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FA-18s begin temporary operations at Choctaw



Landing signal officers observe an FA-18F Super Hornet, assigned to the Gladiators of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106, land aboard the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75). Harry S. Truman is underway conducting carrier qualifications. FA-18 aircraft will be operating out of Navy Outlying Landing Field Choctaw through March 10 to work on their carrier qualifications. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Justin Losack.

Naval Air Station Whiting Field will be helping Atlantic coast fighter squadrons meet their training requirements through the next eight months as jet pilots work to complete their simulated carrier landing qualifications. With their normal operation area unavailable, Sailors, staff and facilities from the Milton-area base will step in to ensure the training continues unabated.

FA-18 aircraft which normally use Navy Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF) Fentress in Virginia will be using Navy Outlying Landing Field (NOLF) Choctaw to meet their training requirements while NALF Fentress is temporarily closed. The detachments will periodically train from Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola through late 2012.

NOLF Choctaw is one of NAS Whiting Field's 13 outlying landing areas and is the only one capable of meeting the requirements for simulated aircraft carrier landings. These landings are required for FA-18 pilots to maintain carrier proficiency. While not exactly convenient for the visiting squadrons, NOLF Choctaw does provide

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Beatty communities wins customer service award

NEWTOWN SQUARE, Pa. — February 16, 2012 — Balfour Beatty Communities, LLC, one of the leading Public-Private Partnership (PPP or P3) providers of housing, lifestyle and community solutions for members of the U.S. military and their families, has been honored by the Professional Housing Management Association (PHMA) for their outstanding customer service at Naval Air Station Whiting Field located in Milton, Fla.

Together, Balfour Beatty Communities (BBC) and their Navy partners at NAS Whiting Field received the Outstanding Housing Team - Privatized Location (Navy) Award. This award is presented to installation teams (defined as having both federal and contractor/partner groups) who demonstrate their collective achievements of an outstanding living environment for military members and/or their families.

NAS Whiting Field has set the standard for outstanding teamwork, with the single-minded goal of providing the best service and quality to its residents. Communication,

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The Balfour Beatty Communities and NAS Whiting Field Navy housing team are all smiles after earning honors from the Professional Housing Management Association for outstanding customer service at Whiting Pines. Photo courtesy of Balfour Beatty.

HT-18 to celebrate 40th anniversary

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

Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Thursday, March 1.

The “Vigilant Eagles” - students, instructors, civilians, and alumni of HT-18 - will gather at squadron spaces to mark the occasion, enjoy refreshments, and share their memories of four decades of training military helicopter pilots.

Highlights of the ceremony will include an address from Training Air Wing FIVE Commodore Col. James Grace and the presentation of original documents from the squadron’s commissioning.

The ceremony will be followed by a cake-cutting and social hour in the squadron ready room.

HT-18 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Jeffrey D. Debrine expressed pride in the accomplishments of his students and staff on the eve of the occasion.

“HT-18 has always stood for excellence, and we

are proud to continue that tradition,” Debrine declared.

Debrine and HT-18 Executive Officer Lt. Col. Robert S. White are long-time “Vigilant Eagles,” having earned their naval aviator designations with the squadron in 1994 and 1996, respectively.

Under their direction, HT-18 has continued to extend its U.S. military rotorcraft record as the squadron with the most flight hours completed without a Class A mishap.

HT-18 was established in 1972 as one of the first two helicopter training squadrons under TRAWING-5 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Since its inception, 13,216 designated military aviators have earned their “wings of gold”



with the squadron.

HT-18 continues to produce approximately 180 aviators per year while training personnel from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, and allied nations.

This Week in Naval History

Feb. 29

1944 - PB4Y-1s from squadrons VB-108, VB-109, and VD-3, conduct a low-level bombing raid on Japanese positions on Wake Island.

1968 - Four North Vietnamese trawlers attempting to simultaneously infiltrate supplies into South Vietnam were detected. Three of the trawlers were sunk in battle on the following day and one survived by turning back.

March. 1

1942 - U-656 becomes the first German submarine of World War II to be sunk by Naval air (VP-82).

1954 - 1st of 6 detonations, Operation Castle nuclear test.

March. 2

1859 - Launch of Saginaw at Mare Island, first Navy ship built on West Coast of U.S.

1867 - Birthday of Civil Engineer Corps.

