



Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, FL

Forging Wings for the Fleet

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Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Air station responders unite in security exercise

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

Naval Air Station Whiting Field conducted a test of its physical security and emergency response capabilities during a simulated security breach Tuesday, March 20.

The drill, which was conducted as a component of the March 19-25, Navy-wide Solid Curtain / Citadel Shield force protection exercise, was designed to engage and evaluate each of the air station's crisis response professions.

Rudy Mendiola, NAS Whiting Field Training and Exercise Coordinator, described the drill as a security response simulation, albeit one focused on those disciplines unique to the air station.

"It's what we call an ECP- entry control point protection. Nationally, everyone is going to simulate an elevated force protection status. [NAS Whiting Field] has coordinated our installation services to focus on exercising their individual, unique capabilities," Mendiola emphasized.

The air station's personnel were confronted with a scenario involving forced entry to base grounds by a suspi-

- (Cont. on Page 8)



Members of the Fire Department at Naval Air Station Whiting Field respond to a simulated motor vehicle accident staged as part of Citadel Shield. The drill is part of the Navy-wide Solid Curtain / Citadel Shield exercise going on at Navy bases across the country this week. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso.

Young Sailors begin CSADD, NASWF chapter



Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Jesse Balderrama (right) serves up brats, hamburgers, and the fixings, for a Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions fundraiser March 2. CSADD uses the funds to sponsor activities that promote healthy choices as an alternative to destructive decisions. U.S. Navy photo by Ensign James Hedman.

By Ensign James Hedman, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Whiting Field has brought aboard a Navy-wide campaign to improve the environment among its junior Sailors; specifically, those between the ages of 18 and 25.

CSADD, or Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions, is a group that is what it sounds like. It's a peer mentoring program that aims to influence the behavior of young Sailors in a positive way, which in turn affects the overall command climate and mission.

Junior Sailors like Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Ayanna Gregg head up the CSADD group and find a lot of value in its purpose.

"What we're doing so far is trying to make sure that Sailors have the right tools to make the right decisions."

One can think of CSADD as a hub for information awareness. CSADD gets together and discusses topics such

- (Cont. on Page 5)

Santa Rosa County to hold annual Amnesty Day March 24



Amnesty Day, which offers south end Santa Rosa County residents the opportunity to dispose of household hazardous waste at no charge, is scheduled for Saturday, March 24 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Santa Rosa County South Side Service Center located at 5819 Gulf Breeze Parkway in Midway. Like last year, only a south side location will be available for Amnesty Day as residents can dispose of hazardous household waste at no charge Mondays through Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Household Hazardous Waste Center located at the entrance of the Central Landfill, 6337 Da Lisa Road in Milton.

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 23 to schedule a drop off time. Calls will be accepted from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Amnesty Day is not a recycle day, but a special day for disposal of household hazardous waste. The following items should never be thrown out with your household garbage. On Amnesty Day, citizens can dispose of up to five gallons each at no cost: oil, gasoline, paint, antifreeze, oil filters, lubricants, greases, solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, batteries, five-gallon propane bottles, oil cleaners, household cleaners, computers, cathode ray TV's, monitors, printers, fax machines, DVD/DVR players, typewriters, copy machines, battery backups, fluorescent lights, and fire extinguishers.

Residents will be required to remove any accepted items from their vehicle. Please note that tires, general debris or household garbage will not be accepted as part of Amnesty Day, but may be taken to the Central Landfill located at 6337 Da Lisa Road in Milton at a minimal charge.

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.

This Week in Naval History

March. 20

1833 - Capt. David Geisinger of the sloop Peacock negotiates the first commercial treaty with the King of Siam.

1922 - USS Jupiter is recommissioned as Langley (CV 1), the Navy's first aircraft carrier.

1939 - The Naval Research Lab recommends financing a research program to learn to obtain power from uranium.

March. 21

1917 - Loretta Walsh becomes the first woman Navy petty officer when she is sworn in as a chief yeoman.

1919 - The Navy installs and tests a Sperry gyrocompass, in the first test of an aircraft gyrocompass.

