

# Whiting Tower

NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.

"THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT NAVAL AIR COMPLEX"

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## Whiting Field Signs Agreement With County to Reduce Encroachment

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Santa Rosa County, Fla. signed an agreement Friday, July 31 to help spur economic growth in the county while protecting the base from residential encroachment.

The Limited Access Use Agreement provides the county with restricted use of base runways for a proposed commercial aviation park located near the air station's east gate. The signing also guarantees that the county's nearly 270 acre plot will never be used for residential building which could have been detrimental to the base's aviation training mission.

The signing culminates nearly 10 years of ongoing negotiations between the county, the base, Navy Region Southeast and ultimately the Chief of Naval Operations.

"I am excited about this historic moment," Santa Rosa County Commissioner Don Salter said. "This is a great day for Santa Rosa County and Whiting Field and is another step in the great partnership we have had for more than 50 years."

- (Cont. on Page 5)



Capt. Enrique Sadsad, commanding officer Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Santa Rosa County Board of Commissions Chairman Don Salter shake hands after signing an agreement allowing Santa Rosa County restricted use of the base's airfield. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

## Squadron Employee Wins \$30K Sports Car

By Lt. j.g. Daniel Ammons-Moreno

It was a simple phone call--one of dozens he receives every day--and since he didn't recognize the number, he didn't answer. Fortunately, the caller was persistent and after four messages, Arnold Ochoa finally returned his call. Seconds later, he was jumping for joy.

The call was from a Dr. Pepper representative informing him that he was a winner in the company's nationwide military promotion to give away two new, 2010 Chevrolet Camaros. One car was given away on each side of the country, and Ochoa won the one for the eastern half of the U.S.

Ochoa, a retired Navy Chief worked for Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN, Training Squadron THREE and Training Air Wing FIVE before retiring in the area. Now he serves as an administrative supervisor for Training Squadron TWO. The 15 year local resident still has trouble believing he won the \$30,000 car.

"When I put the slip in the box, I remember asking myself,

- (Cont. on Page 2)



Arnold Ochoa, an administrative supervisor for Training Squadron TWO jumps for joy when handed the keys to a 2010 Chevy Camaro. Ochoa won one of the two cars given away at commissaries across the country. Although used for the presentation ceremony, the car in the background is not his. Ochoa should receive his car in three to four months and it will be painted a dark red - Dr. Pepper like - color. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Daniel Ammons-Moreno.

# MyCAA Financial Assistance Offered to Military Spouses

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

The Department of Defense's Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) program is providing \$6,000 for military spouses interested in pursuing degree programs, licenses, or credentials leading to high growth and high demand portable career fields. Spouses of active duty and activated National Guard and Reserve service members are eligible.

The MyCAA funds will cover expenses such as secondary and post-secondary education and training programs, tuition, licensing and credentialing fees. Some examples include: degree programs, Bar and CPA exams, certifications for teachers, and continuing education classes.

"MyCAA has provided me with an opportunity to complete my degree much sooner—thanks to their funding," said Sandra Plocharczyk, a spouse of an active duty service member. "The MyCAA money was easy to apply for and was paid directly to the college. It could not have been easier."

Plocharczyk used the funds to complete her tuition costs for her Master's degree from Troy University. Plocharczyk, also an Academic Advisor for Troy University, estimates that the \$6000 funds from MyCAA would cover roughly half of the cost for a 15 month Master's degree program from Troy University online at current tuition rates.

The MyCAA money can be used for online universities such as Troy—making the funds attractive for all military spouses facing varying PCS moves, transfers, and deployments. For more information, and also to apply for the funds, visit <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa>.

# FFSC Holds Spouse Support Class

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

Fleet and Family Support Center unveiled its newest class to support Naval Air Station Whiting Field. The Spouse Orientation class parallels the indoctrination new pilots receive - except that it focuses on opportunities and services available to the spouse.

Ten spouses attended the first class July 27. These spouses received briefs from Col. John Walsh, Commodore Training Air Wing FIVE; Cmdr. Dominguez, Student Controller; Cmdr. Lynn



The ten graduates of the first Fleet and Family Support Center Spouse Orientation class stand together following the course completion. Photo courtesy of FFSC.

Chapman, NAS Whiting Field executive officer, as well as information from the Chaplain, MWR, and Troy University.

