

Whiting Tower

Sixty-Six Years of Aviation Training News



Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, FL

Forging Wings for the Fleet

Vol. 66 No. 12

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Vandiver Assumes Command of TRAWING-5

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Capt. James Vandiver assumed the mantle of Commander, Training Air Wing FIVE, Thursday, March 18 from Col. John Walsh. Walsh had been the first Marine commanding officer of the unit.

The rotation between Marine Corps and Navy commanding officer is rare, but reflects the requirements of the training mission for TRAWING-5. The Wing trains aviators from the Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force and Marine Corps, including one-hundred percent of Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps helicopter pilots. During his tenure as the deputy commodore and then as the commodore of TRAW-

ING-5, Walsh oversaw the training of more than 1,400 aviators and more than 378,000 flight hours. Time needed to train the aviators decreased for both the primary fixed-wing and rotary training pipelines. Helicopter training standards were set to such a high level during his command that only one student attrited from the Fleet Replacement Squadron in the past two years. He also guided the Wing through the early stages of transition to the first new fixed-wing aircraft for training at NAS Whiting Field in more than 30-years.

As the deputy commodore for much of that time frame, Vandiver played a major role in many of those same accomplishments. Now as the
- (Cont. on Page 6)



Chief of Naval Air Training Rear Adm. William Sizemore places the Legion of Merit medal on Col. John Walsh. Walsh earned the medal for his efforts while commanding Training Air Wing FIVE. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

CNSRE Visits with Milton Community Leaders



Rear Adm. Townsend Alexander, commander Navy Region Southeast, speaks to officials and business persons from Santa Rosa County during a town hall meeting at the Milton Community Center March 17. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Santa Rosa County rolled out the red carpet and made every effort towards a good impression when Rear Adm. Townsend Alexander visited the area Wednesday, March 17. Alexander was taking a tour of local bases specifically to hear what officials had to say about Naval Air Station Whiting Field. He got an earful, but it was all good.

"It is the community's responsibility to protect and enhance everything beyond the fenceline," said Santa Rosa County Commissioner Don Salter. "Hopefully, by the end of the meeting, the admiral will recognize the efforts of our local community toward that end."

NAS Whiting Field has partnered with the county, the state and The Nature Conservancy during the past several years to purchase land, obtain restrictive easements and change zoning requirements to protect the mission of the base from encroachment. More than 2,000 acres of property near the fenceline of NAS Whiting Field have been protect-

- (Cont. on Page 6)

CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Capt. Pete Hall
NAS Whiting Field
Commanding Officer

the CO alone is not enough. The bottom line is that if WE are going to keep the Golf Course or the Bowling Alley or the Wings Club open, then WE must use them. Big Navy has decided that these MWR activities must be self-sustaining – meaning they have to make enough money to at least break even. In the case of the Wings Club, it did not. It lost money and as a result, it is now closing on 15 May. I think it's a shame, but basically – the people had spoken. The Club did not meet their needs, they did not use it, it could not sustain itself, and now it is gone. For the Golf Course to stay open, people must play on it. Golf Courses cost a lot of money to operate, as shown by the closure of The Moors and Tanglewood. In these financial times, people are cutting costs wherever they can. But a day of Golf is a relatively inexpensive pastime – at least here at NAS Whiting Field. So get your friends and neighbors and come on out and play golf. Often!! And check out the Golf Clinics, too. I've been told that the Golf Pro can help even my game.

2. The front desk needs to be informed when events occur for fire and security reasons.

That sounds like something important, but I'm not really sure what you are referring to. What front desk? What events? Give me a little more information and I'll try to close the communication gap, wherever it is. Thanks.

3. Improve morale by getting rid of the POOW or else change POOW from one 12-hour watch every two months to one 6-hour watch per month.

Really? You want to stand watch more often? Look, it's Duty. It's not Fun. Got it. But, we stand watches in the Navy. I'm sorry it's not more exciting for you, but most crusty old salts will tell you that exciting watches are bad things. Boring watches are good things. As far as POOW being a morale killer, I have to remind you that you're not

Thank you again for providing your feedback and suggestions to the CO's suggestion box. Yes, I do read each and every one. Here are my replies:

1. Can I ensure the Golf Course stays open somehow?

Although my golf game stinks (no additional comments necessary!), I love it. And I promise that I am doing and will continue to do everything in my power to keep the NAS Whiting Field Golf Course open. However,

outside in the cold and rain, standing up in a guard shack, carrying a rifle and getting shot at. You are sitting down inside with the heater or the air conditioning running, watching TV, and surfing the internet. The 12-hour watch addresses the manning issues. Two watches per day means only one person, the night watch, gets the next day off. More than two means more sailors get the next day off to recuperate. We don't have the folks to support that. Hey, here's an idea: use that 12-hour watch to get on those NKO sites that you can't access from the OLFs or the Tower, study hard, promote, get picked up for a commissioning program, become CO of a base, and then you can abolish all watches!! Or you could read a book.

