

Whiting Tower

Sixty-Six Years of Aviation Training News



Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, FL

Forging Wings for the Fleet

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2009 Will Be a Hard Year to Match in 2010

- New Arrivals Highlighted TRAWING-5 / Base's Successes

Editor's Note: This past year was a truly memorable one as Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Training Air Wing FIVE quietly went about their business in the midst of economic turmoil and political in-fighting. While the world stage experienced a significant amount of negative news, here at "Exciting Whiting," the press clippings were overwhelmingly positive. TRAWING-5 helped set some new benchmarks for aviation training with the 30,000th helicopter winger and 2 million maintenance hours under contractor control. The base cut the ribbon on the newly renovated Atrium and our new Air Traffic Control Tower. Finally, we celebrated the arrival of the first new airframe in more than 30 years and welcomed a new base Skipper. Here is a recap of the significant events for 2009 and let's hope 2010 can be as impressive.

Whiting Field Responds to Milton Fire

As a dangerous fire blazed through the downtown section of Milton, Fla., Jan. 6, members of the Naval Air Station Whiting Field team were some of the first responders to the emergency. More than 75 firefighters from 15 departments responded to help contain the blaze that consumed nearly a full block of Milton's historic district. At least 17 firefighters from the base, either from Fire and Emergency Services Gulf Coast or base personnel serving in volunteer fire fighting capacities, were among the teams combating the fire. Fire and Emergency Services Gulf Coast Station One from Whiting Field has a mutual aid agreement with the county and city to lend aid as necessary. Fire and Emergency Services Gulf Coast responded with Truck 24, (with a crew of four) from Fire Station One, located at Whiting Field.

Sadsad Named Chamber Man of the Year

For the first time in at least the past 15 years, the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce has named an active duty service member as their Man of the Year. The award annually recognizes a male who stood out from all others as having had a major impact on the community and county either during this year or through sustained efforts over time. Capt. Enrique "Rick" Sadsad, commanding officer Naval Air Station Whiting Field, received the award during the January



The first new airframe based at Naval Air Station Whiting Field in more than 30 years arrives Aug. 27. The T-6B Texan will replace the T-34 Turbo Mentor which has been operating at the base since the 1970s. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

chamber of commerce meeting. The recognition came as a complete surprise to Sadsad who had no idea he was even nominated. He thought his only role in the evening was to welcome all the members to the event.

FFSC/Students Create Planner for Flight Training

Training Air Wing-FIVE's (CTW-5) pilot training at Naval Air Station Whiting Field is intentionally difficult and stressful to help prepare students for the rigors of military aviation. However, providing the tools to help the students meet those demands effectively is a task that the Whiting Field Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) embraces. Previously, Laura McLaughlin, an education services facilitator for the FFSC, prepared study skills and stress management classes that CTW-5 leadership had touted as effective in reducing stress and academic attrition in their students.

Navy League Honors Top Sailors

The Navy League Santa Rosa County Council recognized 18 of Naval Air Station Whiting Field's finest, Feb. 6, at their annual awards banquet held in Sikes Hall.

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VT-2 Welcomes New Commanding Officer to Helm



Cmdr. Timothy McGuire (USCG) salutes Cmdr. Warren Lipscomb, III (USN) before receiving the Training Squadron TWO command flag. Lipscomb is passing the flag to McGuire as a symbol of the passing of command during their change of command ceremony Dec. 18. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Cmdr. Timothy M. McGuire, USCG, assumed the duties of Commanding Officer, Training Squadron TWO (VT-2) from Commander Warren N. Lipscomb, III, USN Dec. 18. The Change of Command ceremony, a time-honored Navy tradition, occurred in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Auditorium at 11 a.m.

Training Squadron TWO is one of the three primary flight training squadrons based at NAS Whiting Field, in Milton, FL. It is a sign of the joint nature of the squadron for a Coast Guard officer to assume command from a Naval officer, and McGuire is the third such commanding officer. Navy, Marine, Air Force, Coast Guard and several allied nations aviators receive training at NAS Whiting Field. VT-2 alternates commanding officers from Navy to Coast Guard every two year cycle. The next VT-2 Executive Officer will be Commander John C. Hensel, II, USN.