1945 - The Bureau of Aeronautics initiates rocket-powered surface-to-air guided-missile development by awarding a contract to Fairchild.

March. 22

1820 - Commodore Stephen Decatur dies after a duel with Capt. James Barron.

1915 - "Naval aviator" replaces "Navy air pilot" for officers qualified as aviators.

1929 - Navy ships protect Americans and their property during a Mexican revolution.

1946 - USS Missouri (BB 63) departs the United States to return the body of a deceased Turkish ambassador to Turkey for burial. Missouri arrived in Istanbul April 5.

Learn more at <http://www.history.navy.mil/wars/datesmar.htm>

Chalkboard Minute



Chris Hendrix
School Liaison Officer

The time is coming once again for Kindergarten Registration. Following are the Dates and Times that each School will conduct Registration:

23-Mar	Central School	8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
12-Apr	Chumuckla Elementary	8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
12-Apr	W.H. Rhodes Elementary	8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
13-Apr	W.H. Rhodes Elementary	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
24-Apr	S.S. Dixon Primary	8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
25-Apr	S.S. Dixon Primary	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
25-Apr	Holley Navarre Primary	8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
25-Apr	West Navarre Primary	9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
26-Apr	Holley Navarre Primary	8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
26-Apr	West Navarre Primary	9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
1-May	Berryhill Elementary	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. & 5:00 -7:00pm
1-May	Gulf Breeze Elementary	8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. & 4:00- 6:00 p.m.
1-May	Oriole Beach Elementary	8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. & 4:00- 7:00 p.m.
2-May	Berryhill Elementary	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
2-May	Gulf Breeze Elementary	8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
2-May	Pea Ridge Elementary	8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
3-May	Jay Elementary	8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
3-May	Pea Ridge Elementary	8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. & 5:00-7:00 p.m.
8-May	East Milton Elementary	8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
10-May	Bagdad Elementary	8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
10-May	Russell Elementary	8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
11-May	Russell Elementary	8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

News and Notes

Women's History Celebration - The Naval Air Station Whiting Field Diversity Committee will host their annual Women History Month luncheon March 28 from 11a.m. to noon at the base Auditorium. This year's theme is women empowerment- women education, and the guest speaker is Dr. Raina Alexander, of Naval Hospital Pensacola.

From the CAC Card Office - Effective immediately: Any military member who loses their CAC card MUST get a special request chit from their chain of command in order to receive a new CAC card. All others (contractors, civil service, etc.) will continue to need a police report in order to replace their lost CAC.

ITT Ice Flyer Tickets - The Information Tickets and Travel office has discounted tickets to all remaining home games. Tickets are only \$8.50 instead of the normal \$16 price at the gate. Tickets are limited for each game, so call ITT at 850-623-7032 to reserve your seat. Here is the schedule for the Flyers March home games:

Friday March 23 - 7:05 pm vs Louisiana

Saturday March 24 - 7:05 pm vs Mississippi

ITT also has tickets to the Disney on Ice spectacular in the Pensacola Civic Center Saturday and Sunday May 13 and 14. The discounted ticket price is \$21.75. There are only a limited number of tickets available. Call Cyndi Myers at 850-665-6250 for details.

Test Preparation Programs for Military - Military personnel can obtain SAT and ACT PowerPrep programs at cost (\$13.84 to \$72.00). The retail value of these programs is \$199.99 to \$599.00. The SAT and ACT PowerPrep programs are available as a DVD-ROM set and/or books. This program is available to all service members, including members of the Reserves, Active Duty, and their families this offer is made possible because of donations from NFL/MLB players. This program has been extended to military families and veterans for a sixth consecutive year through the eKnowledge Sponsorship Alliance, NFL and MLB players, and over fifty other organizations. Please contact the provider directly at support@eknowledge.com or call 1-951-256-4076 for questions or assistance.

Experienced Riders Course - Naval Air Station Whiting Field Safety Officer Rick Ballanger announced that there are additional seats available for the March 29 Experienced Riders Course. The class was extended to 12 participants so anyone wishing to register for one of the extra seats should call Ballanger at 850-623-7180 or go to navymotorcyclerider.com and register online.

