

# Whiting Tower

NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.

"THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT NAVAL AIR COMPLEX"

Vol. 65 No. 10

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

## Bridges to Relieve Marcell as CO of VT-3

By Ens. Andrew Stephenson

Cmdr. Jody G. Bridges will relieve Lt. Col. Christopher Marcell as the commanding officer of Training Squadron THREE (VT-3), Friday, Mar. 20 at 2 p.m. in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Atrium (Bldg. 1417).



Lt. Col. Christopher Marcell

dard for VT-3, the first and only Navy joint primary flight training squadron. Bridges will transfer command to Lt. Col. George K. Hobson upon completion of his tour as commanding officer of the squadron.



Cmdr. Jody Bridges

During Marcell's 28-month tour

The change of command ceremony is a time honored tradition that allows the entire command to witness the transfer of authority from one officer to another. It is uncommon in most military commands for leadership to transfer from an Air Force officer to a Navy officer, but is the stan-

first as executive officer and then commanding officer, the Red Knights flew more than 55,000 mishap-free flight hours and produced more than 700 Air Force, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard and international flight training graduates. Under his tenure time-to-train was re-

duced by ten percent and overall student production was increased by one-hundred fifteen percent making VT-3 the top squadron in operations efficiency. His leadership and commitment to safety inspired the squadron to earn the 2007 Chief of Naval Operations Naval Aviation Safety Award.

Marcell's career spans approximately 20 years and includes a tour of duty overseas in the United Kingdom as well as tours in Mississippi, North Carolina, Colorado, and Whiting Field. He is a command pilot with more than  
- (Cont. on Page 2)

## Winters Resigns From Navy Secretary Post As Planned

From the Department of Defense

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The 74th Secretary of the Navy, Donald C. Winter, resigned his office March 13 as planned. Winter had agreed to remain in office until March 13 to ease the transition of the Department of Defense.

"As I relinquish my duties as Secretary of the Navy, I count myself blessed for having had the opportunity to serve as your Secretary," Winter said in a message to the Navy and Marine Corps. "No period in my professional life can compare to the experiences that I have had in this position."

Winter became the Secretary of the Navy on Jan. 3, 2006. During his tenure, Winter focused on three priorities: prosecuting the war against terrorist enemies in Iraq and Afghanistan; taking care of wounded Sailors, Marines and their families; and building the future fleet. Additionally, he carried out far-reaching acquisition reforms, with an emphasis on rebuilding an acquisition corps of professionals within the department, demanding accountability, and insisting on a systems engineering approach to acquisitions.

Under Winter's leadership, the Department of the Navy strove to maintain a balance of environmental stewardship while preserving the professional training requirements of the Navy and Marine Corps. The importance of these efforts was recognized by the Supreme Court in a precedent setting opinion. Winter also enhanced the Navy's role in missile defense, codified policies to leverage special operations capabilities in the Navy and Marine Corps, and increased the department's focus on intelligence collection and analysis.

"Every time I meet with Sailors and Marines, I come away impressed by the tremendous capability and flexibility of our warfighters to accomplish the mission, no matter what the challenge," he said. "I am honored to have served you as your Secretary. Thank you for your service to our nation."

BJ Penn will be the acting Secretary of the Navy until the U.S. Senate confirms a nominee chosen by President Barack Obama.



The 74th Secretary of the Navy, Donald C. Winter, resigned his office March 13 as planned. Winter had agreed to remain in office until March 13 to ease the transition of the Department of Defense. U. S. Navy file photo.

# Sailors Help Local Family VT-3 Change of Command

- (Cont. from Page 1)



Sailors stationed at commands aboard Naval Air Station Whiting Field help clean up areas of the Garvin residence. Photo courtesy of Covenant Hospice.

By 2nd Lt. Nicholas Uzelac

A team of 11 volunteers from Naval Air Station Whiting Field devoted their time Friday, Feb. 6 to cleaning up of a local family's house. Their efforts not only brightened up the homestead, but the couple's day as well.

