

Whiting Tower

NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.

"THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT NAVAL AIR COMPLEX"

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Divisional Spotlight:

Whiting Air Traffic Controllers Keep Runways Running Smooth

By Lt. j.g. Daniel Ammons-Moreno, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

"Roger, two able outbounds, NY," said Air Traffic Controller Second Class Edmund Granton while responding to a call to the Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NASWF) Air Traffic Control Tower. Granton, a controller at NASWF for almost four years, received the call while manning the radar supervisor position at the South field Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower.

As radar supervisor, Granton oversees all radar approaches and radar related radio traffic at the base's South field. He also oversees two other radar operators and passes inbound aircraft making radar approaches to them.

Handling multiple functions while on watch is a way of life for the controllers. The operational tempo of the base demands it.

"It just comes naturally to us," responded Granton when asked about ATCs and multitasking.

Air traffic controllers onboard NAS Whiting Field operate 14 positions that each require a unique set of qualifications. - (Cont. on Page 5)



Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class (AC2) Chelsea Marshall (right) trains AC2 Jessica Owens (left) on the clearance delivery watch position in the South field air traffic control (ATC) tower. This is one of four watch positions in the South field tower. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Daniel Ammons-Moreno.



Teamwork Leading to Success

Capt. Enrique Sadsad, Commanding Officer NAS Whiting Field, receives an award from the Santa Rosa County Commissioners recognizing his selection as 2009 ADC Military Leader of the Year. "It is an honor to receive this award," said Sadsad, "but the honor goes to the NAS Whiting Field staff, the board of county commissioners, TEAM Santa Rosa, and the community at large for their great working relations we have enjoyed through the years." U.S. Navy file photo.

Sailors Explore Transferability as Post 9/11 GI Bill Date Approaches

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW) Maria Yager, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- The Navy released guidance and transferability policy July 13 for Sailors who wish to use Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to pay for their family member's college education.

Transferability under the Post 9/11 GI Bill is a recruiting and retention tool. While a Sailor may be eligible for education benefits provided by the Post 9/11 GI Bill, generally the option to transfer a Sailor's unused benefits to a family member requires an additional service commitment in the armed forces, according to NAVADMIN 203/09.

"I think a lot of people are excited to have the opportunity to transfer benefits. The NAVADMIN lists a lot of information addressing eligibility and service obligation requirements so if you are interested in transferring your benefits, start there first," said Kathy Wardlaw, the Navy's GI Bill program manager.

- (Cont. on Page 4)

Seeing Progress In and Around Whiting Field

By: Lt. j.g. Daniel Ammons-Moreno, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Commissary Renovations:

The NASWF commissary is in the final stages of a three million dollar renovation process. These renovations include new flooring and shelving, new refrigerated cases, as well as more efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC).

The goal of the Defense Commissary Agency's renovations is two-fold energy efficiency and creating more space for products. The new HVAC system promises to be a reduction in energy costs, as well as the new automated lighting system. Furthermore, many of the refrigeration cases were over 17 years old. Replacing these cases not only saves energy costs, but allows more room for new products.

"The renovations have allowed us to add over 600 new items," said Jack Spence, NASWF Commissary Store Director. "This gives customers a better selection while maintaining our 30 percent lower overall prices in comparison to local food costs."

These new products include Alli weight loss products, Fuze vitamin supplemented drinks, Hartz pet supplies, and an expanded line of fresh fruits and vegetables. These renovations are expected to be completed on July 31st.



Irene Grantham and her children, Clark and Lily, spend the morning shopping at the NAS Whiting Field Commissary. The recent renovations expanded the refrigerated produce section by 20 percent. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Daniel Ammons-Moreno.

Ethanol 10:

"On June 11th the Navy Exchange at Whiting Field completed the upgrade and installation project of our new fuel dispensers. The new gas pumps provide many new features, including ATM style customer interface with 5.7" easy to read graphic screens, patented no drift meters, ensuring that the correct amount of fuel gets dispensed, and silk screened NEX graphics. The new dispensers will also accept military Gift Cards as an added payment tender," stated Linda Larrabee, NEX manager.

Along with the completion of the new fuel pumps, came the introduction of Ethanol 10 fuel to the Whiting Field



Ethan and Salla Stagmaier enjoy a morning at the new playground at NAS Whiting Field. "My kids were thrilled when they took the tape of the new playground. It has only been here a couple of weeks and we've visited it four times," said Leah Stagmaier. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Daniel Ammons-Moreno.

NEX Autoport. This was done to reduce the U.S. dependence on foreign oil and due to a state ban on Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE). MTBE additives have been banned in most U.S. jurisdictions for their environmental and health implications.

