

# Whiting Tower

NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.

"THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT NAVAL AIR COMPLEX"

Vol. 65 No. 36

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

## TRAWING-5 Exceeds 2,000,000 TH-57 Flight Hours

### - Contractors Have Been Maintaining Helos Since 1981

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Averaging 6,000 hours per month for more than 28 years, Training Air Wing FIVE surpassed 2,000,000 flight hours under contract maintenance Sept. 8. The milestone signifies the success of the transition from military personnel performing maintenance on the aircraft to contractors taking charge in 1981.

Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT performed the hallmark flight and the event was celebrated upon their afternoon return. Col. Scott Walsh, commander TRAWING-5, greeted the flight crew and praised the maintenance teams that help them get home safely time and time again.

"Two million flight hours can be achieved because of a professional team that asks themselves, 'If that was my son or daughter, would I let them fly that aircraft?' Those decisions are made every day and made by true professionals," Walsh said before helping William Bailey, L-3 Communication's maintenance manager, cut the ceremonial cake.

The military - contractor partnership initiated Oct. 15, 1981

- (Cont. on Page 5)



Col. Scott Walsh, commander Training Air Wing FIVE and William Bailey, maintenance manager for L-3 Communications at NAS Whiting Field cut the cake to celebrate surpassing two million flight hours of TH-57 Ranger operations since contractors assumed maintenance responsibilities in 1981. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

## BJ Penn Retires After More than Four Decades of Service



Sideboys salute Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment BJ Penn and his wife as he retires from civilian service. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jay Chu.

By Lt. j.g. Laura Stegherr, Navy Office of Information

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The assistant secretary of the Navy for installations and environment (ASN I&E), retired from civilian service Sept. 3 after more than four years as the leader of the Department of the Navy's shore establishment and three months as acting secretary of the Navy.

BJ Penn, ASN I&E credits his previous three decades for his success.

Penn's journey began as a seaman recruit when he enlisted in the Navy in 1961. He went on to earn his wings as a naval aviator, serve as both the executive officer and commanding officer of VAQ-33 and as air boss on the USS America.

"Every aviator wants to then be the commander officer of an aircraft carrier," said Penn. "However, I didn't screen for a carrier, I got Naval Air Station North Island, which was phenomenal, because at the time it was the Navy's largest air station. Everything I did during my time at the air station is what prepared me so greatly for this job."

During his tenure as ASN (I&E), Penn was responsible for the management of the Department's shore infrastructure, which encompasses 102 installations and 72,500 facilities valued at over \$215 billion. This position carried with it several new and complex responsibilities - ensuring the Department was environmentally compliant, energy efficient, and was supported by a force with a high quality of life.

- (Cont. on Page 2)

# FY10 SRB Rewards Critical Skills and Top Performance

## From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) award levels were announced in NAVADMIN 250/09 for active duty and Reserve full time support Sailors which are scheduled to take effect Oct. 1.

Approximately 18,000 Sailors holding 179 critical skills will be eligible to reenlist with SRB awards up to \$90,000 next year.

“We value Sailors with certain skill sets — critical skill sets — and recognize that they are in high demand throughout the workforce,” said Rear Adm. Dan Holloway, director of personnel plans and policy. “The SRB program allows Navy to provide top performing Sailors with an additional incentive to stay Navy and advance mission success and their careers.”

In addition to announcing SRB award levels, the NAVADMIN introduces enhancements designed to not only retain personnel with critical skills, but to reward top performers within those critical skill sets.

For the first time, Sailors who receive an “early promote” rating on their most recent regular evaluation may reenlist early for SRB anytime during the fiscal year (FY) of their end of active obligated service (EAOS).

“When a Sailor says, ‘I’ve been recognized as a top performer, I want to reenlist for a bonus, but I’m not eligible until the third or fourth quarter; isn’t there an option for me?’ Now our answer is, ‘yes,’” said Holloway.

In addition, three tiers, have been established to for-

mally prioritize and rank enlisted ratings/skills according to replacement costs, difficulty to replace, and existing manning shortfalls.

Enlisted community managers evaluated each skill and zone on individual manning requirements; how well reenlistment goals were achieved in FY09; prevailing market conditions; private sector competition and the costs of training; and replacing skilled Sailors. A comprehensive comparison using these criteria was balanced against the risk of not retaining enough Sailors in each skill in order to form the baseline of the three tier system.

Each tier contains a range of SRB award multiples and awards early reenlistment opportunities using different criteria. The SRB program as a whole also maintains several previous initiatives such as authorizing Sailors serving in combat zones to reenlist early at anytime during the FY of their EAOS.