The group put in nearly two work weeks of effort during the day with 79 man-hours of work. Tasks accomplished included: pressure washing the outside of the entire house, taking five truckloads of trash to the dump, and taking down sides of a caving in roof on a shed. The volunteers even went as far as to gain authorization from the Fire Department through Hospice / United Way to build a bonfire in the backyard to burn termite infested wood, brush, and leaves.

The project was originally started several months earlier as part of the October 2008 United Way "Day of Caring" event. Three NASWF personnel showed up for the yard work and cleanup of the Garvin family household. After working all day the three, Air Traffic Controller Second Class Dustin Surrat, Air Traffic Controller Second Class Christopher Duffie and Air Traffic Controller Third Class Brandon Smith, realized that there was still much more work to be done which lead them to contact Aviation Boatswain's Mate First Class Richard Manning, who serves as the base's volunteer coordinator.

Manning made several phone calls and after some coordination he had the stage set for part two of the cleaning which promised to be much larger in scale than the first. Early on Feb. 6 Manning and one of the original three arrived at the Garvin house. This time, however, they were armed with 9 more motivated volunteers.

"I have never seen a team handle business the way I saw it done that day," said Manning. "They really came together and got a lot of work done."

The Garvin were extremely grateful for all the help that they were receiving often talking to the volunteers and even bringing out lunch for them.

"It was nice to help the couple knowing they really needed it. Mr. Garvin was in his late 80's in age and had seven strokes," Manning said. "We all enjoyed talking to them and I think it even motivated us to work harder."

Covenant Hospice, which helped coordinate the efforts, was equally grateful to the Whiting Team, and emphasized that it isn't just one event, but year round volunteer efforts from the base that makes such an impact to the Covenant community.

"Covenant Hospice is so thankful and blessed with ALL that Whiting Field continues to do for us," said Sally Cary, Community Educator Milton Office Covenant Hospice

In addition to the ones mentioned above, the volunteers included: Aviation Boatswain's Mate First Class Joseph Stager, Chief Naval Air Crewman Dustin Martinson, Naval Air Crewman First Class Logan Robertson, Fire Control Technician Derek Carpenter, Aviation Boatswain's Mate Second Class James Bowles, Naval Air Crewman Second Class Kristopher Sellmeyer, Naval Air Crewman Second Class Nicholas Borah, Aviation Boatswain's Mate Second Class Timothy Williams, and Aviation Boatswain's Mate Third Class Jerry Owens.

2,900 flight hours logged in diverse aircraft. As an F-15E "Strike Eagle" pilot he amassed 200 combat flight hours in 65 combat missions. Marcell has earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for Heroism, the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Aerial Achievement Medal.



Lt. Col. George Hobson

Bridges takes command of the squadron after serving a tour as the executive officer. He reported to the command in Aug. 2007 and is a 19 year naval aviator. He has flown numerous patrols as a Patrol Plane Commander and Mission Commander flying the P-3C Orion, including missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and launched more than 6,000 aircraft while attached to the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) as the Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer, Air Department Administrative Office and Hanger Deck Division Officer.

Brig. Gen. Darryl Roberson, Commander 325th Fighter Wing, will act as the guest speaker for the event.

## FELLOW EMPLOYEES NEED HELP

Ms. Eva Leatherwood, Equal Employment Specialist at CNRSE FDD Pensacola office, has been approved for the Leave Recipient Program. Leatherwood will be required to be out of work until approximately April 6, 2009 and has exhausted all of her leave.

Ms. Erica Milton, Program Analyst of CNRSE Family Readiness Program at NAS Jacksonville, has been approved for the Leave Recipient Program. Ms. Milton will be required to be out of work for approximately six to eight weeks and will exhaust all of her leave very soon.

Anyone wishing to donate annual leave under this program may contact Jim Harbaugh at CNRSE DSN 942-0041, or Commercial (904)542-0041. Thank you for your participation.

The following forms would need to be completed by the donor - OPM 630-A Inside Agency (Anyone employed in Department of Navy) or OPM 630-B Outside Agency (Employed other than Department of Navy).

