



Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, FL

Forging Wings for the Fleet

Vol. 67 No. 40

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

FITU flies T-34 finale at NAS Whiting Field

By Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

The Flight Instructor Training Unit of Training Air Wing FIVE marked the end of T-34C Turbo Mentor instructor training on Monday, September 12.

The unit's final training flight represented the latest step in Naval Air Station Whiting Field and TRAWING-5's transition from the long-serving T-34 to the T-6B Texan II primary training platform.

FITU activity concluded in a fashion emblematic of modern joint forces practice.

Lt. Don Lauderdale, U.S. Navy, and Capt. William Wilkerson, U.S. Air Force, finished the instructor syllabus within 24 hours of each other. Lt. j.g. Daniel Frey acted as the FITU instructor for the concluding sortie.

Log books will credit Lauderdale as the final T-34 instructor to complete the unit's program, but he finished in lock step with his USAF counterpart.

Both men will be responsible for the training of Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and allied personnel flying the T-34 with Training Squadron TWO.



Turn The Page: Lt. j.g. Daniel Frey, instructor, and Lt. Donald Lauderdale, graduate, commemorate the final flight of Training Air Wing FIVE's T-34 Flight Instructor Training Unit. The sortie took place on Monday, Sept. 12 and concluded over three decades of flight instructor training in the T-34 by TRAWING-5 at NAS Whiting Field. U.S. Navy photo.

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Base to host 2nd annual Health / Fitness Expo



Danette Greene measures her metabolic data with a tool provided at one of Santa Rosa Medical's information tables during the 2010 Health and Fitness Expo. Greene came to the gym to lift weights but stayed to enjoy the fair. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

By Ensign James Hedman, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Santa Rosa Medical Center, NAS Whiting Field Branch Medical Clinic, and the base Fleet and Family Support Center are teaming up to host the second annual Health & Fitness Expo Friday, Oct. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field gymnasium. The event is free and open to the entire Whiting Field community.

Santa Rosa Medical Center, the primary sponsor of the event, will offer various services such as blood pressure checks, prostate cancer screening, and cholesterol screening. Information on diabetes, nutrition, and physical and occupational therapy will also be provided. The

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Chalkboard Minutes

Online tutoring now available for Navy families



Chris Hendrix
School Liaison Officer

Navy service members and their families now have FREE, unlimited access to online tutoring and career help from Tutor.com. Expert tutors help students of all ages—from K-12 to college to adult learners—one-to-one in math, science, social studies and English, as well as with resume writing, and interview preparation. Help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Tutor.com offers help with homework, studying, and test preparation in more

than 16 subjects from elementary math to physics. All students worldwide can use the program, regardless of where they attend school.

Whenever a student or adult needs help, he will just enter the question and will be connected to a tutor in an interactive online classroom and work one-to-one in math, science, social studies, and English until the

- (Cont. on Page 5)

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month

Pensacola, Fla. (Sept. 26, 2011) It seems there’s an online data breach or scam in the headlines almost daily. Meanwhile, cyber threats continue to grow in sophistication.

National Cyber Security Awareness Month aims to bring light to cyber threats and help people safeguard themselves online.

The Department of Homeland Security offers tips to help people stay safe online. They’re not much different from the words of wisdom your parents imparted:

1) Don’t trust candy from strangers: You’re not going to get a free computer just for filling out a survey; the IRS didn’t email to tell you that you’re entitled to a refund; you’re not going to turn \$47 into \$300,000 just by forwarding a link; and a foreign dignitary isn’t looking to split his fortune with you if you help him get his millions out of his country.

2) If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Enough said.

3) Don’t advertise that you’re away from home. Announcing to your 700 Facebook friends that you’re on vacation for a week is just an open invitation for thieves to strike. And be careful with how you word your email autoresponders.

4) Lock up your valuables. If a hacker can access your personal information, he or she can then compromise or steal the information. Keep your firewalls and anti-virus

up-to-date, use strong passwords, install all software updates and be careful when surfing the Internet and using email.