Col. John S. Walsh, Commander, Training Air Wing FIVE, set the tone for the afternoon's events as he spoke of how "fortunate" the two pilots were to have served as the commanding officers for one of the top training squadron in the Navy. He then reminded the audience of the irony of the word and recalled how it isn't fortune at all.

He spoke of the Puritans and their losses due to sicknesses; the military losses in the Civil War, Revolutionary War, WWI and II, and Vietnam; and the other hardships our country has overcome. He emphasized that luck had nothing to do with the advancement of a great country and a powerful military and that both were forged through the struggles of brave men and women.

"What we are fortunate to have are courageous man and women who are willing to fight for their nation," he said.

"We are fortunate to have men and women who follow that difficult path and teach others to follow their dreams."

Walsh praised the two officers as being such role models and people whose character sets the tone for the squadron to follow. The results under their leadership are undeniably impressive.

During Lipscomb's 30-month tour as executive officer and then commanding officer, the VT-2 "Doerbirds" flew more than 57,000 mishap-free flight hours producing 564, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard and international flight training graduates. Under his tenure, overall student production was increased on average 3 percent of assigned mission, making VT-2 the top squadron in operations efficiency. His leadership and commitment to safety inspired the squadron to earn the 2008 Chief of Naval Operations Naval Aviation Safety Award.

Lipscomb reflected the credit to his instructors, civilian employees and military staff.

"This has been a terrific wardroom. All I have to do is sit back, let them run, and enjoy the show," he said. "I have never served with a more talented group of people. They exemplify the best of naval aviation and our core values of honor, courage and commitment."

Lipscomb received the Meritorious Service Medal for his accomplishments and his next tour of duty will be serving as Air Boss aboard USS ESSEX (LHD-2), "The Iron

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TRICARE Notes

NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW TOOLS TO QUIT TOBACCO

The DoD-sponsored educational campaign, **Quit Tobacco - Make Everyone Proud**, is expanding its interactive Web site, <http://www.ucanquit2.org>.

Deciding to quit tobacco is the first step, but becoming tobacco free may take more than one try. Motivation and support are key factors in giving up tobacco products. The Web site allows service members to get the support they need to quit from family and friends, no matter where they live.

Quit Tobacco - Make Everyone Proud is aimed at supporting enlisted active-duty military personnel in their efforts to quit tobacco. Service members can listen to podcasts, chat anonymously with a trained tobacco Cessation Coach, browse research articles, locate local cessation programs, calculate how much money they'll save when they quit tobacco and create personalized quit plans.

News and Notes

Embry Riddle Registrations - The Pensacola Campus of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University is holding registration for the January Term until January 17, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays in Bldg. 634, Suite 033, 250 Chambers Avenue, NAS Pensacola and on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Bldg. 1417, Room 163 on NAS Whiting Field. Add and drop for a full refund will be held January 11-17, 2010. New Student Orientation will be held Saturday, January 9, 8 a.m. to noon in Bldg. 634, Suite 033. Everyone is encouraged to register early. All ERAU offices will be closed from Dec. 23 until Jan. 3.

Military Night Hockey - The Pensacola Ice Flyers will host a Military Night Fri, Jan. 8 at 7:05 p.m.. Anyone with a valid military ID will be able to purchase \$3 tickets. See <http://pensacolaiceflyers.pointstreaksites.com/view/PensacolaIceFlyers> for more information.

ID Card Office Closure - The Whiting Field ID Card office will be closed Jan. 21 for training. ID Card issue will resume at 7:30 a.m. Jan. 22. Please contact Paula Rippetoe at 850-623-7159 for any assistance.

Extended MWR Hours - To accommodate full fly days Jan 10 and 24, the MWR fitness center, Wings Club, and coffee shop will be open. The modified hours are: fitness center - 0630-2100; coffee shop - 0600-1000; and Wings Club 1000-1300. Wings will be serving menu items only (no buffet). Breakfast sandwiches will be available at Coffee Shop and Wings Club.

