

Whiting Tower

NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.

"THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT NAVAL AIR COMPLEX"

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TRAWING-5 Wings 30,000th Helicopter Pilot

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Training Air Wing FIVE (TRAWING-5) celebrated a milestone in Naval aviation when the 30,000th rotary wing student pilot walked across the stage to receive his coveted "wings of gold," June 19.

1st Lt. Michael Brown, USMC, walked off the stage as the Marine Corp's newest helicopter pilot. He joined 37 other students in achieving the greatly sought after designation.

Brown learned he would be the 30,000th helicopter pilot trained by the Navy about 1/2 hour before the ceremony. While he recognizes that being the milestone pilot was largely a matter of luck, it is still a hallmark he cherishes.

"It is a great honor. It is a great testament to Naval aviation," Brown said. "I am really excited, and I hope I can do it justice."

After Brown was pinned by his wife Sara and congratulated by the guest speaker, Rear Adm. Garry Hall, the ceremony was stopped for a moment by Col. John Walsh, TRAWING-5 Com-
- (Cont. on Page 2)



Rear Adm. Garry Hall (center) and Col. John Walsh, present 1st Lt. Michael Brown with a certificate recognizing his status as the 30,000th winged helicopter pilot in the Navy's training history. The Navy has been training helo pilots since 1943. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

MCPON Sends Independence Day Message To The Fleet

Special from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following Independence Day message to the fleet June 29.

"Shipmates and Navy Families,

As we celebrate this great nation's birthday I'd like you to take a moment and consider your role in preserving the ideals the United States was founded upon.

No matter the platform on which you serve, the community to which you belong or the rating that identifies your skill set, you are all patriots in defense of liberty and protectors of our independence.



MCPON Rick West

Not a day goes by that I'm not thankful for the honor to serve among you. It really hits home, though, during holidays like these when we are reminded of what this country stands for. Independence Day is a time to celebrate the freedoms we hold dear and to honor those who have protected them for 233 years.

For your part in that, I say thank you.

I also ask that while you celebrate our nation's birthday you keep in mind those who are deployed protecting what we are celebrating. Additionally I ask you keep another item at the forefront and that is safety. Use common sense on our nation's freeways and take every possible precau-

tion (including watching out for others) whether you're driving, riding a motorcycle, on the water or staying at home with fireworks and barbecue.

I expect safety to be a primary discussion point now and every day leading up to the holiday weekend. Awareness and caution should be the watchwords of every Sailor and Navy family member.

Enjoy your holiday, shipmates. No matter where you are, on or below the world's seas and oceans, in the air or boots on ground, I hope you get to spend at least a few moments celebrating the 4th of July. Stay safe and continue to take care of one another.

Thanks for what you do in defense of this incredible country of ours.

Stay focused; stay alert and stay safe,

HOOYAH!"

30,000th Winger

- (Cont. from Page 1)

mander. Walsh then presented Brown with a plaque to celebrate the occasion.

Exemplifying typical aviator wit, the plaque read: "Through no great effort of your own and by no selection means other than being near the top of the alphabet during your winging class, you are hereby selected as the 30,000th Rotary Wing Aviator. Congratulations, this number should be easy to remember."

Although humorous, the plaque relates that the true achievement in reaching this milestone is the 65-plus years of Naval helicopter training. The last 37 years of this training has been performed at Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Milton, Fla., and includes 100 percent of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard helicopter pilots.

"This is not an individual accomplishment, but decades of commitment toward professionalism in training," Walsh said. "Our nation has determined this capability is worth pursuing, and has applied significant resources toward that end."

Walsh cites the flexibility of the helicopter platform as a primary reason for its continued and increased use over the years. It



1st Lt. Michael Brown poses with his family and Rear Adm. Garry Hall following his pinning. Thirty-seven other students were winged during the June 19 ceremony. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

is not only capable of bringing food, water, medical assistance and shelter to people in need, but is equally able to evacuate injured troops, bring troops into a combat zone and provide combat aerial support. The combat support is especially useful in urban zones where its ability to hover is strategically vital.

"Our nation realizes that we need these airborne warriors. They operate our most flexible systems that can work across a spectrum of conflicts," Walsh said.

This point is borne out by the recent increase from approximately 500 helicopter flight students per year to an estimated 600 per year by 2011. There are also plans in place to increase the number of Marine helicopter squadrons by six and the Navy by two over the next few years.

But as important as the various helicopter platforms are, they are useless without the pilots who fly them, or the instructors who train the students. TRAWING-5's core of instructors are all combat pilots who bring a wealth of experience to the task of molding talented young men and women into warriors. Hall emphasized that point during his remarks to the audience and families who attended the winging ceremony.