5) Have a backup plan. Make regular backups of your information in case something goes wrong. Store these backups in

a secure location. If your computer has been infected, remove the infection before resuming your work. But keep in mind that if you didn’t realize that your computer was infected, your backups may also be compromised.

DHS also recommends minimizing access to your information:

1) Lock your computer when you step away, even if it’s only for a few minutes. Those few minutes can be all it takes for someone to destroy, corrupt or steal your information.

2) Disconnect your computer from the Internet when you’re not using it. While it’s convenient to stay online constantly, it could provide access to hackers.

3) Evaluate your security settings. Certain features that increase convenience or functionality may leave you more vulnerable.

And of course, protect your equipment from power surges and back up all your data in case the worst happens.

For additional information and advice you can trust, start with bbb.org or call 800-729-9226.



This Week in Naval History

Oct. 5

1863 - Confederate “David” seriously damages USS New Ironsides with a spar torpedo off Charleston, South Carolina.
1913 - Trial of OWL, Navy’s first amphibian flying boat.

Oct. 6

1884 - Department of the Navy establishes the Naval War College at Newport, RI (General Order 325).
1958 - USS Seawolf (SSN-575) completes record submerged run of 60 days, logging over 13,700 nautical miles.

Oct. 7

1864 - USS Washusett captures Confederate raider CSS Florida in harbor of Bahia, Brazil.
1924 - Rigid airship Shenandoah commences transcontinental flight.
2001 - Operation Enduring Freedom begins with carrier air strikes as well as ship and submarine Tomahawk launches.

Oct. 8

1842 - Commodore Lawrence Kearny of USS Constitution addresses a letter to the Viceroy of China, urging that American merchants in China be granted the same treaty privileges as the British. His negotiations are successful.

News and Notes

Fitness Expo - Naval Air Station Whiting Field's MWR department is teaming with Santa Rosa Medical Center to present the 2nd Annual Health and Fitness Expo, Friday, Oct. 7. The event will feature a wide range of healthy information for people of all ages, including: dental health, asthma awareness, colon cancer awareness, smoking cessation, blood pressure checks, free cholesterol screenings, nutrition education stress management and more. The day will also include fitness activities and demonstrations, 30-minute aerobics classes, and a gymnastics demonstration. The expo will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 850-623-7502 for details.

236th Navy Ball - Naval Air Station Whiting Field will be holding their annual Navy Ball Saturday, Oct. 8 beginning at 5 p.m.. The event will feature music, dinner, dancing and door prizes, as well as a guest speaker for the function. Tickets are \$25 for E3 and below, \$30 for E4, \$35 for E5 and E6, and \$40 for everyone else. Please call Chief Air Traffic Controller Cecilia Knight-Holton at 850-623-7755 for more information.

Embry Riddle Registration - Embry Riddle Aeronautical University is now registering for the winter term through October 17, 2011. Hours on board NAS Pensacola are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Fridays in Bldg. 634, Suite 033, 250 Chambers Avenue. Hours on board NAS Whiting Field are Wednesdays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Bldg. 1417, Room 163. Add and drop for a full refund will be held October 17-21, 2011. Everyone is encouraged to register early. Classes begin October 17. New Student Orientation will be held Wednesday, October 12 5 - 6 p.m. on board NAS Pensacola in Bldg. 634, Suite 033. Embry Riddle Aeronautical University's Pensacola campus offers certificate programs, associate and bachelors degree programs with various specializations in Professional Aeronautics and Technical Management and the Master of Aeronautical Science degree.