Officials remind Sailors that SRB is a market-based incentive and will be monitored and strategically adjusted as retention needs dictate.

“We are going to continue to monitor the program closely next year to enhance our ability to size, shape and stabilize the force and ensure taxpayer dollars go where critical skills are needed to get the most bang for our buck,” said Holloway.

To read the complete NAVADMIN, visit: [www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil).

---

## Penn Retires

- (Cont. from Page 1)

“To relocate forces to Guam, we are doing 85 different environmental studies,” said Penn. “It’s going to take us about three years at a major cost. But we have to do the right thing – if we don’t take care of the environment, we are doing ourselves a disservice as well as the rest of the world.”

Penn also noted how the Department’s mission is expanding with the DoN’s efforts as a leader in energy efficiency.

“We are striving to green the Navy. All of our new construction projects are going to be green, LEED certified buildings. The result in cost savings and for the environment will be unbelievable.”

Above all, Penn emphasized that the quality of life for Sailors and Marines is the most important part of

his job.

“I was just in Miramar a month or so ago looking at the new private-public venture housing, which is fantastic. With our Homeport Ashore Program, we’ve opened up apartments for Sailors in San Diego, and we’re building 36 new barracks for the Marines over the next few years. That is what we are doing for our people, and I think that’s the right thing to do.”

In an award ceremony for Penn Aug. 31 at the Navy Memorial, Vice Adm. Michael Loose, deputy chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics, praised Penn’s leadership and his contributions to the Navy.

“You leave a legacy of being a phenomenal and inspirational teacher, coach, mentor and team builder who would selflessly do anything for a ship-

mate or a friend,” said Loose. “You did what you said you would do – you not only visited every single one of the Navy’s and Marine Corps’ 102 bases, but you made a significant impact on the people you visited. And from every one of those visits, you brought back the issues that meant the most to our Sailors, Marines and their families.”

Looking back at his life, Penn reflected that his time in the Navy has truly been an incredible journey. “If you want to make it, you certainly can in the Navy. Every day I pinch myself. Where else can a kid from Peru, Indiana come in as an E-1 in the Navy, fulfill a childhood dream of flying jets, serve with the best people in the world and even act as the Secretary of the Navy? It’s truly the American dream.”

## News and Notes

**Hazardous Waste Center** - The Santa Rosa County Environmental Department is offering a free service to provide citizens an environmentally safe way to dispose of hazardous household waste. The center is located at the entrance of the Central Landfill at 6337 Da Lisa Road in Milton. Mon. - Sat. 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Splash & Dash** - MWR is hosting a "Splash and Dash" Biathlon at 8:00 a.m. at the NAS Whiting Field Training Pool Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009. The Biathlon will consist of two legs, a 500 yard swim and a 5K run. Prizes will be awarded for First, Second and Third Place winners in the Men and Women Divisions. This event is free and refreshments will be provided after the event. If you are interested, signups are being taken through the day of the event at the following MWR facilities: The Liberty Center, Wings Club, Fitness Center and MWR Athletics Office. For more information, please contact Todd Mooneyham at (850) 665-6102.

**Parenting Conference** - Dan Seaborn and Mark Harris will be holding a parenting conference at 6 p.m., Sept. 12 at First Baptist Church, 6797 Caroline Street, Milton, FL 32570. Tickets are \$15/person or \$10/person for groups of 10 or more and may be purchased from First Baptist Church (850-623-3122), Pine Terrace Baptist Church (850-623-3954), Lifeway Christian Store in Pensacola, or through Wayne Forbush. Military personnel may purchase tickets for \$10.

**Shave and a Hair Cut...** - The NEX is proud to announce that a new Barber Shop is now open in Whiting Pines (same building as NEX Mini-Mart) every Thursday and Friday, from 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Leave Donor Program** - Max Tinsley, Supervisory Security Specialist at CNRSE Jacksonville office, has been approved for the Leave Recipient Program. Tinsley will be required to be out of work for approximately four to six weeks and will exhaust all



### Recognizing Our Best and Brightest

AC1 John Vernon receives his Navy Achievement Medal from Capt. Enrique Sadsad, commanding officer, NAS Whiting Field. Sadsad recognized 14 Sailors with various awards Sept. 4 before the command safety stand down. Awardees in addition to Vernon were: ABH2 Oscar Ruelas, AC2 Chelsea Marshall, ABH3 Andrew Sanwick, ABH2 Marquis Clark, ABH2 Korinne Reese, ABH2 Jermaine Smith, ABH2 Leonardo Treggi, ABH1 Alson Albert, ABH2 Grant Jones, ABH3 Epiphany Elam, ABH3 Deante Gates, AC3 Joseph Wells, ACAN Timothy Egerdahl, and ACAN Jermaine Roby.

of his leave very soon. Anyone wishing to donate annual leave under this program may contact Jim Harbaugh at CNRSE DSN 942-0041, or Commercial (904)542-0041. Thank you for your participation.

