

# Whiting Tower

NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.

"THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT NAVAL AIR COMPLEX"

Vol. 65 No. 5

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

## FFSC/Students Create Planner for Flight Training



1st Lt. Ayleah Goodman flips through the pages of the planner designed by other flight students and Laura McLaughlin at the FFSC. Goodman said that the items she likes the most are the reference materials in the back of the book, calling them "very convenient." U. S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Training Air Wing-FIVE's (CTW-5) pilot training at Naval Air Station Whiting Field is intentionally difficult and stressful to help prepare students for the rigors of military aviation. However, providing the tools to help the students meet those demands effectively is a task that the Whiting Field Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) embraces.

Previously, Laura McLaughlin, an education services facilitator for the FFSC, prepared study skills and stress management classes that CTW-5 leadership had touted as effective in reducing stress and academic attrition in their students. These classes are now an active part of the curriculum for primary flight training. Now, she and a group of student-aviators have gone one step farther to devise a planner that can help the students organize their schedule and keep a handy reference for study

materials.

Former CTW-5 Commodore, Capt. David Maloney approved the pilot program in 2008 following the success of the FFSC classes. He assigned four students to a working group to help devise the tool based on what their needs were as they went through the program. Ens. John Betza, Ens. Rob Brideman, Ens. Adam Shephard, and Lt. j.g. Rob Merin brainstormed ideas and tried to incorporate items into the planner that they wished they had available to them during primary training. The end result was a day-planner type tool with emergency procedures of the day, system limitations, a reference section, important phone numbers and quick ref cards for manuals.

"We tried to break it down so you wouldn't always have to carry a book bag of manuals," said Betza.

Three groups of students are

- (Cont. on Page 6)

## MCPON Confirms

### "Performance" as Key to Staying

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW) Maria Yager, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) visited Navy Personnel Command Jan. 27 where he spoke with one of the largest chief petty officer communities in the Navy about senior-enlisted continuation boards.

"The response I've been receiving has been pretty positive. We're going to have a few who don't like this idea and that is OK," said MCPON (SS/SW) Rick West. "The senior-enlisted continuation board, I think, is a very important process for us. It gives us a quality check at the senior-enlisted levels."

According to NAVADMIN 030/09, performance-based senior-enlisted continuation boards call for an annual performance-driven review of chiefs, senior chiefs and master chiefs with more than 20 years of service and three years time in grade. Members not selected for continuation after the performance-based

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### Editor's Note

You may have noticed some changes to the Whiting Tower so far in the New Year. We expanded the paper to eight pages, and just last week included Captain's Cup sports information. This week will include the first in a series of rotating columns from the base commanding officer, Training Air Wing-FIVE Commodore, base Master Chief, and me. This will provide base leadership an opportunity to address information directly to you, and for me to provide information about Naval history and traditions that I think you will find interesting. This is all part of a process in improving the paper for your enjoyment and information. In March, we will provide a survey for you to let us know how we are doing. We look forward to your responses.

## From the Captain's Chair



Now that 2008 is in our rear-view mirror and we are looking ahead to the rest of 2009, I have to say that "Exciting Whiting" is a great place to be.

Last year was a phenomenal year for the base. The highlight for me was our 65th anniversary celebration, when we opened our gates to the community and enjoyed a day of festivities, food, and fun. The year also saw our Navy Gateway Inn and Suites achieve 5-star accreditation; renovations to the Bowling Alley, auditorium and Ace's Pub were completed; a new package store opened; a nationwide multi-jurisdictional training program was established by Security; Crash Division created a new fitness challenge for their firefighters; PRI-DJI restored the CH-46 helo now on display by the gymnasium; and so much more.

Due to your outstanding ambassadorship and community outreach efforts, the base has strengthened ties with the community to unprecedented levels. We have provided outstanding service to our tenants, taken care of OUR base, and I hope, had a little fun along the way. For that, I can only say thanks.

