

# 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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## Coakley to pass title of “Skipper” to DeBrine

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Shawn Coakley will turn over command of Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN to Cmdr. Jeffrey DeBrine Friday, June 24, at 10 a.m. in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field auditorium. The guest speaker for the ceremony will be Col. Kevin Wild, National Plans Branch Head, Plans, Policies and Operations Department, Headquarters Marine Corps.



Lt. Col. Shawn Coakley

Under Coakley's leadership, HT-18 continued a long-standing Class “A” mishap free timeframe that now stands at more than 39 years and greater than 1.1 million flight hours. The unit was named the Training Air Wing FIVE nominee for

the 2010 Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award and earned the 2009 Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award while he was the



Cmdr. Jeffrey DeBrine

executive officer. The unit was also nominated for the 2010 John H. Towers Flight Safety Award.

HT-18 designated nearly 500 helicopter pilots and flew more than 55,000 flight hours while he was with the unit.

With more than 20 years of service to the Marine Corps, Coakley has accumulated more than 4,000 total hours of flight time in

- (Cont. on Page 5)

## Verda assumes mantle of VT-6 commanding officer



Cmdr. Sean Maybee salutes the Training Squadron SIX pennant before receiving it from Len Agnello, VT-6's logistician. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Ryan Griffith.

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Following 15 months at the helm, Cmdr. Sean Maybee passed command of Training Squadron SIX to Lt. Col. Danny Verda Friday, June 17, at 10 a.m. in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field auditorium. In front of the assembled friends, family and squadron mates, Verda received the command pennant symbolizing the passing of the squadron's reins.

The change of command ceremony is a time honored tradition that enables the crew to welcome the new commanding officer to the unit and to praise the efforts of the outgoing skipper. Col. James Grace, Training Air Wing FIVE's deputy commodore alluded to the unique nature of the change of command during his role as the guest speaker for the event.

“The most unique nature of a change of command is the fact that it brings together two individuals from different backgrounds who share the common goal of being the best possible commanding officer of this wonderful squadron and making it the best training squadron in Training Air Wing FIVE and CNATRA (Chief of Naval Air Training).”

While rare throughout most of the fleet, it is common for VT-6 to have a Marine officer follow a Navy officer in command, and Verda's executive officer is now Cmdr. Donald Jamiola – who will succeed him in turn. Together,

- (Cont. on Page 5)

# MCPON sends Hospital Corpsman birthday message



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West. Official U.S. Navy file photo.

## Special Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy

**WASHINGTON (NNS)** -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following hospital corpsman birthday message to the Fleet June 17.

"Shipmates, For 113 years, hospital corpsmen have been deployed with our Sailors and Marines worldwide, have served in every major battle and have always been ready to answer the call 'Corpsman Up!' The hospital corpsman legacy is one of pride, consummate professionalism, dedication to duty, and always placing a shipmate's needs before their own.

As I travel around the Fleet, I'm always inspired by your dedication and devotion to duty, whether in combat, underway on, above or under the world's oceans, during humanitarian relief missions or helping our Sailors, Marines, families and retirees here at home.

I recently visited your new training facilities in San Antonio, and I was very impressed by the enthusiasm of our young future Navy corpsmen and the staff leading them. I have seen your training pipelines and know first hand that Hospital Corpsman training is some of the longest and most intense training available to our Sailors. This is evident through the outstanding medical treatment you provide everyday at home and abroad. I'm not surprised that we are experiencing the lowest battle mortality and non-battle injury rates in the history of armed conflict which is due to your exceptional training and skills, and your willingness to help all those you come in contact with in their greatest time of need.

To the thousands of hospital corpsmen who serve our great Navy, I am extremely proud of each and every one of you for answering the call to duty and for your selfless service. I ask that you stay vigilant and committed to one another and to the values and principles that have defined your past and will forge your future. Happy Birthday Navy corpsman ... you're making a difference every day as you have been your last 113 years.

HOOYAH Warriors! Very Respectfully, "MCPON"

## This Week in Naval History

### June 20

1815 - Trials of Fulton I, built by Robert Fulton, are completed in New York. This ship would become the Navy's first steam-driven warship.

1898 - U.S. forces occupied Guam, which became first colony of United States in the Pacific.

