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# Base celebrates 20 years as Tree City, USA

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

Naval Air Station Whiting Field marked its 20th consecutive year as a National Arbor Day Foundation "Tree City, USA" Tuesday, Dec. 6.

The base celebrated the platinum anniversary of its green leadership by planting a sapling river birch on the grounds of the air station's fire department.

Capt. Matthew Coughlin, NAS Whiting Field commanding officer, in conjunction with personnel from the base's Public Works Department and the Florida Forest Service, held



NAS Whiting Field celebrates its 20th consecutive selection as a National Arbor Day Foundation "Tree City, USA" on Tuesday, Dec. 6. Base Commanding Officer Capt. Matthew Coughlin leads personnel from the Public Works Department, Fire Department, and Florida Forest service in the planting and dedication of a River Birch sapling. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso.

a gold-plated shovel for the occasion and proclaimed the significance of the event.

"We're one of only six military bases in Florida to do this, and that's a big deal.

"It's been 20 years since I've been here [as a student aviator], but the base was beautiful then, and it's a beautiful place now because of measures like these," Coughlin declared.

The dedication and planting of the new tree represented the latest addition to the base's growing collection of young river birches.

The thriving subjects  
- (Cont. on Page 2)

# Santa Claus lands at CDC for Christmas

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

Christmas arrived early at Naval Air Station Whiting Field when Santa Claus paid his annual visit to the Child Development Center on Friday, Dec. 9.

St. Nick, who bore a striking resemblance to Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT Executive Officer Cmdr. Matthew Bowen, arrived in true air station style - by helicopter.

Children, parents and CDC staff gathered to watch Santa sweeping fly-by and landing in a Training Air Wing FIVE TH-57 Sea Ranger. After waving off his surrogate sleigh, Santa excused Donner, Blitzen, and



Josh Jackson, 4, meets Santa Claus on Friday, Dec. 9 at the NAS Whiting Field Child Development Center. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso

company for their absence.

"The reindeer were all asleep, so I had to take this helicopter - I love it," Santa remarked to the enthused greeting party of one to four year-olds.

Fortunately, Kris Kringle came well-equipped with holiday cheer for a pre-Christmas delivery of candy canes and holiday-themed books.

Santa distributed classic yuletide titles including "A Visit from St. Nicholas," by Clement Clarke Moore, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," by Dr. Seuss and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," by Robert L. May, to eager recipients.

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# Tree City

- (Cont. from Page 1)

of previous years' plantings, some of which have grown considerably, provided an ideal setting for the air station's gesture.

The National Arbor Day Foundation sets four standards that a town or installation must meet in order to achieve the designation "Tree City, USA;" a tree care board must be convened; a tree care ordinance must be codified; a minimum per-capita forest maintenance budget must be established; and an Arbor Day proclamation must be delivered.

As the longest serving military "Tree City USA," the base consistently has exceeded these requirements. In 2011, the air station dedicated over \$90,000 to forestry efforts at NAS Whiting Field and its thirteen outlying fields.

The Public Works Department maintains active stewardship of more than 12,000 acres that fall under the command's authority.

In 2011, Public Works conducted controlled burns that stabilized and conditioned over 190 acres of targeted air station land.

This proactive measure is credited with avoiding uncontrolled brush fires, renewing habitats for wildlife below the canopy level, and reducing the impact of uncontrolled fires on aviation training operations.

Public Works Natural Resources Manager Ron 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.

Cherry delivered a resounding endorsement



**Air station Public Works Officer Lt. Cmdr. Jason Kranz, left, Commanding Officer Capt. Matthew Coughlin, and Public Works Natural Resource Manager Ron Cherry encourage the base's newest resident to put down roots. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso.**

of the benefits of the air station's "Tree City, USA" designation.

"Being a Tree City includes creating a framework for action, education, a positive public image, and citizen pride," he reflected.

Cherry stressed the economic, social, and environmental impact that responsible forestry contributes to the region. He highlighted the role that trees have played in urban planning and the development of community pride during his time in the base's home town of Milton, Fla.

"[Socially], trees make life more pleasant for most individuals. The strong ties between people and trees are most evident in the resistance of community residents to removing trees to widen streets," he noted with satisfaction.

The dedication was followed by a holiday tree lighting ceremony for base personnel and their children. Children decorated the lower branches with homemade ornaments while Coughlin, parents, and members of the base community provided compliments and encouragement.

The landscape beauty cited by Coughlin and the social engagement noted by Cherry served as the ideal backdrop to the children's subsequent recital of Christmas carols.

After Zoe Johnson, age 4, helped Coughlin illuminate the tree, parents and children gathered around the glimmering Red Cedar to enjoy seasonal refreshments including cookies, hot chocolate, and juice.

Cherry believes that moments such as this serve as an eloquent testament to the elemental appeal and natural warmth that trees contribute to the base.

"When you take it in the context of the light, and the time, and the spirit, it is a great focal point."

## This Week in Naval History

### Dec. 14

1944 - Rank of Fleet Admiral, U.S. Navy (five star admiral) is established.

1945 - Capt. Sue S. Dauser receives the first Distinguished Service Medal awarded to a nurse.

### Dec. 15

1943 - Bureau of Naval Personnel Circular Letter on non-discrimination in Navy V-12 program.

1965 - Launch of Gemini 6 with Capt. Walter M. Schirra, Jr., USN, as Command Pilot.

### Dec. 16

1907 - Great White Fleet departs Hampton Roads, Va., to circumnavigate the world.

1998 - In Operation Desert Fox, Navy cruise missiles strike Iraq.

# News and Notes

**Santa Fly-In** - come see Santa Claus fly into Milton Airport Saturday, Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Santa will fly in at noon. This is a free community event sponsored by Aviation Exploring Post #421 and AMS Flight School. All children ages 10 and under will receive a present from Santa. Santa will pose for pictures with the children in front of the airplane as well. There will be bouncy houses; hay rack rides; and hot chocolate, cider and cookies for the kids to enjoy. Call (850) 623-4151 for more information.

**ERAU Registration** - Embry Riddle Aeronautical University is now registering for the Spring term through Jan. 9, 2012. 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. Late registration and add/drop a course for a full refund will be held Jan. 9-13. Classes begin Jan. 9. New Student Orientation will be held Wednesday, Jan. 4 between 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. Email pensacola@erau.edu, visit www.embryriddle.edu/pensacola or call 458-1098 for more information.

**Bagdad Music Gala** - The Bagdad Villiage Preservation Association recently received a 19th century, beautiful, square grand piano. To raise funds for the restoration and maintenance, BVPA will be hosting an evening of 19th Century concert music featuring distinguished pianist Dr. Heidi Salanki-Rubardt, Director of the Piano Program and Chamber Music at the University of West Florida. Salanki-Rubardt studied at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music and the Bartok Conservatory in Budapest, as well as Rutgers University, and earned her doctorate in harpsichord performance at the Julliard School. She will be joined by acclaimed vocalist Michael Cowley, who will perform holiday music in honor of the season. The performance will be held in the Bagdad Village Museum on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 17 beginning at 7:00 p.m. The event will be limited to fifty guests and includes a reception and after-concert gathering with hor d' oeuvres and beverages typical of the era. Tickets for this black tie optional event are \$30 per person with all proceeds going to the restoration fund. For more information, call Richard Lewis at 983-7918.

**Carnival Cruise Specials** - The Information Tickets and Travel (ITT) office at Naval Air Station Whiting Field has "Pack and Go" opportunities for heavily discounted cruise specials. These include: a four-day cruise for two ~ Leaves 2/2/12 from New Orleans and sails to Western Caribbean ~ \$771.92 for interior and a four-day cruise for two ~ Leaves 1/26/2012 from Jacksonville, Fla. and sails to Freeport/Nassau ~ \$729.90 for interior. As "Pack and Go" opportunities, these are limited and must be fully paid at booking. Call the ITT office at x7032 for details.

**Precautionary Report** - Dr. Jo Ann Rooney, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, advised the three exchange commanders and directed the Defense Commissary Agency to temporarily remove all dietary supplements containing the ingredient dimethylamylamine (DMAA, trademark name Geranamine) until more information is gathered. Dr. Rooney's decision is a precautionary measure and in the interest of the health of



## Big Red Machine

The NAS Whiting Field Fire Department's new hook-and-ladder truck is a heavy metal hero. The engine's ladder extends to 75 feet-25 feet more than its predecessor. In addition, the new platform doubles the water pumping capacity of the old vehicle and carries an expanded suite of rescue gear. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso.

service members and their families."

**Pensacola Ice Flyers Tickets** - Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Information, Tickets and Travel office has Pensacola Ice Flyers home game tickets available now in Bldg. 1417 (next to Pen Air Federal Credit Union). The discounted tickets are only \$8.50 per ticket and the seats are in section 112. Similar seats cost \$16 at the gate. There are a limited number of tickets available per game. The upcoming schedule includes:

Friday, Dec. 16 - Columbus Cottonmouths @ 7:05

Friday, Dec. 23 - Columbus Cottonmouths @ 7:05

## Official Notices

The following cases were recently heard at courts-martial in Navy Region Southeast:

At a Special Court-Martial convened on board NAVSTA Mayport, a Petty Officer Third Class (PO3) pled guilty to stealing property from the NEX, stealing gift cards from the NEX, and impeding an investigation. The Military Judge sentenced the PO3 to four months confinement, forfeiture of two-thirds pay per month for four months, reduction in rate to paygrade E-1, and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

At a Special Court Martial convened on board NAVSTA Mayport, a Petty Officer Third Class (PO3) pled guilty to attempting to steal \$1218, stealing \$400 in cash and \$42 in gasoline, and wrongfully opening someone else's mail. The Military Judge sentenced the PO3 to 75 days confinement, reduction in rank to E-1, and a Bad Conduct Discharge. A pre-trial agreement limits confinement to 60 days.

At a Special Court Martial convened on board NAS Pensacola, an Airman Apprentice (AA) pled guilty to three specifications of failing to go to his appointed place of duty, five specifications of violating lawful orders, wrongfully using of marijuana, assault consummated by a battery and being drunk and disorderly. The Court-Martial sentenced the AA to 97 days confinement, reduction in rank to E-1, forfeiture of two-thirds pay per month for three months, and a reprimand.

## Upcoming Events

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve  
Dec. 25 - Christmas Day  
Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day  
Jan 13, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium  
Jan 27, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

# FFSC Items

**VA Representative - Friday, Dec. 16, from 8 a.m. to noon.**

**Consumer Awareness - Wednesday, Dec. 21, from 1 to 3 p.m.**

According to the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs, fraud cost consumers over \$40 billion dollars every year. We are constantly approached by people trying to take our money. Some offers are truly fraudulent and illegal, most, however, are simply rip-offs and misrepresentations. Don't be a victim! Class will be held in the FFSC conference room. For more information contact a work and family life specialist at 623-7177.

\*\*\*Don't forget that the deadline to return items to FFSC for Operation Elf is Dec. 15. Wrapping of the presents will be in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Chief Petty Officers' Mess, Dec. 16 and parents may pick up the presents Dec. 19 at FFSC.\*\*\*

**FFSC Note** - 'Tis the season to be jolly... and stressed out. If you're feeling irritable, rushed, resentful, lonely, or overwhelmed, keep these strategies in mind to help boost your happiness: 1. Get enough sleep, 2. Exercise and get some sunlight, 3. Stay in control of your eating (and Drinking!), 4. Take your time. {Plan ahead!}, 5. Learn from the past. {Don't repeat bad situations!}, 6. Make time for real fun and relaxation. {Quality quiet time with loved one's comes to mind}, 7. Behave yourself! {Everyone loves a Class Clown ~ for about two minutes!}, 8. Fill your heart with love. {If you're happy, you'll make others happy too! Holidays are supposed to be a time of peace, love, and fun... If you want some help keeping stress levels down FFSC counselors are available to help. Just call 623-7177.

**Join us for a day of exploring one of the few state parks in Florida with dry (air filled) caves and the only Florida state park to offer cave tours to the public. This cave has dazzling formations of limestone stalactites, stalagmites, soda straws, flowstones and draperies. Once we arrive at the park we will be taking a guided tour of the cave. The tour lasts for about 45 minutes and takes you along a path about 1600 feet long. There you can view a number of beautiful formations as they are explained by your tour guide. Once we are out of the cave we will eat lunch in the park and then we can explore the trails around the cave and check out the Blue Hole Spring.**

**For more information or to sign up please contact the Outdoor Adventure Program on board NAS Whiting Field at 850-623-7670 or email us at [Outdooradventure.wf@gmail.com](mailto:Outdooradventure.wf@gmail.com)**



**Florida Caverns State Park  
Guided Cave Tour  
February 4, 2012  
\$20.00 per person**

# Keeping Sailors happy during the holidays

By Lt. Tom Gordy, Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The director for Personnel Readiness and Community Support offered ways to reduce stress during the holiday season, Dec. 12.

By doing some simple things, most people can manage their stress and have an enjoyable and safe holiday, said Rear Adm. Martha Herb, director, Personnel Readiness and Community Support.

"We can feel the full range of emotions during this holiday time. They can range from happiness and joy to extreme stress. And we can deal with the stress if we plan appropriately," Herb said.

There are practical steps Sailors can take to manage the stress of the holidays, to include: maintaining an exercise routine; ensuring enough sleep; taking time to relax; planning and keeping to a budget for gift-giving; and celebrating in moderation.

But if the stress and struggles seem overwhelming, Sailors are encouraged to ask for help.

"It's ok to reach out and ask for help. In fact, it takes courage to reach out and tell somebody, 'I'm struggling. I need some help,'" Herb said.

Herb reminded Sailors that they can make a positive difference in the life of a shipmate who is struggling by taking a little extra time to A.C.T - Ask if they need help; Care enough to listen, offer hope and not judge; and Treat, take action, get proper professional assistance, and follow up.

Additionally, command leaders can maintain a healthy unit by being familiar with the resources the Navy offers and recommending them to their Sailors who are dealing with stress or thoughts of suicide. These resources include Military OneSource at [www.MilitaryOneSource.com](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.com) and 1-800-342-9647, the Veterans Crisis Line at <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net> and 1-800-273-8255, Navy Fleet and Family Support Program, Navy chaplains and medical providers.

By looking out for each other and planning ahead, Sailors can make sure that their holidays are happy for themselves and their shipmates.

## Weekly Spotlight - Jean Judge

### Branch of service:

Civilian

### Hometown:

Pensacola, Fla.

### Job title:

Command Secretary

### Command:

HT-28

### Years in service:

30 years

### What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love it all. I've worked for the federal government for 30 years and it's the best job I've ever had. It's all about the people here. I've gone through 4 great COs and XOs

### What is the best part of working for/with the Navy?

In the past 30 years my careers have been all over the place. I've had a journeyman position, an aviation electrical mechanic, and I've been in clerical work. Now I come to work because I want to, not because I have to. I will keep coming to work until I can't afford the gas prices anymore.

### What do you envision yourself doing in 5 years?

I'll be retired and probably do some shopping and volunteer work. Also, taking care of all the plants I have here in my office.



# MCPON issues annual holiday message to the fleet



MCPON Rick West sends his annual holiday greetings to the troops, Dec. 12. U.S. Navy file photo.

## Special from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/SW) Rick D. West

**WASHINGTON (NNS)** -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following holiday message to the Fleet Dec. 12.

"Shipmates and Navy families,

Can you believe another year is almost over? It's amazing how quickly time passes when you're staying busy! It seems we were kicking off 2011 just yesterday and here we are, about to usher in 2012.

With the traditional festivities of December upon us, I want to wish you all the happiest possible holidays, and to say thank you for the outstanding service and support you provide to our Navy and nation. I continue to be humbled by your selfless dedication and the outstanding job you do every day around the globe.

We faced some challenges this year and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future, but we will get through them together as we have done for the past 236 years. The Navy, after all, is a team sport and in 2011, we enjoyed many operational successes together that are worth celebrating. They are your legacy ... the deployments, the steady presence in difficult places, the helping hand when natural disasters left vulnerable people in their wake.

You and your Shipmates worked hard and sacri-

ficed often. As you visit with loved ones, scour the shopping malls, or hit the ski slopes during these joyous weeks, take a moment to reflect on the special appreciation America has for you and your family. Be proud of your accomplishments, and share sea stories with moms, dads, siblings, aunts, uncles, and old buddies.

Most of all, be safe and enjoy the holiday season to its fullest. Celebrate responsibly: You are important to our Navy family and we need every one of you to return recharged for the next adventure. Don't let bad judgment ruin the New Year or your life. Look out for each other, and keep an eye on your Shipmates who may be having a difficult time.

It's also important that we remember the thousands of our Shipmates who are deployed, on station around the world vigilantly keeping the watch, ready to answer our nation's call. They are there ensuring we have this chance to deck the halls, gather around family dinner tables, and belt out Auld Lang Syne in a storm of confetti.

Thank you again for serving our great Navy and preserving our nation's freedom. Sailors and families, you are truly among this country's greatest gifts.

Happy holidays Shipmates and HOOYAH!

## Ec-nomics

### *Winterize Your A/C and Water Lines*

This one's really easy, and it will even save you a few pennies next summer, too: Simply drain any hoses and air conditioner pipes, and make sure you don't have excess water pooled in equipment.

Similarly, make sure any hoses are drained and stowed away neatly. Turn off exterior water spigots. It's also a good idea to seal any water leaks around the place -- and don't forget to remove any window A/C units and store them so you don't invite cold drafts all winter. If you're in the market for a new air conditioner, the federal government will reimburse 30% of the cost for an efficient central air system, up to \$1,500.

### *Turn Down Your Water Heater*

While many conventional water heaters are set to 140 degrees F by installers, most households don't need that much steam, and end up paying for it -- in dollars and the occasional scalding burn. Lowering the temperature to 120 degrees F (or lower) would reduce your water heating costs by 6% to 10%.

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

# Congrats TRAWING-5 Wingers and Scholars



**Back Row:** Cmdr. Paul D. Bowdich, USN; Ensign Diego S. McKnight, USN; Ensign Christopher S. Eckel, USN; 1st Lt. William K. Bogner, USMC; Ensign Andrew R. Webster, USN; Ensign Ryan W. Caskie, USN; 1st Lt. Patrick L. Brown, Jr., USCM; Lt. j.g. Erik M. Peterseon, USN; 1st Lt. Alexander M. Goodman, USMC; Lt. j.g. Justin M Lewis, USCG; Col. James D. Grace, USMC.

**Middle Row:** Lt. Col. Mark C. Thompson, USMC; Ensign Justin M. Felgar, USN; Lt. j.g. Theodore M. Kryiopoulos, USN; 1st Lt. Nathan B. Parnell, USMC; 1st Lt. John D. Anderson, USMC; 1st Lt. Jered L. Staton, USMC; Ensign Christopher W. Buscemi, USN; 1st Lt. James C. Cox, USMC; Ensign Nathaniel D. Edmondson, USN; Lt. j.g. Erik J. Anderson, USCG; Capt. Tom T. Maine, USCG.

**Front Row:** Cmdr. Jeffrey D. Debrine, USN; Ensign Jake L. Coats, USN; Lt. j.g. Orion E. Hall, USN; 1st Lt. Joshua D. Herm, USMC; Ensign David L. Visser, USN; Ensign Mona Lisa Dellavolpe, USN; Ensign Nick Avila, USN; Ensign Rebeckah A. Cranor, USN; Lt. j.g. John F. Suave, USN.



**Left Photo:** Lt. j.g. Douglas P. Stahl, USN; Ensign Drake M. Thornton, USCG; 2nd Lt. Richard G. Wheeler, USAF; Ensign Andrew J. Metcalf, USN, display their Academic Achievement Awards Dec. 2 after receiving them in the Training Air Wing FIVE headquarters building.



**Right Photo, Front Row** Ensign Ryan W. Sweetser, USN, left, and Ensign Daniel J. Landerholm, USN.  
**Back Row:** Ensign Derek H. Fennig, USN; Ensign Kevin P. Murray, USN; Lt. j.g. Keary T. Bonner, USN; and Lt. j.g. Davide Bottoni, ITN, display their Academic Achievement Awards Dec. 9 after receiving them in the Training Air Wing FIVE headquarters building.

# NASWF shows off holiday spirit



Zoe Johnson, 4, top left, helps NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Matthew Coughlin light the Christmas tree. Above right, children in Christmas couture decorate the tree prior to the lighting. CMDCM Raphael Rosado leads a crowd of enthusiastic Christmas carol fans. Below, a chorus of children go a-wassailing at Whiting before lighting the tree. Santa Claus won't arrive for several weeks, but the children of the NAS Whiting Field Child Development Center decide to taste test the milk and cookies - purely in the interest of quality assurance, naturally. U.S. Navy photos by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso.



# CDC

- (Cont. from Page 1)

Santa held court with each group of children in the center's age-appropriate activity spaces, and he took a moment to query the youths regarding their respective Christmas wishes.

Responses to the Jolly Old Elf's inquiries ranged from the traditional - one girl requested an electric train, to the downright ambitions; two children, both aged 4, asked for cars - real ones. By contrast, at least one boy achieved instant gratification; he wished for a book.

After the children un-wrapped their gifts, CDC staff members surprised the families with holiday helpings of milk, cookies, and juice. Santa voiced his approval, but acknowledged that his summer diet had left him out of standards- North Pole standards, that is.

"I need to get fat," exclaimed the man with a slimmer-than-usual "bowl full of jelly."

CDC staff joined the spirit of the occasion by donning holiday attire including elf costumes, Christmas caps, and escorting Santa between his sessions with the kids. Parents representing all facets of the base and wing community participated in the day's holiday cheer.

A throng of children assembled at the center's roundabout to wave a temporary good-bye to the man in red. The spirit of the holiday was in evidence across their broad smiles and the excitement of wide eyes. A chorus of young voices bid Father Christmas farewell and implored him to return soon.

Santa's Santa Rosa touch-and-go concluded with a special message from the man himself.

"Remember to be good boys and girls all year; I'll be back soon!"



**Santa and the 4 year-olds hold holiday court before unwrapping gifts. The children shared their Christmas wishes with St. Nick before joining their parents for milk and cookies. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso.**

The "CDC Santa Fly-In" is one of three annual parent-and-child events held by the center and the last of this calendar year. According to CDC Child and Youth Programs Lead Lori Barberi, the Fly-In has been a staple of the center's event schedule for over fifteen years, and "Santa" always arrives from the wing on a volunteer basis.

The CDC staff enjoys the event to the same degree as the families themselves.

"The caregivers, especially the ones dressed as elves, get very excited, and, honestly, seeing the kids with Santa always brings tears to my eyes.

"The parents all enjoy it with their children, they love seeing Santa waving out of the door of the helicopter and jumping out to meet them," Barberi declared.

Parental involvement was a key to the event's success. Their contributions to the mirthful occasion spanned a range of activities; HT-8 Instructor Pilot Lt. Michael Montoya, father of Owen, 1, earned his reindeer qualification as Santa's CNATRA chauffeur.

Most parents, however, were content to share quality time, cookies, and holiday spirit with their kids and Pere Noel. Navy Counselor First Class Gwendolyn King and daughter, Ariel, 1, enjoyed the opportunity to share the spirit of the holiday and the excitement of the occasion.

"As the helicopter approached, we all felt like kids again. I get the joy, along with seeing my daughter happy, and all the other children... the overall experience was very nice," King reflected.



**Santa greets the children with a combination of gifts and goodies. Each child receives a candy cane and a holiday-themed book gift wrapped by CDC staff. Kris Kringle is assisted by CDC staff outfitted in full North Pole Working Uniform. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso.**



## *Holiday Wishes*

*This is the final edition of the Whiting Tower for the year. We will return with our next paper Wednesday, Jan. 4. All of us here, wish you a safe and merry Christmas and look forward to a happy New Year with you all.*

# **Crime Prevention Unit**

## **Holiday Safety!**

### **TIPS FOR A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON**

The holiday season is a perfect opportunity for criminals. Don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers or pickpocket persons a chance to do their dirty work. Keep these tips in mind for a safe and happy holiday season.

#### **If You're Traveling...**

- Set an automatic timer for your lights and a TV or Stereo.
- Ask your neighbor to watch your home, pick up newspapers, collect mail, and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Be sure to hide any gifts that may be left in the house, while you're gone.

#### **If You're Out for the Evening...**

- Turn on lights, a radio or TV so it appears someone is home or leave them on an automatic timer.
- Lock all doors and windows while you're out, even if you'll be gone for just a few minutes.
- Do not place packages or gifts near windows or other high-visibility sites.

#### **If You're Shopping...**

- Don't let your guard down because you are rush-

ing.

- Stay alert and be aware of everything around you at all times.
- Park in well-lighted spaces and as close to the store as possible, lock your car doors, and hide packages in the trunk or under the seats.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card if possible.
- Make sure you do not carry all your packages at the same time.
- Carry your purse close to your body or use a fanny pack. Put your wallet in an inside pocket.
- If you take your children shopping, teach them to go to a police officer or a store security guard if they get separated or lost.

#### **If You're at Home...**

- Stay alert to suspicious-looking couriers delivering packages to you or your neighbors.
- Many con artists take advantage of holiday generosity by going door-to-door. Ask for identification and get specifics to how and where the donations will be spent/used.
- If you feel uncomfortable, just say "no thank you" and shut the door.
- Turn on outside lights at night to deter burglars; report any suspicious activity.