This year promises to be just as exhilarating. We have already started the ball rolling on extending the runways on our Navy Outlying Landing Fields in Alabama in preparation for the arrival of the T-6B Texan. It will be a long process, but our staff and Naval Facilities Command subject matter experts are working diligently with southwestern Alabama politicians and residents to come to a decision on which NOLF's will be extended.

Work on South Field's Air Traffic Control Tower continues and the date for turnover looks to be later next month or early April. The restoration of the Atrium is progressing nicely, with a spring, if not sooner, grand opening in the works.

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## Performance Is Key

- (Cont. from Page 1)

review will transfer to the fleet reserve or retire.

"Our Navy is vacancy driven and if there is a hard-charging first class out there ready to step up, we need to give them the opportunity. We cannot promote them if we have senior enlisted people standing in the way," said to.

Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Billy Hill, assigned to NPC as CMC detailer.

To date, NPC's active-duty continuation board coordinator has received more than 70 calls from the Fleet seeking more details with the two most common subjects being criteria and eligibility. Those topics have been prominent in discussions among chiefs in general, too.

"There has been a lot of talk about it since the message came out and for some people there is a lot of uncertainty. The feedback I've heard is that Sailors who may be facing these boards would like a little more information about the criteria," said Master Chief Information Systems Technician (SW/AW) Jerita Kearnes, senior enlisted advisor for NPC's enlisted distribution branch.

Kearnes, who is scheduled to retire in February after 30 years of service, is exempt from the board. While the NAVADMIN does not specify what constitutes performance, the senior enlisted continuation board precept will outline that information.

Officer continuation board precepts instructed board members to consider performance as well as adverse information. Candidates needed proven and sustained performance with favorable consideration given to those who displayed superior performance while serving an Individual Augmentee or GWOT Support Assignment and those with relevant education and professional



MCPON Rick D. West speaks with the Senior Enlisted Academy (SEA) class 143 at Naval Station Newport. U. S. Navy file photo.

development.

Some in the chief's community have their own ideas of what the board will look at.

"We have people in the Navy with multiple PRT failures, consecutive Ps (promotables) in their fitreps, or even SP (significant problems). Those Sailors will be easy to identify. If the board needs

more and is looking at the average Sailor who has not taken hard assignments but did a good job, that is going to be tough," said Master Chief Navy Counselor (SW/SCW/AW) Tod Shuls, the Navy Counselor and Legalman Detailer, who with 27 years of active duty is eligible for the senior enlisted continuation board.

"It is going to be interesting to see the fall-out. I have more than three years time-in-grade and I am over 20 years," Shuls added.

According to the message, Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center, in Pensacola, Fla., will release a list of continuation board candidates to commands and servicing Personnel Support Detachments in March 2009.

Each candidate is responsible for ensuring their record is correct and up-to-date with their latest evaluations, awards and other appropriate information. Candidates may communicate with the continuation board by submitting a board package. Selection board packages provide candidates the opportunity to submit any missing documents from the sections of their records that are viewed by the continuation boards. Packages must be post marked no later than Aug. 17, 2009. Further guidance on submitting a board package can be found in the NAVADMIN.

Candidates may confirm receipt of board packages by contacting the NPC customer service center at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (1-866-827-5672).

## News and Notes

**SOY/FIOY Recognition Banquet** - The Santa Rosa County Council of the Navy League will host their 2009 Sailor of the Year and Flight Instructor of the Year recognition banquet Friday evening Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m. in Sikes Hall. Commodore Scott Walsh of Training Air Wing-FIVE will be the guest speaker for the event. Call 623-2339 for more information.

**Get a Taste for Art** - The Santa Rosa Arts and Culture foundation will host their fourth annual "Get a Taste for Art" fundraiser Feb. 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Santa Rosa County Auditorium. Attendees will get a taste of art through displays of culinary masterpieces, original artwork, dance presentations, theatrical performances and instrumentals. The fundraiser will include a silent auction. The event is semi-formal and tickets are \$25. Call 981-1100 for details or visit [www.santarosaarts.org](http://www.santarosaarts.org).