1913 - First fatal accident in naval aviation, Ensign W. D. Billingsley killed at Annapolis, Md.

1944 - Battle of Philippine Sea ends with Japanese losing two aircraft carriers and hundreds of aircraft.

### June 21

1898 - USS Charleston captures island of Guam from Spain.

1945 - Okinawa declared secure after most costly naval campaign in history. United States had 30 ships sunk and 223 damaged, mostly from kamikaze attacks, with 5,000 dead and 5,000 wounded, while the Japanese lost 100,000 dead.

### June 22

1865 - Confederate raider Shenandoah fires last shot of Civil War in Bering Strait.

1884 - Navy relief expedition under Cmdr. Winfield S. Schley rescues Lt. A.W. Greely, USA, and six others from Ellesmere Island, where they were marooned for three years on Arctic island.



## Seal Those Ducts

Moving even deeper into your home's infrastructure ... one encounters ductwork. Studies show 10% to 30% of heated (or cooled) air in an average system escapes from ducts.

Therefore, it could pay to hire a professional technician to come out and test your duct system, and fix any problems. Properly sealing ducts can save the average home up to \$140 annually, according to the American Solar Energy Society. Plus, you'll have better protection against mold and dust. Many utilities offer incentive programs for duct improvement. Be wary of "duct cleaning" services, however; absent an air quality problem, most homes don't need their ducts cleaned. Additionally, low-income households can qualify for an average of \$6,500 worth of weatherization improvements to their homes through government programs administered by each state. Find out about your state's program by contacting local energy agencies.

See [www.thedailygreen.com](http://www.thedailygreen.com) for more tips.

# News and Notes

**Family Pool Opened** - The Family Pool is now open.

**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.

**Blueberry Bash** - The ARC Santa Rosa, Inc., 2nd Annual "Blueberry Bash" will be held on Sat, Jun 25, 2011, 0800-1400. They are located at 6225 Dixie Road, Milton. A 5K Fun-Run kicks-off the event at 7 a.m., with check-in at 6 a.m. To register on-line, visit [www.imathlet.com](http://www.imathlet.com). You can also download the registration form at [www.thearcsantarosa.org/documents](http://www.thearcsantarosa.org/documents). Registration is \$30.00 and includes a "Blueberry Bash" t-shirt. Refreshments will follow the run. This promises to be a family event with many children's activities. A variety of Arts and Crafts and other vendors will be on hand, as well as an array of Fun Food items to enjoy. There will be various local entertainment performing throughout the day. Blueberry plants and fruit will be available for purchase. For additional information, call Mr. Debbie Goss at [dgoss@bellsouth.net](mailto:dgoss@bellsouth.net) or contact The ARC Santa Rosa at 623-9320.

**Starbase Atlantis Registration** - NASWF Starbase Atlantis is now accepting applications for their Summer Program, Session July 11-14. There are 25 spaces available so signups are on a 'first come, first served basis.' Completed applications can be dropped off at Bldg. 1907 NAS Pensacola, faxed to (850) 452-8288, or emailed to [starbaseatlantis@mchsi.com](mailto:starbaseatlantis@mchsi.com). Cost is FREE! The program is open to any child 9-11 to include visiting grandchild from out of state, home schooled, etc. For additional information, call (850) 452-8287. Please mention Naval Air Station Whiting Field Program during the call.

**ICSOF Class** - The Intercultural Competence for Special Operations Forces Course (previously known as Cross-Cultural Communications) will take place 22-26 August 2011 at the United States Air Force Special Operations School on Hurlburt Field. The course seeks to provide attendees with culture-general knowledge and skills to quickly and accurately comprehend, then appropri-



## A Temporary Home

**Hospital Corpsman First Class Danny Janolo sits behind the counter in the pharmacy area for the temporary clinic located next to the Navy Exchange at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. The temporary facilities will be in use for about a year while the Branch Health Clinic has its air conditioning and heating system refurbished. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Ryan Griffith.**

ately and effectively act, in a culturally complex environment to achieve the desired effect without necessarily having prior exposure to a particular group, region, or its language. Students will apply communication and negotiation skills in role-playing scenarios, and will be exposed to a variety of hands-on exercises that will challenge their own cultural norms. To register for this nominative course, call 850-884-1854 (DSN 579) or visit <http://www.afsoc.af.mil/usafsos/>. For information about this course, e-mail Capt Annie Kleiman at [usafsos.icsof@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:usafsos.icsof@hurlburt.af.mil).

