



## Fisher assumes command of TRAWING-5

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Training Air Wing FIVE observed a tried and true military tradition Thursday, March 21 when the wing held a change of command ceremony in front of the assembled military staff, friends, family and guests. However, there was a slight twist as a Marine Corps officer turned over command of a Navy command to a Navy officer.

TRAWING-5 is the only senior Navy command that has a colonel billet for a Marine Corps officer, and Col. James Grace was fortunate to be the second Marine to hold the post. He passed command of the wing to Capt. James Fisher who had served as his deputy commodore for 18 months. Col. Gary Kling assumed the deputy commodore position and is in line to be the next commanding officer of the unit. Fisher, a Naval Academy graduate from Buffalo N.Y. has returned to his roots after earning his helicopter wings at Naval Air Station Whiting Field in 1989. He also served as a flight instructor at the base from 1992 to 1995 with Helicop-

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Dennis Fitzpatrick presents the TRAWING-5 flag to Col. James Grace who will in turn, pass it to Capt. James Fisher symbolizing their exchange of command of the unit. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

## Grace bids adieu after 30-year Marine career



Training Air Wing FIVE Commodore Col. James Grace salutes the sideboys as he walks between them following his retirement ceremony March 21. His retirement was combined with the change of command when he relinquished his duties to Capt. James Fisher. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

An honorable Marine career came full circle March 21 as Training Air Wing FIVE's commodore ended his career where it started roughly 30 years ago.

As a young, wet-behind-the-ears pilot, 2nd Lt. James Grace could only concern himself with the demands of flight training. Now looking back as a full-bird colonel, he oversaw the Navy's largest training wing full of the same type of ambitious, fresh-faced students like he used to be. It was a job he found difficult to walk away from.

"As you know, this award represents the hard work by the men and women, officers, enlisted and wonderful Navy civilians who come to work every day to shape the future of Naval Aviation," he stated after receiving his second Legion of Merit medal. "What better mission is there? And what better job could anyone have as they leave the Marine

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Beginning with the first edition in April, the Whiting Tower will begin to be published every two weeks vice the current weekly format. This change will enable us to focus more on social media endeavors, web site upkeep, and hopefully enable us to provide a more dynamic Whiting Tower.

# Chalkboard Minute



**Chris Hendrix**  
Schools Liaison Officer

This week's article describes a general time line for student to follow during their high school careers. This is not a comprehensive list, but should be used to give ideas of what to do and when. The most important part is to contact a school guidance councilors with any questions throughout the process.

Freshmen, should meet early with their counselors and let them know that they plan to attend college and that they would like help in reaching that goal. Counselors maintain a wealth of knowledge and they will keep you up-to-date on all the changes that occur in financial aid and admissions. Meet with them as early as possible. Young students should also go to [www.FACTS.org](http://www.FACTS.org). This website will help students choose challenging courses and explore career choices that might interest them. Finally, start learning postsecondary requirements for the schools, join extracurricular activities, begin doing volunteer work, and create a savings plan.

Sophomores should again meet with theirr counselors early in the school year to ensure they are on track. Continue to take challenging courses and update career exploration. This year college-bound students should take the PSAT or PLAN tests that will help prepare for the SCT or SAT. Comparing schools or other programs is also a good idea at this point. Continue extracurricular activities and try to expand on volunteer service to include leadership roles. Finally, start looking at scholarships

and grants. This is a great website to start with <http://www.highfivescholarships.com/>.

For juniors, again meet with the counselor early in the school year. Continue to take challenging courses that will show a college recruiters the capabilities needed for advanced classwork. Attend college fairs and start to narrow down the schools or programs where you plan to apply. Take the PSAT, PLAN, or ASVAB again and sign up to take the ACT/SAT in the spring. Start putting together a high school portfolio to show college recruiters the capabilities needed to excel in the chosen curriculum. Continue to investigate funding and scholarships and continue with activities and volunteering opportunities. Research other types of financial aid such as Loans or Work Study.

The senior year is broken down by semesters. During the 1st semester, sign up for any ACT, SAT, or ASVAB retakes. Also, finalize choice of schools. Begin the applications for admission process and ensure all deadlines are met. Visit the school if possible. Finally, study, study, study! College acceptance is conditional on the last semester- DO NOT let "Senioritis" cost you the chance to attend the desired school.

