

Whiting Tower

NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.

"THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT NAVAL AIR COMPLEX"

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MCPON Visits NAS Whiting Field Sailors



By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Whiting Field Sailors (NASWF) were surprised and excited Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick West visited the base. The March 31 visit was part of a tour of Gulf Coast Navy installations he was visiting to familiarize himself with those commands.

West visited with NASWF command leadership, held a short breakfast meeting with the Chiefs' Mess, met with some civilians for the base, and most importantly, held an all-hands call in the base auditorium.

"It was really pretty cool," said Air Traffic Controller First Class (AS/SW) Aritha Gregory. "It's nice that he took time out of his busy schedule to come here, and it was awesome how often he emphasized that people matter."

AC1 Aritha Gregory gets a high-five from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West. Gregory and other Sailors of the Year from NAS Whiting Field and its tenant commands met the MCPON before the all-hands call during his March 31 visit. U. S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

The MCPON said several times that he was there to represent the Sailors and wanted to hear their questions and concerns.

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Whiting Field Celebrates Women's History

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Beginning in 1978 and every year after, our country has recognized the advances and accomplishments of women in our society. Since that time, we have seen women break barriers and achieve new heights in every facet of life including government, the sciences, the military services, education and so many more.

Women's history celebrations pay tribute to those who pave the way while recognizing that the women of today are not only the beneficiaries of those trail blazers but those who must carry the torch for future generations.

Naval Air Station Whiting Field celebrated Women's History Month with a luncheon event March 25. The event, coordinated by the First Class Petty Officers' Association, featured musical entertainment, introductory and closing remarks by the base Command Master Chief CMDCM Hari Singh, and special comments by the guest speaker, Cmdr. Lynne Chapman, Whiting Field's executive officer.

While Chapman disputes prominence or importance to give such a presentation, her career of Naval service and time spent as an aviator give a unique insight on the removal of barriers to women's service in the military over time.

Chapman was a member of the 10th Naval Academy class to include women. She began her career during



Cmdr. Lynne Chapman, Naval Air Station Whiting Field Executive Officer, serves as the guest speaker for the base's Women's History Month celebration. She reminded women of the achievements of women in the military and that they can achieve their dreams. U.S. Navy photo by Ens. Andrew Stephenson.

a time when women were pushed to assume restricted line positions and were not able to assume combat roles. She has since been the officer-in-charge of an operational detachment flying missions in combat areas supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Her message throughout the speech was, "Yes, you
- (Cont. on Page 5)

Environmental Division Works to Reduce Risk of Wild Fires

By Carrie Gindl, Environmental Division Intern

Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Public Works department has been conducting prescribed burns on base property and outlying fields since November.

The reasons for these controlled burns vary with each location, but all help reduce the chance that wild fires caused by other means will occur or get out of control. Some of the other primary reasons are to reduce fuel loads, ensure the continuation of fire-dependent plant and animal species in the area, and to enhance habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species such as the gopher tortoise, reticulated flatwoods salamander, white-top pitcher plant, parrot pitcher plant, and the longleaf pine ecosystem.

The Natural Resources division of Public Works consists of Natural Resources manager, Ron Cherry, and Student Conservation Association (SCA) associate, Carrie Gindl. Additional support and equipment were provided by Naval Air Station Pensacola Public Works department foresters Mark Gibson and Michael Hardy. Pensacola's SCA associate Chris Herbst is also a member of the Navy prescribed burn team.

This team spent long hours, months in advance, planning and training for these prescribed burns. Preparation for these burns began back in June and July with bush-hogging, Gyrotrac work, and firebreak establishment with a forestry crawler tractor and disk. In addition to firebreaks, burn plans were written specifically for each burn. Each plan included maps of the area, reasons for the burn, acceptable weather conditions, lists of equipment, and important contacts to include fire departments, Florida



Environmental Division Intern Carrie Gindl starts a controlled fire of underbrush at Navy Outlying Field Holley. Photo courtesy of Environmental Division.

- (Cont. on Page 6)

EMS Team Audits Environmental Needs at NASWF

All Navy installations are required to implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) by Sept. 30, 2009. This mandate is directed by Executive Order 13423 and OP-NAVINST 5090.1C.

