

Whiting Tower

NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.

"THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT NAVAL AIR COMPLEX"

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Whiting Field FFSC Prepares for Family Emergencies

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Imagine that a hurricane has just passed through. A family's home has flooded, damaging a lifetime of possessions. There are widespread power outages, and much of the food has spoiled. The family may be without ready cash, have no where to take their pets, and don't know where to turn.

During the past few years, this has been an all too familiar occurrence. However, the Navy takes care of their own, and the Fleet and Family Support Centers (FFSC) across the globe as well as here at Naval Air Station Whiting Field stand ready to help.

With the 2009 Hurricane season fast approaching, Navy bases across the Gulf Coast and Eastern Seaboard, including Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NASWF), are preparing

responses for a possible storm striking their facilities. The past few years have taught many lessons, and the Navy is working diligently to ensure people are prepared for a worst case scenario. Part of that planning is an annual exercise called HURREX - Citadel Gale.

One of the lessons learned through past experience, is the importance of ensuring family support programs are brought into the response plan for such an emergency. For the first time, this year FFSCs' Emergency Family Assistance Centers (EFAC) were brought in to the drills. NASWF's Fleet and Family Support Center was happy to play a role.

While being a part of the overall drill planning process was new, the concept of the EFAC preparing for a hurricane has been done for years.

"We have been doing this for a long time," said Bill Lawson, NAS



Members of the Emergency Family Assistance Center from the NAS Whiting Field Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) receive a hurricane update during Hurrex Citadel Gale 2009. The team's participation in the drill was a first for the center. U. S. Navy photo courtesy of FFSC.

Whiting Field's FFSC Director," but never before in the master plan of the exercise. We are finally a formal part of the Navy's comprehensive emergency family response."

The EFAC is intended to serve
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Mabus Sworn in as New Navy Secretary of the Navy

From Department of Defense

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Ray Mabus, former Mississippi governor and U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, was



The Honorable Ray Mabus is sworn in as the 75th Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) by Jeh Johnson, General Counsel for the Department of Defense, during a ceremony at the Pentagon. Holding the Bible for Mabus is Yeoman 1st Class Timothy James, a member of the Secretary of the Navy staff. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin S. O'Brien/Released)

sworn in May 19 as the 75th Secretary of the Navy.

Leading the Navy and Marine Corps, Mabus will be responsible for an annual budget in excess of \$150 billion and almost 900,000 people.

The secretary of the Navy is responsible for conducting all

the affairs of the Department of the Navy, including recruiting, organizing, supplying, equipping, training and mobilizing. Additionally, he oversees the construction, outfitting and repair of naval ships, equipment and facilities and is responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies and programs that are consistent with the national security policies and objectives established by the president and the secretary of defense.

Prior to joining the administration of President Barack Obama, Mabus served in a variety of top posts in government and the private sector. In 1988, Mabus was elected governor of Mississippi where he stressed education and job creation. In 1994, he was appointed ambassador to Saudi Arabia, where during his tenure, the Kingdom officially abandoned the boycott of U.S. businesses that trade with Israel. Mabus also was chairman and chief executive officer of Foamex, a large manufacturing company, and also served as a Navy surface warfare officer aboard the cruiser USS Little Rock.

Mabus is a native of Ackerman, Miss., and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi, a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University, and a law degree from Harvard Law School.

Military Appreciation Month Update

May 18-22 - Sweet Treats - Whiting Field and Outlying Fields

Volunteers will deliver donuts, fudge, cookies and brownies to security and emergency crews at the various facilities.

May 27 - Military Update Breakfast - 7:30 a.m.

Santa Rosa County will sponsor 50 military personnel to a complimentary meal during the May Military Update breakfast meeting.

May 29 - Karaoke Night - 5 p.m.

Base and tenant command personnel can join with Santa Rosa County for an evening of fun, singing, and giveaways at Ace's Pub.

Throughout the Month

National Military Appreciation Month committee members will be packaging and mailing care packages to Individual Augmentees from Whiting Field commands.

The committee is also encouraging businesses and homes to display yard signs, banners and flags letting the military know how much support they have in the community.

Special Offers from Local Businesses

Troy and Embry Riddle Universities will have complimentary breakfast items in front of their Bldg. 1417 offices May 27 from 7 to 10 a.m. for Military Appreciation Month.