During you last semester in school, you should apply for financial aid at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). This is the place to put in all you information to receive grants or loans. You should go to [www.FACTS.org](http://www.FACTS.org) to find your Bright Futures GPA and assure all needed courses are completed. Make sure to send your 1st semester transcripts to the colleges, and continue to track deadlines for fees, paperwork, and physicals. You should take your take your AP, IB, AICE exams and again continue to study, study, and study!

## TRICARE Notes

### TIPS TO REDUCE TOOTH SENSITIVITY

**If you find yourself wincing in pain with every sip of hot coffee or bite of ice cream you might have sensitive teeth. Tooth sensitivity occurs when an underlying layer of your teeth is exposed because of receding gum tissue, worn-down tooth enamel or cracked teeth. When this layer is exposed, it allows hot, cold or sweet food to reach the nerve in your tooth, which causes the pain you feel.**

**According to the American Dental Association, one of the most effective ways to help reduce tooth sensitivity is to use desensitizing toothpaste, which helps block sensations from the nerves of the teeth. You can take these additional steps to help prevent tooth sensitivity:**

- **Use a soft-bristled toothbrush**
- **Avoid highly acidic foods and drinks**
- **Avoid teeth grinding**
- **Visit your dentist for regular cleanings every six months**

## This Week in Naval History

### Mar. 26

1942 - Adm. Ernest King becomes both Chief of Naval Operations and Commander, U.S. Fleet.

1943 - The Battle of Komandorski Islands prevents Japanese reinforcements from reaching Attu.

1966 - Operation Jackstay is the Navy's first amphibious assault in Vietnam's inland waters.

### Mar. 27

1794 - Congress authorizes the construction of six frigates, including Constitution.

1880 - USS Constellation departs New York with food for famine victims in Ireland.

### Mar. 28

1800 - Essex becomes the first U.S. Navy vessel to pass the Cape of Good Hope.

1814 - HMS Phoebe and Cherub capture USS Essex off Valparaiso, Chile. Before capture, Essex had captured 24 British prizes during the War of 1812.

[http://www.navy.mil/search/display\\_history.asp](http://www.navy.mil/search/display_history.asp)

# News and Notes

**Uniform Change** - Commander Navy Region Southeast released the latest guidance for the spring uniform shift recently. Beginning at 12:01 a.m. April 1, the annual change to service dress whites and summer whites will occur.

**I Want to Ride My Bicycle** - Come ride the trails with the Outdoor Rec Program at UWF, Friday, March 29. The trip includes bike, helmet and transportation for \$13.50. If you provide your own bike it will be \$5 for transportation. Van will leave the Outdoor Rec Shop (located in the Bowling Center) at 10 a.m. and will return to Whiting Field no later than 4 p.m.. Transportation and bikes are limited so sign up now! Call 850-623-7670 for details.

**Relay for Life Team Drive** - The Milton Relay for Life Committee is looking for teams to participate in this year's Relay for Life at Pensacola State College Milton Campus, Apr. 26-27. Please contact Pat Holtman, the event chair, at pat.holtman@covenantospice.org or call 850-380-9666. Patsy Whiddon, team development, is also available for information at patsywhiddon@miltonchevy.com, or via phone at 850-341-9642.

**Ice Flyer Tickets** - The Ice Flyers are nearing the end of their 2012-2013. Discount tickets available for all home games at ITT - Corner \$11.50 and Center Ice \$14.50. Limited number of tickets available for each game. For further information call ITT 850-623-7032 or 850-665-6250.

**Energy Conservationists** - Public Works would like to recognize the following departments/commands for reducing their electricity usage the most from December. HT-8/18 with -10.1 percent, TRAWING-5 with -11.1 percent, and the Fire Station with -14.9 percent.

**Tee Time** - The Naval Aviation Schools Command Alumni Association will host their 54th NASC Invitational golf Tournament. The tournament will be held at the A.C. Read Golf Club at NAS Pensacola Friday, Saturday and Sunday April 26-28. It is a 54-hole four ball, two-man event with a modified handicap. Registration is \$130 per player (\$100 for active duty) which covers green



## Information Tickets and Travel

ITT is always available to help meet your travel needs, but sometimes they receive information too good to wait until a patron comes into their office. Universal Orlando's Military Salute promotion is now extended another 45 days until June 30. The promotion enables active duty or retired service members (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reservists) entrance into one of their two parks. Check with ITT at 850-623-7032 for details.

fees, cart, range balls and hors d'oeuvres on Friday and Saturday. Teams must win their flights Friday or Saturday to play on Sunday. Prizes will be awarded. Call Chuck Lisner at 850-477-2252 for details.