Line Dance Classes - Line dancing classes will be available at Hobb's Middle School on Thursday evenings beginning Jan. 7. Classes for beginners are from 6 to 7:30 p.m. with classes for intermediates from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The thirteen week class cost is \$55. For details call 723-4052.

Soup and Salad Event - The Milton Garden Club's 17th annual Soup and Salad Fundraiser will take place Jan. 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Milton Garden Club Center. The fundraiser will feature soups, salads, and deserts for sampling, along with door prizes. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 3-11,



Retaining Our Best and Brightest
Aviation Boatswain's Mate First Class Brad Goudeau receives his Honorable Discharge certificate from Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate Paul Jackson. Goudeau reenlisted Dec. 14 at Site 8 outlying field. Photo courtesy of Crash Department.

and free for children 2 and under. For more details call 626-2003.

Humane Society Pet Adoption - The Junior Humane Society will be hosting a pet adoption from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9. Dogs and puppies will be available for adoption at Petsmart, 6251 North Davis Highway. For more details call Frankie Van Horn at 968-3260.

Polar Bear Plunge - The Annual Polar Bear Plunge will occur on Friday, Jan. 8 at 2 p.m. at Paradise Bar and Grill, 21 Via de Luna, Pensacola Beach. Heaping bowls of black-eyed peas will be available to participants. For more information call Maureen LaMar at 932-1500 or visit www.pensacolabeachparades.com.

Strut Your Mutt - Dog owners are welcome to "Strut Your Mutt" at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesdays during a 45-minute leisurely stroll in East hill. Dogs must be leashed and well behaved, and owners must take their own water and be prepared to pick up after their pet. The walk will begin at the entrance to the Bayview Dog Park at 20th Avenue and East Mallory Street. For further details call 291-7658.

Table Tennis Fun - Pensacola Table Tennis Club will meet from 6 to 9 p.m. on Mondays, which is beginners and novice night, at Fricker Community Center, 900 North F Street. Coaching is available. For more information call 791-3979.

Elk Lodge Bingo - Warrington Elks Lodge will be hosting Bingo games Sundays and Thursdays with doors open at 4 p.m. There will be 51 games and a guaranteed \$3,800 payout. The lodge is located at 757 South 72nd Avenue. Call 455-5522 for details.

5-Mile Hike - The Florida Trail Association will host a five mile hike on the Nokuse Trail at 9 a.m. Saturday Jan. 9. For more information call 682-6098.

Hare and Hounds Run - The East Hill Hare and Hounds Running Club will meet at 2:30 p.m. every second and fourth Sunday. The run will last three to five miles at locations in and around downtown Pensacola and consists of a trail laid with flour, toilet paper and chalk marks. After the run there will be a beer social with fresh fruit and light snacks. The cost is \$5. For details call Tim Hartigan at 393-8692.



And the Real Winner Is...Whiting Field

Joe Gough, Ken Morris and Jay Arthur from the NAS Whiting Field Golf Association present CMDCM Hari Singh with a donation of \$750 for the MWR Dept. The organization raises money through golf tournaments and member donations during the year and makes an annual presentation to the base. The 2009 donation will help improve the golf course. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 15, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Jan. 18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Jan. 20 - HT-18 Pilot for a Day

Jan. 22, 1830 - Navy League Flight Instructor/Sailor of the Year Award Banquet - Sikes Hall

Jan. 29, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

Financial Planning for Deployment - Wednesday, January 6, 1400 - 1500

Deployment can be stressful enough without having to worry about your financial status! We can help ease your mind by showing you ways to ensure that your property is safe and your credit stays in tact. Discover cost effective ways to communicate with loved ones and make sure your family will have the support and resources that they need while you are away. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Resume Writing - Monday, January 11, 0800 - 1000

This class will assist you in efficiently creating an effective resume. Learn how to handle sticky resume situations like military-to-civilian transition, age, employment gaps, layoffs, and career change. Learn to use your resume as a marketing tool. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Time Management - Wednesday, January 13, 1300 - 1400

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 these questions, this class is for you. The information provided in this class will provide you with tools that will 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.