Eddie Hobbs Automotive INC will offer 10% discount for active or retired during Military Appreciation Month. Their location is 5396 Stewart Street in Milton.

The Penton Salon and Day Spa in Pace wants to offer any Active Duty Military a 10% off discount May 1-31 for Military Appreciation Month. They must show Military ID.

Cassandra's Designs is having a military appreciation discount on all massages. Show your military ID to receive a 25% discount on a Relaxation, Deep Tissue, and other massages. Located across from Walmart on Hwy 90, call (850) 995-8015 to schedule an appointment. License number MM11531.

The Starbucks shop in Pace is offering Military Mondays through May. Stop in and get a 10% discount every Monday.

FFSC Prepares

- (Cont. from Page 1)

as a one-stop shop for personnel affected by the event. FFSC staff works closely with lodging, child care, Chaplains, housing, legal, Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society, medical, ombudsmen, Red Cross, FEMA and other agencies and departments to ensure the needs of affected families are met.

Following an emergency, there are always people adversely impacted. Some may have not prepared thoroughly enough, some may have had their homes damaged or destroyed, and others may have emotional issues stemming from the disaster, but all will need help.

FFSC set up the EFAC for the May 8-14 drill to practice dealing with some of these real world issues. After the hurricane "struck" the Pensacola area, base Sailors role-played those persons needing assistance in the aftermath of the storm. For safety and economic concerns a few items - like the generators for the site - were simulated. Otherwise the drill was treated as a true world event.

"For Fleet and Family, this represents a coming of age. The fact that we are formally included in the Emergency Response Plan shows that leaders recognize the value of family support to the Navy's overall response to a crisis," Lawson said.

FFSC moved their location from the Whiting Field office, to the housing community center. Staff personnel brought their portable kits with necessary forms, office supplies, and equipment to the center, and set up stations to help the family members. A "triage" area was even set up to ensure the most important cases were seen first.

The set-up impressed Aviation Boatswain's Mate Second Class Stacey Eaton who served as one of the simulated clients. His script involved a tree falling into his house.

"I was very impressed. They had a panel set up and the lady went over everything. They made sure I had a place to stay in housing, set me up with NMCRS to get some emergency cash and answered every question I had. I am confident if something happened, I would be taken care of."

Lawson thought that team's response to HURREX Citadel Gale went well, but also served to identify a few areas for improvement. The most significant of these is to work harder to inform families about hurricane preparedness and the need to protect their assets.

"While our service members are for the most part aware of the need to prepare for disaster, their family members are not. We also discovered that a lot of myths or misperceptions exist. For example, many of our role playing service members were not aware that they need to maintain renters insurance to cover their personal property if they rent on the economy or reside in Whiting Pines housing area."

However, the FFSC team was able to establish the center within two hours of notification, and was able to show the ability to respond to the emergency needs of their clients, which were primary goals.

"Citadel Gale was an effective training process which provided the FFSC and our other partner agencies with an opportunity to polish their response and recovery processes which will be needed following a disaster," said Lawson.

"The fact that we are formally included in the Emergency Response Plan shows that leaders recognize the value of family support to the Navy's overall response to a crisis,"

***-- Bill Lawson
FFSC Director***

News and Notes

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.

DEFY Sign Ups - For everyone's convenience, Staff and Youth applications for the 2009 DEFY Program, as well as flyers about the Program, are now available to download from the new NAS Whiting Field website at: <http://www.cnic.navy.mil/WhitingField/index.htm>. Please contact HM1 Clara Davis at the Branch Health Clinic at 452-8970 ext 120 or clara.davis@med.navy.mil.

Runners' Club - Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) is looking for a few good runners for a new runners' club. The club is for people of all ability levels, and will offer incentives for certain performance achievements reached. This is a new program and suggestions are appreciated. Sign up at the Fitness Center or contact Todd Mooneyham at (850) 665-6102.

Also, the NAS Whiting Field Running Club will hold its Inaugural Memorial Day 5-K FUN RUN Saturday, May 30 at 10 a.m. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. For more information and to register please contact Todd Mooneyham at 850-665-6102, Fitness Center at 623-7412, or the Liberty Center at 623-7472.

