

Whiting Tower

NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.

"THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT NAVAL AIR COMPLEX"

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Murray Assumes Command of HT-18

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Amidst the traditional pomp and circumstance typical during a military ceremony, Cmdr. Mark Murray relieved Lt. Col. James Kennedy as the commanding officer of Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN (HT-18) Thursday, Feb. 19. With the simple act of passing the squadron flag from one officer to another assumes the responsibility of the highly decorated squadron.

It is a job he relishes.

"Commitment! It is a trait you demonstrate every day, and I am proud to now be your commanding officer," he said to the assembled squadron members. "I look forward to rolling up my sleeves to go to work with each and every one of you."

For Kennedy, the 11 a.m. ceremony was a bittersweet event. It marked the end of a satisfying and successful tour, but he was able to pass the squadron to an officer with whom he had worked side-by-side for the past year.

"Mark, I don't have the words for the deep appreciation I have for your efforts. I am happy to be turning the squadron over to you. The 'Vigilant Eagles' are lucky to have you," said Kennedy.

"When I took command I told you all I had the



Cmdr. Mark Murray receives the Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN flag from Lt. Col. James Kennedy during their change of command ceremony Feb. 19. Murray becomes the 32nd commanding officer of the unit. U. S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

complete confidence that you would continue to meet every challenge. You exceeded my expectations at every turn."

The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition that provides the assembled unit the oppor-

- (Cont. on Page 7)

Digital Signatures Now Required on DoD Emails

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class(SW) Christopher Koons, Naval Network Warfare Command Public Affairs

NORFOLK (NNS) -- The Department of Defense has implemented a policy requiring employees to digitally sign all e-mails containing a link or an attachment Feb. 12.

A digital signature is also required for any e-mail that provides direction or tasking, requests or responds to requests for resources, promulgates organization position, discusses any operational matter, discusses contract or finance matters, or discusses personnel management matters. The need exists to ensure that the originator is the actual author and that the e-mail was not tampered with in transit.

The policy, which was updated for the Navy in September 2008, applies to all unclassified e-mail sent from a DoD-owned, operated or controlled system or account to include desktops, laptops, and personal electronic devices such as BlackBerrys.

"It ensures that the information from links and attachments comes from a trustworthy source," said Lt. Cmdr. Damen Hofheinz, U.S. Fleet Forces deputy for Information Assurance. "For example, if an e-mail contains a link, you need to know that it leads you to a valid web site."

A digital signature is a "stamp" on an e-mail, which is unique to the user and provides an accurate means of identifying the originator of a message. Its toolbar icon is an envelope with a red

seal on top. A digital signature assures the recipient that the original content of the message or document is unchanged. It also provides the sender with proof of delivery and the recipient with proof of the sender's identity and reassurance that the e-mail's originator is its actual author.

Some e-mails require added protection in the form of the encryption key, which, like the digital signature key, has an envelope icon but has a blue lock rather than red seal on it. Navy policy requires encryption of all e-mails that contain Privacy Act Information (PII), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Information, contract information, classified as 'for official use only' (FOUO) or that may serve as an OPSEC indicator.

- (Cont. on Page 5)

FFSC Leads the Way During Military Saves Week

By NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

The Military Saves campaign is ongoing this week, and the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Fleet and Family Support Center has, and continues to host activities designed to help service members meet their long-term savings goals.

This is the third year of the Military Saves campaign, and as was encouraged during the first two, the program emphasizes that the first step to financial fitness is making a pledge to one's self. You can do this on the Military Saves website where there is also a wealth of information on the benefits of saving.

According to the website, "Military Saves is a social marketing campaign to persuade, motivate, and encourage military families to save money every month, and to convince leaders and organizations to be aggressive in promoting automatic savings. The campaign is a growing network of organizations and individuals committed to helping and supporting military members and their loved ones build personal savings arsenals to provide for their immediate and long term financial needs."

Fleet and Family supports the program through literature, classes and first person presentations. Although midway through the week-long campaign, it isn't too late to get involved. There will be a Thrift Savings Plan class today at 1 p.m., a Savings and Investing class at 1 p.m. Thurs. and a Military Retirement Planning class the same time on Friday. Additionally FFSC has a roving display booth at the Wings Club Wed. from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Commissary 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Thurs. and in the Coffee Shop from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Friday.