An effective EMS encompasses several key component actions. It must:

- Integrate key environmental considerations related to the work that we do here at NAS Whiting Field into day-

**Naval Air Station Whiting Field
Environmental Policy Statement**

Naval Air Station Whiting Field recognizes environmental excellence as a principal factor in successful mission accomplishment. NAWF established a goal of protecting, preserving and conserving the environment through active stewardship and advocacy for our unique natural resources. To accomplish this goal, NASWF collectively commits to prevention of pollution and compliance with environmental laws and regulations through a process of continual improvement. The following principles will guide NASWF's efforts:

- Evaluate practices and develop objectives, targets, and procedures to meet established goals and mitigate environmental impacts.
- Conduct annual management reviews to assess the achievement of objectives and targets, and to determine the effectiveness of the station's environmental management system as a process for continual improvement.
- Communicate NASWF's Environmental Policy to base personnel and educate them in their roles and responsibilities as stewards of the environment.
- Increase community awareness of environmental programs through the use of the NASWF web site.

to-day management decision making;

- Consistently address environmental issues before they become problems; and
- Establish measurable environmental objectives that lead to continual improvement.

In real-world terminology, state what you are going to do, and do what you said you would do..

The NASWF implementation team has determined that the significant environmental aspects that need to be addressed first are:

- Hazardous material usage/tracking;
- Solid waste management/recycling; and
- Hazardous material spill prevention.

Future articles will expand on the progress of all three aspects. Since EMS is a continual improvement process, once objectives for these aspects are achieved, additional aspects will be examined. Any ideas for environmental improvement on Station can be brought to the attention of the Public Works Environmental Manager (Mike Pattison, 623-7268 ext 3018).

In order to provide the most functional EMS, knowledge of the NASWF Environmental Policy (see insert) and how your job may impact the environment is required by all military, civilian, and contractor personnel on the Station. A mandatory EMS General Awareness Training is a requirement of all NASWF personnel. This training is a web-based (www.cnrse-ems.org/env-whitingfield/) PowerPoint presentation that should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Certificates of training completion must be printed and retained. An external audit of our EMS program is scheduled for the week of May 18 and auditors will be asking random personnel questions regarding our EMS and Environmental Policy.

News and Notes

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 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.

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



Steering Toward the Top Spot

Bill Lawson, NAS Whiting Field Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) director, awards Kathy and Larry Mizak a prize package for their winning entry in the contest to name the FFSC Newsletter. Their entry "The FFSC Compass" was chosen by a select panel of judges out of more than one hundred entries. The prize package was provided by the NAS Whiting Field Morale, Welfare and Recreation office.

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. 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, May 21 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 online for more information.

Country Fest - WXBM's Country Fest will serve as the National Military Appreciation Month kick off event! for the Pensacola Area. Come spend the day with Your Country 102.7 WXBM as we bring Country Fest to life in Pensacola at Five Flags Speedway. This all day family fun music festival features great music, vendors, activities, attractions and so much more! Gates open at 9am - show starts at 10am. Tickets are only \$25.00 for adults, children 12 are admitted free. Featuring Artisits Craig Morgan, James Otto and Whitney Duncan. For details call studios: 850-994-5357.

2009 Handbooks - The 2009 Consumer Action Handbooks Are In! This Handbook contains information on but not limited to: Being a Smarter Consumer, Filing a Consumer Complaint, Corporate Office Contact info of Automobile Manufacturers, Better Business Bureau Contacts, Corporate Consumer Contacts and much, much, more. Visit the Fleet & Family Support Center to pick up your free copy. Supplies are limited so pick up yours today.

Santa Rosa County Fair - The fair runs from Tuesday March 31 through Sunday April 5, with a theme of "A bounty of Treasures." It will feature local and national entertainers, contests, a "Forever Land" child area, a car show, and tons of food, animals, and a full seven-event professional rodeo. East Milton Recreational Park, 8604 Bobby Brown Road, Milton. For detailed daily event lists and additional information call (850)-623-1115 or visit www.santarosafair.org.