"The goal of the class was to distribute information geared toward military spouses about Whiting Field directly to the spouse," said Laura McLaughlin of FFSC. "All too often we hear spouses comment about services and facilities they didn't know they had access to use."

These classes will become a regular part of the FFSC class schedule on the last Monday of each month from 8 a.m. to noon. Call FFSC at (850) 623-7177 to reserve a seat or for more details.

"The success of the all-volunteer force is predicated on the support of the all-volunteer family," Walsh said. "These young families need to know that this is not just idle talk and that we truly do support the families."

# Sports Car

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'Does anybody really win these things?' Well yes someone does win," he said.

The National Account Executive for Dr. Pepper and Snapple Group was on hand Tuesday, Aug. 5 to ceremonially present the keys to Ochoa, his wife, Vickie, and their daughter, Allison Boggs.

The promotion to provide two cars to military bases is part of a larger program to give away 23 Camaros across the country. The two cars were a way to say "thank you" to the military communities who defend the country Dollarhide said.

"We're excited to support the men and women of the military and the base personnel who make their mission

possible."

Last year's prize for a similar promotion was a Harley Davidson motorcycle. Ochoa considered himself luckier to win the car.

"I still can't believe I won the whole thing. Sitting in it, it is a lot of car."

The car still has to be special ordered and delivered to Ochoa because local dealers cannot keep many of them in stock. The car used in the presentation ceremony was loaned to the dealership by a recent purchaser. Although he isn't expected to receive it for about three months, Ochoa's car is on special order and will be dark red--almost the same color as a Dr. Pepper bottle.

## News and Notes

**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](mailto: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.

**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, 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](http://www.YourRedCross.org) or at the door.



### Developing the Future

Aydan Smith (right) and Siena Ward (left) graduated from preschool Friday, July 31 at the Child Development Center. The occasion was marked by a ceremony with teachers, parents and even a visit from Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Enrique Sadsad. U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Austin Nasca.



### Onward and Upward

Capt. Jeff Plummer and his family cut the cake commemorating his promotion to Captain Friday, July 31. Seeing the crowd gathered to witness his promotion, Plummer joked, "It's amazing what happens when word gets out about free cake."

Plummer's first promotion also occurred at NAS Whiting Field, "No one served me cake back then however."

His promoting officer, Col. John Powell (pictured left), said that Plummer was a fine officer and that he was proud to be a part of the ceremony.

Plummer credited the people he served with and his family for his success, "My wife makes this Navy family work. Upon returning from Iraq, I noticed my kids had received more medals than I had." U.S. Navy photo by HM1 Nathan Antonio.

**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.

**Get Back to Nature** - New Orleans has proclaimed military travel month through Sept. 30. The city is rolling out the red, white, and blue carpet for all military visitors. The Audubon Nature Institute is providing a military promotion of "buy one get one free" coupons. Valid for up to four admissions, the coupons may be used for the Audubon Zoo, Insectarium or Aquarium. Visit [auduboninstitute.org](http://auduboninstitute.org) for details or contact ITT at 7032.

**Book Signing** - The Navy Exchange will host a book signing by Martha LaGuardia-Kotite Aug. 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. She is the author of the book "So Others May Live," a feature about Coast Guard rescue swimmers. The author is a Niceville, Fla. resident and a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

**9-Pin No Tap** - The NAS Whiting Field Bowling Alley hosts 9-Pin No Tap evenings on the first Saturday of each month. Beginning at 7 p.m. the event features prizes for red and blue headpin strikes and 300 no tap games. Call 623-7313 for details.

## Upcoming Events

Aug. 6, 1000 - NASWF Staff Assoc. Golf Tournament

Aug. 14, 1030 - NEX Book Signing Martha LaGuardia-Kotite

Aug. 14, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Aug. 14, 1830 - Community Appreciation Luau - Wings Club

Aug. 20, 0900 - FFSC Job Fair - Sikes Hall

Aug. 27, TBD - Rollout of First T-6B Aircraft at NASWF

Aug. 28, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Sept. 4, TBD - NASWF Safety Standown - Sikes Hall

# 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.

## 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.

## Resume Writing - Monday, August 10, 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.

## VA Representative (Call for appointment) - Friday, August 14, 0800 – 1200 & Friday, August 28, 0800 – 1200

## Home Buying - Friday, August 14, 1300 – 1500

A home is one of the most complicated and costly purchases you'll ever make. Getting the best deal at the time of purchase can reduce "life of the loan" by thousands of dollars. Let us show you how. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

# Navy Rolls Out F-35C Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Rebekah Blowers, Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs  
**FORT WORTH, Texas (NNS) --** The chief of Naval Operations (CNO) welcomed the Navy's first Joint Strike Fighter, the F-35C Lightning II, to the fleet in a ceremony July 28.