## News and Notes

**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](mailto:bassfishing@unitedwaysrc.org). Rusty Whitfield will be the premiere performer for the family day at the park.

**On Golden Pond** - The play, "On Golden Pond," made famous by the movie with Katherine Hepburn and Henry Fonda, will be presented by the Panhandle Community Theatre March 26, 27 and 28 at the Milton High School auditorium. Cost is \$12 with a portion of the proceeds to be presented to the Pace H. S. and Milton H. S. drama departments. The play is a fun, sentimental look at growing older and the importance of family. Call (850) 450-2566 to make reservations or for more details.

**CHS Fun Run** - Central High School will host a 5 K Fun Run/Walk Saturday March 21 at the school. Advance registration is available until March 16 for \$20 and early registrants will receive a race T-shirt. Same day registration begins at 6 a.m. for \$25. Call 983-5640 for more information.

**Golf Tournament** - Training Air Wing FIVE will hold a golf tournament March 26 to support the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive. Forms can be picked up in the TW5 STUCON office. The deadline for registration is March 23.

**Softball Tournament** - NAS Whiting Field Military Appreciation Softball Tournament. \$150.00 entry fee per team. T-shirts for first place team. Don't miss out on the Home-Run Derby. Teams must be registered by Monday, April 20th for gate access. Attached is the flier. Call or e-mail Todd Mooneyham (MWR, Sports Coordinator) at 850-623-7502 ext.23 / [todd.mooneyham@navy.mil](mailto:todd.mooneyham@navy.mil) for all of the details (home-runs, bats, cleats,...etc.) This Tournament is open to everyone including civilian teams.

**Universal and Disneyworld Ticktes** - ITT now has the free universal tickets & Disneyland tickets free tickets for active duty, reservist, or retirees, and we also have the family and friends tickets. For more information contact : 623-7032 Monday-Friday 9-5 and Saturday 9-12.



### A Fond Farewell

Capt. Enrique Sadsad, Naval Air Station Whiting Field Commanding Officer, presents a Letter of Appreciation to Marquita Rector. Rector is leaving Whiting Field to pursue another opportunity at Sauley after working at the base for more than 25 years. U. S. Navy photo by Jay Cope



### Recognizing the Fleet's Finest

Doug Kelley, a Public Works Department Employee receives a Meritorious Service Award citation from Capt. Enrique Sadsad on behalf of the Civil Air Patrol. He received the award for his work as the Group 1 command from 2001 to 2008. Photo by 2nd Lt. Nicholas Uzelac.

**Sesame Street Special** - "Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change" will air nationwide on PBS at 8 pm. This primetime special, presented by Sesame Workshop and featuring Queen Latifah and John Mayer, tells the stories of service members returning home with injuries-both visible and invisible-and explores the heroic struggles their families face on the path to finding a "new normal." With help from Elmo, Rosita and their Sesame Street friends, "Coming Home" gives voice to the children as they play a central role in the family's adjustment process, and encourages them to be what they are: kids. Check out "Coming Home" on April 1st, 2009 on PBS at 8 p.m. Eastern and Pacific, 7 p.m. Central and Mountain Time (check your local listings).

**Golf Tournament** - The NASWF Leadership Council Golf Tournament will be held on Fri, 24 Apr 09, at the NAS Whiting Field Golf Course. Tee-off time will be at 1000. This is a 4-man scramble, \$120.00/team. Prizes for will be given to the top 3 teams, longest drive and closest to the pin. Mulligans - 3 for \$5.00 per person. Tee-Buster - \$3.00 per person. Fee includes green fees, cart and light lunch. Pre-pay or pay the day of the tournament. Contact LTJG Sirjoo, (850) 449-0360, or ABHC Perry, (850) 623-7220, for reservations. Pre-pay or pay the day of the tournament.