"I am amazed by the professionalism of the instructor pilots who instruct our student pilots today. Their skill will make your eyes water...Out of all the 18 to 24 year olds eligible to enter military service, 75 percent don't qualify," he said. "No where else in the world will you find such an assemblage of talent."

SR Chamber of Commerce Announces July 4 Schedule

Milton's July 4th Riverfest 2009:

July 3, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Stars & Stripes Parade

Milton High School to Pine Street via Stewart, Berryhill and Willing Street

Throughout the Day

* Live entertainment @ North Willing Stage

* Arts, crafts and retail vendors

* Concession vendors

* Northwest Florida Blood Mobile

July 4, 2009:

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

8th Annual Firecracker Bike Show

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Freedom Car Show

10:00 a.m.

Celebration Boat Parade

10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Children's activities at First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall - 5203 Elmira Street

11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Treasure Island Children's Activity Area

Riverwalk North Gazebo - adult chaperoned - fun filled activities for children of all ages

2:00 p.m.

Re-enactment of Blackwater River Pirates attack on Milton. **Rumor has it that Capt. Rick Sadsad may walk the gang plank!

5:00 p.m.

The Great MillTown Duck Race

6:00 p.m.

Veterans Salute - Veterans Memorial Plaza

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Joe Occipinti Playing

First United Methodist Church - 6891 Berryhill Street

7:00 p.m.

Karaoke with Boogie, Inc. - South Pavilion

AT DARK

FIREWORKS DISPLAY OVER THE BLACKWATER RIVER

Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and join the fun, fool & fireworks!

News and Notes

Legal Service - The NAS Whiting Field Legal Office will offer additional legal assistance hours beginning Monday, July 6. A legal assistance attorney will be available for walk-ins on Mondays and appointments will be made on two additional days each week. Call 623-7231 or 7232 for an appointment or more information.

Farmers' Market - The Riverwalk Farmers' Market will be held behind the Santa Rosa County Courthouse Thursdays, Saturdays and Tuesdays from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.. The event is on N. Willing St. in Milton and artists and crafters may purchase one-day slots for \$10. Call 626-6246 or visit 222.mainstreetmilton.org for details.

Zoo Tots - The Zoo Northwest Florida on Gulf Breeze Parkway offers a train ride, story time and animal encounters for children 5 and under Tuesdays. Punch cards for eight visits are \$40 for adult with toddler, and \$7 for individual sessions. Call 932-2229 for more information.

Information Tickets and Travel New Home - Just a reminder that the MWR ITT Office has moved from the Bowling Center and is now located in Building 1417, Room 182 (same building as the Atrium). Hours of operation are Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.. New telephone number is 623-7032. The ITT office now is able to help with rental cars as well. Call for details.

Sunsets at Plaza de Luna - Every Thursday through Oct. 29, Plaza de Luna comes to life with music, entertainment, and sunsets. This week features music from Bella Orange and an appearance by Barbie. The fun begins at 5:30 p.m. and is free. Call 435-1603 for information or visit www.cityofpensacola.com/cra/live/.

July 4th Riverfest! - Come to the Riverwalk on July 4 for pirates, treasure hunts, karaoke, concession and retail vendors, music, and live entertainment throughout the day. Also be sure to see the 8th annual firecracker bike show and the after dark fireworks. Call the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce for details: 623-2339. The railroad bridge will be operating under extended hours (until 10:00 p.m.). A no wake zone is in effect the entire day from the north side of Russell Harbor landing to the railroad bridge.



Onward and Upward

Department of Defense police officers Lt. John Conner and Sgt. Jason Palmer pin Ryan Abbott to his new rank. Abbot was promoted to Sergeant, Thursday June 25 at the Naval Air Station Whiting Field security building. Photo courtesy of NAS Whiting Field security.



A Clean Sweep

Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Air Traffic Control Division volunteered for the 25th Annual Blackwater River Clean-up. There were 19 volunteers rowing 9 canoes and one kayak for six and one-half hours on the river. The team cleaned the river between Bryant Bridge and Deaton Bridge picking up more than 50 pounds of trash. Every canoe managed to turn over at least once and the cold water river kept the volunteers cool throughout the day. They picked up shoes, cardboard boxes, and lots of plastic bottles and beer cans. Photo courtesy of ATF

Firecracker Run, Walk, and Wheelchair 5K Race - Register quickly to attend the 7:30 a.m. 5k race on July 4th starting out at Seville Quarter. You can register online at www.active.com or download an entry form at www.rmhpensacola.org. Race benefits the Ronald McDonald House. The after race party will include free refreshments, rejuvenation station, silent auction, and race awards. For more information, contact Ronald McDonald House at 477-2273 or events@rmhpensacola.org

Gone Fishing - Base ponds located on the East of the base (along the Golf Course Road) are now open for fishing for "Catch and Release Only". You will be required to follow Florida state fishing regulations, meaning a fresh water fishing license is required. Please be aware of wildlife around the area. Several poisonous snakes (Water Moccasins) have been spotted around both of the ponds and can be aggressive.

