

Whiting Tower

NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.

"THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT NAVAL AIR COMPLEX"

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Taking a Look Back

- 2008 Was a Year Filled with Tragic Lows and Eventful Highs

Editor's Note: "It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." Dickens' quote seems an appropriate way to describe 2008. Bidding farewell to Maj. David Yaggy and 1st Lt. Alexander Prezioso, whose lives were tragically cut short in a T-34C aircraft accident in March, and seeing long-time Whiting Field community liaison Marty Martin pass away just a few short months following his February retirement certainly qualifies as the worst. But it was also a year in which the base celebrated 65 years of service to country, continued to enhance the quality of training and facilities here, and welcomed home safe and sound many of our Sailors serving overseas. As we move forward into the new year, let us take a moment to remember some of the significant events from 2008.

January 11, 2008 - The Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society begins providing full services to personnel at Whiting Field. This eliminated the need for service members to make the

trek to Pensacola for financial assistance.

January 11, 2008 - Cmdr. Maureen Magnan stepped into the top spot as the commanding officer of Reserve Training Squadron-SIX Augmentation Unit. She relieved Lt. Col. Robert Gadjoo during change of command ceremonies Friday Jan. 11, at the base auditorium on Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

February 23, 2008 - David Archer, a PRI/DJI employee at the base won the local Nashville Star event.

Military bases across the country held talent contests to nominate talented Sailors, contractors, family members or civilian employees to compete in the all-military Nashville Star event at



Naval Air Station Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Enrique Sadsad, Santa Rosa County Commissioner John Broxson and Training Air Wing-FIVE Commanding Officer Capt. David Maloney cut the cake celebrating Naval Air Station Whiting Field's 65th Anniversary July 16, 2008. The base held the simple ceremony, attended by several local dignitaries, to mark the occasion, but the public event was Oct. 25 when the base provided musical entertainment, more than 30 static displays, food and drink vendors and displays of military equipment. More than 2,500 people attended the festivities. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

Norfolk.

March 20, 2008 - NAS Whiting Field and TRAWING-5 held a memorial service to honor the memory of Maj. David Yaggy and 2nd Lt. Alexander Prezioso

- (Cont. on Page 5)

CNRSE to Change Commanding Officers

By MC2(AW/SW) Marcel A. Barbeau, Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Townsend G. "Tim" Alexander will relieve Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale as Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE), during a ceremony Jan. 9 aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

Alexander will take over a command that leads shore installation management support and execution for 21 installations within the Southeastern United States and parts of the Caribbean – specifically Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Naval Activity Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico – with a budget of more than \$850 million.

Vitale has commanded Navy Region Southeast since

October 2007. He guided its emergency management efforts to unprecedented levels of operational excellence during hurricanes Gustav, Hanna, and Ike, making CNRSE one of the Navy's leaders in hurricane preparedness and post-disaster support.

The 1977 University of Louisville graduate spearheaded the formation of the Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Air Operations Cross-Functional Team to identify major stakeholders and create a single process owner for shore-based air operations, bringing organizational alignment between resource sponsors, CNIC, and all major aviation stakeholders.

- (Cont. on Page 4)

News and Notes

Vet Visit - The Veterinarian will be at NAS Whiting Field on Thurs, Jan. 8. Appointments need to be made through NAS Pensacola at 452-3530. If you purchase a full-year's supply of heart worm and flea medication, you will receive a 20% discount.

Slipknot World Tour - After laying waste to stages all over the world, the Nine are coming to Pensacola for one incredible night - Feb. 19! Local fans can celebrate the grammy award winning band's first headline tour since the release of the smash album "All Hope is Gone." This tour also marks the 10-year anniversary of Slipknot's debut album. Adding to the chaos will be Coheed and Cambria and Trivium. Tickets go on sale Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. for \$45 general admission floor seating and \$39.50 for reserved seating. Tickets are available at the Pensacola Civic Center Box Office, ticketmaster outlets or charge by phone at 850-434-7444.