Recognizing the Navy's Finest

MA2 Eric Lutz receives the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal from Capt. Enrique Sadsad, commanding officer NAS Whiting Field. Lutz received the award in the conference room for the command and was accompanied by his wife Shelley. U. S. Navy photo by Ens. Andrew Stephenson.

Upcoming Events

Mar 31 to Apr 5, All Day - SRC Fair - Fairgrounds
Apr 2 All Day - Rear Adm. Alexander (CNRSE) Visit
Apr 9 0830 - Military Apprec. Day Procl - SRC Adm. Bldg.

Apr 9 1300 - HT-28 Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
Apr 18, All Day - SRC Great American Clean-up - Various
Apr 22, 1000 - Atrium Ribbon Cutting - Bldg 1417

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

Ten Steps to a Federal Job - Monday, April 6, from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

“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

Your Insurance Needs - Tuesday, April 7, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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.

Anger Management - Wednesday, April 8, from 1:-00 – 2:00 p.m.

Is anger affecting your health, your relationships or your work performance? Learn to understand the causes and effects of unhealthy anger and how to express and release that anger in a healthy way! Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Credit Management - Tuesday, April 14, from 9:-00 – 11:00 a.m.

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

Job Search Strategies - Monday, April 20, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Are you new to the area and having a hard time finding employment in this tough economy? In this informative class, we will give you several techniques and resources that will help you with your job. Bring a copy of your resume for review.

Developing Your Spending Plan - Tuesday, April 21, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

This class is not designed to tell you what to do with your money; this class will challenge you to think before you spend. There is no patent on the “right” way to handle your money, but there are better ways to get your dollar’s worth. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

BBB® Warns of Phony Letters Scam in Florida

Pensacola, Fla. (April 2, 2009) – Your Better Business Bureau® has received reports of letters showing up in northwest Florida mailboxes that are supposedly from Publishers Clearing House, claiming that they have won a grand prize drawing of \$1 million. Although the letters and checks look official, the recipient is the target of a scam making a sudden resurgence nationwide.

“Not surprisingly, the revival of this scam comes on the heels of the real Publishers Clearing House awarding a New Jersey woman \$5,000 a week for the rest of her life,” said Norman Wright, president and CEO of your BBB serving northwest Florida. “Scammers often take advantage of events in the news, such as Publishers Clearing House giving out a prize, knowing it’ll be on top of people’s minds.”

Victims receive a letter supposedly from Publishers Clearing House claiming that they’ve won \$1 million as the second place winner of a drawing sponsored by Reader’s Digest Magazine. The letter is accompanied by a check for as much as \$5,900 with instructions to call a Publishers Clear-



ing House representative. Victims are told that they must cash the check and then wire approximately \$4,000 to Publishers Clearing House in order to receive their prize. However, the check is fraudulent and money wired to the scammers cannot be recovered.

Since early March, reports of the Publishers Clearing House scam have come in from 20 states including Florida. Some have also reported receiving phone calls from scammers pretending to be with Publishers Clearing House.

While this scam predominantly takes advantage of individuals, business owners also need to be aware that their company’s name could potentially be used by fraudsters. The fraudulent checks sent to the supposed prize winners with the letter are copies of checks from legitimate businesses which have been stolen by the scammers. Businesses located in Alabama, California, Kansas, Washington and West Virginia have discovered that their checks—which included their name, address and even account number—were reproduced as part of the scam.

President Releases Women's History Proclamation

With passion and courage, women have taught us that when we band together to advocate for our highest ideals, we can advance our common well-being and strengthen the fabric of our Nation. Each year during Women's History Month, we remember and celebrate women from all walks of life who have shaped this great Nation. This year, in accordance with the theme, "Women Taking the Lead to Save our Planet," we pay particular tribute to the efforts of women in preserving and protecting the environment for present and future generations.

Ellen Swallow Richards is known to have been the first woman in the United States to be accepted at a scientific school. She graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1873 and went on to become a prominent chemist. In 1887, she conducted a survey of water quality in Massachusetts. This study, the first of its kind in America, led to the Nation's first state water-quality standards.

