefs, senior chiefs and chiefs with more than 19 years of service and three years time-in-grade. The board is a force management measure, like perform to serve, allowing the Navy to retain the best Sailors, while meeting current and future planned end-strength controls.

Sailors not selected for continuation must transfer to the Fleet Reserve or retire by Sept. 30, 2012, and will have access to the Navy's Transition Assistance Management Program. Transition Assistance information can be found at <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/boards/ERB/Pages/TransitionInfo.aspx>.

Weekly Spotlight - Leann Bair

Branch of service:

Retired U.S. Air Force / U.S. Navy Civilian

Hometown:

Puyallup, Wash.

Job titles:

Airfield Manager

Command:

NASWF Air Operations

Years in service:

Over 25 years, 21 of it in the Air Force.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Never a dull moment, always something happening!

What is the best part of working for/with the Navy?

The quality of the people I work with.

What do you like best about Whiting Field?

The location and people.



Voluntary Sea Duty Program Provides New Opportunities



From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS)

-- According to NAVADMIN 043/12, released Jan. 31, the Navy is asking Sailors to volunteer for sea duty under a new initiative called the Voluntary Sea Duty Program (VSDP).

Volunteering to return to sea duty under this program offers two key benefits.

program offers two key benefits.

"The Voluntary Sea Duty Program's goal is to improve manning levels at sea, while providing motivated Sailors the benefits of geographic choice and stability as well as the deferment of their Perform to Serve window," said Rear Adm. Tony Kurta, Director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy Division. "This opportunity allows Sailors a chance to improve their record and increase their competitive edge in PTS through sustained superior performance at sea."

This program does not change eligibility or benefits for the Sea Duty Incentive Pay Program and Sailors may take advantage of both programs concurrently.

Under the program, Sailors may apply to extend their enlistment in their current sea duty billet beyond their prescribed sea tour, terminate their shore duty early in order to extend their enlistment to obtain new orders to a sea duty

billet, or accept back-to-back sea duty orders. The sea duty assignment may be onboard ships, squadrons, or other qualified sea duty assignments.

Volunteers will be assigned to commands within the same geographic location as the current command if available, providing the benefit of geographic stability for Sailors and family members. The Navy will also consider Sailors' requests for out-of-area moves.

Volunteers will not be required to accept a billet they do not desire. The detailers will work with volunteers during two CMS/ID cycles to find desirable orders. If no match is found during this time period, Sailors can reapply.

To be eligible to apply for a short term extension to defer PTS, Sailors must meet eligibility criteria to ensure competitiveness in their next PTS window. However, Sailors who do not meet these criteria, but have enough obligated service time can still apply for geographic stability or choice.

Requests will be accepted until Sep. 30, 2012. All 1306/7 requests should be forwarded to Navy Personnel Command via the Chain of Command.

For complete information on eligibility, restrictions and application procedure as well as benefits of VSDP, read NAVADMIN 043/12 at www.npc.navy.mil.

For more information, visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy, or www.twitter.com/usnavy.

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp/.

Sailors

- (Cont. from Page 1)

example of a First Class Petty Officer."

Junior Sailor of the Quarter Darrell Zofcin serves as Crash Division Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Chief.

His responsibilities include training an eight-man crew in proper aircraft firefighting and rescue operations at Naval Outlying Field Brewton. During his tenure as ARFF Chief, he has overseen more than 300,000 flight operations and the safe response to 15 actual aircraft emergencies.

Also during the calendar year, Zofcin has dedicated over 100 off-duty hours to the United States Sea Cadet Corps as officer instructor and physical training coordinator.

Lt. Russell Lawrence, Crash Division Officer, said Zofcin, "shows genuine concern for his Shipmates and constantly provides counseling and mentorship..."

Finally, Air Traffic Controller Airman Keesha Hunt was praised by Senior Chief Air Traffic Controller Trevor



ACAN Keesha Hunt

Rowe and Lt. Chris Mitchell, describing her as a "recruit poster" and "invaluable Sailor and controller."

One of her greater accomplishments is qualifying "in four controlling positions in less than 40 percent of the allotted training time," according to Rowe. What is more, Hunt is a qualified instructor who has trained four personnel in controlling duties at NOLF Choctaw.

Off the clock, Hunt participates in a number of activities including the command color guard,

Divisional Community Service Representative, Divisional Exchange/Commissary Representative, and Habitat for Humanity.

Sailor of the Quarter honors are reserved for top-performing personnel at NAS Whiting Field. Sailor of the Quarter recognizes the top E-6 candidate; Junior Sailor of the Quarter, E-5; and Blue Jacket of the Quarter, E-1 through E-4.

Congrats to TRAWING-5 Wingers and Scholars



Back Row: Cmdr. Paul D. Bowdich, USN; Lt. j.g. Zachary A. Cavitt, USN; Ensign John C. McFerren, USN; 1st Lt. Christopher A. Montes, USMC; Lt. j.g. Thomas E. Horejs, USCG; Lt. j.g. Andrew J. Galvin, USN; Lt. j.g. Douglas P. Stahl, USN; 1st Lt. Adam J. Fuller, USMC; Col. James D. Grace, USMC.

Middle Row: Lt. Col. Mark C. Thompson, USMC; Lt. Shawn M. Chauvot, USCG; Lt. Robert E. McCabe IV, USCG; Lt. j.g. James S. Reily, USCG; 1st Lt. David K. Brummett, USMC; Ensign Nicholas J. Engle, USN; Ensign Thomas O. Mennerich, USN; 1st Lt. John R. Test, USMC; Lt. Col. Danny J. Verda, USMC.

Front Row: Cmdr. Jeffrey D. Debrine, USN; Lt. j.g. Daniel J. Blaich, USCG; Lt. j.g. Nathanael J. Rhodes, USCG; Ensign Jessica A. Vance, USN; 1st Lt. Brett A. Yoder, USMC; 1st Lt. Ryan C. Coulter, USMC; 1st Lt. Tyler M. Rosenau, USMC; Lt. j.g. Massimiliano Barovina Grandi, ITN.



Training Air Wing FIVE Cief Staff Officer Cmdr. Eric Seib presents an Academic Achievement award to Ensign Caleb J. Wyman, USN, Jan. 20 at the TRAWING-5 headquarters.



Lt. j.g. Maurizio Fratini, ITN; Ensign Spenser S. Olsen, USN; 2nd Lt. Harrison H. Whiting, USAF; and Ensign Joel R. Kunz, USN, received their Academic Achievement awards Jan. 27.