Book Swap - Do you have books and not sure what to do with them when you are done reading? Balfour Beatty will hold our first BOOK SWAP in January! **January 15th** - Drop off your books and receive a coupon for each book you donate. Drop off time will begin at 1600 to 1900. **January 16th** - Community Center (509 B Cougar Circle) will be open at 1000 to 1200 to receive additional books. At 1300 the doors again will open so you can exchange the coupons for books of your choice. This is a first come and no books will be held. **January 17th** - The Community Center doors will unlock at 1000 and again you can exchange coupons for books. The doors will be locked at 1300. Remaining books will be donated to a local charity. Contact Teresa Morrell, Balfour Beatty Communities at 850-456-3120 or 850-456-3111 for details.

Celtic Woman - The international Irish music phenomenon, Celtic Woman, will play at the Pensacola Civic Center April 3, 2009. Last year's hit show earned the ladies hundreds of new local fans and this concert promises to be even better! Tickets are on sale now for \$63 and \$43 at Ticketmaster outlets, by phone at 434-7444 or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Seedling Give-Aways - Officials with the Florida Division of Forestry, in conjunction with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Three Rivers RC&D, and Blackwater Soil and Water Conservation District, providing free tree seedlings Thurs-



Moving Onward and Upward

LCDR Shawn Dominguez received the Meritorious Service Medal from his previous command - Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Fifth and Seventh Fleet while serving as Assistant Chief of Staff of Operations, Bahrain Det - in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and Maritime Security Operations. Training Air Wing-FIVE Commodore, Col. Scott Walsh presents the award to Dominguez. U.S. Navy photo courtesy of Training Air Wing-FIVE.

day, January, 15th, in celebration of Arbor Day. The event will be held at the Big Kmart parking lot, located at 6050 Hwy. 90, from 9 a.m. until all seedlings are distributed. The giveaway will be on a first come, first-served basis, and there is a limit of 4 pre-bagged trees per person/family. Seedlings which may be given away include: Flowering Dogwood, Southern Crabapple, Live Oak, American Plum, and Redbud. For further information, contact Wesley at 850-983-5310.

MWR Intramurals - The 2009 Captain's Cup Season is about to begin! Basketball Season will begin Jan. 13 and Soccer will follow the week after. Anyone interested in playing one or both sports please get with your Squad/Dept. Rep. Players who are not sure who their representative is should call or email Todd Mooneyham, 623-7502 ext 23 / todd.mooneyham@navy.mil. Basketball will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 1700, 1800, and 1900. Soccer will be on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 1700, 1800, and 1900. Athletes interested in playing and without a Squad/Dept team may also contact Mooneyham to be placed on another team. The Soccer meeting will be held Wednesday Jan. 14, in the Basketball gym at 1300.

Pensacola Little Theater's Blue Plate Special - "The Pensacola Little theatre's Studio 400 production of "Della's Diner: Blue Plate Special" will be performed 8 p.m. Jan.8-10 and 16-17; and 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 18. The musical-comedy is an hilarious cross between country music and a soap-opera. Tickets are \$12 for cafe seating and \$8 for general admission. The theatre is located at 400 S. Jefferson St. Pensacola. Call 434-0257 for details.

Professional Bull Riding - The Professional Bull Riders tour will stop at the Pensacola Civic Center Jan. 9-10 to match the top bull riders in the country against the best bucking bulls. Shows begin at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$40, \$20 and \$10 in advance. See www.pensacolaciviccenter.com for more details.

Pensacola Beach Fun Run - The race will begin at the Hilton Pensacola Beach Gulf Front at 8 a.m. Jan. 17. The post race party and awards will follow at Capt'n Fun's Beach Club. Register online through www.active.com or by calling 450-6212.



Moving Onward and Upward Too

LT Jimmy Hiers is promoted to Lt. Cmdr. Dec. 18. Col. Scott Walsh, Commodore Training Air Wing-FIVE and Lt. Cmdr. Kevin Barker pin his collar devices to designate his new rank. U. S. Navy photo courtesy of Training Air Wing-FIVE.