**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](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**Disney for the Troops** - Disney parks celebrate the U. S. military with free multi-day admissions to theme parks in 2009. Disney is granting active duty, reserve members on active duty, and military retirees a free five-day hopper pass. This includes members of the U. S. Coast Guard and National Guard. Eligible patrons may also purchase up to five additional five-day (non-hopper) passes for \$99 each. Tickets are valid up through June 12 for the California park and until Dec. 23 for the Florida parks. See [www.disneyworld.com/military](http://www.disneyworld.com/military) or your local ITT office for more information.

**Line Dance** - Santa Rosa Community Line Dance classes will be held Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m. for beginners and from 7:30 to 9 p.m. for intermediate dancers. Classes will be held at Hobbs Middle School on Glover Lane. Cost is \$50 for a 13-week session. Call 623-4235 or 7234052 for details.

**Yoga for Beginners** - The Milton Community Center will host beginning Yoga classes from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and 9-10 a.m. as well as 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. on Fridays. Cost is \$5 and the



**Fair Winds and Following Seas**  
NCC Elsa Saldivar and her family walk through the sideboys to mark the end of her Naval career. The retirement ceremony was held Jan. 16 at the Wings Club Ballroom. She and her family have since moved back to Texas. U. S. Navy photo by ABHC Eric Tomczak.

classes are sponsored by the Milton Parks and Recreation Department. Call Linsey Williamson at 983-5466 ext 208 for more information.

**Mardi Gras Ball** - The 13th Annual Arc Santa Rosa Mardi Gras Ball will be held at NAS Whiting Field's Sikes Hall Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. The evening will begin with a social hour followed by dinner, door prizes and a silent auction. Music will be provided by the Main Street Band. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$350 per table of eight. Please RSVP by Feb. 6. Call 623-9320 for details.

**Baseball Clinic** - There will be a free instructional clinic for boys and girls ages 7 to 14 at the Milton ball fields from 9 - 11 a.m. Feb. 7. Pensacola Pelicans coaches will teach various baseball and softball skills. Interested participants may register from noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Milton Community Center. Call 983-5466 ext. 208 for additional information.

**Pace Road Work** - Santa Rosa County began a roadway project Jan. 27 which includes the resurfacing of Floridatown Road, from the bay to Highway 90 and the resurfacing of Chumuckla Highway from Highway 90 to the Five Points intersection. This will also include construction of turn lanes at the intersection of Chumuckla Highway and Giddens Road. Minor delays can be expected, but road closures are not anticipated. Work is expected to be complete by May 1. Call the county Public Works Department at (850) 626-0191 with any questions.

**Music as a Weapon Tour** - The chart-topping hard rock band Disturbed will swing into the Pensacola Civic Center April 7, at 7 p.m., as part of their North American tour. They will be joined at the stop by Killswitch Engage and Five Finger Death Punch. Tickets are on sale now for \$44.50 General admission floor and \$37.50 for reserved seating through the Pensacola Civic Center box office or ticketmaster outlets.

**Riverwalk Arts Festival** - Historic Downtown Milton will host the 21st Annual Riverwalk Arts Festival March 14-15 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.. The event will feature fine art, folk art, multicultural music, as well as other entertainment. There will also be festival foods and childrens entertainment. The event is sponsored by the Santa Rosa Arts and Culture foundation in partnership with the City of Milton. Call 850-623-8493 or 3117 or see [www.sracf.org](http://www.sracf.org) for details.



**Retaining Our Best and Brightest**  
SH2 Ikhinmwini, Efehi is Honorably Discharged by MAC Danny Klein prior to his reenlistment Friday, Jan. 30. Efehi reenlisted for two years at base security's room 118A. U. S. Navy photo by AC1 Traci Morgan.