The campaign is actually part of two larger programs, the Department of Defense Financial Readiness Campaign and the national America Saves campaign. Designed to be a year-round process, Military Saves Week places special emphasis on educating service members about the program from the last Sunday in Feb. to the first Sunday in March.

"This is an excellent opportunity for you to look at your financial readiness, and an excellent opportunity for you to get the help you need to reach your financial goals," said Eugene Jackson, the Financial Educator for FFSC at Whiting Field.

For more information on the program, contact the FFSC office at 850-623-7177.



Eugene Jackson, Financial Educator from Fleet and Family Support Center, talks to AC3 Ashley Coleman about the importance of saving money for her future. He is manning a display booth in support of Military Saves Week, a campaign designed to inform service members on the benefits of long-term savings. The piggybank is used to emphasize how saving now pays greatly in the future. As Eugene says "Feed the Pig, Feed the Future." U. S. Navy photo by 2nd Lt. Nicholas Uzelac.

Build Wealth, Reduce Debt

From Commander, Navy Installations Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- "Military Saves Week" will be observed throughout the fleet Feb. 22 to March 1. The goal of this year's campaign is to increase awareness about the necessity to build wealth, reduce debt and to demonstrate user-friendly methods for people to make a commitment to save.

This initiative is part of the Military Saves Campaign, a year-round social marketing campaign to persuade, motivate and encourage Department of Defense employees to save money and reduce consumer debt. The campaign reaches out to service members, spouses, youth and civilian employees.

"This year's campaign is happening at a time when many seek more certainty about their financial future and look for strategies to navigate a course through the turbulent tides of today's financial marketplace. It is a perfect time to set a steady course to increase personal financial readiness," said David DuBois, deputy manager of Fleet and Family Support Programs with CNIC and Navy's Program director for Military Saves Week.

"Navy families are best positioned to weather the economic squalls by fully utilizing the benefits, services, and professional skills available to them through their command's financial fitness team and personal financial fitness coaching staff at Fleet and Family Support Centers worldwide. This is a time to focus on reducing debt, building emergency savings, and developing strategies to increase personal net worth and family readiness," DuBois said.

To meet today's financial challenges, the Navy community continues to take an active posture regarding the financial health of its force, according to DuBois. Command financial specialists as well as Fleet & Family Support Centers are increasing collaborative relationships with DoD financial readiness partners to provide the navigational aids to help chart a successful journey to financial freedom. The Navy's program continues to receive recognition for its proactive approach in changing the financial culture of the force.

"The Navy Reserve Force is also participating in the Military Saves Week by encouraging all reservists to take the savers pledge and to see their Command Financial Specialist or Financial Educator at FFSC for additional information/resources to become more financial fit," said Chief Storekeeper (AW/FMF) Shane Champagne, the Military Saves Campaign Reserve liaison. "It's important that we all take measures to maintain and improve our personal

- (Cont. on Page 5)

News and Notes

Advancement Exams - The Navy advancement exams for E4, E5 and E6 candidates will occur on the following schedule: E6 - Mar. 5; E5 - Mar. 12; and E4 - Mar. 19. The E4 and E6 tests will be held in the Wings Club Ballroom while the E5 exam will happen in Sikes Hall. All participants must have the uniform of the day on with their military ID card. No cell phones or watches are allowed during the examination.

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 or your ITT office for more information.

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, multi-cultural music, and other entertainment. There will also be festival foods and childrens games. 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 for details.

Bonnie Raitt in Concert - Tickets are on sale now for Bonnie Raitt's concert at the Pensacola Civic Center. Originally scheduled for performance at the Saenger Theatre, the March 11 concert was moved in case the Theatre renovations were not completed. Tickets already purchased for the Saenger Theatre may be exchanged at the Civic Center Box Office if purchased from a Ticketmaster outlet or at the Saenger Theatre Box Office. Tickets purchased online may be exchanged by calling Ticketmaster at 800-653-8000.