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

Credit Management - Check at 623-7177 for dates and times.

The average American family has nine credit cards (1996 American Express Survey); three or four of those are used regularly; the average total balance on those cards is \$3,900 at the interest rate of 18%. Attend this class to find out ways to better manage your credit. Class will be held in the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Ten Steps to a Federal Job.

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.

How to Survive the Holidays Financially

It's that time of year when stores display holiday decorations, increase their inventory, and gear up to convince you to spend money. This training will provide the class with information, tools, and ideas necessary to develop a holiday spending plan. Class will be held in the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Time Management

At the end of the day, do you ask yourself "where did the day go?" and feel like you have accomplished very little on your list of "things to do?" The information provided will empower you with tools that will help you make the most of your busy and demanding days. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Smooth Move

The goal of this training module is to provide relocating service members and their families, due to reassignment or transition within the Continental United States (CONUS), with a systematic and simplified process for ensuring a smooth move. By consolidating key information and resources, an excellent forum is established that allows participants to receive professional information and receive immediate responses to their specific concerns. For more information, call 623-7177.

Upcoming Events

Jan 9, 1300 - HT-18 Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Jan 15, 0730 - CWRA Breakfast w/ Skipper - Wings Club

Jan 15, 1400 - NASWF Staff Assoc. Mtg - Crow's Nest

Jan 19, All Day - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Jan 23, 1300 - HT-18 Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Jan 30, 0715 - Navy League SOQ Awards - Locklin Tech.

Feb. 1, 1700 - Superbowl XLIII

Feb. 6, 1830 - SOY/FIOY Banquet - Sikes Hall

BBB Offers Tips for Considering Fitness Options

Pensacola, Fla. (December 29, 2008) – Complaints received by your Better Business Bureau for fitness clubs increased more than 90 percent between 2002 and 2007. The most common complaints focus on two related areas: contract disputes and billing issues. BBB also saw a rise in complaints about centers that collected advance membership payments, only to go out of business shortly thereafter.

"This time of year, many people see and feel the after-effects of those holiday parties and big meals and resolve to join a gym and lose weight," said Norman Wright, president and CEO of your BBB serving northwest Florida.

BBB offers advice to help you choose a fitness facility that best meets your needs.

Start With Trust®. You can start with bbb.org to find a list of BBB Accredited fitness clubs in your area and can find out what kind of a track record the business has for keeping customers

satisfied.

Determine your fitness goals. What are your fitness goals (build endurance, increase strength, become a better tennis player?) and how will you accomplish them (swimming, weight-training, yoga?). Considering these issues in advance will help you select the best facility for your needs.

Consider your budget. Most facilities charge an up-front membership fee and a monthly fee thereafter. What can you comfortably afford to spend?

Check it out. Visit several clubs at times that you plan to exercise to see how crowded they are. Do the facilities offer the equipment, classes, amenities (child care, personal trainers) and hours of operation you want?

Ask around. Check with friends and family for recommendations. And when visiting fitness clubs, ask current members about their experiences?

Don't give in to pressure. Many

clubs offer "New Year's specials;" walk away from pressure to sign a contract on the spot. Take a contract home to read thoroughly.

Read the entire contract. Does it list all services and facilities and the hours of operation? Is everything that the salesperson promised in the contract? What's included in the monthly fee and what costs extra? What's the total cost and payment schedule, including enrollment fees and finance charges?

Know the membership details. How long is the membership term? Is there an automatic renewal? Can you go month-to-month? What are your cancellation rights if you move, are injured or the club closes or is taken over by new management? Will the unused portion of your membership be refunded? If so, how and when? These details should all be in the contract.

For additional information and advice you can trust, start with bbb.org.

VITA Volunteers Sought to Help with Taxes

For more than 10 years, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program has assisted active duty, dependents, and retirees in filing their federal and state income taxes. Last year alone, more than 73,000 income tax returns were filed, saving individuals over \$9,100,000 in commercial tax preparation fees. The VITA program also provides faster refunds than mailing paper returns, with an error rate of less than 1% - paper filers have a 15% error rate.