## Upcoming Events

Feb. 6, 1830 - SOY/FIOY Banquet - Sikes Hall  
Feb 12, 0730 - Send-off Breakfast Chapl Riggs - Wings Club  
Feb 13, 1300 - HT-28 Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium  
Feb 19, 1000 - HT-18 Change of Command - Auditorium

Feb 20, 1000 - Aviation Boatswain's Mate Golf Tournament  
Feb 21, 1100 - Navarre Beach Mardi Gras Parade  
Feb 21, 1800 - ARC Mardi Gras Ball - Wings Club Ballroom  
Feb 24, 1800 - Lion's Club FIOY Banquet - New World Land

## CO's Column

- (Cont. from Page 2)

We are actively pursuing an aggressive energy conservation program and I appreciate everyone's efforts toward ultimately achieving our goal of 30% savings in energy consumption. We are in the planning stages of conducting a base-wide energy audit in order to establish a baseline and determine where the most aggressive actions to curtail energy consumption need to take place. Several initiatives are now being put into action as more solar powered street lights, solar water heaters, and recycled oil-powered maintenance bay heaters will soon be installed around the base.

But it isn't just about work. MWR just completed a successful Super Bowl party and planning has already started for another May base-wide picnic. The Wings Club is also taking reservations for the Valentine's Day Dinner while planning this year's Mardi Gras Party at Ace's Bar.

It will be a busy year, and we will work hard throughout, but I want you all to know that I see and sincerely appreciate what you do day in and day out. Enjoy the upcoming Washington's Birthday Holiday and be safe.

## FFSC Classes

### Speed Reading

If you are a flight student, or anyone else desiring to improve your reading skills, the speed reading program at the FFSC can help you learn how specialized eye movement exercises and other techniques can dramatically increase your reading rate. The program will target both speed and comprehension skills. You can check out the CD at the front desk and utilize the program in our computer room.

### 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, call 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?" 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.

## BBB® Accepting Applications for Ethics Scholarship

Pensacola, Fla. (January 27, 2009) – Your Better Business Bureau® Foundation of Northwest Florida is currently accepting applications for the 2009 Student Ethics Scholarship.

A total of nine high school junior and senior students will be granted \$1,000 Student Ethics Scholarship this year.

The Student Ethics Scholarship Award is given to college-bound students within the BBB| northwest Florida service area who demonstrate overall personal integrity and ethical behavior.

Three students in each of your BBB's three districts will receive a \$1,000 scholarship toward the accredited college or university of their choice.

Local leaders from businesses and academia will serve as judges and award scholarships based on criteria including leadership, community service, academic achievement and an essay response on building



character.

The Student Ethics Scholarship will be awarded in conjunction with the Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics and the Customer Service Excellence Award. The Torch Award was created to recognize businesses and charities that insist on exceptionally high standards of behavior in dealing with customers, vendors and employees. The Customer Service Excellence Award recognizes employees who go above and beyond in their customer service activities.

The application deadline is March 27, 2009. Scholarship recipients will be recognized and asked to read their essay at a series of luncheons to be held in May.

For entry forms and guidelines please visit [www.nwfl.bbb.org/TorchAward](http://www.nwfl.bbb.org/TorchAward) or call 850.429.0002 or 1.800.729.9226.

## Iraqi/Coalition Efforts Accelerate Growth of Medical Logistics

*Editor's Note: Cmdr. Jeff Plummer was the OIC for the base medical clinic prior to his departure for an IA tour in Iraq last year.*

**KIRKUSH** – Highlighting the accelerated growth of medical logistics in Iraq, the Ministry of Defense Director of Logistics and the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq Health Affairs directorate presided over the ribbon-cutting Jan. 12 for a new medical warehouse at the Kirkush Military Training Base.