Cherry Blossoms Festival - The University of West Florida will host a Cherry Blossoms Festival March 30 to celebrate the centennial of the first cherry trees from Japan planted in Washington D.C. The event will be held in the UWF Center for Fine and Performing Arts from 1:30 to 3 p.m., and will feature a Noh performance by Fusataka Homma, a Koto and Violin Ensemble, Japanese dance, and a Chorus by 20 Gero Junior High School students. Call the UWF Japan Center at 850-474-3363 or email japan@uwf.edu for additional information.

Run for Their Lives - Lakeview Center is sponsoring their 5th annual 5K Run/Walk to raise awareness of issues pertaining to sexual assault. The 5K is scheduled for Saturday, April 21 beginning at 8 a.m. on Pensacola Beach. Pre-registration is \$18 for all ages with a \$3 discount for active duty military. The cost to participate is \$23 on the day of the race. For more information view the race website at www.runfortheirives.kintera.org.

FFSC Job Club - In the current labor market networking is a



Meritorious Master-at-Arms

Naval Air Station Whiting Field Security Officer Lt. David Vanduyke displays the Meritorious Service Medal Senior Chief Master-at-Arms Pete Cady earned during his Individual Augmentee tour in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He received the award March 14. U.S. Navy photo by Ensign James Hedman.

critical step in finding and increasing employment possibilities. To assist job seekers increase their employment possibilities Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Fleet and Family Support Center will be hosting a weekly job club. The formation of a job club will allow several job seekers to pool resources and develop a network for finding employment. The job club will be a group of peers that will explore job search strategies. They will discuss: resume writing, interview skills, self-employment, federal employment, local labor market trends, and resource tools. Job club members may select to exchange information such as their employers contact list and they may conduct mock interviews with peers. Job clubs will differ from career employment class in that job clubs are: open-ended, members of the club select the topic for each meeting, members select date and time of meetings. Job clubs tend to offer more support and career direction than career employment classes. Whiting Field's job club is scheduled to meet at 10:00 a.m. Tuesdays at the Fleet and Family support Center. There are no fees to attend.

Official Notices

At a Special Court Martial convened on board NAS Jacksonville, an Airman Recruit (AR) pled guilty to two specifications of unauthorized absence (UA) and wrongful use of a controlled substance. The Military Judge sentenced the AR to six months confinement, forfeiture of \$978.00 pay per month for six months, and a Bad Conduct Discharge. A pretrial agreement limits confinement to 57 days.

At a Special Court Martial convened on board NAS Jacksonville, an Airman (AN) pled guilty to selling military property and two specifications of stealing U.S. Government property in the amount of \$5,799.06 and currency in the amount of \$1,047.75. The Military Judge sentenced the AN to three months confinement, reduction in rank to E-1, and forfeiture of \$978.00 pay per month for three months.

Upcoming Events

March 21-25 - Solid Curtain / Citadel Shield Exercise
Mar. 22, 1100 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
April 3 - RDML Scorby Visit to NASWF

April 8 - Easter
April 13, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
April 27 - VADM William D. French Visit to NASWF

Fleet and Family Support Classes

How to Apply for a Federal Job - Monday, March 26, from 10 a.m. to noon

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 listing 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 850-623-7177.

Dating Series #1 - Monday, March 26, from 1 to 2 p.m.

This class will help you engage in a more secure and enjoyable dating process. Topics include: warning signs of a difficult partner, skills essential for a healthy relationship, five key areas you need to explore during the dating process, and how to “follow your heart without losing your mind.” Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 850-623-7177.

Challenges of Flight School and Marriage - Thursday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to noon

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, contact a work and family life specialist at 850-623-7177.

Job Club - Monday, April 2, from 8 to 10 a.m.

In the current labor market networking is a critical step in finding and increasing employment possibilities. To assist job seekers increase their employment possibilities Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Fleet and Family Support Center is hosting a weekly job club. The formation of a job club will allow several job seekers to pool resources and develop a network for finding employment. The job club is scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. Tuesdays at the Fleet and Family Support Center.



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.