**Run the Bridge** - The 2nd Annual Mediacom Garcon Point Bridge Run/Walk is seeking participants for the 4.8 mile trek across the bridge Oct. 17. The event will begin at 7:30 a.m. and post race activities will include hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks for participants. Advance registration is encouraged. Entry fees are \$20 for children under 18 and \$25 for adults. After Oct. 13th, all registration fees are \$30. The first 300 registered participants will receive an official T-shirt. Registration is available online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or forms may be downloaded at [www.santarosa.k12.fl.us/sref](http://www.santarosa.k12.fl.us/sref). For more information call 850-983-5043.

**Haunted House Walking and Trolley Tours** - Be frightened again as Pensacola Historical Society hosts its annual Haunted House and Trolley Tours. Let our costumed guides scare you with horrifying tales of Pensacola's darker history on our annual ghost tours. Brave participants may choose between a walking or trolley tour - if you dare! Tours are Friday and Saturday evenings Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, and 31. Walking tours leave every 30 minutes from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Trolley Tours leave at 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 8:30 p.m. All tours will leave from the Pensacola Historical Museum (115 E. Zaragoza St.) and will last one hour. Tours go on rain or shine! Walking Tour tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Trolley Tour tickets are \$16 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under. No refunds will be given. Tickets go on sale Sept. 15 at 10 a.m. Reservations and advanced payment are required. Please call the Pensacola Historical Museum for tickets and information, 850-595-1559. Discover, Mastercard and Visa are accepted.

**PIRATE'S**  
DINNER ADVENTURE

*September Special for  
Active and retired Military!*

For the months of September, 2009, active and retired military personnel receive a free admission to the show.

You must bring valid military identification to the door to receive your free admission.

Additional tickets can be purchased at your ITT office.

Offer valid at Orlando Florida Location only.

For reservations call  
1-800-866-2469  
[www.piratesdinneradventure.com](http://www.piratesdinneradventure.com)

## Upcoming Events

Sept. 11, 0800 - 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony - Bldg 1401  
Sept. 11, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium  
Sept. 17, 1100 - Hispanic Heritage Lunch - Wings Club  
Sept. 18, 0800 - Navy Ball Golf Tournament

Sept. 24, 1800 - Ombudsman Appreciation Dinner - Wings  
Sept. 25, 1300 Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium  
Oct. 6, 1700 - Fire & Safety Night - Whiting Pines  
Oct. 9, 1300 Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

# Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

## Parenting: 6-18 y.o. - Thursday, September 10, 1800 - 2000

Common Sense Parenting: Unfortunately, children do not come with instruction manuals. As a result, FFSC is holding a class that will provide you with tools that will equip you with the skills for raising responsible and well-adjusted children. This class is for any parent who wants to “brush up” on their parenting skills or new parents that are not sure of where to begin. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

## VA Representative (Call for appointment) - Friday, September 11 & 25, 0800 – 1200

## Consumer Awareness - Tuesday, September 15, 0900 - 1100

According to the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs, fraud cost consumers over 40 billion dollars every year. We are constantly approached by people trying to take our money. 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, call 623-7177.

## Renting - Tuesday, September 22, 1300 - 1500

The purpose of this workshop is to provide complete, objective, and unbiased information so prospective military renters will be confident in their decision whether or not to rent, and be better able to negotiate the potential financial pitfalls they may encounter during the rental process. Class will be held in the FFSC conference room. For more information, call 623-7177.

## Time Management - Wednesday, September 23, 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.

## New Spouse Indoctrination - Monday, September 28, 0800 - 1200

Welcome to NW Florida, NAS Whiting Field, Training Wing Five, and the world of aviation training! Find out what challenges and rewards are in store for you and your flight student and how you can enjoy and thrive in the military lifestyle. Learn about the local culture, recreational opportunities, and support services available to you. For details, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

## TRICARE Note IDENTIFYING AND TREATING TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

**As the conflicts in the Middle East continue, the number of returning servicemen and women suffering with traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) is on the rise.**

**According to [www.traumaticbraininjury.com](http://www.traumaticbraininjury.com), brain injuries are usually classified as mild or severe. Symptoms associated with mild TBI include: depression, memory loss, mood disturbances, including irritability, poor attention/concentration, and slowed thought processes.**

**Symptoms associated with severe TBI include: confusion, deficits in speed of processing information and language processing, difficulty with attention, concentration or memory, and emotional liability**

**For more information on traumatic brain injury or other health-related topics, visit [www.humana-military.com](http://www.humana-military.com).**

## Historic Pensacola Village to Host Evening Lantern Light Tours

**PENSACOLA** - In support of Pensacola's 450th anniversary, Historic Pensacola Village will offer extended hours and free “Lantern Light” tours on Sept. 18, 2009 from 5 to 9 p.m.