“The purpose of this mission was threefold: support the Surgeon General’s logistics staff as they launch operations of the class VIII medical warehouse, inspect the coalition- built Iraqi outpatient medical clinic and review the Basic Medic Course training program,” said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Jeff Plummer, Deputy Director, MNSTC-I Health Affairs.

The Iraqi medical logistics system is growing more and more independent every day. In addition to five Class VIII warehouses at the Taji National Depot, there are seven geographically-dispersed sub-warehouses in the Surgeon General Office’s plan for medical supply distribution.

MNSTC-I Medical Logistics Officer, Army Maj. Ed Rodriguez said, “The opening of the Kirkush facility marks the third sub-warehouse placed into operation. Our next step is to bring Iraqi theater medical logisticians to MoD Class VIII warehouse locations for detailed and professional warehouse management training.

The new warehouse, along with other joint efforts to bolster the MoD’s medical system, is another milestone towards strengthening Iraq’s security and sustainment capabilities.

## BBB® Warns About RALs

**Pensacola, Fla. (February 2, 2009)** – Tax season is here and many Americans are looking forward to receiving a large check from Uncle Sam. Tax payers are turning to their tax preparers who offer Refund Anticipation Loans (RAL) – essentially an advance for the amount of your refund. While RALs might be a good source of instant cash, BBB warns that they come at a high cost.

RALs are short-term, high-interest loans. The loan is repaid when the consumers receive their refunds. The National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) found that the effective rate for a RAL can range from about 50 percent to nearly 500 percent.

Before agreeing to an instant refund, the BBB offers the following advice:

- Consider e-File and Direct Deposit: It’s the fastest and most secure way for consumers to receive refunds; taxpayers can have their money in as little as 8 to 15 days.

- Don’t fall for the “convenient” debit card: These cards are another way for tax preparers to make money. The debit card often includes hidden fees and some have limits on how much money you can access at one time.

- Finance purchases other ways: If consumers are looking to purchase specific high-priced items with their refunds, BBB encourages financing options other than RALs, such as store credit promotions and offers.

- If you must, then shop around: Consumers can check out tax preparer’s record of integrity and performance free-of-charge with BBB Reliability Reports™, available online at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).



### A Gift for the Giver

Joy Morgan, is flanked by Assistant Commissary Store Manager Kim Jackson and Diane Grimes, Customer Service Supervisor. Morgan, the spouse of an Air Force Reservist and Jay resident, is a frequent shopper at the Whiting Field store. She was recently awarded a \$100 commissary gift certificate and the plaque she is holding by the National Military Family Association. The award was the Patriot Award of Merit for volunteer service. Morgan is the regional head of the Sew Much Comfort organization which tailors clothing for use by severely injured or disabled veterans coming back from the war. The organization donated more than 40,000 articles of clothing last year. U. S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.


**Chocolate Lovers**


**Contest:**

*Prepare a sample of your favorite chocolate delight. Bring it and the recipe to the commissary Feb.11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00a.m.*

**You could win a \$25.00 gift certificate.**

# FFSC Planner

- (Cont. from Page 1)

working with the planners during training now and an early comment from one of the test subjects was “It’s great that a lot of the material that we need to study is in one place.”

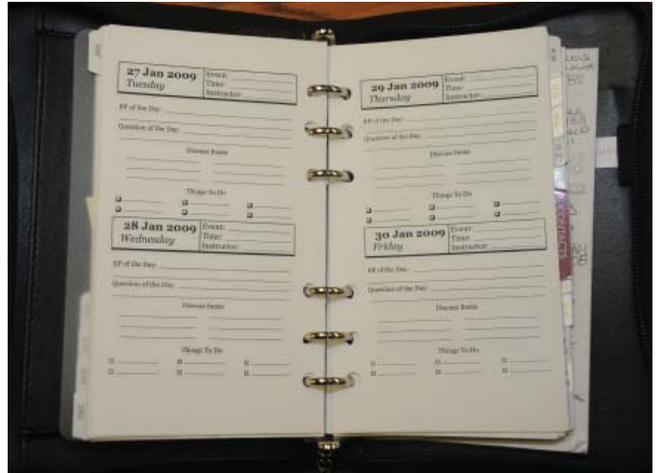
Thirty-six students are in the test groups. The review of the program began in Sept. 2008 and will extend approximately 6-8 months.