CSADD

- (Cont. from Page 1)

as sexual assault prevention, drunk driving, exercise, risk management, illicit drug use, and other activities that can lead to destructive decision making.

Finding any kind of information on those off-and-on-duty activities can sometimes be difficult without having to ask the upper chain-of-command. With CSADD, there is another route a junior Sailor can go.

"Sometimes, the more junior you are, the harder it is to make decisions, the harder it is to find the information that you need," Gregg said.

As a "coalition" of junior Sailors, Gregg takes pride in the fact that she and her peers are running it. "Being that we are a group of junior personnel, I think it's kind of exciting that we have this opportunity to make that difference to others."

This past month, CSADD collaborated with the base's Fleet and Family Support Center for information on financial wellness, transition and counseling assistance, and other service support that FFSC offers.

Motorcycle safety has probably been the most popular

topic of discussion amongst the young Sailors this year. Most people know that NAS Whiting Field offers motorcycle safety classes on base, but in the case that an accident should occur, CSADD informs Sailors that PPE must be worn in order to have medical expenses paid for.

"Most people don't know that the Navy won't cover you if something does happen to you. That's pretty good information because a lot of junior personnel are interested in purchasing a motorcycle," Gregg noted.

The organization began as a social group in Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, and has since taken off to establish chapters at other installations around the Navy.

Although the NAS Whiting Field CSADD chapter is still in its early stages of development, the group is optimistic about its future. Gregg mentions, "We are always looking for individuals to help us get our feet off the ground."

Sailors interested in participating in CSADD can contact its president, Air Traffic Controller Second Class Joshua Barbier at joshua.barbier@navy.mil.

NASWF to participate in Navy-wide security exercise

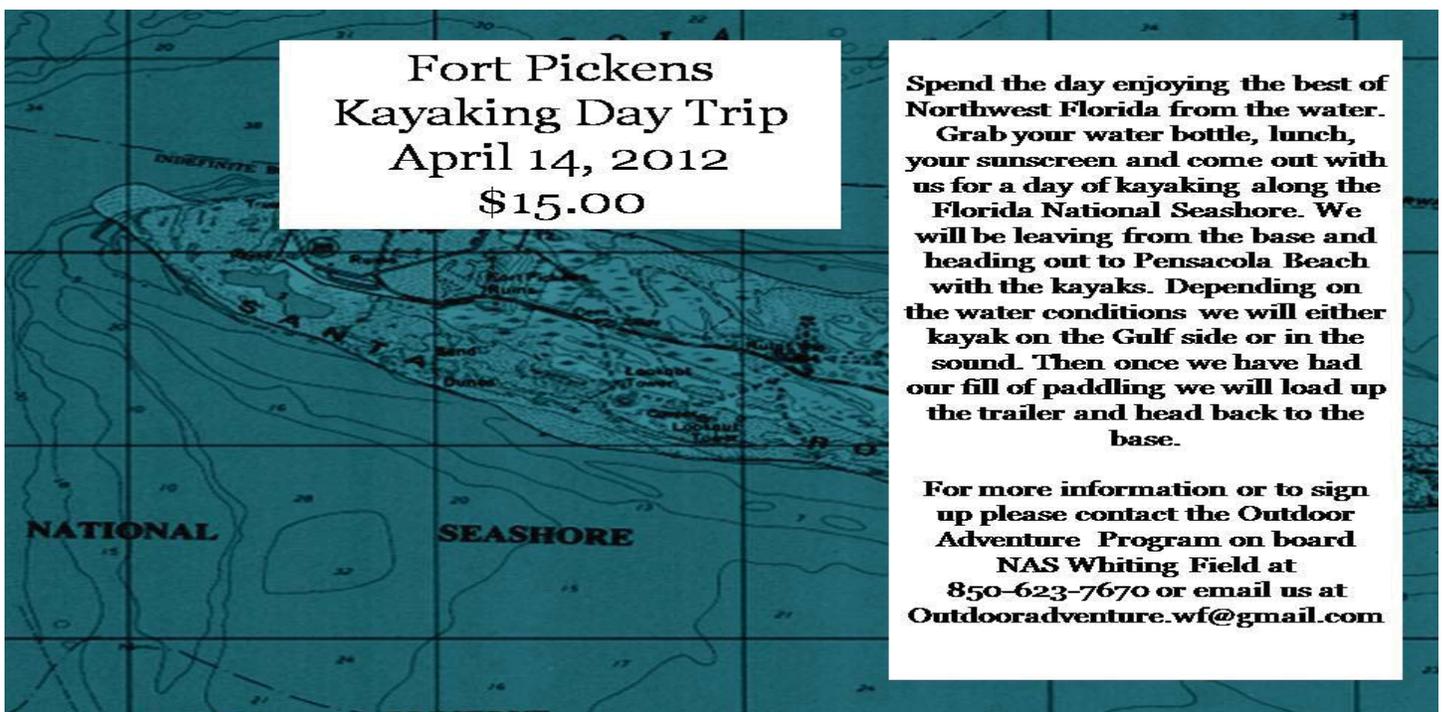
NAS Whiting Field is participating in Solid Curtain / Citadel Shield '12; an anti-terrorism/force protection exercises that will continue to be conducted on all continental United States naval installations March 21 - 25.