ID Card Office Has New Home - The ID card office has officially moved! They are now located in the Pass and Tag bldg (48A) near the front gate. Please call the office at (850) 623-7159 prior to coming in to ensure the system is up and running. The office hours will remain the same: Monday-Friday 0730-1500 hrs.

Navy Ball Theme Contest - We are looking for ideas for this year's NAS Whiting Field Navy Ball theme. If your idea is selected, it will come with a free ticket to this year's ball. Please forward your theme ideas directly to me via e-mail or at X7372. We will close out all entries for the contest at 1600 on 13 July 09. Good luck!

Come To the YMCA? - A Town Hall Meeting to evaluate the need for a YMCA in the Pace area will be held from 1800-1930, Mon, 29 Jun 09, at the First United Methodist Church of Pace. Many topics will be discussed regarding this possible construction.

Upcoming Events

July 1, 1200 - Danny Cook (PWD) Retirement - Atrium

July 3, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

July 4, All Day - Independence Day Holiday

July 11, TBD - Navy League Cadet Orientation - Ops Auditor

July 16, TBD - Navy League Military Spouse Apprec - TBD

July 17, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base 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, things to do on the weekend, the FFSC and other support services available! Children are welcome and this is a great opportunity to meet new friends! Call to sign up at 623-7177.

Understanding Military Pay Issues - Thursday, July 2, 1300 - 1500

It is important that you know about the elements of military compensation. Know what you are entitled to! Know what you may be entitled to as your circumstances change! For more information call our Financial Educator at 623-7177.

Resume Writing - Monday, July 6, 0800 - 1000

This class will assist you in efficiently creating an effective resume. Learn how to handle sticky resume situations like military-to-civilian transition, age, employment gaps, layoffs, and career change. Learn to use your resume as a marketing tool. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Anger Management - Wednesday, July 8, 1300 - 1400

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.

Country Artists Rock Pensacola Area Military



Two Marines flank the stage during the Summer Slam II country concert. The CatCountry sponsored event brought about 14,000 people to NAS Pensacola. About half the tickets given away were to area military personnel and their families. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Lawn chairs, blankets, and thousands of bodies carpeted Naval Air Station Pensacola's Portside Pavilion for CatCountry 98.7's Summer Salute II concert at Naval Air Station Pensacola, June 18.

The free country concert featured longtime superstar John Michael Montgomery, and relative newcomers Stephen Cochrane and Joshua Stevens. The artists performed several hours of country music in a tribute to the efforts of the men and women in uniform.

"Coming down here, doing a show for the military people out here, being able to sing "Letters from Home" and

watch some tears drop, you know," said Montgomery in a pre-show interview about his desire to come to Pensacola for the concert. "I grew up with lots of uncles in the military and [they] went to Vietnam. Growing up and watching them come home and wearing their stuff, I was like that's so cool. I've always thought the military was just the coolest thing ever, you know."

Gates opened at 5:30 p.m. and thousands of people streamed through rushing to grab the spots closest to the stage. More than 17,000 tickets were given away for the concert with the military bases in the area receiving half and CatCountry 98.7 issuing the rest to listeners.

This is the second time the radio station has held Summer Slam, and it is an event they feel helps them give something back to the military community.

"We wanted to celebrate the military men and women, who don't have to, but choose to protect our country," said CatCountry 98.7 morning show personality Brent Lane. "It takes a special person to step up and say, 'I am willing to die for my country.' They don't realize how special we think they are."

During a career spanning more than 15 years, Montgomery has accumulated more than 30 hit singles on the country music charts. He has been nominated for a Grammy and earned numerous country music awards and nominations.

Stevens, a former contestant and fourth place fin-

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Plan Your Pack Out, PCS Moves Back On

- Supplemental Request Approval Restarts Orders Writing Process

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW) Maria Yager, Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- The Navy announced June 19 that it will resume issuing permanent change of station (PCS) orders following a three-month delay due to a budget shortfall.

Last April, approximately 14,000 Sailors who were supposed to transfer during the summer had their transfer dates delayed until fiscal year 2010. With the passing of a supplemental request, the Navy received approximately \$89 million needed to fund PCS moves through the end of this fiscal year.

