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Wednesday, June 29, 2011

HT-18 earns CNO Safety award recognition

By Lt. Benjamin Permenter, HT-18 PAO

Through hard work, dedication, attention to detail, and inspired leadership, the team at Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN has leaped to the forefront of personal safety. The past few months have produced a bumper crop of safety award nominations and victories for the unit. During the squadron's most recent safety stand-down, Capt. James Vandiver, commodore Training Air Wing FIVE, presented HT-18 with two prestigious safety awards, the Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award, and the John H. Towers Flight Safety Award. Both awards are for HT-18's excellent safety performance throughout 2010.

This is the fourth year in a row HT-18 has been selected for the CNO's Safety Award. HT-18 has also been selected for the SECNAV Safety Excellence Award and the Grampaw Pettibone Award for media. Lt. Col. Shawn Coakley, commanding officer of HT-18, was happy to accept all awards on

- (Cont. on Page 5)



Training Air Wing FIVE commodore, Capt. James Vandiver presents the Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award to Lt. Col. Shawn Coakley, Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN commanding officer, during a recent safety standown. Photo courtesy of HT-18.

DeBrine takes command of HT-18 at NASWF

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN exchanged commanding officers June 24 at the Naval Air Station Whiting Field's base auditorium. Following the traditional exchange of salutes and passing of the command colors, Lt. Col. Shawn Coakley passed the command of the unit to his executive officer Cmdr. Jeffrey DeBrine

The change of command is a bittersweet event as the squadron bids farewell to the commanding officer with whom they have worked for more than a year. The tradition also enables them to welcome their new "Skipper" with all the pomp and circumstance military service allows.

Col. Kevin Wild, National Plans Branch Head, Plans, Policies and Operations Department, Headquarters Marine Corps served as the guest speaker for the occasion and took the opportunity to praise the two officers for HT-18's success under their tenure.

"Thank you both for your continued support of the Navy and Marine Corps team... The foundation of their suc-

- (Cont. on Page 7)



Lt. Col. Shawn Coakley looks on as Cmdr. Jeffrey DeBrine passes the squadron colors back to Naval Air Crewman First Class L. H. Robertson after receiving them from Coakley. The exchange of the flag represents the passing of the responsibility for the unit during their change of command ceremony held June 24. Robertson, as the senior enlisted Sailor in the squadron had the honor to present the flag to the officers for the ceremony. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

Commission Issues Burn Ban for Santa Rosa County



With more than 95 percent of Santa Rosa County exceeding 600 on the Florida Division of Forestry's Drought Index, the Santa Rosa Board of County Commissioners enacted a burn ban on June 23. Even with the storms that recently passed through the county, the National Weather

Services estimates Santa Rosa County to be 11.5 inches below normal rainfall levels for the year. The ban will remain in effect until the threat of major wildfire emergencies in the local area has been significantly reduced.

The ban prohibits open burning, to include but not

limited to campfires, bonfires, yard debris, and other similar forms of incineration in both the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county. State permitted burns, authorized fireworks displays, State of Florida legal consumer firework products such as sparklers, fireworks sales which are authorized by state law, and outdoor cooking in barbecue grills, smokers, or other outdoor stoves located at private residences are exempt. Violations are punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

With the coming Independence Day holiday festivities, residents are reminded that the only legal consumer firework products allowed in the State of Florida should bear the wording "emits a fountain or shower of sparks." Aerial devices are prohibited. To minimize your chance of a fire:

- Make sure you are not near dry grass, weeds, or other flammable materials such as gasoline, hairspray or alcohol. Cement or blacktop driveways or patios are good places for sparklers.

- Light only one sparkler at a time.

- Do not re-ignite a sparkler that has lost its spark.

- Dispose used sparklers in a bucket of water or sand or on a metal tray. Once cool, dispose of the used sparkler wires in the trash.

Although the use of gas and charcoal grills are permitted, the public is encouraged to keep a constant watch for any stray sparks or embers while cooking outdoors. Additionally, due to the potential for accidental ignitions, the use of motorized equipment such as ATVs and dirt bikes are not suggested during times of high wildfire risk. Lawnmowers can also pose accidental ignition risks.

One of the more effective ways to reduce the possibility of wildfires is to clear underbrush or debris blown down in storms. These dry plants and vegetation create more fuel for wildfires. Wildfire prevention tips include:

- Prune all branches around the residence to a height of 8 to 10 feet. Keep trees adjacent to buildings free of dead or dying limbs and moss.

- Remove all dead limbs, needles and debris from rain gutters.