**App Alert** - The Thrift Savings Plan posted a notice on its website warning account holders away from an unsanctioned smart phone application. According to TSP, the Apple App Store lists a free iPhone application called TSP Funds that asks TSP participants for their account login information. That application is not being offered through TSP, and that TSP does not recommend using the app to access accounts. The app could pose a security risk.

**Good Friday Service** - All are cordially invited to attend an ecumenical chapel service as NASWF Chaplains and Monsignor Stephen Bosso team to conduct the Good Friday Service at 11 a.m. in the main chapel. The Thursday chapel service (March 28th) will move to Friday (March 29th) in observance of Good Friday.

**Gone Fishing** - The Wilcox Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor their month-long crappie tournament and derby April 13 at 6 a.m. The single day tournament ends at 3 p.m. that day, but the derby will continue until May 12. The tournament has prizes for hourly weigh-ins as well as overall top 10 biggest fish and junior largest fish. Top prize is at least \$1,000. The derby consists of catching tagged fish. Each tagged fish is worth at least \$100 with special fish tagged at up to \$25,000. Entry for the tournament is \$30 per adult and \$10 per adult for the derby. More information is available on the chamber's website at wilcoxareachamber.com or by calling 334-682-4929.

**Summer special** - Ridge Cinema Gulf Breeze & Ridge Pace Cinema movie tickets. Unrestricted - can be used for any movie, any time except 3D. Active duty only \$7.00 ~ all other authorized patrons \$7.50 per ticket. Tickets do not expire - purchase now before prices go up - limited number available. For more information, call ITT 850-665-6250 or 850-623-7032

## Usage Information

### Total Used

1,653,040 kWh

	1 Year Ago	Last Month	This Month
Total kWh Used	1,866,119	1,869,405	1,653,040
Average Daily kWh	64,349	60,303	59,037
Days In Billing Period	29	31	28

## Energy Conservation

Conserving energy remain an important goal in the operation of Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Steps taken during the past year by Public Works continue to pay dividends in our energy conservation programs. As can be seen in the above graphic from the February power bill, NAS Whiting Field saved 213,079 kilowatts of power from last year's bill. However, the power bill was still more than \$137,000 for the month. Please help decrease usage even more by remembering to turn off lights, shut down computers and printers, and limit usage of non-essential equipment.

## Upcoming Events

Mar. 27, 1100 - Women's History Month - Auditorium

Mar. 28, 1000 - NASP Change of Command - Museum

Mar. 31 - Easter Sunday

Apr. 4, 1008 - HT-8 Change of Command - Atrium

April 12, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Auditorium

April 26, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Auditorium

# Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

**VA Representative - Friday, April 5 & 19 from 8 a.m. to noon. (Call 850-623-7177 for appointment)**

**Surviving Financially When Funds Are Down - Friday, March 29 from 1 to 3 p.m.**

This class will give you the tips and strategies you need to survive periods of unemployment and/or underemployment. Maintaining your credit rating and how to deal with creditors during this period will be focused on as well. Class will be held in the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 850-623-7177.

**Interview Skills - Monday, 1 April 1 from 10 a.m. to noon.**

This workshop will discuss ten ways to conduct yourself in a job interview, how to organize yourself for an interview, and how to prepare for expected interview questions. Participants will also be given tips on how to end an interview. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 850-623-7177.

**Surviving Financially When Funds are Down - Wednesday, April 3 from 1 to 3 p.m.**

This class will give you the tips and strategies you need to survive periods of unemployment and/or underemployment. Maintaining your credit rating and how to deal with creditors during this period will be focused on as well. Class will be held in the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 850-623-7177.

**How to Apply for Federal Jobs - Monday, April from 8 to 11 a.m.**

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 in order to learn how to prepare the best application possible. You will learn how to read an announcement, analyze core competencies for language, analyze vacancy listing for keywords, and how to apply for jobs. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 850-623-7177.

## MCPON addresses Navy Working Uniform wear

In an effort to address concerns about the proper wear of the Navy Working Uniform (NWU), MCPON(AW/NAC) Mike Stevens is educating the fleet on the proper wear of the uniform. Below are the five most common mistakes made in wearing the NWU throughout the fleet and how to correct them according to NAVPERS 15665, U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations and NAVADMIN 366/11.