“Navy leadership made PCS funding a priority in discussions with the Congress, and earlier this week, Navy’s supplemental funding request passed both houses of Congress. Accordingly, Navy Personnel

Command has been authorized to resume normal order writing, enabling Sailors and their families to move this summer,” said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson.

Sailors who previously negotiated orders, but then had their transfer date put on hold, need to renegotiate orders via Career Management System Interactive Detailing (CMSID) or their detailers. Detailers recorded what Sailors had previously negotiated and will try to honor those commitments, to the maximum extent possible, but Sailors still need to reapply.

During the PCS delay, the Navy issued a limited number of orders for Sailors completing individual augmentees (IA) and GWOT support assignments (GSA) as well as new accessions, so billets that were available before the PCS delay may no longer be available.



Machinist’s Mate Jason Miller, right, assigned to Yokosuka’s Personal Property Office explains the features of the online SmartWeb Move system to Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Nathaniel Benjamin. Miller is helping Petty Officer Benjamin plan his next permanent change of station (PCS) move using SmartWeb, which allows Sailors to schedule their PCS move from any internet capable computer, reducing paperwork and saving time. U.S. Navy photo by Yohsuke Onda (RELEASED)

TRICARE NOTE

TAKE BACK THE LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER

TRICARE makes it easy to manage your health care needs. Here are four easy ways TRICARE can help you save a little summertime for yourself by surfing your benefits online:

1) Check TRICARE Eligibility

Simply log on to www.tricare.mil and click on “My Benefits.”

2) Stop, Drop and Enroll

Stop off at www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/address/indexAction.do and drop in any new contact or eligibility information in DEERS

3) Find or Change your Primary Care Manager or Make an Appointment to find a provider or change your PCM (primary care manager), visit www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/overview/Regions.

4) Stay Informed

TRICARE offers support and programs to help you or a loved one to manage a chronic illness, overcoming smoking, obesity or alcohol abuse issues. Log-on to www.tricare.mil/healthychoices for information about health, wellness, fitness and disease prevention.

“We want to do what is best for the Sailor. Now that funds are available, they may want to move sooner in order to get their children enrolled in school or they may want to remain at their current duty station until November,” said Master Chief Quarter Master (SW/AW) Andy Millar, senior enlisted advisor for enlisted distribution. Millar and his detailers are committed to working with affected Sailors to minimize the disruption for Sailors and their families.

The current CMSID cycle ends June 24, and the next cycle begins July 9 – 22. Sailors may log in and view available assignments at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/Enlisted/CMS/>.

Country Artists Rock

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Stephen Cochran sings during the CatCountry 98.7 Summer Slam II at NAS Pensacola. The artist, while well known for his country hits, is also a wounded veteran who enlisted shortly after 9/11. His song "When a Hero Falls," is dedicated to one of his fellow Marines. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

isher on Nashville Star, hit it big locally with last summer's number one song in the area, "Rock and Roll in Pensacola."

While both of them, on stage and through their lyrics, are obvious supporters of the military, the more compelling story is Cochran's. As a former Marine and injured veteran, he lived the life of his audience.

"I slept, bled and cried in the same countries they are in now, and I hope it helps them to know that they have one vocal Marine at their back," he said.

Cochran was injured during his second tour in Iraq. With his back broken in several places, he was expected to be a paraplegic for the rest of his life. Experimental new surgery put four pounds of adhesive in his back to stabilize the bones. After months of intensive physical therapy, Cochran was back on stage performing.

Much like Montgomery has connected to military audiences with "Letters from Home," Cochran's military anthem is "When a Hero Falls." The song details the death of one of his fellow Marines in combat.

"Each story must be told. Ron's story is extra special to me, but it is one of literally thousands just like it. The song is dedicated to every man and woman who fights in Afghanistan. They all have a story to tell," Cochran said.

The songs and performances were popular with the heavily military crowd who yelled approval at the stage.

"He's a fine musician," Michele Hutchins, a Training Squadron SIX Student Control employee said about Cochran. "He really played to the audience. The military just loved him!"

SR Libraries Kick Off Summer Youth Programs

Be creative this summer at your library and explore the worlds of music, art, books and more. The 2009 summer reading programs are open to pre-school and elementary school youngsters at all Santa Rosa County libraries with programs, prize drawings, story hours, reading club and more. To see a full calendar and register, go to www.santarosa.fl.gov/libraires <<http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/libraires>> or inquire at your local library.