**Animal Adopt-A-Thon** - Santa Rosa County Animal Services with sponsors Mediacom, Soft Rock 94.1 and WXBM 102.7 will hold its 5th annual adopt-a-thon on Saturday, April 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the shelter located at 4451 Pine Forest Road in Milton. For this special event, the adoption fee is \$15 for cats and \$20 for dogs with a spay/neuter voucher provided at no cost for any unaltered animal. Attendees who wish to adopt a new pet and currently have pets at home should bring proof of rabies vaccination for each animal. Pets on leashes are welcome to attend. Free food, local rescue organizations, vendors, children's activities, contests and drawings will be offered during the adopt-a-thon. For more information call (850) 983-4680.

**Sunset Stampede** - The Zoo at Northwest Florida's 1st Annual Sunset Stampede 5K Run/Walk will be held on Sat, 2 May 09 at Navarre Beach. The race begins at 6 p.m. with a Kids Fun Run beginning at 5 p.m. The first 500 people to sign up get a t-shirt. Cost: \$20.00 thru 4 Apr, \$25.00 after. See [www.zoosunsetstampede.org](http://www.zoosunsetstampede.org) online for more information.

## Upcoming Events

Mar 20, 1400 - VT-3 Change of Command - Atrium

Mar 27, 1300 - HT-28 Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Mar 28, 1000 - NMCRS 5K Run/Walk - NASWF

Mar 31 to Apr 5, All Day - SRC Fair - Fairgrounds

Apr 2 All Day - RADM Alexander (CNRSE) Visit

Apr 9 1300 - HT-28 Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

# Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

## **Your Insurance Needs - Thursday, March 19, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm**

A 60 – 90 minute interactive program suitable for all audiences, designed to develop knowledge and skills that will enable participants to make informed consumer decisions on the basic types of insurance, and to determine their personal need for life insurance. 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 - Monday, March 23, from 8:00 – 10:00 am**

“Is it worth your while to invest your time and effort in searching and applying for a Federal Job?” If your answer is “yes”, then you need to attend this class in order to learn how to prepare the best application possible. You will learn how to read an announcement, analyze core competencies for language, analyze vacancy 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

## **Consumer Awareness - Tuesday, March 24, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm**

According to the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs, fraud cost consumers over 40 billion dollars every year. We are constantly approached by people trying to take our money. Some offers are truly fraudulent and are illegal, most however, are simply rip-offs and misrepresentations. Don't be a victim! Class will be held in the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

## **Car Buying Strategies - Tuesday, March 31, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm**

Many people begin the car buying process by visiting a dealership, which should be one of the last things you do. Come find out why. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

## **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.

# HT-8 Spouses Support SR Kids House

“We supported another Child Advocacy Center before and we're so excited to know that there's one here locally. We just love what they do,” said Lauren Stern of the HT-8 Spouses Club of Whiting Field.

On March 6, 2009 Lauren Stern presented Santa Rosa Kids House Interim Co-Executive Director Cathy Powers-Sears a check for \$2,000. The group raised funds last October by accepting donations for baskets filled with various items and chose the Santa Rosa Kids House as their beneficiary. Stern received a tour of the House and was impressed by the Child Advocacy Center model.

The Santa Rosa Kids House is an advocacy center serving children who are victims of abuse, whether it be physical, neglect, or sexual. Several agencies in the House combine efforts to help heal and prevent child abuse in Santa Rosa County. The children are served by the Child Protection Team comprised of trained professionals who provide physical examinations to the children. The Department of Children and Families and a representative of the Sheriff's Office investigate allegations of abuse. The Guardian ad Litem are court-appointed personnel who accompany the children to court and provide any other needs they may have. The State Attorney's Office prosecutes the cases and Lutheran Counseling Services helps begin the healing process. Additionally, the Santa Rosa Kids House is the only advocacy center in Florida to house the Attorney General's Cyber Crime Unit designed to track and arrest those who operate in child pornography and child trafficking through the internet.

The Santa Rosa Kids House is a non-profit agency that operates strictly on grants on donations.



Lauren Stern presents Santa Rosa Kids' House Interim Co-Executive Director Cathy Powers-Sears a donation for \$2,000 on behalf of the HT-8 Spouses Club. Photo courtesy of Santa Rosa Kids' House.

## Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Program Authorized

With Congressional authorization in Public Law 110-417, the Department of Defense is implementing the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Program, providing resources and assistance to spouses of active duty services members, Guard and Reserve with a spouse on orders for one year, supporting their pursuit of a successful, long-term, portable career.

This centralized, virtual program, accessed through Military OneSource, will provide counseling and funding, up to \$6,000, to assist with licensure, certification or education opportunities leading to portable employment opportunities.

- A spouse will call the Military OneSource Center (1.800.342.9647) and speak with a Career and Education Consultant.
- The Military One Source Career and Education Consultant will assist the spouse in selecting a career goal and entering a Career Plan into the online system "My Career Advancement Account."
- Upon approval of the spouse's Career Plan for education, training, certification or licensure, Department of Defense will provide direct payment to the Payee (school, institution, or program) through the designated government Portal.
- The spouse will report back to Military OneSource upon completion of the Plan and receipt of employment.

This Department of Defense funded program will be available April 2009. Program specifics are available for your review at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

### **Weekly Tri-Care Notice**

#### **DOD RELEASES REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE TRICARE PHARMACY CONTRACT**

The Department of Defense is currently requesting proposals for the TRICARE Pharmacy Contract (TPharm). This contract will consolidate the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP) contract and the TRICARE Retail Pharmacy contract into a single contract.

In order to provide a prescription drug benefit that meets patients' needs in an effective, efficient and fiscally responsible manner, the new contract contains provisions to measure and assess beneficiary satisfaction and financial incentives to encourage maximum contractor performance in controlling costs.

## DoD Provides Guidance on Travel to Mexico

Due to the increased violence of Mexican drug trafficking organizations along the Mexican border regions, Navy Region Southeast, per guidance provided by the Department of State, the Department of Defense (Northern Command and U.S. Fleet Forces Command), has issued a travel advisory for U. S. Navy active duty military, civilians, and contractors.

As a matter of personal safety for region personnel and their families, the following safeguards have been instituted:

Navy Petty Officer First Class or below will need a leave or liberty chit signed by a Commander (O-5) or above in the traveler's chain of command to authorize travel to Mexico.

Navy Chief Petty Officers and above must notify their chain of command of intent to travel to Mexico.

All Navy military, civilian, and contract employees must have completed the Level I Antiterrorism Training within the previous 12 months.

The training is available at [www.at-awarenews.org](http://www.at-awarenews.org) or from a certified Level II Antiterrorism Officer.

All Navy military personnel on liberty or leave in Mexico must have in their possession the following numbers in case of emergency:

American Counsel General

At Ciudad Juarez: Avenida Lopez - 924-N Tele-

- (Cont. on Page 7)



**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.**

## NAS WHITING FIELD TRAFFIC SAFETY TRAINING SCHEDULE

### 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.



## *The Great American Clean-Up*

*Ready to pitch in and help your  
Community?*

**Saturday, April 18, 2009**

**8 am through Noon**

### Meeting Spots

- Milton - Milton High School**
- Pace - Pace Assembly of God**
- Navarre - NatureWalk Park**
- Avalon - Christian Life Church**
- Munson - Blackwater Baptist Church**
- Floridale - Bliss Way**
- Bagdad—Bagdad Museum (Church St)**

*For more information call 623-1930*



## CFC Lists To Be Printed Free With Your Help

The EscaRosa Combined Federal Campaign is aiming to have the 2009 Charity Lists printed for free with the help of Federal employees in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. How is this possible, you might be wondering? The answer is, GO GREEN!



In 2008, the CFC program began testing the recycling of used ink and toner cartridges from selected local federal offices, not only to help the environment but also as an effort to save the campaign money. In less than a year, over \$2,000 was saved by turning the previously discarded ink toners and cartridges into cash. Using various national recycling companies, the money was returned to the expense account which helped reduced the campaign's administrative cost.

“We have only begun to scratch the surface of the recycling benefits.” said Ron Denson, CFC Director, during the Local Federal Coordinating Committee (LFCC) meeting held at Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) in February of 2009.