March Badness - Tickets are on sale for the fight card featur-



Hot Stuff!

The Division of Forestry and Naval Air Station Whiting Field teamed up to carefully burn approximately 285 acres of land at Navy Outlying Field Harold, Feb. 16. The process reduces undergrowth and strengthens fire protection of the area while enhancing the long term environment creating favorable habitats for plant and animal life including endangered species. Photo courtesy of the Whiting Field Environmental Dept.

ing Roy Jones, Jr. March 21 at the Pensacola Civic Center. Jones will square off against Light Heavyweight contender Omar Sheika. IBF number 2 Cruiserweight B. J. Flores will be featured on the card along with three Mixed Martial Arts contests. Tickets range from \$28 to \$128 and are available at all Ticketmaster locations and the Pensacola Civic Center Box Office.

Military Discount - Recanati's Italian Restaurant's two locations, on Avalon Highway and Berryhill Road, now offers anyone with a military ID a 10 percent discount on foods purchased. All items delivered to the base will receive the same discount with a \$10 minimum purchase. Call 850-626-2778 for information.

Massage Therapy Studio - Jennifer Merhige, L.M.T. (MA53722), a licensed massage therapist provides Swedish, Deep Tissue and Chair Massages in the NAS Whiting Field Fitness Center. Call 352-678-1105 for an appt. and prices.

Fishin' With a Mission - The United Way of Santa Rosa County will host their "Fishin' With a Mission" bass tournament and family festival April 11 at Carpenter's Park. Registration begins Feb. 17 at the United Way offices at 6576 Caroline St or 6479 Highway 90 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Top prize is anticipated to be \$3,000. Call 623-4507 or check out bassfishing@unitedwaysrc.org. Rusty Whitfield will be the premiere performer for the family day at the park.

Spring Classes from Troy - Troy University will begin teaching courses at Whiting Field during the Spring Term. American National Government, Organizational Behavior, and U. S. History to 1877 will be offered. Classes will be taught via VTC, however future classes may be taught live if class sizes will support. Troy University requires at least 10 students registered to bring an instructor on-site. The Spring classes will be taught in Bldg. 1471(old Ops bldg) but will move to the new Atrium Bldg once it is complete. If you have never utilized Tuition Assistance (TA), you will need to have a TA brief prior to it being approved. Registration is in progress and classes begin March 16. Call 981-0333 for more information.



Retaining Our Best and Brightest

MAC Danny Klein presents SH2 Anthony Benson with his Reenlistment certificate. Benson reenlisted for three years at the Security Bldg. U. S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

Upcoming Events

Feb 25, 1130 - Black History Month Lunch - Wing's Club
Feb 27, 0715 - SRC A. M. Network Breakfast - Ooops Alley
Feb 27, 1300 - HT-8 Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
Mar 3, 0800 - VT-6 Pilot for a Day - Various

Mar 13, 1300 - HT-18 Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
Mar 18, 0730 - Tenant Command Meeting - Bldg 1401
Mar 20, 1400 - VT-3 Change of Command - Atrium
Mar 27, 1300 - HT-28 Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

Saving & Investing - Thursday, February 26, from 1 – 3 pm

Who wants to be a millionaire? Do you think you can become a millionaire on your military paycheck? This class will show you how money can grow. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact FFSC at 623-7177.

Military Retirement - Friday, February 27, from 1 – 3 pm

Who is ready for their retirement? What do we even mean by the word "RETIREMENT"? The good news is that for a young person the strategy to fund retirement is a simple one; start early, stick with it, and save as much as possible. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

The Survivor Benefits Class - Tuesday, March 3, from 1:00 - 3:00 pm

One of the most important aspects of financial planning is the ability to provide for a survivor or survivors in the event of a wage-earner's death. People rely on several different types of tools to help insure continuing income for their survivors ranging from personal assets to life insurance to social security. Some service members also think that their retirement pay will continue to be paid to their survivors, unaware that this is true ONLY IF they have elected at retirement to participate in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). Attend this to learn more about the Pros and Cons of electing or denying the Survivor Benefit Plan. For more information, call 623-7177.