The success of the VITA program is based on its name – Volunteer! Without the outstanding individuals

who have volunteered over the years, the program could not have achieved its great success. This year, we are seeking not only assistance from the active duty personnel, but also from dependant and civilian personnel.

If you would like to assist in this program, your volunteer time would be greatly appreciated by all those seeking VITA help. Tax preparation classroom training will be conducted by an IRS representative the week of 12 January for 2-3 days. All volunteers must be certified by the IRS to assist with this program. Volunteer schedules can be as flexible as you require – a minimum

of a 2 hour block to a maximum of all day. The tax season runs from mid-January to mid-April.

VITA is a great program with a proven success rate!! Volunteers earn great appreciation from those sailors and family members – and those in the retiree community – who seek assistance in filing their income taxes.

To sign up as a volunteer, or to obtain more information regarding the VITA program, please contact Bill Brock at 623-7231. Working together to assist fellow servicemembers in a proven program makes volunteering much more meaningful!!

CNRSE Change of Command

- (Cont. from Page 1)



Rear Adm. Townsend Alexander

solutions to installation challenges and stood as the model for innovative practices, which realized significant savings, promoted enhanced operational oversight, and supported the fleet, fighter, and family.

Rear Adm. Vitale has been selected for promotion to vice admiral and his next assignment will be as Commander, Navy Installations Command in Washington D.C.

Rear Adm. Alexander comes to Navy Region Southeast from his current position as Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, and Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, positions he has held since August 2006.

He graduated from the University of Colorado in 1978, and was commissioned an ensign after completion of Aviation Officer Candidate School in March 1981. His operational assignments included the Sea Snakes of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (Light) (HSL) 33, three tours with

Vitale also executed an integrated encroachment plan to serve as the benchmark for enterprise-wide programs, including installation liaison officers and regional encroachment teams. He secured Department of Defense encroachment buffering funds and established strong partnerships with local communities. Vitale brought

the HSL-46 Grandmasters, and the amphibious assault ship USS Nassau (LHA 4). Alexander served in a variety of billets, including detachment maintenance officer and officer in charge, squadron Naval aviation training and operating procedures standardization officer, quality assurance officer, operations officer, maintenance

officer, executive officer and commanding officer. He served as air boss aboard Nassau during operations Noble Anvil and Allied Force in 1999.

Shore assignments for Alexander included the Air Wolves of HSL-40, the Naval War College, Chief of Naval Operations staff, the Joint Staff, and Naval Base Coronado. During these tours, he served as quality assurance officer and instructor pilot, flag aide, aviation programs analyst, division chief, and commanding officer.

Alexander holds a Master of Arts degree from the Naval War College and he attended the Armed Forces Staff College in 1998. He was recognized by the Naval Helicopter Association as a member of the 1993 Aircrew of the Year (Embarked) and, in 1989, he received the Rear Adm. Allan G. Paulson award for inspirational leadership from Commander, Helicopter Sea Control Wing 3.



Rear Adm. Michael Vitale

2008 Review

- (Cont. from Page 1)



Naval Air Station Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Enrique Sadsad authorized the conversion of one of the old softball fields on the base to a dog park. Family members and retirees around the base requested the facility to provide a safe location to play with and walk their pets. Personnel from Public Works department converted the field, securing and lengthening sections of the fence, installing a water station, constructing dog security gates and more. The facility was completed in June and called Wiggly Field. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

June 19, 2008 - Cmdr. Christopher Heaney assumed command of Helicopter Training Squadron- EIGHT from Cmdr. Kevin Kropp during a change of command ceremony at the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Fla.

June 2008 - Crash Division develops and begins using a physical training course, modeled roughly off the concept of the firefighter challenges held across the country. The team created a course that tests physical endurance, the ability to work together on a task, and enhances skills the team members could likely experience in the performance of their jobs.