These annual exercises, coordinated by Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces, and Commander, Navy Installations Command, are designed to enhance the training and readiness of Navy security forces to respond to threats to installations and units.

Measures have been taken to minimize disruptions

to normal base and station operations, but there may be times when the exercises cause increased traffic around the base, delays in base access, and facility closures.

Military personnel, civilian employees, retirees, family members and visitors should factor in additional time for getting through gates to conduct business aboard the base. Personnel are advised to be prepared for facility closings across the base Friday and Saturday, March 23 and 24. Refer to the Solid Curtain/Citadel Shield posters placed strategically throughout the base.



**Fort Pickens
Kayaking Day Trip
April 14, 2012
\$15.00**

Spend the day enjoying the best of Northwest Florida from the water. Grab your water bottle, lunch, your sunscreen and come out with us for a day of kayaking along the Florida National Seashore. We will be leaving from the base and heading out to Pensacola Beach with the kayaks. Depending on the water conditions we will either kayak on the Gulf side or in the sound. Then once we have had our fill of paddling we will load up the trailer and head back to the base.

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

Maximizing Enhanced ERB-Transition Assistance

Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- Sailors transitioning from active-duty as a result of the Enlisted Retention Board (ERB) are encouraged to work closely with their chain of command in order to maximize available transition assistance, officials said March 20.

"The NPC Fleet Engagement Team has traveled to many fleet concentration areas to meet with ERB-affected Sailors, families and their leadership to increase awareness of available benefits and resources for these Sailors," said Capt. Kate Janac, transition assistance program manager, Chief of Naval Operations. "In addition to meeting with Sailors and families, we've provided training for command leadership teams so they are aware and understand the resources available to assist Sailors."

Command leadership should visit Navy Personnel Command's (NPC) website at www.npc.navy.mil to keep current on the latest ERB updates, according to Janac.

"As a result of questions and information learned during our engagements we've been able to expand or clarify benefits for ERB affected Sailors.

This new policy provides additional time for Sailors to take advantage of the employment outplacement services of Challenger, Gray & Christmas (CGC), or Navy Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) that must be used while on active-duty."

Additional information regarding application procedures for temporary early retirement authority (TERA) will

be posted to the site as policy is finalized.

During her visits throughout the fleet Janac said that she has found that some ERB affected Sailors have not yet taken full advantage of key transition assistance programs. To date only 1,600 of 2,941 Sailors separating from ERB have signed up for free services provided by CGC which offers job search assistance, personal coaching and custom resumes. Those who have not yet enrolled may contact CGC at 1-800-971-4288 or via e-mail at cgcusnavy@challenger-gray.com.

Commanders stateside may authorize up to 60-days for transition under existing Navy policies including Permissive Temporary Duty for job hunting. The transition period may also include any combination of normal working hours, liberty, temporary duty and leave.

Transitioning service members should talk with their chain of command and command career counselor to learn more about transition assistance programs and benefits.