Historic Pensacola Village will be open for free to the public and tours will leave from the Museum of Commerce, 201 E. Zaragoza St., throughout the night. Tour groups will encounter costumed guides in each of the historic homes and will be led by candlelit lanterns through the Village as night falls.

“This is a great opportunity for those who have never visited to experience us for the first time and for free,” said Dena Bush, museum educator. “Guests will receive a fun and unparalleled experience by visiting Historic Pensacola Village and what better way to commemorate the 450th anniversary of Pensacola than to visit one of the city's premier museum sites.”

Guests will be able to self guide through the T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum, the Pensacola Historical Museum, the Museum of Commerce, the Museum of Industry, the Julee Pantone Cottage and the Manuel Barrios Cottage. Visitors will discover archaeology, museums, and Pensacola's rich history.

# 2,000,000 Flight Hours

- (Cont. from Page 1)

was a radical departure from the established method of maintaining the Bell TH-57 helicopters used for training student pilots at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Performing scheduled maintenance, aircraft repairs, test flights, and unscheduled maintenance due to pilot flight discrepancy inputs, the contractors have helped keep up the tempo for the busiest Training Wing and Naval airfield.

“The professionalism of the mechanics on the floor and the administrative support team are essential in ensuring the pilots have safe aircraft to fly,” Kenneth Karr, L-3 Site Manager said. “Without them, none of this happens. They do an outstanding job.”

L-3 Communications has the current contract, but the maintenance has been kept in good hands through such companies as Raytheon, Burnside Ott, Dyne Corp, and others. However, the real strength of the maintenance process has been the continuity of exceptional employees. As the contract for taking care of the TH-57s has changed, many of the workers are retained to continue performing



**Cmdr. Michael Fisher, USN, commanding officer; AWCN Ray Adam Senior Enlisted Advisor; 1st Lt. Matthew Turner USMC, student pilot; and Lt. j.g. Dominic Bucciarelli USCG, observer, all from Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT walk into the hangar after landing the helicopter which surpassed 2 million flight hours. U. S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.**

the same jobs. In fact, 31 of the current employees for L-3 have been working since 1981, and some of them as Sailors even earlier.

John Jerome, a quality assurance inspector, is one such example. He served in the Navy as a flight crewman and mechanic with Helicopter Training Squadron 18 in the late 1970s. When he separated from service, he was picked up to continue working on the aircraft as a contractor. After 28 years, during which he worked as part of a test flight crew for 25 years, he wouldn't want to do anything else.

“I never thought I would still be doing this, but I enjoyed flying, the maintenance work, and just seeing the pilots. I like taking an aircraft, making it right, and giving them a safe aircraft back,” he said.

Jerome expects to have more than 50 years working on aircraft when he retires.

The TH-57 may still be around when he does. With more than 30 years on that airframe already, it is a durable and sturdy asset to the fleet. It is also, according to Walsh, the only aircraft in the Navy inventory that doesn't have a specified shelf-life.

“Every component that wears out is on a planned replacement cycle. But the airframe itself is not wearing out,” he said. “That puts even more emphasis on quality sustained maintenance efforts. Two million flight hours is just one milestone in the life of the Bell Ranger.”

TRAWING-5 operates 124 TH-57 B and C models of the aircraft at Whiting Field. The D model of the aircraft will begin to arrive in 2010, but will be a retrofit of the same aircraft currently on the air station.

**NAS WHITING FIELD**

**2009 NAVY BALL GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER**

**DATE: SEPT 18TH**  
**SHOT GUN START @ 8:00**  
**\$30.00 PER PERSON**  
**MULLIGANS: 3 FOR \$5.00**  
**TEE-BUSTER: \$3.00 EACH OR 2/\$5.00**

**TO SIGN UP CONTACT AC2 MOCK/AC2 MCGROARTY AT 623-7654**  
**OR ACC ROWE AT 623-7372.**

**PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE TOP 3 TEAMS, LONGEST DRIVE, SHORTEST DRIVE AND CLOSEST TO THE PIN. 50/50 RAFFLE, DRINKS, FOOD AND DOOR PRIZES.**

**SPONSORED BY KREN AIR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**