- Avoid open burning completely, especially during this dry season.

- Regularly dispose of newspapers and rubbish.

- Rake leaves, dead limbs and twigs. Clear flammable vegetation from around and under structures.

- Remove dead branches that extend over the roof.

- Store flammable materials in approved safety cans.

- Keep items available that can be used as fire tools, such as a rake, handsaw, chainsaw, bucket and shovel.

- Never throw a lighted cigarette from the window of a vehicle or walk off and leave a burning cigarette.

This Week in Naval History

June 27

1813 - USS President anchors in Bergen, Norway.

1950 - To support United Nations call to assist South Korea, President Harry S. Truman authorizes U.S. naval and air operations south of 38th Parallel, Korea.

June 28

1794 - Joshua Humphreys appointed master builder to build Navy ships at an annual salary of \$2,000.

1970 - USS James Madison (SSBN 627) completes conversion to Poseidon missile capability.

June 29

1925 - Ships and men from 11th and 12th Naval Districts assist in relief after earthquake at Santa Barbara, Calif.

1950 - President Harry S. Truman authorizes sea blockade of the Korean coast.

1950 - USS Juneau (CLA 119) fires first naval shore bombardment of Korean Conflict.

June 30

1815 - USS Peacock takes HMS Nautilus, last action of the War of 1812.

1951 - Naval Administration of Marianas ends.

July 1

1797 - Naval Regulations passed by Congress.

1800 - First convoy duty; USS Essex escorts convoy of merchant ships from East Indies to U.S.

1801 - U.S. squadron under Commodore Dale enters Mediterranean to strike Barbary Pirates.

1850 - Naval School at Annapolis renamed Naval Academy.

1851 - Naval Academy adopts four year course of study.

News and Notes

Ticket Price Increase at ITT - Universal Park in Orlando announced that their ticket prices for one and two day passes will increase. Morale Welfare and Recreation's ITT office still has a limited supply of lower priced tickets available. Entrance fees for adults are \$116.50 at ITT compared to \$160 for two-day passes at the gate and \$75.50 versus \$90 for one-day tickets.

White House Intern Program - On May 16, 2011, The White House announced that the application period for the prestigious White House Internship Program for Spring 2012 is now open. Applicants have until September 11, 2011, to apply for a Spring 2012 White House Internship. The spring term runs from January 17, 2012 - May 4, 2012. Internships are full-time and unpaid however the experience is second-to-none. Participants will work as part of the Administration's White House staff and gain a wide range of experience in public policy and experience, first-hand, the functions of our Government. Interns must be United States citizens and be at least 18 years of age on or before the first day of the internship. Veterans with high school diplomas who have served within the past two years are eligible to apply. Refer to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/internships/apply> for details.

Hot Dog Sale - NASWF Medical will host a Bratwurst/Hotdog sale on July 1 starting at 10 a.m. near the front entrance of the new clinic located across the street from the NEX/Commissary. A percentage of the proceeds will benefit the 2011 Navy Ball. Come celebrate the 4th of July and enjoy some BBQ cooked up by the NASWF Medical staff. Prices are \$1.50 for a hotdog and \$5 for a hotdog meal (hotdog, beans, chips and a drink) \$5.00. Bratwursts are \$3.50 with the bratwurst meal (brat, beans, chips and a drink) costing \$6.50

Santa Rosa Medical Center Auxiliary - The Santa Rosa Medical Center auxiliary (SRMC) will host a patriotic celebration at the Chumuckla's Farmers Opry Thursday, Sept. 1 beginning at 5:30 p.m. There will be a silent and live auction as well as entertainment provide by "The Sawmill Band." Tickets are \$25 and proceeds benefit the SRMC Health Care Scholarships. Call 626-5113 for more information.



Fair Winds and Following Seas

Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate Chris Perry receives his Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal from Naval Air Station Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Pete Hall. Perry retired from Naval service June 24. U.S. Navy photograph by Ensign John Llewellyn.



Retaining Our Best and Brightest

Air Traffic Controller Second Class Jason Parker receives his Honorable Discharge Certificate from Chief Air Traffic Controller Michael Pendygraft. Parker reenlisted June 23 in the operations auditorium for four more years of service. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

Flags for Veterans - As the country celebrates its nation's birthday this weekend, please join the Navy Exchange Whiting Field associates as they pay tribute to the American Military Veteran. Stop by the main Exchange and purchase an American flag for .89 cents. We will write the name of your military veteran on a yellow ribbon and tie it to the flag. Friday at 8 a.m. the NEX associates will place all flags around the NEX parking lot marquee where they will fly throughout the July 4th holiday weekend.