DeLuna Fest 2011 - This year's DeLuna Fest will be Oct. 14-16 at Pensacola Beach. A tremendous line-up of the best acts from across the world will play the stages, including: Jane's Addiction, Weezer, Cake, The Shins, Cut Copy, Big Boi and many more. In all, the festival will host 80 bands and 50,000 concert-goers at what is being called America's Favorite Beach Party. Visit the DeLuna Fest site for more bands and information. <http://delunafest.com>. Discounted tickets to active/retired military, dependents, and DOD civilian employees are \$119.95 for a three (3) day pass and must be purchased through the MWR ITT Office at 623-7032. Active-duty military members can visit <http://delunafest.com/tickets> to register for a chance to win a free general admission ticket.

NHA 5K - The Naval Helicopter Association Fleet Fly-In 5K race will be held Thurs, Oct. 20, at South Field. Start time is 6:30 a.m.. Fee is \$5 per runner. Finishers will receive a custom "Finisher Coin" and each participant will get a 2011 "Fleet Fly In" 5K race bib. There will be food, water, and Gatorade at the Start/Finish, and race support along the way. The Training Air Wing FIVE Squadron with the fastest runner will take home the TRAWING 5K "Winner's Trophy" until next year! This event is open to all TW-5 and Squadron personnel, NHA participants and their family and friends. To register or for additional information, please contact LT Gabriel Somma at email: gabriel.somma@navy.mil.

Garcon Point 5K - The 4th Annual Mediacom Garcon Point 5K Run/Walk will be held Sat, Oct. 22. Start time is 7:30 a.m. Runners and walkers will be transported from Lowe's parking lot



Retaining Our Best and Brightest

Naval Air Station Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Pete Hall presents a reenlistment certificate to Information Systems Technician Second Class Derek Jackson. Jackson reenlisted in the command conference room Sept. 19 for four more years of service. U.S. Navy photo by Ensign James Hedman.

on Highway 98 in Gulf Breeze to the starting line of the race on the north side of the Garcon Point Bridge. The nearly five-mile race will end at the south end of the bridge where participants will be transported back to Lowe's. Free hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks will be provided after the race for all registered participants. Cost for active duty military is \$20. In order to receive this special rate, print out the registration form available online, annotate 'active duty military-Whiting Field' on the bottom, and mail to the Santa Rosa Education Foundation, 5086 Canal Street, Milton, FL 32570. Registration should be completed no later than Oct. 18. See <http://www.santarosa.k12.fl.us/sref/files/GPBRRRegForm2011.pdf> for the form. Cost for all others until Oct. 18 is \$25 (age 18 and up), and \$20 for those under age 18. Afterwards the cost for everyone will be \$30. For additional information, please contact 983-5043.

Motor Sports Show - The Marine Corps League is hosting their 10th Annual Motor Sports Show, Saturday, Nov. 5 at the 5 Flags Speedway in Pensacola, Fla. The event is seeking entrants for the various categories of vehicles. There is a \$20 registration for each car, and cars must be registered no later than Oct. 15. There will be trophies for the winners, door prizes, food and refreshments and much more. Call (850) 912-2351 for details.

Leave Donor Program - "Mr. Lawrence Cluck has exhausted all his leave and has been accepted into the voluntary leave donor program. Those interested in donating leave to Mr. Cluck please contact Charles Rigdon at 665-6126 or charles.rigdon@navy.mil for leave donor forms. Forms may also be obtained at the OPM web site by searching "leave donor".

Lane Restrictions - Crews from M & J Construction have begun replacing joints on the Blackwater River Bridge on I-10 in Santa Rosa County. East and westbound traffic will encounter intermittent lane closures. However; there will be no lane restrictions between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. The project should be complete in about five months. Motorists are reminded to watch obey the posted speed limit when traveling through the work zone and to watch for construction equipment and workers entering and exiting the roadway.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 6&7, 0830 - NASWF PRT - Gymnasium
Oct. 8, 1700 - Navy Ball - Atrium
Oct. 18-20, 0700-1600 Daily - NHA Fleet Fly-In

Oct. 21, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
Nov. 4, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
Nov. 10, 1000 - NASWF Change of Command - Auditorium