Raising Financially Fit Kids - Tuesday, March 10, from 10 am – 12 noon

Every parent desires to raise children who are healthy, happy, and capable of managing life as an adult in an increasingly complex world. This complex world includes the world of money. Most children learn from a variety of places, but studies show that the single most important place where children learn about money is in the home and the most important teachers are their parents. Attend this class to learn techniques to raise Financially Fit Kids. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Time Management - Wednesday, March 11, from 1:00 – 2:00 pm

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?" If you answered "yes" to these questions, this class is for you. The information provided in this class will provide 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.

Selective Reenlistment Bonus Award Levels Changed

By Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class (AW) La Tunya Howard,
Navy Personnel Command Public Af-
fairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- The Navy announced revised selective re-enlistment bonus (SRB) rates Feb. 18 in NAVADMIN 050/09.

"We adjust SRBs as a retention incentive to provide the critical skills needed in the fleet," said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, chief of naval personnel. "We're experiencing great retention in nearly all zones and NECs (Navy Enlisted Classifications) and we've adjusted SRB levels in response to this change in behavior."

"While not every Sailor qualifies for a SRB, all Sailors are important to the successful execution of Navy missions," added Ferguson.

The new message approves 35

increases in SRBs, many in the nuclear field, and 412 decreases.

The increased award levels are effective immediately and decreased levels are effective March 11. Award levels are continually reviewed and evaluated.

The SRB Program enhances the Navy's ability to size, shape and stabilize the force by using a monetary incentive to encourage Sailors with critical skills to reenlist. SRB is a market-based incentive allowing the Navy to strategically adjust award levels as retention needs dictate.

The Navy announced changes to the SRB policy earlier this year which allows Sailors to reenlist early for SRB as long as they are within 90 days prior to their expiration of active obligated service (EAOS) and within the current fiscal year of their EAOS. A Sailor whose SRB award level decreases or is removed is eligible to re-enlist in the first 30 days

following release of a new SRB award plan only if their hard EAOS is within 90 days of the effective date of the message. In the case of NAVADMIN 050/09 this date is calculated to be May 09, 2009.

"By reducing the time frame for SRB reenlistment, the Navy can better project and manage end strength while continuing to provide incentive to Sailors with critical skills and valuable experience to stay Navy," said Jeri Busch, head, military pay and compensation policy branch for the chief of naval personnel.

The policy change is part of an overall effort to stabilize the force at about 329,000 active duty Sailors by the end of this fiscal year.

"All rates and NECs were extensively analyzed for bonus levels, and the corresponding increases and reductions were not taken lightly," concluded Ferguson.

Digital Signatures

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"If you send an e-mail which contains Personally Identifiable Information (PII) such as your social security number or if the message is for official use only (FOUO), you need to encrypt as well as digitally sign it," Hofheinz said. "Encryption provides an extra level of protection."

Encrypting e-mail is made much easier when personnel publish their certificates to the global address list (GAL). This can be accomplished in Outlook by opening the "Tools" menu then selecting "Options." On the "Security" tab there is a "Publish to GAL" button. Clicking on this button will ensure that other users on the network can send encrypted e-mail back to the originator.

OCONUS Navy Enterprise Network (ONE-NET) has already implemented a network policy for all e-mails to be digitally signed and NMCI started implementation on 12FEB09. Users will have to deselect the digitally signed button in Outlook to send unsigned e-mails. "It is one part of our overall Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) implementation, which is designed to prevent bad guys from accessing information we send over the Internet," said Hofheinz.

For more information on the military's digital signature/encryption policy, visit <https://www.infosec.navy.mil/PKI>.

Build Wealth

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financial quality of life."

Child & Youth Programs are also providing workshops and resources to promote financial responsibility and independence among Navy youth at key developmental stages.

"Many of the nation's teenagers advance into adulthood without learning the necessary skills that lead to financial independence and well-being," DuBois said. "By building basic money management skills, Navy youth will learn financial responsibility and independence."

Through fun, interactive activities and exercises on topics like using a checking account, learning how to budget, managing debt, and saving for college, DuBois said that teenagers 13-18 will learn practical ways to save, spend and invest their money.