Women have also taken the lead throughout our history in preserving our



President Barack Obama

natural environment. In 1900, Maria Sanford led the Minnesota Federation of Women's Groups in their efforts to protect forestland near the Mississippi River, which eventually became the Chippewa National Forest, the first Congressionally mandated national forest. Marjory Stoneman Douglas dedicated her life to protecting and restoring the Florida Everglades. Her book, *The Everglades: Rivers of Grass*, published in 1947, led to the preservation of the Everglades as a National Park. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1993.

Rachel Carson brought even greater attention to the environment by exposing the dangers of certain pesticides to the environment and to human health. Her landmark 1962 book, *Silent Spring*, was fiercely criticized for its unconventional perspective. As early as 1963, however, President Kennedy acknowledged its importance and appointed a panel to investigate the book's findings. *Silent Spring* has emerged as a seminal work in environmen-

tal studies. Carson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously in 1980.

Grace Thorpe, another leading environmental advocate, also connected environmental protection with human well-being by emphasizing the vulnerability of certain populations to environmental hazards. In 1992, she launched a successful campaign to organize Native Americans to oppose the storage of nuclear waste on their reservations, which she said contradicted Native American principles of stewardship of the earth. She also proposed that America invest in alternative energy sources such as hydroelectricity, solar power, and wind power.

These women helped protect our environment and our people while challenging the status quo and breaking social barriers. Their achievements inspired generations of American women and men not only to save our planet, but also to overcome obstacles and pursue their interests and talents. They join a long and proud history of American women leaders, and this month we honor the contributions of all women to our Nation.

Women's History

- (Cont. from Page 1)

can!"

"I've been in the Navy for almost 23 years including my time at the Naval Academy. I look around at the advances that women have made in that time and I am amazed and excited at how far we've come. But I think that the greatest advance is in our vocabulary. Folks, I'm here to tell you that the word, can't, no longer exists," she said.

Chapman told a story about how the primary influence on her joining the Navy was not her pilot father, but her "sweet, quiet, unassuming" mother. When she was 13 years old, her mother stated that if she had it to do over again that she would have joined the military. This astounded the teen-aged Chapman and when she asked why, her mother said it was the only place where a woman could get equal pay for equal work.

This opened her eyes to the existence of gender inequality, and while her mother had her dreams stifled, she was determined not to let it happen to her

daughter, and so constantly supporter her dreams of flying.

"The history of women is being written every day. My mom was told 'No, you can't' and she listened. I was told 'No, you can't,' and I didn't listen. Today, women no longer hear 'You can't.' You can! You know you can. We can! We can serve. We can fight. We can run for the presidency! We are changing the vocabulary and in doing so, we are changing the world."

Her personal story, however, wasn't the only one she told. She also reminded the audience of Paratrooper Kellie McCoy. McCoy was 29 and it was only her third day in Iraq when her convoy ran into an ambush. She earned the Bronze Star with Combat "V" decoration for her role in breaking through the ambush and rescuing other trapped soldiers.

And she spoke of Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, who received the Silver Star, the first ever presented to a woman for combat in close quarters. She and her squad

leader cleared two trenches of enemy combatants with grenades and assault rifles during an ambush near Salman Pak, Iraq.

And finally, she talked about medic Monica Lin Brown who saved the lives of fellow soldiers by running through insurgent gunfire to fallen comrades and using her own body to shield wounded soldiers. She also earned the Silver Star.

"The point of it all is that the history of women has been written by folks just like you and me. Women who did not think they were special or important or inspirational. Women who were just doing their job, and who pushed the boundaries just a little bit and made it just a little easier for those that came after them," she said. "In such a short time, women have gone from being told 'No, you can't' to saying 'Yes, I can' - and from there to not saying anything at all - just doing it."

Chiefs Charged to Lead the Way in Motorcycle Safety

By Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW/AW) Bill Houlihan, MCPON Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The master chief petty officer of the Navy (MCPON) outlined his expectations regarding motorcycle safety and training in a P4", or "personal for", Navy Administrative Message to the Navy's Chief Petty Officer Mess March 16.

The message, NAVADMIN 079/09 -- intended for all command master chiefs, chiefs of the boat, command senior chiefs and senior enlisted leaders -- lays out Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick West's concerns and expectations of senior enlisted leadership.