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

VA REPRESENTATIVE - Friday, October 7 & 21 - 8:00 a.m. to Noon (Call for an appointment)

MONEY AND THE MOVE - Wednesday, October 12 - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

A Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move can be one of the most exciting adventures of your career as well as one of the best benefits. However, a PCS move can also become a financial disaster that can take months to recover from if not properly prepared. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

TIME MANAGEMENT - Thursday, October 13 - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

At the end of the day, do you ask yourself "Where did the day go?" and feel like you have accomplished very little on your list of things to do? If you answered "yes" to this question, this class is for you. The information provided in this class will provide you with the tools to help you make the most of your busy and demanding days. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

IA DISCUSSION GROUP - Monday, October 17 - 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

HOW TO SURVIVE THE HOLIDAYS FINANCIALLY - Wednesday, October 26 - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

It's that time of year when stores display holiday decorations, increase their inventory, and gear up to convince you to spend money. Attend this class to learn techniques to control your holiday spending. Class will be held in the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month - Anyone who has concerns or is a victim of domestic violence should contact the Fleet and Family Support Center, their Command Family Advocacy Representative, or call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE.

NAVY BALL
CENTENNIAL OF NAVAL AVIATION

236TH

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH
ATRIUM 1700-2400
MUSIC, DINNER, DANCING & DOOR PRIZES
E3-\$25.00 / E4-\$30.00 / E5 & E6-\$35.00 / E7 & ↑ & CIVILIANS - \$40.00
CONTACT YOUR NAVY BALL REP OR ACC KNIGHT-HOLTON @ 7755

Health Expo

- (Cont. from Page 1)

Branch Medical Clinic will add to the healthy living opportunities by providing information on smoking cessation, dental health, asthma awareness, breast health, colon cancer awareness, and immunizations.

Additionally, other base agencies, including the Fleet and Family Support Center, the school liaison officer, Child Development Center, Navy Exchange, and MWR, will be on hand to answer questions and educate patrons regarding their programs. There will also be gymnastics & tumbling demonstrations by Terry Kaoirg and her students that will last 5 to 10 minutes each.

Tables and booths will be set up throughout the gymnasium so people can approach and speak to the various representatives at their leisure. During last year's event, the blood pressure checks and gymnastic demonstrations were the favorites.

More than 200 people attended the expo a year ago, and Fitness Director Terrence Edgar is hoping for more attendees this year.

"We try to get people more health-conscience and get them to see what we (MWR and the gymnasium) have to offer," he said.

Random drawings for prizes will be held throughout the event, and promotional items will be offered. For more information, call (850) 623-7412.



Fair Winds

The Naval Air Station Whiting Field Chief Petty Officer's Mess bid farewell to Akiko "Suzie" Daniels Friday, Sept. 30, by inducting her as an honorary Chief Petty Officer and welcoming her into the Mess. The honor was bestowed in tribute to her 39 years of service to the base and more than 40 years in the Navy Exchange System. Suzie has been a popular fixture at the base, but retired Sept. 30. The CPOs presented her with a certificate marking the occasion, a CPO coin, flowers and a cake in addition to her Chief's anchor and display coin which NAS Whiting Field Command Master Chief Rafael Rosado gives to her. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

Ec-nomics

Switch to Biodiesel

If you're interested in renewable and homegrown fuels, or want to roll like Willie Nelson or Woody Harrelson, you may have thought about running your vehicle on biodiesel. The fuel can be made from corn, soy, agricultural waste, algae, used cooking oil and other materials. Biodiesel has much cleaner emissions than petroleum diesel, and it cleans your engine and extends its life.

Drive Smoothly and at the Speed Limit

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, for every five miles per hour you drive over 55 MPH, you lose 6% of your efficiency. That's a whopping 24% if you drive 75 MPH. Take those 642 gallons of fuel a year used by the typical driver in our first example, and add another 24% due to lost efficiency through speeding and aggressive handling, we get a total of 796 gallons a year, or an increase of 154 gallons.