July 2, 2008 - Cmdr. Nathan Schneider turned over the responsibility for the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT) Detachment Milton, Fla. to Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey Chown, during a Change of Charge ceremony at the center.

July 3, 2008 - Commander, Training Wing-FIVE bid "Fair Winds and Following Seas" to their Chief of Staff Cmdr. Kevin Hogan, who retired following a 27-year Naval career.

July 16, 2008 - NASWF celebrated 65 years of naval aviation training with a simple cake cutting ceremony. Santa Rosa County Commissioners Bob Cole and Don Salter joined the base in recognizing the anniversary.

July 17, 2008 - Lt. Col. Clay Stackhouse relieved Cmdr. John McLain as commanding officer of Helicopter Training Squadron-28 during a change of command ceremony at the Naval Aviation Museum at Naval Air Station Pensacola. Capt. David Maloney, Training Air Wing-5 Commodore served as the guest speaker and presiding officer for the event. McLain supervised the establishment of the fledgling squadron in May 2007, and his leadership brought the squadron to full operational readiness, even seeing the "Hellions" earn a grade of Outstanding during their first operational readiness evaluation. The unit flew more than 15,000 mishap free hours during his year in command

August 2008 - The FFSC at Naval Air Station Whiting Field discovered a way to help flight students enhance their study skills and during the course of the past year, FFSC has helped reduce the attrition of flight students in the program. This success has made a believer out of Training Air Wing-FIVE (CTW-5) and the primary flight squadrons on the base. Laura McLaughlin, the Educational Training Specialist for the site, devised a program to teach

at Naval Air Station Pensacola's Naval Aviation Chapel. The two pilots died in a T-34C aircraft accident March 14. Prezioso's family were presented his posthumous "Wings of Gold" and 1st Lt. bars.

April 4, 2008 - 1st Lt. Adrian Anthony R. Evangelista received his aviator's "Wings of Gold" becoming the first U.S. Marine Corps pilot in the history of the Northern Marianas archipelago.

May 2, 2008 - A full-house greeted the reopening of Aces Pub following a short closure for some minor renovations and redecorating. Folks from every tenant command, as well as the base, joined together to enjoy the good food and drink provided for the event.

May 15, 2008 - Naval Air Station Whiting Field held a Holocaust Remembrance event at the base auditorium. Wanda Walensky, a Holocaust survivor, told her powerful story to a silent audience of Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.

May 30, 2008 - DC2 Chad Simon, and Cmdr. Edwin Taylor spoke about their tours in Iraq as part of the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce monthly Horizons breakfast and a Military Appreciation Month recognition.



Fire and security personnel from Naval Air Station Whiting Field coordinated with local police, fire and rescue personnel to host the 10th annual Fire and Crime Safety Night Out. More than 300 base personnel and family members attended the event to see police and safety demonstrations; a fire safety puppet show; a parade of fire, police and emergency service vehicles; obtain safety literature and more. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

- (Cont. on Page 6)

2008 Year in Review

- (Cont. from Page 5)

students stress management and study skills that help them better manage the intense regimen of Primary Flight Training. Using existing classes, she tailored the syllabus to reflect tasks the students would actually encounter during their training.

September 6, 2008 - Elmo, Grover, Rosita, Zoe and Cookie Monster capered around the stage, singing and dancing their way into the hearts of Naval Air Station Whiting Field children Sept. 6. The two shows presented at the base resulted from a collaboration between Sesame Workshop and the United Service Organization (USO). More than 500 tickets were issued for the traveling show which offered an entertaining lesson on how young people can deal with the effects of military deployments. Many of the songs by the characters dealt with parents being away and how to stay in touch.

September 11, 2008 - Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NASWF) held a remembrance ceremony to honor the sacrifices of the victims and the heroism of the rescuers on the fateful morning seven years ago. The commemoration and the dropping of the flag to half staff provided the base personnel an opportunity to recall the events of Sept. 11, 2001 and to rededicate their promise to "Never Forget!"