“With base-wide support of this initiative we recognize that we can continue to drive  
- (Cont. on Page 7)

## CFC Goes Green

- (Cont. from Page 6)

down our administrative operating costs, which in turn puts the maximum amount of money in to the hands of the non-profits that CFC donors designate their money to. And on top of that, we're helping the environment. It's a win, win situation!"

A meeting was held onboard Naval Air Station Whiting Field Thursday, March 12 with base representatives to ramp up the "Go Green" program. Soon there will be drop boxes placed in several locations on base so that personnel can drop off their expended toner cartridges and cell phones to assist the CFC in their efforts.

During the February LFCC meeting, the local oversight committee members, including CAPT Markus Hannan, COS, NETC, and other senior representatives of the Federal Government, witnessed the benefits of the campaign when they saw the office supplies expenses during the 2008 campaign cost only \$47 visé the \$1,500 originally budgeted.

LFCC Vice Chairperson CAPT William Reavey, CO, NASP stated, "Anything we can do for the CFC program in an effort to help reduce administrative cost is extremely critical. Especially in these difficult economic times which affect all of us, particularly the non-profits which rely on the CFC program in their fundraising initiatives."

With more command involvement in the initiative this year, the committee agrees that recycling money has the potential to pay for the printing of the CFC Charity Lists, which is among the largest single expense of the program.

So, how can you help save the planet and give more to charity in 2009? If you see a recycling kiosks around base, drop your personal or office ink and toner cartridge in and we will collect them. If your office is not currently participating in an ink and toner recycling program, have your supply/purchasing officials contact the local CFC office at (850) 452-2029 or email [cfcasst@escarosacfc.org](mailto:cfcasst@escarosacfc.org) for more information.

## DoD Guidance on Mexico

- (Cont. from Page 5)

phone (011) (52)  
(656) 227-3317

At Guadalajara: Progreso 175 Telephone (011) (52) (333) 268-2100

Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Corpus Christi - (361) 961-2918

U.S. Border Patrol Texas Marfa Sector - (432) 729-5200 or 1-866-581-7549

Rio Grande Valley Sector - (956) 289-4800

Laredo Sector - (956) 764-3200

Del Rio Sector - (830) 778-7000

El Paso Sector - (915) 834-8350

Local Command Duty Officer Telephone Number

All Navy military personnel will use the buddy system which includes any individual, military or civilian, over the age of 18. The name of the individual will be on the request chit.

All Navy military personnel will receive a country-specific (Mexico) security brief from their local Navy security department or NCIS office for the area(s) of travel prior to the start of leave or liberty.

All Navy military personnel will register online with the American Consulate prior to travel to Mexico at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/index.aspx>.

Navy active duty military personnel who reside in Mexico or have immediate family (father, mother, brother, sister) living in the northern border areas of Mexico are not restricted in traveling, but are

## Scammers Exploit Confusion Over Stimulus Bill



**Pensacola, Fla. (March 13, 2009)** – Your Better Business Bureau is warning the public to be extremely cautious of companies that are offering "free" advice on how to get government grants. Because of the recently passed stimulus package and other actions taken by President Obama, Web sites are claiming they can help consumers

easily get government grants to pay bills or get out of debt.

Contrary to such claims, the federal government does not award grants to help consumers pay general debt and complaints to BBB show that people who sought free advice were ultimately charged as much as \$69.95 every month on their credit or debit card.

Immediately following the approval of the \$787 billion stimulus package, Web searches for the word "stimulus" returned sponsored link sites like [officialstimuluschecks.com](http://officialstimuluschecks.com) and [ObamaStimulusGrant.net](http://ObamaStimulusGrant.net), in addition to many news stories and Web pages discussing the bill. Ads for grant schemes used enticing testimonials such as, "I got my stimulus check in the mail in less than 30 days..."

Ads have also popped up on Facebook and other popular sites, directing the public to Web sites such as [www.davidgetsgreen.com](http://www.davidgetsgreen.com), set up to look like a blog written by someone sharing the secret of how they received \$12,000 in government grants.