"Through numerous program resources and partnerships, Navy Youth professionals and School Liaison Officers will assist teens in learning practical ways to save, spend and invest their money, how to budget, manage debt, and save for college," he said.

"The overall goal is for everyone to make a commitment to save, make a savings plan and start saving. Even better, we want everyone to learn new savings strategies and implement them. We want to help those who may be afraid to seek financial help or unaware of options available to them."

Providing financial workshops and resources is a long-term, day-to-day commitment of Commander, Navy Installations Command. Military Saves Week provides a vehicle for key workers to push the savings message for one week each year.

Contact the command financial specialist/financial educator at FFSC for a list of events during Military Saves Week or visit www.ffsp.navy.mil.

Weekly Tri-Care Notice

AHLTA DENTAL ACHIEVES FULL DEPLOYMENT "GREEN LIGHT," BECOMES FIRST INTEGRATED DENTAL, MEDICAL ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

The next generation of AHLTA, the military's electronic health record (HER), integrates an electronic dental charting capability and will soon be available to military providers across the enterprise. Fielding the integrated medical and dental HER represents a major milestone in healthcare information sharing. For the first time in the Military Health System (MHS), dental providers will have fully electronic dental charting tools complimented by point-of-care access to complete medical records, test results and images.

Transparency of health information among medical and dental provider groups can prevent missed care opportunities before adverse events occur, and reinforce health promotion and disease prevention activities. Use of the integrated record in dental care will support early identification and documentation of oral symptoms which may indicate the presence of systematic health conditions. Through AHLTA, dental providers can document a patient's screening results in the integrated record, making that information accessible to the patient's primary care provider, and can even arrange a medical consultation when necessary.

AHLTA is an enterprise-wide clinical information system that generates, maintains, stores and provides secure online access to comprehensive medical and dental patient records. The medical component of AHLTA has been in use worldwide in military fixed and deployed facilities since December 2006. A total of 381 dental facilities and 11,500 users will receive the new integrated version of AHLTA in the two-year deployment period. Initial training will be provided through a suite of Web-based, instructor-led and on-the-job training tools.



NAS WHITING FIELD

TAX CENTER

VITA is the ONLY FREE Tax Preparation Service on base!

Location: Bldg. 2992 Supply Dept Rm. 21

Call: 623-7232

Hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

President Obama Proclaims African American History Month



NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH, 2009

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - A PROCLAMATION

The history of African Americans is unique and rich, and one that has helped to define what it means to be an American. Arriving on ships on the shores of North America more than 300 years ago, recognized more as possessions than people, African Americans have come to know the freedoms fought for in establishing the United States and gained through the use of our founding principles of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to assembly, and due process of law. The ideals of the Founders became more real and more true for every citizen as African Americans pressed us to realize our full potential as a Nation and to uphold those ideals for all who enter into our borders and embrace the notion that we are all endowed with certain unalienable rights.

Since Carter G. Woodson first sought to illuminate the African American experience, each February we pause to reflect on the contributions of this community to our national identity. The history is one of struggle for the recognition of each person's humanity as well as an influence on the broader American culture. African Americans designed our beautiful Capital City, gave us the melodic rhythms of New Orleans Jazz, issued new discoveries in science and medicine, and forced us to examine ourselves in the pages of classic literature. This legacy has only added luster to the brand of the United States, which has drawn immigrants to our shores for centuries.

This year's theme, "The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas," is a chance to examine the evolution of our country and how African Americans helped draw us ever closer to becoming a more perfect union.

The narrative of the African American pursuit of full citizenship with all of the rights and privileges afforded others in this country is also the story of a maturing young Nation. The voices and examples of the African American people worked collectively to remove the boulders of systemic racism and discrimination that pervaded our laws and our public consciousness for decades. Through the work of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver, Martin Luther King and Thurgood Marshall, the African American community has steadily made progress toward the dreams within its grasp and the promise of our Nation. Meanwhile, the belief that those dreams might one day be realized by all of our citizens gave African American men and women the same sense of duty and love of country that led them to shed blood in every war we have ever fought, to invest hard-earned resources in their communities with the hope of self empowerment, and to pass the ideals of this great land down to their children and grandchildren.