Thanks and keep the questions and suggestions coming. The only way to make a change is to bring it to the attention of your chain of command.

FREE
ADMISSION
FOR ALL
NAVY PERSONNEL
AND FAMILY

COMICS ON DUTY

LIVE AT:
NAS WHITING FIELD

STEVE BILLS
www.ComicsOnDuty.com

STEVE BURR
www.SteveBurr.com

IAN GUTOSKIE
www.IanGutoskie.com

JACK MAYBERRY
www.JackMayberry.com

FRIDAY, 26 MARCH

SIKES HALL

SHOWTIME - 1900

Ace's will be open for business!
Free Hors D'oeuvres while they last!

NAVY Entertainment

MWR
MILITARY WELFARE RECREATION

at&t

THAT GUY
www.THATGUY.com

THE COMICS ON DUTY WORLD TOUR IS A DAVIS ENTERTAINMENT GROUP PRODUCTION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NO FEDERAL ENDORSEMENT IMPLIED.

www.COMICSONDUTY.COM PROUDLY SERVING ALL WHO SERVE SINCE 1992

News and Notes

Comics on Duty - Morale, Welfare and Recreation, in conjunction with www.thatguy.com, will host the Comics on Duty tour March 26 at Sikes Hall. Four comedians, Steve Bills, Steve Burr, Ian Gutoskie, and Jack Mayberry will perform beginning at 7 p.m. Aces will be open during the event and MWR will provide free hors d'oeuvres while they last.

Santa Rosa County Fair - The Santa Rosa County Fair, located at East Milton Park, is almost here. This year's schedule includes: monster truck rides, The Modern Eldorados, Nickelodeon presents - Sponge Bob, and an Easter Egg Hunt with 4000 Easter Eggs!! Wednesday, April 1 is Military Day and the fair will have a live video game tournament of "Tekken 6!" The tournament offers a chance to win a \$100.00 gift card. Also, don't miss the 19th annual Dodge Rodeo on Friday and Saturday. The price of a ticket includes: live bands, rides, petting zoo, pony rides, and to top it off -- mechanical bull riding tournaments all week! The fair starts March 30 and ends Apr. 4. Check out www.srctfair.com for details.

Fair Tickets at ITT - Fair tickets are now available for Santa Rosa County Fair at MWR ITT. Entrance for Active duty and family members \$4.50 each. Limited amount. All other tickets \$5.00. For More information contact ITT 623-7032.

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 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



Recognizing Our Top Sailors
Air Traffic Controller Second Class Kendra Mock receives a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal during the awards ceremony March 18. She received the award for her service in the Air Traffic Control Division from May 5, 2005 until June 1.

be provided. For more information, call 623-7032.
Give a Day, Get a Day - Visit Walt Disney World Resort, for free? For one day of volunteer work you can receive a 1-day, 1-theme park ticket to the Disneyland Resort or Walt Disney World Resort, free. There's no better time to make a dream come true for others and let Disney make a few come true for you! For more details, visit: <http://disneyparks.disney.go.com>.

Disney on Ice - ITT will have tickets available starting March 24, 2010 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.

Read to Children - The Early Learning Coalition of Santa Rosa County is sponsoring an event to bring local service men and women, county workers, and county officers into local childcare centers to read a book to the children. It's taking place during Children's Week 2010 on Monday, April 12th, Tuesday, April 13th, and Wednesday April 14th at 3 different childcare centers in the Milton area. There is also a center participating in the Gulf Breeze area on April 16th. The volunteer would come to the childcare center and read a book provided to the children. It would only take a little bit of your time and it would mean the world to the children. If you would like any more information or please contact Delana Traweek at 983-5335 or email at trump@elcsantarosa.org.