Main Street Milton First Friday - First Friday in downtown Milton takes on a new look this year, offering a car club of the month, along with a mix of arts and crafts. Visitors can also enjoy shopping at various businesses as well as visiting the Santa Rosa Veterans' Memorial First Friday happens the first Friday of each month through November from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Downtown Riverwalk Park area. Call 626-6246 or see www.mainstreetmilton.org for more information.

Riverfest & Duck Race - Three thousand rubber ducks will race down the Blackwater River July 4 as part of the Fourth of July ceremonies for downtown Milton. The ducks hit the water at 5 p.m. with the winning duck earning its adopted owner \$1,500. Riverfest will also host a car show and awards presentation, a kids' area, the Pensacola Youth Steel Orchestra, a veterans' salute, karaoke with Bookie Inc. and a fireworks display over the river after sunset. Call the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce at 623-2339 or see www.srchamber.com.

Fourth of July Parade - The annual Stars and Stripes Parade will travel through Milton Saturday July 2 at 7 p.m.. The event will follow the traditional route through Stewart Berryhill and Willing streets in Milton.

Don't forget to check out the Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Facebook fan page at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/naswhitingfield> and MWR's Facebook fan page at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/WFMWR>.

Upcoming Events

July 1, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

July 4 - Independence Day Holiday

July 2, 1900 - Fourth of July Parade - Stewart Street, Milton

July 4, 1700 - Annual Milltown Duck Race - Milton Riverwalk

July 15, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

July 29, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

Smooth Move - Wednesday July 6 - 1300-1500

Make your next change of duty station move a smooth one. Learn what resources are available to you and five key steps to minimizing stress during the relocation and transition period. For more information, contact a work and family life specialist at 623-7177.

Applying for Federal Jobs - Tuesday July 12 & Aug. 1 - 1130-1300

Is it worth your while to invest your time and effort 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 listings for keywords, and how to apply for jobs. For more information, call 623-7177.

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) - Thursday July 14 - 1300 -1500

Start investing in your future now. The money you save and earn through your TSP account will provide an important source of retirement income. Class will be held in the FFSC conference room. For more information, FFSC at 623-7177.

Resume Writing - Monday July 18 & 25 - 1000-1200 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.

Red Cross moves to a single phone number for military family help

As part of an ongoing effort to better serve the military community, the American Red Cross announced that it will move to a single telephone number for its emergency communication services. Already effective, all military members and their families can use one number- 877-272-7337 (U.S. Toll Free) to send an urgent message to a service member. The change means that all military members and their families can use this single number to initiate an emergency communication, regardless of where they live.

A call to 877-272-7337 allows Red Cross emergency communications services to put military personnel in touch with their families following the death or serious illness of an immediate family member, the birth of a service member's child or grandchild or when a family faces other emergencies. Additional Red Cross services such as case management and emergency financial assistance also are available. For those stationed overseas, the three options for calling will remain the same: calling 877-272-7337 direct, accessing the number through a military operator, or calling the local Red Cross station.

The Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces program provides assistance to more than 2 million service members and many of the nation's 24 million veterans. The Red Cross provides emergency communications linking service members with their families during time of crisis; comfort and care in military and veterans medical facilities; access to financial assistance in partnership with the military aid societies; information and referral and assistance to veterans.



Green Thumb Champions

Lt. Col. Mark Thompson, Helicopter Training Squadron TWENTY-EIGHT; Danielle Lino and Celine Norton, receive the Victory Garden trophy from Naval Air Station Commanding Officer Capt. Pete Hall. The squadron's garden took top spot from among ten competitors in categories such as health of the plants, variety of produce, aesthetics, largest zucchini, and more.

HT-28's garden was one of the smallest, but racked up points for having the largest zucchini by far, and a design based on the squadron's logo. Lino and Norton were the main architects of the winning design.

Other gardens receiving special mention were the NEX's with the Jolly Green Giant certificate for most growth and the Child Development Center for largest variety of plants.

The squadron will keep the trophy until next year's Victory Garden competition

However, there is a fall challenge issued by Hall for seeing who can grow the largest pumpkin for Halloween. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

PCS order writing remains on track for FY 2011

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (AW) La-Tunya Howard, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- Navy Personnel Command (NPC) leaders said permanent change-of-station (PCS) order writing is efficiently operating, June 22.

"We are fully-funded for PCS through the end of the fiscal year (FY) 11," said Capt. Mary Lewellyn, Navy distribution management director. "Our current allocation of \$667.5 million will fund a little more than 71,000 orders."