Program schedule: June 29 - July 31, 10:30 a.m. for 3-5 year olds and 1 p.m. for K-5th graders

- * Mondays at Jay Library
- * Tuesdays at Navarre Library
- * Wednesdays at Gulf Breeze Library
- * Wednesdays at Milton Library
- * Fridays at Pace Library

Magician Sammy Smith will perform the week of June 22:

- * Monday, June 22- 1 p.m. at the Jay Library & 6 p.m. at the Gulf Breeze Library
- * Tuesday, June 23- 1 p.m. at the Navarre Library & 6 p.m. at the Pace Library
- * Wednesday, June 24- 1 p.m. at the Milton Library

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>.

Annual Water Report Released

NAS Whiting Field is pleased to present to you with the 2008 Annual Water Quality Report. It has been posted to the NAS Whiting Field intranet for your viewing at <https://www2.netc.navy.mil/naswhiting/index.cfm>

This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and water services delivered to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water and we want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

A hard copy of the Annual Water Report can be obtained from Mike Pattison at the Public Work Department (Building 1416), phone 623-7268 ext. 3018.

Editor's Note: The report states that the Naval Air Station Whiting Field drinking water meets all state and federal requirements.

Congratulations to Our Wingers and Scholars



Front Row: 1st Lt. Philong Duong, USMC; 1st Lt. Danie Saaiman, USMC; Lt. j.g. William Maston, USN; 1st Lt. Philip Bies, USMC; 1st Lt. Tara Businski, USMC; 1st Lt. Erin Hills, USMC; Lt. j.g. Ngua Nguyen, USN; CWO2 Robert Reyes, USN; 1st Lt. Christopher Bibeau, USMC; Lt. j.g. Joshua Pace, USN; and Rear Adm. Garry Hall, USN. Second Row: Cmdr. Mark Murray, USN; 1st Lt. Michael Brown, USMC; 1st Lt. Michael Schmidt, USMC; Lt. j.g. Christopher Lebouvier, USN; 1st Lt. Aaron Maxwell, USMC; Lt. j.g. Ian Austin, USN; Lt. j.g. Michael Flint, USCG; Lt. j.g. Bradley Intrater, USN; Lt. j.g. Travis Chambers, USN; 1st Lt. Jonathan Royer, USMC; and Col. John Walsh, USMC. Third Row: Cmdr Christopher Heaney, USN; 1st Lt. Edmond Long, Jr., USMC; 1st Lt. Nathaniel Ross, USMC; 1st Lt. Aaron Carlson, USMC; Lt. j.g. Alex Haupt, USN; Lt. j.g. Rachel Barton, USN; 1st Lt. Robert Withers, USMC; 1st Lt. Connor Zier, USMC; Lt. j.g. Matthew Comer, USN; Ens Richard Hess, USN; and Lt. j.g. Kathleen Meldahl, USN. Fourth Row: Lt. Col. C. A. Stackhouse, USMC; 1st Lt. Robert McManus, USMC; Lt. j.g. Daniel Simonds, USN; Lt. j.g. Daniel Robertson, USN; Lt. j.g. Mitchell Dow, USN; Lt. j.g. Michael Brown, USN; Lt. j.g. William Jourdan, USN; Lt. j.g. Paul Byrne III, USN; Lt. j.g. Thomas O'Brien, USN; and Lt. j.g. Donald Peltier, USN. U.S. Navy photo by Marc Bizzell.



Left Photo: Training Air Wing FIVE academic award recipients from June 19 are: (in no particular order) 2nd Lt. Caitlin Curran, USAF; Ens. Adam Leizio, USN; 1st Lt. Colin Lohr, USAF; 1st Lt. Joshua Mallow, USMC; Ens. Lauren Power, USCG; and Ens. Robert Tumminello; Advanced recipients are 1st Lt. Christopher Driscoll, USMC; Lt. j.g. Brittany Manley, USN; and Lt. j.g. Chris Schneider, USN. Commodore's list awardees are 2nd Lt. Craig McClure, USMC; 2nd Lt. Andrew Rast, USAF; and Lt. Andrew Wyrick, USN. Right Photo: Award recipients are: (in no particular order) 2nd Lt. Catherine Donnell, USAF, Ens. Joseph Graham, USN, Ens. Nathan Jump, USN; 2nd Lt. J. Boston Little, USAF; 2nd Lt. Jason McCulley, USAF; 1st Lt. Mark Stefanski, USMC; Lt. j.g. Brett Gillies, USN; 1st Lt. Marin Matijevic, USMC; 2nd Lt. Christopher Mungia, USMC; 1st Lt. Jonah Warren, USMC; Lt. j.g. Patrick Lakusta, USN; Lt. j.g. David Tarr, USN; and Lt. j.g. Raymond Jamros, USCG.