Allied Forces Soccer - The area military soccer program has reformed to provide service members on Whiting Field, NAS Pensacola, Corry Station, and Naval Hospital the opportunity to play competitive and recreational soccer. Competitive, recreational and coed teams are available. The teams play local clubs and other area military base teams typically on Sunday afternoons as well as participating in regional tournaments.

All Active-Duty members from any service or international military program as well as dependents, contractors and government employees 18 and over are welcome to participate. Training and games are Thursdays, 1700-1900 (1645 Showtime) at the Barrancas Field on NAS Pensacola near the USCG facility. For more information, contact LCDR David Toellner at (850) 382-5494 or kiwi_soccer@yahoo.com



Retaining Our Best and Brightest
Lt. Jitindra Sirjoo presents a reenlistment certificate to Aviation Boatswain's Mate Second Class Jeremy Bliss. Bliss reenlisted March 12 for four years in the midfield hangar. Photo courtesy of Navy Counselor First Class Gwendolyn King.

Upcoming Events

Mar. 26, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Mar. 26, 1500 - VT-6 Change of Command - Atrium

Mar. 29, 1100 - Women's History Month Progr. - Auditorium

Apr. 1 - April Fools Day

Apr. 6, 0800 - HT-28 Pilot for a Day

Apr. 9, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

VA Representative (Call for Appointment) - Friday, March 26, 0800 – 1200

Resume Writing - Monday, March 29, 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.

Insurance Needs - Wednesday, March 31, 1400 - 1500

A 60 – 90 minute interactive program suitable for all audiences, designed to develop knowledge and skills that will enable participants to make informed consumer decisions on the basic types of insurance, and to determine their personal need for life insurance. Class will be held in the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Common Sense Parenting for Ages 5 - 18 - Wednesday, March 31, 1800 - 2000

Unfortunately, children do not come with instruction manuals. This class is for any parent who wants to “brush up” on their parenting skills or new parents that are not sure of where to begin. For details call 623-7177.

New Spouse Indoctrination - Monday, 5 April, 0800-1200

Welcome to NW Florida, NAS Whiting Field, Training Wing Five, and the world of aviation training! Find out what challenges and rewards are in store for you and your flight student and how you can enjoy and thrive in the military lifestyle. Learn about the local culture, recreational opportunities, and support services available to you, while meeting other spouses and command staff! For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Home Buying - Wednesday, 7 April, 1400-1500

Are you in the market for a new home? We can help! From finding the best agent, to negotiating price, types of mortgage loans, and how to get the best interest rates, we can help! Find out how to buy a home and maintain your lifestyle! For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

VA Representative (Call for Appointment) - Friday, 9 April, 0800–1200

SRC Sponsors Amnesty Day Saturday, March 27

Amnesty Day, which offers Santa Rosa County residents the opportunity to dispose of household hazardous waste at no charge, is scheduled for Saturday, March 27 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Amnesty Day is not a recycle day, but a special day for disposal of household hazardous waste. Materials will also be accepted from conditionally exempt small quantity generators including small businesses, schools and growers at a reduced rate. Small quantity generators must call (850) 981-7135 by noon on Friday, March 26 to schedule a drop off time. Calls will be accepted from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Two drop off sites are available, at the Santa Rosa County South Side Service Center located at 5819 Gulf Breeze Parkway in Midway and at the parking lot of the Santa Rosa County Administrative Complex, located behind McDonald's at 6495 Caroline Street in Milton. Items that may be dropped off include: household cleaners, lubricants, motor oil, oil filters, paint, pesticides, pool cleaners, and solvents.

The following items should also never be thrown



out with your household garbage, but on Amnesty Day, residents can dispose of up to five gallons each: antifreeze, batteries, computers, five-gallon propane bottles, fluorescent lights, fire extinguishers, gasoline, greases, household cleaners, lubricants, motor oil, oil filters, paint, pesticides, pool cleaners, and solvents

Cathode ray televisions and monitors will be accepted at the Midway location. Residents will be required to remove these items from their vehicle. They will not be accepted at the

Amnesty Day drop off on Caroline Street, but can be taken directly to the Central Landfill located at 6337 Da Lisa Road in Milton throughout the year, Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tires, printers, fax machines, DVD/DVR players, typewriters, copy machines, general debris or household garbage will not be accepted as part of Amnesty Day.

Amnesty Day is made possible by Santa Rosa County in cooperation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Jim Reece of the Okaloosa County Environmental Office. For more information, contact (850) 981-7135.