September 19, 2008 - Marine Col. John Walsh relieved Capt. David Maloney, Commodore of Training Air Wing-FIVE during a change of command ceremony at the Naval Air Station Whiting Field auditorium at 11 a.m. More than 300 staff members, special guests, community leaders, and family crowded the auditorium to witness the event.

October 9, 2008 - Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field along with police, fire, and emergency service elements from the local community hosted their 11th annual Fire and Crime Prevention Fair. The event was held in conjunction with National Fire Safety Week which runs Oct. 5-11. More than 350 people attended the event which featured educational and fun activities to teach base personnel and their families about fire and crime safety.

October 9, 2008 - Cmdr. Warren Lipscomb, III relieved Cmdr. Geoffrey Marshall as the 47th commanding officer of Training Squadron-TWO (VT-2) Thursday at the Naval Aviation Museum at Naval Air Station Pensacola. The highly-decorated squadron, based at Naval Air Station Whiting

Field (NASWF), flew more than 58,000 flight hours under Marshall's leadership. Chief of Naval Air Training recognized the squadron with their annual Training Excellence Award, which identifies the best overall primary training squadron in the Navy and the Vice Adm. Robert Goldthwaite Award for the premiere aviation training squadron.

October 25, 2008 - Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NASWF) marked their 65th Anniversary with music, games, military displays and more. The festival gave the base an opportunity to say "thanks" to the residents of Santa Rosa

County who supported the base through its long history. More than 2,500 people attended the event.

November 2008 - Lt. Cmdr. Rob Young surpassed 7,000 flight hours. Young has flown with the Marines, National Guard, and Coast Guard during his 27-year military career.

November 7, 2008 - Command Master Chief Joseph Vukovcan put an end to his 30-year Naval career Friday, Nov. 7 during his retirement ceremony at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, but his service to the base, Navy and country continued with his

selection as the Morale Welfare and Recreation Department manager.

November 21, 2008 - Army Veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Leonard B. Keller appeared humble and almost embarrassed by the accolades accorded to him as Naval Air Station Whiting Field gathered to bid him "Fair Winds and Following Seas." Keller split time during the past 15 years at both Naval Air Station Pensacola and Whiting Field working as a supply technician, ensuring parts, materials and equipment were available for the various squadrons on the bases.

December 8, 2008 - For the 17th consecutive year, Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field has achieved designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA for its dedication to conservation and urban renewal. The base planted a live oak tree to recognize its completion of the requirements and to celebrate the accomplishment.

December 19, 2008 - Cmdr. John Considine turned over command of Training Squadron-SIX (VT-6) to Lt. Col. Javier Ball Friday, Dec. 19 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Ball assumes the top spot of the squadron as the 48th commanding officer.



One of the true treasures of Naval Air Station Whiting Field for the service members is the marina on the Blackwater River. Retirees, service personnel and their families are able to rent recreational equipment to fish, swim, ski, or have other types of fun on the water. The facility expanded its capabilities in 2008 with new campers for rent, two new picnic areas for families, additional boats for rent, and even held two major parties - a spring Cajun themed picnic and a fall southern barbecue.

Campa Credits Education, Deckplate Leadership with Success

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Tim Comerford, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs NORFOLK (NNS) -- The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) has emphasized the importance of good leadership and education during his tenure and the Navy's senior enlisted Sailor.

While reflecting on the multiple accomplishments of the past two years strengthening deckplate leadership, retention and diversity in the Navy, MCPON Joe R. Campa, Jr. humbly summed up his legacy.

"If there is anything I want to be remembered for, it is being remembered as a good Chief." Campa said. "That is one of the highest compliments a Chief can attain."

Campa uses his own Navy career as an example of how education can open the path to success. He wasn't always sure he wanted to join the Navy, but he knew he would be in the military.

"My father served in the Army during the Korean War, and my uncle was a Marine during Vietnam. I think the seed was planted with those two pushing me towards military service," said Campa, a native of Lynnwood, Calif. "I thought about both of those branches of service until I met a Navy recruiter."