BBB has received hundreds of complaints

- (Cont. on Page 8)

requested to inform their chain of command of travel plans and provide contact information.

Family members, DON civilian employees, and contractors are highly encouraged to abide by this travel advisory. Region personnel are advised to cooperate fully with official police or military checkpoints when traveling on Mexican highways. Personnel who visit the U.S.-border region, including the cities of Ciudad Juarez, Nuevo Laredo, Nogales, Matamoros, and Monterrey should remain alert and be aware of their surroundings at all times. These cities have been designated by the U.S. State Department as "areas of concern."

For questions about traveling to Mexico, please contact your local Security/Force Protection Office, or the local NCIS Office.

# Scammers Exploit

- (Cont. from Page 7)

from consumers who went to Web sites such as www.federalgovernmentgrantsolutions.com that sold information on how to get grant money from the government. Two Las Vegas based companies, Grant Instructor and Raven Media have set up dozens of Web sites and received 409 and 295 complaints respectively from consumers across the U.S. and both have earned an F grade from BBB.

Before paying any money for assistance in earning government grants, BBB offers the following advice:

- While it's true that the Federal government does give out billions of dollars in grant money every year, most grants are given to help students pay for college or for specifically defined reasons such as for research or to businesses in particular industries.
- There's no reason to pay for software or guides when applying for government grants. Such information is already available for free on federal government Web sites including: www.grants.gov, www.Studentaid.ed.gov, www.gov-benefits.gov and www.sba.gov.
- Always check out a business' BBB Reliability Report™, available free-of-charge at bbb.org, before giving out any bank account or credit card information.

Information may have changed or web sites have been deleted so it is always a good idea to check with the Better Business Bureau before trusting an online source for government stimulus funds.

# SR County to Hold Passport Fair

The Santa Rosa Clerk of Court's Office is hosting a Passport Fair in Milton, FL, on Saturday, March 28, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. to provide passport information to U.S. citizens and to accept passport applications.

The Santa Rosa Clerk's Office is joining the Department of State in celebrating "Passport Day in the USA", a national passport acceptance and outreach event.

Beginning June 1, 2009, U.S. citizens must present a passport book and/or other travel documents approved by the U.S. government to enter the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda at land borders and sea ports of entry.

Information on the cost and how to apply for a passport book and/or a passport card is available at travel.state.gov. U.S. citizens may also obtain passport information by phone, in English and Spanish, by calling the National Passport Information Center toll-free at 1-877-487-2778.



**NMCRS 2009 FUND DRIVE 5K RUN/WALK SPONSORED BY VT-3**

**March 28, 2009 at 10:00 AM NAS WHITING FIELD\***

Transportation can be arranged for those traveling from NAS Pensacola/Corry Station to NAS Whiting

**Bring the kids! Hamburger and dog cookout immediately following!**

**All Jumpers will be set up for the kids to enjoy!**

**Donations are used to provide interest-free loans and/or grants to service members\*, both active and retired, and their families when in financial need or faced with an emergency situation. \*(regardless of Rank/Rate/Branch of Service)**

**Entry fee:**  
\$15.00 minimum donation per person

**Prizes:**  
Trophies will be presented to the 1st place winners from each age group.

**Age Groups:**

- Under 18
- 18-30
- 30+

**Bring the kids! Hamburger and dog cookout immediately following!**

**All Jumpers will be set up for the kids to enjoy!**

\* Pre-registration is highly encouraged.  
\* Check in will start at 08:15 at the pavilion parking lot  
\* All individuals with base access/decals are invited to participate



## Retaining Our Best and Brightest

Above: ABH2 Nicholas Evans reenlists for six years with his family. Lt. j.g. Jitindra Sirjoo presents the spouse appreciation certificate and recited the reenlistment oath for Evans to repeat.

Below: Lt. Michael McDonough presents AC2 Vanessa Contreras her Honorable Discharge certificate during her reenlistment ceremony at the Operations Auditorium. Contreras reenlisted for six years. U. S. Navy photos by Jay Cope.