McLaughlin meets with these test students periodically throughout their training, and based on their feedback, will work with CTW-5 to determine if the project is worth expanding.

“Most problems students encounter is that they have problems managing their time properly,” she said. “So we asked the question, ‘Why can’t we create one tool with their needs in mind.’”

She worked with the Betza, Brideman, Merin and Shephard to match the planner to the flight training schedule. It took several months for the planner to be realized, and incorporating the feedback makes it a work in progress. However, if the feedback continues to be mostly positive, it could be rolled out to most primary students later in 2009. The idea is also being explored as to whether a similar tool would be useful for advanced flight training for the helicopter students. Either way, Betza feels the effort was worthwhile.

“Looking into how they design things - seeing the process - it was a good experience. I just hope that after it is implemented that people find it useful - something they can just open up and use.”



The planner contains flight training evolutions, study tips, reference materials, and scheduling information to help make it easier for flight students to make productive use of their time. So far the reviews have been mostly positive. U. S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

## NAS WHITING FIELD TRAFFIC SAFETY TRAINING SCHEDULE

### FEBRUARY 2009

- 11 Feb – 0800 – 1600 - American Automobile Association-Driver Improvement Program
- 13 Feb – 0730-1400 - Motorcycle Safety Foundation Experienced Rider Course
- 28 Feb –1 Mar 2009 – 0730-1600 - Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider Course
- 27 Feb – Motorcycle Safety Foundation Military Sport Bike Course

### MARCH 2009

- 25 Mar - 0800 – 1600 - American Automobile Association-Driver Improvement Program
- 26 Mar – 0730-1400 - Motorcycle Safety Foundation Experienced Rider Course
- 27 Mar – 0730-1600 - Motorcycle Safety Foundation Military Sport Bike Course
- 28 & 29 Mar – 0730-1600 - Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider Course

### CLASS INFORMATION

**Military Sport Bike Rider Course (MSRC)** is mandatory for all active duty personnel who ride on or off base and all DoD civilians who ride sports bikes on base. The MSRC also meets the requirement for the three year re-qualification to receive a decal for base access. To qualify for the MSRC you must have completed an approved Motorcycle Safety Foundation approved Basic Rider Course or Experienced Rider Course.

**The Basic Rider Course (BRC)** is a 15 hour course designed for beginners or personnel who have not rode in a long period of time. It also meets the State of Florida requirement for a motorcycle endorsement on your license. The BRC is mandatory for active duty personnel who ride on and off base and all DoD civilians who ride on base.

**The Experienced Rider Course (ERC)** is a one day course and is designed for refresher training. The course meets the requirement for the three year requirement, except for personnel who ride sports bikes. Sports bike riders must complete the MSRC every three years.

**American Automobile Association – Driver Improvement Program** -This course is required for all Military and DOD civilians who operate government vehicles as part of their duties except emergency vehicle operators. DOD dependents and retired personnel may also attend on a space available basis. It is also mandatory for anyone involved in a at fault vehicle mishap with a government vehicle. The course is taught by a certified AAA-Driver Improvement instructor and is approximately 6 to 8 hours in length. Personnel who complete the course will receive a certificate of completion which can be used to receive discounts on their insurance premiums, depending on their insurance company. It also meets the Navy requirement for Driver Improvement training for persons age 26 and under. Enroll at [www.navymotorcyclerider.com](http://www.navymotorcyclerider.com) or contact Michael McMillan at (850) 452-3674.