Ethanol 10 is compatible with car manufacturer's vehicle standards and its pricing will remain consistent with the current market prices. The change to Ethanol 10 was accomplished during the new fuel pump installation in order to avoid additional down time due to cleaning tanks.

Health Clinic Renovations:

Just last week the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery reserved 2.7 million dollars for renovations here at the NASWF Health Clinic. One of the primary goals of these renovations is to provide more modern HVAC systems and to install fire suppression sprinklers.

The clinic will be moving into modular structures across the parking lot in front of the NEX for approximately one year. The modular facility will have the same operational capabilities as the current clinic. The renovations are expected to begin in January of 2010.

"Despite the smaller size of the modular facility, all current capabilities and services will be available in the temporary clinic" said Cmdr. Jeff Plummer, Officer in Charge of the Branch Clinic. "We have a great relationship with our Whiting Field patients, and I'm sure they will understand the challenges that come with renovation. When we move back into the renovated facility, the efficiencies and surroundings of the new spaces will make the Whiting Field Branch Health Clinic an even better place to enroll your family for receiving out military's world class health care benefit."

The overall renovations process is still in its early stages and more information will be released as the process unfolds.

News and Notes

Legal Service - The NAS Whiting Field Legal Office now offers additional legal assistance hours. 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.

UFO Tours! - Ride the red trolley and see the sights that made Gulf Breeze the UFO capital of the world! Tours are at 8 p.m. on Saturdays through Sept. 5. Tickets are priced at \$25 for adults and \$5 for children. Reservations required; call Denise Daughtry at 435-0917 or visit www.fiveflagstrolley.com.

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/.

Babysitting Class - The American Red Cross will be providing FREE Babysitter's Training courses for military family members, ages 11-15: Jul 25 - Eglin AFB - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Aug 3 - NAS Whiting Field, Fleet and Family Support Center - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and Aug 8 - Eglin AFB - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Participants will receive: Babysitter's Training Certificate, Babysitter's Training Handbook with CD-ROM, and Babysitter's Training Portfolio. Pre-registration is required by calling 800-773-7620, ext. 0.

Price of Peace Family Fun Day - Free family fun day for all military members and families who have been impacted by deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Activities include rock wall, carnival games, face painting, and door prizes. Please RSVP with Shana Hamilton at rsvp2009@gmail.com. Please provide active duty military member's name, military branch, tour date, unit number, number of family attending with ages, and a family contact number.

Wildlife Expo 2009 - Hunting seminars and a Kids Zone will be available from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1 at the UF/PJC Campus. Featured topics include Quality Deer Management, Food Plot Preparation, Wild Hog & Turkey Hunting Tips, and Fishing and Pond Management. The Kids Zone will include a Youth Archery Contest, Shooting Sports, and a Sports Fishing and Casting contest. Food will be available. Admission is \$5 and kids are free. Guest Speakers include Zac Cooper and Joe Hamilton. For more information contact Ms. Robin Vickers 983-5216 ext. 113 or visit the website miltongators.com.

NHP Accepting New Enrollees - Naval Hospital Pensacola's Primary Care Clinics (Family Medicine and Internal Medicine) are now accepting new enrollees. This enrollment opportunity is open to all Retirees and Retiree Family Members. Please note: Medicare and TRICARE for Life beneficiaries are not included. However, these programs will remain unchanged.

To enroll, please stop by Naval Hospital Pensacola's TRICARE Service Center (TSC) located on the first floor of the hospital in Room D-1051, Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You may also call Naval Hospital Pensacola's Health Benefits Office at (850) 505-6709 for questions or any further assistance.

Military Wives Host Art Show - Clara's Angels, an American Red Cross volunteer group made up of local military wives,



A Hard Days Work

Aircraft Mechanic, Mech 1, Henry Austin performs a fuel cell installation in conjunction with a hard point replacement on the underside of a TH-57. U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Austin Nasca.

will host an Art Show and Wine Tasting event at the Pensacola Naval Air Station Officers' Club on August 15, 2009.

"We are excited to be partnering with the local Red Cross for this year's event," said Karin Feagles, the event coordinator. "The Red Cross provides a valuable service to the military families in Northwest Florida and to the entire community when disaster strikes," continued Feagles.

Artwork including photography, jewelry, ceramics, pottery, paintings and unique crafts from local artisans will be displayed and available for purchase.

A local beverage distributor, Southern Wine & Spirits, will have a variety of wines available for tasting and appetizers will be served during the evening.