NAS Whiting Field to Hold Women's History Month Celebration

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Sue Straughn, news anchor for WEAR Channel 3 in Pensacola will serve as the guest speaker for the Women's History Month celebration March 29 in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field auditorium. This year marks the 30th anniversary of women's history celebrations. The event was held as National Women's History Week beginning March 8, 1980. The effort was expanded to a month in 1987 and has been Women's History month ever since. This year's theme is "Writing Women Back into History."

The Navy continues to strive to provide women opportunities to succeed in the military. Since the repeal of the exclusion for combat, Navy women's achievements have made tremendous strides. The Navy has 17 female active duty and 8 reserve flag officers serving in challenging jobs worldwide including as well as 59 active and 14 reserve Sailors wearing the highest enlisted rank.

Increasing operational opportunities for women has allowed for a more level playing field with male counterparts for opportunity and advancement. More than 120,000 active duty, reserve and civilian women serve in the Navy today, and the Navy was recently the first government agency to be named a finalist for the Catalyst Award, an award that honors innovative organizational approaches to recruiting, developing and advancing women.

"It is important that we recognize the roles throughout history and the steady progress women have made in our society and our Navy. The Women's History Month events help us remember the struggles of the past so that our way ahead becomes clearer," said Capt. Pete Hall, commanding officer, NAS Whiting Field.

Straughn began her career at WEAR TV in 1973 as a clerk typist. She steadily promoted up through the ranks to become in turns: traffic manager, public service director, program director, assistant operations manager, talk show host, until now, she is the co-anchor, producer and public affairs director for the station.

Straughn is the recipient of more than 30 journalistic and civic awards in Northwest Florida, and was named one of the 25 most powerful women in Northwest Florida by Climate Magazine. She served four years as a member of the Defense Advisory Council on Women in the service, was recognized with the Defense Civilian Service Medal in 1998, and was honored in 2003 with a permanent entry in the Congressional Record by The Honorable Jeff Miller.

The free luncheon is open to all authorized patrons of the air station and will feature a short audio-visual presentation, a highlight of the background behind Women's History Month, as well as Straughn's remarks. The program begins at 11 a.m.



WEAR 3 abc Sue Straughn

TRICARE Notes

EASE TRANSITION FROM ACTIVE DUTY – KEEP YOUR TRICARE PRIME COVERAGE THROUGH TAMP

Leaving active duty does not necessarily mean that you are no longer eligible for TRICARE benefits. The Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) provides 180 days of transitional health care benefits in making a smooth transition to civilian life.

You and your eligible family members may be qualified for health care benefits under TAMP if the sponsor is:

- Involuntarily separating from active duty under honorable conditions;
- A National Guard or Reserve member separating from a period of active duty that was more than 30 consecutive days in support of a contingency operation;
- Separating from active duty following involuntary retention (stop-loss) in support of a contingency operation; or
- Separating from active duty following a voluntary agreement to stay on active duty for less than one year in support of a contingency operation.

To learn more about TAMP and how to maintain your TRICARE Prime coverage, visit www.humana-military.com and click on Beneficiary and then TRICARE Plans. Click on Transitional Coverage.



VT -3 Red Knights 50th Anniversary

Main Events

- 29 April – Alumni Tour and Ribbon Cutting
- 30 April – Golf Tournament
- 30 April – 50th Anniversary Formal Ball

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

RSVP with VT-3 Call: 850-623-7321 or
E-mail: sue.anctil@navy.mil

Change of Command

- (Cont. from Page 1)

commander, he will continue that legacy. A role Walsh is confident he will fulfill quite well.

"We focus here on building character and capability. It will good to have him at the helm. Capt. Vandiver has the most character of any man I have ever met," Walsh said.

A Naval Academy graduate and helicopter pilot with nearly 25 years experience, Vandiver has been serving as the deputy commodore for TRAWING-5 since September 2008. Prior to his arrival, he most recently worked as the Antisubmarine Warfare Section Head and later as Maritime Warfare Systems/Surface Strike Branch Head for the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Director of Surface Warfare (N86) in Washington D.C. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Naval War College which he graduated from in 2005. Prior to that, he served as the executive officer and commanding officer of Training Squadron TWENTY-SEVEN in Corpus Christi, Tex.

He now has command of the Navy's largest Training Wing which flies approximately 44 percent of the Chief of Naval Air Training flight hours. Col. James Grace will become the new deputy commodore.

Vandiver is looking forward to the task.

"I haven't stopped smiling since I came to this job.