Money and the Move - Wednesday, January 13, 1400 - 1500

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 for. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

BBB Offers Tips to Avoid Water Filter Fraud



Pensacola, Fla. (Dec. 15, 2009) Based on recent reports of water quality concerns in northwest Florida, your Better Business Bureau Serving Northwest Florida offers tips to help consumers interested in testing their home's water or purchasing a water filter.

BBB has seen water filter fraud in the past and it is not far-fetched to think that these scams could reappear locally given the Environmental Working

Group's water purity study.

BBB warns consumers to be leery when a salesperson suggests any of the following:

"Free" home water tests: Offers for free testing of the tap water in your home are almost always part of a sales promotion. In-home testing doesn't provide the in-depth analysis needed to determine if your water needs treatment and what system will meet your needs. Avoid salespersons who tell you strictly on the basis of their in-home testing that your drinking water is polluted, contaminated or unhealthy.

Claims of government approval: The government does not endorse water tests or water treatment products. The National Sanitation Foundation is the provider of certification of water treatment systems. If you see an Environmental Protection Agency registration number on a water filtration system, it merely means that the manufacturer has registered its product with the EPA.

Their company's water filter doesn't require maintenance: All filtration devices require some form of maintenance, even if it's simply the occasional filter change.

Their water filters remove all known contaminants: No

water purification device can remove every contaminant known to man.

You've won a prize, but you haven't entered a contest: Some sellers will suggest you've won a free gift or prize, but you must buy a water filter to redeem the prize. You may find that the water filtration device costs hundreds or thousands of dollars, while the prize you "won" may be worth very little.

If you decide to conduct additional testing or to purchase a water filter, BBB offers the following tips:

Arrange for an independent test: Ask your local water utility for the latest test results of the public water supply and then compare them to state <<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/drinking-water/standard.htm>> and federal <<http://epa.gov/safewater/standards.html>> standards. If you're concerned about the results of this test, have your water tested by a private laboratory that is certified by the state health department or environmental agency. In Florida, you can find a list of labs online at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/labs/cgi-bin/aams/index.asp> or you can call the EPA's Safe Water Drinking Hotline at 1.800.426.4791 for a list of certified laboratories by state.

When having your water tested, deal with the lab directly. Some fraudulent sellers ask for a sample of your water to send to an independent lab for testing and then alter or misrepresent the lab's test results.

Decide what you need: If tests indicate legitimate problems, consider what type of system can best treat the water. There's a wide variety of purification devices on the market, ranging from low-cost, simple filters for a kitchen faucet to expensive, sophisticated systems that treat water at its point of entry into the home.

End of Year Recap

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Murray Assumes Command of HT-18

Amidst the traditional pomp and circumstance typical during a military ceremony, Cmdr. Mark Murray relieved Lt. Col. James Kennedy as the commanding officer of Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN (HT-18) Thursday, Feb. 19. With the simple act of passing the squadron flag from one officer to another assumes the responsibility of the highly decorated squadron.

Whiting Field Celebrates African-American History

"Realizing the Dream" was a vibrant theme during the Naval Air Station Whiting Field African-American History Month celebration, Wednesday Feb. 25 at the base's Wing's Club. The event celebrated the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as well as the work of other black Americans who have furthered the Civil Rights cause.

Students Get a Glimpse of the Future of Aviation

Training Air Wing FIVE student pilots at Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NASWF) had the opportunity to see the future of military aviation March 9 and 10 when representatives from Lockheed Martin brought a demonstration of the F-35 Lightning II technology to the base.

Marcell Turns Over Command of VT-3

With the symbolic passing of the squadron flag, Lt. Col. Christopher Marcell turned over Responsibility of Training Squadron THREE to Cmdr. Jody G. Bridges. Calling his time as the commanding officer of the squadron "a distinct honor," Marcell stepped down during the March 20 ceremony in front of more than 150 guests, friends, family and fellow service members.

MCPON Visits NAS Whiting Field Sailors

Naval Air Station Whiting Field Sailors (NASWF) were surprised and excited when Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick West visited the base. The March 31 visit was part of a tour of Gulf Coast Navy installations he was visiting to familiarize himself with those commands.