Just a few months earlier a shortfall in PCS funding was felt Fleet-wide. While Congress wanted to pass a defense appropriation bill, insufficient manpower funding resulted in decreased lead time for Sailors receiving PCS orders. The average lead time between Sailors receiving orders and transferring was two months or less.

"The current lead times have improved significantly and are approaching the NPC goal of Sailors getting their orders four-to-six months prior to their rotation dates, said Lewellyn.

"We expect to meet our goal by the end of the FY in getting most Sailors four months lead time, and Sailors moving to and from overseas assignments six months lead time. This level of funding moves us closer to calling the PCS obligation policy change (POPC) complete," said Lewellyn.

POPC, outlined in NAVADMIN 191/07 and directed by the Department of Defense (DOD), affected the way PCS orders are funded. The services now must obligate all

PCS costs when orders are issued, versus when orders are executed.

"Think of this policy change as the difference between a credit card and a debit card," said Rear Adm. Donald Quinn, deputy chief of Navy personnel. "Prior to 2009, PCS orders were written as if on a credit card. The Navy would pay the bill once the service member executed the move. Today, orders are written as if on a debit card. Once the orders are released, the Navy is charged."

"The policy changed three years ago, but now the focus is about regaining lead time," said Bowers.

"The reason we've done so well this year, following the continuing resolution, is because we've 'bought ahead,'" said Cmdr. Kendra Bowers, deputy director Navy distribution management. At the end of September 2010, we had bought so many orders ahead that people detaching in October, November and December had their orders in hand.

According to Bowers, NPC writes approximately 70,000 PCS orders annually. The 'buy ahead' funds approximately 17,000 more orders.

"We have funding and we are releasing orders," said Bowers. "If Sailors do not have orders in-hand and they are within 30 to 60 days of their transfer date, they need to call the NPC customer service center (CSC) or have their chain of command call."

Sailors with PCS questions can call the NPC CSC at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC; email at CSCMailbox@navy.mil or use the self-help NPC Knowledge Base webpage.

Safety Awards

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behalf of his squadron.

"These awards represent the hard work and dedication of the whole Vigilant Eagle team," he said.

The CNO's Safety Award is awarded to a ship or squadron that has an outstanding safety record and an aggressive aviation safety program that contributes new ideas in mishap prevention for the general benefit of Naval Aviation, according to the guiding instruction for the program..

Selection of the winners was primarily based on, but not limited to, the following considerations: Class A and B aircraft flight, flight-related mishap rates; Class A and B aircraft ground mishaps; currency of safety survey; quality of mishap reports; quality and quantity of hazard reports and more

The John H. Towers Flight Safety Award is presented by the Order of Daedalians, a non-profit group, to a squadron training student Naval aviators or flight officers with an outstanding safety record. The Grampaw Pettibone Award is presented annually to the individual and unit that contributes the most toward aviation safety awareness through publications and media resources.

Eco-nomics

Reduce Meat Consumption by Just 20%

On average, Americans consume about eight ounces of meat a day, which is roughly twice the global average. We are 5 percent of the world's population consuming 15 percent of the world's livestock - 10 billion animals a year. All those cows, pigs and chickens are responsible for 18 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions (more than transportation!) and 8 percent of global water use, according to the UN. Meat takes much more energy to produce than plant-based foods. In fact, Gidon Eshel of the Bard Center and Pamela A. Martin of the University of Chicago calculated that if Americans were to reduce meat consumption by just 20 percent, it would be as if we all switched from a standard sedan to a Prius. That would save everyone 342 gallons. Going vegetarian = 1,710 gallons.

See www.thedailygreen.com for more tips.

Congrats TRAWING-5 wingers and scholars



First Row: Lt. Col. Mark Thompson, USMC; Lt. j.g. Ryan Kroning, USN; Lt. j.g. Nicholas Memering, USN; Lt. j.g. Rebecca Bennett, USN; Lt. j.g. Lisa Knauft, USN; 1st Lt. Eric Ducommun, USMC; 1st Lt. Daniel Chiriboga, USMC; 1st Lt. Phillip Break, USMC; Lt. j.g. Dylan Sapia, USCG; Lt. j.g. Corey Hausman, USN; Lt. j.g. Michelle Degrothy, USN; Lt. j.g. Elizabeth Fluke, USN; Cmdr. Christopher Heaney, USN; and Cmdr Hans Sholley, USN.

