

Whiting Tower

Sixty-Six Years of Aviation Training News



Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, FL

Forging Wings for the Fleet

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Family/Friends Remember Lt. Clinton Wermers

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Members of the family, shipmates from previous squadrons, and the Training Air Wing FIVE and Naval Air Station Whiting Field team remembered the life and career of Lt. Clinton Wermers Monday, Feb. 1 in the base's auditorium. More than 500 people filled the site to standing room only capacity to say goodbye to one of their own.

Wermers died following a T-34 Turbomentor accident during a routine night instrument training exercise. The aircraft went down in Lake Ponchartrain about one mile north of Lakefront Airport in New Orleans. According to Col. John Walsh, Wermers ensured the student pilot he was with got out of the aircraft safely, which exemplified the type of individual and officer he was.

"Lt. Wermers molded and trained the airborne warriors our nation needs. It is a worthwhile undertaking and he did it exceedingly well. He made a difference. To the very

- (Cont. on Page 7)



Naval Air Station Whiting Field Base Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Raymond Summerlin speaks at the lecturn during the memorial service for Lt. Clinton Wermers who died in a T-34 aircraft accident Jan. 23. He is joined on stage by Lt. Col. Javier Ball, Wermers commanding officer and Capt. Tim Pederson, Deputy Wing Commander for Strategic Communications Wing ONE, Wermers former Wing prior to coming to Training Squadron SIX. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope

NASWF Installs Solar Powered Water Heater to Save Energy/Dollars

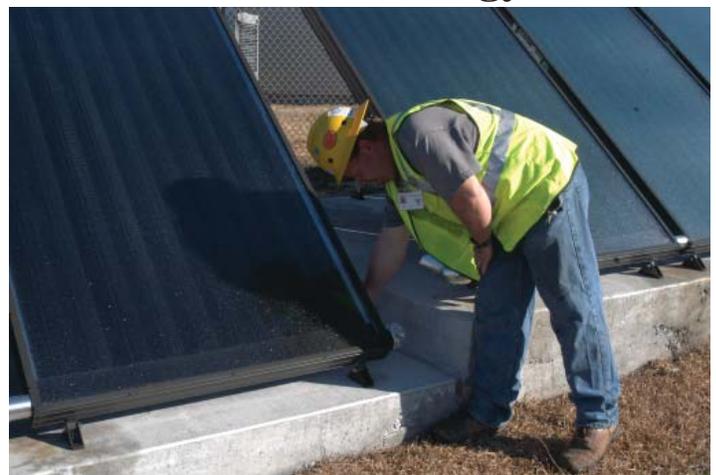
By Ens. Joanna Clark, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

A new energy source will heat the Wings Club at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. As part of an energy conservation effort, the process of switching the hot water supply from the existing 2.1 mil Btu/hr rated natural gas powered steam boiler to the solar powered system began Jan. 15 and will be completed Jan. 29.

The installation cost, internally funded from within the base, was \$75,000. The new system, however, will pay for itself within six years since the predicted annual savings will amount to \$13,000. It will not only be better for the environment, but it will save the base money over time.

The new boiler system, entirely powered by the sun, incorporates two different types of solar panels. Solar collector panels use energy from sunlight to heat water while solar voltaic panels convert the sun's energy into electricity for the user to control the system and to pump the hot water throughout the system.

"There are a series of tubes that take UV rays from the sun and physically make the water hot," Jay Baynes, Whiting Field Project Resources Engineer said. "The photovoltaic panels create the electricity to run the entire system



Compass Solar Energy Installer Tim Hodges turns on the water to flow through the pipes of the solar panels to the new water heater at Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Wings Club Jan. 22. The solar water heater will replace an older, less efficient gas powered steam boiler. U.S. Navy photo by Ens. Joanna Clark.

and charge the battery."