**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, firsthand, 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.

**OAP Camping Trip** - Join the Outdoor Adventures Program for a overnight camping trip in St. Joseph's Peninsula State Park. The Park offers a variety of outdoor, beach based activities from kayaking to swimming to hiking. With miles of white sugar sand, this park has one of the top rated beaches in the United States. The cost of the trip will include your gear, transportation and food. For more information or to register, stop by the Outdoor Adventure Program in Bldg 2958 Room 8157/8158



## Fair Winds and Following Seas

Cmdr Jeffrey Chown (left), Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Det Milton, presents Lt. Cmdr Hartsell with his shadowbox during Hartsell's retirement ceremony June 17 at the Naval Aviation Museum. Photograph courtesy of CNATT Det. 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

June 24, 1000 - HT-18 Change of Command - Auditorium

July 1, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

July 4 - Independence Day Holiday

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.

## Balfour Beatty Communities to kick-off 2011 housing survey

In a few weeks, family housing residents will be receiving the CEL Resident Satisfaction Housing Survey. The annual survey is part of Balfour Beatty Communities' performance assessment program.

"The survey allows us to see where we are succeeding and where there is room for improvement," said Heather Sanders, Community Manager for Balfour Beatty.

Balfour Beatty Communities encourages residents to fill them out and return them at its Community Picnic and Swim Party being held to kick-off survey time. The event is set to begin at 4:00 PM on July 15th at the Community Center.

By completing and handing the survey in, residents will qualify for weekly prize drawings. The top prizes include an iPad! Residents that hand in the surveys by August 19, 2011 will also qualify for a special Early Bird Drawing.

"We truly strive to exceed our resident's expectations and hope that every resident enjoyed their home and the services that we provided," explained Sanders.

Once residents complete their surveys and seal them in the postage paid envelopes provided, they can simply bring it to the Balfour Beatty Communities Management Office and drop it in the authorized locked mailbox. Survey results are confidential. The survey deadline is August 31.

## NAS Whiting Field's Annual Navy Ball Golf Tournament

We will be looking for you there!

July 1 shotgun start @ 0800

\$35.00 or \$42.00 w/ lunch (Burger, fries and drink)

\$5.00 Mulligan pkg includes 3 mulligans & 1 tee buster

To register contact AC2 Egerdahl @ [timothy.egerdahl@navy.mil](mailto:timothy.egerdahl@navy.mil)  
or AC2 Hodge @ [ayanna.hodge@navy.mil](mailto:ayanna.hodge@navy.mil)

# VT-6

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Verda and Maybee excelled in leading the “Shooters” to unparalleled success in training the next generation of air warriors.

VT-6 reduced its average student time-to-train to less than 31.5 weeks, producing more quality student military aviators in less time than any primary training squadron, all the while attaining the lowest advanced pipeline attrition rate in TRAWING-5. The unit also flew more than 20,000 mishap-free hours under Maybee’s command and excelled in every area of Primary Flight Training while simultaneously transitioning to the new T-6B Texan II airframe. VT-6 exceeded both FY-09 and FY-10 pilot production goals and produced a total of 401 SMAs.

The squadron is also halfway through their transition to the T-6B Texan II aircraft. Students began flying the aircraft in April and the first solo flight took place earlier this month.

For his achievements Maybee was awarded the Meritorious Achievement Medal.

“I can tell you Sean, you have proven to be an outstanding leader... you have made the entire wing better in the process and exceeded all of our expectations,” Grace praised.

Maybee’s next tour of duty is as the Defense Attache to Sweden. He is currently the Attache designate and will train for the position for a year before transferring to Sweden for his duties.

Verda, with more than 20 years under his belt, is a combat tested Marine who has flown missions in Bosnia, Croatia, central Africa, Okinawa, and Iraq. He assumed duties as the executive officer of VT-6 nine months ago – three months later than expected, due to his work supporting the humanitarian missions in Haiti. This is his third tour in the area: as a student, an instructor, and now as the commander of one of the training squadron.