Chalkboard Minutes

- (Cont. from Page 2)

problem is solved. All tutors are screened, certified and background-checked. All sessions are recorded and reviewed for quality control.

This program is provided by the Department of Defense. Authorized patrons include U.S. active duty military service members, U.S. military reservists, U.S. National Guard personnel on active duty in a deployed status, DoD civilians in a deployed status, and their dependents.

To access the program, login to Navy Knowledge Online account and click on the REFERENCE tab. Look for the Tutor.com box in the right column, and click on the links "Kids and Teens" or "Adults" to get a tutor. Authorized users will then follow instructions on the Web site for password and login information.

If you have questions about this article or concerns about an educational issue impacting your child, please give me a call. I can be reached via email at Christopher.p.hendri@navy.mil or by phone at (850) 665-6105 [office] or (850) 324-1154 [cell].

Congratulations TRAWING-5 Wingers



Back Row: Cmdr. Jeffrey D. DeBrine, USN; 1st Lt. Matthew L. Wood, USMC; 1st Lt. David J. Miller, USMC; Ensign Nathan J. Williard, USN; Lt. j.g. Brandon E. Nichols, USN; Lt. j.g. Corky S. Maschke, USN; 1st Lt. Jacob B. Wiegand, USMC; 1st Lt. John J. Kaluza, USMC; Lt. j.g. Christopher Cox, USN; Col. James D. Grace, USMC.

Middle Row: Lt. Col. Mark C. Thompson, USMC; 1st Lt. Timothy J. Spencer, USMC; 1st Lt. Robert S. Zetelski, Jr., USMC; Lt. j.g. Justin L. Downs, USN; Lt. j.g. Brian V. Beasley, USN; Lt. j.g. John S. Plack, USN; Lt. j.g. Adam D. Manley, USN; 1st Lt. Daniel A. Thomas, USMC; Lt. Col. Michael H. Johnson, USMC.

Front Row: Cmdr. Hans E. Sholley, USN; 1st Lt. Zachariah L. Done, USMC; 1st Lt. Matthew W. Poynter, USMC; Ensign Benjamin B. Foster, USN; Lt. j.g. William H. Ehliens, USN; Ensign Alfonso A. Gonzolez-Lopez, USN; Ensign Joanne M. Shei, USN; Lt. j.g. Megan J.D. Laboussiere, USN; Lt. j.g. Alyssa A. Bramer, USN; Ensign Marguerite A. Buckles, USN.



Back Row: Cmdr. Paul D. Bowdich, USN; Ensign Kyle R. Stewart, USN; 1st Lt. Terrance E. Davis, USMC; Lt. j.g. Andrew W. Conner, USN; Lt. j.g. Kenneth E. Shamrell, USN; Ensign Michael T. Hatch, USN; 1st Lt. Steven A. Korbus, USMC; 1st Lt. Andrew G. Maxwell, USMC; Lt. j.g. Ralph E. Roe III, USN; Col. James D. Grace, USMC.

Middle Row: Cmdr. Jeffrey D. DeBrine, USN; Lt. j.g. Benjamin J. Breitenbach, USN; Lt. j.g. Andrew J. Roscoe, USN; Lt. j.g. Thomas K. Clapp, USN; 1st Lt. Benjamin C. Hough, USMC; Lt. j.g. Nicholas R. Skaperdas, USN; 1st Lt. Brian E. Heeter, USMC; Ensign Zachary J. Laden, USN; Lt. Col. Michael H. Johnson, USMC.

Front Row: Lt. Col. Mark C. Thompson, USMC; Lt. Monica R. Mondloch, USN; Lt. j.g. Gina M. McConnell, USN; Lt. j.g. Haylee L. Coffey, USN; Lt. j.g. Tara A. Lenn, USN; Ensign Diane M. Kruse, USN; Lt. j.g. Hesham A. Alageel, RSNE; Lt. Christopher N. Pratt, USN.