Sean Gardner, part owner and operator of Compass Solar Energy, went on to explain that the battery will hold a

- (Cont. on Page 4)

NAS Whiting Field VITA Program Kicks Off Tax Season

Beginning Feb. 1, NAS Whiting Field will once again offer free tax preparation services through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to active duty, dependents, retirees, and reservists on active duty for more than 30 days. Through this program, those eligible individuals not only can save hundreds of dollars on tax preparation fees, but they also get their refund in just a couple of weeks.

During the 2009 tax season, Navy-wide volunteers with the VITA program filed nearly 70,000 federal and state tax returns, saving service members and dependents more than \$9,700,000 in commercial tax preparation fees. Locally, last year the NAS Whiting Field Tax Center filed over 600 tax returns, with a savings to the taxpayer of over \$63,000. The VITA program is a proven winner that improves morale and readiness and keeps money in sailors' pockets. VITA significantly reduces the effort and cost involved in meeting federal and state tax obligations:

A. No preparation fees. Commercial tax preparers may charge over \$140 for the average electronically filed return. VITA/ELF volunteers prepare and file the same returns at no cost to sailors and dependents.

B. Faster refunds. Paper returns may take eight or more weeks to process. By using VITA, refunds are deposited directly into a sailor's bank account an average of two weeks from the date of transmission, even from overseas

and afloat commands. These rapid refunds greatly reduce the need for refund anticipation loans (short-term loans with added charges and high interest rates).

C. Fewer mistakes. VITA prepared returns are very accurate - less than a 1 percent error rate compared to 15 percent for paper returns.

This year, the NAS Whiting Field Tax Center is located in the Atrium Building 1417, room 153. The building is next door to the Gym in center of the base, with the Chapel on one end and Pen Air Credit Union on the other. Using the north side entrance near Pen Air Credit Union, we are the 1st office on the left-hand side. Currently, tax preparation assistance is available Monday through Friday, 0800 - 1600 and offered on an appointment-only basis. Please call 665-6120 to schedule an appointment.

Before making an appointment, please ensure you have all of your tax documents. You will need W-2's, 1099R's, and bank documents showing interest/dividends earned. You will also be required to provide last year's tax return or copies of your Social Security Card (for each member listed on the return), and if the return will be filed electronically, a blank check to verify RTN and account number.

"The VITA program is only viable if it is utilized. This is another one of those good programs that may go away if it is not used," Bill Brock, the VITA Coordinator.

TRICARE Notes

A HEALTHY HEART FOR A HEALTHY LIFE

February is American Heart Month and TRICARE encourages all beneficiaries to reduce their risks for developing heart disease.

The National Institute of Health (NIH) lists six key steps to help reduce the risk of having a heart attack:

- **Stop smoking**
- **Lower high blood pressure**
- **Reduce high cholesterol**
- **Aim for a healthy weight**
- **Be physically active each day**
- **Manage diabetes**

Visit <http://www.americanheart.org> or <http://cdc.gov/HeartDisease> for more information about heart health. Starting in February, make every month American Heart Month for a healthy life.

CNRSE Supports Haiti Ops

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

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Two days following a major earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale near Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Navy Region Southeast activated its crisis action team to offer direct support to its installation closest to the disaster - Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Located just 206 miles from the earthquake's epicenter, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay became the joint logistics hub for relief support to Haiti as directed by U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

"The degree of humanitarian need in this situation requires flexible, effective, joint interagency partnerships," said Cmdr. George Perez, assistant battle watch captain of the crisis action team. "Only the combined capabilities of the military and civilian agencies can truly meet the scope of the needs of the Haitian people. The Air Force provides strategic airlift, while the Army and Marines provide command and control, communications, and security on the ground. The Navy provides not only strategic sealift capability, but also airlift capability, medical services, and search and rescue assets. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, with the support of Navy Region Southeast, has played a significant role in the Navy's response as a joint logistics hub."

Navy Region Southeast's Crisis Action Team is ideally suited to support the establishment of the joint logistics hub at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, according to Perez.