"Our highways are a battle zone that unnecessarily accounted for thirty-three motorcycle casualties last year, while many others suffered life-long injuries. I'm calling on the CPO mess and the first class petty officers to engage the deckplate and ensure our Sailors get the proper required training," West wrote in his message.

"Having been a motorcycle rider, I'm concerned for
- (Cont. on Page 8)

MCPON Releases Motorcycle Safety Podcast

By MCPON Public Affairs

Washington, DC (NNS) -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick West's latest podcast to the fleet focuses on motorcycle safety and expectations of senior enlisted leadership.

He discussed his recent "personal for" message to the chief petty officers (CPOs) and pointed out that it was intended to alert CPOs to what he expects and to energize the first class petty officers. He said he expects both groups to take on the responsibility of ensuring Sailors attend required safety courses.

"This training is a very important piece of motorcycle safety," West said in the podcast. "The chiefs and the first classes are the catalysts. They're the ones who can actually make sure these Sailors get to the training."

West also pointed out why he believes sport bikes have become so hazardous.

"You add inexperience with speed and the results can be pretty bad. We had 33 deaths on motorcycles last year, and the majority were on sport bikes."

To listen to MCPON's podcast visit www.navy.mil/navydata/mcponplay.asp?id=3144

Prescribed Burns

- (Cont. from Page 2)

highway patrol, Division of Forestry, and hospitals.

These small, controlled fires burn significant acres of underbrush without killing the native trees which are so vital to local animal habitats. Safety is the primary concern and due to the potential of a larger fire, other agencies including: Navy Fire & Emergency Services Gulf Coast, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Jackson Guard from Eglin Air Force Base, and the US Forest Service Prescribed Fire Training Center (PFTC) are on hand to help with the effort and are prepared to extinguish any fire should it escape the designated areas. These groups of professionals successfully conducted five prescribed burns since November accounting for more than 450 acres of property with no accidents or injuries.

Although the days were long, all partners involved worked hard to get the job done. As a result of everyone's hard work, the majority of the understory has died back allowing for new growth to take place and for fire-dependent plants and animals to prosper.

Due to weather conditions and fuel moisture, March signals the end of the burn season for the Natural Resources team at Whiting Field. Planning for next year's burn season, however, will be starting soon!



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

Corporate Sponsor



Weekly Tri-Care Notice

APRIL IS THE MONTH TO CELEBRATE MILITARY CHILDREN

April is the month we celebrate the Military Child, and I applaud them for the sacrifices they make and the obstacles they overcome.

Throughout the month, military commands around the world host special events and activities to salute military children. Families enjoy fun events, such as carnivals, parades, ice cream socials, talent shows, concerts and art contests to name a few. Another great activity offered at some installations is free health screening for children.

Celebrate and focus on military children not just during this month, but all year long. Take advantage of the numerous activities available to you and your family.

Navy Earns Award for Efforts to Find Right People for Total Force

By Lt. Cmdr. Elizabeth Zimmermann, Navy Diversity Directorate ATLANTA (NNS) -- The Navy's Strategic Diversity Working Group (SDWG) was honored at the 10th annual Summit on Leading Diversity March 17 for its vision and contribution to the Navy's ability to effectively support the nation's maritime strategy.

Recognized as one of the top 15 organizational diversity councils in the country, the Navy SDWG has made strides in improving recruitment and retention of a diverse total force.

"The work of these top councils elevates the overall significance and value of all councils," said Janice Bowman, president of the Association of Diversity Councils. "The strategies, tactics, activities, commitments, results and achievements they have identified help to set the standard of excellence for diversity and inclusion councils on a national level and provide inspiration for all who are on the front lines of diversity and inclusion every day."

"The Strategic Diversity Working Group's efforts result in improved communications amongst enterprises and communities, enabling synergy of effort and sharing of best practices," said Capt. Ken Barrett, director, Navy Diversity. "Working together ensures a coherent, compelling, consistent message throughout and external to the Navy, and our efforts have resulted in exponentially increasing awareness and outreach across our diverse Nation."