Capt. James Vandiver receives the Training Air Wing FIVE colors from Col. John Walsh. Walsh passed command of the Training Wing to Vandiver during a change of command ceremony Thursday, March 18 at the NAS Whiting Field auditorium. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

Every day you wake up and you know you made a difference," Vandiver said. "Here we have a chance to invest and pour ourselves into the careers of these individuals. It is a true honor."

Walsh will continue his career at Central Command in Tampa Bay, Fla. He steps out of the top spot having earned the Legion of Merit award for his leadership of TRAWING-5, which was presented by Chief of Naval Air Training Rear Adm. William Sizemore, II. He was proud of his staff and instructor pilots, but he saved some of his most ardent praise for the students who take up the task to become aviators.

"This is not an easy journey. Twenty percent don't finish it. We don't make pilots to fly planes, we develop warriors to deploy airborne weapons systems..." he said. "Every Monday morning it was my privilege to welcome young men and women who make that sacrifice and put themselves in position to make a difference."

After both Walsh and Vandiver spoke to the assembled guests and squadron members, they requested permission from Sizemore to be relieved and to assume command respectively.

Then the TRAWING-5 flag was brought out and presented to Walsh. Walsh then gave it to Vandiver, symbolically turning over command.

CNRSE Visit

- (Cont. from Page 1)

ed in this manner, and it is an effort noticed by Alexander.

"The relationship between Whiting Field and Santa Rosa County is the model for how we want to do business," he said. "...You all do it better than anywhere I have ever seen."

As Commander, Navy Region Southeast, Alexander is one of 11 regional commanders for the Navy. He oversees 21 military installations from Texas to Georgia to Cuba. During his 29 year Naval career, Alexander has been a helicopter pilot with the Sea Snakes of HSL-33, the HSL-46 Grandmasters, been the air boss aboard USS NAS-SAU (LHA 4), attended the Naval War College, served on the Chief of Naval Operation's staff, and most recently been Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. He assumed his current position as Commander, Navy Region Southeast in January 2009.

About 50 local officials, business leaders, and military supporters attended the town hall meeting. Following his informal presentation, Alexander took questions for about 20 minutes on their concerns. Those questions covered topics such as: ways to support the base more, legislative efforts of other states to protect military bases, the closing of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, a regional air space study results, how commanding officers are selected and the Joint Strike Fighter Program.

It was a productive visit that left Alexander reminded of the stark differences between the way communities treat the military today compared to when he first joined.

"We walked into [a diner] this morning in uniform, and the first thing I heard was 'Thank you for your service.' It means a lot. Things are different now, and I hope we can sustain."

Ball to Turn Over Command of Training Squadron SIX to Maybee

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Cmdr. Sean Maybee will relieve Lt. Col. Javier Ball as the commanding officer of Training Squadron SIX (VT-6) Friday, March 26 at 3 p.m. in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Atrium building.

The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition that provides the assembled unit the opportunity to witness the transfer of authority from one officer to another. Passing the command from a Marine to a Navy officer is uncommon in military commands, but is the standard for VT-6 and Maybee will turn over command to a Marine Corps officer following his tour as commanding officer of the squadron.

During Ball's two-year tenure as executive officer and then commanding officer, the Shooters exceeded the FY-08 pilot production goal of 225 by complet-



Lt. Col. Javier Ball

ing 242 Student Naval Aviators, and the FY-09 goal of 200 by completing 203 Student Naval Aviators. Since Ball has been in command, the squadron achieved a student production rate 30 percent higher than the previous

18 months. Under his demanding "mission first" leadership, the squadron has also reduced its average student time to train from 42 weeks to 28 weeks.

Ball's 21 year career has encompassed tours as an F/A-18 Hornet pilot with VMFA-115 and VMFA-332 in South Carolina, USAF Air Command and Staff College, Marine Air Group-31, and was forward deployed to Iraq as the Fixed Wing Air Representative and current operations officer. He also served as the T-6B Texan transition officer here be-



Cmdr. Sean Maybee

fore becoming the executive officer of VT-6.

Maybee comes to VT-6 from the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations' office for Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education. Previously, during his 18-year career, Maybee has been an EP-3E pilot with Fleet Reconnaissance Squadron TWO (VQ-2) in Rota, Spain; served as the

Executive Assistant to the Naval Forces Europe Chief of Staff, flew with VQ-1 Whidbey Island, Wash. and Special Projects Patrol Squadron TWO in Hawaii; and was the first Navy Federal Executive Fellow at the Center for Naval Analyses. He has accumulated more than 2,400 flight hours.