# VITA Program Offers Savings to NASWF

Beginning Jan. 21, Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NASWF) will once again offer free tax preparation services through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to active duty, dependents, retirees, and reservists on active duty for more than 30 days. Through this program, those eligible individuals not only can save hundreds of dollars on tax preparation fees, but they also can electronically file their return to receive their refund in the shortest time possible.

During the 2008 tax season, Navy-wide volunteers with the VITA program filed nearly 73,000 federal and state tax returns, saving service members and dependents more than \$9,100,000 in commercial tax preparation fees. Locally, last year the NASWF Tax Center filed more than 500 tax returns, with a savings to the taxpayer of over \$61,000. The VITA program is a proven winner that improves mo-

rale and readiness and keeps money in sailors' pockets. VITA significantly reduces the effort and cost involved in meeting federal and state tax obligations.

A few of the benefits include: No preparation fees - Commercial tax preparers may charge in excess of \$140 for the average electronically filed return. VITA/ELF volunteers prepare and file the same returns at no cost to sailors and dependents. Faster refunds - Paper returns may take eight or more weeks to process. By using VITA, refunds are deposited directly into a sailor's bank account an average of two weeks from the date of transmission, even from overseas and afloat commands. These rapid refunds greatly reduce the need for refund anticipation loans (short-term loans with added charges and high interest rates). Fewer mistakes - VITA prepared returns are very accurate - less than a 1 percent error rate compared to

15 percent for paper returns.

This year, the NASWF Tax Center is located in the Supply Department, Building 2992, Room 21 (behind the bowling alley on Wasp Street). Tax preparation assistance is available Monday through Friday, 0800-1600 on an appointment-only basis.

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

Please call 623-7232 to make an appointment.

## No Charge Waste Disposal Offered

Amnesty Day, which offers Santa Rosa County residents the opportunity to dispose of household hazardous waste at no charge, is scheduled for March 28 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Amnesty Day is not a recycle day, but a special day for disposal of household hazardous waste. Materials will also be accepted from conditionally exempt small quantity generators including small businesses, schools and growers at a reduced rate. Small quantity generators must call (850) 981-7135 by noon on March 27 to schedule a drop off time. Calls will be accepted from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Two drop off sites will be available, at the Santa Rosa County South Side Service Center, 5819 Gulf Breeze Parkway in Midway and at the parking lot of the Santa Rosa County Administrative Complex, 6495 Caroline Street in Milton, behind McDonald's.

A few of the articles which may be turned in are: household cleaners, lubricants, motor oil, oil filters, paint, pesticides, pool cleaners, and more. Any containers of a household hazardous waste larger than five gallons will not be accepted.

Household garbage will not be accepted as part of Amnesty Day. Cathode ray televisions and monitors will be accepted at the Midway location. They will not be accepted at the Amnesty Day drop off on Caroline Street, but can be taken directly to the Central Landfill located at 6337 Da Lisa Road in Milton.

Amnesty Day is a cooperative effort of Santa Rosa County, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Jim Reece of the Okaloosa County Environmental Office. For more information, contact (850) 981-7135.



**2009 NMCRS Fund Drive**

**Donations are used to provide interest-free loans and/or grants to service members, both active and retired, and their families that are in financial need and emergency situations.**

**DID YOU KNOW THAT NAVY-MARINE CORP RELIEF SOCIETY (NMCRS) MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU WITH AN INTEREST-FREE LOAN AND/OR GRANT?**

**WHAT THE SOCIETY OFFERS:**

- ASSISTANCE WITH FOOD, RENT, UTILITIES
- DISASTER RELIEF
- ESSENTIAL CAR REPAIRS
- UNFORSEEN FAMILY EMERGENCIES (INCLUDING TRAVEL EXPENSES)
- FUNERAL EXPENSES AND MUCH MORE.....

**WHO DOES THE SOCIETY ASSIST?**

- ACTIVE DUTY OR RETIRED SERVICE MEMBERS
- DEPENDANTS (WITH A POWER OF ATTORNEY)
- WIDOW OF AN ACTIVE DUTY OR RETIRED SERVICE MEMBER

For more information on the services that NMCRS has to offer or for information on how to make a donation, please call our office at 850-452-2300.