Tennis Anyone? - USPTA's "Tennis Across America 2009:" Saturday, May 23, 2009 -- Pensacola Junior College, Milton Campus; Saturday, May 30, 2009 -- Pensacola Junior College, Main Campus (Pensacola)

Children/Junior sessions are 8 - 10 a.m., with the Adult/Senior session following from 10 a.m. to noon. Loaner rackets are available and there are lots of tennis balls to hit, light refreshments to have and fun tennis on the courts. Please contact Mario Alvarez, USPTA/USPTR, at 623-2911 for further information.



Recognizing Our Best and Brightest

More than 20 Sailors received awards during Naval Air Station Whiting Field's awards ceremony May 15. Capt. Enrique Sadsad presented the awards prior to the Safety Standdown in the base auditorium. Here he presents AC1 Knight Holten with her Navy Achievement Medal. U. S. Navy photograph by Jay Cope.



It's a Party

Members of NAS Whiting Field, Training Wing FIVE and other tenant commands enjoy the food prepared by the volunteers from Santa Rosa County. To see more photos from the event turn to page 7. U. S. Navy photos by HM1 Nathan Antonio.

Navy College - The Navy College office is now open onboard NAS Whiting Field. They are located in the Atrium, Bldg. 1417 room 168. Their hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Monday with the TA workshop held at 11 a.m.

Wings Club Luau - The 2nd Annual Luau will be held at the Wings Club All Hands Pool from 1300-1700, Sat, 23 May 09. The Crow's Nest will be open for everyone's enjoyment (specialty drinks will be available): Enjoy Roasted Pig, BBQ Chicken, Sweet-and-Sour Meatballs, Asian Slaw, Egg Rolls & Pineapple Cake for only \$5. The pool will be open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. for family enjoyment (cost is free to use the pool). Anyone wishing to eat between 1-5 p.m. while enjoying the pool will have to pay \$5.00. Please contact the Wings Club at 623-7311 for more information.

Library to Close for Renovations - The Santa Rosa County Milton Library will be closed from Friday, May 29 - Sunday, June 21 for carpet replacement and minor renovations. During this period, all other county libraries in Gulf Breeze, Jay, Navarre, and Pace will be open. Library materials will not be due during the time the library is closed. The Milton Library will reopen on Monday, June 22 at 9 a.m. and resume regular hours. The Santa Rosa County Library System is a department of the Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners. Libraries are located in Gulf Breeze, Jay, Milton, Navarre, and Pace. Further information is available at <http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/libraries>.

Road Closing - For those of you who jog on perimeter road, effective immediately, Perimeter Road is closed until further notice. If you have any questions, please contact Security at 623-7709.

New Hours for Troy U. - As Troy University settles into their new offices in Bldg. 1417 behind the command building, they are also offering extended hours to serve NAS Whiting Field students. There is a new Student Service Receptionist available to counsel current or potential students from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mondays through Fridays beginning May 25. A Student Service Advisor will also be available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.. Call (850) 981-0333 or email milton@troy.edu for more details.

Embry Riddle's New Home - Embry Riddle has moved to Bldg. 1417 in Room 163, on NAS Whiting Field. Whiting office hours are Mon. and Wed. from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Upcoming Events

May, All Month - Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

May 22, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

May 25 - Memorial Day Holiday

May 29, 0730 - Military Apprec. Breakfast - Wings Club

June 5, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

June 7, 0800 - Sea Cadet Recruit Training - Ops Auditorium

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

Welcome to Whiting! - Every Thursday 1000 - 1200

If you are new to NAS Whiting Field or just want to learn more about the Milton – Pensacola area, this class is for you! Come find out about MWR and other recreational facilities, hurricane preparedness, the FFSC and other support services available! Children are welcome and this is a great opportunity to meet new friends! Join us at the Whiting Pines Community Center any Thursday or call the FFSC at 623-7177 for more information.

Consumer Awareness - Tuesday, May 26, 0900 - 1100

According to the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs, fraud cost consumers over 40 billion dollars every year. 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.

VA Appointments (Call to schedule) -Friday, June 5, 0800 – 1200 & Friday, June 19, 0800 – 1200

Time Management - Wednesday, June 3, 1300 - 1400

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.