For more information visit the NPC ERB Web Page at www.npc.navy.mil/boards/ERB/, contact the NPC customer service center at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (1-866-827-5672) or email cscmailbox@navy.mil.

Transition benefits are elements of the continuum of service area of the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative which consolidates a set of objectives and policies, new and existing, to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness, build resiliency and hone the most combat-effective force in the history of the Department of the Navy.

Weekly Spotlight - Renee Faris

Branch of service: Civilian

Hometown: Drake, N.D.

Job titles: Package Store Supervisor

Command: Navy Exchange

Years employed with the Federal Government: 5

What is the best part of working with the Navy?

The variety of people met from all over the world.

What do you like best about your job?

Customer satisfaction

What do you see yourself doing in five years?

Retirement!



Career Intermission Program Renewed for Three Years

By Ensign Amber Lynn Daniel, Diversity and Inclusion Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The chief of naval personnel announced in NAVADMIN 089/12, the Career Intermission Pilot Program (CIPP) has been extended for three more years as part of FY12 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), March 16.

CIPP presents a unique opportunity for members to take a career intermission without penalty and return to active duty to complete a successful Navy career.

"This program was created for top performers who have the desire to 'Stay Navy,' but need some time off," said Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, chief of naval personnel. "These are great Sailors, and through CIPP, we are able to meet the short-term needs of our Sailors, while ensuring they stay Navy for the long term."

During their time in CIPP, participants retain their full medical and dental benefits for themselves and their dependents, as well as exchange and commissary benefits. Participants also receive a small monthly stipend equal to two times 1/30th of their basic pay. Additionally, to ease the transition into the program, members may elect a Navy-funded permanent change of station move to anywhere in the continental United States when entering the program.

Upon returning to active duty, the CIPP participant's date of rank/service is adjusted, ensuring participants compete in promotion boards with people at the same experience level.

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Ryan Williams applied to CIPP in 2011 when his father was diagnosed with a degenerative illness.

"My wife and I were stationed at Ventura County and on the fence on whether to stay in the Navy or return home and spend as much time with him as possible," said Williams. "I had ten years in at the time, so it was tough to think of wasting all the time I'd put in."

Williams' wife read an article about CIPP and encouraged her husband to apply. "It initially seemed too good to be true," said Williams. "I didn't actually think that we would be accepted."

However, Williams was accepted to the program. After his father passed away, Williams used his remaining time in CIPP to complete his bachelor's degree, visit family, and

travel the world with his spouse. But during that time away from the Navy, Williams found he started to look forward to returning to service.

"I missed being part of something. The number of opportunities that I have been given and enjoyed in the Navy was magnified when I returned home and saw the lack of opportunities in the civilian world. I saw many of my family and friends that were out of work or struggling to keep their jobs. So at minimum, the program has made me grow a deeper appreciation for what the Navy offers," said Williams.

Williams is now preparing to transition back to military service and out of CIPP. For him, career intermission was a perfect answer to what could have been a difficult career decision. Williams believes CIPP ultimately could be a great option for many Sailors facing similarly difficult decisions.

"The Career Intermission Pilot Program provides Sailors with options for achieving optimal life/work integration in light of situations that would otherwise be difficult or incompatible with military service," said Van Buskirk.

Twenty officer applications and 20 enlisted applications are accepted for the program each year. Interested applicants must first submit an electronic package to OPNAV N134 program managers for consideration. Packages are then reviewed for eligibility and routed to the member's detailer community managers before final approval by the Commander of Navy Personnel Command.

All program participants will return to active duty at the end of the period prescribed and will incur a two-to-one service obligation for every month in the program. This obligation is in addition to any previously existing obligation. Time spent in the IRR will not count towards retirement, computation of total years of commissioned service, or high year tenure limitations.

CIPP is an element of the continuum of service area of the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative which consolidates a set of objectives and policies, new and existing, to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness, build resiliency and hone the most combat-effective force in the history of the Department of the Navy.

Sailors who are interested in learning more or applying to the Career Intermission Pilot Program can visit <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/tflw/Pages/CIPP.aspx>.

SECURITY CHECKPOINT



Question: If I live in base housing, do I have to register my weapons?