The SDWG's mission is to support the recruiting, development
- (Cont. on Page 8)

"Pie-in-the-Face" Contest

- Only \$1.00 per vote
- All E-7 and above eligible
- Proceeds go to Navy/Marine Corps Relief Fund Drive.
- The "Highest bidders" during the online auction will "deliver" the pies to the Top 5 Winners (or losers depending on how you look at it) at the command picnic on 15 May.
- See your Key-Person for donations and details or call ACC Rowe/AC2 Marshall at X7372 or X7755



So vote for your favorite early and often
and don't miss this memorable event!

MCPON Visit

- (Cont. from Page 1)

He spoke on several topics such as personnel manning, the new Navy uniforms, motorcycle safety, and suicide awareness before opening the floor for questions. Issues ranged from concerns about selective reenlistment bonuses, tuition assistance, retention through the Perform to Serve program and more.

He praised the Sailors for their hard work, and singled out those who had performed individual augmentee (IA) tours, and reminded them how important their work is to the fight.

“I am grateful for what you all do, every day - especially the IAs. The Sailors we have on the ground do terrific jobs. They are in demand because they are capable and flexible. Our Sailors improve every process they touch,” he said.

The MCPON’s visit comes just three months after assuming the title, and if he was trying to make an impression about the Sailors’ value to the Navy, it worked for Gregory.

“Just his dedication to the Sailors - it reaffirms that we do matter,” she said. “It’s not just about the mission, but it is about people too. That’s always a positive and motivating thing to hear.”

Motorcycle Rider Expectations

- (Cont. from Page 6)

all riders, but we need to focus immediately on those who are in the highest risk group,” said West.

MCPON stated in his message that the groups he’s most concerned with are sport bike riders, Sailors E-5 and below and those with little to no experience as many mishaps occur soon after the purchase of the motorcycle.

“Most of the casualties,” said West, “have been on sport bikes operated by untrained riders.”

West said that he hopes his use of a P4 will emphasize the importance of sport bike safety, especially with the summer months approaching.

“I’m going to use every means at my disposal to get this word out. We have young men and women dying on our freeways and less than half of the Sailors who should have attended the mandatory training have showed up.

“Our concern as senior enlisted leaders should be to give our Sailors the training and tools that could help them survive on the highways.”

P4’s have traditionally been reserved for the flag community, a method of communication admirals have used for decades to get word quickly and privately to other senior and commanding officers.

West said it’s not an approach he intends to use frequently, but he felt the gravity of this particular subject warranted it.

“We have more than 7,500 Sailors who still haven’t attended the Sport Bike rider course. We’ve got to do better than that. It’s a matter of life and death.”

The unprecedented P4 specifically directs chief petty officers to “personally involve yourself in obtaining a [class] quota and ensuring your Sailors attend.”



MCPON Rick West speaks to an audience of NAS Whiting Field Sailors during his March 31 visit to the base. The MCPON covered topics like: the new uniform, Perform to Serve, the future of SRBs, and more. U. S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

Navy Earns Award

- (Cont. from Page 7)

and retention of the best and brightest personnel the nation has to offer – in order to maintain an effective Navy Total Force. Its members work together to coordinate flag officer and senior executive participation in diversity-related outreach events across the nation as well as the attendance and outreach efforts of other Navy members. Much of this work includes developing partnerships with affinity groups that focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) disciplines – both to provide personal and professional development options for Sailors and Navy civilians but also to create awareness of the opportunities available in naval service.

“Diversity of the Navy Total Force is essential for mission readiness,” said Capt. Wayne Radloff, professor of naval science, and head of the Atlanta-area consortium of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) program. He noted the Navy’s progress in managing the need to be an attractive, competitive option for a diverse talent pool but cautioned that even more effort is necessary.

Radloff went on to say that being concerned about the diversity of the Navy Total Force is both the right thing to do and absolutely necessary if the Navy is to remain competitive well into the 21st century.

The Navy SDWG was part of an elite group receiving awards for ‘seeing the big picture,’ including diversity councils from American Airlines, Bayer, Cargill, CSX, FedEx and Gannett Co. Recipient groups were evaluated on: demonstrated council results; demonstrated management commitment; measurement and accountability; and communication and education.