1899 - Act of Congress creates the rank Admiral of the Navy for George Dewey. It is equivalent to six stars.

1973 - Women begin pilot training for the U.S. Navy.

For more news, visit www.history.navy.mil.

Leap Logic

Leap into 2012

2012 marks another Leap Year on the Gregorian calendar. A Leap Year occurs once every four years.

It is a year that has an extra day in February to offset the seasonal counterbalance and calendar; so, instead of the traditional 365 days there are in a year, there are 366 days. After all, the time that it takes the earth to completely revolve around the sun is 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds.

Did you know?

Leap year is also famous for women proposing marriages to men. As the story goes, the tradition of women romantically pursuing men in leap years began in 5th century Ireland, when St. Bridget complained to St. Patrick about the fair sex having to wait for men to propose. Patrick finally relented and set February 29 aside as the day set aside allowing women the right to ask for a man’s hand in marriage.

News and Notes

Renaissance Faire - Come see knights, wizards, jesters, jugglers, jousting, fire breathers, dancers, sword fights, and more at the 11th annual Gulf Coast Renaissance Faire, Saturday and Sunday March 3 & 4 at the Pensacola Fairgrounds. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children five years old and over. Children four and under get in free. For more information, call 850-429-8462 or see www.grcf.us.

Marine Aviation Centennial - The Marine Corps Aviation Association (MCAA) McCutcheon Squadron will salute Marine Aviation's Centennial May 10 with a four day and three night event in Gulf Shores/Orange Beach, Ala. The event is designed to celebrate Marine Aviation camaraderie throughout the years. The highlight of the celebration will be the Warrior Night Memorial Dinner May 12 from 4 to 10 p.m. Organized as a traditional Marine Corps Mess Night, the evening will entail a dinner, unlimited beverages traditional toasts and more. For information, tickets and reservations check out www.warriornight.com or www.honorourmarines.org.

Embry Riddle Registration - Embry Riddle Aeronautical University is now registering for the Spring 2 term through March 19, 2012. Hours on board NAS Pensacola are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays in Bldg. 634, Suite 033, 250 Chambers Avenue. Hours on board NAS Whiting Field are Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Bldg. 1417, Room 163. Late registration and add/drop a course for a full refund will be held March 19-23. Everyone is encouraged to register early. Classes begin March 19. New Student Orientation will be held Wednesday, March 14, 2012 5 to 6 p.m. on board NAS Pensacola in Bldg. 634, Suite 033. Embry Riddle Aeronautical University's Pensacola campus offers certificate programs, associate and bachelors degree programs with various specializations in Professional Aeronautics and Technical Management and the Master of Aeronautical Science degree. Email pensacola@erau.edu, visit www.embryriddle.edu/pensacola or call 458-1098 for more information.

Monster Trucks: Monster Jam

The world's most popular and spectacular monster truck series returns



Retaining Our Best and Brightest

ABH3 Vince Pompa is congratulated by ABHC Daniel McCrae following Pompa's re-enlistment ceremony at NAS Whiting Field. Pompa renewed his commitment to naval service for a term of six years. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.



Planning is Money

HM1 Michael Aguilar and FFSC's Eugene Jackson share a shake and swag at the Navy Exchange on Wednesday Feb. 22. NAS Whiting Field promote financial planning during Military Saves Week, Feb. 19-25. U.S. Navy photo by Ensign James Hed-

to the Pensacola Civic Center March 2-3! Advance Auto Parts Monster Jam Thunder Nationals features the world's premier monster trucks including Grave Digger, Monster Mutt, Virginia Giant, and Florida natives Reptoid (Milton, Fla.), Bad News (Clearwater, Fla.) and Instigator (Kissimmee, Fla.). ITT has a limited number of adult and children's tickets available at rates of \$24.00 for an adult and \$7.50 for a child.

Official Notices

At a General Court-Martial convened on board NAS Jacksonville, a Petty Officer First Class (PO1) pled guilty to possessing child pornography, distributing child pornography, and attempting to download images of child pornography. The Military Judge sentenced the PO1 to 15 months confinement, reduction in rank to E-3, and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

At a General Court Martial convened on board NAS Jacksonville, a Petty Officer Second Class (PO2) pled guilty to five specifications of unauthorized absence (UA), two specifications of missing movement, and two specifications of breaking restriction. The Military Judge sentenced the PO2 to 67 days confinement, reduction in rank to E-1, forfeiture of \$274.00 pay per month for two months, and a Bad Conduct Discharge. A pre-trial agreement limits confinement to 60 days.