"The requirements, coordination, and communication
- (Cont. on Page 5)

News and Notes

Workin' at the Car Wash - The First Class Association will sponsor a Car Wash / lunch sale on Fri, 5 Feb 2010, in the NEX parking lot from 1100-1300. Lunch will include (1) bratwurst, chips and drink for a small donation of \$5.00. All proceeds will go to support the Black History Program scheduled for Feb. 19 in the Base Auditorium.

Soccer Tournament - The Allied Forces Soccer Club is hosting a soccer tournament that is open to anyone associated with the area military bases. Games begin at 1300 (1pm) on Sunday, February the 14th at the Barrancas Soccer fields. Teams from NAS Whiting Field, Corry Station, Naval Hospital Pensacola and NAS Pensacola will play friendly soccer matches at the beachside complex. Please contact LCDR David Toellner, (850) 382-5494 or kiwi_soccer@yahoo.com for more information or to be placed on a team.

Line Dance Classes - Line dancing classes will be available at Hobb's Middle School on Thursday evenings beginning Jan. 7. Classes for beginners are from 6 to 7:30 p.m. with classes for intermediates from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The thirteen week class cost is \$55. For details call 723-4052.

Free Tickets - Universal is offering 2 park 7 days free admittance to all Active duty, retired and reservist until July 18,2010. Kennedy Space Center is offering Free entrance to all Active duty, retired and reservists. Check out prices for Universal and Kennedy Space Center for family or friends Contact the ITT office for further information. 623-7032

First Friday - Come enjoy an exciting event in downtown Milton from 5 to 8 p.m. the first Friday of the month! Historic Downtown Milton is the place to be if you want to join the fun at the unique stores, art gallery, cafes and restaurants <<http://www.firstfridayhawaii.com/directory/index.html>> that feature exciting art exhibits and free entertainment.

Subway Closure - Subway will close Saturday, Feb. 20, to install a new "energy saving" exhaust system. They will reopen for business at their normal time on Monday, February 22, 2010.

Strut Your Mutt - Dog owners are welcome to "Strut Your Mutt" at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesdays during a 45-minute leisurely stroll



Rewarding Excellence

Cmdr. Mat Frost, HT-28 commanding officer, presents the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal to Capt. Blair J. Garner, USMC. From March 2004 to December 2008 Capt Garner served in Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (REIN), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (FWD). In his four and a half years Capt Garner completed four deployments and flew more than 1,600 hours, over 600 of them in combat. Capt Garner distinguished himself as a leader, astute planner, and highly effective officer. Photo courtesy HT-28.

in East Hill. Dogs must be leashed and well behaved, and owners must bring their own water and pick up after their pet. The walk will begin at the entrance to the Bayview Dog Park at 20th Avenue and East Mallory Street. For further details call 291-7658.

Hare and Hounds Run - The East Hill Hare and Hounds Running Club will meet at 2:30 p.m. every second and fourth Sunday. The run will last three to five miles at locations in and around downtown Pensacola and consists of a trail laid with flour, toilet paper and chalk marks. After the run there will be a beer social with fresh fruit and light snacks. The cost is \$5. For details call Tim Hartigan at 393-8692.

Yoga Class - Yoga classes are available at Milton Community Center every Tuesday and Friday from 9 to 10 a.m. Classes are open to children and adults of any age. The cost is \$5. For more information call 983-5466.

Art Showcase - The art exhibit "Independent Artists of Navarre" will be open to the public in the showcase room of the Dragonfly Gallery in Milton this month. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturdays. The exhibit will showcase a variety of painting, photography, pottery, and wood sculpture pieces from Santa Rosa Country artists. For more information call 981-1100.

Line Dancing - Milton Community Center will host line dancing classes from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. every Monday. Classes are open to children and adults of all ages. The cost is \$3. For more information call 983-5466.