Pick a Partner - Session 1: Monday, June 8, 1800 - 2000 - Session 2: Monday, June 15, 1800 - 2000

Learn about the warning signs of a difficult partner, relationship skills essential for a healthy relationship, five key areas that you need to explore during the dating process, the difference between “acting like a jerk” and “being a jerk”, and how to follow your heart without losing your mind. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Financial Planning for Deployment - Tuesday, June 9, 0900 - 1100

The purpose of this program is to raise or refresh our financial awareness in order to decrease the financial stress of deployment. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Navy Dealing With Impact of High Retention/Low Attrition

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW) Maria Yager

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- The chief of naval personnel (CNP) talked with Sailors and civilians at the Navy's personnel and manning headquarters May 7 to discuss the future of the force and the hold on permanent change of station (PCS) moves throughout the summer.

“We started this fiscal year with an end strength of about 332,230 active-duty Sailors. We sit today at about 332,280 active-duty Sailors. We have stopped reducing the size of the force, and we are stabilizing in response to a strain placed on watch standers in the fleet and the individual augmentee demand,” said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, CNP, during his visit to Navy Personnel Command.

The Navy has been reducing the size of the force for several years at a rate of approximately 10,000 Sailors annually, but according to Ferguson the time has come to level off.

“The cumulative effect of the (manpower) reductions over the last six to eight years and the increased individual augmentee demand demonstrated that if we hadn't pulled out of the force reduction glide slope, you would be experiencing more significant impacts than you are now,” said Ferguson referring to the Navy's \$350 million dollar budget shortfall which has in part impacted PCS transfers through the end of the fiscal year.

The other factor contributing to the hold on PCS moves was a change in the accounting system which requires the Navy to fund PCS orders when they are written versus when the orders are executed. This paired with record retention and fewer separations from attrition has slowed the number of Sailors leaving active duty and required the Navy to divert money for payroll instead of previously budgeted programs.

“Attrition is significantly down. So those individuals who may have terminated their service early are choosing

to stay. We have a rare opportunity now with great morale, great compensation and stabilized end strength to shape the Navy of the future and retain the best Sailors with the right skills.

“Not all Sailors but the best Sailors with the skills we need will be retained through the Perform to Serve process,” said Ferguson.

In the past months, the Navy has introduced several performance-based measures designed to help stabilize the force including controlling short-term extensions, time in grade waivers, senior enlisted continuation boards and Perform to Serve expansion. These programs allow the Navy to keep a balanced force based on experience, skill sets and seniority matched to the requirements.

“You are worth every penny and every benefit you have earned through your service. What we ask in return is a commitment to the organization -- performance. I think it is a pretty fair trade,” said Ferguson.

TRAWING FIVE Paints Their Hearts Out for Museum



Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen from Training Air Wing FIVE help paint the exterior of the West Florida Railroad Museum during the week of May 11. The students put in greater than 260 man hours to give the facility its first new look since the 1980s. Photo courtesy of Training Air Wing FIVE.

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

The West Florida Railroad Museum in Milton received a make-over courtesy of more than 40 student Naval aviators the week of May 11. The aspiring pilots took turns working on the building which hadn't been painted since the 1980's.

In all, the students, from Training Air Wing FIVE (TW-5), put in more than 268 hours of volunteer effort to brighten up the museum and a separate bridge tender's house from the 1890s. It is work the students do to try and make a difference in the community.

"It's really great, because the people are so appreciative," said Ens. Melinda Montano, Community Outreach Coordinator for TW-5. "They rely on the volunteers...We had the resources to help, so we wanted to help."

The Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen were students waiting to begin their flight training at TW-5. Each of the volunteers agreed to take one four-hour shift sanding, priming or painting at the site.

The work is part of a cooperative program called "Paint Your Heart Out." Santa Rosa Historical Society and Santa Rosa Clean Community teamed-up to begin the initiative designed to paint houses for low income residents and not-for-profit agencies.

Manpower and money are the driving forces behind making these programs work. When TW-5 learned of the need, they found a way to help out. It is an effort appreciated by the Museum as they try to prepare for the 100th anniversary of the building. The museum was a former railroad depot for the L&M railroad.

"We don't have the resources needed to accomplish this without volunteers," said George Wilson, one of the museum's staff who help operate the facility. "The volunteers from Training Air Wing FIVE were instrumental in getting this done."