As we mark National African American History Month, we should take note of this special moment in our Nation's history and the actors who worked so diligently to deliver us to this place. One such organization is the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People -- the NAACP -- which this year will witness 100 years of service to the Nation on February 12. Because of their work, including the contributions of those luminaries on the front lines and great advocates behind the scenes, we as a Nation were able to take the dramatic steps we have in recent history.

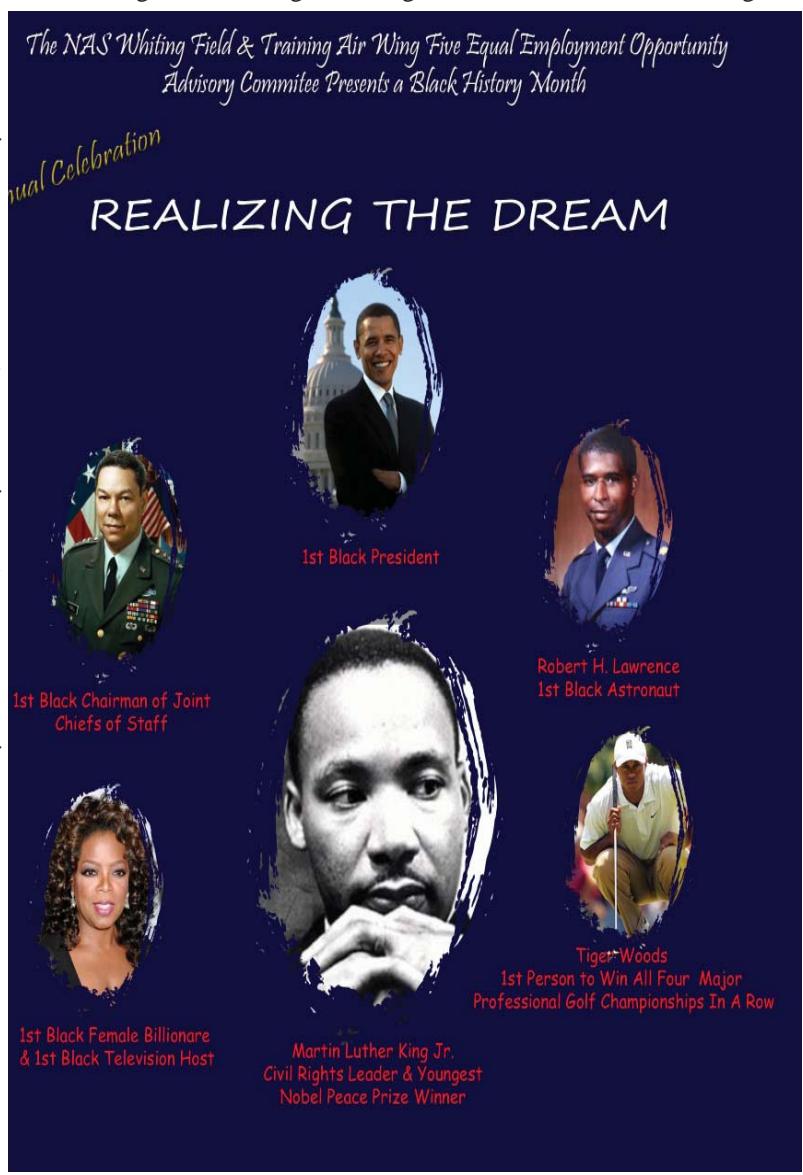
NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2009 as National African American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that raise awareness and appreciation of African American history.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

BARACK OBAMA

The NAS Whiting Field & Training Air Wing Five Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee Presents a Black History Month Annual Celebration

REALIZING THE DREAM



1st Black Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff

1st Black President

Robert H. Lawrence
1st Black Astronaut

Tiger Woods
1st Person to Win All Four Major Professional Golf Championships In A Row

Martin Luther King Jr.
Civil Rights Leader & Youngest Nobel Peace Prize Winner

Oprah Winfrey
1st Black Female Billionaire & 1st Black Television Host

HT-18 Change of Command

- (Cont. from Page 1)



Training Air Wing FIVE Commodore Col. Scott Walsh congratulates Lt. Col. James Kennedy for his successful stint as the commanding officer of Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN. Walsh had just granted permission for Murray to assume command. U. S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

tunity to witness the transfer of authority from one officer to another. Passing the command from a Marine to a Navy officer is uncommon in military commands, but is the standard for HT-18 and Murray will turn over command to Lt. Col. Shawn Coakley following his tour as commanding officer of the squadron.