### 1. Improper Wear of Cover

**WRONG:** Rolling the brim, wearing the cover too high or too low, tilting to the side, or backwards.

**RIGHT:** The cap will be worn, forward, squarely on the head so the visor and headband are level to the deck and the visor is just above the eyes (NAVPERS 15665, Article 3603.1). Headgear shall fit snugly and comfortably around the largest part of the head without distortion, and no hair will show from under the front of the brim.

### 2. Incorrect Fit

**WRONG:** Shirts too big or too small, rolling sleeves too high or too low, or not wearing a belt.

**RIGHT:** Shirt length must extend to the bottom of the crotch, but not lower than the middle of the cargo pocket flap. No gapping at front of shirt as both sides of shirt opening must overlap. Sleeve cuff should cover the wrist bone, but not extend further than the first knuckle at the base of the thumb.



MCPON Mike Stevens

Rolled sleeves should form a three-inch band with the cuff buttoned and fabric side out, positioned two inches above the elbow. All buttons and must be secured. Belt must go through all belt loops, and a plain buckle must align with the opening of the fly. A decorated buckle shall be worn centered.

### 3. Worn in Unauthorized Areas

**WRONG:** Inside the Pentagon, around the National Mall, or for commercial airline, train or bus travel.

**RIGHT:** Can be worn at all facilities on base, while commuting to and from work in a privately owned vehicle or public transportation, and on government-contracted flights to and from overseas locations (NAVPERS 15665, Article 3603). Can be worn for all normal tasks and associated stops before, during and after the workday. This includes stopping at child care, gas stations, off-base shopping, banking, DMV and dining. Can be worn by recruiters in malls, schools or other recruiting areas (NAVADMIN 366/11). The area or regional commander may further restrict uniform policy within their geographic limits.

**NOTE:** NWUs are not a liberty uniform. Consumption of alcohol in NWUs is not permitted.

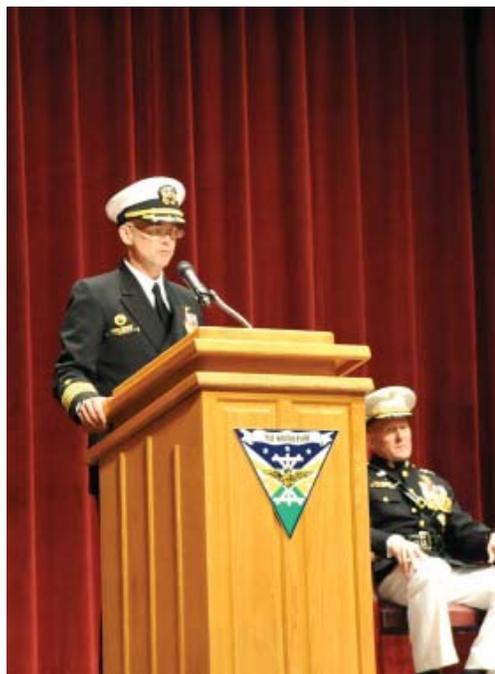
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# TRAWING-5

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ter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN, where he was named the HT-18 Chief of Naval Air Training Instructor of the Year. Throughout his career, Fisher has served with the “Lamp-lighters” of Helicopter Anti-Submarine squadron Light THREE-SIX (HSL-36), HSL-48, HSL-40 and HSL-42. While with HSL40, he was selected as the Squadron Officer of the Year, and the recipient of the Rear Adm. Paulson Award for Inspirational Leadership. Following a tour at the Naval War College, where he earned his Master’s Degree, Fisher reported to the Joint Staff and worked as an Assistant Deputy Director for Operations. He also served as the Commanding Officer of Training Squadron TWENTY-EIGHT out of Corpus Christi, Tex.

His final two assignments before coming back to NAS Whiting Field again, was aboard the USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD-6) as the airboss and at the Pentagon



Above: Capt. James Fisher, the new commodore of Training Air Wing FIVE, reads his orders assigning him responsibility of the wing as his new command.

Above Right: Col. James Grace cuts his retirement cake as Capt. James Fisher cuts the change of command cake. The cakes were sliced with the officer’s ceremonial swords at the reception following the change of command ceremony.

Right: Fisher’s wife, Susan, pins the command insignia on his chest.