FITU finale

- (Cont. from Page 1)

Since the base's 1978 activation of the Turbo Mentor, the FITU has served to adapt the skill set of experienced military aviators to guide the development of new pilots.

As the ranks of T-6 students and instructors grew at Training Squadron THREE and Training Squadron SIX, the FITU was split into two tracks: T-34 and T-6.

Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Stersic served as the Officer-In-Charge of the T-34 FITU from its stand-up in the fall of 2010 to its stand-down in the summer of 2011.

"As a FITU Instructor your focus is teaching Instructors Undergoing Training to fly and instruct SNAs. The IUTs are experienced aviators so there is less emphasis on evaluation," Stersic explained.

The drawdown of T-34 FITU instructors paralleled TRAWING-5's diminishing Turbo Mentor flight operations. At the time of the stand-down, the roster strength of the FITU comprised five instructors.

This group, of which Frey was the last, represented a special subset of TRAWING-5's most highly qualified instructors.

Each was hand-selected by the squadron commanding officer on the basis of his Standardization Instructor designation - the highest available for a flight instructor - and vast experience with the aircraft.

NAS Whiting Field's T-6 FITU will expand to support the Texan II, but the skill set instilled by T-34 FITU graduates holds enduring value.

Wilkerson, who completed his primary aviation training in the T-6A, is convinced that T-34 students will benefit from the last chapter in the plane's NAS Whiting Field story.

"It's a very forgiving airplane, but you don't have the computer enhancing the data for you... it gets back to the fundamental analogue instruments that require more basic airmanship," Wilkerson noted.

Naval aviation's commitment to professionalism is unwavering. In time, an airplane will migrate from the flight line to the museum floor, but the quality of FITU instructors is a constant. Dig beyond the nostalgia, and the outgoing T-34 FITU instructors express confidence and excitement at the dawn of the T-6 era.

Both Stersic and Wilkerson omitted any mention of aircraft model when reflecting on their defining memories of the T-34 FITU.

"It's been over 20 years since I was a student naval aviator; the thing I remember most then still holds true today; the instructor pilots truly enjoy their job and take seriously the responsibility of instilling professionalism in the next generation of naval aviators," Stersic noted with assurance.

Above all, flight training is about the students, and Wilkerson cited his first experience with a student as the sa-

lient memory of his recent T-34 FITU experience.

"It was very similar to my first solo or my first aircraft commander experience. This student doesn't have the skills; he is trusting me with his life, and I have that responsibility," Wilkerson explained.

Stersic added that FITU instructors will carry the same professional ethic to the T-6, and he expressed an eagerness to explore the capabilities of the high-performance machine.

Aviation is a technical discipline, and progress is marked by strides in systems, capability, safety, and mission readiness - all of which are embodied in the T-6.

Regardless, the romance of aviation defies obsolescence.

The T-34 will be missed by many who flew it twice-first as students and later as instructors. The operational career of the Turbo Mentor spanned portions of five decades, and most of the current TRAWING-5 Navy and Marine Corps instructors began their flying careers in the aircraft.

"There was some nostalgia during my last few [FITU] flights," Stersic admitted.

FITU instructors may feel a unique sense of attachment to the aircraft. For over thirty years, this elite cadre represented a key hand that rocked the Cradle of Naval Aviation.

"I felt honored to complete the last flight in the FITU, and I am honestly sad to see the T-34 leave," Frey reflected.

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Efficiency soars at NAS Whiting Field

By Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

October is National Energy Awareness Month, and Naval Air Station Whiting Field enters the period with a flying start. 2011 witnessed vast strides in the air station's efficiency programs, which encompass conservation of energy and energy-intensive resources.