At a Special Court Martial convened on board NAS Jacksonville, an Airman (AN) pled guilty to five specifications of violating lawful orders which included smoking Spice, possessing drug paraphernalia, possessing open packages of Spice, and possessing Spice cigarettes. The Military Judge sentenced the AN to reduction in rank to E-1, forfeiture of \$500.00 pay per month for three months, and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

At a Special Court Martial convened on board NS Mayport, a Chief Petty Officer (CPO) was found guilty of stealing \$2,932.40 of military property. The Court-Martial sentenced the CPO to 90 days hard labor without confinement and a fine of \$1000.00 (and, in the event the fine is not paid, to be confined for a period of 30 days).

Upcoming Events

Mar. 1, 1300 - HT-18 Lawn - 40th Anniversary Celebration
Mar. 9, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
March 19-24 - Solid Curtain / Citadel Shield Exercise
Mar. 22, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

April 5, 0700 - RDML Scorby Visit to NASWF
April 13, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
April 27 - VADM William D. French Visit to NASWF
May 11, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Fleet and Family Support Classes

Resume Writing Clinic - Monday, March 5, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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, call a work and family life specialist at 623-7177.

Common Sense Parenting (Birth to 2 years old) - Monday, March 5, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Unfortunately, children do not come with instruction manuals. As a result, FFSC is holding a class that will provide you with tools that will equip you with the skills for raising responsible and well-adjusted children. 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. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, call a work and family life specialist at 623-7177.

Guide to Car Buying - Wednesday, March 7, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

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 a work and family life specialist at 623-7177.

Challenges of Flight School and Marriage - Thursday, March 8 and 15, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Being in flight school is hard! Being married in flight school is even harder! This class will help you and your spouse avoid the common pitfalls of the unique challenges flight school has to offer. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, call a work and family life specialist at 623-7177.



109 YEARS OF SERVICE

NAS Whiting Field Chief Petty Officer's Association



**Invites you to our 2nd Annual Chief Petty Officer
Birthday Golf Tournament**

at the NAS Whiting Field Golf Course March 30.

Check in begins at 7:30 with a 9 a.m. Tee Time

**Four Man Scramble / Shotgun Start
Cost is \$40 per person (includes lunch)**

Call 850.665-6121 to reserve a slot.



FA-18s at Choctaw

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the elements the units need for valuable and effective training.

“NOLF Choctaw is an excellent temporary alternative to our home-base outlying landing facility. The field has all the necessary equipment and a well trained group of professionals operating the facility,” Capt. Paul Gronemeyer, Commander, Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic said.

“As an added bonus, there is also no cultural lighting in the immediate airfield vicinity which provides us an excellent representation of operations on an aircraft carrier in the middle of the ocean at night. It does require additional time away from home for already busy squadrons, so our goal is operate as safely, efficiently, and expeditiously as possible.”

Small groups of aircraft from various bases along the eastern seaboard will base out of NAS Pensacola for five to seven day time frames, and should be limited to about five detachments.

Aircraft use will be limited to no more than four to five FA-18s at NOLF Choctaw at any given time. Training operations will include both day and night time evolutions.



Personnel direct an FA-18F Hornet to the catapults aboard the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Justin Losack/Released.

Landing an aircraft on a carrier deck is one of the most challenging tasks in aviation. It is an essential and perishable skill that requires constant upkeep and training to perform safely. The significant cross-agency cooperation needed not only displays the vital importance of the training evolutions, but also, according to Gronemeyer, highlights the adaptability and flexibility that help make the Navy great.

“NAS Pensacola, NAS Whiting Field, NOLF Choctaw, and their Training Air Wings all play critical roles in the success of this endeavor,” he said. “The Navy’s strength is our teamwork and our ability to overcome challenges. All these organizations have risen to the occasion and helped us develop a well thought out plan to ensure our fleet Strike Fighter aircrew are trained and ready for carrier

operations.”

NALF Fentress is undergoing required runway maintenance and repairs which completely shut down the airfield through October 2012. The temporary detachments will resume training at NALF Fentress when repairs are complete.