The F-35C is the Navy's first stealth fighter and enables the Navy to decrease the time from threat to response at sea. The aircraft possesses uncompromised carrier suitability and low-maintenance stealth materials designed for long-term durability in the carrier environment.

Adm. Gary Roughead, CNO, said this aircraft adds tremendous capability to the fleet.

"Our Sailors will never be in a fair fight because this airplane will top anything that comes its way. It will give our Sailors and pilots the tactical and technical advantage in the skies and it will relieve our aircraft as they age out," Roughead said.

CNO said the pace of operations has not been easy on Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, and Marines, nor on the ships and aircraft they rely on. He said the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is essential to addressing the Navy, and more importantly the nation's, strike fighter needs.

"It is most exciting for me to think about the young men and women who look to this uniform, who look to naval aviation and see a fulfillment in their lives and an excitement in their lives that is unmatched in any other profession in the world," Roughead said. "I thank you for what you have done and thank you for what you are going to do."

The F-35C is on schedule to meet the Navy's initial operational capability in 2015, and combines stealth with supersonic speed and high agility. The Lightning II employs the most powerful and comprehensive sensor package ever incorporated into a fighter.



Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead speaks with Jeff "Slim" Knowels, an F-35C Lightning II test pilot, while touring the F-35 Production Operations and Integrated Testing Lab in Fort Worth, Texas. Roughead was in the Southwest region participating in the rollout ceremony for the F-35C Lightning II, the Navy's first-ever stealth fighter. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Tiffini Jones Vanderwyst/Released.

# Signing

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In addition to promoting development of the land that is compatible to Whiting Field's training, the park is expected to attract businesses related to aviation maintenance. It is hoped that the project will bring high paying employment to Santa Rosa County while reducing the time it takes to complete complex maintenance procedures that require aircraft to be moved to other facilities.

Future steps to the development of the aviation park include meeting with potential lessees and exploring funding opportunities including State of Florida Economic Develop Infrastructure Grants, public/private partnerships and economic development bonds.

"Not only is Whiting Field here to complete the mission, but also to contribute to Santa Rosa County's economic development," Capt. Enrique Sadsad, NAS Whiting Field commanding officer, said. "It is a momentous day for us, and it is the tremendous partnership between the base and the county that has made this possible."

## TRICARE NOTE

### NEW TRICARE REGIONAL MANAGED CARE SUPPORT CONTRACTORS SELECTED

The DoD announced last month the selection of the new TRICARE Managed Care Support (MCS) contractors for the North, South and West TRICARE Regions in the United States.

This is the third generation (T-3) of managed care support contracts and transition from the current contracts is scheduled to begin immediately. The start of health care delivery under the new contracts will anticipate being 1 April 2010.

UnitedHealth Military & Veterans Services, Minnetonka, MN is selected for the South Region where Humana Healthcare Services is the current contractor. Aetna Government Health Plans, Hartford, CN is selected for the North Region where Health Net Federal Services is the current contractor. The TRICARE West region retains its current contractor, TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp.

Under T-3, some prime service areas may be discontinued, and as a result some beneficiaries will no longer be offered Prime. These beneficiaries still retain TRICARE coverage under the Standard or Extra Plan.

States included in each region and other contract information can be found at a special web page at <http://www.tricare.mil/T3contracts>.



## Closing a Chapter of Commissary Service for Verder Daniels

Photo and story by Ensign Austin Nasca, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Goodbyes are -- never easy, and that makes it a tough week for the commissary family as they say farewell to retiring Commissary Support Clerk Verder Daniels.

"Verder could do any job in the store," Former Store Director Margaret Harpel, said "...her customers loved her."

Customers and fellow employees alike had great things to say about Daniels.

"Her whole personality is about helping people," according to store secretary Linda Masraum, the store secretary said. "We wish we could hire her back on as the commissary greeter," she added.

"Nobody is a stranger, that's just the way I was brought up," Daniels said. "If I can make them smile, that makes me smile."