The base's infrastructure maintenance facility began to realize the full potential of its waste-oil powered heating system in 2011. The device, which uses expended vehicle lubricant to provide cold weather climate control, commenced regular operation early in the year.

Ron Cherry, the base's Natural Resource manager, takes pride in the warm-weather function of the waste-oil system: revenue.

"We don't run the heater during the Florida summer, but we sell the oil for re-use. Through the sale of used oils, that's where we get funds for our recycling program," Cherry noted with satisfaction.

Cherry also holds the title of NAS Whiting Field Environmental Protection Specialist, and he is involved closely in the base's effort to conserve energy-intensive materials.

The air station expanded recycling programs at its tenant commands throughout 2011. Although a recycling program existed prior to 2009, initiatives undertaken since that year have seen the base expand its recycling volume by over 100 percent. Fiscal Year 2011 witnessed the culmination of these efforts.

Tenant commands and outlying buildings were provided with over 300 blue recycling bins to increase access and raise the profile of the recycling program.

"People are creatures of convenience, and you have to get people's minds focused on the right thing to do," Cherry noted.

The base contracts with Santa Rosa County to collect and weigh the large recycling roll-away bins, which yields the data for the Public Works Department to calculate conservation figures.

Cherry added that recycling is a key to energy efficiency, because it conserves the energy required to produce a usable product.

Energy and material conservation can be viewed as

two sides of the same coin, and re-use of material translates to a reduction of energy expended on resource extraction.

The scope and success of the air station's conservation efforts can be attributed to the diverse range of perspectives that well-travelled military personnel express in their feedback to Public Works.

The arrival of personnel from distant duty stations and different backgrounds has yielded a critical mass of constructive viewpoints.

"Sometimes you need to think outside the box, and we have pilots from Oregon, California, places where recycling is more integrated with the culture, and they're adding a push to our pull," Cherry said.

The air station continues to expand the scope of its resource efficiency through proactive land management.

The base acts as steward to over 12,000 acres of land at the air station and its outlying fields. Controlled burns were applied to over 190 of those acres during 2011.

Cherry lauds this approach as an ideal alternative to the energy-intensive tasks of manually clearing overgrown forests or fighting wildfires that can result from overgrowth. Failure in active forestry requires reactionary measures that drain manpower, fuel, and finances.

From a mission-centric standpoint, active forest management prevents unintended interruption of training operations and inefficient use of funds.

The base plans to expand its recycling program and conduct additional controlled burns during fiscal year 2012, and surveys are underway to target areas of greatest need.

The recycling initiative will examine areas where collection units remain necessary, additional controlled burns are being planned aboard the air station itself, and additional waste-oil climate control systems may be on the horizon.

Cherry believes that the air station's efforts to pair conservation and energy efficiency are holistic, ongoing, and subject to constant evolution.

"It's very much about process improvement... it makes sense to try to utilize everything out there, capture value, whether it's cost avoidance or a revenue generator, plus, it's just the right thing to do."



Sundown for Turbo Mentor at VT-6



Top: NAS Whiting Field Fire Department salutes the final Training Squadron SIX T-34C student flight upon the aircraft's return to North Field. Only Training Squadron TWO will fly the T-34C until the squadron's transition to the T-6 Texan II occurs next year.

Top Left: Training Air Wing FIVE Commodore Col. James Grace and Deputy Commodore Capt. James Fisher greet the pilots.

Top Right: Lt. Cmdr. Tom Healy, instructor, and 2nd Lt. Michael Harper, student, took the controls for the watershed sortie.

Middle Left: Cake was served in the VT-6 line shack to mark the occasion.

Bottom Left: VT-6 selected the distinctive "Century of Naval Aviation" T-34C to honor the historic nature of the day's flight.

Bottom Right: VT-6 Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Daniel Verda hands 2nd Lt. Harper rich rewards for a job well done. Harper completed his instrument check ride during the flight and received TRAWING-5 academic honors for his performance in primary training.

U.S. Navy Photos by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso