

## First Black, Female Coast Guard Helo Pilot Winged



Lt. Jeanine Menze, the first female, black pilot in the U.S. Coast Guard places a set of wings on Lt. j.g. La'Shanda Holmes, who became the first black female Coast Guard helicopter pilot during the Apr. 9 winging ceremony. The two officers became friends while Holmes was assigned temporarily to Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater. Menze was winged in 2005, and Holmes is still just the second black, female pilot in the Coast Guard. She will be stationed at Coast Guard Air Station Los Angeles to fly HH-65 helicopters. U.S. Navy photo by Ens. Ryan Trespalacios.

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Perseverance, dedication, grit, a desire to excel - these are all traits desired in a student aviator. Training in the aviation program for the maritime services is intentionally difficult to stress and push the students beyond their comfort zones so they can meet the hardships their service will entail. However, when that prospective pilot is slated to become a barrier breaker as well, those traits are not just desired, but necessary.

That Lt. j.g. La'Shanda Holmes had those traits was never in doubt. The humble, soft-spoken young woman had faced trials growing up in North Carolina that tested and tempered her desire to excel. When she walked across the stage Apr. 9 to receive her wings as the first African-American female helicopter pilot in the U.S. Coast Guard, it was simply the next chapter of a proud story.

All Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard initial helicopter pilot training is performed at Naval Air Station Whiting Field through one of six squadrons attached to Training Air Wing FIVE. Holmes was attached to Helicopter Training - *(Cont. on Page 7)*

## Navy "Partnering for A Greener Future" on Earth Day

*- Celebrating 40th Earth Day Anniversary with Several New Initiatives*

By Chris Dettmar, Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Readiness Division

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The United States Navy is celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day April 22 with Navy and Marine Corps commands worldwide participating in activities on and around that date to galvanize environmental stewardship.

The Navy's theme for Earth Day 2010, "Partnering for a Greener Future," emphasizes the Navy's partnerships with other military services, federal and state agencies, non-government organizations, industry, and civilians. The Navy relies on partnerships to achieve the shared goals of protecting the environment and providing energy security for the nation and its allies. Examples of these efforts are as follows:

- Since summer 2009, the Navy has participated in the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, led by the White House

*- (Cont. on Page 6)*



ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. (March 31, 2010) Secretary of the Navy the Honorable Ray Mabus speaks with reporters about the Navy's F/A-18 Green Hornet. The Green Hornet, powered by a 50/50 biofuel blend, will be test flown on Earth Day 2010.

# Public Works Leads Water Conservation Push

*- Statistics Show a Growing Use of Scarce Resource Around the Globe*

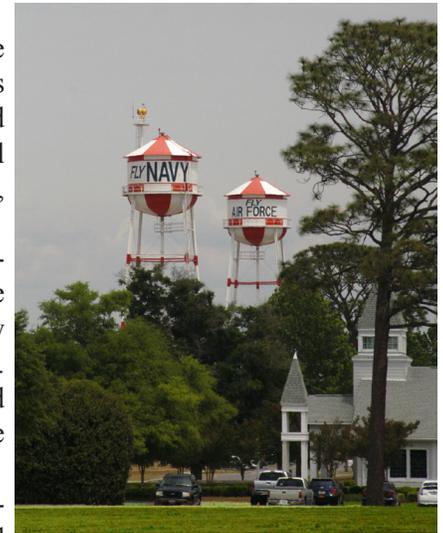
**By: Lt. j.g. Michael M. Daharsh, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs**

More than 70 percent of earth's surface is covered by water. According to the National Geographic Society ninety-seven percent of this is salt water, and two-thirds of the world's remaining fresh water is frozen in icecaps in Antarctica, Greenland, and the Himalayas. It's safe to say that fresh water is a rare commodity. The Environmental Protection Agency states that from 1950 – 2000 the U.S. population grew 89 percent, however, the water usage during that time grew 200 percent.

There are a variety of ways a consumer can help conserve water. The average person in a U.S. household uses around 100 gallons of water a day. The average shower last eight minutes, and uses around 25 gallons of water. By installing a low flow shower head in the bathroom anyone can cut back on water usage by 50-70%. This also saves money by reducing the cost of heating water. If a person were to spend two minutes less in the shower they could prevent about 340 lbs of carbon dioxide from being released into our atmosphere a year.

Naval Air Station Whiting Field is taking steps to make the base more environmentally conscientious. When the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Department and Public Works Department designed the fitness centers they installed low-flow shower heads in every one of the showers. NAS Whiting Field treats its own water from wells around base. Every month 7-8 million gallons are pumped throughout pipes all around base. This water is used for irrigation, consumption, and fire suppression. To further conserve water, a retention pond was installed on the north side of base. This pond is now used to irrigate the golf course instead of pulling from the fresh water towers.

"The approach we take is cost and efficiency driven," Tom Allen, Utilities Energy Manager of the Public Works Department said. "We look at efficiency. If it can be improved we move aggressively." Also in the works is the Utilities Energy Service Contract (UESC). This \$ 3.4 million effort will be making the buildings around base more energy efficient and, in time, pay for themselves. One step in the UESC will be installing high efficiency



Two of Naval Air Station Whiting Field's water towers stand quietly celebrating Naval Aviation and housing the 7-8 million gallons of water needed a month. These are two out of four towers serving as silent reminders that the effort for water conservation is being answered at Whiting Field. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Michael Daharsh.

*- (Cont. on Page 4)*

## Base Environmental Working to Help Whiting Field Recycle

**By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs**

Recycling waste materials is a win-win situation for the Naval Air Station Whiting Field and the environment. That's why the Public Works department on the base is working to help make it an easy and painless process so employees and military members will help the recycling program succeed.

The Navy requires that every base have a recycling program, and NAS Whiting Field has had one in place for years. However, during a 2009 self-assessment, the Environmental Management System (EMS) committee determined that more could be done.

The team set a goal of a ten percent increase in recycling during the subsequent three years. To meet that goal, the EMS committee determined



Ron Cherry, the Public Works Environmental Specialist, places the label, listing the recycled materials to be placed in the bin, on one of more than a dozen recycling containers placed in the NAS Whiting Field command building. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

that the first step was to make recycling more accessible to the workers so they would recycle. Public Works purchased more than 200 additional recycling bins and labels and placed them in work centers throughout the base last month. Additional ones are still available for spaces that can use them.

Last year, the base generated 107 tons of recycled materials accounting for about 15 percent of the total solid waste for the base. The goal for this year will be slightly more than 110 tons.

It was a project that began during Capt. Sadsad's term as base commanding officer.

"Captain Sadsad was very proactive about getting the bin out to everyone. Recycling was one of his big pushes," Environmental Protection

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# News and Notes

**TPC Tickets for Military** - All active duty, Reserves, retired military members and their dependents are invited to be guests of THE PLAYERS Championship (TPC) and see the best professional golfers in the world compete at TPC Sawgrass May 3-9. Military members and their families can receive complimentary tickets by going online to [www.ticketmaster.com/promo/t0p06r](http://www.ticketmaster.com/promo/t0p06r) and downloading their free tickets. A valid CAC card must be shown when entering the golf course at the appropriate gate. The complimentary tickets will be valid Monday through Sunday. Parking passes are also available. For the second year, military members and their dependents attending TPC are also invited to enjoy a private hospitality venue called the Patriot's Outpost, which is located on the hill between #16 and #18 fairways. A valid CAC card must be presented to gain admission into the area. A free lunch will be provided. For more information, call 623-7032.

**Disney on Ice** - ITT has tickets available for Disney on Ice at the Pensacola Civic Center. Shows are April 22-25, 2010. Tickets are \$21.50. For further information contact: ITT 623-7032.

**Big Band Music** - Milton High School will host the Drum Corps International Drum and Bugle Corps show, Thurs. July 29. The show is titled Sounds of the South. There will be seven drum and bugle corps at this event and the DCI corps are the elite of the elite when it comes to marching bands. For more information go to one of the following two links: <http://www.mhsbandboosters.info/index.php?menu=event4> or <http://www.tealsound.org/drumbuglecorps/events/soundsofthesouth/>. Tickets are \$20 for the Super Section and \$15 for General Admission. There is also a \$5 Military discount with ID at the gates. For additional information, please call 207-8206.

**Voluntary Leave Program Donations** - Mrs. Yolanda R. Cardenas (Rocky) of CNRSE, Code N1, HR Kings Bay Satellite Office, NAVSUBASE, Kings Bay, has been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Cardenas has suffered an unexpected medical emergency and is required to be out of work for an



**An Eagle Preparing to Fly**  
Lt. P. J. Silva, an instructor-pilot with Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN, helps a Pea Ridge Elementary School student try on a flight helmet. The Elite Eagles, Pea Ridge honor students, visited Naval Air Station Whiting Field Apr. 14 to spend the day with the squadron as part of the partnership between the school and HT-18. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Michael Daharsh.



**Retaining Our Best and Brightest**  
Lt. Jitindra Sirjoo presents a reenlistment certificate to Aviation Boatswain's Mate Second Class Stacey Eaton, Apr. 15 at the mid-field hangar. Eaton reenlisted for five years. Photo courtesy of Navy Counselor First Class Gwendolyn King.

undetermined length of time. Due to her caregiving to a terminally ill parent, she has exhausted all of her leave. Cardenas is in great need for donated leave for her unexpected medical emergency, and currently is in a Leave Without Pay (LWOP) status. Anyone wishing to donate annual leave under this program may complete the applicable Leave Donor Form. The point of contact is Diane Stukes at CNRSE (Code N1), (904) 542-2283 or DSN 942-2283.

**Military Health System Open Forum** - The Health Services Consumer Council is seeking a few people from each command in the area to attend the quarterly, open forum meeting at Corry Stations Cross Winds Conference Center, Apr. 29 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. This event provides updates on the Military Health System, TRICARE, and our health care delivery with issues and what's going on. The forum also gives an opportunity to share views and concerns so that the program may be responsive to members' needs and improve health care entitlements. Please direct any questions to Ms. Tara Rettig at (505-6048).

**Great American Clean-Up** - In celebration of Earth Day, many citizens and groups will take to the streets and be proactive by participating in The Great American Clean-Up. The event is sponsored locally by the Santa Rosa Clean Community System and will be part of a nation wide effort sponsored by their parent organization Keep America Beautiful. The goal of the event is to get the community involved in cleaning up our own back yard, raising awareness of the economic, health and tourism benefits of having a clean environment and generating pride among the citizens. Similar events will be taking place from March through May in hundreds of communities throughout the United States. The event will take place on Saturday, April 17 from 8 a.m. through noon. Meeting sites are: Milton - Milton High School, Navarre - Navarre Park (in front of Butterfly House), and Munson - Blackwater Baptist Church Floridale - Bliss Way.

**5K Run/Walk** - The Lupus Lifesaver 5K run/walk will take place Apr. 24 on Pensacola Beach. The race begins at the Casino Beach parking lot. The event begins at 7 a.m. Registration is \$20 and includes a tee-shirt or tank top. Visit [www.thelupussupport-network.org](http://www.thelupussupport-network.org) or call 478-8107 for details.

## Upcoming Events

Apr. 23, 0900 - Earth Day Event Bagdad Elem - Nature Trail

Apr. 23, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Apr. 23, 1300 - NASWF Safety Stand Down - Sikes Hall

Apr. 29, 1000 - HT-18 Change of Command - Auditorium

Apr. 30, 1300 - VT-3 50th Anniversary Reunion - VT-3

May 7, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

# Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

## **Car Buying - Wednesday, 21 April, 1400-1500**

Many people begin the car buying process by visiting a dealership, which should be one of the last things you do. Come find out how to research and compare for the best prices, when and how to negotiate your trade-in, how insurance fits in, and your best option for financing. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, call 623-7177.

## **VA Representative (Call for Appointment) - Friday, 23 April, 0800-1200**

## **Resume Writing - Monday, 26 April, 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.

## **Money and the Move - Wednesday, 5 May, 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.

## **VA Representative (Call for Appointment) - Friday, 7 May, 0800-1200**

## **Time Management - Wednesday, 19 May, 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?” Then this class is for you. 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, call 623-7177.

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## Water Conservation

- (Cont. from Page 2)

plumbing fixtures in all restrooms and showers in facilities around base. In Bldg. 2944, Training Air Wing FIVE, it will cost \$7,729 to outfit the facility for water conservation. Each year the building will save \$1,413, which means in just five years this building will be in the black.

Water conservation may not seem like a big deal around today's cities and in places of comfort, because every time a faucet is turned on water pours forth. More and more people are using up the world's fresh water stores faster than they can be restored, and agriculture cannot always wait for rain. So cities, industries, and farmers keep pumping and the water tables around America keep shrinking. The National Geographic Society highlighted a region in southwest Kansas where the water tables are currently 100 feet lower than in 1950. This water is being used for production and consumption.

Approximately 70 percent of fresh water is used for agricultural purposes. As the effort to develop other sustainable fuels like ethanol progresses, the consumption and need for fresh water grows even more. Ethanol is a derivative of corn. As ethanol is developed, additional corn must be grown to sustain both human consumption and ethanol production. All of this requires additional fresh water. According to the Water Footprint Network, one pound of corn requires 108 gallons of water to grow. One gallon of ethanol takes approximately 21 pounds of corn. The numbers are staggering.

So far America has been fortunate enough to have avoided severe water droughts. In several countries around the

world individuals have to walk for hours just to get a couple gallons of dirty water. Fresh water is a gift that many take for granted, but not for long. The Environmental Protection Agency suggests that thirty-six states anticipate shortages by 2013.

Lester R. Brown states in his book *Plan B 4.0*, “We face extraordinary challenges, but there is much to be upbeat about. All the problems we face can be dealt with using existing technologies. And almost everything we need to do to move the world economy off the collapse path and back onto an environmentally sustainable path has already been done in one or more countries.”

Individuals do not have to wait until a water shortage to start making changes in their lifestyles and the way they use and conserve fresh water. That is why NAS Whiting Field is making changes and implementing creative and energy efficient solutions all around base. Leading by example Whiting Field sets a standard to, “Go Green”.

Being ignorant of the facts is one thing, but ignoring them is another. Implementing a small change today could have a large effect tomorrow.

For more information about water conservation, facts and tips, and the water status throughout the United States visit: US Environmental Protection Agency, Ground Water and Drinking Water, [www.epa.gov/OGWDN](http://www.epa.gov/OGWDN) and the US Geological Survey, Water Resources of the United States <http://water.usgs.gov/>

# Southeast Region Committed to Greener Future

By Mass Communication Specialist Petty Officer 1st Class Monica R. Nelson, Region Southeast Public Affairs

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** – On April 16, Commander Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Tim Alexander kicked off the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, to be celebrated April 22, by signing a proclamation urging the Navy's Southeast community toward environmental stewardship, environmentally-healthy mission partnerships, and energy conservation.

"As stewards of the earth, our mission must always be performed in a manner that protects the environment, prevents pollution, and protects our natural, historic and cultural resources," Rear Adm. Alexander said. "The Navy will continue its evolution toward a green fleet and its commitment to a high standard of stewardship. I urge all personnel to conserve energy, protect the environment and participate in your local Earth Day events."

Naval Air Stations Jacksonville, Pensacola, New Orleans, and Naval Seabee Base Gulfport, already have activities planned to foster environmental stewardship on their bases April 22.

NAS Pensacola has been doing beach clean-ups since the middle of the 1980s.

"We have 17 miles of shoreline at NAS Pensacola," said Mark Gibson, natural resources manager for Navy Facilities Engineering Command Pensacola. "We have nine adopt-a-beach base groups who do quarterly clean-ups, and this past September was the 22nd consecutive year NAS Pensacola participated in the International Coastal Cleanup. Earth Day is a great opportunity for us to get the Navy community to come out, roll up their sleeves and invest in the environment by picking up the debris that washes up on Pensacola beaches."

Coinciding with the Navy's Earth Day 2010 theme of "Partnering for a Greener Future," Navy Region Southeast is a member of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, the South Atlantic Alliance, the Southeast Partnership of Planning and Sustainability, as well as many other local and regional partnerships. According to Southeast Region Environmental Program Manager Camille Destafney, partnerships provide the opportunity to learn partners' values and missions, and to educate them on the Navy's mission, resulting in greater understanding and opportunities to further all missions while protecting the environment.

"Over the past 40 years, the Navy has made huge strides in environmental stewardship and protection of our natural resources," said Destafney. "Forty years ago, no one understood hazardous substances and the impact they have on health; today we understand that and have laws in place to regulate them. The Navy has embraced and become a leader in the environmental movement."



**Rear Adm. Townsend Alexander, Commander Navy Region Southeast, signs the Southeast Region Earth Day Proclamation. The region will observe Earth Day April 22. Photo courtesy of Navy Region Southeast.**

## COMMANDER NAVY REGION SOUTHEAST EARTH DAY PROCLAMATION

**Whereas,** The Navy is celebrating the 40th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22. The Navy's theme for Earth Day 2010, "Partnering for a Greener Future," emphasizes the Navy's interagency and private sector partnerships that are developing large-scale energy and environmental initiatives. The Navy and its partners are working to support research and development of alternative energy sources as a way to

safeguard the environment; and

**Whereas,** Navy Region Southeast provides environmental stewardship for thousands of acres of land and coastal areas, miles of shoreline, a multitude of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats, forests, and at-sea ranges; and

**Whereas,** Navy Region Southeast is a member of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, the South Atlantic Alliance, the Southeast Partnership of Planning and Sustainability as well as many other local and regional partnerships. These partnerships provide the opportunity to learn the values and missions of our partners and to educate them on the Navy's mission, resulting in greater understanding and opportunities to further all our missions while protecting the environment; and

**Whereas,** Every Sailor, Navy civilian, and contractor must understand their stewardship responsibilities to perform the mission in a manner that protects the environment, prevents pollution, and protects our natural, historic and cultural resources; and

**Whereas,** The Navy energy reform targets are: by 2020, 50% of the Navy's total energy consumption will come from alternative sources; by 2020, 50% of the Navy's installations will be net-zero energy consumers; and by 2020 the Navy will use 50% less petroleum in the commercial fleet. By 2016, the Navy will sail a "Great Green Fleet" comprised of nuclear ships, surface combatants with hybrid electric power systems using biofuel, and aircraft flying on biofuels; and

**Whereas,** The Navy and its partners are committed to energy security, energy efficiency and environmental stewardship as a means to conserve our natural resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lessen dependence on fossil fuels; and

**Whereas,** on Earth Day and throughout the year, the Navy Region Southeast installations and Navy personnel region-wide will host activities that celebrate our environmental successes and our energy initiatives that help to simultaneously preserve our planet while also increasing our nation's energy security;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rear Admiral Townsend G. Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2010, as Earth Day in the Southeast Region. I urge all personnel to conserve energy, protect the environment and participate in your local Earth Day events.**

# Navy Earth Day

- (Cont. from Page 1)

Council on Environmental Quality. The task force's purpose is to develop national policy and a framework that enables sustainable use of oceans, lakes, and coastal areas in a manner that supports the nation's environmental, economic, recreational, and security priorities.

- The Navy is working with the shipbuilding industry to integrate a broad spectrum of energy efficiency initiatives on ships, such as stern flaps and propeller coatings that reduce petroleum consumption per mile.

- The Navy has completed environmental planning, permitting and consultations for eight training, testing, and operating areas at sea, with six more to be completed this year. These efforts mark the beginning of a continuous cycle of environmental planning work and annual renewals with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

- In 2009, the Navy commissioned the USS Makin Island, the world's first hybrid fuel warship. Built by Northrop Grumman, the ship will conserve fuel and enable the Navy to save hundreds of millions of dollars in fuel costs over the life of ship.

- The Navy continues to collaborate with academic institutions and government agencies to fund research that will increase scientific knowledge about marine mammals and minimize the potential for Navy activities to affect marine life.

On Earth Day 2010, the Navy will demonstrate an F/A-18 Super Hornet, called the Green Hornet, powered by a 50/50 biofuel blend. The fuel, made from the Camelina sativa plant, is produced by Sustainable Oils of Bozeman, Montana. The flight demonstration will take place at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md. The Navy is also participating in research and development to identify other biofuel sources with the goal of reducing dependence on foreign energy sources and using fuel with a lower net carbon footprint than petroleum fuels.

More than 50 installations are celebrating Earth Day 2010, with community events such as shoreline and neighborhood cleanups, tree plantings, recycling challenges, fun runs, wildlife rescues, and more.

For more information on Navy Earth Day events, visit <http://www.earthday.org/campaigns/navy-earth-day-events>.

# Recycling

- (Cont. from Page 2)

Specialist Ron Cherry said. "The more we use the bins, the more it reduces products going in to landfills and it will help us meet the commitment the Navy has to recycle."

The workplace bins are great for recycling everyday items that are used in small quantities such as: green, brown, or clear glass jars or bottles; steel, tin, or aluminum cans; #1 through #5 plastic containers; newspaper; computer paper; magazines; and flattened cardboard boxes. Items that are not recommended for recycling include: food contaminated cardboard (pizza boxes); Styrofoam containers; plate, auto or stained glass; aluminum foil; sheet metal or any material contaminated by a hazardous material like oil.

For objects or quantities too large for the workplace bins, Public Works has dumpsters located next to the supply building, near the mid-field hangar in the parking lot across the road from Bldg. 3005, SIMS Bldg., and across the street from the Liberty Center for recyclables.

"In our offices, we have seen increased use of the bins," Cherry stated. "If we can delay the filling up of area landfills, it will be better for everyone. It is just the right thing to do."

## Eco-nomics

In the workplace

Mind the amount of water you use when brewing coffee. Making coffee uses about a third of the tap water consumed in most of North America and Europe. If every worker cut back on water fill by one cup, we'd save almost ten million gallons per day. Over the course of a year, this would save enough water to provide two gallons to the 1.2 billion people on the planet who don't have access to water.

Using the "standby" button on your copier will lighten your energy load by 70 percent. It cost about \$50 million to power the nation's copiers annually. Cut that by 70 percent and save \$35 million and enough energy to provide a month's worth of electricity to more than one hundred thousand homes.

These tips were taken from "The Green Book" by Elizabeth Roger and Thomas M. Kostigen.



### VT -3 Red Knights 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

#### Main Events

29 April – Alumni Tour and Ribbon Cutting  
30 April – Golf Tournament  
30 April – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Formal Ball

Ball Ticket prices - \$30 (Black Tie Event)

RSVP with VT-3 Call: 850-623-7321 or  
E-mail: [sue.ancil@navy.mil](mailto:sue.ancil@navy.mil)

# Helo Pilot

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Squadron EIGHTEEN for the final portion of her nearly two-year aviation training pipeline. She knew at the outset that she was the first black female to begin the training. While she admits to some periodic concerns about completing the program, there were really never any doubts harbored by the squadron commanding officer, Cmdr. Mark Murray.

"I knew she would be successful. She had already overcome far greater challenges than flight school. I had the opportunity to do a familiarization flight with her, and where most folks might get a little frustrated, she drank it all in. She was eager to improve and I had no doubts she would do well," he said.

Given her childhood, that might not normally be a safe assumption, but for Holmes, the hurdles she faced growing up drove her to try all that much harder.

"I was used to people telling me what I couldn't do. We moved around a lot, and I think it fueled my ambition to live better and work harder. It just gave me more motivation to succeed," she said.

Her trials started young. Holmes was just two when her mother committed suicide. She was adopted a short time later, but after her adoptive mother remarried, she states that she and her younger brother were placed in foster care due to abuse and were separated. She went through several homes until she landed with Linda and Edward Brown at 17. She still calls them her parents and they provided some necessary stability for her life.

Her hard work paid off even then graduating magna cum laude from high school and earning admission to Spelman College. Two years into her education there, she was assisting with a community service booth during a career day. Directly across from her was a Coast Guard recruiting booth. She wandered over after the event to speak with him conversation with Senior Chief Dexter Lindsey who inspired her to think about serving.

She applied for and was accepted into the College Student Pre-commissioning Initiative which financially enabled her to finish school. Prior to attending Officer Candidate School, she served on a Coast Guard Cutter as an officer candidate and while near the bridge stuck up a conversation with the operations officer who advised her to consider aviation. It was then that she learned the Coast Guard had only one other black, female pilot, Lt. Jeanine Menze.

"It sounded challenging, but something I was up for," Holmes said.

At that time, Menze was stationed at Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater flying the C-130 Hercules. Holmes was



**A large contingent of extended family and friends came to Holmes winging ceremony to be with her when she became a pilot. Holmes was raised in a series of foster homes growing up, but excelled as student throughout high school and college. U.S. Navy photo by Ens. Ryan Trespalacios.**

granted an opportunity to be temporarily stationed at Clearwater to learn about the aviation program, but it wasn't until she was in the back seat of an SH-60 helicopter being flown by George Menze, Lt. Menze's husband, that her future intentions kicked into place.

"We did hovering and flying low over the water. I was like a little kid. It was like nothing I had ever done or seen before. It was awesome," she said. "Everyone in the aviation community was so close. There was a real sense of camaraderie that I wanted to be a part of."

That camaraderie certainly extends to the friendship between Menze and Holmes. They both share the same exuberant joy in flying and a similar appreciation for service in the Coast Guard. Menze called joining the Coast Guard the best decision she ever made, and sees a kindred spirit in Holmes.

"She's so motivated to do well," she said. "You put a thought into her head and she just runs with it. You tell her to work hard and study hard, and she goes and does it...I really expect big things from her."

Menze is still a mentor to Holmes. She encouraged her through the process, gave her pep talks and let her know what to expect through flight training. The relationship is so close that Holmes asked Menze to present her pin during the winging ceremony.

She agreed and even presented Holmes with the first set of wings she received in 2005, following the ceremony. Menze thought of it as a memento to let her see that "dreams do come true."

The winging ceremony was the culmination of nearly two years of hard work, and a lifetime of overcoming obstacles. For Holmes, having Menze there to share the occasion meant a great deal.

"It was a really emotional experience. Both of our eyes were watering and she asked me 'Are you ready for this?' I can't think of a more awesome moment in my life."

Holmes says things haven't really hit home with her yet. For that day, she was just one of 18 new aviators. At her next duty station, she wants to be just another rookie pilot. She knows she is breaking a barrier, but doesn't seem to think it really says anything special about her. She is transferring to Coast Guard Air Station Los Angeles and wants the same things any young officer wants.

"I know I'm the first, but nothing has sunk in yet. People may have expectations, but for me, mainly, it is about taking on responsibility and knowing I have something to prove [as a pilot]. I just want to keep flying well and working hard to make my community, family, and sisters proud of me."

# - Sports -

## Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Raises \$2k with 5k-10k Run

By: Lt. j.g. Michael M. Daharsh

Runners, joggers, and walkers waited anxiously near the start line of Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Navy / Marine Corps Relief Society 5k/10k Fundraiser on Saturday morning, Apr. 10. The event rose over \$2000 for the relief society.

NAS Whiting Field's Chief Air Traffic Controlman Trevor Rowe and Debra Bridges organized the 5k and 10k runs to help raise money for the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society. When faced with the hurdle of how to raise money, running seemed like a great idea.

The fundraiser was organized by event. All the runners lined up at the starting line and when the gun was fired everyone took off at their own pace. Ninety-one people showed up for the fundraiser; seventy-nine 5k participants and twelve 10k runners. The start of the race was a testament to the support for the Navy / Marine Corps Relief Society. Taking part in the event were high school teens, flight students, spouses, service members, individuals with strollers, and even a few children.

"A great many thanks to Mrs. Debra Bridges, too. She headed up this years efforts," Rowe complimented. "This would not have been such a success without her involvement. Wayne Short from Morale, Welfare, and Recreation was very helpful in providing us the expertise we needed to get this off the ground as well."

Other sponsors for this event were Navy League Santa Rosa, Hooters, Wings Aviation, Coach Phil Kraus, Bay Minette Aviation, Will Call, Milestone Aquatic Club, VT-2, VT-3, VT-6, and HT-18. The efforts and support were much appreciated. Snacks and fluids were provided to all the runners, and after the main event families and participants enjoyed burgers and hot dogs under the base pavilion while their children played on the giant inflatable slide and bounce house. The fun filled day was a great opportunity to bring out the family and support a good cause.



Runners, joggers, and walkers begin their trek to conquer either the 5K or 10K distances to help raise money for the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society at Naval Air Station Whiting Field on Saturday, Apr. 10. Photo by Lt. j.g. Michael Daharsh.

"Last year NASWF fundraisers only raised \$730 during our Pie-in-the-Face contest," Rowe said. "So we are very pleased with the results of this year's event."

### Race Winners

<b>Male 5K</b>	<b>45-49: Lorna Reynolds</b>
<b>14 &amp; under: David Dobson</b>	<b>50-54: Laurie Smith</b>
<b>15-19: Eric Abenojar</b>	<b>55-59: Susan Ewing</b>
<b>20-24: Spencer Waters</b>	
<b>25-29: Matt Shaffer</b>	<b>Female 10k</b>
<b>35-39: Dave Gang</b>	<b>20-29: Kerry Shaffer</b>
<b>40-44: Jason McFarland</b>	<b>30-39: Amie Brock</b>
<b>45-49: Chris McCoy</b>	
<b>50-54: Ernie Rains</b>	<b>Male 10k</b>
	<b>15-19: John Davis</b>
<b>Female 5k</b>	<b>20-25: Andrew Macdonald</b>
<b>14 &amp; under: Sydney Bridges</b>	<b>30-34: Hans Degroot:</b>
<b>20-24: Anna Weaver</b>	<b>35-39: James Lewis</b>
<b>25-29: Megan Staffenson</b>	<b>40-45: Matt Dobson</b>
<b>30-34: Linette Ewing</b>	<b>60+ : Roger Dobson</b>
<b>40-44: Dawn Fallon</b>	

### MWR Notes

**Swim Lesson registrations are open!**  
For information call Kelsey Holmes at 623-7096.

**Interested in a golf league? Please contact Todd Mooneyham at 850-665-6102 or via email at [todd.mooneyham@navy.mil](mailto:todd.mooneyham@navy.mil).**

### Captain's Cup Softball Standings

Team	Won	Lost	Win %	RF	RA	GB
HT-28	2	0	1.000	44	22	--
SECURITY	2	1	.667	30	21	0.5
MEDICAL	2	1	.667	67	40	0.5
VT-3	2	1	.667	27	27	0.5
CRASH	1	1	.500	29	33	1.0
HT-18	1	1	.500	26	34	1.0
VT-2	1	1	.500	30	23	1.0
VT-6	1	1	.500	33	24	1.0
PRI/L3	0	2	.000	9	48	2.0
Pool 1	0	3	.000	15	38	2.5

## USDA, Navy Highlight New Partnership to Power Navy with Biofuels



**SAN DIEGO (April 14, 2010)** Bart Chadwick, Head of the Environmental Sciences Branch Space at the Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWAR), checks conditions in laboratory microbial fuel cells, or MFCs. The fuel cells have the potential to revolutionize naval energy use by converting decomposed marine organisms into electrical energy, offering a clean, efficient and reliable alternative to batteries and other environmentally harmful fuels. (U.S. Navy photo/Released).

### From the U.S. Department of Agriculture

**HONOLULU (NNS)** -- The deputy secretary of agriculture and the assistant secretary of the Navy for energy, installations and environment kicked off an energy forum April 6 in Honolulu to look at ways to increase biofuels production and meet the Navy's renewable energy needs.

The forum, led by Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan and Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment Jackalyne Pfannenstiel, was the first of several scheduled energy forums.

The forum comes as a result of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) recently signed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of the Navy (DoN) to encourage the development of advanced biofuels and other renewable energy systems.

"The Department of the Navy is very energized about the partnership with the Department of Agriculture," said Pfannenstiel. "This collaborative effort will enable us to reduce our petroleum consumption and increase our alternative energy opportunities. The Navy and Marine Corps' warfighting capability will benefit through a more secure energy future."

From a strategic perspective, the objective is to reduce reliance on fossil fuels from volatile areas of the world. Tactically, on the battlefield, the costs of transporting fuel has exponentially increased; in extreme cases, a gallon of gasoline could cost up to \$400. To address this reality, the DoN has announced five ambitious energy targets for the Navy and Marine Corps, and biofuels are a major component of four of those goals. Those targets are summarized below:

- When awarding contracts, appropriately consider energy efficiency and the energy footprint as additional factors in acquisition decisions.

- By 2012, demonstrate a Green Strike Group composed of nuclear vessels and ships powered by biofuel. By 2016, sail the Strike Group as a Great Green Fleet composed of

nuclear ships, surface combatants equipped with hybrid electric alternative power systems running on biofuel and aircraft running on biofuel.

- By 2015, cut petroleum use in its 50,000 non-tactical vehicle commercial fleet in half, by phasing in hybrid, flex fuel and electric vehicles.

- By 2020, produce at least half of shore based installations' energy requirements from alternative sources. Also, 50 percent of all shore installations will be net zero energy consumers.

- By 2020, half of the DoN's total energy consumption for ships, aircraft, tanks, vehicles and shore installations will come from alternative sources.

The DoN recently established the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy Office to develop and employ proven business models and investment strategies that leverage public and private investment to achieve naval, defense and national energy goals.

The departments will work together to support President Obama's initiative to make the United States a global leader in developing a renewable energy economy, reducing energy consumption derived from fossil fuels and increasing energy production from renewable energy sources. The United States has abundant natural resources – including wind, solar, hydrokinetic, ocean, geothermal and land for biomass energy crops – that can be refined into biofuels to meet commercial, military transportation and other energy needs.