A Taste for Art - The Santa Rosa Arts and Culture Foundation will hold its fifth annual optional black tie fund raiser Feb. 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. Chocolate delights and gourmet appetizers highlight the evening. Tickets are \$25. Call 393-0121 for details.

Mardi Gras Parade - Pensacola Beach will host their annual Mardi Gras Parade presented by the Krewe of Wrecks at 2 p.m. Feb. 14. The parade will take place on Via de Luna from Avenida 10 to the Casino Beach parking lot. See www.kreweofwrecks.com for details.



Recognizing Our Top Sailors

AC1 Thorice Armstrong receives his Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal from Capt. Pete Hall, Naval Air Station Whiting Field commanding officer, Jan. 21. The medal was presented during an Operations Department awards ceremony in the operations auditorium. U.S. Navy photo by Ens. Joanna Clark.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 4, 1430 - NASWF Staff Association Mtg - Wing's Club

Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day

Feb. 11, 1800 - Milton Mardi Gras Parade - Downtown Milton

Feb. 15 - President's Day Holiday

Feb. 12, 1300 Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Feb. 24, 0730 - SRC Military Update Mtg. - Wings Club

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

How to Start a Business - Monday, February 8, 0800 - 1000

Learn the skills and techniques needed to establish your own business. This class will assist you in developing a business plan. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Developing Your Spending Plan - Wednesday, February 10, 1400 - 1500

This class is not designed to tell you what to do with your money; this class will challenge you to think before you spend. There is no patent on the "right" way to handle your money, but there are better ways to get your dollar's worth. 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, February 12, 0800 - 1200

Anger Management - Wednesday, February 17, 1300 - 1400

Is anger affecting your health, your relationships or your work performance? Learn to understand the causes and effects of unhealthy anger and how to express and release that anger in a healthy way! Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Renting - Wednesday, February 17, 1400 - 1500

The purpose of this workshop is to provide complete, objective, and unbiased information so prospective military renters will be confident in their decision whether or not to rent, and be better able to negotiate the potential financial pitfalls they may encounter during the rental process. Class will be held in the FFSC conference room. For more information, call 623-7177.

How to Apply for a Federal Job - Monday, February 22, 0800 - 1000

"Is it worth your while to invest your time and effort in searching and applying for a Federal Job?" If your answer is "yes", then you need to attend this class in order to learn how to prepare the best application possible. You will learn how to read an announcement, analyze core competencies for language, analyze vacancy listings for keywords, and how to apply for jobs. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

New Spouse Indoctrination - Monday, February 22, 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.

NASWF Energy

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charge that can operate the system for three days without sunlight.

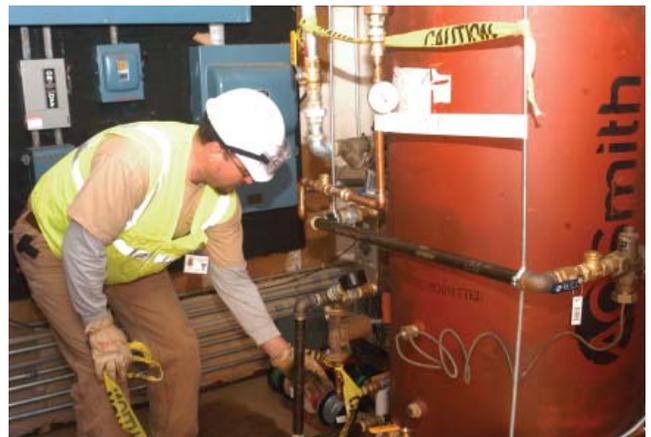
"The pipes are run on very low energy. They are run by a battery that is charged by the solar panels. If the sun is not out, it [the system] will run off the charged batteries."

There are also two back-up sources to heat the water in the case of system failures or for winter heating. An electric run water heater was added into the system and the old steam boiler will remain as a second back-up.

"It does have an emergency back-up water heater run by electricity from the building. Ten percent of your annual power will be from back-up sources, such as winter heating," Gardner added.