U.S. Navy photos by Jay Cope.

as a Warfighting Support Branch Head. He arrived to TRAWING-5 as the deputy commodore in September 2011. Grace referred to this “ideal” wealth of experience during his remarks.

“I have benefited from having a wonderful deputy in Capt. Jim Fisher. I have said from day one that Jim is the perfect officer to lead this wing,” Grace stated. “He has been an instructor pilot in both advanced helicopters and the squadron commanding officer of a primary



squadron. It doesn’t get any better than that when you are looking for the experience and tools necessary to take this wing to the next level...I know that you are more than ready for this job and all that it brings.”

Grace leaves after eighteen months having supervised the pilot training for roughly 60 percent of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard initial fixed-wing training and 100 percent of the initial rotary training. The six training squadrons and two flight instructor training units flew more than 117,000 sorties encompassing nearly 190,000 flight hours under his guidance. The training provided more than 730 “airborne warriors” to the helicopter fleet and produced 1,500 primary completers ready to enter advanced flight training.

As the Wing Commander, he oversaw the transition from the T-34C Turbo Mentor to the T-6B Texan II primary flight trainer, helping the three primary squadrons complete their transitions as well as relieve problems associated with airspace congestion and access to landing fields for the new aircraft. Grace also instilled a culture of safety within the training wing that was highlighted during a 2012 Chief of Naval Air Training inspection, which resulted in the recog-

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# Uniforms

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## 4. Bad Blousing

WRONG: Pants unbloused, tucked into boots, or too high or too low.

RIGHT: NWU trousers should be worn with the belt at the waistline with legs long enough to touch the deck when not wearing boots. Use blousing straps and position the fold between the third and fourth eyelets on the boots (NAVPERS 15665, Article 3603.6).

## 5. Unauthorized Boots

WRONG: Anything other than the three types of authorized boots.

RIGHT: The only boots authorized for wear with the NWU are as follows. A black, plain, steel-toe smooth all-leather high-top (9-inch) safety boot with oil resistant rubber outsoles and speed-lace eyelet closures. A rough-out leather safety boot is authorized for Sailors at shore commands only. Bootlaces will be tucked in neatly (NAVPERS 15665, Article 3603.9). Also, Sailors whose primary duties are performed on the flight line and flight deck, and who are issued aviation flight deck boots as organizational clothing, are authorized to wear the flight deck boot with the NWU while commuting. The approved non-spark safety boot is a black, all leather (smooth), 8-inch boot with FOD outsole, lace-to-toe closure and steel safety toe (NAVADMIN 271/09).

# Pensacola VITA

As Naval Air Station Whiting Field will have no Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program this year, here are some locations where you may be able to receive assistance.

The following are the hours of operation for the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) sites onboard NAS Pensacola, Naval Hospital Pensacola (NHP), and CID/NASP Corry Station.

**NASP Bldg. 624: Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-noon, walk-ins only; (1-3 p.m. appointments only). Friday 8 a.m.-noon walk-ins only. Call to make an appointment. (Appointments are only for disabled and wounded warriors).**

**NATTC Bldg. 3460 Rm. 633: Mon.-Thurs. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. walk-ins only; Friday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. walk-ins only.**

**NHP (fifth floor): Monday-Friday 8:30-11 a.m. and noon-2:30 p.m.**

**CID Corry Station Bldg. 511, Rm. 121: Monday-Friday 1-3 p.m. walk-ins only; 4-6 p.m. walk-ins only.**

For those who do not qualify for services on base, there are VITA sites in Escambia County. For more information or help with questions, call the United Way's central information site at 595-5905, or (855) 698-9435.

Escambia County sites include: Pathways for Change Family Center:

2050 W. Blount St., Monday, 2-6 p.m.

Pensacola State College (Pensacola Campus): 1000 College Blvd. (Bldg. 17,

Rm. 1715), Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10

a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m.-2

p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Visit <http://myfreetaxes.com/unitedwayescarosa.com> for more information.

# Outdoor Recreation Calendar of Events

**March 29, 2013**



Trail ride at UWF! \$13.50 per person includes bike, helmet and transportation. Van will leave the Outdoor Rec shop at 1000 and return to by 1600.

**April 22, 2013**



Help Navy Outdoor Recreation this Earth Day with a river clean up! **FREE**

All base eligibles are welcome. Outdoor Rec will supply the canoes, trash bags and coolers. Please sign up by Friday April 19, 2013.