The recruiter changed Campa's perspective and his life.

"The Navy recruiter had such a passion for going to sea and for serving our nation that it made me want to be part of this



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joe R. Campa Jr. speaks with Navy Recruiters at the Navy Recruiting Station, Alameda. MCPON visited three recruiting stations and met with more than fifty recruiters in the area. U. S. Navy file photo.

organization," Campa said. "I don't remember the programs he talked about — but I remember the stories he told about being on board a ship, the places that he had visited and how much he missed being in the fleet. The way he spoke about those things told me that this organization was something special."

Campa, like many Sailors at the time, came into the Navy having never finished high school.

"I don't think at first that it had that much impact on me," Campa said. "I didn't start out as a hospital corpsman, I started out as a deck seaman. The first six or seven months I was in, I was learning as much as I could about the Navy and the ship. But I knew in the back of my mind that if I wanted to do more, I would have to take that step and finish [my degree]."

Campa then went on to get his GED and started taking college courses.

"Throughout my career when the opportunity presented itself, I would take a class," Campa said. "At first it was just to improve my leadership — writing classes, public speaking — those abilities that would complement my ability as a leader and as a corpsman. I came to a point where I had taken several of these classes, and I thought of shaping them into a degree."

Campa received his bachelor of science degree from Excelsior years later while attending the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy. All services send senior enlisted to one another's leadership schools.

He took his willingness to learn further, going to the Naval War College. He graduated with a master of science and strategic studies.

"It is a very challenging program," Campa said of the year-long in-residence course of study.

The MCPON's first mentor is tied closely with his vision of what a leader should exemplify — deckplate leadership.

"My first chief had a big impact on me. I still look at what he did," Campa said. "When he spoke, he spoke with such credibility because he had such a strong knowledge of his ship, his rate and the people that he led; that inspired me to want to do well for him. He planted some seeds — but I have been fortunate throughout my career to have good, strong, deckplate leaders — those who kept their focus on the people and measured their

- (Cont. on Page 8)

 PERSONAL FINANCE & TRANSITION
Eglin/Hurlburt/Whiting/Tyndall
Financial Readiness Roadshow

Your Flight to Financial Freedom

For: Service Members & Spouses

When: Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Where: Eglin Officer's Club

Why Attend? The Wing Commander and DoD are co-sponsoring a day-long Financial Readiness Roadshow aimed at helping you and your family strengthen your financial circumstances and learn important ways to take control of your finances. Some highlights:

- A presentation on the fastest growing crime in the military - **identity theft**. Learn how to safeguard your personal information and protect your family.
- A fact-filled and entertaining presentation on maintaining a positive **credit report**, which is so important for your military career.
- A thought-provoking speech by the keynote, **Jordan Goodman**, America's Money Answers Man and nationally recognized financial expert. Author of 11 best-selling books on personal finance, Mr. Goodman also appears frequently on NBC's The Today Show, PBS, MSNBC, CNN, CNBC, and Fox.
- A practical, hands-on presentation on **managing debt** and **saving smart**.
- **Free**, private face-to-face counseling sessions with Personal Financial Counselors and Turbo Tap Counselors on hand to develop individualized transition plans.

Doors Open at 0730 and the program starts at 0800.

Register at: <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/service/conference>

Questions? Eglin: 850-882-9060; Hurlburt: 850-884-5441; Whiting: 850-623-7177
Tyndall: 850-283-4204



Jordan Goodman,
Keynote Speaker

Plan. Save. Invest.

Learn how to protect your family from identity theft, tips on how to maintain a positive credit report, reduce debt and more!

Campa Credits Education

- (Cont. from Page 7)

success through them.

“That is what I tried to bring back with deckplate leadership. That kind of leadership is traditional of the chiefs’ mess and critical to our people and our Navy.”

He added that he does not get excited when meeting someone, famous or not, but there was one exception to the rule, MCPON Delbert D. Black.