Daniels served in many different commissaries in the course of her 32-year career with the Defense Commissary Agency. She has worked in Orlando; Langley Air Force Base, V.A.; NAS Bermuda and here in the Pensacola area. This has all been accomplished in conjunction with the career of her husband, retired Master Chief Petty Officer Ivory Daniels.

## This Day in Navy History:

### *The Battle of Mobile Bay*

The Battle of Mobile Bay began on Aug. 5, 1864, when Rear Adm. David Farragaut's 14 wooden ships and four monitors entered Mobile Bay.

The Union ships took a heavy barrage from Confederate entrenchments at Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan. After some resistance, Adm. Franklin Buchanan's three gunboats and one ironclad were forced to surrender. Union forces were eventually able to capture Fort Morgan as well. This left the Port of Mobile Bay effectively closed.

The Battle of Mobile Bay is supposedly when Rear Adm. Farragaut made his famous order, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"

# Congrats TRAWING-5 Wingers and Scholars



First Row: 1st Lt. Christopher Munguia, USMC, 1st Lt. Malcolm Pope, USMC, 1st Lt. Andrew Stanfield, USMC, Lt. Scott Koser, USCG, Lt. j.g. Robert Dalton, USN, Lt. j.g. Jayme Bromley, USN, 1st Lt. James Slocum, USMC, Lt. j.g. Johnathan Bosch, USN, Lt. j.g. Kimberly Rudzis, USN, 1st Lt. Timothy O'Keefe, USMC, 1st Lt. Brett Bishop, USMC, and Col. John Walsh, USMC. Second row: Lt. Col. Shawn Coakley, USMC, 1st Lt. Jonah Warren, USMC, Lt. j.g. Ernest Saponara, USCG, Lt. j.g. Matthew Kania, USN, Lt. j.g. Matthew Spence, USN, Ens. David Nostro, USN, 1st Lt. Joshua Bosworth, USMC, 1st Lt. Patrick Butler, USMC, 1st Lt. Madeline Boe, USMC, 1st Lt. Ryan Morrison, USMC, Lt. Nelson Cable, USCG, and 1st Lt. Adam Popplewell, USMC. Third row: Cmdr. Michael Fisher, USN, 1st Lt. Marin Matijevic, USMC, Lt. Gregory Lynch, USCG, 1st Lt. Jason Stapleton, USMC, Lt. j.g. Brendan McGunigle, USN, Lt. j.g. Nicholas Holman, USN, Lt. Hector Ramos, USCG, Lt. j.g. Adam Barreras, USN, 1st Lt. Michael Golchert, USMC, and Lt. j.g. Stephen Hutchings, USN. Fourth row: Lt. Col. C. A. Stackhouse, USMC, Lt. j.g. Matthew Henrich, USN, 1st Lt. Carll Burr, VI, USMC, 1st Lt. Nathan Ruffing, USMC, Lt. j.g. Mark Rothschild, USN, Lt. j.g. Nathan Stein, USN, 1st Lt. Thomas Reese, USMC, Lt. j.g. Brett Gillies, USN, Lt. j.g. Cameron Bouton, USN, 1st Lt. Olaitan Adesanya, USMC, and Lt. Col. Scott Jensen, USMC. U.S. Navy photo by Marc Bizzell.



Left Photo: Lt. j.g. Michael J. Buehler, USN; 1st Lt. Michael T. Spoja, USMC; 2nd Lt. Raliene F. Hernandez, USAF; Ens. Travis B. Thomas, USN; 1st Lt. Michael C. Oates, USMC; Lt. j.g. Bernie C. Garrigan, USCG; and Lt. Dominic N. Bucciarelli, USCG are presented their academic awards by Cmdr. Leif E. Bergery July 24. Right Photo: Ens. Scot M. Paterson, USN; Ens. Richard L. LeFills, JR., USN; Ens. George M. Yacus II, USN; 2nd Lt. Andrew J. Mettler, USMC; 2nd Lt. Andrew J. Mettler, USMC; 2nd Lt. Russell K. Maben, USMC (Right Side) Lt. j.g. Allison B. Mabrey, USN; 1st Lt. Edmund M. Romagnoli, USMC; 1st Lt. Christopher M. Schwamberger, USMC; 2nd Lt. Matthew D. Welch, USMC; Ens. Christopher R. Kucala, USN; 1st Lt. Andrew J. Dulik, USMC; and Lt. John F. Stuber, USN are all smiles after they receive their academic awards July 31. Photos courtesy of Training Air Wing FIVE.