Van will leave from Outdoor Rec at 0800 and return to base after the last canoe arrives back at shore!

**May 11, 2013**



Active Duty and dependents join us for a day of ziplining and tubing at Adventures Unlimited!

Trip includes: transportation (limited to first 20 people), "taste of the tour" zipline, 4 mile tubing down coldwater creek and lunch!



**\$77.00**

Last day to sign up 4/26/13

**June 15, 2013**

Join us for a day of playing on the water. All base eligibles welcome! We will leave the base at 0800 and head to the beach with our BIC standup paddle boards. 9 spots available includes board, paddle, lifejacket and transportation.



**\$20**

**MILITARY CLIMB DAYS!**



UWF Indoor Rockwall March 30, April 27, & May 18 0900-1200

\$15.00 per person includes transportation \$12.00 if you will be driving yourself. Van leaves at 0800.

Open to all base eligible patrons. Spots are limited so sign up today!



# Grace

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Corps than to shape those who will take their place?”

TRAWING-5 was simply the final stop on a long and distinguished career. A Portland State University graduate in 1982, Grace joined the Marines in 1983 and earned his “Wings of Gold” at NAS Whiting Field in 1984, achieving Commodore’s List honors along the way – an award he has bestowed many times during the past 18 months. He began flying the UH-1N (Huey) at MCAS Camp Pendleton, Cal. After a few months, he was assigned to HMA-369 and deployed twice to Okinawa, Japan. It was the beginning of a love affair, both with the culture and a young Navy nurse named Dorothy, whom he later married.

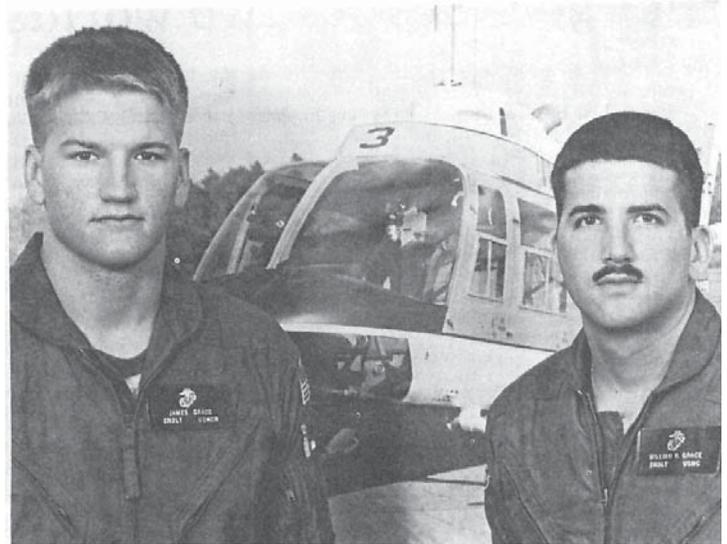
“Okinawa was the culmination of our training. I loved Japan. I have a real fondness for the culture and the people there,” Grace said about the location where he served four tours. “I had two kids and left with Dorothy pregnant with our third. You could say the creation of the Grace family pretty much happened in Japan.”

Although the “clan” of Dorothy, Olivia, James, William and Charlotte may have begun in Japan, Grace’s family ties with the military begin at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. His brother Bill went through advanced flight training just a few months ahead of Grace. The elder Grace was finishing up his time at Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN as James was preparing to solo out of Training Squadron TWO in the T-34C. The brothers also served together on the West Coast at Camp Pendleton for awhile early in their careers, and they didn’t diverge on separate career paths until they were majors. Bill retired as a colonel in 2008 and is now serving as the inspector general for the Virginia Military Institute. The younger Grace was promoted to his current rank while pursuing a Master of Arts degree in National Security Strategy at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

Grace also served squadron tours with HMLA-367, HMLA-267, HMT-303, HMM-266 and HMLA-167. Additionally, he completed tours with 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division; and Headquarters Marine Corps in the Aviation Weapons Requirements Branch, before gaining his first command – returning as the head of HMLA-167. When he relinquished command of the squadron, Grace was most proud of the fact that his team returned intact from their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit was the first Marine helicopter squadron in Iraq for the 2nd increment of OIF.

His final two tours before arriving to NAS Whiting Field were as the Joint Staff J3 Division Chief for Central Command and as the Director of Safety for Headquarters Marine Corps.