During Kennedy's 23-month tenure as executive officer and then commanding officer, the "Vigilant Eagles" flew more than 47,000 flight hours, completed in excess of 25,500 syllabus events, and designated 429 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Allied Aviators. While he served as commanding officer of the squadron, the unit surpassed 1,115,000 Class "A" mishap-free flight hours - a milestone which encompasses more than 37 years. Kennedy's leadership inspired the squadron to unprecedented success, earning the 2007 Vice Admiral Robert Goldthwaite and Chief of Naval Air Training Awards for Training Excellence, the 2007 Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award and the 2007 Admiral John H. Towers Flight Safety Award.

To recognize his achievements, Training Air Wing FIVE Commander Col. Scott Walsh awarded Kennedy the Meritorious Service Medal.

"The most important part of our job is to shape the future of Naval aviation. It's not about planes, but about people and protecting our nation," Walsh said. "These people aren't born. They are made. The 'Vigilant Eagles' make the next generation of American heroes."

However, throughout his comments as guest speaker for the ceremony, Walsh reminded the audience that Kennedy himself was a hero.

Kennedy's career covers approximately 19 years and tours of duty in Hawaii, California, and three at Whiting Field. He has flown nearly 200 combat sorties in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was recognized as the Flight Instructor of the Year in 1997 and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Aviator of the Year in 2005. Kennedy has accumulated more than 5,000 flight hours in his career and earned the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Air Medal with Combat "V" and Strike/Flight numeral "9", and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

"It's what is in the cockpit that makes a difference. We put steel on target or troops on the ground. He [Kennedy] has flown an outdated aircraft into a hot zone, picked up casualties and saved lives. Naval aviation isn't about the [aircraft], but about the Lt. Col. Kennedys. That is what makes Naval aviation great," Walsh said.

Murray also displays an impressive list of achievements. As an 18-year aviator, he has flown more than 2,800 hours and has received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with bronze star, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

FFSC to Hold Naming Contest

- Newsletter to Receive New Moniker

The Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Fleet and Family Support Center is looking for a few good names. The center would like to rename their newsletter and they are asking your help.

Submit your great idea along with your contact information to the FFSC in person; e-mail to shelley.lutz.ctr@navy.mil; or enter by Phone at (850) 623-7177 by March 16, 2009.

The winning submission will receive: dinner for two (\$40 voucher) at Texas Roadhouse or Chili's (winner's choice); plus: one free round of golf and golf cart; three free games of bowling and one pair rental shoes; one free lunch at Wings Club; and one free day of pontoon boat rental courtesy of NASWF MWR facilities.

The winner will be announced March 20.



Firefighter for a Day???

Members of the Whiting Field Fire Department host a young Pilot for a Day and help him man the fire fighting hose as part of his visit. The Pilot for a Day program brings a seriously ill youth to the base each month and helps them enjoy a day of fun on the flightline, simulator, and, of course, the fire station. Photo courtesy of the NAS Whiting Field Fire Station.

- SPORTS -

Navy's Big Runs Lifts Mids to Star Game Victory



Navy's 59-54 victory is the team's seventh straight Star Game victory over Army. Navy's record moves to 18-9. U. S. Naval Academy photo.

ANNAPOLIS, Md. -- The Navy men's basketball team went on a 22-2 run over a five-minute, 34-second span in the second half, then held off an Army rally to grab a 59-54 decision in front of a sold-out ravenous crowd of 5,710 fans at Alumni Hall. The win was Navy's seventh straight Star Game victory and moves Navy to 18-9 overall and 7-5 in the Patriot League. Army falls to 8-18 overall and 4-8 in the league standings.