Answer: Yes, you do have to register your weapon(s) with the base if you're living in base housing. You would need to bring the following information to Pass & Tag to register your weapon(s): Serial Number, Make, Model, Caliber, Year Made, Date Purchased and a Description of the weapon(s).

Exercise

- (Cont. from Page 1)



Emergency service personnel remove one of the simulated casualties from the vehicle which had gained unauthorized access to Naval Air Station Whiting Field's West Gate as part of the drill. One life-sized dummy and one live actor served as a fatality and a Sailor with serious injuries. The drill was part of the base's engagement to the Navy-wide exercise, Solid Curtain / Citadel Shield. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Tim Mosso.

cious, unauthorized private vehicle. The initial stage of the drill engaged the physical security forces of the base under the aegis of Security Department Training Officer Rodney Wood.

"We had the primary lead since it was a security breach; we're the first responders. Our role was to detect the breach, neutralize the threat, and secure the scene for the other agencies. Once the physical task of extraction was judged beyond the capabilities of the first responders, because it's an integrated exercise, we handed that task to fire suppression crews and paramedical teams from the Fire Department," Wood explained.

Following a brief pursuit, the "bogie" simulated a desperate evasion maneuver, and base crews were instructed to respond as if the vehicle had been disabled, rendered hazardous, and impervious to safe occupant extraction.

This sequence was designed to test the teams' professional skills as well as their communication procedures. Security established initial on-scene command, and a dynamic, on-the-fly turnover of authority was required in order to ensure no delay in the deployment of fire crews. The interaction of agencies during this process was judged essential to the success of the exercise.

"When Security got on the scene today, they saw a vehicle upturned, assessed the situation, realized the extraction and treatment was beyond their immediate capabilities, and they did an on-scene change-of-command with Fire," Wood noted.

The arrival of fire crews introduced fire suppression and paramedical capabilities to the on-scene resources, but a new challenge emerged. As fire fighters and EMT personnel approached the wreck, unspecified "hazardous material"

was declared to be present on the scene.

The additional threat element prompted a temporary withdrawal while suppression crews reviewed the potential hazards. Ultimately, the material was judged to be spilt gasoline, not an improvised explosive, and crews were able to manage the risk while tending to the intruder.

"As far as the planning, conducting the exercise, the crews performed outstanding. All of our objectives on the scene were met; they did everything I was looking for," Fire and EMS Training Officer Chief Brian Tracey, said. "We build experience on every single drill, regardless of how well or successfully we execute, but they really excelled today. And a big part of this drill was communication with Security, which was great. The transfer went off without a hitch," he added.

Base Public Works Environmental personnel were the last to engage the crash scene. While specialist skills of Security, Fire, and EMT personnel addressed the most exigent threats, the lingering challenge of scattered pollutants required a different approach. Public Works Environmental Director Mike Pattison illustrated the challenge.

"Environmental would be called in once Security and Fire have secured the scene in their respective fashions and released the site to Environmental. We will restore the site from any hazmat spills. Today, we were on site with a dedicated spill responder," Pattison explained.

While interdisciplinary responders served as the core of the drill team, they were not alone. In order to make the drill as representative as possible, personnel from other base agencies were on hand to experience the pace, process, and intensity of a crisis situation. Individuals from Morale, Welfare, and Recreation, Branch Medical Clinic, Public Affairs, the Chaplain's office, and the Fleet and Family Support Center were present to gain insight by means of exposure.

"We wanted them to get used to operating in this environment because they [non-responders] are not used to being in these situations. Of course, the interdisciplinary handoff was outstanding because these groups work with each other all the time on simulations, but we wanted to broaden the experience of our other personnel to prepare them," Mendiola emphasized.

The air station conducts a minimum of four significant force protection and crisis response drills per calendar year. Ultimately, the goal of each is to ensure safety for the base's personnel and mission readiness for the core task of training naval aviators. Wood views this objective as the ultimate benefit of diligent preparation.

"Whiting Field is, above all, about its people. We have students, staff, dependents, and retirees who depend on a safe environment. We want people to come aboard and feel safe."