The event will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and is open to the public. Tickets can be purchased at www.YourRedCross.org or at the door.

Marriage Enrichment Retreats - The Chaplain's Religious Development Operation (CREDO) will host two Marriage Enrichment retreats within the next two months. The first will be at the Renaissance Hotel in Mobile, Ala., Aug. 28-30 and the second will be at Perdido Bay Resort, Sept. 11-13. Both retreats are free and open to active duty, reserve, and retired personnel. The Marriage Enrichment sessions are designed to help couples understand expectations, explore personality differences, improve communication skills and provide quality fun time together to help strengthen relationships. For more information or to sign up, call the spiritual fitness division southeast at (904) 542-3923. Interested personnel may also call Chaplain Ray Summerlin at 623-7211.

Not Quite Fab - Listen to the tunes from Not Quite Fab at the free outdoor concert coordinated by the Santa Rosa Island Authority. The band will perform from 7 -9 p.m. at the Gulfside Pavilion Aug. 4. Spectators are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Pets and glass are prohibited. Call 932-2257 for details.

Free Beach Concert - Quietwater Shell on Pensacola Beach is sponsoring a free, outdoor concert featuring the fast-paced rock and blues sounds of Dunnottar. The two-hour concert begins at 6 p.m. July 31. Guests may bring chairs or lawn blankets, but should not bring pets or glass containers. For more information, call 932-2257 or visit www.visitpensacolabeach.com.

Upcoming Events

July 31, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium
Aug. 2-8, All Day - Navy League PO Leadership Training
Aug. 6, 1000 - NASWF Staff Assoc. Golf Tournament
Aug. 14, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Aug. 14, 1830 - Community Appreciation Luau - Wings Club
Aug. 20, 0900 - FFSC Job Fair - Sikes Hall
Aug. 20, TBD - Rollout of First T-6B Aircraft at NASWF
Aug. 28, 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.

VA Representative (Call for appointment) - Friday, July 31, 0800 - 1200

Time Management - Wednesday, August 5, 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.

Financial Planning for Deployment - Friday, August 7, 1300 - 1500

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.

GI Bill Transferability

- (Cont. from Page 1)



Seaman Erin Koecke, from Tacoma, Wash., takes notes during an intermediate college algebra course aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). U.S. Navy file photo.

Under the Post 9/11 GI Bill, which goes into effect August 1, qualifying Sailors may elect to transfer all or a portion of their benefits to a spouse or child enrolled in Defense Eligibility Enrollment System and eligible for benefits. For transferability, Sailors must have served at least six years in the armed forces and agree to serve an additional four years, in most cases.

The NAVADMIN outlines exceptions to the additional four-year service obligation, which includes Sailors currently eligible for retirement within four years of the Post 9/11 GI Bill start date.

"It's a huge step in the right direction for Sailors to be able to transfer their GI Bill benefits. Upon my retirement, my son will be quickly approaching college years. Being able to transfer my GI Bill to him will take a load off of our wallet," said Yeoman 1st Class (SW) Shontay Bond, assigned to Navy Recruiting Command.

The basic steps for transferring benefits are:

- Talk with the chain of command or career counselor to determine service obligation.

- Ensure the required service obligation is reflected in the Electronic Service Record at <https://nsips.nmci.navy.mil/>.

- Request to transfer benefits at the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Web site www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/. This step may only be completed while in the armed forces (active duty or selected Reserves).

- Check the DMDC Web site application status. Once approved, visit Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Web site to the Veterans Online Application <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/>. Follow the instructions to create user name and password. After account is created, select "Create New Form" from drop-down and choose VA Form 22-1990e.

- VA will verify eligibility and provide a certificate of eligibility to the family member designated to receive the benefits.

- Family members will take the certificate of eligibility to the college and complete appropriate documentation to receive Post 9/11 benefits.

"The number one reason for rejected applications is the lack of sufficient obligated service or Page 13 not reflecting in a Sailor's electronic service record. Sailors should verify the information is there before applying for transferability," said Wardlaw.

Additional information including a checklist and frequently asked questions (FAQ) sheet is available at the Navy Personnel Command Web site at www.npc.navy.mil.

Spotlight

- (Cont. from Page 1)

cations. These positions are split between four main locations: North tower, South tower, radar, Choctaw, and base operations.

“This is a very unique station for ATCs,” said AC3 Bradley Shane, “not many stations have two separate towers and fly as many ops as we do.”

In fact, no other Naval base in the country flies as many. More than 160,000 hours are flown annually accounting for 11% of all Navy and Marine Corps flight hours and 41% of all of naval air training’s flight hours. These figures translate into a busy operational tempo for ATCs at NAS Whiting Field.