Second Row: Lt. Col. Shawn Coakley, USMC; Lt. j.g. Richard Grant, USN; Lt. j.g. Kenneth Fisher, USN; 1st Lt. Greg Frevert, USMC; 1st Lt. Christopher Starr, USMC; 1st Lt. Jacob Noreen, USMC; Capt. William Oren, USMC; 1st Lt. Willus Withrow, USMC; Lt. j.g. Peter Schofield, USCG; Lt. j.g. Kellen Odom, USN; Lt. j.g. Jason Beaudwin, USN; and Col. James Grace, USMC.



Left Photo: Training Air Wing FIVE awarded Academic Achievement certificates to: 1st Lt. Jared D. Shaker, USMC; 1st Lt. Matthew R. Recker, USMC; 1st Lt. Scott M. Corbett, USMC; 1st Lt. Jesse A. Simmermon, USMC; Lt. j.g. Justin D. Church, USCG; 2nd Lt. Scott M. Carlan, USAF; 1st Lt. Brandon M. Showers, USMC; 1st Lt. Ross W. Campbell, USMC; 1st Lt. Alexander M. Goodman, USMC; 1st Lt. Benjamin R. Lenox, USMC; 1st Lt. Andrew Thornberg, USMC; and 2nd Lt. Matthew Luvera, USAF on June 3, 2011.

Right Photo: The June 10 Academic Achievement recipients were: Lt. j.g. Katherine M. Pelkey, USCG; 1st Lt. Donald A. Groves, USMC; Lt. j.g. Trenton M. Daiuto, USN; 2nd Lt. Thomas A. Cecil, USMC; Ensign Sean W. Hale, USN; and Ensign Alex C. S. Stone, USN.

CNRSE Sends Independence Day Message



Rear Adm.
Townsend Alexander

Team SE: This weekend we will have the opportunity to celebrate our independence and the establishment of what is truly the greatest country in the world. The words of our founding fathers in the Declaration of Independence carry as much meaning today as they did 235 years ago. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

I hope that the upcoming long weekend gives everyone the opportunity to celebrate our Independence with family and friends. Have a wonderful weekend but please be safe, make smart choices and come back on Tuesday ready to roll up your sleeves and get back to work. I need the entire team; without all of you we can't be successful!

Finally, remember also the words at the closing of the Declaration. “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.” The Founding Fathers fully understood the significance of their actions and the need for unity. This remains just as important today.

Thanks for all you do for the Navy and the SE Region. Have a great weekend!

Change of Command

- (Cont. from Page 1)

cess – what they learned from you – Our nation will continue to reap the benefits of your efforts for years to come,” he stated while commenting about the future warfighters the squadron trained who have or will soon head out to the fleet.

While HT-18 designated nearly 500 helicopter pilots and flew more than 55,000 flight hours while Coakley was with the unit, his greatest legacy may be the squadron's dedication to aviation safety.

Under Coakley's leadership, HT-18 continued a long-standing Class “A” mishap free time-frame that now stands at more than 39 years and greater than 1.1 million flight hours. The unit was named a recipient of the 2010 Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award, the 2010 John H. Towers Flight Safety Award, and the Grampaw Pettibone award for Aviation Safety for media actions. The unit also received the 2009 Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award while he was the executive officer.

Every three weeks when a new class of students begins, Coakley asks them who requested helicopter training as their first choice versus jet or propeller fixed wing training. He stated that many more raise their hands now than when he was a student aviator 17 years ago.

“Helicopter aviation is more important today than it ever has been... This tour has been incredibly rewarding to me... They not only do the right thing, but they go far above and beyond,” Coakley said in praise of the HT-18 team.

Training Air Wing FIVE deputy commodore, Col. James Grace presented Coakley with the Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his success in leading the Vigilant Eagles. Coakley's next assignment is at the Naval Air War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

After receiving the flag and exchanging salutes with Coakley and Grace, DeBrine took the podium for the first



Cmdr. Jeffrey DeBrine has his command pin placed on his uniform by his wife, Ami. DeBrine assumed command of Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN, June 24 in the base auditorium at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. DeBrine had previously served as the executive officer of the squadron. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

time as the commanding officer. In keeping with tradition, he promised to keep his comments brief and thanked his family, friends, and the HT-18 staff, instructors and students. He reminded the Vigilant Eagle team each of them is important to the success of the mission.

“I am extremely grateful and honored to be standing here today... To all the members of the HT-18 team, your hard work and dedication is awe-inspiring. Every job the squadron is vital. Don't ever think you aren't appreciated.”

Lt. Col Robert S. White became the executive officer of the squadron and is next in line to become commanding officer.