The instillation and utilization of this new system is a step in the direction of a greener base. If it proves itself to be successful over time, new water heating systems may appear in new buildings throughout the NAS Whiting Field. Baynes is already optimistic that solar heating may become base's the future water heating source.

"We don't currently have anything specific in mind," he said. "But we have hot water demands for the Combined Bachelor Quarters and Aces Club that this system would be ideal for."



Sean Gardner, owner and operator of Compass Solar Energy, works on finishing the minor details needed to bring the new water heater on-line at Wings Club at Naval Air Station Whiting Field Jan. 22. The solar water heater will replace an older, less efficient gas powered steam boiler. U.S. Navy photo by Ens. Joanna Clark.

NH Pensacola: Message To 'Our' Valued Patients

Due to recent world events, Naval Hospital (NH) Pensacola and its 12 branch clinics – across five states -- have deployed more than 100 staff members in support of our nation's humanitarian efforts in Haiti as well as Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. The medical facilities expect to continue that support for the foreseeable future.

As a "Global Force for Good," when the world calls on America, the Navy responds. Available resources have been prioritized in order to answer these calls of a worthy humanitarian effort and global wars.

With less than 24 hours notice,



35 NH Pensacola staff deployed to USNS Comfort, a Navy hospital ship moored off Haiti. They are providing round-the-clock emergency medical care to people desperately in need, and we are all extremely proud of them.

What does this mean for you?

The hospital command, with about 2,100 military, civilian, contractor and volunteer staff overall, recognizes that the temporary departure of doctors, nurses, corpsmen and support staff to the Comfort and throughout the world will not go unnoticed by patients.

There may be a little longer wait in the laboratory, radiology, or specialty clinics. Patients with deployed health-

care providers may be rescheduled with other physicians in the facility or with a TRICARE network provider in the community. The hospital is working proactively to address these issues.

All NH Pensacola services are continuing. 'Wounded Warrior' care program will not be impacted.

The Navy hospital is committed to ensuring safe, quality care for all of its beneficiaries.

The NH Pensacola command thanks all of its beneficiaries and partners for their understanding, cooperation, and support of deployed personnel.

The medical facility's thoughts and prayers are with the Haitian people and all those affected by this devastating earthquake including our deployed forces supporting America's national interests throughout the world.

CNRSE Support

- (Cont. from Page 2)

involved in building Naval Station Guantanamo's logistic capabilities are essentially identical to the demands placed on the crisis action team in response to a natural disaster in the Southeast Region," said Perez. "Our crisis action team has significant experience in supporting Navy installations and civilian agencies due to yearly hurricanes."

There are other benefits of using an already-established team.

"One of the main advantages we had as a team was having our Plans, Operations, and Resources section chiefs in the same location," said

Cmdr. Maurice Meagher, Resources section chief for the crisis action team. "If we weren't on the same watch floor, there would be a greater chance for miscommunication, redundant efforts, or things falling through the cracks."

When a request for support or request for forces came in to the crisis action team battlewatch from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, the request was brought to the floor for Operations to source out, either to Resources, to Plans, or to be worked internally in Operations.

Resources section worked to identify and track details on personnel: where they were going, from where and when, what their clearance issues were, and what things were needed for them once they arrived.

"Besides personnel, we sent a lot of information tech-



Crisis action team members hold a teleconference with base and staff representatives assisting with Haiti's earthquake crisis in the Regional Operations Center, Jan. 28. The daily teleconference provided the crisis action team a summary update on the situational priorities. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist Petty Officer 1st Class Monica R. Nelson

nology material down, about 200 line-of-sight radios, a Broad Global Area Network communication device, and equipment to expand GTMO's local area network to meet additional requirements," said Meagher.

On a different level, Operations was tracking people too.

"Four different staffs were arriving on location and it created some problems trying to coordinate between them," said Crisis Action Team Operations Section Chief Bruce Toth. "Our role was to create order out of chaos. We were the single point of contact for any issues or needs. Twice a day we received a needs report from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, and we held a daily teleconference for a quick update on the situation."