For the sixth straight season, the two teams split the series with Army winning the first contest and Navy winning the second match-up, the Star Game.

"Obviously, the traditions and history of this game speaks for itself. It's a great rivalry between institutions," said Navy head coach Billy Lange, who improved to 5-0 in Star Games. "It's a great victory for our program, this team and this institution. We have to put it behind us now and get ready for American on Wednesday night."

The Mids trailed 17-15 at halftime and 26-20 moments into the second half, before embarking on a 22-2 run. The run was fueled by Chris Harris, who scored 10 points in the run. During the run, Harris connected on a pair of three-pointers and freshman Jordan Sugars converted a four-point play to give the Mids their largest lead of the game at 42-28 with 10:16 to play in the contest.

However, Army didn't fold and rallied with a 16-6 spurt to cut the lead to 48-44 with 2:55 to play. The Black Knights cut the lead to two on two separate occasions, the last time coming at 53-51 on a Marcus Nelson lay-up with 1:09 to play.

On Navy's next possession and with the shot clock at four, Adam Teague hit his only shot of the game (he finished 1-of-4), a three-pointer from the corner, to bump the lead back to five and Navy would hit three-of-four free throws in the final 25 seconds to top the Black Knights, 59-54.

"We practice that every day and I wasn't worried about how many shots I got. I was just worried about winning the game," said Teague. "I told O.J. (Avworo) with about 15 minutes left that we just need to win this game. It didn't really matter how. If the shot came in the flow of the game, it's a good shot. It just happened that it came late in the contest."

Teague's shot was the eventual game-winning shot, and he has had a knack this year for hitting big shots late in games.

"It feels good as a senior to make that shot, but I don't really look at it that way (in terms of a game-winning shot)," said Teague. "It's just as important to come down on the other end and get a stop."

"It does feel pretty good to get four Star Game wins in four years," added Teague. The two teams played a defensive first half, with Army jumping out to a 14-4 lead with 12:06 to play. However, the Black Knights would not make a field goal for the rest of the half and would have to settle for a 17-15 halftime lead. The two teams combined to shoot just 12-of-45 (.267) from the field and commit 26 turnovers.

Navy's 15 first-half points were the ninth fewest in a game since the 1951-52 season and the second lowest in Alumni Hall history.

"It was just tight play with bad offense and good defense in the first half," said Lange. "I thought our energy in the first half was where it needed to be, but the composure and poise wasn't what it needed to be. We made some adjustments and had a pretty good second half."

Harris, who had 14

of his game-high 17 points in the second half, said Navy's offense got untracked in the second half.

"I don't think we did anything different. As a team, we ran a much better offense in the second half, and they took us out of what we wanted to do in the first half," said Harris. "We just got flowing and started getting good looks."

The Mids finished the game 19-of-51 (.373) from the field and was 6-of-20 (.300) from the three-point line. Navy was 15-of-23 (.652) from the free throw line and committed 18 turnovers and was outrebounded, 39-37.

Kaleo Kina scored 14 points with eight rebounds, four steals and three assists. Mark Veazey had eight points and six rebounds and Sugars added seven points, including a pair of three-pointers. O.J. Avworo had a strong floor game with four points, six rebounds and four assists.

"Sugars is a very confident kid and this is a great time for him to step up and come on," said Lange. "It happened the last time we played Army (13 pts., eight rebounds) and it gave him great confidence. He gives us a good scoring punch coming off the bench."

Army shot 20-of-55 (.364) from the field and was 8-of-23 (.348) from the free throw line. The Black Knights were 6-of-9 (.667) from the free throw line and had 21 turnovers. Navy has now forced 20 or more turnovers in three straight games.



Running Just for Kicks

An HT-18 defender tries to chase down a player from VT-2 before he can pass the ball. This Feb. 23 Captain's Cup soccer game ended in a 1-1 tie and marked the last day of the regular season. The tournament starts Wed., Feb. 25. U. S. Navy photo by 2nd Lt. Nicholas Uzelac.