COME JOIN THE FUN



At the

2nd Annual Military Appreciation

KARAOKE NIGHT



On Friday, May 29th

At Ace's Bar - NAS Whiting Field

From 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Appetizers will be provided

Prizes & Give-a-ways to Active Duty Military & NAS Whiting Civil Service

It's sure to be a BLAST...

See you there !!!

**Sponsored by the SRC Chamber of Commerce
In Honor of National Military Appreciation Month**



TRICARE NOTE

**NEW HUMANA MILITARY WEB PAGES
KEEP BENEFICIARIES INFORMED**

When you visit the Humana Military Web site at www.humana-military.com, you'll notice that we've enhanced or added pages to serve you better. The following are highlights of just some of the enhancements.

National Guard and Reserve

To access this newly enhanced section of the Web site, simply click on the National Guard and Reserve link from the Humana Military home page.

AchieveSolutionsR

To access the AchieveSolutionsR site, click on "Behavioral Health" under Beneficiary Resources on the Humana home page. For more information, call ValueOptions at 1-800-700-8646.

Warriors in Transition

You can find information on this new program by clicking on "Warriors in Transition" under Beneficiary Resources on the Military home page.

May Safety Training Schedule

27 May -0800-1600-AAA-DIP

28 May -0730-1430- Experienced Rider Course

29 May -0730-1700-Military Sport Bike Course

30-31 May -0730-1600-Basic Rider course

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 new 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 retrain requirement, except for personnel who ride sports bikes. Sports bike riders must complete the MSRC every three years.

Enroll at www.navymotorcyclerider.com or contact Michael McMillan at (850) 452-3674 or Mike Amos at (850) 623-7180.

Career Counselor Corner

The Department of Veterans Affairs is now accepting applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill (a.k.a. chapter 33). General requirements:

1. Served for an aggregated period of at least 90 days.
2. Served at least 30 continuous days and received a disability discharge.
3. Have 6 years of creditable service and will reenlist for 4 more.

Individuals will generally receive 36 months of benefits to include: tuition and fees charges, monthly housing allowance (not active duty) and stipend for books and supplies.

For those who have MGIB (chapter 30) please be advised that your entitlement to the Post-9/11 GI Bill will be equal to the number of months you have remaining under MGIB. However, if you exhaust all of your MGIB entitlement, then you may be entitled to a maximum of 12 additional months of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. If you did not pay into the MGIB (chapter 30), you are still eligible for chapter 33. The decision to choose chapter 33 is irrevocable.

VA will begin processing applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill on May 1, 2009. You will receive a letter explaining VA's decision regarding your eligibility for the program. Payments for Post-9/11 GI Bill will not be processed until August 1, 2009

Just go to www.gibill.va.gov and apply. Please select VONAPP Form 22-1990.

Make Your Lights Last Longer

Fluorescent lights—should you turn them off if you leave a room? Does it wear them out faster to turn them on and off?

It's true that frequent switching reduces lamp life, but it is more than made up for when compared to the amount of energy wasted to light an empty room.

The bottom line: If you're leaving the room, turn the lights off.



DEPARTMENT
OF THE NAVY



Visit <https://energy.navy.mil>

...And a Fun Time Was Had By All

Volunteers from Santa Rosa County hosted the 2nd Annual Military Appreciation Picnic at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Friday, May 15. The day provided military personnel from the base and tenant commands, civilian workers, contractors, and all their families a day to relax, savor good food and enjoy the fun and games.

Above center: The chow line is always the first place to go during a picnic, and members of the Whiting Team did a number on the hot dogs, hamburgers and chips available.

Family members, like one of the Fischer twins (shown above right), seem to enjoy the water slide more than any other game on the hot day. Center: ABHCM John Floyd gets an exuberant pie in the face from his son as a fund raiser for Navy and Marine Corps Relief.

Below right: Ens. Bob Reeves chows down on one of his hot dogs during the hot dog eating contest. He finished one shy of winner Lt. j.g. Mike Flint in the race for a \$100 gift card.

Below center: Volunteer grilled up a bounty of hot dogs and hamburgers for the day. More than 30 volunteers donated their time to make the day a great one for the base.

Below: Lt. Mike McDonough not only experiences the shame of a pie in the face, but then has to police his own trash too. The five pie recipients were good sports and raised several hundred dollars for NMCRS. U. S. Navy photos by Jay Cope.