Despite working up to 20-hour days for two weeks straight, the crisis action team maintained focus by remembering the extreme need in Haiti and working with multiple installations throughout the region to acquire material requested by those on the ground.

"The forklift and fire extinguisher we arranged for was planned, resourced, and executed through the crisis action team and delivered to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, having a direct effect on thousands of Haitians in their time of need," said Toth. "If you maintain that focus, the tasks we were doing, while minor, had major implications."

Fleet and Family Provides a Few Top Tax Tips

Editor's Note: As we approach Military Saves Week, Fleet and Family Support Center is providing a series of important financial wellness lessons to help keep you on sound financial footing. The following tax tips are taken from www.cnnmoney.com. Call Eugene Jackson at 623-7177 for more information on how FFSC can help you improve your fiscal awareness.

1. If you get a big refund each year, you're having too much withheld from your paycheck. In effect, you're giving the government an interest-free loan.
2. If you have too little withheld, you may be charged an underpayment penalty. You must pay 90% of what you owe for the tax year by the end of that year or an amount equal to 100% of your tax liability for the previous tax year, whichever is smaller.
3. Not every dollar of your taxable income is taxed at the same rate. That's because portions of your earned income fall into different brackets, which are assigned different tax rates. Generally speaking, the first dollar you make will be taxed at a lower rate than your last dollar. Your marginal tax rate is the tax bracket at which the highest (or last) portion of your income is taxed.
4. Your combined tax bracket determines how much tax you'll owe on income from investments such as CDs and money market funds. Your combined bracket is the sum of your top (or marginal) federal tax rate and your top state income tax rate. It may be less if you itemize deductions since you will be able to deduct your state income tax on your federal return.
5. If you file your return by April 15, but don't pay the tax you owe, you may receive a late payment penalty. The same goes if you file for an extension. An extension only allows you to file your return after the due date. But full payment is still required by April 15. If you make a partial payment by then, you may be charged interest on the amount outstanding.
6. You can reduce your chances of being audited. One of the best ways is to fill out your return completely, correctly, and on time every year.

7. You should pay estimated taxes if you're self-employed, expect hefty investment income or profits from a property sale; or if you don't have enough taxes withheld to cover the taxes you'll owe on non-wage-related income. Retirees should also consider paying them if they haven't opted for voluntary withholding on their pension or IRA payments. Estimated taxes are due four times a year (April 15, June 15, Sept. 15, and Jan. 15).
8. Your adjusted gross income (AGI) is your total income minus certain "above the line" deductions such as deductible IRA contributions, alimony payments, or health savings account contributions. Your AGI primarily determines whether or not you're eligible for tax breaks. Almost every break, be it a deduction, exemption, or a credit, has its own AGI limit.
9. Your taxable income is your AGI minus exemptions and deductions. The less your taxable income, the less in taxes you'll owe. That's why it's in your best interest to take advantage of tax breaks where you can.
10. A credit is better than a deduction. A credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction of the taxes you owe. A \$100 credit means you pay \$100 less in taxes. A deduction reduces the taxes you owe by a percent of every dollar you're allowed to deduct.



OPERATION FINANCIAL FITNESS CAMPAIGN

21-28 FEB 2010

What is the Military Saves Campaign?

It is a week long Department of Defense (DOD) Financial Readiness Campaign designed to encourage both military and civilian personnel on the base to save and build wealth and reduce debt. People just like you are proving that you don't have to be rich to build wealth.

Members that are enrolled in the Military Saves Program are paying off their debts and saving to reach their financial goals. We can help with tips and tools to help you set your goals. Also, we can help you develop strategies to reach those goals and start saving.
So what are you waiting for?

Visit www.militarysaves.org

For more information, please contact Eugene Jackson, Financial Educator at the Fleet and Family Support Center, 850-623-7177 or contact your Command Financial Specialist.