Col. Scott Walsh, former Commander Training Air Wing FIVE, and Lt. Col. Francisco Ball will serve as the guest speakers for the event.

ABH1 Velasco Honored with Margaret Flower Civic Award Nomination



ABH1 Jackie Velasco receives the Volunteer Service Medal citation from NAS Whiting Field Executive Officer Cmdr. Lynne Chapman. Photo by Aviation Boatswain's Mate First Class Daniel Ammons.

Aviation Boatswain's Mate First Class Jackie Velasco joined 15 other top Sailors at the Navy League Military Recognition Day Feb. 25. All 16 Sailors were there to be recognized for their community service to the surrounding areas.

While Velasco didn't win the Margaret Flowers Civic award, being nominated as the representative for Naval Air Station Whiting Field was a proud moment for the eleven year Sailor.

"It feels great to stand up for the team effort we have here," he said. "I was really surprised."

Maybe he shouldn't have been. His department Chief, Senior Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate Jeff Jones strongly supported the nomination.

"Petty Officer First Class Velasco has a heart for civic activities and

takes very seriously his responsibility to give back to the community," he wrote in the nomination package.

As the Divisional Leading Petty Officer for the Crash Division, he is already busy. However, he still finds time for a long list of civic participation including: the Adopt-a-Veteran program, Adopt-a-Highway, Milton Cemetery and Blackwater River clean-up events, coordination of Honor Guard and Color Guard teams and service as the coordinator for the diversity committee for NAS Whiting Field.

It is an impressive list of activities that Velasco does not for the recognition, but because it feels good to help out.

"I think it is important to make a positive impact. We can't just fight for our country, but we have to do good things at home too. And when someone says thank you, it's overwhelming."

WOMEN'S HISTORY Month

"Writing Women Back Into History"

M
a
r
c
h

2
9

1100 - 1300

Naval Air Station Whiting Field Diversity Committee will celebrate the annual observance of Women's History Month. We take this time to reflect on the remarkable contributions women made throughout the history of our Navy and Nation.

WEAR Channel 3 news anchor Sue Straughn will be our featured speaker, on Monday, March 29, 2010 in the base Auditorium (Theater) from 1100-1300.

The menu will include: Lasagna, garlic bread, side salad, assorted drinks, and cake.

All base personnel, family members, and friends are invited to attend. There will be no cost for the event.

Congrats to TRAWING-5's Newest Wingers and Scholars



Front Row: Lt. j.g. Andres Diaz-Ripoll Marzol, SPNAV; Ensign Jared Wada, USN; 1st Lt. Benton White, USMC; 1st Lt. Nathan McPherson, USMC; 1st Lt. Ryan Colameo, USMC; 1st Lt. Michael Harris, USMC; 1st Lt. Andre Testman, II, USMC; and Cmdr. Herschel Weinstock, USN. Second Row: Cmdr. Mathew Frost, USN; Lt. j.g. Carlos Arenas Alvarino, SPNAV; 1st Lt. Ryan Stewart, USMC; Lt. j.g. Matthew Carlton, USCG; 1st Lt. Michael Paull, USMC; Lt. j.g. Clayton Martin, USN; Ensign Katie Erwin, USN; and Col. John Walsh, USMC. Third Row: Cmdr. Mark Murray, USN; 1st Lt. David Novak, USMC; 1st Lt. Joseph Tennison, USMC; Ensign Adam Boyd, USN; Ensign Mason Hoyt, USN; 1st Lt. Daniel Hoag, USMC; and 1st Lt. Erik Matson, USMC. Fourth Row: Cmdr. Michael Fisher, USN; Ensign William Hardin, Jr., USN; Lt. j.g. Scott Curtin, USN; Ensign Eugenio Basile, ITNAV; Ensign Michael Scanlon, USN; 1st Lt. Travis Pugh, USMC; and 1st Lt. Josh Greb, USMC. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Michael Daharsh.



1st Lt. Kevin J Doherty, USMC; Lt. j.g. Brian W. Seekatz, USCG; Lt. j.g. Adam R. Frye, USCG; and Ensign Evan J. Cook, USN receive their Academic Achievement Award March 12 at the Training Air Wing FIVE headquarters building. Photo courtesy of Training Air Wing FIVE.