From airmen right out of Naval Air Station Pensacola’s A school, to 1st Class Petty Officer’s serving as crew section leaders, air traffic controllers at NAS Whiting Field have a wide variety of backgrounds. For many, this is their first tour. As a result, on the job training is an integral part of ATC operations. At the very same airfield that teaches student pilots how to fly, new ATCs are trained by their peers during everyday operations.

This daily training regime is what made the new ATC tower at South field such a dramatic improvement.

“Whiting is very busy,” said AC2 Kendra Mock, “...the old tower was just too small for training and operations.” Mock explained that the minimum manning in

“The Sailors of ATC Division do a tremendous job day in and day out. I have nothing but the utmost confidence in their ability to carry out the mission.”

**- Capt. Enrique Sadsad
Commanding Officer
NAS Whiting Field**

the tower is four, and that typically two additional ATCs would be in the tower training.

“It get’s cramped and noisy--not a good thing for ATCs during flight ops,” commented AC2 Evan McGroarty.

Another unique aspect of the ATC division at NASWF is the integration of positional authority,

rank, and training. It is not unusual to see an airman or 3rd class training someone senior to themselves.

Also, out of the 16 different ATC positions at NAS Whiting Field, five of them are supervisor positions. The supervisor positions are filled by anyone who is qualified, and that can mean that a junior Sailor could be supervising a senior Sailor. As a true testament to the professionalism of the ATC division, the ATCs report that no difficulties have ever arisen from this structure.



Air traffic controller (ATC) Airman Jermaine Roby responds to a radio call from an inbound pilot. Roby guides the pilot in using precision approach radar. ATCs executing precision approaches ensure pilots are on the proper glide path and heading while landing. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Daniel Ammons-Moreno.

“Positional authority and experience are the most important thing,” said McGroarty.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of this division is the level of ownership these Petty Officer’s have. From the beginning of flight operations until the last helicopter lands in South field as late as 1 a.m., these ATCs lead and train each other--all while conducting flight operations.

“These guys run the show, and it makes my job very smooth,” said Chief Michael Pendency, the Chief in charge of the radar operations.

Finally, the capstone achievement for the ATCs while stationed at NAS Whiting Field is the Facility Watch Supervisor (FWS) position. This supervisor position is only manned by ATCs who have qualified on every other position at NAS Whiting Field and successfully completed a board conducted by the ATC Chiefs and the other FWS qualified ATCs. The Commanding Officer of NAS Whiting Field, Capt. Enrique Sadsad, gives the final approval for each FWS.

“The Facility Watch Supervisor is my direct representative for all air traffic control operations at Whiting Field,” stated Capt. Sadsad. “The Sailors of ATC Division do a tremendous job day in and day out. I have nothing but the utmost confidence in their ability to carry out the mission.”

Milestones and Memories From Around the Base



Upper Left: Akiko "Suzie" Daniels cuts her celebratory cake commemorating 40 years of work with the Naval Exchange and 36 years at NAS Whiting Field. Daniels specifically emphasized that she is, "NOT retiring." Thank you for all you have done Suzie! U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Daniel Ammons-Moreno.

Above: On 20 July, the NASWF CO, XO, and Staff Association participated in the 25 Annual Blackwater River Clean-up. Twenty volunteers picked up more than 600 pounds of trash between Bryant Bridge and the Blackwater River State Park. In addition to plastic bottles and aluminum cans, the volunteers hauled away broken outdoor chairs, dilapidated grills, noodles, shoes, and nets.

Left: Lt. Paul Russo, USCG receives a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his outstanding efforts during his tour at Training Air Wing FIVE. Col. Scott Walsh presents the award. Photo courtesy of TRAWING-5.

Below Left: Employees of PRI/DJI present Capt. Enrique Sadsad, Commanding Officer of NAS Whiting Field, with a photograph of the repainted CH-46 helicopter located on the base behind the atrium. The CH-46 had sentimental value to Sadsad, who flew this aircraft in the fleet. PRI/DJI restored the aircraft and presented it to Sadsad last year. The photograph commemorating the restoration was presented to Sadsad at the 66th anniversary of NAS Whiting Field. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Daniel Ammons-Moreno.

Capt. Enrique Sadsad, Commanding Officer of NAS Whiting Field, discusses the value of simulator training for student pilots with Bruce Cwalina, Navy Region Southeast Executive Director, and his staff. Cwalina spent the day touring the base facilities with Sadsad. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Daniel Ammons-Moreno.