MILITARY SAVES CAMPAIGN EVENT SCHEDULE

Monday, February 22

0730 – 1000 Display Table at Coffee Shop
1400 – 1500 Intro to Saving & Investing Class – FFSC

Tuesday, February 23

0800 – 0900 Crash Department Visit to promote Campaign
1400 – 1500 Credit Management Class – FFSC

Wednesday, February 24

1000 – 1200 Display Table at Wings Club
1400 – 1500 Thrift Savings Plan Class – FFSC

Thursday, February 25

0800 – 0900 ATC Department visit to promote Campaign
1300 – 1500 Home Buying Class – FFSC

Friday, February 26

0730 – 1000 Display Table at Coffee Shop

Lt. Wermers

- (Cont. from Page 1)

last minute, he made a difference," Walsh said.

The service was a stirring tribute to a man who at various times was recounted as a remarkable pilot, a true patriot, a jokester and a devoted family man. The respect he engendered in others was visible in the fierce words of loyalty spoken by men he flew with more than three years ago in Oklahoma. The pilots made the 1,000 mile trip to pay their respects to a man they admired.

One such pilot, Lt. Will Barrows, studied under Wermers while attached to the VQ-3 Ironmen. Barrows related a story about how he and Wermers went to get a haircut and Wermers insisted Barrows go first - all the while knowing an alert was being called. So Barrows went running to the jet with only one-half of a haircut. To make matters worse, Wermers insisted he knew how to cut hair and could fix it for the young aviator. Barrows said he learned two things - Wermers was, in fact, not a capable barber and hair gel doesn't fix everything. But practical jokes aside, Barrows appreciated Wermers' passion for flying and his commitment to his family.

"His devotion to duty was only matched by his love for his family," he said. "There are only a few people in the world who can make a mark on our lives. Clinton was that man for me."

Repeatedly, people who knew Wermers spoke of his big, easy smile, and it was showcased often in a video tribute of photographs set to music. As the songs "1, 2, 3, 4" by Plain White T's and "It's a Long Way to the Top" by AC/DC played, that smile was on ready display for every photo with his wife, two young daughters, and other family members. It was a bright reminder of the joy Wermers took in life.

"Clinton knew he worked in the best profession in the world. He used to say, 'I love this job,'" Capt. Tim Pederson, the deputy commander for Strategic Communications Wing ONE said. "No one maximized their 33 years on Earth the way he has."

Wermers' military service also displayed how he maximized life. He served short stints in the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard as an enlisted service member before being accepted into Officer Candidate School in 2001. He moved to Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma to fly the E-6 Mercury where he achieved his wings of gold on July 2, 2003. He moved to Milton, Fla. to help train the next generation of pilots in 2006. Through his career he has been recognized with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (Air Force Reserve) and will be awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal posthumously for his service to VT-6.

That service was recognized during the ceremony by the "Shooters" when they flew the missing man formation to say their farewell. The lonely sound of a single bugle concluded the ceremony with a rendition of Taps.



Throughout the memorial service, these photos, provided by the Wermers family, were on display for the assembled guests to see Lt. Clinton Wermers and his wife and kids in happier times. The photos were placed above some of his military memorabilia and in front of an encased flag which was flown over the U.S. Capitol building and presented to the family by Congressman Jeff Miller. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

VT-6 has established a fund for the family through the Air Warrior Courage foundation at www.airwarriorcourage.com.

Morale, Welfare & Recreation
MWR
NAS Whiting Field

JOIN US FOR...
Super Bowl XLIV
FEBRUARY 7, 2010 • SIKES HALL

DOORS OPEN 1630
KICKOFF AT 1730

Hamburgers, hotdogs, other food will be available.
And don't miss our *chili cookoff!*
(For more info on entering, contact 623-7274)

Event is free and open to everyone, but door prizes and games available only for active duty.