Weekly Spotlight - MA1 Adam Turner

Branch of service: USN

Hometown: Floyd, Va.

Job titles: Investigator

Command: Naval Air Station Whiting Field

Years you have worked with the Federal Government: Eight

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

The best thing about being a part of the Navy is the being a member of the world’s strongest fighting force and being a brother in arms with my fellow patriots.

What do you see yourself doing in five years?

Still serving my country to the best of my abilities.



Negotiate early for orders via CMS/ID

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Andrea Perez, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- Sailors must be proactive and negotiate early for permanent change of station (PCS) orders online through Career Management System Interactive Detailing (CMS/ID), Navy Personnel Command (NPC) officials said Feb. 28.

“CMS/ID is a web-based tool that enables enlisted Sailors to research and apply for jobs and communicate their career goals to career counselors and detailers,” said Rear Adm. Michael White, NPC assistant commander for Career Management.

Sailors can log into CMS/ID with their common access card via Navy Knowledge Online at www.nko.navy.mil or visit the CMS/ID website at <https://www.cmsid.navy.mil/jass/Index.action>.

Sailors must have Perform to Serve (PTS) approval before negotiating orders through CMS/ID. A Sailor’s PTS application at the 15 to 12 month point prior to their projected rotation date (PRD) is key to getting a timely PTS quota and being able to apply for jobs in CMS/ID.

The detailing window is nine-to-seven months before a Sailor’s PRD. This allows for a three-month window to negotiate for orders before a Sailor is considered to be eligible for an involuntary “needs of the Navy” assignment.

CMS/ID uses color coding to identify jobs. The majority of jobs are displayed in the green zone and are considered open requisitions. Immediate requisitions - the most critical fills that could directly degrade mission capability if unfilled - are displayed in the red zone.

All red zone billets will be filled each cycle and any Sailor in the negotiating window is considered eligible for assignment to a red zone requisition.

Detailers will identify Sailors for assignment to critical red zone requirements using the priorities below in the following order:

- * Volunteers.
- * Sailors available for immediate assignment. Generally, these are Sailors returning to full duty from limited duty, or Sailors whose current assignment has been curtailed for some reason.
- * Sailors who are unassigned and within the “needs of the navy” window.
- * Sailors within nine months of their PRD. These Sailors will be further categorized by PRD month, starting with those who have been in their negotiation window the longest. Involuntary assignments of Sailors from within this category will be made only with detailer’s director approval.

CMS/ID has six phases each month; the requisition load phase where available billets are uploaded into the system; a requisition scrub phase where Navy officials validate uploaded billets; an application phase where Sailors

in their orders-negotiation window can review and apply for advertised assignments; a command comments phase where commands may review, rank and comment on applications to advertised billets at their command; a detailer selection phase where detailers match applicants to jobs; and a system maintenance phase.

Sailors may log into CMS/ID anytime after the detailer selection phase to see if they have been selected for orders.

“We encourage all users to update their contact information on their User Profile, accessible from the Home menu,” said White. “In some cases it can mean the difference between a Sailor receiving the orders they applied for or not.”

White recommends Sailors nearing their orders negotiation window speak with their chain of command and career counselor to before applying in CMS/ID.

Sailors can learn more about CMS/ID from their command career counselor or at Navy Personnel Command’s CMS/ID Web page at www.npc.navy.mil/enlisted/cmsid/Pages/default2.aspx.

Balfour Beatty

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ing the best service and quality to its residents. Communication, dedication, experience, and professionalism are just a few of the characteristics that contribute to the development of this partnership.

This team focuses on addressing all residents’ needs by providing programs that complement those already provided through the Navy, implementing lessons learned to improve quality and services, controlling operations costs and communicating with residents and the Command. Each member of the team strives for excellence in customer service every day.

“This team has put forth tremendous effort during the year, providing a sense of pride with the residents and community at NAS Whiting Field,” said Richard Dye, Navy Region Housing Program Director for Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE).”

It is an honor to receive this recognition from PHMA, and we are very proud of our team for the work they do to take care of our military members and their families - demonstrating customer-driven excellence guided by core principles,” said Christopher Williams, President of Balfour Beatty Communities.

“Our top priority is always to ensure that our Service members and their families have high quality housing and the support from the personnel managing our communities.”