“I was getting ready to go to my first command master chief tour, and I was stationed in Great Lakes. The region master chief, Chief of Naval Operations-directed Master Chief (CNOCM) Duffy Merrill, invited my wife and me to have dinner at his home. When we got there, he had a surprise for us; the first MCPON and his wife, Ima, were both there.

“I had read stories about him throughout my career. To listen to him talk about our Navy and the events that helped shape it was inspiring. I realized that what he was telling me was not just about things he saw, he was passing down a little bit of our Navy’s history from one generation of chiefs to the next. He walked me out to my car, shook my hand and told me not to forget who raised me in the Navy and who I worked for.

“It was one of the most memorable evenings of my career.”

Campa feels every Sailor should have a sense of the history of the Navy.

“Every Sailor should know where he comes from,” Campa said. “They need to have a grasp of the organization they belong to. I don’t believe any leader can be effective if you don’t understand who you are, what you do and where that came from.”

And while he agrees that chiefs should be knowledgeable, the MCPON doesn’t think that degrees are the answer to whether a chief is suitable to be promoted.

“Some people felt very strongly about chiefs having degrees in order to advance,” Campa said. “In a time of war and looking at who would be disadvantaged — our seagoing rates and those rates that we use the most on the ground — it wasn’t feasible to do that.”

The new chief’s evaluation still measures professional growth and education, Campa explained. The measurement is not just college education, but different kinds of education and training which makes the determination fair.

The new evaluation is something Campa thinks was long overdue.

“We developed the [chief petty officer] mission, vision and guiding principles shortly after I became MCPON. It goes to the heart of the services a chief should always provide, no matter what job title. Guiding principles serve as the foundation to who [the chiefs] are.

“You never stop being the chief. I felt there was a better way to align what we are evaluating our CPOs on and what is expected of them as chiefs.”

Campa believes being the first Hispanic master chief petty officer of the Navy is a classic example of the Navy’s diversity.

“No matter what your background, what you look like, what the color of your skin is, the opportunities that you have in the Navy and how far you can go in this organization are based on your abilities,” Campa said. “I don’t think there is a person in

the Navy today that feels that they have to sacrifice their culture or heritage to be part of this organization.”

Whether a Sailor knows it or not, they are role models for someone.

“Being a Hispanic MCPON, or even being a Hispanic chief or first class petty officer, there are some folks that are going to share your heritage,” Campa said. “Whether you realize it or not, those that share your heritage will look to you as a role model. With that comes the responsibility to give back to that community. You do that by sharing the understanding of their culture.”

Throughout his 27 years of service the MCPON has seen many changes. The largest change he thinks is the Homeport Ashore Program.

“It’s probably the biggest quality-of-life initiative since I have been in the Navy,” Campa said. “We are taking those Sailors off the ship and giving them a room in the barracks when they are not out at sea. It is a huge cultural shift. There were a lot of folk in the Navy that didn’t believe we should do this, they felt if living on ship was good enough for them, it should be good enough for new Sailors. But it was the right thing to do; it was critical.

“This has nothing to do with coddling a Sailor. If you look at what an E-4 and below Sailor on ship receives as a living space and the amount of privacy they have, then look at what our counterparts in the other services have, there is a huge difference. This just brings us back on par with the rest of the services.”

While Campa sees improving the quality of life will help retention, he believes that the best retention tools are inside of each naval leader.

“Give your Sailors a sense of accomplishment,” Campa said. “We see it happening all over the fleet. Good leadership sets their Sailors up for success and takes a genuine interest in the growth and development of their Sailors. There isn’t anything that a well-led Sailor will not do for our Navy and our country.”

Campa knows whoever will be taking over as MCPON will have their own style.

“They are going to have to do it their way,” Campa said. “I think we have a lot of great candidates out there as long as they keep the Sailors and their families as the focus, I think they will do fine.”



A Welcome Gift

Cmdr. Lynn Chapman and RP1 Andrea Tate receive a check for the Religious Offering Fund from the Whiting Field Golf Association. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.