CERT Program Provides Skills to Survive an Emergency

There is an old sports adage that says, "the desire to win is not as important as the desire to prepare to win." For military team members, who may be called upon to react to a local, regional or national disaster, that adage could just as

easily read, the desire to respond to an emergency is not as important as the desire to prepare to respond.

NAS Whiting Field Re-Opens Historic Building

With a single snip of a large ceremonial pair of scissors, a four and one-half year long wait was finally over. Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field officially re-opened the Atrium building Wed, Apr. 22. The building had been closed since Hurricane Ivan came ashore in September 2004.

Whiting Teams Help Clean-Up Santa Rosa

Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, and their families from Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NASWF) and Training Air Wing FIVE (TW-5) joined with other community groups to clean up the community during the Santa Rosa Great American Cleanup. This event is part of the nationwide Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup, sponsored locally by the Santa Rosa Clean Community System. More than 150 volunteers from base organizations and commands collected 176 bags of trash along 22.3 miles of local roads.

Whiting Field Listens/Learns from Holocaust Survivor

During the Holocaust, approximately two of every three Jews in Europe were killed. Millions were murdered by death squads or in concentration camps. Others were tortured and tormented while being forced to live sub-human lives. It is a tragedy that is vitally important to remember so that it doesn't happen again.

Whiting Field FFSC Prepares for Family Emergencies

Imagine that a hurricane has just passed through. A family's home has flooded, damaging a lifetime of possessions. There are widespread power outages, and much of the food has spoiled. The family may be without ready cash, have no where to take their pets, and don't know where to turn.

Whiting Field Opens New ATC Tower

After nearly a two-year long wait, the anticipation is finally over for Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field's air traffic controllers. The team that helps direct the traffic for the Navy's busiest airfield got to move into their new home May 26. The \$4.6 million air traffic control tower overlooks the south field of the base's two airfields with a view that is

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1st Lt. Michael Brown (USMC) receives a ceremonial plaque celebrating the 30,000th Naval Helicopter wing. The milestone was reached during the June 19 winging ceremony. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

End of Year Recap

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20 feet higher than the old tower. With additional working space and an unobstructed view utilizing an extra two feet of window all the way around, the tower provides a more comfortable and efficient office to monitor the more than 160,000 flight operations at south field annually. The improvements are a welcome addition to the controllers.

TRAWING-5 Wings 30,000th Helicopter Pilot

Training Air Wing FIVE (TRAWING-5) celebrated a milestone in Naval aviation when the 30,000th rotary wing student pilot walked across the stage to receive his coveted "wings of gold," June 19. 1st Lt. Michael Brown, USMC, walked off the stage as the Marine Corp's newest helicopter pilot. He joined 37 other students in achieving the greatly sought after designation.

Hendrix Hired On as Whiting Field's First SLO

As family members relayed problems with repeated transfers to Navy officials, it became apparent that the hardships of moving from school to school were stressing many families and causing separations from service. Since transferring from location to location is often necessary for the needs of the Navy, officials looked to ease the problems by providing School Liaison Officers (SLOs) at each installation.

Whiting Field Signs Agreement With County to Reduce Encroachment

Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Santa Rosa County, Fla. signed an agreement Friday, July 31 to help spur economic growth in the county while protecting the base from residential encroachment. The Limited Access Use Agreement provides the county with restricted use of base runways for a proposed commercial aviation park located near the air station's east gate. The signing also guarantees that the county's nearly 270 acre plot will never be used for residential building which could have been detrimental to the base's aviation training mission.

Fisher Takes Command of HT-8 from Heaney

With the symbolic passing of the squadron colors, Cmdr. Christopher Heaney turned over command of Helicopter Training Squadron Eight (HT-8) to Cmdr. Michael Fisher. The ceremony occurred in front of a large crowd of family members, friends, service members and guests in the Blue Angels Atrium at the National Museum of Naval Aviation on Thursday, July 23.

T-6 Simulator in Place to Prepare for Aircraft Rollout

As Naval Air Station Whiting Field prepares to begin receiving the first new airframe at the base in 30 years, training for the instructors and students on the aircraft becomes important. To that end, Training Air Wing FIVE accepted two T-6B simulators in July -- a significant milestone in the T-34C to T-6B transition process. These multimillion dollar simulators are bringing some of the newest visual and avionics technology to Whiting Field.