# - SPORTS -

## Standings

### Captian's Cup Basketball 2009

Team	Won	Lost	Win %	Streak	RF	RA	GB
VT-3	3	0	1.000	Won 3	155	88	—
HT-8	2	1	.667	Won 1	142	137	1.0
HT-28	2	1	.667	Won 1	172	143	1.0
ATC	2	2	.500	Lost 1	178	200	1.5
HT-18	2	2	.500	Won 2	175	172	1.5
COAST GUARD	1	1	.500	Lost 1	77	67	1.5
VT-2	2	2	.500	Won 1	191	205	1.5
CRASH	1	2	.333	Lost 2	105	127	2.0
MEDICAL	0	4	.000	Lost 4	150	206	3.5

## Game Scores

### Captian's Cup Basketball 2009

Day	Date	Location	Time	Score	Team
Tuesday	1/27/2009	Gym Bldg 3148	5:00pm	46 - 51	HT-28 vs HT-8
			6:00pm	47 - 50	VT-2 vs ATC
			7:00pm	53 - 34	VT-3 vs CRASH
Thursday	1/29/2009	Gym Bldg 3148	5:00pm	55 - 63	ATC vs HT-28
			6:00pm	46 - 56	MEDICAL vs VT-2
			7:00pm	39 - 43	CRASH vs HT-18

## Schedule

Day	Date	Location	Time	Score	Team
Thursday	2/5/2009	Gym Bldg 3148	5:00pm	... - ...	HT-18 vs COAST GUARD
			6:00pm	... - ...	MEDICAL vs HT-8
			7:00pm	... - ...	VT-2 vs CRASH
Tuesday	2/10/2009	Gym Bldg 3148	5:00pm	... - ...	COAST GUARD vs VT-2
			6:00pm	... - ...	VT-3 vs HT-18
			7:00pm	... - ...	CRASH vs HT-28

## Reagan/NFL Unite for Super Bowl Event

By Lt. Ron Flanders, USS

**Ronald Reagan Public Affairs SAN DIEGO (NNS)** -- USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) partnered with NFL Network and the San Diego Chargers Feb. 1 to throw a special Super Bowl party for the ship's crew.

The ship was an on-location site for NFL Network's "Hang Time" program, with comedian Jeff Ross hosting a special Super Bowl-themed edition of the show from the Reagan as the crew enjoyed the Super Bowl while in port at Naval Air Station North Island.

"I couldn't ask for a better way to spend Super Bowl Sunday than to spend it at a tailgate party with so many heroes," said Ross, who has performed comedy shows for service members all over the globe. "I mean, I'm on an aircraft carrier! How cool is that?"

Ross was joined in celebrating the nation's biggest football game by four members of the San Diego Chargers' dance team, the "Charger Girls." The Charger cheerleaders spent their Super Sunday watching the game with and signing autographs for Ronald Reagan Sailors.

"We really appreciate all of the Sailors staying back and protecting us on Super Bowl Sunday," said Charger Girl Heather. "We just wanted to make their Super Bowl party a little more exciting."

More than 100 Ronald Reagan Sailors sat together on the mess decks, some in Navy uniform, others sporting the colors of their favorite NFL teams.

"This party is awesome," said Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Ravneet Bains of Ronald Reagan's Security Department. "I never would have expected something like this on the ship. It was great to see such a huge turnout."

Three NFL Network cameras scoured the ship the afternoon of the game, interviewing more than two dozen Sailors and profiling the newest aircraft carrier on the west coast. The special edition of NFL Network's "Hang Time" will air in mid-February.

Ronald Reagan is the ninth of 10 Nimitz-class nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. The ship is named for the 40th U.S. president; its motto, "Peace through Strength," was a recurring theme during the Reagan presidency.