Having his career recognized in front of family and friends was a humbling and gratifying experience for the veteran helicopter pilot.



Above: This file photo from a September 1983 edition of the Whiting Tower shows brothers Bill and James Grace while they were attending flight training as 2nd lieutenants.

Below: Col. James Grace and his older brother Bill shortly after Col. Grace’s retirement ceremony. Grace retired with more than 30 years of service with the U.S. Marine Corps. Bill also retired as a colonel in 2008. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.



“Back then, I couldn’t envision anything past becoming a U.S. Marine Corps pilot. Tactical proficiency was the goal,” he said about his early beginnings in the flight program. “Everything I’ve attained, well, it’s humbling, because I know it is because of those who worked with me and allowed me to get to this point.”

While moving on from the Marines, Grace isn’t planning on moving out of the area. With Dorothy firmly ensconced as a nurse manager with Santa Rosa Medical Center, he is content to stay in the area he calls a “national asset.” While part of that may be the low cost of living, the natural beauty and the resources for a strong military presence; Grace refers back to the people who make up the community here.

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# Grace

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Chief of Naval Air Training Rear Adm. Mark Leavitt places the Legion of Merit medal on Col. James Grace's chest during his retirement ceremony March 21. Grace retired following 30 years of service to the U.S. Marine Corps. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

"In the 30 years I have been in the military, there has been no place like Santa Rosa County," he said. "We fly over everybody's homes and get very few complaints. Our students are recognized out in town and thanked for their service. Even our international students are thanked, and that's something they don't even see in their own countries."

Finishing his career as the leader of a Navy command has been "unbelievable" to Grace. As the second Marine commodore of the training wing, he literally and figuratively passed the hat to his relief during the change of command ceremony that also served as his retirement ceremony last Thursday. Capt. James Fisher assumed command of the wing and Col. Gary Kling becomes the new deputy commodore. Much as former commodore Col. Joseph Walsh passed a faux 18th century commodore's hat to him, Grace passed that same hat on to Kling, who is in line to be the third Marine commander of TRAWING-5.

Grace leaves knowing that the unit is in good hands, and that the lessons he learned as a young pilot are similarly being instilled in the young students today. Just like when he was a young pilot focused on proficiency in the cockpit, student military aviators still have a lot to learn even after getting their wings. It is a lesson he learned after he was a pilot and hopes that today's students grasp it earlier.

"We have a huge mission here that goes beyond teaching our young officers how to fly. If I can leave any message, it is that everything is about people. It is about the role of being an officer. Will they be the leaders they should be for their enlisted folks? It is a huge responsibility they haven't had the chance to grasp yet – that manners count, that being humble counts, that relationships count or even just how important a 'thank you' is."

## TRAWING-5

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inition of 31 "Best Practices."

Those accomplishments and many others earned him his second Legion of Merit medal for his tour at the training wing. It is the final of Grace's many military honors as he retired from the Marine Corps following the ceremony. The guest speaker, Lt. Gen. Robert E. Milstead, Jr., praised Grace's years of service as he bid farewell to Grace and welcomed Fisher to a role that trains Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard students to become pilots as well as better officers.

"Jim, you stood on the ramparts and you have been one of America's gatekeepers. It's not how you start something, it is how you finish something and you have finished well. Well done!"

After the traditional passing of the TRAWING-5 pennant from Grace to Fisher and the proper relieving of duties from Rear Adm. Mark Leavitt, Chief of Naval Air Training, Grace stepped back from the front of the stage and Fisher took his turn at the podium. He emphasized that for as much as things change, some things will remain the same.

"Today I am honored and humbled to be leading this great organization. Although much has changed in the past 26 years, the mission we accomplish here at Training Air Wing FIVE has not. We are charged with training the world's finest Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast guard and international aviators. It is an enduring mission, one that in order to fulfill, requires a dedication to excellence on the ground as well as in the air."

## SECURITY CHECKPOINT



Question: Does security do vehicle safety checks?

The Security Department will not conduct comprehensive vehicle

inspections; however, Police Officers and Investigators are authorized and directed to conduct brief safety checks when obvious or suspected vehicle defects are evident. Operators cited on the first occasion will receive a warning to repair defect(s). Subsequent citations for the same defect(s) will subject operator to additional penalties. Vehicles will be operated with hood and trunk properly installed. Pickup trucks are required to have tailgate or restraining net in place when carrying items in the bed of the truck.