Fleet and Family Job Fair Sets Record Attendance

More than 1,200 people packed Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Sikes Hall Aug. 20 as they searched for job opportunities during the base's 20th annual job fair. Sixty employers set up booths for the event which is hosted



Capt. Enrique Sadsad, Mayor Guy Thompson, Santa Rosa County Commissioner Don Salter, Eric Hannel from Congressman Jeff Miller's office, AC2 Kendra Mock, and Col. Scott Walsh cut the ribbon to officially open the new \$4.6 million air traffic control tower on South Field at NAS Whiting Field. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

ed by Whiting Field's Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC). It is free to both employers and job seekers and is always a popular venue. The event usually draws more than 800 guests to the base and approximately 70 vendors.

The Future Has Arrived - First T-6Bs Land at NAS Whiting Field to Fanfare

Inclement weather may have darkened the skies, but failed to dim the enthusiasm of the pilots, maintenance teams, community members, VIPs, aircraft businessmen and others waiting to see the first new airframe at Naval Air Station Whiting Field in more than 30 years. More than 150 people assembled in the North Field hangar at the base to see the first two T-6B Texans roll down the runway. The arrival of the Texan signals the official start of the turnover from the venerable T-34C Turbo Mentor to the T-6B for primary flight training under Training Air Wing FIVE. To mark the occasion, TRAWING-5 hosted a fly-in ceremony at 9:30 a.m. at the hangar, followed by a reception at the Joint Primary Air Training System (JPATS) building on the base.

TRAWING-5 Exceeds 2,000,000 TH-57 Flight Hours - Contractors Have Been Maintaining Helos Since 1981

Averaging 6,000 hours per month for more than 28 years, Training Air Wing FIVE surpassed 2,000,000 flight hours under contract maintenance Sept. 8. The milestone

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MWR Wins First Reindeer Games Competition

- Liberty Center Earns Prizes and Cash Grant for Single Sailor Program

By Ens. Joanna Clark, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

With the Christmas spirit shining through, and a little help from some last second reindeer, the Liberty Center staff earned top honors in the 2009 Liberty Reindeer Games.

More than forty commands competed in the fledgling event with Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Morale accumulating 118 points in the competition. That amounted to a 20-point victory over second place Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev.

The first ever Reindeer Games challenged each



The 45 sets of reindeer antlers was one of the deciding factors in NAS Whiting Field's MWR Department winning the Navy-wide Reindeer Games competition in December. U.S. Navy photo by Ens. Joanna Clark.

VT-2 Change of Command

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Iron Gator," based in Sasebo, Japan.

Following his speech, he passed the squadron flag to McGuire ending his tour as commanding officer.

McGuire assumed command after his tour as the Executive Officer for the unit. He was commissioned in July 1981, has been with Training Squadron TWO since September 2008 and has accumulated in excess of 5,700 hours in various fleet aircraft including the CH-53 A/E, HH-65 A as well as the HU-25 A/B/C.

The new commanding officer spoke very briefly to the assembled troops and guests, and encouraged the squadron toward continuing their mission successfully.

"Doerbirds, we soar to our 50th year with less air time, less money, and more mission. These are nothing but challenges and Naval aviators overcome challenges," he said. "We can never waiver from our commitment to a quality sortie flown safely and smartly."



Cmdr. Warren Lipscomb, III (USN) receives the Meritorious Service Medal from Col. Scott Walsh during the Training Squadron TWO change of command ceremony Dec. 18. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

MWR's Liberty Program to a month of weekly competitions. Points awarded were based on time taken to complete the challenge. Some challenges also awarded bonus points for meeting certain conditions attached to each challenge.

Ashley Platts, NAS Whiting Field's Liberty Program Manager, explained that surpassing the competition was possible with the help of base personnel.

"What really won it for us were the bonus points during the first week. We put in a little extra effort with the help of the Training Wing FIVE students waiting to class up wearing antlers in a picture for the competition."