“We have a great opportunity here – we get to train the next generation of defenders of our great nation. We get to make our own replacements. We get to ensure our great nation’s security long after we retire by our actions today. If they fail, it is because we failed, and if they succeed – and they will succeed, it is because we gave them the tools they needed to carry out their mission,” Verda stated during his speech.



Col. James Grace, deputy commodore Training Air Wing FIVE; Cmdr. Sean Maybee, outgoing commanding officer for Training Squadron SIX and incoming commanding officer, Lt. Col. Danny Verda stand at attention during the parading of the colors to begin the change of command ceremony Friday, June 17 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

# HT-18

- (Cont. from Page 1)

several aircraft including: CH-46E, VH-60N, and the VH-3D. He served as a member of Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1) from 1997 to 2001 where he flew missions supporting both Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush. He is also a graduate of the Marine Corps Command and Staff College with a Masters in Military Studies. He has also served multiple tours in Okinawa as well as several years with the Joint Staff in Washington D.C.



Lt. Col. Robert White

DeBrine is a 1992 graduate of the Naval Academy and completed his initial helicopter training at Helicopter Training Squadron EIGH-

TEEN. He served early tours with HC-4 in Sicily and was the air officer aboard USS Juneau (LPD-10). He is a graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School and the National War College with advanced degrees in Modeling Virtual Environments and Simulation and National Security Studies. He also was assigned to Washington D.C. to serve with the Joint Campaign Analysis Branch of the Navy Assessment Division (N81) where he worked on future fleet requirements, joint campaign modeling and also as the executive assistant to N81.

Lt. Col. Robert White will take over for DeBrine as the executive officer for the squadron.

## Burning Advisory Continues

Santa Rosa County continues to encourage residents to refrain from any outdoor burning activity. This includes campfires, bonfires, and yard debris burning. Santa Rosa County Emergency Management with the local division of forestry officials will continue daily monitoring of local wildfire conditions over the weekend. While no burn ban is in place at this time, if conditions change, the board of county commissioners can take emergency action immediately to enact any necessary burn ban. Additionally, the commissioners will discuss implementing a burn ban at the Monday, June 20 committee meeting.

As a precaution, the Florida Division of Forestry Blackwater Forestry Center is not issuing burn permits for Santa Rosa County at this time. For more information on fire weather conditions, contact the Division of Forestry Blackwater Forestry Center at (850) 957-6140 or check online at [www.fl-dof.com/fire\\_weather/forecasts.html](http://www.fl-dof.com/fire_weather/forecasts.html).



### A Month of Thanks

May was military appreciation month, and Santa Rosa County celebrated it in style with the military appreciation picnic at Naval Air Station Whiting Field for the service members and their families. The flag was donated to the base last week in recognition of their service. The base will display the flag each year in gratitude to the Santa Rosa County community. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Ryan Griffith.

# BLOCK PARTY

**In the Liberty courtyard**  
\*beside the mini mart\*

**June 23**  
**1800-2300**

### Come join Liberty for a block party!

Liberty eligible patrons (18+, active duty, single sailors and geographical bachelors)

Enjoy a cookout, movie on the giant inflatable screen, fun and games!

Ride the Segways, play Live Angry Birds, jump on the velcro sticky wall, and much more!



## SRMC aims to educate local community

### Schedule of Events June 2011

Santa Rosa Medical Center has scheduled a number of meetings in June to assist members of the community in reaching their health related goals.

Lunch & Learn: Hypertension and Vision. Presented by Jenny West, ARNP and Emily Whitman, OD - Thursday, June 23. 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.. - Santa Rosa Medical Center: In the education building located directly behind the hospital. Free to attend. Lunch will be provided. To register please call 850.626.5113.

Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce: Commerce and Coffee - Friday, June 24. 7 – 8:30 a.m.. - Navarre Conference Center located at 8700 Navarre Pkwy. Navarre, FL 32566. Santa Rosa Medical Center is the presenting sponsor.

Diabetes Education Class: Tuesday, June 28 / Wednesday, June 29. 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. Santa Rosa Medical Center: In the education building located directly behind the hospital. For details, or to register please call 850.626.5196. Doctors may schedule their patients by faxing the following to 850.626.5195: \*Diabetes referral form signed by physician and current labs.