As the winner of the competition, NAS Whiting Field MWR's Liberty Program will receive six Segways and a \$1,000 grant. The base's Liberty Program will reserve the primary use of these machines for the Single Sailors Program, a program designed to provide positive recreation activities to 18-25 year old single and unaccompanied service members.

"The Segways will be able to go on and off road, so we can take them on our trips with the Single Sailors Program," Platts said. "Since they can be taken off road, we can also use them for a variety of things, such as sports days, command picnics, and using them on the nature trail on base."

NAS Whiting Field will pioneer the Segway program for Commander Navy Installations Command and provide feedback that will eventually help establish Segway programs on other bases throughout the Navy.

"We would really like to thank the command and the wing for their support," Platts remarked. "It goes to show that no matter how small our base is, if we put our mind to something we can accomplish it."

Videos and pictures from the competition can be found on the NAS Whiting Field MWR Website, www.facebook.com/wfmwr.

End of Year Recap

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Capt. Enrique Sadsad and Capt. Pete Hall cut the cake at the conclusion of their change of command ceremony Nov. 5. Hall became the 49th commanding officer of Naval Air Station Whiting Field. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

signifies the success of the transition from military personnel performing maintenance on the aircraft to contractors taking charge in 1981. Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT performed the hallmark flight and the event was celebrated upon their afternoon return.

Martinson Receives Key to the City of Milton

Chief Naval Air Crewman Dustin Martinson received some rare recognition Tuesday, Sept. 8, at Milton City Hall. He was one of only a handful of persons ever to be presented with a key to the city of Milton - an honor bestowed to him due to his strong record of community service.

Whiting Field Celebrates Hispanic Heritage

Naval Air Station Whiting Field celebrated cultural diversity and the contributions of Hispanic-Americans to the Navy and the nation during a Sept. 17 luncheon. As the population of people with Hispanic ancestry grows, the Navy and Whiting Field commemorate the importance and value through Hispanic-American Heritage Month events. The Wings Club hosted the event, offering a pleasant venue for an array of food, company, speaking, and even a presentation of Spanish influenced dances.

NWS Proclaims Whiting Field "Storm Ready"

Hurricane season is still in full swing, and Naval Air Station Whiting Field has the National Weather Service's vote of confidence that the base is prepared if a major storm should occur. NWS assigned their "Storm Ready" designation to the base during a short presentation Wednesday, Sept. 23. NAS Whiting Field is the first military installation in Northwest Florida and only the ninth nationwide to receive "Storm Ready" approval.

Whiting Field Celebrates 66th Anniversary Saturday - Public Invited to Enjoy the Day Highlighted by Lonestar Concert

Naval Air Station Whiting Field and the surrounding area enjoyed the base's 66th anniversary celebration, Oct. 24, featuring country music sensation Lonestar. The day long festivities and concert were free and open to the public. With gates opening at 8:30 a.m. and the event beginning at 10 a.m., the celebration offered a full slate of activities for guests. More than 20,000 people were estimated to have attended.

NHA Fleet Fly-In Completes Training Mission

More than thirty Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard helicopters from across the country arrived to Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field Oct. 20 for the 20th annual Naval Helicopter Association (NHA) Fleet Fly-In. The event is one of just two national gatherings held by the organization each year. The Fleet Fly-In has grown from just a few aircraft to a multi-day event including several helicopter communities and almost every type of helicopter in the sea service inventory.

Whiting Field / Air Force Team Up for SUAS Training

One of Naval Air Station Whiting Field's outlying fields became the official site of a joint training mission Thursday, Oct. 29 when a ceremony was held to dedicate the site for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Many military dignitaries and civilian VIP's from across the state assembled at Navy Outlying Field Choctaw to witness the ribbon cutting to celebrate the new mission for the site.

Hall Assumes Command of Whiting Field

The world's busiest Naval Air Station observed a change at the helm Thursday, Nov. 5 when Capt. Pete Hall relieved Capt. Enrique Sadsad as commanding officer. More than 700 community leaders, military personnel, friends and family filled Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Atri-



Capt. Pete Hall, Lt. Cmdr. Leaf Ballast, and Ron Cherry celebrate the 18th year of NAS Whiting Field being recognized as a Tree City USA. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

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